

Seeds of Success

A vibrant community garden in the foreground, filled with yellow flowers and green foliage. A person in a blue shirt is visible working in the garden. In the background, a hillside residential development with multi-story apartment buildings and houses is visible under a clear blue sky. A large terracotta pot sits on a wooden post in the foreground.

Growing Healthy Communities Through Community Gardening
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POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

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SEEDS OF SUCCESS

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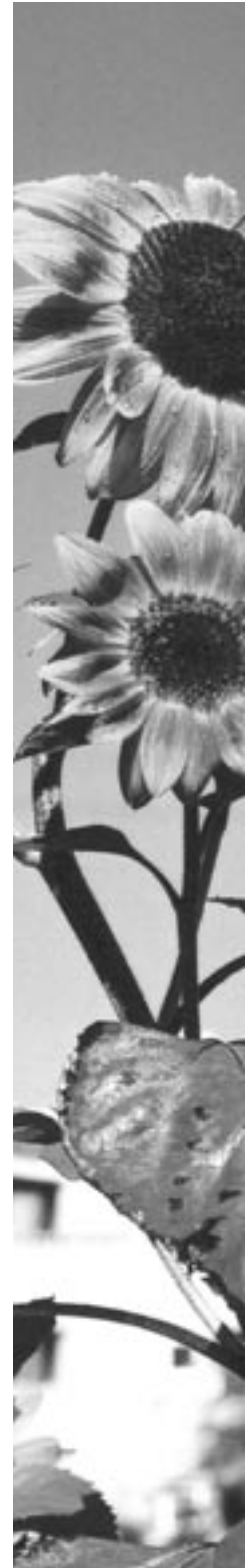
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Introduction

“We garden for Victory; the victory of community-grown over genetically modified, of people coming together and shaping the places where they live... We garden for turkish orange eggplant, golden ring of fire chilies, and painted lady climbing beans. We garden so our kids will know carrots don't grow in plastic bags...and to remember this island is still an ecosystem even if we've capped it with concrete. We garden 'cause it feels better with dirt under your fingernails and you wouldn't believe how good a tomato plant smells.”

Martha Stiegman, “Homegrown Alternatives to Big Business”

S*eed*s of Success explores how community gardens are managed in a select group of cities in Canada and the United States. Although land tenure is the primary focus of this publication, significant attention has been devoted to describing policy, programming and community initiatives. This is because security for community gardens does not exist without the political will and organizational context to encourage their protection.

Unsurprisingly, the circumstances of community gardens vary from city to city. The urban contexts in which the gardens exist are equally diverse. Within each city there are multiple approaches to community gardening and food security issues. Sometimes local governments are involved; nonprofit organizations and community groups are frequently leading the way. This complexity means that there are numerous organizations and programs that could not be included in the descriptions below.

The places selected demonstrate a range of approaches to integrating community gardens into cities. Many of these cities are leading the way for innovation in community gardens and food security. Yet the programs and organizations described are still struggling to improve the circumstances for community gardens.

Land Tenure and Community Garden Management

Two variables in the status of community gardens are how land is accessed, and how the gardens are administered. The cities discussed within this publication have a variety of approaches to these two issues. In all cases, there is something to be learned from how land has been managed and how community gardens have become a part of the urban landscape.

Unfortunately, only a small selection of cities could be profiled. Most of these cities have large populations, but places of all sizes and descriptions have community gardens. There are wonderful projects happening in communities across

Canada and the United States. Some attempt to capture the diversity of Canada's community gardening initiatives is made in the final section (Part VI) of this report.



Many larger cities face intense development pressure and the consequent challenge of maintaining urban green space becomes equally pressing. It is these challenges, and growing concerns with urban livability and quality of life – issues of environment and social justice – that have led nonprofit organizations, citizens and governments to take a proactive approach to community gardens.

Increasingly smaller cities are facing similar pressures on their land bases as well as challenges that are unique to less urban settings. For communities of all sizes, community gardens serve a diversity of important needs. Ultimately, the size of the city is not relevant – it is their innovative and inspiring examples that matter. Although these approaches will never be directly transferable they can be adapted.

Community Gardens & Food Security

The programs and organizations described within *Seeds of Success* are on the edge of a growing movement. The proof of this is in the range of cities with a substantial number of community gardens and the rapidly changing attitudes of local governments toward these gardens.

Organizations within the Canadian prairies and territories plan to host a conference (in 2003) to discuss community gardens and school gardening programs. Nonprofit groups in Ontario and Quebec are contemplating a similar regional level conference. These gatherings reveal the increasing interest in community gardens as important contributors to our communities.

Community gardens are part of a rich tapestry of efforts to improve cities and care for the environment. These efforts are surprising in their level of sophistication; they are part of a new understanding of the complexity of caring for our communities. Rather than dealing with problems in isolation, food security and urban sustainability initiatives bridge issues of poverty, social justice, and human and ecological health.

It is these efforts – to bring healthy food back into the city, to connect people with the land, to restore the dignity of those in need – that offer us models for reinventing our urban communities.

Definitions of food security

World Food Summit (1996)

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

CRFAIR (Capital Region Food & Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable)

“Our vision is a sustainable and secure local food and agriculture system that provides safe, sufficient, culturally acceptable, nutritious food accessible to everyone in the Capital Region through dignified means.”





PART 1 Seattle's P-Patches: The Partnership Model



Seattle provides a unique example of how collaboration and a collective approach can effectively integrate community gardens into city planning, community consciousness and urban landscape.

"In the spring, the newly plowed areas await seeds; a few months later you can get lost among the towering corn and sunflowers. Stand still and you can imagine being enveloped by reaching tendrils of pole beans... Two hundred and fifty gardeners share this paradise. They work diligently composting, combating comfrey, and making friends. We know of a least three marriages that started over a row of peas."

– Picardo Farm P-Patch, Seattle
www.cityofseattle.net

Community gardens have existed in Seattle for thirty years. P-Patch, the City sponsored community gardening program started as a community effort in 1971 and was adopted by the government in 1973. The name originates from the first garden, started on an old farm owned by the Picardo family.¹ The 'P' stands for the family that donated the land for the first community garden in Seattle, a garden that is still thriving.

Today, more than 5,000 gardeners are involved with 60 P-Patches. New gardens are being added at the rate of four a year. The P-Patches donate between seven and ten tons of organic produce to Seattle's food banks every year.²

The primary lesson to be learned from the success of Seattle P-Patches is the importance of partnerships and the strength that can be gained through government support of community initiative. While the City assists communities with projects, there is

also an assumption that citizens will play a strong role. In this way, the City is facilitating local empowerment.

Although a broad range of groups contribute to the success of community gardens in Seattle, perhaps the most significant partnership has been between the Department of Neighborhoods and the nonprofit group, Friends of P-Patch.³ The relationship is mutually beneficial, not only in terms of the provision of services and maintenance of gardens, but also with respect to strategies for improving the longevity of community gardens.

1.0 Communities Planning Neighbourhoods

The success of Seattle's P-Patches must be contextualized within the city's overall spirit of community development, particularly in terms of the creation of neighbourhood spaces. The commitment to improving the city has been manifested in partnerships between citizens and government.

Over the past ten years, the local government has increasingly integrated goals for sustainability and community involvement into City planning processes. Seattle has had to consider how

growth is affecting livability, in part because its growth rates have been higher than anticipated. Between 1990 and 2000, the City of Seattle grew by 47,000 people, a 9% increase.

Seattle's Comprehensive City Plan, "Towards a Sustainable Seattle", was developed in 1994 and is intended to manage growth for twenty years. The plan encourages a series of "urban villages" – complete communities within the City.⁴ It also aims to concentrate growth in order to limit future sprawl. In 1995, the City of Seattle turned the question of how to manage growth over to its neighbourhoods. Although growth targets were pre-determined, it was up to each neighbourhood to envision where and how to grow.

The City developed a Neighborhood Planning Office with a four year mandate of assisting citizens with plans for their communities. Today there are 38 neighbourhood plans, and over 20,000 citizens were involved in their creation.⁵ Most of these plans include provisions for additional community gardens. Implementation is in its early stages and is being managed by the Department of Neighborhoods.



1.1 The P-Patch Program

Although the city-sponsored P-Patch program began in the 1970s it found its current home, within the Department of Neighborhoods, in 1997. P-Patch has 3.5 full time staff, as well as a full time staff person coordinating the community supported agriculture program, Cultivating Communities.⁶

The P-Patch program administers the P-Patches and negotiates the relationships between the agencies and departments that support and provide land for them. Staff members assign garden plots and provide assistance for citizen groups interested in starting new gardens. They assist in negotiating access to land, or will help to raise funds if purchase is necessary.

Currently, few P-Patches are located on leased property. With the increasing threat of losing P-Patches to development, the P-Patch Strategic Plan (see section 1.4) aims to locate new gardens on publicly owned land.

P-Patch offers soil testing and assistance in rehabilitating contaminated soils and improving new sites. Much of the financial assistance for new P-Patches comes through the Neighbourhood Matching Fund (see 1.3) and P-Patch staff provide guidance for groups applying for grants. P-Patch will also provide access to volunteers and help with leadership development and site coordination.

In exchange for all of this assistance, P-Patch gardeners pay an annual fee for their plot and must maintain it all year round. Gardeners are obligated to use organic gardening techniques and (with the exception of Cultivating Communities gardens) produce may not be sold commercially. Gardeners are also committed to a minimum of eight hours of volunteer work at their garden or with the Program.

Due to Seattle's success with P-Patches, the last couple of years have seen garden plot waiting lists of between 600 and 800 people. In some cases, people wait two to three years for a plot. Partly as a result of this demand, P-Patches are included in the strategic planning agenda for the City

1.2 The Friends of P-Patch

The Friends of P-Patch (FPP), founded in 1979, served first as an informal advisory council. Today FPP is a nonprofit with an elected board and over 400 paying members. The strength of this citizen support is evident in the ability of the Friends of P-Patch to provide

services to community gardeners and to lobby local government to integrate community gardens into multiple levels of planning.

The Friends of P-Patch provide assistance for low income and disabled gardeners, teach organic growing, assist with garden start-up, and support the integration of immigrants and refugees into the community.⁷ The "Friends" have partnered with the Department of Neighborhoods to implement the Cultivating Communities program – FPP provides both volunteer and financial support.

FPP has had to be flexible when

seeking new gardening space. In some cases land is purchased, in others it is leased. FPP has assisted gardeners in removing pavement and oil tanks and has relocated one garden to make way for a golf course. The Friends of P-Patch also own four community gardens outright. The first of these gardens was donated to FPP, to be held in trust, in 1987. Over the past five years the Friends of P-Patch have purchased three more gardens.

1.3 The Neighborhood Matching Fund

Seattle's Neighbourhood Matching Fund⁸ is one of the primary tools for facilitating partnerships between the municipality and community groups. The Fund has contributed substantially to the success of the P-Patches.

Groups develop a project idea and their donated labour, services, materials and cash are matched by the City with cash and expertise. The Matching Fund has been utilized for many projects including playground construction, building renovations, public art creation, community plan development and the planting of community gardens. Since 1988, over 2,000 projects have been completed with the assistance of the Matching Fund.

There are a number of different kinds of grants available through the Matching Fund including capacity building grants of up to \$750, grants for up to \$10,000 for projects to be completed within six months, and grants of over \$10,000 for projects taking up to a year.



The Cultivating Communities program is a partnership between the Friends of P-Patch, Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) and the Department of Neighborhoods. On SHA land, the program develops community gardens and community supported agriculture (CSA) to improve health and economic opportunities for families living in low income housing.

The Cultivating Communities CSA project provides supplemental income for 32 households. Last year, organic produce was provided for 150 households over 22 weeks. Participants take part in all aspects of garden creation and management.

Cultivating Communities recently expanded to offer programming for youth. In 2000, the United States Department of Housing and Urban development gave Cultivating Communities the Best Practices Award.

1.4 P-Patch Policy

Community gardening advocacy efforts in Seattle, particularly the on-going work of the Friends of P-Patch, have led to the creation of policies at the City level. These policies express intention and commitment on the part of the City to support the continued growth of P-Patches. The policies also provide some protection for community gardeners in case of a less supportive Council in the future.

Resolution 28610

In 1992, the City passed its first policy to formally support P-Patches. The policy states the City's general support for maintaining and expanding the P-Patch Program, committing to the promotion of interagency and intergovernmental cooperation to expand opportunities for gardening.

In addition, the policy recommends that P-Patches become part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and that ordinances be strengthened to "encourage, preserve and protect community gardening, particularly in medium and high density residential areas." Finally, the Resolution commits to including the P-Patch program in evaluations of the use of City-owned surplus land and to attempt to provide budgetary support.

Toward a Sustainable Seattle

The 1994 City Plan puts forward a series of goals to guide the development of Seattle's urban villages. Within the Open Space and Recreation Facility Goals, there is a target of creating one dedicated community garden for each 2,500 households.

Parks & Recreation

Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation has a policy allowing P-Patches in locations where existing recreational uses will not be displaced. P-Patches must be consistent with the character of the park and include public features like demonstration sites and gathering places. Community design processes are often utilized when locating P-Patches within parks, ensuring that all park users have the opportunity to input.

The 5-Year Strategic Plan

In 2000, the Department of Neighborhoods and the Friends of P-Patch gained Council's approval of their five year Strategic Plan for P-Patches. The Plan calls for the creation of four new P-Patches each year, for the next five years. Its approval means that Council will continue to encourage City departments to work collaboratively with P-Patch to find new sites, particularly in the dense and under-served areas of the City.



1.5 Land Tenure and P-Patches

Even with policy in place and the City's support, both in dollars and staff time, land remains a primary concern for Seattle's P-Patches. Some gardens have been involved in protracted struggles to protect their land, and others have had to relocate to make room for development.

Seattle's community gardens are located on land owned by Parks, City Light (power company) and the Transportation Department (street right of ways). In addition, some P-Patches are on private land and the Friends of P-Patch own four sites. The City of Seattle, when communities have expressed strong enough interest, has also acquired land for P-Patches.⁹

There are currently twelve P-Patches sited in Seattle Parks. Over time, P-Patches have been formally recognized as a valid use of park space. Although there remain more constraints within parks than on other kinds of land, the integration of P-Patches with other park activities has been successful.

While P-Patches have a range of tenure arrangements, they are widely recognized to be an important attribute of Seattle neighbourhoods. Beyond their popularity and momentum, the best guarantee that has been created for the future of P-Patches is that they have been entrenched both in City policy and within the mandates of City departments.

The Belltown P-Patch is located in downtown Seattle in an area with high land costs. The land for the garden was purchased by the City of Seattle in 1993, with funds from the Open Space Opportunity Fund – a \$3.5 million fund for the acquisition of spaces nominated by neighbourhoods.

Due to high land prices only 12 out of 133 properties nominated were funded. After extensive lobbying efforts by the Friends of Belltown P-Patch, the site was purchased.

Today the garden includes 42 plots, a solar powered fountain, a gothic-style gate built by a local blacksmith

Visiting the Seattle P-Patches, it is immediately apparent that they are more than food gardens. The Matching Fund is intended for community groups to create unique public spaces. Many of the gardens incorporate art – fountains, mosaics, sculpture and decorative benches. Each garden is distinctive in its approach —The Interbay P-Patch has small “streets” between the plots, wheelchair accessible with colourful street signs, The Bradner Gardens Park includes a range of demonstration gardens and a covered picnic area, and The Belltown P-Patch has gates made from garden tools.





Part II Portland and Bloomington

Linking Community gardens with Parks and Recreation Departments



Both Portland, Oregon and Bloomington, Indiana have linked community gardens to parks, not just through land but also through programming and administration. While in other cities Parks and Recreation Departments may be obliged to provide assistance to community gardens, in these two cities the departments are responsible for creating and to some extent, maintaining and protecting them.

The connection between the mandate of Parks and Recreation Departments and community gardens is a natural one. Community gardens provide recreational opportunities to members of the public who may not use other kinds of recreational facilities. They also generate a new area of programming through which Parks and Recreation can fulfill their mandates – offering not only recreation but also community building and educational activities.

2.0 Smart Growth in Portland

Like Seattle, Portland has a number of on-going initiatives to address issues of urban growth. Indeed, Portland has been recognized as a model with respect to certain smart growth issues, particularly traffic and growth containment. Portland utilizes an Urban Containment Boundary, and in 1995 developed the “Region 2040 Growth Concept” that plans for an increase of 720,000 people within the urban core by the 2040.¹⁰

Along with the plan to concentrate growth, increasing the city core population by 65%, comes the goal to increase the amount of developed land by only 7%. While it remains to be seen how successful Portland’s densification efforts will be, the City is working to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is present.

Transit in Portland includes a comprehensive bus system and a

light rail system. Much of the downtown – with its bricked sidewalks, street art and transit-only streets – has a strong pedestrian orientation. Proponents of the Portland model argue that the city is leading the way in sustainable urban development, others are concerned that Portland has not retained sufficient affordable housing in its core or designated enough urban green space.

Unlike Seattle, Portland has not included strategies for community gardens in its overall planning objectives. However, community gardens do play a role in the city’s vision of urban recreational and green spaces. Community gardens have become part of the mandate of Portland’s Parks and Recreation Department and a number of communities have identified community gardens as essential within their neighbourhood plans.

2.1 Land tenure and Policy

Two thirds of the 25 community gardens organized by Portland Parks & Recreation are

located on land owned by the department. The other gardens are located on properties owned by a range of groups including religious institutions and various government departments. The Parks and Recreation department provides a series of supports for all of these community gardens, making the Portland model a unique one.

Since passing an ordinance in 1975, the City has provided consistent support and coordination for its gardens.

¹¹ This support has provided legitima-

cy for community gardens, ensuring that they are included in neighbourhood plans and that the newly formed Portland Parks Foundation will dedicate funds for land acquisition and programming.

After 27 years, the Community Garden Program recently gained access to City planners who are assisting in the development of new gardens. A shift to the intentional acquisition of land for community gardens is a recent development in Portland, where community gardens have typically been sited on pieces of land that are judged to be of minimal value.

The ordinance passed in 1975 allows officials within Portland Parks and Recreation to enter into agreements with land owners to locate and administer community gardens on their land (for example on school or church property). The ordinance declares a state of emergency, stating that it is being passed “for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace and safety of the City of Portland.”

2.2 The Role of Parks and Recreation

The Portland’s Community Garden Program has one (very busy) full-time staff member and trains elected volunteer garden managers to handle the on-site decision-making at the gardens. The Program promotes organic gardening techniques and offers courses to educate gardeners about composting, building healthy soil and creating urban wildlife habitat.

Parks and Recreation supports the publication of a community gardens newsletter and brochures, manages registration, and handles the task of finding suitable sites for future gardens. Raised wheelchair accessible beds are available at sixteen sites.



Three demonstration sites are organized through the Community Garden Program – a backyard wildlife display habitat, a display garden and a demonstration orchard.

The Keepers of the Fruit Program is linked with the demonstration orchard – classes and events are organized to promote and educate the public about fruiting plants and trees appropriate for urban spaces.

The Community Gardens Coordinator organizes events and volunteer opportunities for community gardeners. In partnership with the Portland Friends of Community Gardens, there is an in-school and after school program for children to garden. Along with community gardens, the Program has developed 8 habitat sites and there are plans for more.

These habitats are located alongside of community gardens and offer volunteers a chance to receive education and training through the Habitat Stewards Program. In exchange for assisting with garden development and education outreach, the Habitat Stewards can learn about a range of subjects from native plants to plant propagation and garden design. In addition, Parks and Recreation organizes Produce for People, a coordinated effort to donate excess produce from community gardens to local emergency food service organizations.

The integration of community gardens into parks has been instrumental in raising their profile and increasing their

The Portland Community Gardens Program partners with institutions and private land owners, in order to develop community gardens. In 2000, Portland Parks and Recreation and the Friends of Portland Community Gardens developed a garden for the elderly and disabled residents of an affordable housing complex.

The land is owned by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the aim of the garden is to provide physical and social activity. In 2001, with a grant from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, raised wheelchair accessible beds and a picket fence were built.

legitimacy. This has led to innovative connections between community gardens and the private sector. On more than one occasion, community groups have successfully involved the private sector in sharing the responsibility for creating community gardens.

When a Portland Parks property was to be sold for low cost housing, the deed included a commitment from the developers to pay for the construction of a community garden on adjacent park land. In another instance, a local brewery purchased an old school to turn the property into a commercial venture. Mitigation for the local community included the creation of a community garden on the land. The brewery assisted in fundraising to develop the garden.

2.3 The Friends of Portland Community Gardens

Portland's community gardens are strongly supported by citizens and volunteers. The Friends of Portland Community Gardens is a non-profit organization with membership that works to bolster the efforts of the (Parks and Recreation) Community Garden Coordinator.

The "Friends" assist low income gardeners by subsidizing the required fee for participating in the gardens. They also organize (and fundraise for) the Children's Garden Program in partnership with Parks and Recreation. Although the children's program started off with volunteer coordination, today there is a paid staff person.

The program is run out of three community gardens from June until August and offers children who rarely leave the urban environment, a chance to learn about gardening and food – including a field trip to a local organic farm. Food from the program is donated to food shelters and in one school is being used in the cafeteria. In spring and autumn, school children participate in planting and harvesting, providing an opportunity for teachers to include lessons (in subjects such as science, math and art) about the gardens.

2.4 Bloomington's Community Gardens

A second city that has integrated community gardens into its Parks and Recreation Department is Bloomington Indiana. Bloomington has a population of 69,000 people. Of this population, 36,000 are students and approximately 4,000 are homeless. This translates into a relatively transient population and a significant community need for recreational programming and food security support.

Community gardens in Bloomington date back to the 1940s, but they emerged in their contemporary form in 1984. At this time, the City founded a community garden in honour of a local activist, Willie Streeter, in one of its parks. The City provided tilling,



water, and a part-time advisor to assist gardeners. Today the Willie Street-er Community Garden has 85 plots and Parks and Recreation continues to provide tilling, water and horticultural assistance.

This garden has now been joined by two others, one of which is linked to a community kitchen and the other is a youth garden. Unlike most community gardens, two of these three gardens do not charge a fee for participation. Equally unusual is that gardeners are allowed to sell their produce at local farmers markets.

2.5 Inclusive Community Gardens

The City of Bloomington provides considerable support for the community gardening program including tools, amendments, water and administrative assistance. Gardeners also have access to horticultural advice, particularly about growing organically. All three of the gardens administered by parks have educational programming attached to them.

In 1996, a nonprofit community kitchen in Bloomington received funds from the United States Department of Agriculture to start a community garden project.¹² The project, intended for low income families, would teach skills, provide education about nutrition and allow participants to gain extra income by selling their produce through the farmers market.

The Parks and Recreation Department quickly came on board and developed a partnership with the Community Kitchen. The Department provided land in the Crestmont Park and supplied tilling and water access. The least-utilized park in the system, citizens felt that Crestmont Park had become unsafe. Locating a community garden in the park changed it considerably, bringing positive activity back and consequently improving its safety and its community orientation. These results also increased the support of Parks Directors for community gardens projects.

The 2001 Summer Program Guide for Bloomington Parks and Recreation includes three programming options for gardeners.

The Willie Streeter Community Gardens offer gardening space for a small fee and the Department will provide water, tilling and advice.

The Community Garden Project (through Crestmont Park) is free of charge with all supplies provided. Participants learn techniques in organic production from planting right through to harvesting and marketing.

A workshop session, "Grow Up!" is offered for community gardeners to learn how to grow vertically for space maximization.

In 1998, Parks and Recreation took over the management of the Crestmont Garden. One of the primary goals of the department was to ensure that the program became inclusive for youth and gardeners with disabilities.

Today the Crestmont garden has wheelchair accessible paths and garden beds. The garden grows native Indiana crops and plants and includes demonstration butterfly and Native American gardens. A number of local groups access the garden and maintain plots. In 2000, the Community Garden Project won the "Best Inclusive Recreational Project" award at the 2000 National Parks and Recreation Association *Programming Our World* conference.

Recently, the Parks and Recreation Department has started to manage a third garden next to a community centre that is intended for children. Although the garden is a mere 400 square feet, it has a variety of plantings to interest and appeal to children including "a strawberry pyramid, butterfly garden, a tomato garden surrounded by brilliant pink gladiolas, a pepper and okra garden, and sunflowers with lettuce."¹³

Children involved in an after school program work on the garden, learning about gardening and food. The

programming for children has been so successful that the coordinator is considering creating a Junior Master Gardener Program.

2.6 Maintaining Gardens on Parkland

Neither the Portland nor the Bloomington community gardens that are located in parks have guarantees of long term protection. There are no formal agreements that the gardens must be protected or maintained by the City. There is no obligation for Parks and Recreation Departments to maintain the services they currently provide for gardens.

There are some challenges with integrating community gardens programs into Parks and Recreation Departments that take time to overcome. Departments tend to be large and committed to providing a host of services and programs. Community gardens are not generally a traditional part of parks, so it can be a struggle to gain legitimacy. This means that community gardens can be given low priority for funding and staff. Regardless of these challenges, both Portland and Bloomington have experienced success in linking community gardens to their Parks and Recreation Departments.

It is because of this success that the coordinators of both programs remain optimistic. Parks and Recreation Departments benefit from being able to maintain small "pocket" parks and areas of larger parks that might otherwise go neglected. In addition, these programs allow the departments to address their mandates on multiple levels, providing universally accessible programming which builds community and offers recreational opportunities.





Part III Montreal

City Gardens and the Victory Garden Network

As one of Canada's largest urban centres and as Quebec's most diverse city, Montreal is well known as a hub of cultural activity. The City of Montreal has also been the longest and most committed supporter of community gardens of any local government in the country.

Quebec stands out amongst Canadian provinces for its numbers of community gardens, with about 10,000 community garden plots across the province. Montreal alone is home to about 6,300 plots which are estimated to involve 10,000 people. Approximately 1.5 % of Montreal's adult population participates in community gardens.¹⁴

“On weekends, especially, Montreal’s gardens buzz with social activity. In many of the small clubhouses, croquet mallets and horseshoes are stored alongside pitchforks, and men sometimes gather to play checkers. On occasion, at Victoria Garden, an impromptu Chinese barbershop pops up amid the shrubbery. Exchanges of seeds and recipes take place constantly. And it is almost impossible to leave the gate of any garden without an armful of tomatoes, beans or carrots.”

Margo Pfeiff. “City of Gardens.” Canadian Geographic. Jan.2001.

Montreal is internationally renowned for its community gardens. With over 100 gardens, it is both numbers and the commitment of local government that distinguish the approach in Montreal. Montreal is the only Canadian city to have hosted the American Community Gardening Association's annual conference (in 1996) and its program has been widely recognized in the media.¹⁵

Historically, the City has not framed its gardens as providing a food security

measure, but rather as a recreational initiative. Nonetheless, the program has had a strong focus on food production and added incentive may have been the economic struggles of the city in recent years. Montreal has one of the highest urban poverty levels in Canada. A study of urban poverty in Canada found that the metropolitan area of Montreal had a poverty rate of 27.3%, the highest in the country and about 890,000 people living in poverty (more than in Toronto).¹⁶ This has translated into a substantial population in need of access to nutritious food.

3.0 The History of Montreal's Community Gardens

The roots of today's community gardens date back to the early 1970s, when Portuguese and Italian immigrants started to use empty lots to grow food. These groups were gardening without permission, using both public and private space. The City stepped in to regulate these activities, setting up a system of permits.¹⁷ Not long after this, a group of citizens in the Centre-Sud district approached the Montreal Botanical Garden to start gardens.

Both the Botanical Garden and the Office d'embellissement de la Ville (City Beautification Office) became supportive of the gardens. By 1975, the City was actively promoting

community gardens in vacant lots, and regulations were developed. Pierre Bourque, first as the director of Montreal's Botanical Gardens and then as mayor, strongly supported the growth of community gardens in the city. The gardens were very popular and by 1981 there were 43 of them.¹⁸

In 1985, the City reviewed the community gardening program because its rapid growth required more formal management. Uniform policies for development and operations were implemented.¹⁹ Although the gardens had started within the community, they now had solid support from local government and institutions. Today the City provides land, soil and amendments, fencing, water, tools, toilets, clubhouses or toolsheds and maintenance assistance.

The popularity of the Montreal Community Garden Program means that although the intention is to connect people with gardens in their community, in some cases gardeners wait for over two years to get a plot near their home. On average, three quarters of former gardeners renew their registration annually. Availability of land is a partial determinant of the locations of community gardens, but the characteristics of a neighbourhood and the needs expressed by citizens are also taken into account.



3.1 Municipal support

Three departments are currently involved in providing assistance to the Community Gardens Program. The departments play complimentary roles in administering and maintaining the gardens. In 1989, the primary responsibility for the City's community gardens was handed to the Sports, Recreation and Social Development Department (SSLDS). SSLDS plans and coordinates the Community Gardens Program and houses the superintendent who is responsible for the program.

SSLDS also has development officers who supervise activities at the neighbourhood level, as well as the gardening facilitators. Each of the five garden facilitators is responsible for a group of gardens within the city. The facilitators serve as resource people, providing horticultural assistance, working with the garden executives, ensuring that regulations are followed and reporting maintenance problems.

The Department of Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces acquires land for community gardens and provides the equipment, materials and staff for garden maintenance. The department of Public Works and the Environment (STPE) manages solid waste and recycling collection and creates compost from the organic waste produced by the gardens. STPE also ensures that gardens have a sufficient water supply.

3.2 Garden Management

Although certain ground-rules have been developed by the City, the day-to-day concerns around the garden are largely managed by Garden Committees. Committees consist of a minimum of three individuals, and are elected by gardeners each year. The committees are responsible for liaising between the local government and the community gardens and making sure that the gardens follow the procedures and regulations of the government.

The City community gardens are fenced and locked; the gardeners are provided with keys. This measure prevents vandalism and theft in the gardens. That all the gardens are organic is a strict rule of the Program. No synthetic pesticides are allowed and gardeners have access to information and expertise for gardening organically. Another rule that the City maintains is that gardeners must grow at least five different vegetables, in part because gardeners are not allowed to market their produce.²⁰ Flowers have traditionally been discouraged in the gardens, but are allowed in 10% of plot space and in border areas.

Garden committees organize social activities and are responsible for the equipment and materials of the gardens. Some committees handle garden registration, following protocol developed with the SSLDS. Others have non-profit status, something that



the municipality encourages because it strengthens community groups and increases their autonomy.

Residents of the City of Montreal are invited to join the community gardens though information sent out with their utility bills in early spring. The City first makes plots available to gardeners from the previous year and then vacant plots are offered to those on waiting lists. All gardens follow a specific schedule for opening and planting and they close on November first of each year. As a celebration of the efforts of the gardeners, the City organizes an awards ceremony each year.

Awards are granted to individual gardeners who gain the title of "Grand jardinier montrealais" (great Montreal gardener). Chairpersons of garden committees are also awarded with certificates for their commitment and contribution to improving their neighbourhoods.²¹

Through the joint efforts of the City of Montreal and the Montreal Botanical Garden, a youth garden has been established alongside of the Botanical Garden. Plots fees are \$15.00 and each year the Youth Gardens program (organized through the Botanical Gardens) makes 280 plots available to youth between eight and fifteen years old.

The plots are used to grow herbs and vegetables between April and autumn. Participants plant in spring and make periodic visits until the summer when they garden two and a half days a week (with instruction) with other youth in their age group.



3.3 An Innovative Approach to Zoning

Although Montreal's community gardens first emerged at a time when there was vacant land in the core of the city, a concerted effort to protect the gardens from development has since been required. One of the objectives of the Community Gardens Program is to ensure the protection of existing gardens. Between 1986 and 1989, the City relocated twelve gardens at an estimated cost of \$400,000.²²

As pressure increased on lands in highly urban areas of Montreal, the government determined that protection of gardens was paramount. The result has been that two-thirds of the gardens have been zoned as parkland, an approach that reflects the degree to which gardens are considered to be an integral part of the urban landscape and the mandate of the City of Montreal.²³

In addition, the City offers tax free status on vacant land for the duration of a five year lease to community gardens. When vacant lands are being utilized for gardens, the City attempts to acquire them or, at minimum, negotiates long term use (10 years) for community gardens.

Started in 1997 by Eco-Initiatives, the Cantaloup Garden is situated behind the YMCA in a residential area of Notre-Dame de Grace. It is an open garden with no fences and a communal garden with no plots – half of the garden is devoted to permaculture. Volunteers garden the entire area looking after whatever needs care and taking home a portion of the harvest.

Thirty local residents work at the Cantaloup garden, many of them economically or socially marginalized. Half of the harvest is distributed amongst the gardeners and the other half feeds approximately 300 people through donations into the local food bank system.

3.4 The Victory Garden Network and Eco-Initiatives

While the City offers access to community gardens for many Montreal residents, nonprofit groups within Montreal are working to address food security and community development issues through independent community gardens. A number of groups that have developed community gardens exist within the umbrella of the Victory Garden Network. The Network is organized by the very active nonprofit organization, Eco-Initiatives.

These efforts differ from the City-managed gardens in a number of ways. The Victory Garden Network, along with Eco-Initiatives, is focused within the geographical area of Notre-Dame-de-Grace (NDG). However, a number of other groups (outside of NDG) are partners with the Network. The Network's mission is to echo the successful urban food production efforts of the World War II Victory Gardens. While the 1940s Victory Gardens provided food to support the war effort, today "the struggle is against poverty and social isolation, with gardens our tool for change."²⁴ Thus the organizations affiliated with the Network are using community gardens to improve neighbourhood spirit, to build local skills and to increase food security. The gardens that join the Network are collective (not divided into plots) and are gardened through work parties. These gardens are contributing food to local food distribution resources such as food banks, collective kitchens and nutrition programs.

One of the partners with the Network is the People's Potato Garden. Located at the Loyola campus of Concordia University, the garden was once an unused field. Now the garden supplies daily vegan meals (lunches) for students at the downtown campus. The idea is to ensure that all Concordia students have access to at least one high quality meal every day.

Within the context of the Network, Eco-Initiatives has spearheaded a number of projects including the creation and distribution of a newsletter, *Victory*, to link and share food security efforts. In addition, Eco-Initiatives is responsible for initiatives within NDG including community gardens, a rooftop garden, a greenhouse and a round table on food security.

Eco-Initiatives provides technical support and materials for community (collective) gardens. The gardens are free for all those who want to participate. The organization employs garden "animators" who provide information and horticultural assistance to volunteer gardeners. Gardens have work parties twice a week for four hours and often these gatherings include meetings and lunch.

While both the City community gardens and the nonprofit organized gardens provide valuable food for citizens, the underpinning of the Eco-Initiatives gardens is to create opportunities for those who need them most. As part of a community of nonprofit organizations working to improve food security in Montreal, Eco-Initiatives uses gardens for community development through building skills, increasing self-reliance and offering recreation for inner city residents. The gardens utilize unemployed (and willing!) labour in the production of much needed food.

Ultimately, the approaches of groups such as Eco-Initiatives are complementary to the programming of the City of Montreal. While the City provides land and supports for those who want to garden, linking its gardening program to recreation and ecological responsibility, Eco-Initiatives sponsors grassroots collective gardens that are focused on food security and building community capacity. Combined, these two approaches provide food and community connections for a wide range of groups within the City of Montreal.



Part IV Toronto

Linking Community Gardens & the Food System

If the City of Montreal’s community gardens serve as a model for sheer abundance, the City of Toronto’s gardens are an example of an integrated approach, where community gardens are contextualized within broader efforts toward food security.

As the largest and most culturally diverse city in Canada, Toronto faces extra challenges in achieving food security. Over 100 languages are spoken in the city and 42% of all Canadian immigrants choose Toronto as their destination.²⁵ All of this diversity means that efforts toward food security must include a particularly broad range of cultural groups with varying needs. Yet it may be that this is an advantage in creative problem solving as different groups have started to develop culturally specific solutions.

The approach to food security in Toronto reflects not only the city’s diversity, but also the ability of groups



to work collectively toward improving the livability of the city.

A number of groups have developed innovative food security projects and partnerships span the city. FoodShare Toronto, a nonprofit organization, has provided programming and a voice for food security efforts for 15 years. The municipal government has participated in developing policy and has worked with community groups to carve out a vision of food security for the city.

4.0 No Ordinary Community Garden Tour

Toronto’s 4th Annual Community Garden Tour was not merely an opportunity to admire gardens and to compare notes about growing vegetables. The gardens that took part in the tour are innovators in the production and distribution of food in the city. The tour focused on North Toronto and included gardens located on church property, behind a community centre and in a private back yard.

The Tri-Congregations Community Garden was developed to complement food bank services for the local community. Rather than simply providing a place to pick up food, the church now has a place to grow it. Garden plots were created next to the church parking lot. With the exception of two plots used to grow food for the food bank, plots are allocated to community members who are not parishioners. This ensures that the garden is serving the broader community.

The Riverside Community Garden is located in the center of a large apartment complex, Oaks Apartments, in North York. It is encircled by tall apartment blocks on one side and on the other has an open view of the greenery along the Humber River. The community is largely recent immigrants, the unemployment rate in the surrounding area is almost 20%, and income levels of residents are generally low.²⁶

Unusually, the creation of the Riverside Garden was supported by the management of the apartment complex who view it as an asset to the property. With the assistance of the nonprofit organizations Greenest City and Food Share, the Riverside Community Garden has existed since 1999.

The garden itself contains a multitude of food crops, reflecting the cultural diversity of the families living in the near-by apartments. There is a small picket fence surrounding the two garden areas – a symbolic barrier rather than one that serves any practical function.

The final garden on the tour is the Shamba Garden. It is located behind a typical looking brick home in North York. The garden contains an array of African / Caribbean traditional crops such as okra and calaloo (amaranth). The Shamba Garden is part of a larger effort to increase food security – culturally specific crops are grown by and for African and Caribbean Canadians in Toronto.

Half of the vegetables grown in this garden are given over to the volunteers who maintain it, the other half go into the Afri-Can FoodBasket, a food box program. There are six gardens like this backyard garden through which organic traditional African foods are shared.

4.1 FoodShare Toronto²⁷

The gardens included in the tour not only challenge narrow definitions of community gardens, they also show how the diversity of Toronto is manifesting in creative food security efforts that are providing opportunities and food access for marginalized groups. Many such initiatives are supported by FoodShare Toronto, a nonprofit organization that assists community gardens, develops food security initiatives, and has worked toward the creation of food security policy for the city.

In addition to FoodShare, there are many other food security initiatives happening in Toronto. The Stop Community Food Centre is a non-profit organization that assists low income community members with access to healthy food. However, "The Stop" does a great deal more than just provide food.

Although almost 6,000 people used "The Stop" food bank last year, a series of programs offer alternatives for accessing food. One alternative is an urban agriculture project that supplies the food bank through a volunteer community garden.

Volunteers are community members and in some cases use the food bank as well.

In addition to growing food, last year, the garden provided environmental education for 700 children and youth. A partnership with a local Catholic school has created access to a greenhouse that enables the garden to function year round.

– www.stop103.org

FoodShare's programming spans the range of food issues from agricultural production to cooking skills. In 1994, FoodShare developed one of the first Good Food Box programs in Canada starting with just 40 boxes and growing to the point where 4,000 boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables, mostly locally grown, are distributed throughout Toronto every month.²⁸

FoodShare's Field to Table Warehouse includes a rooftop garden, a warehouse space and a fully licensed commercial kitchen. The kitchen is used for a range of training and educational programs including skill building for youth, meal preparation for homeless shelters (sold at subsidized prices to shelters without kitchens) and an option for budding local entrepreneurs to rent the kitchen.

FoodShare also helps citizen groups in Toronto to start and sustain community gardens. They negotiate with

landowners for access to land, assist with garden planning and design, organize workshops and provide training for garden sustainability. In addition, FoodShare coordinates the Toronto Community Garden Network, uniting gardeners through a monthly email newsletter, workshops and events like the annual Community Garden Tour and Seedy Saturday (spring seed swap).

In addition to all of their work on the ground, FoodShare is a clearinghouse for information, compiling information on food initiatives in Toronto, producing regular newsletters and written resources and participating in food policy initiatives in the City of Toronto.

4.2 Community Gardens & Food Security Policy

While the diversity of Toronto's community gardens is reflective of collective and individual efforts, the Toronto Food Policy Council, the Community Garden Action Plan and the work of the Food and Hunger Action Committee are the result of bringing community gardens and broader food security issues into the realm of policy.

Specific community gardens policy was passed three years ago when the Toronto City Council supported the Community Garden Action Plan, aiming to create a community garden on parkland in every ward (political dis-



trict) of the city by the end of 2001. By early 2001 although there were estimated to be over 100 gardens on public and private land, more than half of the City's 44 wards still did not have community gardens located on parkland.²⁹

In 1991, the City of Toronto developed the Toronto Food Policy Council, staffed by the Toronto Health Department and composed of concerned citizens, community organizations, academics, and representatives of the food industry. Since that time, the Council has been responsible for numerous food security and community gardens research reports and policy recommendations.

From Toronto's Food Charter:

The City of Toronto supports our national commitment to food security, and the following beliefs:

- ✿ Every Toronto resident should have access to an adequate supply of nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food.*
- ✿ Food security contributes to the health and well-being of residents while reducing their need for medical care.*
- ✿ Food is central to Toronto's economy, and the commitment to food security can strengthen the food sector's growth and development.*
- ✿ Food brings people together in celebrations of community and diversity and is an important part of the city's culture.*

The Council emerged out of concerns about health and food security in the city and was quickly followed by the creation of a “Declaration on Food and Nutrition” that put into writing a commitment to the sustainability and security of Toronto’s food supply.

There is currently one coordinator of the Council (previously it supported more staff). The Council regularly releases reports and works with Parks and Recreation (following the mandate to put a community garden in every ward) and other City of Toronto Departments to further food security initiatives in Toronto.

With the formation of the “mega city” came new initiatives for food. The Food and Hunger Action Committee (FHAC) was formed at the end of 1999. A Committee of Toronto City Councillors, FHAC worked with the Food Policy Council and numerous community groups to gather knowledge about food programs and to identify opportunities to better utilize existing resources. The result of this first phase of work was a report entitled “Planting the Seeds.”

In June of 2000, Council unanimously endorsed the report and its three recommendations. These recommendations expressly committed the City to the principle of food security (adequate, safe, nutritious, affordable and appropriate food for all people) and to recognition of its own role in supporting food security initiatives. More concretely, the recommendations provided a series of actions for the Food and Hunger Action Committee to move forward with Phase II of its work.

Phase II involved creating a Food Charter for the City of Toronto, the first in Canada, and developing a Food and Hunger Action Plan including strategies, policy, programming and service needs. This work was completed and submitted back to Council in February 2001. Council approved the work of the Committee, but money has not been allocated to follow through

with the recommendations. A citizen watchdog group, the Food Justice Coalition, and City staff are working to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

Ultimately Toronto’s food security policy has brought about incremental change. It is facilitated by an “inside/outside” approach where community groups and activists are working on issues at the same time as municipal staff. This means that the concerns of food security have been recognized by a range of groups and that, over time, change can be systemic.

4.3 Toronto’s Growing Community Gardens

Due to a strong nonprofit community and growing ties between these organizations and a range of cultural communities, the future of community gardens in Toronto looks bright. Proof of this is that between six and ten community gardens are started each year. At the same time, the linkage between community gardens and food security initiatives has generated some security for gardens.

Toronto’s community gardens have an array of locations: church and community centre properties, parkland, and private property. What these gardens have in common is the will of a range of groups to maintain them. In this context, community gardens are not just supported by gardeners, they are supported by a network of institutions, nonprofit organizations, local governments and property managers.

This support creates the potential for security for community gardens over the long term.

When the organizers of churches, food banks and even apartment complexes are able to observe the benefits of community gardens first-hand, the use of land for this purpose becomes a given. With a range of locations and supporters, community gardens become part of a web of approaches to feeding the community and providing amenities to urban dwellers.





Part V New York and Chicago

Protecting Community Gardens through Land Trusts



In a handful of cities in the United States, land trusts have proven an effective means of resolving the challenge of creating permanency for community gardens. The scope of this report does not allow for discussion of all of them. Although New York and Chicago will be discussed below, the two cities that have smoothed the way for this type of protection for community gardens are Philadelphia and Boston.³⁰

“As we strolled among the community garden’s apricot tulips, trilliums and nasturtium seedlings in cold frames, we noticed a young man standing on one of the rough-hewn, wooden public seats struggling to thread his umbrella handle through the lattice-work above it. Satisfied, he sat in the corner, and his beloved nestled her head beneath his shoulder, under the open umbrella, protected from the rain.”

*About the Liz Christy Bowery-Houston Garden, NYC
New York Times – May 12, 2000*

New York and Chicago are well known for their community gardens and both cities have multiple organizations playing supporting and advocating roles. Another commonality between these cities has been the challenge of managing inner city vacant lots. New York still has more than 10,000 vacant lots. Chicago has about 55,000 vacant lots (14% of the city’s total area).³¹

The result of an exodus of population, business and financing from urban cores – vacant city lots are a substantial obstacle to urban health. Deindustrialization and suburbanization are two of the primary causes of vacant lots. With their urban centres collapsing, those cities that were once industrial centres in the American Northeast and Midwest have borne the brunt of

a changing economy and the suburban dream.³²

Vacant land on this scale presents an overwhelming challenge but also opens up opportunities for communities to reclaim land and to use it for public good. In most Canadian cities and many cities in the western and southern United States, there is generally the opposite problem – a lack of available land for community gardens.

Yet the initial availability of vacant lots has not eliminated the challenge of insuring that community gardens remain over the long term. While community gardens are the result of positive action in the face of negative forces, the gardens are often not considered to be a long-term land use.

Within the cities of Chicago and New York, there have been differing circumstances and unique responses to the challenge of securing land for community gardens. Land trusts have been one of the primary tools – allowing for permanent protection of valuable community green spaces in highly urban settings.

5.0 New York City: Struggling for Community Gardens

New York has over 750 community gardens within its five boroughs. The gardens began to spring up during the 1970s when urban blight was becoming an increasingly serious problem.³³ Lower and middle income neighbourhoods created the gardens as a way to reclaim lots that were attracting crime and to bring green space to areas woefully lacking in outdoor recreational opportunities.

When New York’s reputation as a city was flagging – crime and poverty were on the rise and the population was de-

clining – community gardens were a sign of the desire of ordinary citizens to regenerate the spirit and strength of their neighbourhoods. Community gardens became hubs of activity and public life and a source of community pride.

While the City itself, through its Parks and Recreation programming, has taken a prominent role in community gardens, nonprofit and community organizations have been persistent in, and dedicated to, increasing the numbers of gardens and ensuring their permanent protection. It is largely these groups that have been responsible for recent land trust and legal triumphs.

Within the context of the largest city in the United States, where community gardens have been supported by the municipal government and are a well-established part of many neighbourhoods, there has also been one of the largest struggles over land and community gardens in the world.

5.1 Changing Land Tenure Arrangements

In 1998, New York City’s community gardens made newspaper headlines globally. While many cities lose their community gardens incrementally, New York was faced with losing more than 100 of them at once.³⁴

In light of sky-rocketing real estate values, the City government decided to auction off properties on which the gardens were situated.

For some time, the tenure of the gardens had been uncertain. Most of the vacant lots were City-owned and had short term leases

granted through the City Parks Department’s Green Thumb Program (a program developed specifically to administer community gardens). Leases could be terminated with thirty days notice.



In April of 1998, the City transferred the land agreements for the 750 Green Thumb gardens to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. This shift paved the way for terminating many of the leases for the development of housing and, shortly thereafter, Mayor Rudy Giuliani announced the City's intention to make 113 gardens available to developers through public auction. Pitting community gardens against affordable housing seemed unnecessary, in light of the thousands of vacant lots remaining in New York City.

The public response to this threat was overwhelming. Nonprofit organizations such as the Green Guerillas that had been working to support and protect community gardens for years were suddenly in the eye of a media and legal storm.³⁵ Four separate law suits were filed by environmental justice groups. A number of nonprofit organizations became involved including Bette Midler's New York Restoration Project and the national level Trust for Public Land.

In May of 1999, the gardens were saved from development when these two organizations stepped in and made agreements with the City to purchase the gardens. A coalition of civic groups raised four million dollars to purchase and preserve them.³⁶ The Trust for Public Land purchased 63 gardens and the New York Restoration Project purchased the remaining 50. The groups have handled the gardens in different ways, but both have shown that in New York City, community gardens are considered to be invaluable assets.



The Green Guerillas began in 1973 when Lower East Side artist Liz Christy brought friends and neighbours together to create a garden in an unlikely place – an abandoned vacant lot in an area rife with poverty and social challenges. This garden quickly became a flash-point for community efforts – “dozens of people from all walks of life – artists, architects, teachers, students, and people from the South, from Europe and Latin America who grew up on farms – volunteered their time and talents.”

Out of these beginnings grew the Green Guerillas, a resource group for community gardeners in New York working to advocate for community garden preservation. With a core of 200 volunteers, youth programming and a range of information resources, Green Guerillas continues its mandate to support community gardens in New York City.

5.2 The GreenThumb Program The Role of the Parks Department

The City of New York began supporting community gardens in 1978 when it developed the GreenThumb Program within the Parks Department; the program assists New York residents to develop community gardens. Today, GreenThumb assists over 650 gardens in which more than 20,000 citizens participate.³⁷

For many years, Green Thumb has provided both capital assistance – in the form of plants, fences, picnic tables and tools – and educational and funding assistance. Green Thumb offers workshops on a range of topics from garden design to horticulture and provides small grants to enhance the role of gardens as community resources. GreenThumb gardens are open to the public for a minimum of five hours each week and often host community events.



Green Thumb provides assistance with locating appropriate City-owned land for community groups. The organization can offer one year leases on City-owned land through the Department of Housing, Planning and Development. These agreements are temporary and community gardens with such arrangements are considered to be an interim use. However, a number of garden sites have been transferred to the Parks Department for permanent protection. Approximately 40 gardens have been transferred so far and many more may be on the way.

5.3 The Garden Land Trust Program & the New York Garden Trust

When the Trust for Public Land and the New York Restoration Project

became the proud owners of 113 community gardens, each organization had its own plan for the future management of the gardens. The Trust for Public Land is moving toward placing the responsibility for ownership with the gardeners.³⁸ The New York Restoration Project will remain in the role of owner as a steward to the 50 gardens it purchased in 1999.³⁹

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is working to create strong leadership within the community gardens it has purchased with the intention of transferring responsibility to three new nonprofit organizations. For a national organization, it makes sense to localize the control of ownership and decision-making. The three land trusts will focus on the areas of Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn/Queens.

The transfer is intended to happen in the near future. In the interim, TPL continues to handle the responsibilities of ownership. The Trust is bringing together hundreds of extraordinarily diverse community gardeners to assist them in taking ownership of the gardens. A series of workshops and community activities have been organized – educating gardeners about the properties and a range of pertinent issues.

Ultimately, the Trust for Public Land is improving the organizational capacity of the community gardeners, preparing them to manage what will be some of the largest urban land trusts in the United States. This includes teaching gardeners to work in a coordinated and cooperative manner and to ensure that leadership is shared.

The New York Restoration project has developed the New York Garden Trust (NYGT) to work in partnership with the gardens that it purchased. The main objective of the trust is to ensure that the gardens are maintained as thriving community spaces. NYGT will remain the owner of the gardens, providing assistance for gardeners with design, material needs, volunteer labour and educational programs.

Each community garden has a manager (a gardener) who enters into a contract with Trust. The contracts outline clearly both the responsibilities of the manager, and the role of the NYGT. In managing the gardens, NYGT draws on its AmeriCorps volunteers (a diverse volunteer base from all over the country), bringing them into projects with local residents. Volunteers and local residents work together to ensure that the community gardens are cared for and to offer educational and community building opportunities.

5.4 Breaking News: A Formal Review Process

The most recent news in the struggle to protect community gardens in New York is a settlement of the three year old lawsuit over the City's efforts to sell the gardens. Following the initial lawsuit that led to the land trust arrangements described above, the Attorney General obtained an injunction preventing the City from selling or developing an additional 351 GreenThumb gardens.⁴⁰

The end of the lawsuit brings mixed results with respect to the preservation of community gardens in New York. Overall, community gardens have clearly become a consideration in land management and planning decisions and this is largely due to the support of citizens and community and nonprofit organizations.

The recent agreement (September 18, 2002) protects 198 of the GreenThumb gardens, increasing the number of permanently protected gardens in the city to about 500. These gardens will either be turned over to the Parks Department or to nonprofit land trusts for permanent protection. An additional 197 gardens that have already been protected will receive additional protection and 100 gardens that are currently maintained by the Department of Education will not be developed.

At the same time, it is possible that 153 gardens will be lost to housing devel-

opment. The City intends to instate a new public review process for all proposals to develop community gardens. In addition, they have promised to offer new sites to gardens that will be sold for development. The possibility of alternative sites for gardens however, will not be a satisfactory solution in areas where open space is minimal. Nor will the news of a new process provide comfort to the 38 gardens that are slated for development without review.

The review process will be applied to 114 gardens to determine their fates. This will be disappointing for gardeners that have worked for years to create their precious neighbourhood green spaces, particularly in light of the excess of available vacant land that remains in New York. Nonetheless, the benefit of the review process is that if it is truly open to the public, it is more than likely that these forums will simply reinforce that New Yorkers do not want to sacrifice their community gardens.

5.5 Chicago Planning for Urban Gardens

As in New York City, part of the drive to increase urban green space in Chicago is due to a history of inequitable distribution. While some areas of the city have adequate parkland, others are sorely lacking. In 1982, the U.S. Department of Justice sued the Chicago Park District for racial discrimination because of the inequity in distribution of recreation resources.⁴¹ A primary problem was insufficient parkland in lower income areas.

Since 1989 (and the election of Mayor Daley) Chicago has been moving towards urban revitalization and the improvement of the quality of life of urban residents. Part of this effort has focused on increasing the amount of open public space. It was in this vein, that the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County began to work together.

In 1993, the collective developed the CitySpace Plan, a comprehensive plan intended to create and preserve open space in Chicago. A basic tenet of the Plan is that increasing open space will attract business and economic development to those areas that have been experiencing decline. The Plan includes the goal of adding 1,300 acres of new open space within 10 years.⁴²

Chicago's vacant lands present an opportunity for increasing open space in precisely the areas that need it most. Transferring lots, either City-owned or tax delinquent – to community groups was perceived to be a good option for speeding the creation of new neighbourhood green spaces. In order to ensure that there was an organization capable of handling all of the facets of land ownership, the CitySpace Plan recommended and created supports for the development of what was soon to become a new organization called NeighborSpace..

5.6 NeighborSpace

Incorporated in 1996, the primary role of NeighborSpace is to acquire and insure small parks, gardens, natural areas and scenic landscapes in the City of Chicago.⁴³ The organization assists community groups to create and maintain green spaces that, due to their size or location, are unlikely candidates for City-managed parks. NeighborSpace frequently acquires pieces of land at the request of neighborhood groups and block clubs.

Though initiated through intergovernmental agreement, NeighborSpace is an independent nonprofit. The organization started out with guaranteed

funding for its first three years from the City of Chicago, the Chicago Parks District and Cook County Forest Preserve District (a 10 member board includes appointed members from each of the three groups, three are from the private sector). Today, NeighborSpace has a twenty-year commitment from these government entities for annual contributions of \$100,000 each. The group has also acquired significant grant funding for land acquisition.

NeighborSpace acquires city owned properties for \$1 through transfer, tax delinquent properties from Cook County, parkland by transfer and private properties from individual owners. Chicago Parks supports the land trust because it is inefficient for them to manage small spaces. NeighborSpace does not provide on-the-ground assistance to groups that will be responsible for managing the acquired green spaces.

Therefore, they have partnered with the well-established Openlands Project, an urban conservation and greening organization. NeighborSpace visits sites three times a year to make sure that properties are being cared for and provides a Stewardship Fund for maintenance and long-term management -- \$6,000 is provided for each site.

While there is the possibility that groups will lose interest in a community garden, there is so much interest in gardening in Chicago that another group will always step in to manage the site. In order to avoid the possibility of green spaces falling into disrepair, NeighborSpace ensures that there is a dedicated group of gardeners before acquiring a site.

“These gardeners sow the seeds of community change in garden plots inserted among abandoned industrial buildings, between neglected apartment buildings, and within forgotten neighborhoods. These gardens, the organic institutions that make them possible, and the activities that develop from and give rise to shared experiences, break down barriers and open gates to opportunity.”

*Marti Bjornson. “Chicago Greening Puts Nature in the City.”
www.consciouschoice.com/issues/cc113/greengrowing.html
May 1998*

5.7 The Openlands Project and Greencorps

As in virtually all of the cities profiled in this publication, there are a whole host of organizations working to support community gardens in Chicago. Urban conservation groups like the Openlands Project were the predecessors and inspiration for the CitySpace Project. The support provided by Openlands and organizations like Greencorps and the Chicago Botanic Gardens, builds the capacity of communities to manage their green spaces.

Openlands has an admirable track record. Founded in 1963, the organization has secured more than 45,000 acres of open space in the Chicago area including forest preserves, parkland, greenways and community gardens.⁴⁴ Openlands assists community gardeners with its Urban Greening Program, including technical advice and training to ensure that communities can maintain their gardens.

Established in 1995 by the City of Chicago's Department of Environment to promote environmental stewardship, Greencorps Chicago provides a similar service.⁴⁵ Greencorps offers educational workshops, training and technical landscaping assistance to a range of groups including schools, faith institutions and nonprofit groups. Like Openlands, Greencorps improves community capacity by ensuring that groups have necessary skills and knowledge.

5.8 The Significance of Ownership

Chicago is not unusual for offering technical support for community gardeners through a city department. It is the recognition of the significance of ownership and permanency that is unique. While other city governments have provided parkland or access to city-owned land, Chicago stands out for having created a mechanism for acquiring and protecting green spaces that will then be managed by community groups such as community

gardeners. Although land trusts in New York City are working on a similar level, these are private organizations that do not have NeighborSpace's origins of strong government support.

It is the promise of long term security that creates the potential for other organizations to focus on assisting community groups that want to garden and improve their neighbourhoods. At the same time, without the support of nonprofits working to assist community gardeners on-the-ground, NeighborSpace would not be able to focus exclusively on land.

NeighborSpace can only purchase so many properties each year, which means that there are still many gardens in Chicago with uncertain tenure. To date, NeighborSpace has purchased 70 sites and there are many more acquisitions pending. The organization is young and has the potential – particularly given the enthusiasm of communities to participate in creating green spaces – to become a much larger land holder. While it is indisputable that Chicago's vacant lands have facilitated this approach, NeighborSpace is an innovative model for cities interested in securing land through land trusts.

A description of a project made possible by the site acquisitions of NeighborSpace:

"On a sliver of land between two multi-story apartments, there is now a vegetable garden. There are two destinations for the 800 pounds of fresh produce grown each year – the Inspiration Café, a free restaurant staffed by and dedicated to the homeless, and Groceryland, a free supermarket run by an organization that serves low income people with AIDS."

www.iclei.org/liawards/winners2000/land_winners





The Canadian Community Gardening Group is a list-serve that encourages community garden organizers and enthusiasts to exchange information. Through this list-serve it is evident that it is not only large cities in Canada that have flourishing community gardens. Indeed many of the communications are between groups in small and medium sized cities that have a rapidly growing interest in community gardens.

Community gardens are growing up all over Canada and the United States. While at one time they may have been an inner city phenomenon, there can no longer be any doubt that their appeal crosses over into communities of all sizes and descriptions. A broad range of people are tapping into the benefits of community gardens.

Smaller cities and towns are breaking new ground by developing approaches to community gardens that suit their specific needs. While smaller places tend to have smaller budgets and non-profit groups, they may also struggle less to focus their energy and dollars and to gain support for important community initiatives.

Three such places, that are innovators in community gardening, are the region of Waterloo, Inuvik and Saskatoon. Each of these cities has started to move toward creating food security and each, in their own unique way, is beginning to use community gardens to serve the diverse needs of their communities. In all three cases, tremendous strides have been made in a very short time.

6.0 The Region of Waterloo

The region of Waterloo has had active community gardens for more than ten years. The gardens were originally introduced, along with community kitchens, by the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. Recently, community gardens have been taken on by the Waterloo Region Community Health Department and a community gardens network has evolved.

For an area with approximately 450,000 people, there are an impressive thirty-four gardens within the Region of Waterloo.⁴⁶ The City of Kitchener, with a population of under 200,000 is home to nineteen of these gardens (the City of Waterloo has eight). Many of the gardens are united in their commitment to producing organic food and in contributing to the local emergency food services. The Waterloo Community Gardening Network has been an important source of connection between gardens.

The Region's community gardens are a collaborative effort, supported by a range of groups from local churches to emergency food services and community centres. A number of the gardens are located on land affiliated with one of these groups; others are located on government owned land including parkland.

Most of the gardens have started through partnerships and many since 1998, an indication of efforts towards increase food access alternatives and community health. Financial support for new gardens has come from both local governments and the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. The City of Kitchener has provided land and start-up assistance. In addition, in 2000 the City of Kitchener contributed to the publication of a guide, 'Building Community Gardens,' to assist citizens in creating new gardens.

6.1 The Waterloo Region Community Gardening Network

The Community Health Department plays a significant role in supporting community gardeners including the creation of the umbrella organization the Waterloo Region Community Gardening Network. The Network was formed in 1997 and consists of community gardeners and facilitators, as well as representatives from community agencies that promote food security.⁴⁷

The Network's focus is the promotion and maintenance of community gardens in Waterloo Region. Through public education, assisting groups to locate resources, building skills and sharing information – the Network has become a hub for community gardening. It offers free organic gardening workshops (also open to the public) each month to members

The gardens in Kitchener-Waterloo serve a diversity of groups and have a range of approaches. Some are collective gardens, focused on providing food for emergency services while others are typical allotment-style gardens. There are gardens for specific groups, particular neighbourhoods or housing facilities and in one case for Latin American immigrants and refugees. A remarkable number of gardens are specifically focused on easing the burden of the local food bank, either by providing a place for people in need of food to grow produce, or by employing volunteers to grow and donate fresh food.

London, Ontario has 14 community gardens (350 plots), Regina, Saskatchewan has 8 gardens (700 plots) and Calgary, Alberta has 11 community gardens (306 plots) plus 4 gardens that are collectively gardened. Greater Victoria, British Columbia has 14 community gardens (435 plots)

6.2 Saskatoon: Working Toward a Sustainable Food System

Saskatoon recently became the second city in Canada to draft a Food Charter (Toronto was the first) and in doing so has taken an important step in recognizing the need for a sustainable food system. While community gardens are not yet a part of the mandate of local government, the new policy lays the groundwork for the City to take a leading role.

Partnerships between government, nonprofit organizations and community groups are already a common aspect of food security projects in Saskatoon. Initiatives such as the Good Food Box and community kitchens are well established in the city – the former is the second largest program of its kind in Canada. Community gardens are also a growing part of the work of nonprofit organizations.

There are currently about half a dozen community gardens in Saskatoon, two associated with the nonprofit organization CHEP (Child Hunger and Education Program).⁴⁸ Two community gardens are located alongside of low income housing and are administered by the Saskatoon Housing Authority and one is at a senior's housing complex. In addition to these gardens, there are school community gardens scattered through the city.

The City of Saskatoon administers one garden with 90 plots. Although the garden is on the fringes of the city it is easily accessible by bus. Local groups such as CHEP are working to increase the City's support for improving facilities at the existing garden and designating land for future sites. The City has agreed that gardens are an appropriate use of parkland but has shown some concern about allotments. The new Food Charter may bring about significant changes in the City's approach. One indication of the growth potential for community gardens in Saskatoon is that this winter, with the assistance of CHEP, two new gardens will be under construction.

6.3 CHEP: Child Hunger and Education Program⁴⁹

As its name suggests, the focus of CHEP is working to improve health and nutrition for children and families through a range of services and programs. CHEP supports food programs in schools and community centres. Through partnerships with government, schools and parent groups more than 275,000 meals were served to youth and children. CHEP also educates children (in the classroom) about nutrition and cooking through its Kids CAN program.

CHEP coordinates the second largest Good Food Box program in Canada (Toronto's is the biggest) distributing almost 2000 boxes of fresh, local and nutritious food each month. CHEP's support of community gardens is aimed primarily at families – bringing them together to grow food and to learn about a range of topics from composting to canning.

CHEP assists community groups to find land for gardening and helps with start-up, including the provision of seeds, tools and seedlings. They partner with schools and other groups to enable the development of other gardening programs and offer "Seeds of Strength" a program partnering with a grade nine class – mostly "at risk youth" – to teach students about native plants.

CHEP's community gardening coordinator is working towards strengthening the relationships between the city's community gardens with a network. She is optimistic that community gardens are just beginning to flourish in Saskatoon and that, with the support of local government, many more gardening initiatives will emerge.



6.4 Inuvik's Community Greenhouse

Since November of 1998, Inuvik has had a Community Garden Society. While this may seem odd for a community of 3,400 that is located north of the Arctic Circle, the group has had great success over the past three years.⁵⁰ The Society has started the most northern commercial greenhouse in the world; its two floors divided between community garden plots and commercial activities.

While urban communities often lack the space for gardening, the primary challenge in Inuvik is that even property owners have permafrost and a very short growing season. Accessing high quality, fresh produce is difficult, not only due to growing conditions, but also because imported produce is costly (due to the transportation) and its quality is compromised with the distance traveled.

"The greenhouse has served as a focal point for community development. It has attracted people from a very wide scope: experienced gardeners, new gardeners, old, young and a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds including a significant interest from the two local [groups of] aboriginal peoples – the Gwich'in and Inuvialut."

Carrie Young, Coordinator of the Inuvik Community Greenhouse

The commercial part of the Inuvik greenhouse is approximately 4000 square feet and produces bedding plants, starter flowers and vegetables and later in the season, fresh tomatoes and cucumbers for sale. The community garden plots cover the 12,000 square feet of the main floor. Plots are used by local residents and some are reserved for Elders and particular community groups. The greenhouse also

contains an office for staff and a classroom for community education.

6.5 The History of the Greenhouse

The Inuvik Community Greenhouse has its roots in local inspiration. In the summer of 1998, local gardeners came up with the concept and submitted a request to preserve an old hockey rink that was scheduled to be demolished.⁵¹ A study was undertaken, determining that converting the building into a greenhouse was indeed viable and a before long, a nonprofit society was created to undertake the project.

Construction began in January of 1999 and over the course of the first year the floor of the building was transformed into a large public garden with raised beds. The upper level of the arena – previously changing rooms and a viewing area – was converted into space for commercial greenhouse production. The tin roof was stripped off and transparent polycarbonate panels were installed.



photo courtesy Carrie Young

The first real growing season for the greenhouse was in the spring of 2000. The Society hired two staff to manage the commercial end of the greenhouse which sold approximately 15,000 bedding plants that spring. The public part of the greenhouse had 76 plots, all of which were claimed, and a waiting list formed.

Now in its third year, the Community Garden Society has over 100 members and broad support in the community. Funds have been raised through a variety of means including government, corporate grants, the support of local businesses, and the sale of bedding plants. Both the federal and territorial governments have contributed to the project, the federal government through its Canadian Rural Partnerships Pilot projects.

6.6 Future Directions

The community garden area of the greenhouse is unheated, but still extends the growing season by about a month and a half. Through experimentation, gardeners are learning how best to cultivate crops in the conditions of the greenhouse. Classes from the local school and some neighbouring schools have received educational tours of the greenhouse from greenhouse staff. The greenhouse is also linked to the “Inuvik Works” work placement program, providing skill building opportunities for local residents.

The greenhouse contributes to beautification efforts in Inuvik. Hanging baskets and window boxes are a welcome addition to the main street and Inuvik Housing Authority homes. Flowers and planters have also been made available to local businesses.⁵²

For the future, the project is aiming to become self-sufficient through the commercial arm of the greenhouse. If enough produce and bedding plants can be sold, this is a plausible goal. The greenhouse is also looking for new ways to improve and expand its community impacts. It is developing a composting project and will eventually involve the community and that will provide compost for both community plots and for sale.

The Inuvik Community Greenhouse is evidence that community gardens are cropping up in the most unlikely of places. It is also inspiration for all communities facing challenges with food security. If a town with permafrost can grow its own food, surely cities across North America (in more salubrious climates) can develop, cultivate and nurture their community gardens!



photo courtesy Carrie Young



Conclusions



A common characteristic of the successful community gardening initiatives described in this report, both in Canada and the United States, is strong partnerships. The depth and breadth of these relationships is directly reflected in the degree to which community gardens are contributing to the livability of neighbourhoods, and are improving the lives of thousands of participants from all walks of life.

The nature of the partnerships varies, as do the resources that different partners bring to them. By working together, groups can more successfully create a broad range of benefits through

community gardens. The outcomes of community gardens are inherently and gloriously complex because they cross so many boundaries – they contribute to individual health, to community health and at the broadest level, to the health of our food system and the environment.

The range of challenges that community gardens address suggests that governments, funders and community organizations should be flocking to include them within their mandates. There is ample evidence that community and nonprofit groups have done exactly this. A tremendous range of

groups have developed gardens and, where even a little bit of support has been provided, community gardens have proliferated.

On the other hand, a number of governments – at all levels – and funding organizations are lagging behind. Misconceptions about community gardens remain – a challenge that marginalized groups and community organizations continue to struggle with. Nonetheless, it seems inevitable that governments and funders will follow – there are very few initiatives that require so little investment for such an abundance of positive results.



Government

Government support is invaluable in generating stable and strong community gardens. The role that governments play in the descriptions throughout this report, vary considerably. In the United States, the Department of Agriculture has been a source of funds for urban agriculture initiatives. In Canada, Human Resources and Development Canada and CIDA have provided project-based grants for nonprofit organizations.

It is increasingly necessary for national governments to become directly involved with improving the health of cities. In Canada, the number of people accessing food banks is rapidly

increasing, this is food for thought. About 750,000 Canadians relied on emergency food services in March of 2002, an increase of 4.1% over last year.⁵³ This statistic suggests that innovative food security approaches ought to be a high priority for all levels of government.

Many of the ways that local government can assist community gardening initiatives are discussed within this report. That a number of city governments have incorporated community gardens into their programs and policy, suggests that there are clear benefits to doing so.

Local governments can provide direct support to community gardens through staff time and through dollars. Governments may partner with nonprofit organizations, or assist community groups with information, community granting programs and expertise. Developing community gardens policy is an important first step. Protection for community gardens – whether it be through parkland, land acquisition or nurturing land trusts – is the most important step a local government can take in ensuring that gardens remain over the long term.

Nonprofit and Community Organizations

Nonprofit organizations have utilized their often minimal resources and achieved tremendous success with community gardens. As a result, the number of organizations involved with community gardens, with a wide range of health and livability goals, is rapidly growing.

The biggest obstacle for nonprofit groups in achieving long-term suc-

cess with community gardens is lack of stability. For groups relying on granting agencies and donations, funding is highly unpredictable. Nonetheless, large and more stable nonprofit organizations have been able to contribute on a significant level to creating permanent land tenure.

For struggling nonprofit groups – groups that are often important con-

tributors to community gardens – there are a myriad of challenges in developing long-term solutions. For these groups, building partnerships can help to ensure that gains are not lost. Working alongside of a range of groups can contribute to stability and keep organizations afloat in difficult times.



Universities and Schools

In the United States, universities in a number of cities have played a significant role in supporting urban agriculture. While some Canadian universities house community gardens on their campus grounds, none have provided the kind of direct assistance that American University Extensions provide. For Canadian universities, this is a lost opportunity for contributing to the broader community and

participating in a growing and innovative field.

The Penn State Urban Gardening Program has contributed considerably to the community gardening movement in Philadelphia. Similarly, in Seattle and Tacoma the Washington State University Extension has provided assistance and support for community gardens through its Urban Food Gardeners.

In the grade-school system, community gardens are becoming a commonplace part of school grounds. Both Canada and the United States have numerous organizations working to integrate gardens into school curriculums and to educate a new generation about the importance of nutrition and locally grown food. Gardens also serve as a source for a whole range of lessons – from basic botany to inspiration for art class.

Emergency Food Relief Organizations

In a number of communities, non-profit, government and religious institutions play a central role in providing emergency food services. Food banks and soup kitchens are the most traditional approach – providing vital nutrition for people in need.

In some instances, the same places that offer these food services are beginning to explore how to move away from the charitable and band-aid approaches to food provision. There are a growing

number of organizations – sometimes only an individual church or food bank – seeking ways to alter models of food access. Integrating community gardens into the emergency food system is revealing new possibilities for building individual self-esteem and skills, at the same time as improving nutrition and food quality.

This discovery alone, that community gardens can provide at least a partial solution for the crisis around foodbanks

and access to nutritious food, shows how important community gardens are to healthy cities. A range of groups must be involved in generating these solutions – constructive partnerships are necessary to resolve complex problems. For cities seeking new routes to improving community health, there are many lessons to be learned from the community gardens in their own backyards.



Endnotes

¹ Younger, Stephen. “P-Patch: How Does Your Garden Grow?” Department of Housing and Human Services. www.cityofseattle.net/don/news/ppatch.htm

² For more information about the Department of Neighborhoods and Seattle’s P-Patch Program see: www.cityofseattle.net/don/ppatch

³ A few of the organizations that contribute to community gardens in Seattle are: Washington State University/ King County Cooperative Extension, Lettuce Link (Freemont Public Association), Seattle Tilth, Master Gardeners of Seattle, Garden Works & Seattle Youth Garden Works (Church Council of Greater Seattle)

⁴ “The Vision for the City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan.” *Seattle Comprehensive Plan Toward a Sustainable Future*. <http://www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/planning/comprehensive/pdf/01%20CompPlan%20Introduction/Vision.pdf>

Also see City of Seattle website: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/planning/comprehensive/homecp.htm>

⁵ For detailed information about the neighbourhood plans see: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/planning/comprehensive/cnppackages.htm>

⁶ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an increasingly common method of connecting small scale (often organic) local farmers, with consumers. Consumers pay in advance for a share of the harvest, and this money enables producers to pay expenses and produce weekly deliveries of organic produce during the growing season. Information on Cultivating Communities from pamphlet, *Cultivating Communities*. Friends of P-Patch & City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. For more information see: www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/ppatch/cultivating.htm

⁷ <http://www.cityofseattle.net/don/ppatch/friends.htm>

⁸ *The Neighborhood Matching Fund*. City of Seattle Departments of Neighborhoods. Pamphlet. Also see: www.cityofseattle.net/don

⁹ The Belltown example is described at: <http://www.speakeasy.org/ppatch/whatis.html>

¹⁰ Poole, William. “Portland’s Choice.” *Land and People*. Trust for Public Land, Vol. 7: Number 1, 1995.

¹¹ Ordinance No. 139598, Passed by Council March 13, 1975



¹² Murzyn, Deb. "Award-winning community garden project keeps on growing." *Hoosier Times*, Sept. 2, 2001.

¹³ Murzyn, Deb. "Award-winning community garden project keeps on growing." *Hoosier Times*, Sept. 2, 2001.

¹⁴ Pfeiff, Margo. "City of Gardens." *Canadian Geographic*. January/February 2001, p.69.

¹⁵ For example, articles have appeared in *Canadian Geographic* and media reports are common in Quebec. Journalists from Ontario and the United States have visited Montreal community gardens.

¹⁶ Lee, Kevin. *Urban Poverty in Canada: A Statistical Profile*. April 2000. Canadian Council on Social Development. Found at: <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2000/up/>

¹⁷ Cosgrove, Sean. "Montreal's Community Gardening Program." *Cities Feeding People: Urban Agriculture and City Planning in North and South*. IDRC. September 1994. Also available at: www.cityfarmer.org/Montreal13.html

¹⁸ "City of Gardens." *Canadian Geographic*, January/February 2001. pp. 64-72.

¹⁹ Davidson, Thomas & Kathryn Krause. *A Social History of Urban Agriculture in Montreal*. <http://felix.geog.mcgill.ca/other/environ/1999b/food/irp4/history.html>

²⁰ Pfeiff, Margo. "City of Gardens." *Canadian Geographic*, January/February 2001. pp. 64-72.

²¹ From the City of Montreal Community Gardens Program's application for the *Metropolis Award*, p. 6.

²² Cosgrove, Sean. "Montreal's Community Gardening Program." *Cities Feeding People: Urban Agriculture and City Planning in North and South*. IDRC. September 1994. Also available at: www.cityfarmer.org/Montreal13.html

²³ Pfeiff, Margo. "City of Gardens." *Canadian Geographic*, January/February 2001, p. 70.

²⁴ Eco-Initiatives website: <http://eco-initiatives.qc.ca/victory.html>

²⁵ From the City of Toronto website: http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/quality_of_life/diversity.htm

²⁶ Baker, Lauren. *Seeds of Our City: Case Studies from Eight Diverse Community Gardens in Toronto*. Draft, July 12, 2002. FoodShare.

²⁷ Detailed information on FoodShare Toronto can be found at: www.foodshare.net

²⁸ Good Food Boxes provide affordable locally grown produce that is delivered weekly to customers at neighbourhood drop-off points



- ²⁹ It may appear from the numbers quoted elsewhere in this publication that Toronto has more gardens than both Montreal and Seattle. However, the numbers quoted for the other two cities are only city-sponsored gardens. Both cities have other community gardening initiatives that are not numerated here. In addition, Montreal's city-run program involves twice as many gardeners as are estimated to be participating in Toronto gardens.
- ³⁰ Both Philadelphia and Boston have had substantial numbers of vacant lots and both have utilized land trusts for the protection of community gardens created on these lots. Philadelphia has an estimated 1,200 community gardens and is understandably proud of this level of transformation to green space. In 1986 the Neighborhood Gardens Association / A Philadelphia Land Trust was established in an effort to start protecting community gardens permanently. Today, NGA owns approximately 22 gardens and has set a precedent for other cities (such as NYC and Chicago) to develop similar organizations. For more information see: www.ngalandtrust.org/whoami.html
- In Boston, there are approximately 80 community gardens owned by several urban land trusts. The Boston Natural Areas Fund owns 30 community gardens and a number of wild areas throughout Boston. The national level Trust for Public Land has helped to establish three other land trusts in the City that are focused on community gardens preservation. In 1994, the four largest non-profit land trusts on Boston united (the separate organizations still exist) within the umbrella organization Garden Futures to create a unified resource and voice within the City.
- ³¹ Parks and People Foundation. *Neighborhood Open Space Management: A Report on Greening Strategies in Baltimore and Six Other Cities*. 2000. p.48.
- ³² *Urban Vacant Land Issues and Recommendations*. 1995. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. p.15
- ³³ From Green Guerillas "Facts about Community Gardens" – <http://users.rcn.com/ggsnyc/Pages/Facts%20&%20Figures.html>
- ³⁴ For details on the campaign to preserve the 119 NYC gardens see: http://www.interactivist.net/gardens/bta_narrative.html
- ³⁵ Quote in the box from Green Guerillas website "What We Do." See: www.greenguerillas.org
- ³⁶ "NYC Gardens Saved." *Rodale Organic Gardening*. September / October 1999.
- ³⁷ For more information on GreenThumb see: www.greenthumbnyc.org
- ³⁸ For more information about the Trust for Public Land see: <http://www.tpl.org/index.cfm>
- ³⁹ For more information about the New York Restoration Project see: <http://www.nyrp.org/>
- ⁴⁰ For more information about the conclusion to the lawsuit see the website of the Office of New York State's Attorney General, Eliot Spitzer: http://www.oag.state.ny.us/press/2002/sep/sep18a_02.html
- ⁴¹ Parks and People Foundation. *Neighborhood Open Space Management: A Report on Greening Strategies in Baltimore and Six Other Cities*. 2000. p.48.
- ⁴² <http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Budget/budget/capital/programs/cityspace.html>
- ⁴³ www.neighbor-space.org
- ⁴⁴ www.openlands.org
- ⁴⁵ www.cityofchicago.org/Environment/NaturalResources/Greencorps
- ⁴⁶ <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/Profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm>
- ⁴⁷ <http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/web/health.nsf/Map?openform> -- Look for Community Gardens
- ⁴⁸ Much of the information in this section was shared by Jodi Crewe, Community Gardening Coordinator at CHEP.
- ⁴⁹ <http://www.chep.org/index.html>
- ⁵⁰ Young, Carrie. *Inuvik Community Greenhouse*. <http://www.cityfarmer.org/inuvik.html> 2002.
- ⁵¹ Rollans, Scott. *Extreme Gardening 2: Inuvik – Land of the Midnight Sunflowers*. <http://members.shaw.ca/srollans/articles/extreme2.html>
- ⁵² Young, Carrie. *Inuvik Community Greenhouse*. <http://www.cityfarmer.org/inuvik.html> 2002.
- ⁵³ Moore, Oliver. *Reliance on food banks jumps 4.1 per cent*. www.globeandmail.com, Wednesday, October 16, 2002.