



Muriel Bowser
Mayor

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation



Delano Hunter
Director

July 5th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to highlight the incredibly impactful work Kunta Bedny and the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC) have done at DC Parks and Rec (DPR) urban farms.

I was first connected to Kunta and EASRCC in the Spring of 2021 through the DPR partnership division. Kunta was looking for community projects to support in the DC area. We had started renovating a 50-year old acre urban farm called Lederer Gardens, located in a food insecure neighborhood in ward 7, and needed a lot of help with this project. Lederer Gardens had fallen into disarray over the last decade and needed a lot of work to activate the farm again. Kunta and EASRCC agreed to help us repair the farm in a short time period to allow us to start farming in the summer.

Over the spring of 2021 Kunta and many EASRCC members came out several days a week to help install hundreds of feet of French drains and rebuild thousands of feet of garden beds to bring Lederer Gardens back to life in time for a summer planting. Thanks to the hard work of Kunta and EASRCC, Lederer Gardens was able to grow over 4500 pounds of organic veggies given away to mostly food insecure seniors in 2021.

In 2022 DPR was bringing back to life another farm called Fort Stanton Urban Farm in another food insecure community in ward 8. This farm also had serious flooding issues too. Kunta and EASRCC once again organize numerous volunteer days and installed over 500 feet of French drain, completely eliminating any flooding and allowing our farm partners to start growing food for the community this year.

I'm extremely grateful for our partnership with Kunta and the EASRCC. Thanks to their hard work thousands of pounds of organic veggies have been grown, and will continue to be grown, for food insecure communities in DC. I look forward to working with EASRCC for as long as I'm with DPR.

Sincerely,

Josh Singer
DPR Community Garden Specialist

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