



Greetings!

With the approach of autumn, EarthDance is "back to school" mode. We're excited to share news about our developing Farm to School collaboration with Ferguson-Florissant School District and introduce Joia Walker, our new Farm to School Educator. Plus, learn about opportunities to enjoy the farm during this supremely beautiful time of the year.

Join us for the final volunteer Hoppy hour of 2022 or experience the award-winning vegetable-forward cuisine of Chef Michael Gallina at a Vicia Harvest Feast to Support EarthDance. And stop by The Ferguson Farmers Market or our Pay What You Can Farm Stand to stock your fridge with a selection of farm bounty. Fruit-fanciers alert: come early for watermelons and Asian pears!

-Team EarthDance



EarthDance's Farm To School Activities Pick Up Support

We are pleased and honored to have the support of a USDA Food and Nutrition Service grant to further develop our Farm to School Program! This two-year award will provide needed funds to enable EarthDance to build up an agricutinary internship for local teens to earn high school credit as they pursue self-directed learning on the farm; provide professional development for Ferguson-

Florissant teachers and staff to learn to install and maintain school gardens; collaborate with FFSD nutritionists to get local produce into school cafeterias more frequently, and provide farm and garden-based lessons for students of all ages. As our managing director, Tiffany Brewer, says, "It's imperative that we reconnect students with their local food sources and help them redefine what healthy eating looks and tastes like. I'm excited to see these positive changes happen over time."

Congratulations to the other St. Louis-based organizations receiving USDA Farm to School awards this year: Urban Sprouts, Urban Harvest STL, and Heru Urban Farming. You can read more about their projects in the [USDA list of awardees](#).

EarthDance also thanks the following groups for their support of our Farm to School activities:

Emerson Foundation
Dana Brown Foundation
Cardinals Care Foundation
Blues for Kids Foundation
SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education



Photo: Joia Walker (left) with Farm Manager Jena Hood (right) as she accepts her certificate of completion for the 2022 Apprenticeship Program.



Welcome our Farm to School Educator, Joia Walker! *"I have a passion for what other people are eating and putting in their bodies. If it's a matter of not having access to it, I want to help provide access to it."*

In her new role, Joia will be able to help seed and grow a legacy aligned with something beautiful she has witnessed and spent time considering at the farm. As she learned about bolting, the process by which many plants flower and go to seed, she found powerful meaning. "Bolting, especially in less favorable conditions like high heat, is like the plants communicating that, 'Hey, I'm not going to be here forever, but I can leave something behind. It's like they are looking out for the next generation of plants, saying, 'I can't make it, but I can produce a seed.'"

[Continue reading here](#)



2022 Farm to School Grantee Gathering

Joia was able to travel to Boston and attend a conference just weeks after starting her new role! In her words, "Last week I had the privilege to attend the 2022 Farm to School Grantee Gathering in Boston. The gathering including growers, farm-to-school educators and members of the USDA.

We had insightful conversations and exchanged ideas to better serve our



Ferguson Florissant Game Day on the Farm!

Calling all Ferguson-Florissant families! Join us **Sunday October 9th** for football-themed Farm Stand hours from **11am-3pm**. The Tennessee Titans vs. Washington Commanders game will be screening under the pavilion. There will also be children's and adult touch football games, with a guided yoga warm-up at 11am. Game day snacks will be provided as well. And of course, the Pay What You Can

student communities. I saw how a common goal could bring people together from all over the country.

Best of all, in Boston, I was connected with growers and educators from St. Louis whom I had never met and began to build new relationships".

Farm Stand will be open for business. [Find out more and share the news about Game Day from our social post!](#)



VICIA + EARTH DANCE
HARVEST FEAST
Sunday October 16th / 4-7pm

Join Vicia for an exclusive evening of farm fresh cuisine under the covered pavilion at EarthDance Organic Farm School in Ferguson. The evening will include a welcome reception with a signature cocktail and snacks, a tour of the farm, and a family style feast with wine pairings

SNACKS Turnip Shell Tacos Prosciutto Wrapped Pears Pumpkin Financiers Naked Vegetables	SALAD Roasted Beetroot with whipped yogurt, pecans, and apples, Winslow's Table bread and butter
FAMILY STYLE MAINS Chicken Thighs or Oyster Mushrooms with Charred Scallion Salsa Verde Grain Salad with shitakes, sweet potatoes, and kale Butternut Squash with Spiced Seeds and Mole	
DESSERT Milk Soaked Vanilla Cake with apple cider mousse	

PURCHASE A TABLE OF 8 OR AN INDIVIDUAL TICKET \$250 PER PERSON

Exploretock.com/Vicia



Join Us For A Harvest Dinner With Vicia at EarthDance

On Sunday, October 16th, we welcome you to attend an unforgettable farm dinner at EarthDance, prepared by the team at [Vicia](#). The evening will include a welcome reception with a signature cocktail and snacks, a tour of the farm, and a family-style feast with wine pairings. Gather your friends for "golden hour" on the farm and mark autumn's arrival by sharing and savoring the farm's finest offerings. Tickets will be sold as tables of eight or individually.

[Purchase Your Tickets or Table Now!](#)

Or, Make the Magic Happen as a Volunteer!

Would you like to sample the menu as a volunteer, while helping make the event a great success? Volunteers will help with set-up, check-in, fundraising support, check-out and clean-up. Click [HERE](#) to sign up. We thank you!



Volunteer Opportunity: Monthly Hoppy Hour!

Calling all volunteers!
Join us for a fun evening of pulling hop vine and drinking local craft beer on

Thursday October 13th from 5-7pm



What are we weeding? Red hop vine, an invasive species that has spread in a couple fields at EarthDance.

What are we drinking? Craft beer from some of St. Louis' best craft breweries.

Be sure to wear work clothes as hop vine can stain clothes - pants, shirt, closed-toe shoes. And gloves if you got 'em.

This is our last Hoppy Hour event of the season, hope to see you there!

RSVP to October 13th Hoppy Hour for Volunteers!

Fall Hours at the Farm Stand

Starting in October, the farm stand will be open on **SUNDAYS ONLY** from 11-3pm until November 20th (our last day of the farm stand season). Bring a friend, come take a farm walk, and shop for our pay-what-you-can produce. We hope to see you out at the farm this fall!



Where to find us this weekend, every weekend!



Saturday mornings
8am -12noon,
find us at
the Ferguson Farmers Market
at 501 S. Florissant Rd



Sundays
11am - 3pm
visit the Pay What You Can
Farm Stand
on the farm at 233 S. Dade
Ave.

