

T H E G R E E N I N G O F

STRUGGLE

N E W Y O R K C I T Y

FOR SPACE

1 9 7 0 — 1 9 8 4



BY TOM FOX, IAN KOEPEL & SUSAN KELLAM

T H E G R E E N I N G O F

STRUGGLE

N E W Y O R K C I T Y

FOR SPACE

1 9 7 0 — 1 9 8 4

by
Tom Fox
Ian Koepfel
Susan Kellam



Neighborhood Open Space Coalition
New York, New York

Copyright © 1985 by Neighborhood Open Space
Coalition, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be
reproduced in any means without permission in writing
from the publisher. Address: Neighborhood Open
Space Coalition, Inc., 72 Reade Street, New York, New
York, 10007, (212) 513-7555. This book was made
possible by funds granted by the Charles H. Revson
Foundation. The Statements made and views
expressed, however, are solely the responsibility of the
authors.

Cover photo: Jane Grundy

Dedication

One Women's Way: A Tribute to Mrs. Carthan

It's rare in these days to meet and know good people, for they're often "extra special" in our lives.

For they may have been in the family, a neighbor or friend, tears of grief you feel when they die.

It's rare these days that those special people are just ordinary people, who love to help others.

For they never stop to hear the praise they deserve, for they're often running somewhere else, to help another.

Yes, Mrs. Hattie Carthan was like that, a special person I'm sure, God would also say.

For there was no obstacle too big, nor problem too difficult, with Mrs. Carthan, there was always a way.

I remember Mrs. Carthan as President of Vernon Ave. T & T giving the first of many parties for the block.

For with Mrs. Carthan heading a campaign, everything generally went as smooth as a clock.

And wasn't it Mrs. Carthan leading the drive to save a beautiful Magnolia tree?

For if her efforts were for a good cause, wasn't Mrs. Carthan always there, giving of herself, unselfishly?

Yes, Mrs. Carthan had a dream that beautiful neighborhoods inspire others, to be just as good.

She lived that reality and the good life, a lot more than we wish we ever could.

Yes, Mrs. Carthan was a person who loved children, always saying, "hello young people," wherever she went.

For she was a kind, generous, sincere person, as a sister, a mother or friend, she seemed "heaven sent."

It's no small wonder that we're going to miss you Mrs. Carthan, you're an inspiration to us all.

For it was comforting to know, if we ever needed you, all we did was just call.

One woman's way, Mrs. Carthan's way, an example, of how things can be done.

To her success was a coalition of young and old working together, reaping the benefits collectively, as one.

Yes, Mrs. Hattie Carthan, your trials and tribulations in this life are over, the good life, the good fight.

Memories of you are etched forever in the mind for you were a beautiful person, to us "a beacon of light!" -Love always, Terry Johns, Grandson of Mr. Nez Chapman.

Table of Contents

iii	Dedication
vi	Forward
vii	Preface
viii	Acknowledgements

ix PART ONE — THE STORY

CHAPTER ONE:

GARDENS AND PARKS FOR THE PEOPLE

2	Re-Greening the Urban Environment
3	The City's Rural History
6	Taking to the Streets in the 1970's
7	A Threatened Resource

CHAPTER TWO:

PAINTING THE TOWN GREEN

15	The Crusaders
15	Setting the Stage
16	Taking Action
17	Testing the Soil
19	Revitalizing the South Bronx
	The Allies:
21	Friends of the Parks
22	The Tree People
23	Planning on a Grand Sale
23	The Neighborhood Rehabilitators
25	The Funders

CHAPTER THREE:

THE ENDANGERED GARDENS

31	The Landowners
33	The Land Negotiators
35	The Landless

CHAPTER FOUR:

THE GARDENERS SPEAK OUT

43	Why People Garden
44	The Gardener's Woes
45	Sowing the Seed
45	Reaping the Harvest

CHAPTER FIVE:

PULLING TOGETHER

51	Let Your Voices Be Heard
52	How It Came About
53	Leveraging Resources
55	Strength in Numbers
55	The Network
57	Open Space Advocate
59	Guidance from the Board
61	Reaching Out
62	Guidance from the Field

CHAPTER SIX:

THE BIG PICTURE

67	The Search Begins
69	Talking With The Gardeners
69	The Need for Recreation
71	Urban Farmers

CHAPTER SEVEN:

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

77	Strengthening the Partnership
78	A Question of Balance
79	Some Recommendations
81	Ten Years From Now
83	Hard Questions That Must Be Answered
84	The Task Force

PART TWO — THE INVENTORY

90	Introduction
91	Site Count
93	Site Distribution
98	Area
99	Project Type
102	Land Use
103	Motivations
105	Participants
107	Sponsorship
109	Ownership
111	Site Age

Costs

113	Introduction
116	Initial Capital
118	Annual Capital, Total Annual Capital
119	Annual Sweat Equity, Total Sweat Equity
121	Annual Maintenance, Total Maintenance
122	Grand Total
123	Ratings
126	Sample Site Profiles
132	Survey Methodology
133	Statistical Techniques
134	Questionnaire
135	Data Processing
136	Inventory Update

PART THREE — THE RESOURCES

140	Technical Assistance Organizations In New York City
142	New York City's Community Gardens
150	American Community Gardening Association

Bibliographies:

154	Gardening
157	Organizational
159	Site Design
160	Urban Land Use and Design
163	Index

Forward

Lisa Cashdan
Director, New York City Land Project
Trust For Public Land

The Struggle for Space documents the rich history of the community open space movement in New York City and raises the critical issues for the future. It is a study of and story about the people who have been involved in the creation of New York's community parks and gardens from the unique vantage point of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition.

This past decade has witnessed an explosion in community interest in developing and protecting open spaces. In part, this can be attributed to the increased availability of vacant land left as the legacy of the forces of disinvestment, abandonment, and decay that swept vast areas of the city in the sixties. But as this important research effort illustrates, there has also been a growing awareness on the part of city residents that they can have a long-term impact on the future fabric on the cityscape.

While parks departments have traditionally assumed the role of providing the city's natural and recreational areas, fiscal constraints and a lack of manpower have hampered their efforts to provide open space where it is needed most—in New York's low-income high density neighborhoods. Community groups have filled this void by assuming a greater responsibility for designing, developing, and maintaining neighborhood parks and gardens. Their commitment and enthusiasm, backed up resources invested by an expanding network of technical assistance organizations, private foundations, corporations, and new local government programs, has been the key to the growth of the movement.

For some time, however, there has been a recognized need for raw data concerning the number of established gardens, the extent of community participation in their formation and management, and the amount of money invested in their development. When the Neighborhood

Open Space Coalition was formed in 1980, its leaders pledged to make this research a high priority. Now that the results are in, the case for increased funding and site protection programs appears stronger than ever.

For example, we now know that 448 sites have been created and maintained by over 11,000 volunteers, and that millions of dollars have been invested in their development to date. We also know that the most critical issue cited by the majority of people interviewed is future access to the land. It is imperative that government leaders recognize the value of open spaces now, so that at least those sites on city-owned property can be protected for future generations.

Although city officials have been slow to recognize the benefits of providing long-term security for community gardens, in their haste to receive top dollar for city-owned property, *The Struggle for Space* reminds us that the value of a vacant lot cannot be measured by its development potential alone. From the ravaged landscape of the South Bronx to the densely populated areas of Manhattan, community gardens have provided a refuge and a vibrancy to city life that is essential to our health and well being.

In this study, the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition has amassed a highly useful body of new information through extensive field research and hundreds of interviews. As the first comprehensive analysis of New York City's community gardens and parks, it demonstrates the movement's growing maturity and sophistication. It also raises a host of questions and issues that still must be resolved for the community open space movement to grow and prosper.

The development of an integrated open space policy will only come about through the coordinated effort of community groups, city officials, and developers who recognize the importance of creating and preserving our neighborhood parks and gardens. The findings of this research effort are a strong testament to the importance of community involvement in resolving future urban open space use issues.

Preface

During the 1970's many New York City neighborhoods experienced a cycle of disinvestment, abandonment, arson and demolition that left thousands of acres of rubble to mar the urban landscape. At the same time, the City's near brush with bankruptcy caused a reduction in many basic municipal services. The "soft" City services such as sanitation and park maintenance were hit particularly hard. The effects were devastating, especially in low-income communities. Vacant lots became dumping grounds for unscrupulous trash haulers. Local parks that were not maintained were rendered inoperable by neglect and vandalism.

Community groups all over New York City fought back. By reclaiming vacant land and creating a variety of community gardens and parks, neighbors worked with each other to improve the quality of their lives. Nonprofit organizations provided technical assistance to local groups. Foundations, banks, corporations, and government programs provided funding, materials and technical assistance. By the 1980's, the success of these efforts was evident, but there was no accurate information on the system that had developed.

It was obvious that community participation was having a major effect on vacant land, existing City parks, street trees and the other open space amenities in the City. In April 1980, a conference was held as part of the first research on this phenomenon (*Community Open Spaces* - Francis, Cashdan, and Paxson), and the participants suggested that a major inhibitor to the further development of the movement was the lack of coordination between the organizations and individuals involved. In November of that year, The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition was formed to address that need.

One of the first problems that had to be tackled was the lack of information on the community parks and gardens that had been developed. The Charles H. Revson Foundation played a major role in the development of our young organization when it provided support for the Coalition's first research project - an inventory of all the community gardens and parks in the City.

Three field researchers visited 410

community gardens during the summer and fall of 1982. The information from the field survey was fed into computers at the State University of New York at Oneonta for macro analysis. It was then transferred to the Coalition's newly acquired Apple Computer for further analysis during 1983. An update which documents all the sites as of January 1984 identified 448 community gardens and parks on 155 acres of New York that were built and tended by 11,171 people.

The *Struggle for Space* is the result of our research and the story of the people who have had a major impact on the quality of life in so many New York City neighborhoods. The story brings the statistics to life. It is a celebration of the hard work of thousands of dedicated people. Community residents, philanthropists, horticulturalists, educators, bureaucrats, planners, landscape architects, construction workers, bankers, corporate executives, summer youth workers, lawyers, real estate experts and professionals of all sorts have combined their heart, soul and muscle to breath life into our City. New York's citizens, native and transplanted, who are giving of themselves for their family, their neighborhood and their City.

Chapter One describes the beginning stages of the movement and puts it into historical perspective. Chapter Two explores the evolution of the movement. Chapter Three describes the major threat to the longevity of the sites. Chapter Four describes what is happening from the individual gardeners perspective. Chapter Five is the story of the Coalition and Chapter Six contains a description of the inventory findings. Chapter Seven makes recommendations and asks serious questions about the future.

The Inventory section contains charts, graphs and statistics that describe how many facilities there are, where they're located, who's involved, why people are participating, who owns the land, how much land is involved, the value of the system and much more. We have used the most conservative numbers to avoid the appearance of exaggeration. The Resource section includes information you can use to get involved - if you're interested.

The production of this publication took longer than we originally anticipated. I would like to thank both the Charles H.

Revson Foundation and the Coalition's Board of Directors for their patience. Some things have changed during the design and writing of the *Struggle for Space*. The movement is getting both bigger and better.

One thing that diminished the strength of the movement since the writing of the text was the loss of Elizabeth (Liz) Christy. Liz was a pioneer who played a major role in New York City's community gardening movement. Her strength and vision was a motivation to many of us who "got involved", and are still involved. Her death leaves us diminished by one and we will miss her. Her life, however, brought many people and talents into the movement and her contribution to our City and its neighborhoods was tremendous.

Traditional mechanisms for park development and maintenance no longer apply in many urban centers of the United States. Open space, however, is becoming more important as population density and leisure time increase. Public participation can play a major role in open space provision in the future. The *Struggle for Space* increases our understanding of this phenomenon and offers some directions and questions for the future. I am grateful for the opportunity I've had to work in this field and share in the vitality of the committed people who are working to make our City a better place to live.

Community gardens are making a big contribution to the quality of life in New York City and many other cities. They are providing cleaner, healthier communities; local recreation resources; quality food; positive social interaction; education for our children and a symbol that the people care enough to get involved. Their efforts should be supported and the spirit of community participation should be nurtured. By helping people help themselves we are taking action toward a better future. A future in which the government, business, nonprofit agencies and the people, work together for a greener New York City. Wouldn't that be nice!

Tom Fox

Acknowledgements

The research and publication of this book was made possible by the generous support of the Charles H. Revson Foundation.

The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals and organizations. Without their involvement the *Struggle for Space* would have never happened. John Ameroso, Tony Antonellis, Apple Computer Corporation Community Affairs Program, Mark Baker, Paul Bauman, Mike Blumenfeld, Noelle Brisson, Lisa Cashdan, Alexandra Christy, Liz Christy, Meg Clark, Ken Davies, Epson America Inc., Elizabeth Faulkner, Grace Fisher, Jack Flanagan, Martin Gallent, Aldo Ghirin, Wendy Gibson, Jane Grundy, Helene Hollende Lepkowski, Jenny Holtman, Tessa Huxley, Terry McHugh Inglesbie, Karen Jore, Leslie Kameny, Sara Levine, Edward Luft, Colleen McEvoy, Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation, Nancy Rosen, Kim Schwab, Nick Shorr, Tom Smith, SUNY Oneonta Laboratory for Computer Graphics & Spatial Analysis, Melissa Supthen, Wanda Tribble, Melissa Weber and New York City's Tenacious Garden & Park Enthusiasts.

PART ONE:

THE STORY

CHAPTER ONE:

GARDENS

AND

PARKS

FOR

THE

PEOPLE

Re-greening the Urban Environment

Hattie Carthan refused to sit back and watch the gradual deterioration of the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Vernon Avenue was a tree-lined block when she bought her house there in 1953. In little more than a decade, only three trees were left to shade the increasing signs of neglect on the street. On the next block was a rare Southern Magnolia, a tree that holds its leaves all winter and welcomes the early spring with blooms of large white flowers. When the tree became threatened by plans to demolish the building that protected it from the cold winter winds, Hattie launched a campaign that involved the local community. "We began by saving one tree, and now there are hundreds of new trees, community gardens, and a renewed sense of dignity in Bedford-Stuyvesant."

At the age of 83, Hattie Carthan is now the President of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center, a local community organization formed to offer advice and support to the growing number of community gardeners in Brooklyn. She explains, "Even though we're living in a city, we have to bring as much of the country here as we possibly can. After all, who doesn't love nature?" Hattie, and others like her, have brightened large areas of the City for scores of New Yorkers. Ultimately, everyone benefits from the City's transformation.

Twelve years ago, an empty lot which once housed the Ruppert Brewery in the Yorkville section of Manhattan was littered with broken bottles, discarded

tires, slabs of concrete, wood and bricks. Today the Ruppert Green is one of the biggest community gardens in Manhattan, involving 70 families working one and a half acres, and producing approximately 320 bushels of fresh vegetables annually.

When the Ruppert Green community gardeners began to investigate ways to preserve the land as a permanent garden site, the City informed them that the property was worth too much. Rising real estate values on that particular urban agricultural parcel escalated its value to \$10 million, making the tomatoes worth one thousand dollars apiece. The importance of maintaining green open spaces in the middle of New York City's rapidly redeveloping neighborhoods, however, may necessitate paying the price.

Throughout the 1970's, as the vacant lots were converted to gardens and parks, technical assistance groups funded by the public and private sector ran programs providing everything from seeds and materials to construction, horticultural and real estate advice for local community organizations. By 1983 there were nine technical assistance organizations investing \$2.6 million annually and employing over 40 individuals.

The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition (NOSC) was formed in 1980 to unite New York City's community gardening, park and technical assistance groups to network information, share resources and take a stronger stand in the City's planning and policy on open space development. With a membership of 80 dues-paying organizations, the Coalition has begun to confront the City

and the real estate developers, not as their opponent, but as their co-worker.

For example, when hundreds of plants were uprooted from a community gardening site on West 96th Street and Broadway, and relocated in a special section of Riverside Park to make room for a high-rise luxury condominium building, the community gardeners asked the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition to help them hold onto their original garden site. The Coalition worked with the local Community Board Chairperson to organize a meeting between the developer, his lawyer and architect, the community gardeners, and the Trust for Public Land and the Green Guerillas, two member organizations which had real estate and horticultural expertise. After nine months of negotiations between the real estate developer, Arthur Zeckendorf, the gardeners and the two technical assistance groups, a compromise was reached that integrated a 7,000 square foot garden within the condominium plan. The proposed Lotus Community Garden will be completed in the Fall of 1984, and includes sitting areas, trees, shrubs, a pond, flower gardens, and a \$75,000 endowment for maintenance.

"I'm sure that the garden has helped sales," says Zeckendorf, who has already sold most of the 300 apartments in the Columbia Condominium building. He feels that his gesture of good will, the inclusion of the garden within his condominium plan, will add green life to what is primarily a brick, glass, and concrete city.

By the late 1970's there were some 2,000 acres of vacant land owned by the City of New York,¹ acres left vacant by

uncompleted urban renewal projects, the exodus of the middle class to the suburbs, and a cycle of disinvestment consisting of abandonment, arson and demolition. Even with the highest population density of any city in the country, 24,500 people per square mile, New York is filled with available open space for creating gardens and parks.

An inventory completed by the Coalition in January, 1983 confirms that 143 acres, 102 acres of which were bricks and rubble, have been transformed through hard work and careful planning into 410 community gardens and parks throughout the five boroughs of New York City. Many of the community projects that the Coalition identified as part of this growing network are located in low-income, declining neighborhoods such as the South Bronx. But there are also a number of projects in middle-income neighborhoods in Queens and Brooklyn, where single family dwellings predominate, as well as in the upper-income areas of Manhattan such as Greenwich Village and the Upper East Side. It is this drama of transformation, the struggle for space throughout the five boroughs, that this report documents.

The City's Rural History

Like 56 other cities across the country,² New York City today has a well-developed and diverse community garden and park movement. Among its progenitors are the Southern Blacks who migrated into the City during the 1930's and 1940's; the Caribbean

A poster urging citizens to help the war effort by growing food

Will you have a part in Victory?



"Every Garden a Munition Plant"

Islanders and Hispanics who settled primarily during the 1950's and 1960's, and the Asians, and Central and South Americans, who during the 1970's and 1980's have made New York their home. For all these diverse groups, gardening became an opportunity to recreate a familiar environment with familiar plants and traditional methods of cultivation.

Social ecologist Murray Bookchin fondly recalls growing up in New York City during the 1920's and 30's when the ethnic neighborhoods were brimming with the tastes and smells of the Old World. The Italians, in particular, grew many of their own vegetables to satisfy their cultural tastes. Now, in Harlem, descendants of the Southern Black population grow cotton in reclaimed vacant lots to give their children a sense of history and tradition.

The earliest organized urban community gardening effort anywhere in the U.S. was launched during the Panic of 1893, a period of industrial slowdown and unemployment.³ Detroit's Mayor Hazen S. Pingree coped with the growing congestion and squalor in the inner city by providing garden plots on municipally owned and privately donated vacant urban lots. The successful plan was quickly copied in other cities — Omaha, Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York among them.

World War I brought the Liberty Gardens. At the height of the Depression during the 1930's, there was yet another rapid increase in the number of community gardens nation-wide. New York City's garden project in 1934 consisted of 300 plots, all of them

located in Brooklyn. During the next year, with two expert gardeners employed by the Federal Work Projects Administration (WPA) at each garden site and one supervisor overseeing the programs in each borough, close to 5,000 gardens on vacant lots, totalling 700 acres, were established in four boroughs of New York City.

By 1937, however, with the end of the Depression, that movement had ended. An improved economy, surplus goods arriving by the carloads, and the severing of the Federal WPA relief program destroyed the community gardening movement overnight. Only an occasional group of enthusiasts staked out plots for another season after the Department of Welfare discontinued its city-wide garden project because of the lack of relief funds and the pronouncement that garden project workers disrupted other WPA projects when they sought employment during the off season.

With the coming of World War II, the City of New York again announced that all the vacant city-owned land would be available for Victory gardening. "People thought it was their right to garden on city land," recalls one of the gardeners, "but many became discouraged when they learned about the digging, hoeing, and lugging water in the hot sun. Yet there was never a vacant lot."

The National Victory Garden Program, aimed at reducing the pressure placed on the food industry by the war, reached peak production in 1944 when 20 million Victory Gardens yielded 40 percent of the fresh vegetables consumed in the United States.

New Yorkers put down their hoes

again, however, when the war ended. Most households were no longer dependent on the garden plot to provide a source of nutritious food. Not only was there an end to food rationing, but a burgeoning frozen food industry made packaged vegetables a welcome addition to the family meal. By 1948 there was little said about vacant-lot cultivation.

Taking to the Streets in the 1970's

The trend of community gardening in New York City has shown the development of gardens during times of stress and the subsequent disappearance of the gardens once the need is gone. It would appear that history is not in favor of preserving urban open space as permanent community gardens. There is a basic difference, however, between the previous gardening movements and what is going on now.

"I'm seeing the gardens fill a need in devastated neighborhoods, not just to grow food, but to clean up an ugly piece of property," explains Nancy Rosen, at the Department of General Services GreenThumb, the New York City program that assists the local groups in their management of city-owned open spaces. "People are getting involved as best they can in neighborhood rehabilitation. For them, vacant lot gardening is a way to clean up their community. In that respect I would say, yes, this movement will have more permanence."

The community gardening sites throughout the City even look more permanent than a typical seasonal garden. The community people have planted trees, painted murals, built barbeque pits, and erected benches and play equipment for those who are too old or too young to garden. While vegetable gardens tend to look shabby in the wintertime, the community gardens and parks dotting the New York streets today look cared for and utilized. They are appreciated by the neighborhoods that surround them.

One reason for this appreciation is that many of them now serve a critical recreational need. Deficient parks and recreational facilities, especially in lower income areas, have always been a common complaint in New York City. In 1932, only 14,827 acres or seven percent of the entire city had been reserved for the recreation of its citizens, a percentage smaller than that set aside for recreation in any of the other ten largest cities in America or the world. With only 119 playgrounds for 1.7 million children under 12 years of age, there was only one playground for every 14,000 children.⁴

When Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks during one of New York City's most dramatic developmental phases, began creating public parks in the 1930's and 40's he did little to remedy the situation. As the master builder of Jones Beach and Heckscher State Park, Moses saw little reason to create a green space of a few benches or a seesaw or two. Even knowing how important the small parks were to the City's poor, the reformers had no way to stop Moses from giving to the "well-to-do" baseball

diamonds, football fields, tennis, handball and basketball courts, skating rinks and swimming pools, while the most congested neighborhoods did without a park for their children to jump rope or throw a ball.

During Mayor John Lindsay's administration in the reform-minded 1960's, a number of small "vest-pocket" parks were built throughout New York City in an attempt to give the neighborhoods surrounding the tenement buildings the sense of dignity which Moses denied them. Within a few short years, however, most of Lindsay's parks were gone.

"I was appalled by the condition of the Lindsay play lot program," states Liz Christy, one of the earliest community gardeners. "The asphalt surfaces with harsh play equipment looked as though a helicopter had dropped them in without any neighborhood participation. It was deplorable to find that all that money had been spent on asphalt surfaces and metal play equipment. The sites were so badly vandalized that they deteriorated at an alarming rate."

There were several reasons for the rapid decline of Mayor Lindsay's vest-pocket parks, not least of which was the fact that the community had not been consulted before a park was built. With teams of architects planning the parks, the facilities often reflected the aesthetic agendas of the artist instead of the needs of the local neighborhoods. Play equipment was sometimes placed in neighborhoods with a large population of senior citizens who only wanted benches and some shade.

It was the community residents themselves, in the low-income, declining neighborhoods such as the Lower East Side, Bushwick and the South Bronx, who began taking the initiative to develop and maintain the vacant, abandoned lots in their own communities. Individuals, block associations, and community groups used the vacant lots as they would an empty canvas, to create from their own collective imaginations a park, playground, or garden that was tailored to fit the special needs of the neighborhood.

Community-developed open spaces around the City today are as original and distinctive as the people who designed and built them. Not only have the vacant lots been converted to community flower and vegetable gardens, but also to parks where city people can enjoy the simple pleasures of grass, shrubs, and trees. In the early 1970's there were only a handful of these projects; now there are hundreds. What the City was unable to provide for its people, the communities have created for themselves.

A Threatened Resource

The overriding concern of New York City's gardeners is real estate development pressure. Despite the gardeners' accomplishment of converting abandoned property into gardens and parks, the community people can still be forced off the land in just a moment's notice. The sight of a bulldozer on a community garden has

Hoe Avenue Community Garden in the South Bronx



Photo: Tom Fox

become all too familiar. During 1980-83, Manhattan neighborhoods alone lost approximately three acres, or ten percent of community gardens and parks. As the development boom continues, Manhattan neighborhoods are faced with the additional loss of three and half acres of gardens and parks in 1984-1985.⁵

Seventy-five percent of the City's community gardens and parks are located on city-owned land because the City is the largest owner of vacant lots. In 1978 the City established Operation GreenThumb as a program of the Department of General Services to lease the city-owned sites for a dollar a year to nonprofit community groups such as block associations, community centers, and schools, for the purpose of creating and maintaining gardens. Participation in the program gave gardeners access to City resources, such as fencing and soil. There are now about 600 organizations holding GreenThumb leases on gardens throughout the City, most of which are short-term, for one year.

Though less common, long-term control is beginning to occur. Twenty-four community groups, through a variety of different techniques, have formed land trusts and purchased their land outright from the City, as well as from private land owners, and now hold title to the property. The Trust for Public Land, which facilitates the development of these land trusts, worked with GreenThumb⁶ to develop a City policy for long-term protection without the community assuming ownership of the site. In May, 1983, the first long-term, five to ten year lease for a community garden was unanimously passed by the

New York City Board of Estimate.

Highly vulnerable to development, however, are many of the gardens on one-year leases. When the value of the property is greater than \$20,000, the community garden is not eligible for a long-term lease. When the Division of Real Properties decides a site is "prime" for development and is ready to be sold to real estate developers, the one-year GreenThumb lease will generally not be renewed.

The Clinton Community Garden, in the rapidly redeveloping West Side of Manhattan, had no problem with its GreenThumb lease for the first three years of the garden's existence. During that time the garden contained individual vegetable plots that fed more than a hundred families, a colony of Italian honey bees, a covered compost pile, a large wall mural, a lawn area adorned with masonry benches, and a geodesic dome for growing vegetables year-round. Despite their labors, the gardeners found in their fourth year lease a clause stating it would not be renewed again, because the City believed the property had become too "valuable" to be used for just community gardening.

Fearing that many communities could lose all that they had worked for during the late 1970's and early 1980's, members of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition publicly urged the City to develop a comprehensive, integrated open space policy. In response, Mayor Koch announced, in June 1982, the creation of the New York City Open Space Task Force. For the first time the City, community and private sector representatives will look at their existing

open space, community needs, existing City agency programs, and alternative development and management options in a coordinated manner. The basis for this proposed coordinated effort was the belief that an integrated open space system combining the resources of the government, banks, corporations, foundations, technical assistance organizations and community residents, can provide a more cost-effective system which is more responsive to community needs than the ad hoc policies currently being pursued.

Michael Dirzulaitis, Co-chairman of the Task Force and the Director of Policy and Planning for the City's Department of General Services, thinks that a comprehensive City plan will be formulated only after community gardeners realize that some sacrifices must be made. While some gardening sites will be preserved, others must be slated for other uses, such as housing.

The dwindling size of the municipal budget might be the strongest impetus for integrating the community gardens and parks into new housing in the neighborhoods where real estate values are climbing higher than sweet peas in July. It has the potential to benefit everyone. The sale of real estate puts money in the City's coffers, and lets the developer assume financial responsibility, taking lots off the City's long list of abandoned properties. The neighborhood will have a higher quality community garden. The developer benefits because community participation in maintenance and operation ensures a well-used and, therefore, safer park adjacent to the housing.

Open space advocates realize that the

decisions reached now in Manhattan will set the precedent for the hundreds of land parcels throughout the other boroughs of New York City, parcels that easily could become threatened, in the coming years. The loss of any of the gardens and parks in Manhattan, therefore, will have repercussions for the city-wide open space movement.

Throughout the United States, farmland preservationists are realizing the folly of haphazard and unplanned development, and in some states strict agricultural preservation laws have been enacted to conserve the open land before this country loses its capacity to produce food in sufficient quantities.⁷ Like rural agricultural land, urban gardens and parks are a finite resource that once lost cannot be regained. While the maintenance of the urban sites cannot be justified solely in terms of their agricultural productivity, the importance of urban green spaces is manifold.

Greenery improves the quality of the urban environment. The physical properties of trees and other plants include their ability to act as cleansers of air pollution, buffers against wind and solar radiation, temperature modifiers, and noise controllers. Gardens can reduce the runoff from storm water, allowing rain to penetrate the soils rather than inundate the City's sewage system. Vegetation in an otherwise concrete jungle will attract wildlife and nurture human life.⁸

Children can be taught to understand the natural environment in a community garden or park. A direct one-to-one relationship develops as the child puts a seed in the ground and

watches it germinate and grow, and learns to take responsibility for life. Another important lesson learned by children who garden is that food comes out of the ground, not out of the supermarket in a can or a box.

A community gardener in Brooklyn who has taught most of the children on her block how to garden says, "It keeps them occupied. It gives them something to do, something to look forward to. They have to plan and think ahead. They're concerned. They watch the weather everyday. It keeps them going. They're always excited."

How foolhardy then, when a community garden or park is bulldozed to make way for a building without any consideration of the value of the land as an open space. "People have to ask what it is exactly that they want to preserve in their neighborhood. Sometimes it requires a tradeoff. Condominiums are a big economic push to the area, but are they really more important than the garden?" asks Kenneth Kowald from Con Edison.

"We should let people know what can be done to improve the quality of their lives," says Hattie Carthan. "Each of us should ask what we can do and how we can best do it. We must take responsibility for everything. We cannot take the natural environment for granted."

She understands that a row of Ichiban eggplants tended by city gardeners produces more than a bushel of purple vegetables. It raises the chances that New York City will survive the 1980's as a place where its residents can also mature and flourish.

Footnotes

- 1- Estimate of New York City's vacant land inventory in 1979. Trust for Public Land, New York City.
- 2- Membership organizations of the American Community Gardening Association. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 1984.
- 3- Tom Basset, *Community Gardening in America 1893-1980*. Masters Thesis, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1980.
- 4- Robert A. Caro, *The Power Broker- Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*, Vintage Books, Division of Random House, New York, 1975.
- 5- Tom Fox, "Towards the Creation of a New York City Open Space Task Force." Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, New York, 1982.
- 6- Operation GreenThumb was reorganized in 1981 and subsequently the program has been called DGS (Department of General Services) GreenThumb.
- 7- J. Tevere MacFadyen, *Gaining Ground: The Renewal of America's Small Farms*, Holt, Reinhart and Winston, New York, 1984.
- 8- Anne Whiston Spirn, *Granite Gardens: Urban Nature and Human Design*, Basic Books, New York, 1983.

CHAPTER TWO:

PAINTING

THE

TOWN

GREEN

Hathe Carthan, founder of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center in Brooklyn



Photo: Melissa Sutphen

The Crusaders

Setting the Stage

Even after an awareness of the environment had permeated the American consciousness in the early 1970's, it was frowned upon to touch a plant in any of the New York City parks. It was illegal for private citizens to care for a street tree, collect horse manure, make compost with vegetable waste, or store tools on a vacant lot. Finding out who owned a vacant lot could take years and the City spent thousands of dollars enclosing the lots with cyclone fences rather than trying to make them useful.

The cyclone fences did not deter an ad hoc greening committee from approaching an Elizabeth Street lot on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The group unraveled the fence and built a series of arbors which they covered with green climbing vines. The perils of gardening without a lease, however, meant that their initial greening effort was bulldozed and replaced by a parking lot for trucks.

Undaunted by the experience, several members of the greening committee went on to form the Green Guerillas, a small volunteer group that believed it would take radical action to break through the red tape they encountered in trying to "clean and green" the City's vacant land. Many of the early Green Guerillas were out-of-work professionals who had skills in horticulture, microbiology, and landscape architecture, in addition to community organizing.

When derelicts, camping out on a vacant site on the corner of Bowery and

Houston Streets in a cardboard box, were found frozen to death in 1972, the Green Guerillas negotiated with the City and were finally allowed to begin a legal garden there. The Bowery Houston Community Farm Garden, as it has grown to be called, started out on one lot and rapidly expanded to three. The general feeling was that any use of the land would be better than allowing more people to freeze to death on the neglected site.

Even so, the garden was more than just an anomaly in the derelict-inhabited Bowery section of Manhattan. It was a stimulus for passersby who began to consider similar gardening efforts in their own neighborhoods. They noted that the garden at Bowery and Houston had no soil, but was all sifted rubble and compost. When the Green Guerillas realized that they had the technical expertise to train gardeners in other sections of the City to convert their vacant lots to fertile green areas, they began to hold training sessions for local community residents.

"Being a Green Guerilla meant contributing a lot of time and technical assistance to the growing number of gardens throughout the City. It made sense that the people who joined were local Peace Corps types from the post-'flower power' generation," recalls Liz Christy, one of the group's founders. The early Green Guerilla meetings were forums for a series of discussions about what open space should be in the urban environment. Jim Addice, an architect from Yale with ideas about how plants and buildings could interact, attended the early forums, as did Phil Mecklin, a landscape architect with expertise on

playgrounds. Others attended who were concerned more about the ecology of the City. Eventually, the Green Guerilla philosophy developed.

"The main point that we stress to new gardeners is that they shouldn't be dependent on outside resources. Rather than waiting for a truckload of soil to arrive, they should go ahead and make their own compost. It might not be as pretty, but at least it proves that they are serious about starting the garden," explains Tessa Huxley, the current Director of Green Guerillas.

In 1975 the Green Guerillas had about 35 members who ran the organization literally out of their own pockets. If five dollars was needed for stamps, someone took the five dollars out of his or her pocket. Their address was a Post Office box. Without an office, their telephone number changed frequently, and members took turns answering calls at their homes. A steady influx of volunteers was always on hand to take the calls from prospective gardeners and find members to visit the sites and offer the necessary assistance for starting the garden.

It was also during 1975 when the first greening conference was held at the New York Botanical Garden. The Green Guerillas finally received official recognition when they brought in urban gardening experts from all around the country to show the New York City officials who attended the conference that it wasn't such a radical idea to garden in the City. In cities like Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, and Detroit, networks of urban gardeners had been developing. It was during the following year, however, that the vacant lot

cultivation concept in New York City came of age.

Taking Action

While the tall ships were sailing down the Hudson River in recognition of the nation's Bicentennial, a wave of interest in gardening on New York City's soil suddenly broke onto her shores. The Green Guerillas ended their long controversy over whether or not to remain an ad hoc group and received their official seal of incorporation from the State of New York. In addition, Representative Fred Richmond of Brooklyn, the only urban member of the House Agriculture Committee, succeeded in pushing a program through the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture that would address city gardening.

A demonstration program was started in Brooklyn to test the feasibility of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Urban Gardening Program. Cornell University's Cooperative Extension Service was charged with developing this pilot program. John Ameroso, a University of Georgia graduate in agronomy who had spent four years in Vietnam as part of the International Voluntary Services teaching Mekong Delta farmers better techniques to grow rice, was hired to train low-income people to grow food in the City. Ameroso found that New York City's growing environment was not unlike Vietnam's. The congestion of buildings had given the City a semi-tropical growing season, making it ideal for late vegetable harvests. "There are no killing frosts," Ameroso explained, "the ground just freezes at the end of November."

The Cornell Demonstration Project in Brooklyn was so successful that a national program was funded at three million dollars and expanded to include 16 different cities around the country.⁹ New York City received \$500,000 to expand its program to all five boroughs. Although the staff was comprised primarily of Cornell agriculture graduates who knew more about crop rotations than brick recycling, the Cornell Extension offices were established in cooperation with existing groups that did understand New York City's particular gardening habits. In Manhattan, for instance, Cornell rented space with the Council on the Environment, a quasi-public agency operating out of the Mayor's office.

The Council on the Environment had already published an excellent pamphlet on city streets and open space when they hired Liz Christy, fresh from the ranks of the Green Guerillas, to inaugurate the new program, Plant-a-Lot, that would provide free soil, plants, trees, and shrubs to many of the community groups. In addition to the sorely needed Plant-a-Lot Program, Liz succeeded in legalizing composting, establishing a gardening tool lending library, and launching the Grow Truck, a multi-purpose vehicle that served as a vital link with the community groups. Not only could the truck drivers transport seedlings from the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens or soil from Queens, they could also offer on-site technical advice.

Testing the Soil

The growing number of city farmers harvesting bushels of vegetables from

the city soil raised increasing concern and controversy over the subject of heavy metal contamination. Heavy metals are a distinct class of elements which include lead, cadmium, nickel, mercury, and zinc, all of which abound in the urban environment. Their primary source is automobile exhaust, as well as industrial emissions and demolished city buildings. When thousands of young children eating chips of sweet-tasting lead-based paint in inner-city buildings began developing cases of lead poisoning, lead-based paints were banned from interior use. But as the older buildings were demolished, the chips and dust from the lead paint also penetrated the rubble. Of particular concern were those demolition sites which were beginning to be developed for gardens and parks.

In New York City that concern was brought to a head when information from Boston showed that their heavy metals situation was a big problem. While a desirable lead count was considered less than 250 parts per million, a few gardens in Boston were found to have as much as 3,000 to 10,000 parts per million of lead in the soil. This was because many of that city's demolished buildings had, until 1950, been made of wood and freely coated with lead-based paint. When Cornell Cooperative Extension began its pilot program in Brooklyn, many of the Green Guerillas had requested that the expertise of the University be used to conduct heavy metal tests on the New York City soil to determine whether the metals had accumulated in such quantities as to pose a health hazard.

Soil samples were taken to test for

The original greenhouses at GLIE Farms in the South Bronx



Photo: Tom Fox

heavy metal but the testing itself was not done during Cornell's first year in the City because the samples were lost. In the second year a stronger plea was made. It was the Green Guerillas who finally demanded that something be done, since they were devoting many hours of their time advising people to grow food as well as flowers.

The struggle over the heavy metals led to the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Toxic Substances in the Urban Environment which included Anita Curran, then New York City Commissioner of Health, and Marty Gallent, Vice Chairman of the City Planning Commission. "We made life very uncomfortable for Cornell until they finally agreed to test for the heavy metals," recalls Tessa Huxley.

As it turned out, Cornell didn't lack interest in the potential contaminant as much as it lacked the necessary equipment to carry out the tests. Once New York State spent the \$60,000 to buy an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, Cornell found that the extent of the lead in the soil, 100-250 parts per million, was considerably less than in Boston. In subsequent fact sheets compiled by the Green Guerillas, prospective gardeners were told to have their soil tested free of charge by Cornell Extension. They were also given suggestions on using ornamental vines to screen their gardens from traffic, and other techniques to reduce the possibility of heavy metal buildup in the soil. City dwellers, eager to get their hands in the soil, could be assured that good gardening was possible without fear of heavy metal contamination.

The heavy metal controversy yielded

more than concrete data on growing "safe" vegetables. It proved to those involved in the greening movement that they could command respect and accomplish feats of some magnitude.

Revitalizing the South Bronx

At the same time that the Grow Truck was finding its way around the five boroughs and Cornell was branching out, the South Bronx began to present a different possibility. Jack Flanagan, a ten year veteran of the New York City Police Department and community relations detective with the 41st Precinct ("Fort Apache"), approached the head of the Bronx Council on the Arts, Irma Fleck, about raising money to take a bus load of kids on a day trip outside the stifling confines of the decaying tenement buildings. The conversation that took place between Flanagan and Fleck began to head in a different direction when they both realized that it was more important to change the kids's environment than just to remove them for an afternoon excursion. After all, the South Bronx was a section of the City that hadn't received attention from an organized group, other than warring street gangs, in years.

The Bronx Frontier Development Corporation was formed by Irma and Jack as an attempt to revitalize the area through community involvement and economic development. While neither had had any horticultural experience, they developed a scheme for helping to develop new community gardens. They felt that by converting the vegetable waste from the Hunts Point Terminal Market, the largest wholesale produce market in the United States, into rich

composting material, they could provide community groups with topsoil to cover rubble strewn lots.

The original site that they chose for their new project was ten acres smack in the middle of the Hunts Point Market. A few of the merchants, however, thought the project would attract rodents and objected to the composting operation in the center of the produce terminal. So instead, they secured four substandard acres along the edge of the East River and filled it in with crushed brick and concrete. In 1976, after working for a year to secure the appropriate permits, Jack and Irma also obtained technical assistance from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance in Washington, D.C. and began their composting ranch.

The sheer enormity of the destroyed areas of the South Bronx presented a unique opportunity for undertaking a large-scale project where open space planning might be used to complement neighborhood revitalization. In the words of Art Buchwald, author and social commentator: "It's got more open space than any city in the world. You can see for miles. The only thing that compares with it in my memory is Berlin just after the Second World War. I think that everybody who has anything to do with urban planning should make a visit to the South Bronx."

It was President Jimmy Carter's historic walk through the burnt-out sections of the South Bronx in October, 1977, which opened up opportunities to take on a project of that scale. Appalled by what he saw, Carter promised \$500,000 for parks and recreation as part of his \$10 million proposal for immediate aid to the area.

This eventually became \$1.2 million in the budget of the Federal Department of the Interior and the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation to be allocated for community garden/park development in the South Bronx. That meant reallocating funds normally given to projects such as preserving the Redwood Forests. Instead, the money was used to clean up and revegetate the vacant lots that were left after buildings had been vandalized, torn apart by street gangs, blackened by arson, and left to rot.

The large sum of money that came from the Federal and State governments to the devastated section of the City brought together many diverse groups to prove what could be accomplished by a coalition effort. The South Bronx Open Space Task Force was formed with the Bronx Frontier Development Corporation, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the Peoples Development Corporation, Community School District 10, the Trust for Public Land and others to set an interesting precedent of matching "sweat equity" and recycled garbage to federal money. Because the City had little money to spend on the project and the grant required a 50 percent match of local funds, the on-site supervisors were given the task of tallying community volunteer work hours, recycled bricks, and beams from the building and telephone poles. All this was assessed at a market value. Recycled bricks, for example, were worth eight cents each, and used as part of the City's match. Eventually, \$300,000 in local labor, bricks and compost went to match the federal dollars. The City contributed \$900,000

by providing sidewalk improvements, street trees, and by rebuilding a large retaining wall at one site located along the Bronx River.

In just under two years, 13 of the original 15 community organizations which were involved in the Task Force had completed their projects. The sites were designed and built on lots covered with a fresh layer of compost with the help of the local residents, using technical information from the Washington-based Institute and other New York technical assistance groups. Even more important than the physical construction of the gardens was the impact that they had on the rehabilitation of the neighborhoods. To the people in the tenement buildings surrounding the gardens, the sudden transformation of their bleak environment represented a caring hand held out to help them improve their own neighborhood. What city planners and government officials had been unable to offer the residents of the South Bronx, a group of community gardeners, organizers and technicians had provided by allowing local residents the freedom to turn over the dirt and rubble, and renew an area that had been considered dead.

The remarkable transformation of the wasteland into open green spaces acted as a catalyst for other groups interested in the welfare of the South Bronx. A nursery and greenhouse complex, for example, settled on a formerly desolate one-acre lot on Bathgate Avenue, not far from the roar of the elevated Cross Bronx Expressway. G.L.I.E. Farms, an arm of two not-for-profit social service organizations, the Bronx 2000 Local

Development Corporation and the Group Live-In Experience, set up business in 1981. In its first year, G.L.I.E. Farms employed 25 local people during the summer and produced 80,000 high quality herbs and cut flowers which were sold to the City's finest restaurants. "We don't look at the South Bronx as a liability, but as an opportunity," says Gary Waldron, a founder of G.L.I.E. Farms, which has reorganized as a for-profit business and has just received \$1.2 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to build a 16,000 square foot greenhouse and develop their business further.

The Allies

Friends of the Parks

The maturing process that occurred naturally within the loosely woven, but expansive network of greening organizations meant that their philosophies and goals began to coincide with those of the more established parks groups. The 1976 New York City fiscal crisis, which forced the City to cut back on its parks maintenance program, became an incentive for encouraging the established parks groups to share their concerns with the community gardeners. Whether working on manicured lawns, planting exotic flowering perennials, or composting animal manure, all the groups want to keep urban greening alive.

The Parks Council, for instance, which has been devoted since 1926 to the preservation and maintenance of New

York City's parks, is often involved in struggles which set important precedents for the entire greening movement. For example, the Parks Council became an outspoken opponent of the City's plan to "trade" the large public playground at First Avenue and 42nd Street to stop housing construction on the two parks that were designed as part of the Tudor City development in the 1920's. Harry Helmsley, who owns the property, promised to restore and maintain the unprotected open space in his historic apartment complex in return for the right to build housing on this mapped New York City park one block away. All the concerned parks and gardening groups feared that the swap would create a dangerous precedent of trading away valuable mapped parkland.

The Parks Council helped community gardens and parks in the early years by including them in their group liability insurance policy. This saved a significant amount of money for community groups. The Horticultural Society of New York also assisted vacant lot gardeners by sponsoring gardening workshops and offering direct technical assistance to community gardeners.

The Botanic gardens in Brooklyn, Bronx, Staten Island and Queens have also become allies in the revitalization of New York City communities through gardening. For several years the main telephone number for the Green Guerillas was at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. The Bronx groups have found that the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park can be a wonderful source of perennial spring bulbs which are dug up each June to make room for the summer

annuals. The Municipal Art Society of New York, a 90-year-old civic organization, has recognized the benefits of these activities. Last year they gave a special certificate of merit to a community garden, the Dome Project. The certificate reads:

"Into the forbidding landscape of welfare hotels, collapsing tenements, and the parade of disadvantaged youths came John Simon, candle in hand, to teach and care for children born unlucky, children overwhelmed by the obstacles of society and the enormity of human pain. The vulnerable, the needy, the troubled — the children society overlooks, he embraces. His Dome Project is a school, a garden, and many community programs."

The Tree People

Among the most notable crusaders for a greener New York environment is Hattie Carthan who triggered the street tree movement when she successfully managed to save the Magnolia tree in Bedford-Stuyvesant. In recognition of Hattie's work, the neighborhood established the Magnolia Tree Earth Center, and former Mayor Lindsay initiated the now defunct "Tree Match Program" which allowed the City to provide six street trees for every four purchased by block associations.

The struggle for more street trees expanded when the New York City Street Tree Consortium was established in 1976 to provide information and literature to New Yorkers about the importance of street trees. The Consortium, frustrated by City

regulations prohibiting citizens from working with their street trees, designed a twelve-hour course to teach community residents how to care for their trees. After five years and three different Parks Commissioners, the Consortium finally won approval for official certification of their trainees. Today there are over 500 Citizen Street Tree Pruners in the City. The Environmental Action Coalition, one of the Consortium members that takes a multi-faceted approach to urban revitalization, has produced a film on the value of street trees in the City and a curriculum for street tree education in schools.

Planning on a Grand Scale

Another citizen-supported urban park planning project is the Gateway National Recreation Area, an extensive dedication of open space for public use. Established in 1974 and spanning 26,000 acres of land and water, Gateway is the first urban park in the U.S. National Park system. Largely responsible for its creation is the Gateway Citizens Committee, which formed to press for a federally funded national park in the urban environment of New York. The Committee's work didn't end with the preservation of large tracts of land for the park. Ten years later, they are still working to insure that this important resource receives a large enough share of Federal funding for development and operations.

The park now contains the largest community garden in New York, covering over two acres and providing more than 400 garden plots. Gateway is also the site of the yearly City Gardeners

Harvest Fair, which celebrates the end of the growing season with hayrides, a vegetable and flower contest, environmental education booths, music, dancing, and a petting zoo. The event offers a real boost to the 8,000 gardeners who attend this annual event.

The Neighborhood Rehabilitators

The stewards of the urban land movement include not only those groups interested in preserving gardens and parks, but also groups interested in preserving entire neighborhoods. The emergence of block associations and Community Planning Boards that were concerned about the deteriorating condition of New York City neighborhoods closely paralleled the greening movement during the 1970's. When the municipality failed to develop a constructive program to revitalize the City's deteriorating communities, many neighborhoods adopted a series of self-help projects. Housing rehabilitation, litter campaigns, street tree plantings, and anti-crime alerts fostered a growing sense of pride in the decayed areas where the long-term residents had neither the resources nor the inclination to move.

These rehabilitation efforts contrasted sharply with the private developers and the City, who viewed rehabilitation in a totally different way. Especially in Manhattan, whole sections were upgraded, forcing the long-time residents out and encouraging an influx of people who could afford a much more expensive type of housing. Old brownstones were given facelifts and tenement buildings were torn down to make way for luxury condominiums and

Moving trees to be planted in a community garden



Photo: Tom Fox

the new breed of residents. What the City called rehabilitation, the neighborhoods called "gentrification".

The Housing Conservation Coordinators located in the Clinton area of Manhattan, a place still known as Hell's Kitchen, is one example of a community-based housing organization that actively helps lower-income people retain their housing. While much of their work concerns problems arising with landlords over lack of proper services, such as heat, hot water, or necessary repairs, the group is also involved in an open space program which offers technical assistance in horticulture, landscape improvement, architecture, and soil. There have been six community gardens initiated under the supervision of their open space department. One of them, the Clinton Community Garden, includes a solar geodesic dome which is used to grow vegetables year-round for the community. Not only do the community gardens provide stability in the rapidly changing neighborhoods; they also provide amenities for the long-time residents who are being forced out by their landlords and by the City.

Another organization established in the mid-1970's in response to New York City's fiscal crisis and to help stimulate block association development is the Citizen's Committee for New York City. The Program's S.N.A.P. (Self-Help Neighborhood Assistance Program) grants provide up to \$150 to community-based volunteer groups for supplies and equipment to help spruce up their local neighborhood.

The Citizen's Committee also sponsors the annual Dress Up Your

Neighborhood Contest, funded by fashion designer Mollie Parnis, which over the years has awarded \$300,000 in prize money to a wide range of community groups sponsoring gardens, parks, playgrounds and street tree plantings. The LaPlacita Garden Club of Coney Island, which created a combination vegetable/flower garden between two abandoned buildings, was an award recipient, as was the East Flatbush Community Garden Committee, whose wall mural facing the organization's garden provides a colorful presence during winter months when the garden itself is barren.

The Funders

Besides Mollie Parnis, there are many individuals who are providing funds for organizations and gardening projects that are committed to improving New York's neighborhoods.

Richard Abrons, for example, has become a major supporter of the greening movement by funding the Council on the Environment's Plant-a-Lot and Green Bank projects. A long-time supporter of social service programs, he saw community gardens and parks as having both social and physical impacts in low and middle-income neighborhoods. "These activities remove urban blight and beautify the area," Abrons comments.

"People really get a kick out of it, and it's terribly important to the City — it can change a whole neighborhood." He believes that it is important for funders to support greening activities in the neighborhoods that need them the most. Abrons explains, "There's a lot of money available for Central Park, but it's

important to support these smaller spaces that mean so much to community residents." He began by providing money from his own foundation, but his enthusiasm soon led to the involvement of his family through the Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation. Since 1978, the Abrons have contributed generously to the Council's greening program.

Over \$2.6 million annually is now being provided by foundations, corporations and banks to the technical assistance and community groups who are working to establish gardens and parks throughout the City. "This well-being of New York City communities is our well-being," explains Ken Kowald of Con Edison, "That is why we are interested in funding the gardening projects that improve the neighborhoods." "We make people realize that not all big companies are bull-headed," says Fraser Seitel at Chase Manhattan Bank, which has contributed over \$185,000 to the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition's Summer Youth Program that helps clean up the vacant lots. Seitel thinks that more city-based corporations should get involved in rejuvenating sections of New York through the community gardens and parks. Brooklyn Union Gas and Morgan Guaranty Trust are among those who have.

Another is the Vincent Astor Foundation which has funded a variety of open space projects, from large park projects to the community gardens. Linda Gillies, the Foundation's Director, explains, "We find it particularly rewarding to see what small amounts of money can accomplish in these community spaces, like the Jefferson

Market Community Garden and the Ruppert Green Community Garden." In the 1960's the Astor Foundation funded many of the vest-pocket parks, the small vacant lots that were converted to green spaces under the Lindsay Administration. Only Paley Park in midtown Manhattan still exists today. The reason that the grants are generously given now to the community gardens is because, unlike the vest-pocket parks, they have a strong constituency supporting them and a large amount of community backing. "Community gardens are a great vehicle for both community involvement and improved aesthetics," Gillies comments.

The J.M. Kaplan Fund, founded in 1945 by Jacob M. Kaplan and committed to the public interest of New York, is yet another funding source for the different groups aiming to beautify New York City's parks and gardens. "We have worked with street tree groups, committees organized to set up street malls, and efforts to preserve parks," says Suzanne Davis, Administrative Director of the Fund. She adds that the trend towards community gardens has been particularly exciting because it involves so many people working in little ways.

While Astor and Kaplan are the two major foundation donors, the list of potential sources of funds is long enough to keep any grant writer occupied. Both Ford and Rockefeller Foundations have contributed to open space development, as well as other philanthropic groups like Taconic, Scherman, Jessie Smith Noyes, Charles H. Revson, and Robert Sterling Clark. The New York Foundation, New York Community

Trust, and the Fund for the City of New York — groups particularly concerned about New York City — have been equally generous.

The combined efforts of community residents, activists, technical assistance groups, government agencies and funding sources have begun to take root and flourish. Community gardens and parks have become a common phenomena in many New York City neighborhoods. A great deal of time, love, muscle and money has gone into the creation of the community gardens and parks. Local residents have found that creating these green oases is hard work, but that challenge seems relatively easy compared to the new struggle — keeping the gardens as open space designated for community use. Land values are increasing in New York City, and the gardens that community residents cherish as local resources are now falling prey to the wave of development hitting Manhattan's shores.

Footnotes

- 9- Murray Schumack, "1000 'Farms' Planned on Lots in New York," *New York Times*, April 26, 1977.

CHAPTER THREE:

THE

ENDANGERED

GARDENS

Sharing the harvest from a large community garden with the local neighborhood



Photo: Tom Fox

The Land Owners

Squatters' rights in a city like New York, where the development boom is promising to refill the empty municipal coffers, are practically non-existent. For all that had been accomplished by the painstaking conversion of abandoned property into gardens and parks, the community people could still be forced off the land in just a moment's notice. The sight of a bulldozer on the community gardens was becoming too familiar.

The greatest portion of the community gardens and parks, about 75 percent, is located on city-owned land. Many of those lots were vacant because they had been abandoned by the original owners. As the properties increased in value, the gardeners wanted some assurance that the land wouldn't be developed out from under them. At that time, the City established Operation GreenThumb in 1978 as a program of the Department of General Services to lease the city-owned lots for a dollar a year to non-profit community groups such as block associations, community centers, churches and schools, for the purpose of developing and maintaining the gardens.

When Operation GreenThumb first began, it was solely a leasing organization, primarily for vegetable gardens in raised beds. Through a change in the program's administration, however, GreenThumb has slowly become much more of a garden and park development program. In addition to issuing its GreenThumb leases, it now provides fencing, soil, trees, shrubs, tools, and technical expertise.

Tony Antonellis, Assistant Director of GreenThumb, explains the importance of working with the groups on their gardening plans before turning over any materials. "One guy wanted to build his raised vegetable bed on a slant. When I asked him why, he responded, 'So I can water it better'." The purpose of raised beds in a garden is to give the gardeners definite walkways through the raised vegetable and flower beds. They also help handicapped and senior citizen gardeners because they don't have to bend to do their gardening. Tony also encourages the raised beds because the gardening is done primarily on demolition sites and there isn't enough soil to cover all the rubble left behind. Each truckload of soil costs GreenThumb \$600 to \$800.

"We don't give them all the lumber at once," says Antonellis. "We let them succeed with the first section of their raised garden beds and then we give them the rest of the lumber. We are mostly working in neighborhoods that have already had a lot of failure. That is why we plan for success."

There are now about 600 organizations holding GreenThumb leases on gardens throughout the City. The problem of holding onto the garden sites for the long-term, however, has not been solved. The Division of Real Property within the Department of General Services decides which sites will go on the auction block for sale to real estate developers. Considering that the Division of Real Property is composed of ex-bankers and real estate professionals, it probably gives them nightmares to think about valuable City property being

leased to the local communities for one dollar a year. Even so, if there is an interested buyer for the garden property, the City may simply refuse to renew the GreenThumb lease.

"Just because someone wants to buy the property, that doesn't necessarily mean that the garden will be bulldozed," says Antonellis. While the City is interested in selling off the property, there are ways of helping out the truly excellent groups who have put a lot of work into their garden site. One new provision is a long-term leasing program which allows the group to lease the site for five to ten years. If the garden is on property that is assessed at a value of \$5,000, the group would pay \$120 a year for their lease. If it is assessed at \$10,000, they would pay \$240. The maximum rent would be \$360 a year plus the cost of liability insurance. Although it represents a large financial investment for the gardening group, it does guarantee them the property for longer than one growing season. In cases where the community organization is experiencing financial hardship, the City has instituted a policy of forgiving 50 percent of the year's rent in return for volunteer labor. However, if the property is assessed at more than \$20,000, the garden is not eligible for a long-term lease. Thus, many of the Manhattan gardens will be excluded from protection by long-term leases.

"I worked very hard for the five and ten year leases," explains Ken Davies, Director of the Department of General Services GreenThumb program. "The main purpose of the lease is to give people more protection for something that they have worked very hard for. The

lease officially recognizes that this site has been a success, that this group appears to be a viable group, and that we would like to give them a chance to prove that they can maintain the site over the long run."

GreenThumb can also let the groups know if there is an interested buyer for the garden site, thereby giving them first notice that they can bid on the property at public auction. Ken Davies remarks, "We routinely pull property that may end up on an auction list. A few thousand dollars in the City's coffer, compared to a good community facility, would not be a good trade off."

Even so, the neighborhoods lost approximately 131,000 square feet, or ten percent, of their community gardens/parks to development in Manhattan alone during 1980-83, and as this trend continues, the neighborhoods are faced with an additional loss of 140,625 square feet in 1984-85.¹⁰

"We have never sold a site which we strongly believed should remain as a community garden. There were two sites that were minimally developed and poorly maintained that were auctioned off. There have been a number of sites which marked the boundaries for new industrial parks which also went off for auction," says Davies.

Ken explains that many of the other threatened or lost gardens were on private property and urban renewal sites which are administered by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and had been intended for housing before the gardens ever went in. He feels that, "although possession is nine-tenths of the law, these gardens were not raised on

abandoned property for which there was no plan. The housing plans came first and the gardens came on top of the housing plans, knowing that the housing was going to be built. Now there is this big issue of which gardens should remain and which should be sacrificed for development." A strong conflict exists among the City agencies over which gardens should be maintained as community resources, and which should be sold so that the City can realize a profit on the land and collect real estate taxes. While it seems unlikely that any of the community groups could actually afford to purchase much of the land once it has been marked as "prime" by a real estate corporation with considerable financial backing, there is an option which could make their ownership feasible: a land trust.

The Land Negotiators

Begun in New England more than a century ago, the "town commons" or land trusts have served as effective land preservation tools in rural and urban settings. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), formed ten years ago in San Francisco, California, is a modern-day nonprofit group that has helped satisfy the needs of local residents to own property by helping the community form a nonprofit corporation that can hold land in trust, or rather, preserve the area as open space.

In the fall of 1978, the "11th Street Movement" and the El Sol Brillante Community Garden groups on Manhattan's Lower East Side requested

the assistance of the Trust for Public Land, which had recently established a regional office in New York City. Following the advice of TPL, the group incorporated so that it could cooperatively own the property as a non-profit land trust. They purchased the four lots that comprise the garden at a restricted City auction and now hold title to the land.

The Trust for Public Land has helped 24 groups acquire over 33 acres of land in New York City valued at \$4 million.¹¹ Another 99 acres, worth \$18 million, are in the process of being purchased for additional groups. These "land trust" properties range from a single vacant lot in the Bronx to 11 acres of land in Staten Island.

"I never felt committed to preserving all of the gardening sites," explains Lisa Cashdan, head of the New York City Land Project of TPL. She adds, "Some of those sites are better used for housing or commercial uses. We just insist that open space be given some standing." Addressing the City's fear that the people can't maintain the sites after the corporation is set up to form the land trust, Lisa responds, "I tell them to take the risk. The reason that the City owns so much of the land in the first place is because private interests abandoned the sites. That is what's so infuriating. The City will take the risk with some of these slumlords, but not with their own citizens."

The Trust for Public Land also points out that the City will gain from preserving some of the land, because property values go up around a well-maintained park. Cashdan adds, "The ideal solution is for the City to

An arbor at Barretto Street Community Garden in the South Bronx



Photo: Tom Fox

provide adequate parks. That's why people pay taxes. People living on Fifth Avenue don't have to pay with their labor and love to utilize Central Park. Why should someone in Bedford-Stuyvesant?"

It is precisely because the communities have worked so hard to create their own recreational and aesthetic environments that they are resistant now to losing all that they have gained. The Magnolia Tree Earth Center could close because of inadequate funding. Cornell's Urban Gardening Program was slated to be cut out of the 1983-84 U.S. Department of Agriculture's budget; GreenThumb's funding is as tenuous as that of any City program, and the major backers of the Council on the Environment's Plant-a-Lot Program are reluctant to donate large amounts of money while so many of their sites are being eyed for other uses. Ruppert Green, The Clinton Community Garden, The Dome Project, The Garden of Eden and the Westside Community Garden have all become threatened by Manhattan's current developmental boom.

While the heavy metal controversy showed that the greening organizations had clout, and the South Bronx project proved that a coalition effort could accomplish a major undertaking on a grand scale, the fact that real estate interests are being pitted against the interests of the community gardens and parks people is pulling them together again. This time the stakes are higher than ever.

The Landless

"We're not going to sit down in front of the bulldozers. We don't want to be nasty. We just want to save our garden." Those are the sentiments of Mallory Abramson, a key figure in the Committee to Save the Clinton Community Garden, the first urban All American Selection Garden. For three years the Clinton gardeners had no problem with their GreenThumb lease on a West 48th Street site located in Manhattan, an area known as Hell's Kitchen. But when they went to renew their lease for the fourth year, they received a contract stating it would not be renewed for a fifth year. The reason: the land is now considered "prime" for real estate development.

Early in 1982, the City's Division of Real Property advertised the Clinton site in their "Highlights of Upcoming Auctions" for a sale price of \$375,000. In an effort to preserve their garden, the hundreds of neighborhood residents that cultivate the individual vegetable plots, tend to the colony of Italian bee hives, and maintain a small solar geodesic dome that is used to grow vegetables year-round, are working on a proposal to protect the garden without withholding revenues from the City. They feel that a compromise solution is not only possible, but necessary. They are being assisted in their efforts by the Green Guerrillas, Trust for Public Land and Housing Conservation Coordinators.

"People are moving into the Clinton area because it is where things are happening. There is good transportation. The large community

garden is another nice thing about the area," says Kenneth Kowald from Con Edison who supports the gardening projects because of their beneficial impact on the neighborhoods. "When people move in, they want to preserve the nice things about the area."

As part of a coordinated letter writing campaign from the Clinton residents, over a hundred letters have already been sent to Mayor Koch to encourage a decision on the endangered garden that will be in everyone's interest. The letters describe the garden as a simple but tranquil retreat from the City's hustle and bustle, a meeting place, the home of the annual Clinton Art Show, and an important component in the annual Ninth Avenue Festival.

Most importantly, the garden is the biggest green open space left in the Clinton area. "We would have to move the geodesic dome and the beehive if they bulldoze our garden," says Mallory Abramson. "But I don't know where we would move them." The letters and other activities have been successful in stalling the auction plans, but as the real estate value rises so do the chances of auction.

New York City gardeners, primarily in Manhattan, have watched three acres of their community efforts become condominiums, parking lots, and high rise buildings in the last two years. To some people that figure fades into a much larger statistic. Housing developments, shopping centers, and industrial parks are claiming approximately 3 million acres each year of America's prime agricultural land. A few acres of open space to New Yorkers, however, does not go unnoticed.

"I walked by the St. Vincent's Triangle Garden every day on my way to classes. Then one day it was gone. Just that quickly," remarked Christopher from the Jennifer Muller Dance Company. The St. Vincent's Triangle Garden at Seventh Avenue between Greenwich and 12th Streets, which contained 45,000 square feet of cultivated space, offered a brief reprieve from the congestion of Greenwich Village. It was among the better known gardens that in 1981 fell victim to the bulldozer and hospital expansion plans.

Another noteworthy site is Adam Purple's Garden of Eden on Eldridge Street between Stanton and Rivington Streets on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. "A series of buildings were destroyed and that left a sizable strip of land. But the land was being abused, not used," claims Adam. Calculating that abused land can be restored to fertility at about the rate of one lot per person per year, Purple himself has already converted three tenement lots (about 10,000 square feet) and intends to convert ten more. His oriental-style garden has flower and vegetable beds, fruit and nut trees, over 100 rose bushes, and the largest black raspberry patch open to the public in the City. The garden design, most extraordinary from an aerial view, is of concentric circles forming a double yin-yang in the center.

Complementing the aesthetics of the garden is Adam himself, clad in a purple, tie-dyed outfit bicycling on his way to or from Central Park to fetch horse manure which he uses to fertilize the garden. In three years, that has already amounted to six tons. Adam Purple contends that his Garden of Eden is more than a

garden; it is a work of art. That the garden sits on real estate which is designated for housing is insignificant compared with the value of his garden art.

Despite the international acclaim for Purple's Garden of Eden, the City eyes Adam Purple as simply a squatter — and he is. He has never bothered to obtain the requisite GreenThumb one dollar a year lease that would make his gardening efforts legal. Now that the City wants to build low-income and artist housing on his site, Adam will be forced to leave. Arguing, "the City wants to destroy the people's turf," Purple proclaims, "It is the people versus City Hall."

But even in situations where there is a legal lease, the City is taking back the land which the people have cultivated. "People have invested lots of money, time, and talent in Ruppert Green. Why take it away? We have lots of buildings that need remodeling or replacing. Why not do something about them? Please save our garden, Ruppert Green," writes Cora Gist, a member of the threatened community garden in Yorkville, a community on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The garden, which has produced about 320 bushels of fresh vegetables each year for over 70 local residents for more than a decade, is now slated to become a luxury high rise condominium and federally funded housing for the elderly.

Cora adds in her letter about Ruppert Green, "All of us cannot afford an evening on the town. So we gather our family and friends on a hot summer evening, prepare a picnic and go to the garden. There among the vegetables

and beautiful flowers we enjoy a wonderful evening. Are you going to deprive us of this?"

Civitas, one of the more active local groups engaged in neighborhood preservation on the Upper East Side, has allied itself with the Ruppert Green Community Gardeners and filed a suit to block the development. Originally, extra density had been added to the three blocks of towering buildings south of the garden, because the garden block was to be developed as a one-story school. When the school was no longer needed, the City decided to develop the block for high-rise housing, claiming that a fourth block of high-rise apartments would not have any negative impacts on the neighborhood. Civitas and the Ruppert Green Community Gardeners disagree.

Shelly Stiles, President of the Ruppert Green Community Garden, explains that the community group was started before the network of technical assistance groups began. Before the City began Operation GreenThumb in 1978, the group had obtained a five dollar a month lease from the Department of Real Property. They later borrowed tools from the Council on the Environment's Plant-A-Lot program, and received plant materials and fencing from different technical assistance groups. "They made us feel like we belonged," Stiles explains. That is, until now, when the \$10 million price tag placed on the garden renders the lease meaningless and puts an end to their gardening efforts.

Across town from the Ruppert Green Garden, on West 89th Street, the West Side Community Garden could have

become another casualty of the City's current redevelopment attempts. The one and a half acre garden site is now filled with an outdoor amphitheater, rock garden, and individual plots of soil that have been carefully cultivated for the last eight years by about one hundred neighborhood families.

A housing development firm has recently won a bid on the West Side Community Gardening site, considering it an ideal location to construct a large 12-story apartment building and twenty 4 to 5-story townhouses. What the community would like to see, however, is a housing plan that would reserve some space for their garden.

"We don't want the developer to lose even one unit of housing," says Tony Pearson, President of the neighborhood group. "All we want is for him to change the configuration of the buildings so that we will be able to retain at least some of the garden space."

What sounds like a simple request became complicated because officials of the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development were threatening to block a compromise between the developer and the community. They didn't want to set a precedent for the community gardening groups that are struggling to preserve their parcels of urban agriculture on other urban renewal sites around the City. Working with the Trust for Public Land the gardeners are now in the final stages of negotiation with the developer for an 18,000 square foot garden.

Since community gardeners have realized how vulnerable their gardens and parks are, their creative energy has surged, as it did years ago when they first

decided to do something with the vacant lots in their neighborhoods. Where alternatives are available, they are being taken. The members of La Guardia Corners Garden spent one year moving their garden two blocks to a new site with a GreenThumb lease. Their first garden is now a ten-story housing development. The Garden People will be gardening on 7,000 square feet of garage roof on West 97th Street by the end of the year. The Baltic Street Garden has just been integrated into a new housing development in Brooklyn.

The most innovative approach to date is the Clinton Community Garden's current effort to raise the funds to buy their garden at City auction. Working with the Green Guerillas, the Trust for Public Land, and the Housing Conservation Coordinators, they have just begun a campaign to entice people to "buy an inch of New York". By nominally selling square inches of the garden for five dollars each, they hope to generate enough money to buy the garden and establish an endowment for maintenance. Having designed postcards with pictures of the garden in the spring of 1984, they inaugurated the fund-raising effort with a festive campaign. Their Public Celebrity Committee includes such supporters as Pete Seeger, Mary Travers, Kevin Kline, Ronnie Gilbert, Daryl Hall, and John Oates. Mayor Koch, presiding at the ceremony, which marked the beginning of the campaign, bought the first inch. In his remarks Mayor Koch noted that "there is still room for neighborhood-owned facilities and this is such a facility, you would have to be a real monster to lay a finger on this [garden]."

Footnotes

- 10- Tom Fox, "Towards the Creation of a New York City Open Space Task Force." Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, New York, 1982.
- 11- Project inventory 1983, The Trust for Public Land, New York City
-

CHAPTER FOUR:

THE

GARDENERS

SPEAK

OUT

The bounty of work at the West Side Community Garden in Manhattan

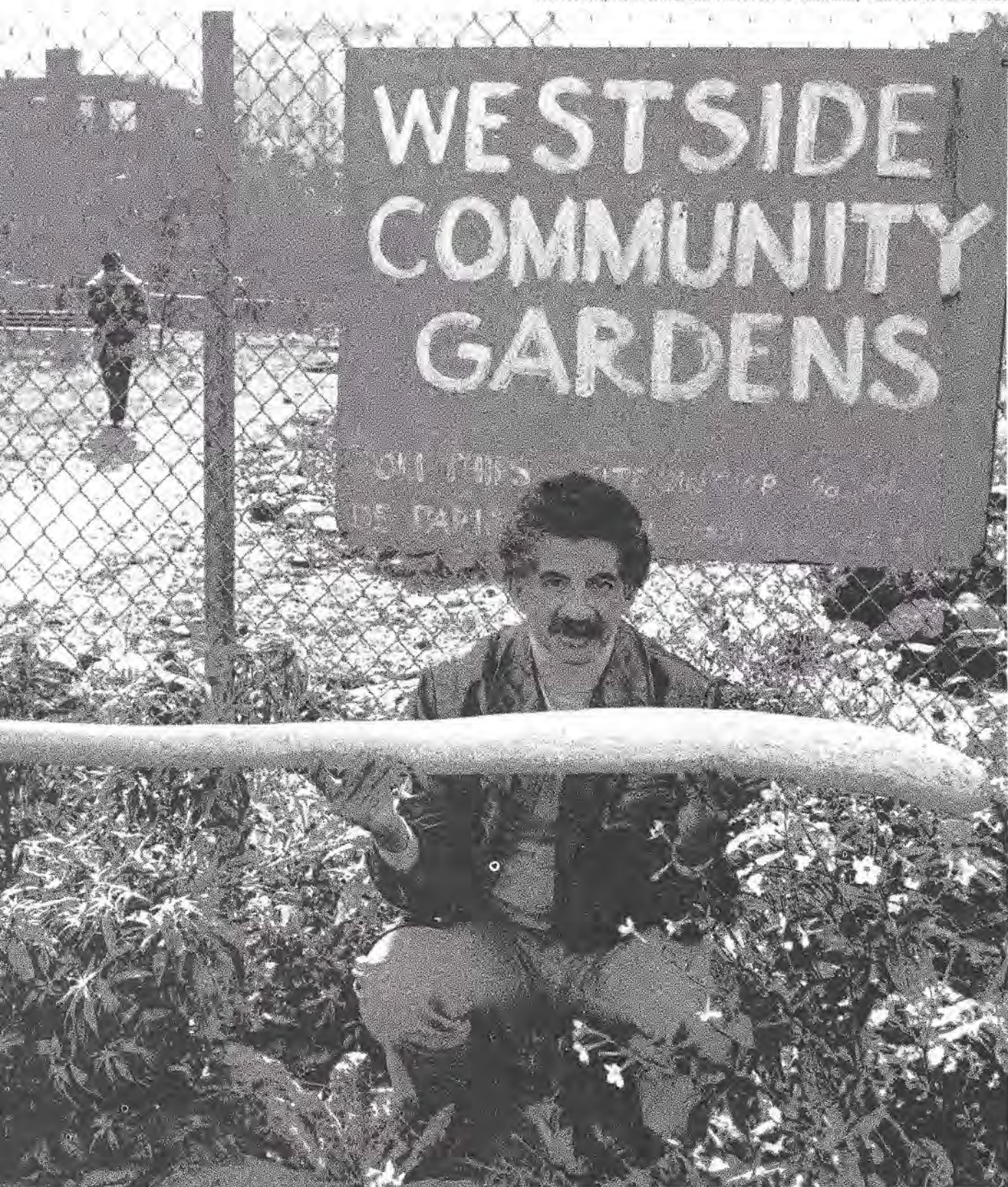


Photo: Jane Grundy

Why People Garden

People expect to see gardens on a country road or a suburban block, but in an urban environment, gardens are something special. The community gardeners have had to put up with all kinds of restrictions, regulations, and requirements to plant their seeds in soil that is mostly brick and rubble left over from years of demolition. To bring life to a city street is a totally different experience from that of simply planting a garden. It means trusting that over the layers of rubble and the semblance of decay a living environment can grow.

"We saw that the grass could grow. And so we just started digging and clearing. It was so beautiful that we just kept going," says a gardener from the Bronx. "Quiero trabajar la tierra. I like working the earth." "We started the garden to get out the rats." "I garden to eat, to feed myself." "We wanted more beauty for people to see the loveliness of God's creation," says another.

Melvina Johnson from the Quincy Block Association comments, "Once they tore down those houses we thought the demolition site would become a garbage dump. We thought they would bring cars like they do and start fires. The neighborhood starts going down when you see garbage. You lose so much. That was why when they started the garden, I thought it was the best thing that they could have done. People got together to help their neighborhood."

In the once fashionable Coney Island section of Brooklyn there are now over 27,000 residents who are forced to do without simple necessities like a nearby

supermarket to buy reasonably priced food or a laundromat to wash their clothes. According to Jerry McNulty of the Coney Island Community Center, "It is going to take a lot to put Coney Island back together again."

When LaPlacita Garden Club of Coney Island won the Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your Neighborhood award for their creation of a combination vegetable/flower garden between two buildings, it brought dignity to the neighborhood and to the residents. The success inspired a second garden, LaPlacita II, followed by the development of even more community gardens. "There are still 35-50 acres of fallow land left in Coney Island," McNulty comments. "It is going to take a long time to use up all the land that's been abandoned in the area." In Coney Island, the community gardens are only a start. Eventually, the residents want to see merchants reopen the stores and moderately priced housing constructed on some of the abandoned property.

Connie Lesold's motivation for starting the Franklin Avenue Shuttle Garden in Brooklyn was not to preserve open space, but rather, to save the Franklin Avenue Shuttle from being closed by the City. For residents of the area, the Franklin Avenue Shuttle is the only connection between the A train and the D train. The closing of the shuttle would cut off thousands of people from other parts of the City.

The neighborhood residents formed a group and began cleaning up around the threatened shuttle stations, an area that had not received any attention since 1910. When they found out that the land was not owned by the Transit Authority,

but by the City, they launched a campaign to obtain their GreenThumb lease and to start a community garden where the Franklin Avenue Shuttle begins its route across town.

"You better believe they kept the shuttle open after we took the time to show them that we cared about our neighborhood," says Connie Lesold. "Not only that, they put additional lighting in the shuttle stations." To Connie, a community garden is not simply a place to "turn turnips", it is where community leaders meet and discuss what to do next for their neighborhood.

"I got involved with the El Sol Brillante Garden because I wanted to see something growing around here," says Florence Bond, a community organizer on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Joan Pipolo organized a group of people in 1976 to convince the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development to demolish what was left of a burned-out building at 636 Barretto Street in the South Bronx. The lot was then cleared of the rubble and a community garden was planned and built. Both the El Sol Brillante Garden and the Barretto Street Garden have become land trusts. Assisted by the Trust for Public Land, the two groups formed nonprofit corporations to preserve their gardens as open space.

The Gardeners' Woes

Once their community garden had become a land trust, the Barretto Street gardeners were required to pay \$1,000

in taxes to the City. When the Barretto Street Block Association appealed to the Tax Commission and convinced the City that the taxes were too high, that sum was lowered to \$600. "Even so, it is too much for us to pay," says Pipolo. Claude Allen from the Wykoff-Bond Garden in the Boerum Hill section of Brooklyn is also tired of the large debts incurred each year from the garden. He expresses a feeling similar to those held by Florence Bond, Joan Pipolo, and others — why should they have to pay city property taxes for providing an open space amenity in the neighborhood?

Community instability is another problem for the gardeners. "People move out so quickly here," says Theresa Santiago from the East 118th Street Garden in Manhattan. Bill Rainey from the Triangle Garden in the Bronx says, "There are a lot of transients in the area. That breeds a lack of interest and theft."

Vandalism strikes the community sites in many forms. Maria Anglada from the Young People's East Harlem Resource Center remembers, "They tore up the wooden boxes and the wooden planks that we used to build the vegetable beds. They tore them up and burned them as winter fuel to keep warm. Some people destroyed the vegetables before they grew." A gardener in the Bronx recalls, "It was the senior citizens that took the vegetable. The kids took the fence and made a bonfire."

The majority of the gardeners, however, are not affected by vandalism. People looking out their windows, kids on the block, and the Police Department look out for the community sites. Angelo Gerone from Brooklyn says, "A guy came from GreenThumb and said,

'We're willing to put up a chain link fence.' We told him don't bother. We don't have problems with theft." Joan Pipolo asserts, "If there is total involvement from the community, then no one will bother the garden."

Sowing the Seed

"I worked very hard, carrying a lot of heavy bricks, and almost broke my back. We filled plastic buckets with water and carried them across 34th Street. But I don't really consider it work. It is like giving birth to a baby. Anything we could make come alive, we have done so," says Fran Capalono from the Tunnel Community Garden on West 34th Street in Manhattan.

Other voices from the garden:

"We try not to spend any money."

"You don't need money; all you need is a pair of hands and a back to bend."

"A small group that is going to work is better than a large group that is only members."

"The garden has a good kind of neighborly effect. People stop and ask me how things are going."

"My husband comes from down South and we love farming. At first it was hard getting more people out there in the garden. People see you working and they can't believe that an eggplant will grow in city soil."

Reaping the Harvest

The reasons why the gardeners struggle with City agencies, negotiate with real estate developers and break their backs to cultivate and preserve their small plots of vegetables and flowers are many. To anyone whose neighborhood already provides recreational and aesthetic amenities, or who lives in an area that is not prone to vandalism or transients—an area which reflects attention and financial resources—a community effort may have little meaning. But on many New York City blocks that isn't the case. The people on those blocks participate in the community projects because it provides the neighborhood with all the benefits that have been denied to them.

"People don't just garden in those sites," says Jerry McNulty of the Coney Island Community Center. "They talk about the news of the day. They socialize. They form relationships." He explains that there is a distinct lack of facilities and resources for recreation in Coney Island. Cato Johnson from the area's Mermaid Avenue garden says, "Folks that used to be bad people, the winos and junkies, now they're the nicest people. I think it mellowed them. People are mellowed with gardening."

"The major changes that I saw were with the youth," says Joan Pipolo from Barretto Street. "They work with the older people in the garden and suddenly, they're productive." Gil Alvarez from the El Sol Brillante Garden agrees, "Yep, the biggest impact is on the kids." "The children are the special beneficiaries," says Maria Cruz from the Sixth Street Block Association. "Some of

Tessa Huxley of the Green Guerillas teaching children how to plant roses



Photo: Tom Fox

the city kids never saw a tomato grow before."

Danny Soto from East 161st Street in the Bronx makes this comparison, "There are a bunch of funded agencies that get hundreds of kids and they got nothing for them to do. The kids are in the basement all day long reading comic books. Those agency people get funded for doing nothing. The kids love to work in the garden. They love to get their hands dirty."

Marie Liquerdello has a small garden in her backyard on East 10th Street in Brooklyn where she has taught a dozen neighborhood kids how to garden. She says, "It keeps them occupied. It gives them something to do. Something to look forward to. They have to plan and think ahead. They watch the weather everyday. They are always excited."

Many of the gardeners say that the kids help look out for the garden. "That is what it is all about. Teaching the kids that food doesn't come from supermarkets alone," says Eddie Lacewell from Brooklyn. "When they realize that, they won't let anyone tear up the garden."

"The main benefit from gardening is in the summertime. The food bills are cheaper. On tomatoes alone I can save \$85 by gardening," says Florence Bond. Joan Pipolo adds, "The Barretto Street garden can augment 20 families with fresh produce."

Some find it therapeutic, others challenging, others social, others economic. "But mostly it tastes good," says Kim Estes from the Alley Pond Environmental Center in Queens. "With all the supermarkets relocated out of Coney Island, the gardens give them

food they can afford," says Jerry McNulty. He adds, "But the social aspect of the gardens is still the biggest benefit."

The Pinkerton Garden at the Madison Square Boys Club on 29th Street in Manhattan is open to the public and it has a full staff that provides many outreach programs for the area residents. The garden attracts many different kinds of people who enjoy being there year-round. "I don't know where they went before the garden opened," says Sara Levine, one of the garden staff people.

"I think the garden made people more aware of their own community," says Susan Moore from East 12th Street in Brooklyn. "We talk to each other now, there is a sense of accomplishment and community pride." "It is like Puerto Rico. The air is different. It is quiet," say others. Connie Lesold sums it up, "We have to deal with each other like human beings down there in the garden."

CHAPTER FIVE:

PULLING

TOGETHER

Park and garden supporters stressing the need for open space at New York City budget hearings



Photo: Tom Fox

Let Your Voices Be Heard

When the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition (NOSC) heard that community gardens and parks were being shortchanged in the City's proposed budget for 1982, they decided that something dramatic had to be done. Although other City departments were being asked to take a 12 percent cut in funding, the City was proposing to reduce the allocation for its open space greening programs by 74 percent. The new budget would have eliminated the City's Operation GreenThumb Program as well as the Interim Site Improvement and Cleaning and Greening Programs of the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development. This amounted to a \$1.35 million reduction in funding for greening programs. Although the Coalition agreed that these City programs had been relatively ineffective, they felt that drastic cutbacks would hamper future efforts by the communities to take control of vacant land in their neighborhoods. Operation Green Thumb had just been re-staffed by experienced professionals and there were alternatives to the other two programs.

The Coalition brought together several member groups to devise an alternative program to the City's proposed cuts. They presented the option to the City Planning Department, as elected and appointed officials were deluged by letters and phone calls. The groups asked three of the Borough Presidents to put \$300,000 each into their discretionary budgets to fund an alternative program.

Just as agreement for the \$900,000 seemed assured, the night before the Board of Estimate hearings, the City Planning Department and the Deputy Mayor's Office put pressure on the Borough Presidents to drop their requests. Brooklyn dropped it. Manhattan dropped it. But Stanley Simon, the Borough President of the Bronx, didn't give in. He knew the reputation of the Bronx Frontier Development Corporation, one of the Coalition member organizations involved in developing the alternative, and trusted that they would run a good program.

Carrying shovels, hoes, and rakes, community gardeners joined with the Park Council's "Friends of the Parks" groups at the hearings the next day to speak on behalf of the greening programs and against the reduction in the Parks Department budget. One of the members of the Board of Estimate turned to another and said, "We're giving them more police, more firemen, and all of these people are here talking about parks! What's going on?"

As a result of their actions, \$750,000 was restored to the City's budget for open space work, which included the continuation of the \$350,000 Department of General Services GreenThumb, and a \$400,000 Bronx Land Reclamation Project. As a result of this coordinated effort, there are now 78 acres of grass and wildflowers on the former rubble of the South Bronx, and the staff of Operation GreenThumb has had the chance to demonstrate the value of their restructured program. There was also a subsequent increase of \$20 million in the Parks Department budget.

Underneath its hard exterior, there is a

political core in the middle of the Big Apple. To reach that core takes strong, well-organized, and well-orchestrated action. The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition was formed in 1980 to make sure that the vast network of community gardeners could reach that core and effect policy changes that would benefit the greening movement and enhance the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

How It Came About

The idea of a coalition was first vocalized during a meeting on April 25, 1980, at the City University Graduate Center. The meeting was called to critique the first study of New York City's greening phenomenon, *The Making of Neighborhood Open Spaces*. Lisa Cashdan, one of the study's authors, recalls, "We saw the open space movement as very dynamic. Our study, therefore, was 'action' research, which meant that we reported our research findings as we discovered them." And the meeting itself turned into an example of action research, attended by 30 key representatives from community groups, technical assistance organizations, design firms, foundations, and government agencies to discuss candidly the past, present and future of the community open space movement.

Cashdan, along with co-authors Mark Francis and Lynn Paxton, presented their research study to stimulate discussion on the critical issues and policy options in developing more effective community-initiated open spaces. Cashdan remembers, "We came up with

some recommendations which the group supported and endorsed. One of the strongest was that a coalition be formed. We started a series of planning meetings to define more fully what this coalition could be."¹² It took about six months of working informally with a small number of the participants from the April meeting to define what the coalition would do and what its structure would be.

Although many of the various professionals involved in the community garden and park system agreed that it was important to coordinate the existing resources, there seemed to be no one with the time and energy to get the project off the ground. "We realized that for a coalition to really work, we needed a strong staff person and, most importantly, the funds to cover the expenses of starting a new organization," explains Cashdan. "Out of this mass confusion, one of the participants, Tom Fox, agreed to be the Executive Director and do the fundraising." A six member steering committee would provide guidance for the coalition and Lisa Cashdan, whose pioneering research was the catalyst for the coalition's development, was elected Chairman.

The first task was to prepare a paper presenting the new coalition's purpose. Entitled "Why the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition," the paper described the problems facing open space resources, including the recognition that the movement towards community developed parks and gardens had been "rapid and uncontrolled."¹³ Another issue stressed in the report was that open space was still not perceived by

decision-makers as important in urban development. Lack of coordination among existing organizations was cited as the single largest obstacle to the movement's reaching its full potential. But "with the formation of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition we have the tool to meet the task."

Lisa Cashdan explains, "I saw the Coalition as being the next logical step for all of us because we had community groups out there, one not knowing what the other was doing; technical assistance groups offering services; and the City agencies trying to make sense of everything that was going on. Until the Coalition existed, there was no forum for discussion to occur. Now all the groups can glean information about what the other is doing. Linking up the different greening organizations creates a constituency to which City agencies may be responsive."

With the formation of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, the small, scattered groups of community gardeners throughout New York City's five boroughs found a friend that wielded a bigger stick than they could. NOSC fostered the concept of an integrated open space system of community gardens, city parks, public plazas and malls, rooftops and street trees, all of which need community participation to survive.

Leveraging Resources

To support this community involvement, public resources and private capital became essential. Linda

Gillies from the Vincent Astor Foundation played a monumental role in leveraging resources for NOSC by giving the fledgling Coalition its initial \$2,500 grant. "One of the greatest benefits of the open space movement is that it is uniting people," explains Gillies as a reason for her support of the Coalition. As in the case of many new organizations, the foundations provide the start-up capital that allows an innovative group to develop a track record needed to attract additional funding. It was the commitment of the foundations and the reputation of the Coalition's growing list of member organizations that enabled the NOSC to diversify its funding.

When the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) realized that it had limited resources to offer technical assistance to the community gardens on the 96 interim sites it had developed around the city, it approached the New York Foundation, which arranged a meeting between HPD and the Coalition to discuss the problem. Subsequently, HPD agreed to a \$9,000 contract with the Coalition to develop *The Park/Garden Maintenance Manual*, which includes technical information gathered from all the member organizations. HPD also agreed to a \$9,000 contract with the Green Guerillas, a NOSC member, to provide on-site technical assistance using the manual. The 91 page illustrated manual contains information on community organizing, fundraising, landscaping, wood and metal maintenance and the resources available to help with the work.¹⁴ When the City only published

250 copies, the Coalition was given permission from HPD to reprint the manual, and received funding from Citibank and Gulf & Western Corporation to print an additional one thousand copies. One copy was distributed to each of the garden coordinators around the City. The remaining copies were offered for sale at five dollars each to offset the printing costs not covered by the grants.

Another financial institution that has supported the greening movement through the Coalition is the Chase Manhattan Bank. For over three years the bank has given \$185,000 to sponsor a Summer Youth Program that each year provides jobs for the unemployed and offers extra help to the different greening organizations that always need more able bodies. During the summer of 1982, for example, 57 high school students worked 16 weeks for 17 different Coalition member organizations, helping them to accomplish their goals of neighborhood open space greening and park revitalization.

In a given day, student workers could be found performing street tree maintenance in Lower Manhattan for the Environmental Action Coalition; doing erosion control work in a City park with the Inwood Heights Parks Alliance; building nature trails and assisting naturalists with environmental education programs at the Alley Pond Environmental Center and Gateway National Recreation Area; laying a slate patio for a community garden in Harlem for the Council on the Environment; or building fences, planting beds, and pruning and watering flowers and vegetables in any number of community

gardens and parks throughout the five boroughs.

Fraser Seitel, Director of Public Relations for Chase Manhattan Bank, says, "The success of our summer youth program has meant beautiful neighborhoods, less unemployment, and Chase Manhattan Bank has gotten some good recognition for its efforts. Hopefully more companies will begin to appreciate the benefits of having nicer surroundings and more of them will get involved in cleaning up the City's vacant lots."

"Our 1982 summer youth employment program was given a tremendous boost by the five young workers sponsored by the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition. As you know, our Federal program was cut out entirely and the City program was vastly curtailed and without this assistance our work would have suffered," writes Ruth Anderberg, Director for Programs at Bronx River Restoration.

"I prefer to work with dirt. It makes me feel like I'm really doing something, and gives me a feeling of accomplishment. It also makes the neighborhood look better," acknowledges Ron Regan, one of the summer interns working with the Housing Conservation Coordinators.

NOSC has created a partnership among the private sector, the government and the people. But one of its most important achievements is simply that it exists. It is a phone number that people can call, a friend on Reade Street for all of the gardeners city-wide. As Lisa Cashdan explains, "Three years ago when we took a look at the greening movement, it was fragmented and suspicious. Now there

is communication and less duplication of services."

Strength in Numbers

With a dues-paying membership of 80 organizations and 58 individuals, The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition has begun to confront the Goliath force of the City and the real estate developers, not as an opponent but as a co-worker.

A threatened garden on West 96th Street and Broadway was saved when the Coalition helped to facilitate meetings among the Trust for Public Land and the Green Guerillas (two Coalition members), the local Community Board, the community gardening group, and the developer, Arthur Zeckendorf. The result of the negotiations is a 7,000 square foot garden with three feet of topsoil and a \$75,000 maintenance endowment. This community open space, now called The Lotus Garden, is located on the garage roof of The Columbia Condominium, where it sets an important precedent for the inclusion of community gardens and parks in new housing developments throughout the City. Following that precedent, a new development displacing the West Side Community Garden on Columbus Avenue will soon contain 18,000 square feet of land designated as a community park, with \$125,000 of construction funding being supplied by the developer, Jerome Kretchmer.

"A lot has to be said for the Coalition's effort to retain the garden on its original

site in the community," says Arthur Zeckendorf, who built the Columbia Condominium. "They came to meetings and developed a workable plan. The garden wouldn't have happened without them."

The Network

A principal function of the Coalition is as a network of information for its member organizations. There are a significant number of important projects, events, research, and crises that are of interest to the various members. The membership meetings held three times a year are lively, and well-attended by a diverse group of people who exchange constructive ideas and formulate plans for the future. The minutes from the meetings then serve as a newsletter to the other members who could not attend.

The Coalition has also been successful in reaching the broader public with a community newsletter in the form of computer graphics and a text on up-coming greening events on Manhattan's Cable Channel 10. The New York University Alternative Media Center contacted NOSC in 1981 to help develop their pioneer cable show, Apple Bytes, which now provides information to 120,000 viewers in lower Manhattan. The Coalition submits news of special events or projects. Edited and illustrated, the news appears during a five minute segment about open space that airs ten times a week. Involvement in the Apple Bytes show led the Coalition directly into another computer age networking project, The Apple Computer Network,

Clearing the land



Photo: Jane Grundy

a new experimental program for the use of microcomputers in telecommunications networks among non-profit groups. NOSC, and three of its members — The Citizens Committee for New York City, the Council on the Environment, and the Trust for Public Land — have now received computers, software, and staff training as a pilot group in the new philanthropic program designed by the Apple Computer Corporation.

The four New York City greening organizations are developing shared databases including bibliographies of their library resources, press lists and project lists which can be accessed by any of the members. The project list, for example, contains a master list of all community gardens and parks, land trusts, park preservation groups, citizen street tree pruners and environmental educators in local schools. All of this and more goes into the computer, where it is accessible by different variables, such as type of project or zip code. To date, 17 open space organizations or agencies have received data or mailing lists derived from the Coalition's computer data base. NOSC requests that field observations, such as changes in the contact person, or the locations of new gardens, be sent back to the Coalition. In this way, the groups who use the data are insuring that the information is updated on a regular basis.

By making this information available on a local basis, neighborhood networks, which take advantage of local resources and are less dependent on the city-wide technical assistance organizations, can begin to form. For example, if a community gardening

group in Brooklyn needs specific gardening tools, it could obtain a list of other gardening groups in the area through the computer network. This type of networking can reduce the dependency on the Council on the Environment's GROW Truck, which lends tools to the groups, but only on a limited basis.

The network is also helping the technical assistance groups make better use of their resources. When the Bronx Frontier Development Corporation heard they would be receiving 5,000 packets of vegetable seeds from America the Beautiful, they contacted the Coalition for help with distribution. Within two days Frontier received mailing labels with the names of the sixty-three community gardens in the South Bronx that had vegetable gardens. They then put the labels on postcards announcing the free seed give-away, reducing the labor costs for mailing and increasing the number of groups that could take advantage of the offer.

Open Space Advocate

The Coalition's role as an advocate for open spaces is what keeps NOSC and its members in the spotlight. Appearances at local conferences, on television and radio shows, and articles in the New York Daily News, The Villager, American Banker, New York Times, Metropolitan Magazine, and a syndicated column which appeared in 149 newspapers nationally have helped to create a better understanding of neighborhood open space efforts among the general public. Lectures at major

universities and to professional organizations on a city, regional, and national level have helped planners, landscape architects, horticulturists, and public policy makers understand the complexity and benefits of this new component of the urban system.

The more prominent the Coalition and its members become, the more they are able to influence the City's policies and programs. The Bronx Land Reclamation Program, for example, which was introduced as an alternative to an unsuccessful City program, came into being through the political leverage of the Bronx Frontier Development Corporation with the support of NOSC. The Coalition's presence at Board of Estimate, City Planning Commission, and Community Board hearings has been important in presenting open space development and maintenance as vital concerns which the City should address.

In 1983 the Department of City Planning proposed new zoning that eliminated the incentives for developers to include open space in new commercial and residential buildings. The Coalition agreed that the plazas which resulted from the existing zoning regulations were not serving the needs of the local community, the general public, or the occupants of the buildings. NOSC argued, however, that the need for public space was growing as new development increased the density of the three Manhattan neighborhoods that would be affected by the new zoning proposal.

The Coalition then held its first forum entitled "Residential Rezoning: Is There A Place for Open Space," to explore the

issue further. Thirty-five participants, including community leaders, government officials, planning and design professionals, and open space advocates, discussed the problems and possible solutions involved in efforts to provide open space in proposed rezoning resolutions. A NOSC Zoning Committee was then formed and a Coalition resolution was presented to the affected Community Boards. Two of the three Boards agreed with the Coalition's position and requested that the Department of City Planning prepare a new study that looks at alternative ways to use zoning to create open space. The Coalition's Zoning Committee is now working with the Department of City Planning to explore new zoning regulations for the creation of open space in New York's more densely populated neighborhoods.

The greatest advocacy role the Coalition has played to date is as the creator of a Neighborhood Open Space Task Force position paper. By the time it was sent to Mayor Edward I. Koch, the paper had been reviewed and endorsed by 20 people, including representatives of the City's Departments of Real Property and Housing Preservation and Development, as well as the City Planning Commission. The position paper led directly to the creation of a public/private New York City Open Space Task Force, whose members have been appointed by the Mayor. This 12 member group has proposed a two year research effort to identify future open space policy and program options for New York City. If successful, the Task Force could finally give some official credibility and recognition to the

alternative garden and park system that the Coalition represents.

Guidance from the Board

The Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition was chosen directly from the vast network of greening organizations which the Coalition represents. Among these are the Trust for Public Land, the Green Guerrillas, and the Citizens Committee for New York City. There are 15 directors representing community groups, technical assistance organizations, and individuals who work for City agencies, but represent themselves in their capacity as directors. The directors meet every other month to keep the Coalition on a smooth and effective course. Each director must represent his/her own organization's interest as well as determine the best comprehensive strategies for the Coalition to take in its role as an umbrella group.

One of the original board members, Lys McLaughlin, from the Council on the Environment, explains that her dual involvement is both to guide and advise the Coalition as well as to watch it carefully. Despite its importance to the greening movement, the Coalition is still regarded as competition to many of the smaller groups. "On the one hand, all of the greening groups need the Coalition. But on the other hand, we don't want to compete over limited funds and resources," McLaughlin comments.

To circumvent the issue of funding,

the Coalition's board members, many of whom represent nonprofit groups that receive their livelihood from a small number of philanthropic organizations, do not assist with the fundraising aspect of the Coalition. "More importantly," explains McLaughlin, "we offer advice and explore new programs. We constantly address the issue of where do we go from here."

As one of the principal forces behind the Coalition, Lisa Cashdan feels that, "It is one of the more positive and exciting opportunities that I've had in this movement to date." As President of the Ruppert Green Community Garden, Shelly Stiles says that being on the board has helped her to fulfill that role. She adds, "It has also given me emotional support. I don't feel so alone when I'm out there fighting to hold on to the garden site. I'm very proud to be on the NOSC board." Another board member, John Ameroso from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Urban Gardening Program explains that, "I'm bad at politics. The Coalition has helped me to understand the issues." Jack Flanagan, President of Bronx Frontier Development Corporation and a former Chairman of the Board states, "The Coalition has been able to pull together the many diverse interests in the field, including those of the splinter groups in the outer boroughs. We have formed a platform which promotes the interest of open space, while benefiting individual members."

Ken Davies, Director of the Department of General Services GreenThumb Program, is one Coalition board member who constantly faces the complexity of open space politics. "It is

Getting the garden going is a job for everyone in the neighborhood



Photo: Jane Grundy

a fascinating experience to work for the City and also to be privy and party to decisions on the part of the private sector, many of whom view the City as the adversary," explains Ken. "I am not sure that if I wasn't on the board of NOSC I would know, or feel, or understand how people in the Coalition are feeling about what is happening." Defending his position as a City official, he explains the difficulty of, "being given the responsibility for City properties and City interests as opposed to only having to advocate on behalf of the community. I have to take the community projects that work and balance their interests against the City's need for housing and revenue."

Like Lys McLaughlin, Ken also had some initial reservations as to whether NOSC was really needed. He explains that, "The Coalition actually came into being without knowing quite what it was going to be doing. And those of us on the board have gone through some soul searching sessions as to what our goal really is. At this point I am very thankful that NOSC has come into being and I think that particularly the formation of the Mayor's Open Space Task Force, and certainly with the inventory, NOSC has furthered the cause of open space in New York City."

Reaching Out

The Coalition's ability to influence political change extends beyond the City level to the broader arena of decision-makers at the State Legislature. The 1982 election of Mario Cuomo as Governor of New York State offered opportunities to the variety of groups

working on community gardening, urban greening and direct marketing projects throughout the state. It was NOSC, however, that gathered those people together to address the new Governor and to let him know how he could further their cause.

People like Barry Benepe, Director of GreenMarket; Paul Winkeller, Director of Capital District Community Gardens, Inc.; and Bob Lewis, of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, drafted a letter with other members of the Coalition which outlined to the Governor the importance of the programs that they represented. The letter said, "In these difficult economic times we are proud that programs like ours cost the State and local governments very little while providing an essential service which enhances people's lives and moves us toward more self-reliance." Set forth in the letter were 19 suggestions for changes in current State policies and programs which would have a strong beneficial impact on urban areas around the State.

A statewide "Community Gardening Campaign" was proposed which would advertise the availability of public land to grow food, similar to the cooperative gardening effort that occurred during the Depression, World War I and World War II. After correspondence with the Governor's office, the Coalition's director met with the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets to discuss the suggestion further. Commissioner Joseph Gerace agreed to appoint a special assistant to work on urban food production and distribution issues.

The Coalition has also played a

catalytic role in having New York City's five boroughs designated as a Soil and Water Conservation District. For the last ten years one City agency or another has blocked the efforts of local environmental groups, leaving the City with the only counties in New York State not benefiting from the expertise of the Soil Conservation Service. Realizing there was support in the new State administration, NOSC joined with the City Council President's office, the Citizens Union, and other concerned organizations, to revive the effort. A new bill supporting the designation is being introduced in the State Assembly by Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs (D-Brooklyn) who is the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy. Although there is still some resistance in the Department of City Planning, the momentum is growing and the designation is much closer to reality.

The Coalition has also become an active member of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA), and the executive director serves as the Vice President of their Board of Directors. This professional organization includes the leaders and organizers of community gardening programs in cities across the country. Through their association with ACGA the Coalition has received information on a wide variety of programs that provide ideas for the member organizations. The Coalition has also provided information on the innovative programs its members are involved in. Several articles on the work of New York City gardeners have appeared in ACGA's *Journal of Community Gardening*.

Guidance From The Field

The core of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition remains the people on the street. Without their physical work converting the vacant areas to gardens and parks, there would be no community spaces to protect. Without the strong feelings of unity that the work in the gardens produces, there would be no coalition.

The Coalition provides a central focus to the greening movement and is a friend to the people who are struggling to maintain what they have through hard work and limited resources. When women soccer players had nowhere to practice, the Coalition helped them obtain access to the athletic fields in the Asphalt Green. When the Bronx River Restoration Project wound up with more telephone poles than they could use, the Coalition helped distribute them by spreading the word to other garden groups throughout the City that needed the poles for their gardens.

Through the information provided by the Coalition, its diverse members are able to speak out on behalf of the threatened gardens. Barry Benepe, for instance, as the President of the Fine Arts Federation of New York could write a letter to the President of City Club of New York and ask, "We who are concerned with the quality of New York ask, what are the Mayor's priorities? Why is community open space destroyed to provide income while major tax concessions and Urban Development Assistance Grants are provided to large corporations, real

estate speculators, and such comparatively well-endowed institutions as the Museum of Modern Art and the South Street Seaport? Does only bigness count?"

Proving to the world-at-large that there is a "big" movement of community gardeners in New York City might be the most important achievement of the Coalition to date. The fact that NOSC provided an umbrella to the individuals and groups that were linked with the re-greening of New York City's open spaces was not enough to assure the general public that a strong movement actually existed. There was a united voice, but no one really knew where that voice was coming from. Their concerns were heard at City Planning Commission meetings and Board of Estimate hearings, but in an age where preciseness counts, there were no accurate figures to say how many people were really involved or were benefitting from the gardens and parks that the people themselves created.

With interns from NOSC, a computer system, and some careful planning, those exact figures have now been uncovered. If size does count, the community gardeners in New York City have taken a monumental leap from relative obscurity in the early 1970's, to something definitely worth counting in the mid-1980's.

Footnotes

- 12- Mark Francis Lisa Cashdan, and Lynn Paxton, *The Making of Neighborhood Open Spaces*, Center for Human Environments, City University of New York, 1981.
- 13- Tom Fox, "Why a Neighborhood Open Space Coalition," a paper on the potential of the Coalition, 1980.
- 14- Alexandra Christy, *Park and Garden Maintenance Manual*, Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, New York, 1983.

CHAPTER SIX:

THE

BIG

PICTURE

Nick Shorr interviewing a community gardener on the Lower East Side



Photo: Meg Clark

The Search Begins

"It was a great job! Driving around the City, and meeting neighborhood people, I saw the incredible work they'd done creating those gardens and parks." Ian Koeppel was the coordinator of the three member field research team which was given the job of identifying all the community gardens and parks in New York City recalls, "It was my first time in New York and I was surprised to find a city of caring people working together with their families and their neighbors. It was just the opposite of what I'd expected."

The task was quite a challenge. How many of the community gardens and parks are there? Where are they? Why are neighborhood residents building the gardens? How many people are involved? Who is helping them? Where is the money coming from? All of these and other questions had to be answered to prove what many already knew — that community gardens and parks are a vital part of New York City's open space system. Numbers, however, are a necessity for the planners, city managers and politicians who make the decisions about the future of the City. While New York City had developed one of the most diverse neighborhood open space efforts in the country, no one really knew how successful or advanced it was until the Coalition completed a comprehensive inventory of the City's greening efforts.

The research team found 410 community gardens and parks, on 143 acres of New York City, being tended by 10,462 people. Over 102 acres had

formerly been vacant, filled with bricks and rubble. A 1983 inventory update pointed to continued growth of this phenomena, cataloging 448 gardens on 155 acres and 11,171 people involved in their care.

Compared with the 25,000-acre City park system, the amount of community open space seems insignificant. But when the number of facilities are considered the picture changes. The City operates 1,490 parks and community residents care for 448 or 23% percent of all the park sites in the City. The condition and distribution of these sites demonstrate that community gardens and parks are making a significant contribution to the quality of life, especially in many of the City's low-income neighborhoods.

The sites are scattered throughout the City. Brooklyn, with 136, has the most gardens, followed in order by Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island. The majority are smaller vacant lot gardens, with the average site claiming 2,500-5,000 square feet or the size of a lot left by the demolition of a building.

Although distributed throughout the City, a majority of the sites are located in low-income neighborhoods which had experienced a devastating cycle of disinvestment, abandonment, arson, and demolition in the last ten to fifteen years. It is in these low-income neighborhoods, where recreation and sanitation services were severely cut during the City's fiscal crisis in the mid-1970's, that community residents saw the gardens as a way to provide for their needs. Faced with a high unemployment rate, the residents also

view the gardens as a productive activity for those who cannot find work.

Besides the benefit of working activities, local recreation, and fresh food, the gardens have a positive psychological impact on those involved. They are well-maintained because the people participated in "their" construction and feel a proprietary interest in them. Neighborhood resident involvement is the most important factor in the success of the gardens. It is residents way of investing in their neighborhood.

Even using conservative figures in its calculations, Neighborhood Open Space Coalition (NOSC) found that the work done by the communities in creating their own green spaces amounts to \$300,000 in capital investments, and more than \$3.3 million in "sweat equity" each year. When asked why this contribution was being made, more than two-thirds of the gardeners explained that they fought to obtain the vacant land in their neighborhoods because they wanted to clean-up their community.

An abandoned site in the middle of a dense, crowded neighborhood can rapidly become a dumping ground for old tires, rusted appliances, and other miscellaneous debris. Trash haulers faced with increasing fees at landfills and high fuel costs used the vacant lots to their advantage, increasing the problem of urban blight. In New York City today there are some 2,000 acres of vacant, urban land.¹⁵ To realize that the land can also become a productive resource takes imagination, a coordinated effort, and a strong feeling that life can blossom and grow, even in

the rubble of New York City.

"They were dumping garbage there in broad daylight, on that land that everyone said belonged to the City. I just kept looking over there until I got some tools and I started planting," says Hazel Miles from the Layfayette Block Association in Brooklyn. In Queens, Mrs. Warren explains, "You see such beautiful things in other places. I came home one day and I said, 'Why can't we do those things here?'"

Edna Robinson from the 97th Street Block Association started the garden because of the rats going into her house from the adjacent abandoned property, as did Elizabeth Rhem from Brooklyn.

There was a strong relationship between why people had built their garden and what types of things were found in the garden. Seventy-three percent of the gardeners said that cleaning up and beautifying the neighborhood were the reasons for their involvement. Reflecting that concern are the many and diverse flower gardens, the most common feature in the community sites. Vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs, and sitting areas were next on the list of garden features.

Community people used plants to change the image of their neighborhoods, helping them to feel better about where they live and showing those visiting the neighborhood that they care. The gardens fostered a sense of pride for the people who had inhabited the blocks for years and didn't have the resources or the inclination to move. "There are some people who will walk ten blocks out of their way just to walk down our block," says one of the gardeners.

Another remarks, "We wanted to show that the people in the Bronx are doing something besides sitting on their can."

Gardening is a good community organizing activity because it provides a quick, cheap, visual symbol that the people in the community care. Some of the gardeners are even expansionists, thinking beyond the garden to housing as well. At the St. Ann's Coop Garden in the Bronx, for example, the gardeners have become involved with the area around their site, by taking over some of the abandoned buildings and making major improvements.

Talking with the Gardeners

The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition did not conduct its survey of the community-developed green spaces in the conventional fashion. Rather than simply collecting the project lists and the computer print-outs from the City agencies and technical assistance groups and instead of sending out a questionnaire with all of the usual queries on who, what, where, and when three young field interns from the Coalition, Ian Koeppel, Sara Levine and Nich Shorr, visited each of the sites and spoke directly to the people while they worked in their gardens and parks.

Seventy-five percent of the gardens identified in the inventory were visited and photographed. Ninety percent of the garden leaders were interviewed in person or by phone. In addition to gathering information on the gardens, NOSC wanted to show the gardeners they cared enough to make personal

contact. They also wanted to let them know that they were part of an important movement in the City and spread the word about the Coalition.

Sara Levine, one of the interns hired to conduct the on-site interviews, explains that many of the gardens became an extension of the gardeners themselves. At a community site in the Inwood Heights Park, an 82 year old gardener, Margaret Yamin, goes into her garden each day concerned about which of her plant survived the night. To someone like Margaret, her work in the garden helps give her the will to survive.

At the Hendrix Street Garden in Brooklyn, Sara found that the garden actually provided a home and a haven to one of the gardeners. He recently got out of jail and spends most of his time tending the garden, while he slowly readjusts to life on the outside.

Attracting neighborhood children to the Treetop Gardens, Lotty Evans and her own grandchildren continue to garden the site they started from the Treetop Gardens started the site with her own grandchildren. It doesn't bother Lotty that some of the mothers in the Bronx look upon her gardening efforts as a summer day-care program. Over 28% of the gardeners said that their involvement was largely to educate the children and show their neighbors that something positive could be achieved on the block if they only tried.

The Need for Recreational Space

More than one-third of those inter-

viewed explained that their involvement in the community garden/park movement was motivated by a need for recreation. "Some people like jogging; I like gardening," Vincent Scamerdello from Staten Island told Nick Shorr, another one of the field interns. Another gardener remarked "If you wake up in bed with a bad feeling, you work in the garden and the feeling goes away." Angelo Gerrone from Brooklyn simply stated, "I just wanted something to do on the weekends."

Deficient park and recreational facilities, especially in lower-income areas, has always been a common complaint in New York City. In 1932, only 14,827 acres or 7.28 percent of the five boroughs had been set aside for the recreation of its citizens, a percentage smaller than that committed to recreation in any of the other 10 largest cities in the world or America. Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks during New York City's developmental phases, built 255 playgrounds in New York City during the 1930's. Only one of these was built in Harlem.¹⁶

August Hecksher was Commissioner of Parks during the period directly preceding the community garden/park movement in the late 1960's. In response to his own term as Parks Commissioner, Hecksher states, "I think it is fair to say of the Lindsay years that we were not primarily interested in that aspect of the small park, namely the flowers and gardens." Hecksher explains that under Mayor John Lindsay funds were expended to develop Scandanavian style "adventure playgrounds," which were often more of a sculptor's flight of fancy than useable

play equipment for a child. Hecksher continues, "John thought that we could really beautify and improve the neighborhoods, and the poorer people often didn't understand what we were doing. On the East Side of Central Park, an adventure playground was very much appreciated. But if you tried the same approach in the poorer areas, the mothers would resent it very much. They thought we were deliberately trying to hurt their children."

"Look at a map of the City," says Jeanette Bamford, the executive director of the Parks Council of New York. "There are a lot of neighborhoods - and poor ones - where the green spaces are missing."

Community gardens present a viable alternative. The Coalition found that the average community garden costs \$5 a square foot, compared to the \$50 a square foot the City now spends developing a park. The reason community facilities are less expensive is that they stress the use of plant material, recycling, community construction, and community maintenance. Because of a very limited maintenance force, City facilities stress structural development that is vandal resistant and costly. As a result of the fiscal crisis when the number of full-time employees dwindled in the Department of Parks and Recreation, fewer work crews are available to keep the parklands free from litter, vandalism, graffiti, and decay.

Having demonstrated their ability to develop and maintain their own recreational spaces, community efforts should be promoted and supported by the City as the least expensive course the

City could take in providing neighborhood recreational facilities. The gardens might not be as monumental as Robert Moses' achievements, or as showy as Lindsay's playgrounds, but the community spaces suit the people. It is their own form of recreation.

The State and Federal governments got involved in community gardening in 1976 with the test program for the United States Department of Agriculture's Urban Gardening program. The City government soon followed, and set up Operation GreenThumb and the Interim Site Improvement Program. The importance of government involvement is reflected in a large increase in the number of community gardens beginning in 1978. The government began to invest its money in a way that compliments neighborhood resources.

The inventory shows a conservatively estimated total investment of \$33.5 million in the community gardens and parks that have been established to date. Sweat equity, or community participation, represents 80% of this investment. These smaller community facilities are labor rather than capital intensive.

The data collected by the field interns as well as the statistical information gleaned from the questionnaires were fed into a computer at the State University of New York at Oneonta. After the information was compiled at Oneonta, a master list was developed and the information transferred to the Coalition's Apple Computer. This data base was then manipulated and used to produce the maps, figures and charts

contained in the inventory section of this book.

The computer analyses showed precisely how the neighborhood residents are using the community gardens and parks. Flower gardens abound on 75 percent of the sites, and vegetable gardens are being cultivated on more than 69 percent. Trees and shrubs provide shade and color on more than half the locations. Offering rest and relaxation are the 153 sitting areas. The gardens and parks are "greening" the Big Apple in those areas where it needs green the most.

Urban Farmers

That so many community spaces are devoted to food production correlates with the inventory finding that one-third of the gardeners are involved for economic reasons. It lowers their food bills considerably, especially during the summer months. Hoover Jackson says that he gardens to "eat, to feed myself." Martin Bachelor adds, "the vegetables taste better than when you buy them in a store."

New York City's urban farmers favor variety and grow everything from hot peppers to Chinese vegetables. Due to taste preference, there are generally more collards than lettuce and more okra than onions. Any root crop is a problem in the City environment because the soil is shallow. Those that attempt carrots or potatoes will harvest a meager facsimile of their rural counterpart. Tomatoes, brussel sprouts and broccoli, however, will hold their

South Bronx gardeners and their produce



photo: Sara Levine

own in the presence of skyscrapers. Fruit trees and bushes are rare on the City block because they are expensive and prone towards being vandalized. But corn, when planted properly, will ripen in August just as it does in the more rural fields. Colder weather crops like kale and cabbage are still in the urban garden patches in September, and Ichaban eggplants—a kind of long, squiggly Japanese variety—do particularly well in the small urban gardens.

Many of the problems that urban farmers face are not very different from those that plague some farmers in this country: poor soil, very little water and development pressure. In addition to removing bricks, glass, and other unidentifiable matter from the soil before a spring planting, urban gardeners generally have to buy a truckload of soil from outside the City, until they can generate enough plant material to make their own compost.

According to the inventory, one of the biggest needs expressed by the gardeners was for good soil. More than half of the gardeners use organic gardening methods. It is cheaper to garden without costly pesticides and fertilizer and many of the gardeners feel that they are already exposed to enough chemicals in their environment.

Finding usable water is not as big a problem as locating good soil. Although some gardeners run hoses from their kitchen sink to outside their apartment buildings, most water their gardens by using the nearest fire hydrant as a mid-summer irrigation pump. With a garden hose adaptor, the hydrants can be turned on without affecting the water pressure.

Although growing vegetables was uppermost in the minds of some community garden organizers, as the most productive use of the open space, many gardeners came to feel a need for landscaping around them that was also more permanent, and that provided a living plant world and recreational facilities year-round.

“When we began the Operation GreenThumb program it was strictly for gardeners growing vegetables. But vegetables look shabby in the wintertime. Tony Antonellis, assistant director of Operation GreenThumb, explains, “To make their sites look more permanent and more of a garden, the community people that really cared began to push towards putting in more trees and shrubs, sitting areas, and card tables.”

Tessa Huxley, director of the Green Guerillas, recalls, “When the Green Guerillas began we thought that all the gardens should be used for growing vegetables. We talked about the fact that people should grow food and become less dependent on outside sources.” But the local people said that if they wanted to grow a few roses or a lawn, they didn’t want someone telling them not to.

That almost half of the community-developed spaces include passive sitting areas confirms that a basic requirement of the people is simply for green open space. Until this need is recognized and public policy is shaped accordingly, the people will continue to struggle for some space to call their own.

Footnotes

15- see footnote 1

16- see footnote 4

CHAPTER SEVEN:

WHERE

DO

WE

GO

FROM

HERE

Mayor Edward I. Koch thanking the Coalition's Summer Youth Program participants at City Hall



Strengthening the Partnership

The people of New York City have assumed an active role as the stewards of the community gardens and parks. They are the creators and the laborers. They envision how rubble-filled spaces can be cleared and planted, and then they do it. Owner of 75 percent of the vacant land that has been transformed into green spaces, the City has proven to be an important partner in the greening movement. Defining the City's attitude about the future of these gardens and parks and the extent of its contribution, however, is very difficult.

Early in the greening movement the City's policies and programs regarding community involvement in the parks system were rigid. August Hecksher, who served as Parks Commissioner from 1966-71, recalls, "One of the times I got the maddest as Commissioner of Parks was when I got a report that these community people were planting flowers without having gotten a permit. The park maintenance men were tearing up the flowers, and I was so furious. It seemed to me the very image of bureaucracy."

Hecksher explains further that the tradition of the Parks Department at that time was to have an official permit for everything. "You couldn't go out and develop, or plant, or change, or improve anything. I don't think you were able to take a photograph in the park without getting a permit." During August Hecksher's term as Park's Commissioner, under Mayor Lindsay's administration, the Department of Parks and Recreation drew up new rules

which, among other things, allowed men for the first time to take their shirts off in the park; yet even with the loosening of the parks regulations, the community's involvement in the City's parks system was not immediately encouraged.

The Community Development Block Grants that began to flow in from Washington in the 1970's, opened up new possibilities. The City's Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD), which has jurisdiction over residential City-owned properties, initially used some of the federal Community Development funding to provide people in the local neighborhoods with access to vacant lots under their jurisdiction. Much of that vacant land had been abandoned, but was intentionally cleared to construct new housing for low and moderate-income residents. Community people were allowed to create parks and gardens on some urban renewal sites which were slated for housing, but where the financing for the actual housing projects was years away. While waiting for the construction money, HPD developed under its Interim Site Improvement Program 96 "interim" garden sites from 1976 to 1982, at a cost of \$3.6 million.¹⁷

The problem was that the sites were designed by HPD and built by the HPD contractors, not by the communities. As a result, a large number of the "interim" gardens were quickly abandoned or vandalized. In the same way that Lindsay's vest pocket parks did not really involve the neighborhood people, HPD's "interim" sites often failed to create workable community projects.

Adding to the problems of design and construction was the Agency's attitude that the community is responsible for maintaining the site. Without tools, technical assistance or a proprietary interest in a site, that was designed and built by someone else, there was very little chance that this would happen.

Four years later after a City report showed the program had serious problems and the Interim Site Improvement Program was eliminated. HPD contracted the Coalition and its members to develop a maintenance manual and provide some technical assistance to those sites where community residents were still involved. A Site Improvement Program was designed and more quality facilities have been developed in conjunction with housing, cultural, and educational organizations that have the ability to maintain them. Operation GreenThumb, which originally began as a leasing agency, offering very little technical or material assistance, was restaffed with qualified professionals and redirected to work with communities and provide quality technical and material resources. With an increased budget, it has become the most effective City program working with local communities.

The City has finally begun to understand that it is better to work with community people rather than just do things for them. This attitude is helping to foster greater participation from the communities. The process of participation is not simple but it holds many benefits for the City. Ken Davies, Operation Green Thumb's director, explains, "If we can get the community

people out and give them a sense of power, and the ability to fight back, do something positive, they often go from the gardening effort into much larger community development activity. The community gardening movement has been the germ of much larger things than just gardening and open space."

The nonprofit technical assistance organizations were first to succeed in working with the neighborhood residents. City agencies have followed and begun to integrate the lessons learned into their operations. The current success of the community gardening movement is due to the growing cooperation between both. The funds provided by the foundations, corporations, banks and federal government serve as the lubricant, while the community people remain the driving force, and the muscle.

Too much government involvement can smother community participation and too little can starve it. What types of resources and how much of them are needed from the government, community, private sector and nonprofit institutions? Those are the two most important questions for the future.

A Question of Balance

In the mid-1970's the community gardening movement mushroomed in California. With Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) funding, garden organizers were hired to help local communities develop and maintain their gardens, which in San Francisco numbered over 30. When the bubble burst, however, with a

discontinuation of the CETA program and a change in State administration, there were no longer any paid organizers. The gardens began to disappear. Today 20 remain, though the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) has begun to revive community gardening efforts.

New York City has made a good start in the community garden and park field by deciding to support rather than sponsor these activities. Whereas more than 60 percent of the community gardens in the United States during 1984 were sponsored by government agencies,¹⁸ only 1 percent of the sites in New York City are sponsored by the City administration. The source of funding for the City's support, however, has become increasingly worrisome.

When New York City began to withdraw certain municipal services during the fiscal crisis in 1974 it started to use federal Community Development (C.D.) funding to support open space programs. The Interim Site Improvement Program, Operation GreenThumb and now the Land Reclamation Program have all been funded by C.D. allocations. In the wake of diminished federal support, which has decreased the City's overall C.D. budget every year since 1981, there appears an ever widening gap in the federal funding available for open space programs. The City however, now has its own resources available. With the fiscal turnaround, City revenues are increasing. If the City is serious about institutionalizing the open space programs, it should draw on its replenished coffers and use its own tax levy dollars to support them.

Instead of competing with the

nonprofit organizations for private support, the City should be allocating more of its own money for open space. More than 13 percent of New York City consists of gardens and parks.¹⁹ Yet the City spends only 0.7 percent of its budget to manage and enhance this resource.²⁰ That investment must increase to save and conserve the parks heritage we have. The City should not turn to the private sector for funding, but allow this money to be used by the nonprofits who continue to provide a testing ground for programs that the City can later integrate into its operation.

When the City accepts the integration of the community gardens and parks into its parks system, private funding could be involved. With the development of a large endowment for community maintenance, a balance of responsibility and resource allocation could be achieved. The City would protect the land; the community, operate and maintain it; the private sector, provide stable funding; and the nonprofit technical assistance groups work with all three to facilitate the process.

Although the process may seem unusual and somewhat complicated, it is the only answer. No one group can be totally responsible, and no one has all the necessary resources. If everyone participates and takes a proprietary interest in the community gardens and parks, then there is a good chance they will survive and even thrive in the future.

Some Recommendations

Providing support for the community gardens and parks in New York City

requires more than dollars and cents. It requires a vision and a clear plan that would involve a partnership among the City, the community people, the nonprofits, and the private sector.

It all begins with education. If people are empowered to make a positive change in their environment, then those changes should be reinforced in the schools. Creative nutrition education, expanded agricultural vocational programs and a return of the school gardening programs are all possible programs for the Board of Education to undertake in the future to help children understand that participation, sharing and nature all have a part in their lives.

Since the primary purpose for the creation of the gardens and parks was to clean up the neighborhood, the Department of Sanitation should make a stronger effort to work with community organizations who are willing to take an active role in cleaning up their neighborhoods. The imposition of higher fines along with closer ties with the local community and the Police Department to increase enforcement would help the Department thwart the dumping. Vacant lot cleaning should be quick, complete and coordinated closely with efforts at land reclamation and garden and park development. Recent efforts in this area have been encouraging.

The Building Department should increase its monitoring of building demolition to insure the work has been done properly and that sites have been graded, fences erected and sidewalks kept intact.

Community residents have worked long and hard to create open space

facilities and in many cases their investment should be protected. Land trusts and long-term leases have provided protection in the past. These gardens and parks are providing neighborhood recreational resources and their contributions should be recognized as such. The integration of these community gardens and parks into the existing City park system is a necessity in the future, but as yet there is no appropriate mechanism? In addition to incorporating these facilities as mapped parkland, the Department of Parks and Recreation should investigate the creation of a new designation for community garden and park facilities, one which recognizes their unique and flexible nature.

As the City integrates the activities of the nonprofit groups into its agency operations and supports them in the City's budget, the nonprofits—the catalyst for this movement—should support the City's efforts. The City should create small advisory groups that include the nonprofit practitioners in the field to assist with problem solving and future program development. Cooperation could reduce mistakes, criticism and the other problems that waste much time, energy and money for all the involved parties.

More importantly, the nonprofits should continue their pioneering efforts. There are needs that have not yet been successfully met. Community design, for example, requires a better participation process, in which the sites are more fully designed by the community. Technical assistance groups could also stimulate the involvement of design schools and professional organizations in the design

process, for the benefit of both the community and the design profession.

We should begin to put more resources toward increasing public awareness of open space issues. Workshops, training programs, speakers bureaus, and tours could be expanded. A concerted effort should be made to show Community Board members, elected officials, agency representatives, and professionals the importance of public participation in the City's open spaces. New mediums of communication, such as subway ads, public service spots on television and radio and educational videos, should be explored as tools to provide greater understanding to the general public about the importance of their City's open space efforts.

Along with greater government participation there must be more private sector involvement if the job is to be done, and done well. Corporations, banks, and business should understand that the open space activities are not only good for people but also for businesses. That means they should then be supported. They increase real estate value, provide active youngsters with creative outlets for their energy, enhance neighborhood desirability and stability, as well as creating better image for New York City. It's not easy to give money away. There are real competing interests for limited funds. Housing, health care, job training and other causes all need support. Open space, however, is proving its viability as a strong part of community development and should be more strongly supported. It is quick, cheap, visual and complements many other activities.

Although the open space movement has come a long way, there are more challenges ahead. New York City now has 448 community gardens. While that's very encouraging, there are also seven million people in our City. That means there's one garden for every 15,817 people. Boston has one for every 4,674 residents; Philadelphia, one for every 4,164 residents. So there remains much more work to be done.

Ten Years From Now?

Ten years ago there were only a handful of community gardens and parks scattered throughout New York City's five boroughs. Today there are hundreds. In another ten years there could be none.

Faced with strong development pressures, New York City dwellers might lose all of their open space resources. To imagine that, all one has to do is shut his eyes and block out all the available light. That is what life in the City without open space would be like.

It might seem inconceivable that the people of New York City would allow real estate developers and City officials to obstruct all open views, all natural light, all connection with the natural world. Few people, however, think about their urban environment. For too many, their environment consists of only a walk from an apartment building to a cab, or a subway station, and through the revolving doors of yet another high-rise.

There are many people who feel that New York City does have a natural environment that must be preserved. While they remain a minority group,

Official ceremony opening the campaign to "Save the Clinton Community Garden"



Photo: Tom Fox

they are a vocal minority and growing stronger.

Community gardeners and other concerned people feel that open spaces are growing and changing. Some think they will become more temporary, that there might not be open space in ten years. Others believe that the trees and shrubs that are planted now will continue to grow, that there will be open spaces if people make the opportunities for open spaces to continue. Some people say that open spaces will continue to grow in every borough except Manhattan, that their future will depend on the amount of funding available from the Government. Some say there will be gains and losses, but on the whole we won't backstep very much.

Others realize that the City just doesn't change that quickly. "Things take time. It took Frederick Law Olmstead 16 years to build Central Park. We've only been working on these community gardens and parks for a short time, and we don't even have the power brokers on our side," says Lisa Cashdan. "I'm a pretty patient person. I expect to be doing this for a long time."

Michael Dirzulatis, head of policy and planning for the City's Department of General Services, feels that, "There will be open spaces in ten years if the people themselves make opportunities for the spaces to continue. There should be more private efforts for public parks. For example, New York University is cleaning up Washington Square Park."

Earl Brown at the City's Department of Real Properties feels that the community open space projects are going to be in danger. "Ten years ago I don't think that people realized the sudden

development boom that would take place in Manhattan. Suddenly hotels that couldn't give rooms away are building more."

"I haven't thought about what open space will be in ten years," says Florence Bond at El Sol Brillante Garden. "But with all these large buildings going up, there probably won't be any."

"Thinking about open space in ten years is a worry," says Linda Gillies at the Astor Foundation. "Over the next ten years we'll need some creative thinking and creative actions. History is not really in favor of maintaining open space."

Hard Questions That Must Be Answered

"The main question that we should all be asking right now is why are we letting opportunities go down the drain," says Liz Christy from the Council on the Environment. "We need a master plan. We need better legislation."

Others wonder if the community gardens and parks are most useful in their present location. How valuable are the areas to the communities? How can enough open space be provided in those areas currently under construction?

"Open space is a kinetic art," adds Liz Christy. People should learn how to evaluate open space because the needs of communities change so quickly. "In ten years there will most likely be less emphasis on vegetable gardens. There will be more multi-use parks. A park built for senior citizens might not be appropriate if the area changed suddenly and filled with families with small children."

Philip Winslow, a landscape architect, agrees that open spaces should be designed that are non-specific and durable. "In general, people have been too design-conscious, trendy, and faddish. But the use of spaces changes over time. We should be looking at maintenance in the design process that is going on now."

Ken Davies says, "I'm concerned that these open spaces only provide limited gardening activity for a few people. As the neighborhoods get denser, there is no question that we are going to need more space. But it has got to serve all age groups."

City dwellers must become more creative with what they have. How can they better utilize their rooftops, or their waterfronts? "In ten years the waterfront will present some of the most interesting open space possibilities," says Michael Kwartler, an architect and Open Space Task Force member.

Michael Dirzulatis feels that people should ask themselves how much they are willing to pay to keep a permanent open space. "Someone will have to make a sacrifice," he says. "The City only has limited resources. The community people must consider the expenses and the maintenance costs involved in their projects."

Ken Davies at Operation GreenThumb also feels that people should address the question of what is the City's responsibility for providing open space versus its responsibility for maintaining it.

"People should think about who they can find to help them politically and financially," says Florence Bond. She adds that the communities should stand

together and glean from their local resources.

Greening organizations should look at ways to use their local resources and become less dependent on philanthropic groups. Linda Gillies adds, "They should look at ways that the funds can be generated by the gardeners. Jefferson Market Garden, for example, is now a membership organization."

On the other hand, Green Guerrilla director Tessa Huxley feels that the City government should do more for community gardeners. "They shouldn't have to buy the land," she explains. "The City should set aside permanent community open spaces for as long as the community takes care of them."

Echoing her sentiments are those who ask why policy makers are so short-sighted that they sell off long-term public lands. They question the violation of city dwellers, "rights" such as the need for sunlight. Many believe it's vital to define what city residents do require to maintain a "quality of life" in their neighborhoods.

"The great question, perhaps the great fact," muses August Hecksher, "is that open space in the future is only going to be developed, as Robert Moses saw in his time, in conjunction with other large public works. Westway is a very good example. Often these projects begin with these great promises of open space and then when the budget crunch comes in they begin to retract those immediately."

The Task Force

Some of the hard questions that face

New York City's open space system be answered in the near future. The increasing number of garden sites on the City's auction block forced many of the people interested in the retention of the gardens together to prepare a strong position paper for the Mayor. "Toward the Creation of a New York City Open Space Task Force" was written and distributed by the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition in April 1982, to document the open space that was both already lost and threatened and to call on the Mayor to set up a task force to begin looking at the open space resources as an important City service.

The paper stated that, "New York City suffers from the lack of a comprehensive, integrated open space policy." Realizing the need for a rational policy, "The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition urges the creation of a New York City Open Space Task Force composed of professional and concerned citizens from the private, corporate, and governmental sectors."

The actual creation of the New York City Open Space Task Force by Mayor Edward I. Koch in June 1982, represented a major change in the City's attitude towards its open space resources. The press release stated that "The creation of the Task Force reflects a concern that the traditional means of providing and managing open space must be augmented by new initiatives. The Department of Parks and Recreation, the City's major provider of open space, manages an enormous system but is seriously constrained in its ability to fully maintain all of its facilities, address changing recreational demands, and acquire new open space

where most needed."

Even so, the early stages of the Task Force were not easy. In the beginning, the people who were on the 12-member Task Force which includes representatives from City agencies, the Mayor, the Comptroller, the City Council President, the Coalition and private sector representatives from the banking, development and urban design professions did not know much about one another. It took time to find out who was really committed and who was there simply as an appointee.

As a member of the Task Force, Ken Davies director of Operation GreenThumb recalls, "I am very glad that the Task Force has come into being. I think it is going to be very valuable in having people at all levels of government and all various agencies that are involved on a regular basis in the open space movement work together. The City Planning Department was somewhat hesitant about the Task Force at first, but now they have embraced it totally."

While members of the Coalition wanted to sit down and look at the permanency issue immediately, it became apparent very early that the Task Force needed to take a broad approach to open space policy, and to seriously consider overall open space policy and programs. The Coalition agreed that the specific permanency issues could be settled "in the trenches" if the Task Force worked toward an open space policy for the City that included options such as community gardens and parks.

The goal of the Task Force is to develop a methodology for assessing the

6

need for open space in the City and to develop an integrated policy for open space that combines the resources of the government, private sector and community. The private members have raised three years salary for an administrative coordinator. The Task Force has also received \$115,000 in Community Development funding for a three-pronged work program from the City government.

The first part of the program will be an open space needs assessment for New York City neighborhoods, including criteria and standards on how much is needed. The second, a cost-benefit analysis of open space provisions, will attempt to quantify some of the qualitative benefits of open space and compare these with the revenue lost by setting spaces aside. The third study will review all the open space programs in the City and the resources that are being allocated for open space development and management.

A history of open space provision in New York City as well as an investigation of open space programs that are operating in other cities in the United States and around the world will complement the three studies. The final product will be a report offering recommendations for the future.

The work of the Task Force will be focused on neighborhoods representing both ends of the spectrum—high density neighborhoods, where real estate values are high and open space is coveted for development, as well as low-development pressure areas where there is a large amount of open space.

"Since the Task Force has been in existence, we have come to regard our

efforts more and more as an opportunity to really look at the entire issue of open space provision in New York City, and to come up with some good long-range conclusions and recommendations."

Says Lynda Simmons, President of Phipps Houses "We should recommend policies that can hold us for the next ten to twenty years. I think that everyone who is involved in the Task Force now is very pleased that the group has come into existence. We are committed to working as hard as we can and as openly as we can together to try to make it worthwhile."

Ken Davies adds, "The Task Force will confirm the efforts of the people throughout the City who have been building and working and maintaining these open space sites. After all, this is a fledgling movement which is just starting to come into its own. Now that the Task Force is slated to run for three years, it is going to give these groups three more years of a track record to see what really happens."

The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition is hoping that the Task Force's needs assessment will show the City that in some of the high density neighborhoods, no more buildings should be constructed. They feel that many of the City agencies have failed to perceive the importance of the open space and too much of the land has already been sold. The vacant land with the highest values, unfortunately, is located where the population density is already the highest, in areas like the Upper West and the Upper East Sides. By investigating neighborhoods that have a large amount of open space, the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition

hopes to provide a rationale for including it in the redevelopment plans for the neighborhoods five to ten years from now.

Skeptical feelings have also been expressed about the City's ability to formulate strong policies regarding open space. Lisa Cashdan, for one, remains suspicious about the Task Force and feels that it could too quickly wither and die away as so many other task forces have in the past. "On the other hand," she adds, "If, in fact, this Task Force can take itself seriously and get enough support from within the City and from influential others, to develop a coherent plan and criteria for which sites should be preserved, it is terrifically important."

"Even so," Cashdan says, "It would be a real shame if the Task Force decides that none of the community sites is worth preserving. It is a gamble."

"There was a lot of city-owned land sold off under Mayor Wagner's administration," recalls August Hecksher. "They sold off land in Staten Island and elsewhere because they wanted money. Land, however, can become very important, especially now when communities are undergoing change as rapidly as these New York City communities. We ought to be very careful with the land. But, whatever is done, ought to be done not only with full respect for the law, but also with a great deal of sensitivity towards the communities as they exist now. Even if the community said, 'Let's have a very big building there', still you would have to ask, 'Yes, but what about the community ten years from now when all these private lots have been

developed?'"

The future of New York City's green open spaces is in limbo. As development pressures increase and the need for housing intensifies, the City might force the Division of Real Property to sell off the last remaining open spaces. Whatever the Task Force concludes, and whatever is recommended to Mayor Koch, might not be strong enough.

August Hecksher feels, "There are a lot of sources of open space, actually, in the years ahead, but the trouble with open space is that in order for it to be useful open space, it has to be in the right place in relationship to where people live, and it has to serve real needs. Empty space is not very useful to anybody except that it may save our lives in the end — save us from asphyxiation."

Footnotes

- 17- Statistical Analysis of the Interim Site Improvement Program, Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, 1982.
- 18- National Garden Program Survey Report, Gardens for All, Burlington, VT, 1982.
- 19- *Parks and Recreation - A Great Heritage*, Department of Parks and Recreation, 1983.
- 20- Testimony on the Proposed Executive Budget and Community Development Budget for Fiscal Year 1985.

PART TWO:

THE

INVENTORY

Community Garden and Park Inventory

Introduction

This section of the *Struggle For Space* provides a detailed analysis of the information gathered by the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition during a six month field survey of community gardens and parks. The facilities analyzed in this section were only those that have been created, managed and maintained by local community groups. This excludes the 296 "Friends of the Parks" groups that care for 255 City parks.¹ The development of community gardens and parks on land not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation is only a part of a larger community open space movement. This study represents an initial attempt to document the primary way that New York City residents have gotten involved in improving open spaces in their neighborhoods. It is our hope that the activities of the Friends of the Parks groups, Housing Authority residents, and Block Associations that plant and prune street trees will also be surveyed to develop a comprehensive inventory of the neighborhood open space system.

The information presented here is a first-ever analysis of the community garden /park movement that has developed in New York City over the last twelve years. The statistics, however, are by no means complete. They represent as accurate a picture as possible of a changeable phenomenon at a fixed point in time: the 1982 growing season. An update of the data was prepared by

requesting that Coalition member organizations using the information developed from the database, report any changes found on field trips or in conversations with the gardeners. All indications point to a steady increase in the development of community gardens during the 1983 growing season.

It is our hope that this report can be used as a reference for future research on the New York City open space system. The relevance of these activities will be more clearly defined as future research is conducted in the context of specific social and demographic information available for the different neighborhoods where this phenomenon occurs.

SITE COUNT**Total Sites****1001****Analyzed Sites****410***Table-1 – Site Count by Borough*

Borough	Sites Analyzed	Sites Surveyed	Sites Excluded	Total Sites
Manhattan	103	116	132	248
Bronx	91	94	145	239
Brooklyn	136	139	198	337
Queens	73	85	70	155
Staten Is.	7	9	13	22
Total	410	443	558	1001

Notes**TOTAL SITES:**

In total, 1001 sites were included in an initial list of community gardens and parks in New York City. That number was derived from two sources:

1. A consolidated file of sites listed by technical assistance organizations and City agencies working in open space development and management.
2. Sites which were not included in any of the lists but were discovered in the field, or cited in newsletters or other public media while the survey was being conducted.

SURVEYED SITES:

A total of 443 sites were investigated in detail by administering a questionnaire to a leader of the community group, and by taking photos and rating the quality of the site. Thirty-three (33) of the 443 sites were found to be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, or the Housing Authority. These represent a small sample of community gardens and parks that exist on non-vacant City-owned

land. Since a complete listing of community managed sites associated with those City agencies was not available, the 33 were surveyed in an attempt to get some idea of how those types of sites operate. The data from those sites were left out of the following analyses so the report would focus specifically on community developed and managed facilities.

ANALYZED SITES:

410 sites (93% of surveyed sites, or 41% of all sites listed) were analyzed in detail to produce the bulk of the data presented in this report. The following sections refer only to the 410 Analyzed sites found to be active in the Summer and Fall of 1982, plus any additional sites found prior to January 1983. Sites found between January and March 1984 are covered in the Inventory Update section.

EXCLUDED SITES:

Of the 558 Excluded sites, 367 (or 66% of the total) were found to be "Inactive". The "Undeveloped" sites

Table-2 – Excluded Sites by Borough

Borough	Inactive Sites			Total	Unsurveyed Parks	No Contact	Total Excluded
	Undevelopd.	Abandoned	Lost				
Manhattan	30	39	9	78	41	13	132
Bronx	53	38	6	97	28	20	145
Brooklyn	83	61	15	159	7	32	198
Queens	17	10	1	28	19	23	70
Staten Is.	2	3	0	5	0	8	13
Total	185	151	31	367	95	96	558

showed limited community activity. At best, those sites were cleared of debris in preparation for an active use. The "Abandoned" sites showed no recent community activity, but were still vacant lots that had the potential to be developed into productive open spaces. "Lost" sites are those that could no longer be considered potential open spaces. Of the 31 "Lost" sites, 11 were turned into parking lots, 4 were built upon, 4 were sold to owners forbidding community activity on the lot, and 12 were abandoned for a variety of other reasons (one because of toxic wastes found in the soil, another because an adjacent building fell on the site).

"Unsurveyed Parks" represent a portion of a larger number of sites that are located in mapped City parkland or Housing Authority projects. Those sites were not surveyed because a complete listing was not available at the time of the survey. According to the Department of Parks and Recreation there are approximately 296 "Friends of the Parks" groups that work to maintain the City's parks. The Housing Authority has stated that there are hundreds of resident-maintained open spaces associated with public housing projects. Only 128 of these types of sites (33 of

which were surveyed but not analyzed) were found in the original site lists.

The 96 "No Contact" sites were not included because a responsible party could not be found after several attempts were made to survey the site. It is assumed that those sites were no longer active as community maintained or operated open spaces. In a few cases it was apparent, after visiting the site that the plants there were perennials growing wild without anyone attending to them.

Observations

There are a number of reasons why so many of the 1001 sites that make up the initial lists were found to be inactive.

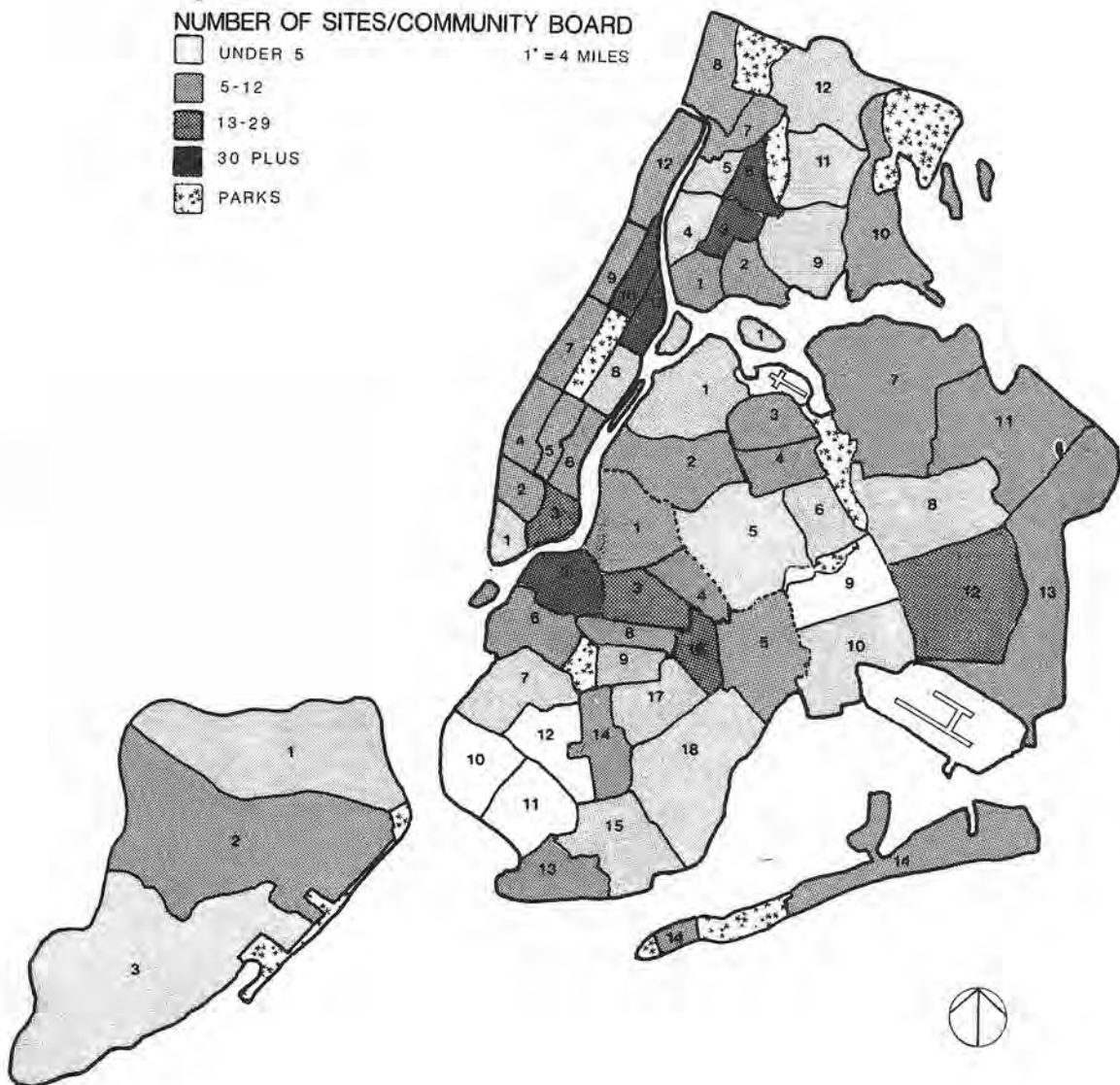
1. Many of the groups that requested assistance never actually got a site started. The number of undeveloped facilities (185) represents 50.5% of the inactive sites.
2. Many groups that do manage to get their sites started find out quickly how difficult it is to maintain a project and keep the group organized. The number of abandoned sites (151) represents 41% of the inactive sites.
3. Once a garden is developed and used, it usually stays active. The number of lost sites (31) is only 8.5% of the total inactive sites.

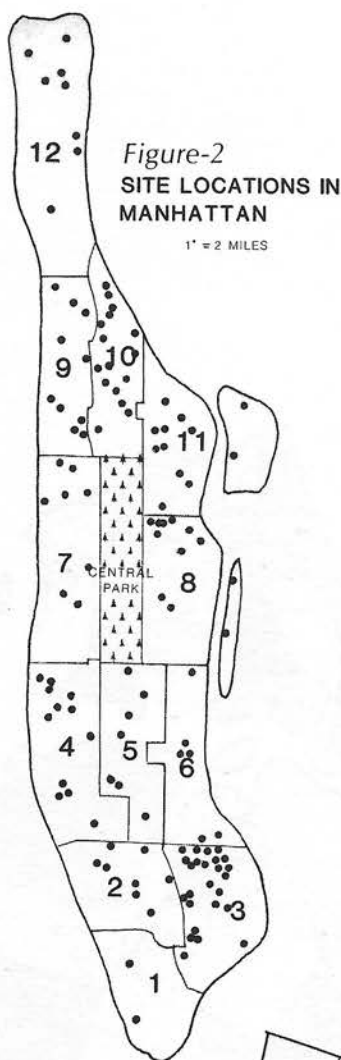
Figure-1

NUMBER OF SITES/COMMUNITY BOARD

- UNDER 5
■ 5-12
■ 13-29
■ 30 PLUS
■ PARKS

1" = 4 MILES





MANHATTAN

Except for the financial district (CB-1) there is a fairly even distribution in the borough. There is a high concentration of sites in the Lower East Side (CB-3) and Central and East Harlem (CB-10 and CB-11).

BRONX

There is a heavy concentration of sites in four of the six community boards that make up the "South Bronx" (CB's 1-6). These neighborhoods include Mott Haven (CB-1), Aldus Green/Hunts Point (CB-2), Morissania (CB-3), and Tremont/Bronx Park South (CB-6).

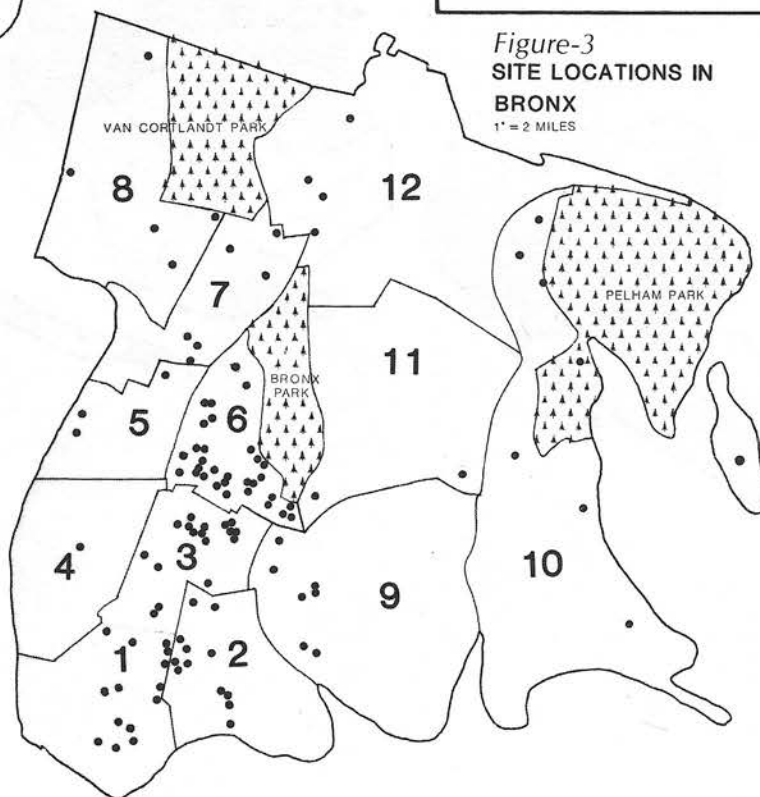
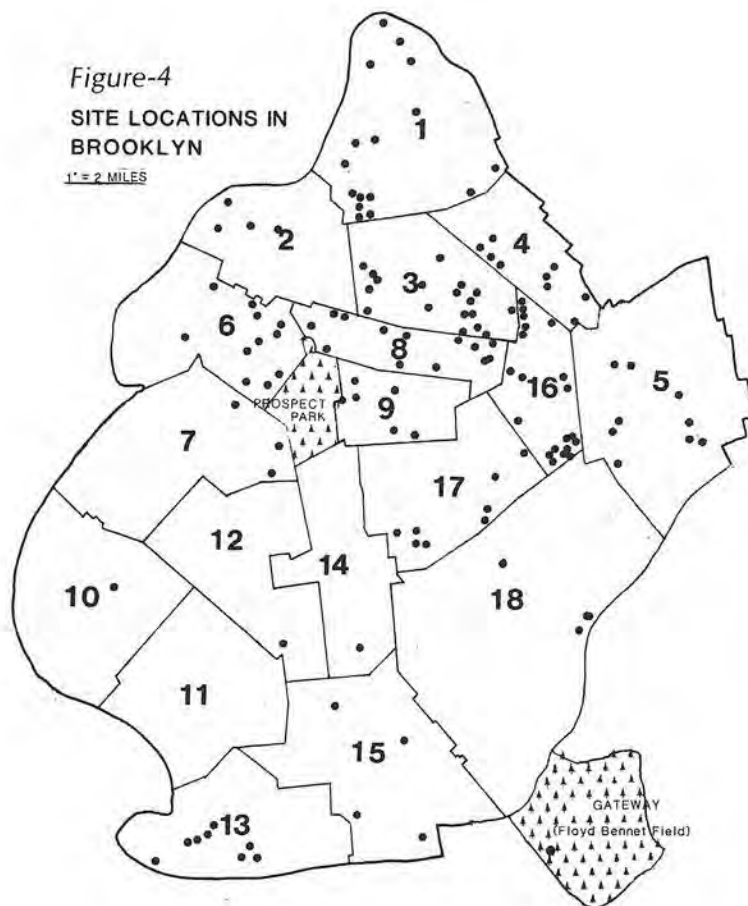


Figure-4

SITE LOCATIONS IN
BROOKLYN

1" = 2 MILES



BROOKLYN

With the exception of Coney Island (CB-13), you can see that the Northern half of Brooklyn has, by far, the majority of sites (only 13 sites in CB's 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 18). This area includes the neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant (CB-3), Bushwick (CB-4), East New York (CB-5), Williamsburg (CB-1), and Crown Heights (CB's 8 and 9).

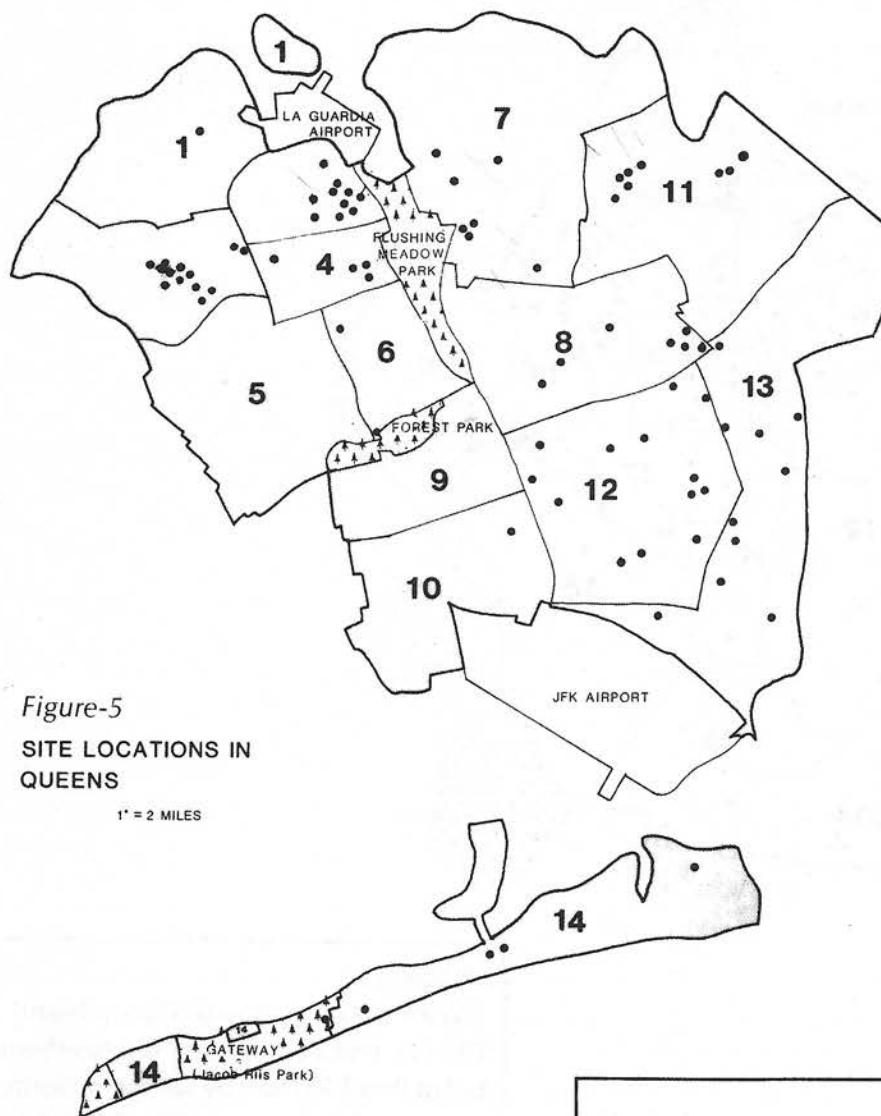


Figure-5
SITE LOCATIONS IN
QUEENS

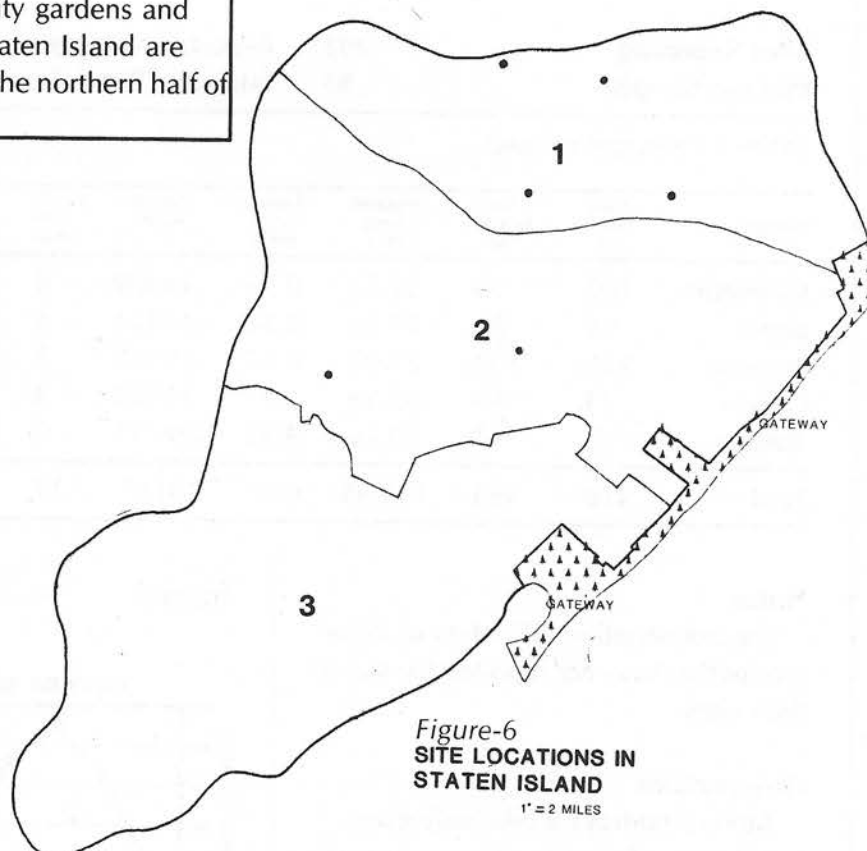
1" = 2 MILES

QUEENS

There is a fairly good distribution of sites in the borough with a few areas of concentration. Sunnyside Gardens/ Woodside (CB-2) and Corona (CB-3), have a large number of sites as does the southeast part of the borough which includes Saint Albans and Jamaica.

STATEN ISLAND

The few community gardens and parks that exist in Staten Island are located primarily in the northern half of the borough.



Observations

There seems to be a strong correlation between the overall distribution of the sites and communities that have experienced social or physical and economic disruptions since the 1960's. This is probably due to the fact that the City has reduced many ordinary services such as sanitation, and parks and recreation funding in those areas. This was especially true during the fiscal crisis. Other programs such as the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Interim and Permanent Site Improvement programs, and the Department of General Service's GreenThumb program were substituted.

The community gardens and parks movement is a self-help phenomenon dependent on community involvement, technical and material assistance from nonprofit organizations and City agencies. Many of these neighborhoods containing these community gardens and parks are low-income areas that have high unemployment rates. Residents, therefore, have a little more time and a greater motivation to become involved in these activities. Many private nonprofit and other programs (Cornell Cooperative Extension, for example) have chosen to focus their attention in neighborhoods where the need is the greatest.

AREA

Sites Reporting	393	Reported Acreage	143.35
Percent Sample	95	Estimated Total Acreage	149.55

Table-3 - Amount of land

Borough	Total Sites (T)	Sites Reported (R)	Reported Acres (RV)	Average Acres (RAV)	Average Sq. Ft.	NR Sites (NR)	NR Acres	Est. Acres (E)
Manhattan	103	99	32.52	0.33	14309	4	1.31	33.83
Bronx	91	85	27.56	0.32	14124	6	1.95	29.51
Brooklyn	136	133	29.03	0.22	9508	3	0.65	29.68
Queens	73	69	23.99	0.35	15145	4	1.39	25.38
Staten Is.	7	7	30.25	4.32	188241	0	0	30.25
Total	410	393	143.35	0.36	16117	17	6.20	149.55

Notes

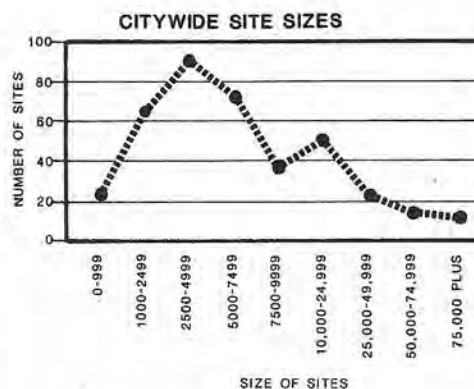
The abbreviation NR refers to those groups that have not reported the size of their sites.

Observations

Table-3 portrays a relatively even distribution of total open space acreage in each of the City's five boroughs. In general, with the exception of Staten Island, the average site size is inversely proportional to the total number of sites in each borough.

The distribution of site sizes is related to the predominant housing type in the neighborhoods where the sites occur. For example, the high percentage of smaller sites in Brooklyn is due to the prevalence of vacant lots that have resulted from the demolition of individual structures in rows of attached buildings. There are 88 sites in Brooklyn (66%) that are between 1000 and 7499 square feet in size. Most of those sites had previously contained brownstones, or wood frame row houses.

Figure-7



Citywide, the greatest percentage of sites are 2500 to 4999 square feet in size. This size category accounts for 23% of all community gardens/parks in the city. Figure-7 illustrates the citywide distribution of site sizes.

PROJECT TYPE**Reporting Sites 410****Percent Sample 100***Table-4 – Number of Sites by Project Type*

Borough	Total Sites	Vacant-Lot Garden	Vacant-Lot Park	Housing Complex	Institutional Garden/Park	Rooftop Garden	School Yard Garden/Park	Street/Block Improvement
Manh.	103	66	15	8	4	4	1	5
Bronx	91	52	24	6	2	2	3	2
Bklyn	136	112	17	1	3	—	—	3
Queens	73	30	9	4	16	2	2	10
Stat. Is.	7	1	2	—	3	—	1	—
Total	410	261	67	19	28	8	7	20

Notes**GLOSSARY OF PROJECT TYPES**

Vacant-Lot Garden — Vegetable and/or flower garden developed on vacant property.

Vacant-Lot Park — Multi-purpose open space facility on vacant property. These sites most likely include a garden area along with other land uses such as ballfields and playgrounds.

Housing Complex — Improvement of courtyards, lawns and other open space associated with non-public housing developments.

Institutional Garden/Park — Garden or park developed in association with special facilities such as botanic gardens, health clinics, homes for the elderly, and psychiatric centers.

Rooftop Garden — Garden on exposed roof of a building.

School Yard Garden/Park — Garden or Park used as a creative play or learning facility for a school or daycare center.

Street/Block Improvement — Greening of paved and unpaved areas along streets and adjacent to buildings (plazas and malls).

In many cases a particular site may fit into more than one project type category. An example would be an ornamental garden on the roof of a privately owned housing facility for the Blind (such a garden exists in Midtown Manhattan and the plants are meant to be touched, smelled and tasted by the residents). In such a case, the site was classified in only one of three possible categories: as a rooftop garden.

Observations

The Vacant-Lot project types are the most common simply because there is such a large stock of vacant land in New York City. That there are more Vacant-Lot Gardens than Parks is partly due to the fact that plant material is less expensive than recreational equipment. Together, the two types of Vacant-Lot project types represent 80% of all sites analyzed.

The Housing Complex sites are more common in Manhattan and the Bronx where there is a larger number of multiple-family dwelling units, and a higher population density. These factors account for a greater number of public open spaces developed in housing complexes.

The Rooftop Gardens are most common in Manhattan, which has the highest population density, and the least amount of open surface space for garden and park development. Overall, the number of community rooftop facilities is low due to the relatively high cost, and technical difficulties involved in developing these types of sites. Limited access to rooftops and questionable safety in using them are other reasons why more community rooftop sites have not been developed. The majority of rooftop facilities are privately developed and maintained by their owners (penthouses and balconies). The number of rooftop facilities is currently increasing. This is particularly true in Manhattan.

The overall number of School Yard sites is relatively low, probably because the school year does not correlate well with the growing season. Most schools are not in session during the summer

months when plant material must be maintained.

The number of Institutional sites seem to be growing with the awareness of the advantages of horticultural therapy for the Disabled and Aged.

Similarly, there is increased awareness of educational and nutritional advantages in community garden/park development for children in schools and daycare centers.

Table-5 –

Percent of Vacant-Lot Garden/Parks

Manhattan	79.6
Bronx	82.4
Brooklyn	94.1
Queens	54.8
Staten Is.	42.9

The ratio of Vacant-Lot Gardens/Parks to the other project types is greatest in Brooklyn, and smallest in Staten Island. The large number of Vacant-Lot Garden/Park sites in Brooklyn can be attributed to the fact that Brooklyn has more vacant lots than any other borough. Accordingly, the activities of the DGS GreenThumb and Cornell Cooperative Extension are more extensive in that borough. The same factors influence, to a lesser extent, both the Bronx and Manhattan.

Table-6 – Number of Acres by Project Type

Borough	Total Acres	Vacant-Lot Garden	Vacant-Lot Park	Housing Complex	Institutional Garden/Park	Rooftop Garden	School Yard Garden/Park	Street/Block Improvement
Manh.	32.51	27.46	3.20	0.45	0.63	0.08	0.34	0.35
Bronx	27.54	15.25	9.52	1.82	0.18	0.03	0.65	0.09
Bklyn.	29.04	21.77	6.97	0.01	0.15	—	—	0.14
Queens	23.98	9.57	4.16	1.05	3.56	0.25	4.14	1.25
Stat. Is.	30.25	0.41	3.70	—	26.09	—	0.05	—
Total	143.32	74.46	27.55	3.33	30.61	0.36	5.18	1.83

Notes

The information in Table-6 is based on 393 sites which reported site area (see Table-3). The total acreage figure is slightly different from Table-1 due to the recombination of rounded-off numbers.

Observations

Of the seven project types, the Vacant-Lot Garden covers the most area in all of the boroughs except for Staten Island where the Institutional Gardens/Parks are most extensive. In each of the boroughs, the Vacant-Lot Park is the second most extensive project type. Note that while the projects on vacant lots account for 80% of all sites, they cover only 71% of the total acreage. The sites with the smallest amount of total acreage occur where there are greater limitations in the amount of space available for community manipulation such as rooftops, city streets, and housing projects.

When comparing the total area of the Vacant-Lot project types to that of all other project types on a borough-wide basis, it becomes clear that the nature of the community in terms of population and building density has a great impact on the type of open space that is developed. This is illustrated by the fact that the bulk of area covered by project types other than Vacant-Lot Garden/Parks, is found in Queens and Staten Island.

LAND USE

Sites Reporting 406
Percent Sample 99.02

Table-7 – Number of Sites by Land Use

Borough	Flower Garden	Vegetable Garden	Trees & Shrubs	Sitting Area	Composting/ Recycling	Playground	Lawn	Ballfield	Structure	BBQ Area	Mural	Greenhouse	Pond	Stage/ Amphitheater
Manh.	81	76	61	52	28	12	15	4	8	12	3	1	2	2
Bronx	62	59	51	42	8	21	9	9	6	3	1	4	—	1
Bklyn.	101	109	73	44	22	12	11	6	17	5	7	1	2	—
Queens	56	36	43	13	4	3	14	5	1	1	—	—	1	1
Stat. Is.	6	2	3	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Total	306	282	231	153	62	50	49	26	32	21	11	9	5	4

Notes

Most of the sites contain more than one land use type. Due to the informal design of the various types of projects, and limited staff time in the field, it was impossible to calculate the amount of acreage set aside for each of the individual land use categories. The term "Structure" refers to a tool shed, sculpture, arbor, or other built form.

Observations

The most common land use is the Flower Garden. Citywide, 75% of all sites have flower or ornamental garden plots. The Vegetable Garden is the second most common land use, occurring on 69% of all sites. The third most popular use, occurring on 56% of all sites is land planted with trees and shrubs. The fact that plant material is so common seems to indicate that community residents want local facilities where they can interact with and manipulate natural systems for personal or community benefit. Flower gardens, vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs make a neighborhood look better

while providing immediate environmental, educational, and economic benefits. Growing plants is an activity that community residents can be directly involved with. The plant material also requires less initial capital investment, and more time for maintenance. Indeed, in many low-income neighborhoods where these gardens are developed, money is scarce, and free time is abundant.

Of the 14 types of land uses surveyed, only three are not generally found in New York City parks. These are: vegetable gardens, barbecue areas, and greenhouses. This points to the fact that community residents are developing park-like facilities in their neighborhoods. As mentioned in the site distribution observations, this is probably due to municipal disinvestment in the existing City park system in many of these neighborhoods. It also suggests that the existing City parks inventory is not adequately meeting the needs of those communities.

MOTIVATIONS

Sites Reporting 334
Percent Sample 81

Table-8 – Number of Sites by Motivation

Borough	Sites Reporting	Sanitation	Recreation	Education	Social	Economic	Nutrition	Organizational	Memorial	Other
Manh.	86	61	33	27	33	19	15	12	3	9
Bronx	74	53	31	24	22	11	16	14	1	7
Bklyn.	112	87	35	29	21	35	25	10	3	5
Queens	61	42	20	14	9	9	5	7	1	7
Stat. I.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	334	243	119	94	85	75	61	43	8	28

Notes

Responses to the question — “Why is your group developing this garden or park?” resulted in the following motivation categories:

GLOSSARY OF MOTIVATIONS

Sanitation — to clean up or beautify the neighborhood, and to discourage dumping in vacant lots.

Recreation — to enjoy gardening, or working and playing outdoors.

Education — to teach children and adults about nature, how food is grown, and that neighborhood cooperation can accomplish something worthwhile.

Social — to meet with neighbors and friends, to provide a place for special cultural events, and to discourage antisocial behavior.

Economic — to save money by growing food, to reduce the expense of travelling to a distant recreation area and to keep up property values.

Nutrition — to obtain better, more wholesome food, and to contribute to those in the neighborhood who don't have enough to eat.

Organization — to rally area residents to accomplish other community objectives. The site acts as a meeting ground and develops greater community spirit.

Memorial — to commemorate a community leader, public personality, or group of individuals.

Other — Any mention that does not fit into the above categories (physical or mental therapy, art/culture, safety for children, nature, conservation, and prayer).

Observations

There is a surprising similarity in the groups' responses in the different boroughs. The exception is Staten Island where only one of the seven groups responded to this particular question.

The most frequent motivation

4

reported was Sanitation (73%). This correlates well with the most common land use — flower gardens, which make the neighborhood look better. Perhaps this is related to the fact that regular sanitation services have been reduced in the areas where the gardens exist. In addition, trash haulers, aware of the large amount of vacant land, have dumped thousands of tons of garbage and construction wastes there to avoid paying the tipping fees at the landfills.

The second most common motivation is Recreation (36%). The growing of flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs is considered a form of passive recreation (although most gardeners would argue that it is "active" recreation). Sitting areas, ballfields, lawns, and playgrounds are all recreational land uses. In the wake of severe reductions in the Department of Parks and Recreation's budget, it appears that these sites are a grassroots effort to develop and maintain recreational facilities which are close to home.

The third most common motivation reported was Education (28%). Very few schools have continued the gardening programs that were prevalent during the 1950's and 1960's. Parents, particularly those who came to New York from rural areas, are developing gardens/parks to teach their children the benefits of working with nature. These facilities are often catalytic in that they are visual symbols of successful neighborhood cooperation. This would also explain why the Organizational motivation was included in 18% of the responses.

Social motivations ranked fourth Citywide (25%). This seems to verify the feeling that community gardens/parks

are important because they are places where people can get to know their neighbors. There are picnics, parties, dances, and other social activities that take place in these facilities. In Manhattan the Social motivation was mentioned as often as Recreation (38%).

Economic motivations were the fifth most frequently mentioned (22%). This is surprising to many of the practitioners in the field who assumed the Economic motivation was more common in the low income areas such as the South Bronx, and the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The high percentage of groups reporting an Economic motivation in Brooklyn seems to be due to the activities of Cornell Cooperative Extension, which stresses the growing of vegetables rather than flowers, has a very active nutrition education program, and has been working in Brooklyn since 1976.

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS **Sites Reporting** **364** **Reported Number** **9,343**
 Percent Sample **89** **Estimated Total Number** **10,462**

Table-9

Borough	Total Sites (T)	Sites Reporting (R)	Reported Number (R)	Average Number (Rav)	NR Sites (NR)	NR Number	Estimated Number (E)	Percent Citywide
Manhattan	103	97	2,662	27.44	6	165	2,827	27.02
Bronx	91	73	1,381	18.92	18	341	1,722	16.46
Brooklyn	136	122	2,522	20.67	14	289	2,811	26.87
Queens	73	66	2,299	34.83	7	244	2,543	24.31
Staten Is.	7	6	479	79.83	1	80	559	5.34
Total	410	364	9,343	25.67	46	1119	10,462	100.00

Notes

The term "Active Participants" refers to the number of individuals closely involved in the seasonal or continual maintenance of the open space site. Some groups have more accurate means of counting the number of active participants than others do. The smaller groups knew exactly how many people were involved. For larger groups, the number reported was often a rough estimate calculated at the time that the survey was given. That number was sometimes derived by counting the people who pay dues to use the site, or by counting the number of individuals who maintain vegetable plots. Whenever a range of active participants was given, the lower number was used to keep all calculations conservative. The figures do not include those people who may participate on a less than active basis.

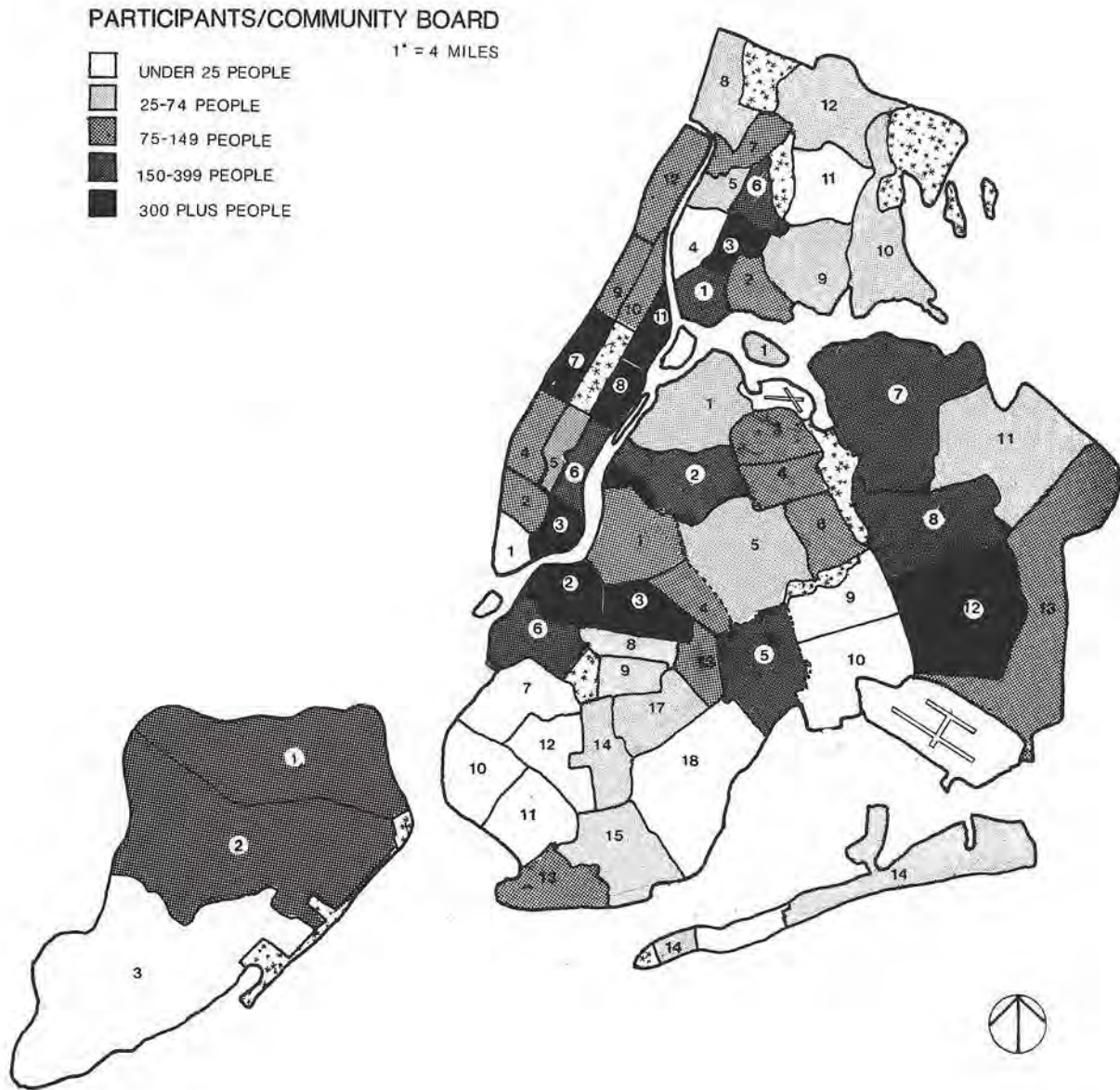
The term "NR" refers to those groups that did not report the number of active participants involved with their site.

Observations

Table-9 illustrates the distribution of active participants by borough. The number of participants represents .13% of the total Citywide population based on 1980 Census figures. Notice that the greatest percentage of participants are in Manhattan which is the most densely populated of all the boroughs (96 persons/acre of community gardens/parks). Active participants in Manhattan represent .18% of the borough's total population, the highest percentage of any borough in the City.

Figure-8 shows the number of active participants Citywide by Community Board.

Figure-8



SPONSORSHIP

Sites Reporting 410
Percent Sample 100

Table-10 – Number of Sites by Type of Sponsoring Organization

Borough	Total Sites	Civic Association	Private Nonprofit	School/ Youth Group	Religious Institution	Unaffiliated Group	Health Institution	Private Business	Public Agency	Other
Manh.	103	49	35	7	3	5	2	—	1	1
Bronx	91	38	26	6	11	1	2	5	1	1
Bklyn.	136	93	20	4	5	6	3	1	2	2
Queens	73	48	9	5	4	—	3	3	1	—
Stat. Is.	7	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	410	229	95	23	23	12	10	9	5	4

Notes**GLOSSARY OF SPONSOR TYPES**

Civic Association — Block Associations, tenant groups and social clubs.

Private Nonprofit Organization — Any nonprofit organization other than those mentioned above. Includes universities, technical assistance organizations, daycare centers, special interest groups, etc.

School/Youth Group — Organization sponsoring activities for children or teenagers.

Religious Institution — Group associated with a religious congregation.

Unaffiliated Group — Non-organized group of individuals.

Health Institution — Group associated with a hospital or clinic.

Private Business — For-profit commercial institution or association.

Public Agency — City, State, or Federal agency.

The term "Sponsoring Organization" refers to the most active organization associated with a particular site. In several cases, more than one group may

claim sponsorship for a single site. The one that exercises the most responsibility for maintaining the cohesiveness of individuals who use the site, either by holding meetings, organizing resources, or obtaining a lease for the user group, is considered here to be the sponsor.

Respondents often selected more than one category to identify the primary sponsor. The most distinguishing characteristic of the sponsoring organization determines its classification. For example, a site sponsored by a Girl-Scout troop was identified as a School/Youth Group, even though it may also be thought a Civic Association, or a Nonprofit Organization.

Since so many groups consider their sponsors to be both Civic Associations, and Nonprofit Organizations, the two categories are combined for purposes of analysis into a Civic/Nonprofit category. The remaining seven sponsor types comprise the "Other" category.

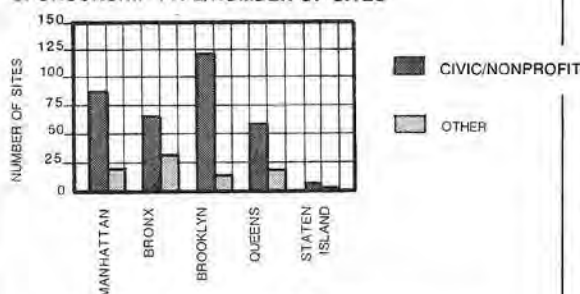
Observations

Citywide, the Civic/Nonprofit

sponsorship type accounts for 79% of all sites. The proportion of Civic/Nonprofit sites to the "Other" sites is similar in all five of the boroughs.

Figure-9

SPONSORSHIP TYPE/NUMBER OF SITES



The distribution of the seven sponsorship types within the "Other" category varies greatly between the boroughs. Among the seven categories the greatest number of sites were found to be associated with Religious Institutions (particularly in the Bronx), and School/Youth Groups. Each of those two sponsorship types account for approximately 6% of all sites Citywide.

There were a significant number of Unaffiliated Groups sponsoring sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Typically they are characterized by a small group of neighbors who have staked out areas of a vacant lot to grow gardens without any specific arrangements to use the property. A few of these groups had initially started with an annual lease through the GreenThumb program. However, after failing to meet the program's basic requirements, such as filing for renewal of the lease, the groups were dropped from the program. Those groups who have continued to use the site are considered to be squatters.

The public agencies that were reported as sponsors include: the New York City Department of Social Services,

the New York City Human Resources Administration, and the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene.

Table-11 – Percent of Sites by Sponsorship

Sponsorship	New York City	United States
Civic Association	57	14
Private Nonprofit	23	12
School/Youth Group	6	16
Religious Institution	6	3
Public Agency	1	50
Other	7	5

Notes

Table-11 compares the patterns of site sponsorship in New York City to the United States as a whole. The national percentages come from a Gallup survey which defined the various sponsor types somewhat differently. As a result, some discrepancies do exist. For example, most sites in New York City received support from a City agency (primarily in the form of a GreenThumb lease), but they are not "sponsored" by the City.

Observations

Unlike other areas of the country, the public sector of New York City has chosen to support rather than sponsor community gardens and parks. This is important in establishing a proprietary interest on the part of the local community. There was a very high failure rate of sites sponsored and developed by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) Interim Site Program because the program did not get the community involved. Now that agency will develop sites only if there is a strong community group willing to be the sponsor.

OWNERSHIP

Sites Reporting 410
Percent Sample 100

Table-12 - Number of Sites by Ownership Type

Borough	Total Sites	New York City	Community Organization	Private Individual	Private Housing	State/Federal Government	Religious Institution	Local Business	Nonprofit Institution
Manh.	103	73	6	3	8	5	1	4	3
Bronx	91	71	4	5	6	2	3	—	—
Brklyn.	136	113	4	3	1	4	4	4	3
Queens	73	48	8	6	2	5	2	2	—
Stat I	7	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Total	410	308	24	17	17	16	12	10	6

Notes**GLOSSARY OF OWNERSHIP TYPES**

New York City — City-owned land under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of General Services, Board of Education, Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development or Dept. of Highways.

Community Organization — Land owned by community land trust, housing cooperative, or homesteading group.

Private Individual — Private property.

Private Housing — Property belonging to a private housing development (not a cooperative).

State/Federal Government — Public property under the jurisdiction of Federal Agency, New York State, or quasi-public agency.

Religious Institution — Property belonging to a religious congregation.

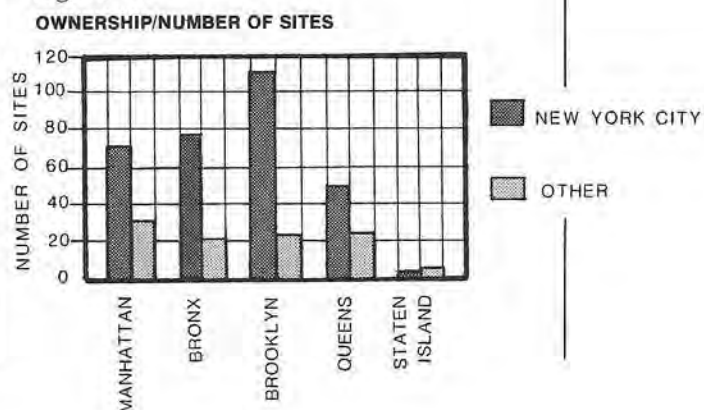
Local Business — Property owned by for-profit enterprise.

Nonprofit Institution — Property of private, nonprofit organization including schools, hospitals, foundations.

Observations

Citywide, 75% of all sites are located on City-owned land. Most of the City-owned properties were previously trash filled vacant lots that have been developed as vacant-lot gardens and parks (82%). The remaining 12% of sites on City property are located on traffic easements, school property, or other non-vacant parcels. The second most common type of ownership is the Community Organization, which accounts for almost 6% of all sites. At the time this report was being prepared, several sites that are presently on City-owned land are the subject of negotiations that could result in a transfer of ownership to Community organizations, or private concerns.

Figure-10



Notes

Figure-10 compares the number of sites on City-owned land to all other ownership types.

Observations

The ratio of sites on City land to "Other" ownership types is highest in Brooklyn, where 88.5% of the sites are on City-owned property, and lowest in

Staten Island, where approximately 43% of the sites are City-owned. Those ratios indicate where the efforts of the municipal programs, namely the DGS GreenThumb, and HPD's Interim Site Improvement Programs have been concentrated.

Table-13 - Number of Acres by Ownership Type

Borough	Total Acres	New York City	Community Organization	Private Individual	Private Housing	State/Federal Government	Religious Institution	Local Business	Nonprofit Institution
Manh.	32.52	24.86	.74	.25	.54	5.77	.09	.15	.13
Bronx	27.56	24.19	.95	.13	1.82	.07	.40	—	—
Bklyn.	29.03	25.70	.47	.18	—	1.95	.27	.18	.29
Queens	23.99	17.04	2.97	.48	1.07	1.44	.40	.55	—
Stat. Is.	30.25	3.75	25.54	—	—	.41	—	—	.55
Total	143.35	95.54	30.67	1.04	3.43	9.63	1.16	.88	.97

Notes

Table-13 describes ownership in terms of area (acres). The area data is based on the 391 sites that reported that type of information (see Table-3).

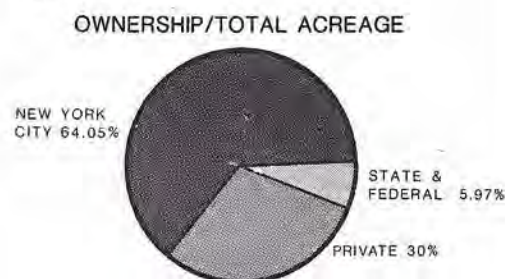
Observations

The distribution of area by ownership is somewhat different than the number of sites by ownership. Of the total area covered by community gardens and parks, 67% is City-owned property.

The second most extensive area is owned by Community Organizations. The major factor in Community ownership has been the efforts of the Trust for Public Land. The Trust has established 24 land trusts in New York City covering approximately 30 acres. Community ownership accounts for just over 21% of the total area. Land owned by New York State and Federal agencies

constitutes the third most extensive ownership type (6.7%). The remaining types of private ownership make up 5% of the area.

Figure-11



The total area of City-owned property represents a smaller proportion than the number of sites would suggest. The community owned sites in Staten Island are quite large, and make up a disproportionate amount of area, thereby reducing the overall percentage of City-owned property.

SITE AGE

Sites Reporting 397
Percent Sample 97

Table-14 - Cumulative Site Age (Years)

Borough	Sites Reporting	Cumulative Years	Average Years/Site
Manh.	101	349	3.4
Bronx	87	377	3.1
Bklyn.	130	408	3.1
Queens	73	633	8.7
Stat. Is.	6	23	3.8
Total	397	1790	4.5

Notes

The term "cumulative years" refers to the total number of years that the sites have been in existence prior to 1982. For example, three sites that started in 1980 would have a cumulative age of six years.

Observations

In general, sites in Queens and Staten Island tend to be older because they are not on vacant, City-owned lots which were recently occupied by buildings. Many of the sites in those boroughs are located on land that was intended to be open space, as part of institutional properties or as traffic easements.

Table-15 - Number of Site Start-Ups by Year

Year	Sites	Percent Total
1982	52	13.10
1981	55	13.85
1980	92	23.17
1979	57	14.36
1978	51	12.85
1977	23	5.78
1976	21	5.29
Before 1976	46	11.59
Total	397	100.00

Notes

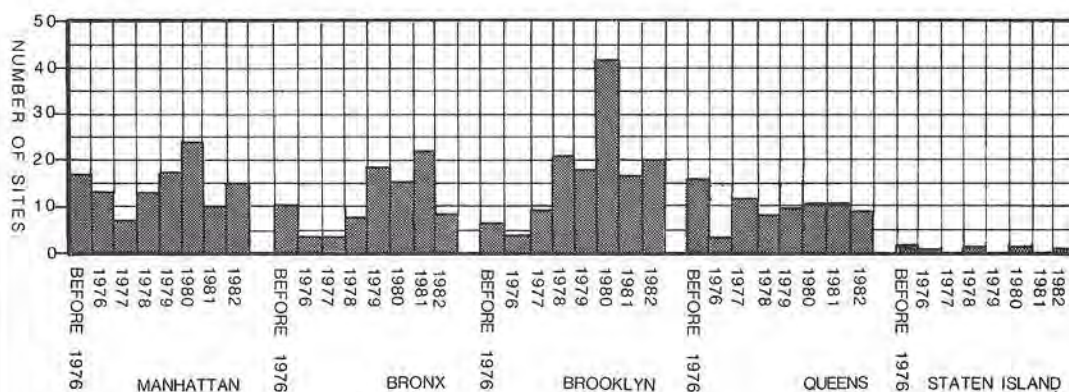
The term "Before 1976" represents the aggregate of all the community gardens and parks developed before 1976, and still in existence. The oldest sites are part of the Sunnyside Gardens Conservancy, which consists of seven Court Associations that were originally established between 1927 and 1928.

Observations

The greatest percentage of sites were reported to have started in 1980. This may be due to the combined efforts of the Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Department of General Service's Operation GreenThumb. Both of those programs were being reviewed at that time and may have made an extra effort to increase the number of sites they served to help justify continued funding. This is especially true in Brooklyn and Manhattan where those organizations have concentrated their efforts. Figure-12 illustrates the number of site start-ups by borough.

Figure-12

SITE DEVELOPMENT/CITYWIDE BEFORE 1976-1982

**Observations**

Of all the boroughs, Queens has the most constant start-up rate through the years. Perhaps that is a result of the relative absence of the GreenThumb program in that borough.

The 46 sites developed before 1976 represent the cumulative start-ups of several years. An apparent decline in the rate of start-ups in 1976 in some of the boroughs is therefore deceptive.

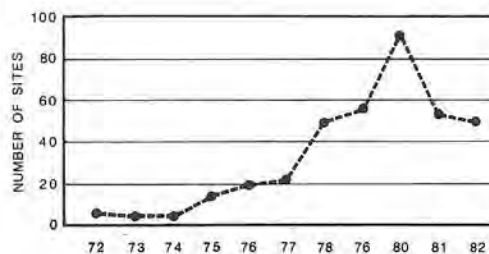
In 1977 there was a decrease in the rate of start-ups in Manhattan. This may be due to an increase in development pressures which made it more difficult to obtain city property for a community garden/park. In addition, the formation of Operation GreenThumb, and the Street Tree Consortium, plus the reorganization of the Green Guerillas may have diverted the attention of open space activists away from initiating new sites in that year.

While many sites started by the GreenThumb program obtained their leases in 1980, many of them were not active until a year or two later. This is consistent with the fact that Operation GreenThumb was restaffed and restructured in 1980-81, and

subsequently became much more effective at providing material and technical assistance versus just issuing leases. Therefore, the "boom" of start-ups in 1980 represents actual start-ups of preceding years. This would account for the apparent decrease in start-ups in 1981 for Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The figure below illustrates the number of sites that were reported to have been started over the period of ten years.

Figure-13

Ten Year Start-Up Rate

Costs

In an effort to quantify the resources and labor that went into developing and maintaining each site, four types of data were collected in the field survey:

1. Initial Capital
2. Annual Capital
3. Number of Hours Worked per Week
4. Age of the Project

From those four elements, eight cost categories were developed (see Fig. 14).

GLOSSARY

Initial Capital (IC) — Reported initial expense of developing the physical structure of the site.

Annual Capital (AC) — Reported 1982 estimate of capital expenditure for material used to maintain the site.

Total Annual Capital (TAC) — Annual Capital (AC) multiplied by the number of years that the project had been in existence.

Annual Sweat Equity (ASE) — Estimated cost of labor in maintaining the site. Reported number of hours worked per week multiplied by the minimum wage (\$3.35), and by the length of the growing season (24 weeks).

Total Sweat Equity (TSE) — Annual Sweat Equity (ASE) multiplied by the number of years that the project has been in existence.

Annual Maintenance (AM) — Annual Capital (AC) added to the Annual Sweat Equity (ASE).

Total Maintenance (TM) — Total Annual Capital (TAC) added to the Total Sweat Equity (TSE).

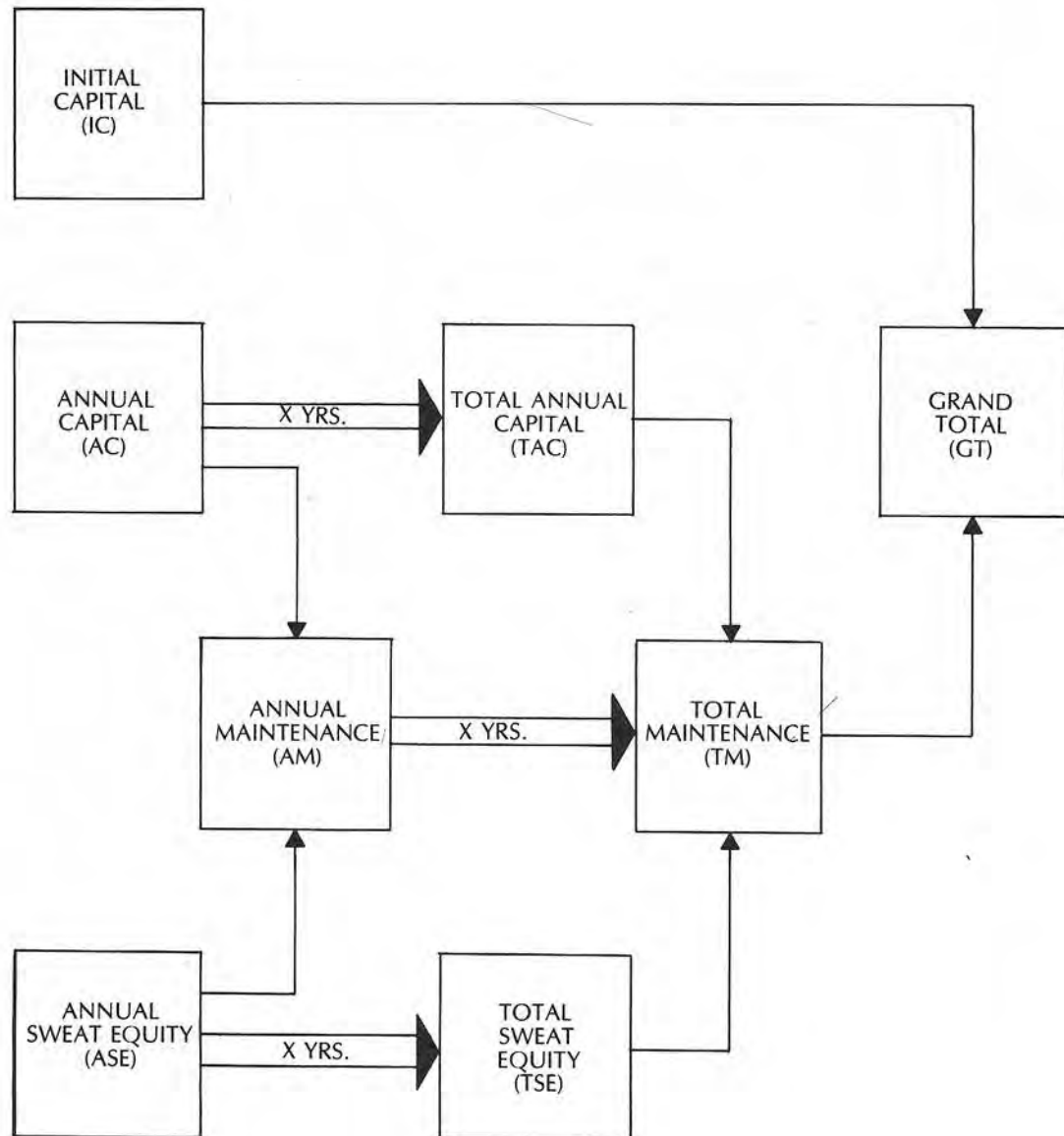
Grand Total (GT) — Overall cost for the project calculated by adding the Initial Capital Cost (IC) to the Total Maintenance (TM).

Notes

All cost figures are based upon estimates derived from numbers cited by the individuals surveyed in the field, by inspection of the site, and by figures reported by technical assistance organizations and City agencies. The accuracy of the figures is influenced by the following factors:

1. Some figures may have been overstated either because the separate cost categories overlap, or because the numbers have been exaggerated by the respondent to impress the survey interviewer.
2. Figures reported for individual sites may have been understated because factors that are difficult to quantify (such as amount of time worked) may not be taken fully into account, or because respondents reduced figures with the intention of leveraging additional funds from the survey interviewer's organization.
3. The general lack of documentation of costs forced those who reported data to make rough estimates, often "ballpark figures". Some respondents would not even attempt to quantify the resources that went into developing their site. As a result, the percentage of sites reporting cost data is less than for other types of analyses presented in this report.
4. As with any of the analyses in this report, whenever a range was given by the respondent, the lowest reasonable figures were used. In effect, all cost estimates presented in this report may be considered conservative.

Figure 14 -
Flow Chart of Costs



Graphic illustration of the relationships of the types of cost figures and how they are derived.

Table-16 - Summary of Reported Costs

Borough	Initial Capital	Annual Capital	Annual Sweat Equity	Annual Maintenance	Total Annual Capital	Total Equity	Total Maintenance	Grand Total
Manh.	1,157,142	54,370	592,787	647,157	179,410	3,090,155	3,269,565	4,426,707
Bronx	1,314,365	17,505	411,163	428,668	330,496	1,428,141	1,758,637	3,073,002
Bklyn.	1,166,644	33,648	622,372	656,020	227,528	3,897,386	4,124,914	5,291,558
Queens	451,225	52,795	598,011	650,806	901,115	8,562,705	9,463,820	9,915,045
Stat. Is.	174,860	4,000	142,468	146,468	26,600	1,061,838	1,088,438	1,263,298
Total	4,264,236	162,318	2,366,801	2,529,119	1,665,149	18,040,225	19,705,374	23,969,610

Notes

Table-16 provides a summary of all the reported cost data. Each type of cost is examined in detail in the following pages.

Observations

According to the Center for Landscape Architecture Education and Research, the total costs of providing a regular park is made up of 20% initial capital investment, and 80% for maintenance expenditures. The U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service cost estimates are 15% for initial capital and 85% for maintenance. Table-16 shows that overall, the average costs of providing community garden/parks are 18% for initial capital, and 82% for maintenance. This points to

the cost effectiveness of the community garden/park system. The major cost of the facility's maintenance is contributed by neighborhood residents.

In this study maintenance costs are derived from two measures; Annual Capital, which is the cost of materials, and Annual Sweat Equity, the cost of volunteer labor. It is interesting to note that the reported Total Sweat Equity amounts to 92% of the Total Maintenance, and 75% of the reported Grand Total investment in the community garden/park system. This reinforces the critical role that local citizens play in New York City's open space system.

INITIAL CAPITAL (IC)**Reporting Sites 264****Percent Sample 64****Reported Total \$4,264,236****Estimated Total \$6,709,810***Table-17 - Initial Capital (IC)*

Borough	Total Sites (T)	Reported Sites (R)	Reported Cost (Rv)	Average Cost (Rav)	NR Sites (NR)	NR Cost	Estimated Cost (E)
Manhattan	103	64	1,157,142	18,080	39	705,120	1,862,262
Bronx	91	54	1,314,365	24,340	37	900,580	2,214,945
Brooklyn	136	89	1,166,644	13,108	47	616,076	1,782,720
Queens	73	51	451,225	8,848	22	194,656	645,881
Staten Is.	7	6	174,860	29,142	1	29,142	204,002
Total	410	264	4,264,236	16,152	146	2,445,574	6,709,810

Notes

Initial Capital costs include all one-time expenses applied to the original development of the site. These expenses include the clearing of the site, providing a fence, plant materials, lumber for raised beds and benches, tables, signs, technical assistance, etc.

Of all cost data, the figures for sites

developed by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Interim Site Improvement program, and the Department of General Service's GreenThumb program are the most accurate.

Table-18 analyzes Costs of the HPD Interim Site Improvement Program.

Table-18 - HPD Interim Site Improvement Program Costs

Site Classification	Sites	Initial Capital	Percent Total	Acres	Percent Area	Avg. Cost Per Site	Avg. Cost Per Acre
Active Sites	62	2,677,636	76	31.81	58	43,188	84,176
Inactive Sites	24	515,553	15	14.08	26	21,481	36,616
Lost Sites	2	42,490	1	0.62	1	21,245	68,532
Unsurveyed Sites	11	287,197	8	7.99	15	26,109	35,945
Total	99	3,522,876	100	54.50	100	35,585	64,640

A standard formula was used to estimate the IC for sites leased through the DGS GreenThumb Program.⁵ Those estimates were based upon a rating given to each site by the GreenThumb staff, and on actual site reconnaissance to assess the degree of physical

development.

Most of the sites that GreenThumb rated "1" were not included in the inventory, but were counted as "Excluded" sites in the "Undeveloped" category.

Table-19 – DGS GreenThumb Costs

GreenThumb Site Rating		Cost Of Staff Time
1 (Minimum Development)		\$ 250
2 (Some Physical Development)		500
3 (Highly Developed)		1000
Physical Structure		Cost
SMALL SITES	Fence	\$ 250
	Soil (38 Cubic Yds)	600
	Lumber	500
	Trees & Shrubs	750
	Tools	250
LARGE SITES	Small Fence	500
	Large Fence	1,000
	Soil (38 CY)	1,200
	Lumber	1,000
	Trees & Shrubs	1,500
	Tools	250

Observations

Of all the boroughs, Staten island has the highest per site average IC. The reason for this is related to the fact that Staten Island's sites are larger than those in other boroughs, and therefore require more capital per site to develop.

The Bronx has a relatively high IC per site — nearly twice that of Brooklyn. This may be due to the activity of the South Bronx Open Space Task Force which operated between the years of 1978 and 1979 with a large capital budget. The Bronx also has a high number of HPD Interim Site Improvements which were heavily capitalized.

The low average IC in Queens is explained by the fact that there are fewer vacant-lot projects which tend to be more capital intensive, and more street

improvement and institutional projects which require less capital to develop.

Although Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens have relatively low average IC investments, their Annual Capital costs are higher than in the Bronx and Staten Island (see Table 20). This shows that the sites in the Bronx, and to some extent in Staten Island, tend to have greater emphasis on Initial Capital rather than Annual Capital expenditures.

The following Figure compares average IC by site and by land area for each borough.

Figure-15

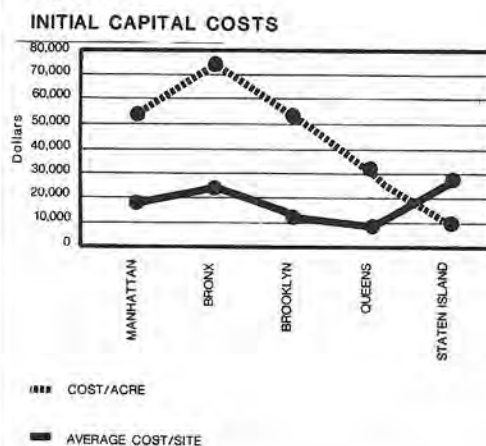


Figure-15 above compares average IC cost by site, and by acreage. The average cost per acre was calculated using only those sites that reported both IC and acreage figures. The difference between the two lines reflects the average size of site for each borough. Multiplying the average IC per acre by the average site size yields figures that are very similar to the average IC per site. This explains why the average cost per site is higher than the average cost per acre in Staten Island. The average site size in that borough is 4.32 acres.

ANNUAL CAPITAL (AC)**TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL (TAC)****Reporting Sites 219****Percent Sample 53****(AC) (TAC)****Reported Total 162,318 1,665,149****Estimated Total 300,996 2,954,409***Table-20 – Annual Capital (AC)*

Borough	Total Sites (T)	Reported Sites (R)	Reported Cost (Rv)	Average Cost (Rav)	NR Sites (NR)	NR Cost	Estimated Cost (E)
Manhattan	103	49	54,370	1,110	54	59,940	114,310
Bronx	91	37	17,505	473	54	25,542	43,047
Brooklyn	136	80	33,648	421	56	23,576	57,224
Queens	73	50	52,795	1,056	23	24,288	77,083
Staten Is.	7	3	4,000	1,333	4	5,332	9,332
Total	410	219	162,318	741	191	138,678	300,996

Total Annual Capital (TAC)

Manhattan	103	49	179,410	3,661	54	197,694	377,104
Bronx	91	37	330,496	8,932	54	482,328	812,824
Brooklyn	136	80	227,528	2,844	56	159,264	386,792
Queens	73	50	901,115	18,022	23	414,506	1,315,621
Staten Is.	7	3	26,600	8,867	4	35,468	62,068
Total	410	219	1,665,149	7,603	191	1,289,260	2,954,409

Notes

The Annual Capital (AC) accounts for all expenditures in 1982 for obtaining plant materials, tools, construction materials, and any miscellaneous items needed in the maintenance of the sites. The Total Annual Capital (TAC) is the capital costs through the life of the project, assuming that the costs for years previous to 1982 were similar.

Observations

There seem to be four variables that effect the AC investment:

1. Size of the site — the larger sites require more AC than the smaller sites. Staten Island has the largest sites and the highest per site AC costs.

2. Number of participants — Sites with a larger number of people can afford higher AC investments if they are shared among the participants. Brooklyn and the Bronx have the lowest number of participants, and the lowest AC costs.
3. Initial Capital (IC) — Sites with larger IC investments need less annual capital investment. Brooklyn and the Bronx both have the highest number of HPD Interim Site Improvements (34 each), and the lowest AC costs. The Bronx also received initial development resources from the South Bronx Open Space Task Force.

ANNUAL SWEAT EQUITY (ASE)				
TOTAL SWEAT EQUITY (TSE)			(ASE)	(TSE)
Reporting Sites	302	Reported Total	2,366,801	18,040,225
Percent Sample	74	Estimated Total	3,259,205	23,881,045

Table-21 – Annual Sweat Equity (ASE)

Borough	Total Sites (T)	Reported Sites (R)	Reported Cost (Rv)	Average Cost (Rav)	NR Sites (NR)	NR Cost	Estimated Cost (E)
Manhattan	103	79	592,787	7,504	24	180,096	772,883
Bronx	91	59	411,163	6,969	32	223,008	634,171
Brooklyn	136	102	622,372	6,102	34	207,468	829,840
Queens	73	57	598,011	10,491	16	167,856	765,867
Staten Is.	7	5	142,468	28,494	2	113,976	256,444
Total	410	302	2,366,801	7,837	108	892,404	3,259,205

Total Sweat Equity (TSE)

Manhattan	103	79	3,090,155	39,116	24	938,784	4,028,939
Bronx	91	59	1,428,141	24,206	32	774,592	2,202,733
Brooklyn	136	102	3,897,386	38,210	34	1,299,140	5,196,526
Queens	73	57	8,562,705	150,223	16	2,403,568	10,966,273
Staten Is.	7	5	1,061,838	212,368	2	424,736	1,486,574
Total	410	302	18,040,225	59,736	108	5,840,820	23,881,045

Notes

Sweat equity is a measure of human labor quantified in terms of dollars. The Annual Sweat Equity (ASE) figure attempts to account for the amount of work that went into maintaining the sites during 1982. It was calculated by multiplying the reported number of hours worked per week by the minimum wage (\$3.35), and the minimal length of growing season (24 weeks). The Total Sweat Equity (TSE) is the product of the ASE multiplied by the number of years each site has been used as a community open space. For lack of a better method, it is assumed that the amount of time spent maintaining each site in 1982 was constant throughout the life of the site.

Observations

The average ASE is roughly proportional by borough to the average number of participants by borough. While Staten Island has the highest average ASE, it also has the highest number of participants per site. But, because Staten Island has the fewest number of sites, its total ASE is the lowest of all boroughs.

The only exception to the rule is Brooklyn, where the average number of participants is slightly higher than that of the Bronx, but its ASE is lower than any other borough including the Bronx. Although the Bronx has the fewest participants per site, this suggests that more time per participant is spent

maintaining the sites in the Bronx than in Brooklyn. Table-22 illustrates that more time per person was spent working in the sites of the Bronx than in any other borough:

Table-22 – Average Participant Hours Worked Per Week

Manhattan	3.4
Bronx	4.6
Brooklyn	3.7
Queens	3.8
Staten Island	4.4

The following observation may be explained by examining unemployment rates, and assuming that unemployed people may have more time to spend maintaining their open spaces. Although the 1982 annual rate of unemployment was higher in Manhattan (11.7%) than it was in the Bronx (10.4%), the South Bronx area (Community Boards 1 to 6) which contains 74.4% of the borough's sites, had an unemployment rate of 17.6%.

Regardless of the relatively high proportion of sweat equity in the total costs, the level of citizen's involvement in developing and maintaining the garden/park sites could be greater. In a later section of this report where site ratings are examined, the majority of garden/park sites are highly rated in all rating categories. However, 30% of the sites were rated from fair to poor in community participation. Most of the groups would admit that their site is better maintained with greater involvement of the group members. In many cases groups have one to four dedicated active individuals who "pull"

the rest of the group along. This suggests a need for more emphasis on community organizing skills.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE (AM)**TOTAL MAINTENANCE (TM)**

Sites Reporting	338	Reported Total	(AM) 2,529,119	(TM) 19,705,374
Percent Sample	82	Estimated Total	3,560,201	26,835,440

Table-23 – Annual Maintenance (AM)

Borough	Reported AC	Reported ASE	Reported AM	Estimated AC	Estimated ASE	Estimated AM
Manhattan	54,370	592,787	647,157	114,310	772,883	887,193
Bronx	17,505	411,163	428,668	43,047	634,171	677,218
Brooklyn	33,648	622,372	656,020	57,224	829,840	887,064
Queens	52,795	598,011	650,806	77,083	765,867	842,950
Staten Is.	4,000	142,468	146,468	9,332	256,444	265,776
Total	162,318	2,366,801	2,529,119	300,996	3,259,205	3,560,201

Total Maintenance (TM)

Borough	Reported TAC	Reported TSE	Reported TM	Estimated TAC	Estimated TSE	Estimated TM
Manhattan	179,410	3,090,155	3,269,565	377,104	4,028,939	4,406,043
Bronx	330,496	1,428,141	1,758,637	812,824	2,202,733	3,015,557
Brooklyn	227,528	3,897,386	4,124,914	386,792	5,196,526	5,583,318
Queens	901,115	8,562,705	9,463,820	1,315,621	10,966,273	12,281,894
Staten Is.	26,600	1,061,838	1,088,438	62,068	1,486,574	1,548,642
Total	1,665,149	18,040,225	19,705,374	2,954,409	23,881,045	26,835,454

Notes

The Annual Maintenance (AM) is the sum of the Annual Capital (AC) and the Annual Sweat Equity (ASE). It is a measure of the total cost of maintaining a site for 1982. The Total Maintenance (TM) is the sum of Total capital (TAC) and the Total Sweat Equity (TSE). It is an estimate of the total cost of maintenance through the life span of the site.

Observations

There is a surprising similarity in the Estimated AM figures for the five boroughs. In fact, the difference in Estimated AM between Manhattan and Brooklyn comes to only \$129. This indicates a general trend where areas

with lower AC expenditures tend to have higher ASE investments, and vice-versa.

Annual Sweat Equity (ASE) represents 91.5% of the Total Maintenance (TM). This confirms the fact that the success of community gardens/parks depends primarily on the involvement of local residents.

The TM for Queens is much higher than any of the other boroughs, while the AM in Queens is only the third highest. This is due to a greater number of older sites in Queens. For example, seven Queens' sites, located in the Sunnyside Gardens community, have each been maintained for 55 to 56 years. Those sites account for nearly \$1,000,000 of the TM.

GRAND TOTAL (GT)

Reporting Sites	368	Reported Total	23,969,610
Percent Sample	90	Estimated Total	33,545,264

Table-24 – Grand Total (GT)

Borough	Reported IC	Reported TM	Reported GT	Estimated IC	Estimated TM	Estimated GT
Manhattan	1,157,142	3,269,565	4,426,707	1,862,262	4,406,043	6,268,305
Bronx	1,314,365	1,758,637	3,073,002	2,214,945	3,015,557	5,230,502
Brooklyn	11,166,644	4,124,914	5,291,558	1,782,720	5,583,318	7,366,038
Queens	451,225	9,463,820	9,915,045	645,881	12,281,894	12,927,775
Staten Is.	174,860	1,088,438	1,263,298	204,002	1,548,642	1,752,644
Total	4,264,236	19,705,374	23,969,610	6,709,810	26,835,454	33,545,264

Notes

The figures in Table-24 represent the sum total of all cost data reported including the "time factored" estimates which attempt to account for costs throughout the life of the sites. Only 35% of the sites reported complete cost data. The 90% sample refers to those sites that reported at least one of the analyzed types of cost data. Therefore, the remaining 10% of the sites do not contribute to the GTC at all.

The Grand Total cost (GT) is calculated by adding the Initial Capital (IC) reported by 264 sites, and the Total Maintenance Cost (TMC) reported by 338 sites (153 of which reported either Annual Capital (AC) or Annual Sweat Equity (ASE), but not both). The estimated GTC is the sum of the estimated ICC and the estimated TMC.

Observations

Sweat equity, or the labor of local community residents, represents 75% of the Grand Total cost of the community gardens and parks.

SITE RATING ANALYSIS

Reporting Sites 218
Percent Sample 53

Table-25 – Site Rating Analysis

Borough	Plant Quality					Physical Structure					Cleanliness				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Manh.	7	11	27	19	10	2	20	25	14	13	1	7	27	30	9
Bronx	5	14	14	11	4	1	12	17	12	4	2	4	22	20	2
Bklyn.	1	15	33	25	5	3	21	37	14	4	1	9	40	24	5
Queens	—	4	6	3	2	3	7	2	1	2	—	—	4	9	2
Total	13	44	80	58	21	9	60	81	41	23	4	20	93	83	18

Borough	Participation					Access				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Manh.	8	15	23	15	13	3	15	26	20	10
Bronx	4	14	23	8	1	—	8	22	14	6
Bklyn.	6	15	38	16	4	6	21	34	16	2
Queens	—	2	12	1	—	1	2	8	3	1
Total	18	46	96	40	18	10	46	90	53	19

Table-26 – Number of Sites Rated by Borough

Manhattan	74
Bronx	50
Brooklyn	79
Queens	15
Staten Island	0
Total	218

Notes

A qualitative rating system was designed and used to examine five types of site characteristics. Each of the characteristics was rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 represents the highest level of quality. The rating determinations were left up to the surveyor's subjective

opinions based upon the following standard descriptions:

■ Plant Quality (Condition of plant materials)

1. Desolate or weedy
2. Sparse plantings between weeds and rubble
3. Partially planted, some weeds
4. Fully planted, healthy garden
5. Showcase garden, diversity of species

■ Physical Structure (Condition and amount of physical development)

1. Unimproved lot
2. Slight improvements, site cleared of debris
3. Some functional development; soil cover, fencing, grading, plots laid out

4. Secondary development; Such as benches, tables, pathway, tool shed, greenhouse etc.
5. Fully developed, well designed functional landscape, sound structures

■ Cleanliness

1. Trashed, dumping ground
2. Messy, little effort to clear site
3. Slightly littered
4. Clear of refuse
5. Immaculate, manicured

■ Participation (Level of community activity)

1. No visible signs of community activity
2. Individual efforts, no organized group

3. Organized group with minimal group activity
4. Some organized group activities and events other than gardening
5. Large active group, frequent events, outside activity encouraged

■ Access (Opportunity for public accessibility)

1. Gate always locked, few keys available to restricted membership
2. Gate usually locked, rarely open to public
3. Open to public only when member present
4. Usually open to public
5. Always open, no fence, or gate never locked

Table-27 – Percent of Sites with Ratings of “3” and Above

Borough	Plant Quality	Physical Structure	Cleanliness	Participation	Access
Manhattan	75.7	70.3	90.4	68.9	76.7
Bronx	58.0	66.0	88.0	64.0	84.0
Brooklyn	79.7	69.6	87.3	73.4	65.8
Queens	73.3	33.3	100.0	86.7	80.0
Total	73.0	67.4	89.0	70.6	74.3

Observations

Plant Quality: Brooklyn has the highest overall ratings. This is probably due to the extensive activities of the Cornell Cooperative Extension and the DGS GreenThumb programs. In addition, Brooklyn has the highest ratio of vacant-lot gardens to vacant-lot parks.

The garden sites are more intensively planted than the park sites.

The Bronx has the lowest plant quality rating, and accordingly the lowest

garden to park ratio (excluding Staten Island which has more parks than gardens).

Ratio of Vacant-Lot Gardens to Vacant-Lot Parks

Manhattan	4.4
Bronx	2.2
Brooklyn	6.6
Queens	3.3
Staten Island	0.5

Physical Structure: The highest ratings are in Manhattan, and the lowest in Queens. The reasons for this may be related to Initial Capital costs (IC). Manhattan's average IC is the highest of all boroughs except for the Bronx. (Take note however, that the Bronx has the lowest Annual Capital cost, meaning that the physical structures of the sites have probably deteriorated). Accordingly, Queens' IC is lower than all boroughs except for Staten Island.

In addition, Queens has a greater percentage of project types that require less physical development (Street Improvements, Institutional Sites).

Cleanliness: All of the boroughs have high cleanliness ratings. This corresponds with the primary motivation Citywide being "Sanitation".

Community Participation: The fact that Queens has the highest rating matches the fact that it also has the greatest average number of participants per site. This would also explain why the Bronx has the lowest participation ratings.

Public Access: The greatest number of high ratings are in the Bronx, and the least are in Brooklyn. This may be explained by the field observation that there are more fences and locked gates in Brooklyn, and fewer in the Bronx.

The Average Community Garden/Park

While there is no such thing as a truly typical community open space project, the statistics based on the previous analyses allow one to present the following characteristics as a hypothetical "average site".

NEW YORK CITY'S

AVERAGE COMMUNITY GARDEN/PARK

Site Size _____ 5,225 square feet
(.12 acres)
Project Type _____ Vacant-Lot Garden
(64%)
Land Uses _____ Flower Garden (75%);
Vegetable Garden (69%);
Trees and Shrubs (57%)
Motivations _____ Sanitary (73%);
Recreation (36%)
Active Participants _____ 25.7
Sponsorship Type _____ Civic/Nonprofit
Organization (80%)
Ownership Type _____ City of New York
(75%)
Age of Site _____ 3.5 years

COSTS

Initial Capital _____ \$16,365
Annual Capital _____ 734
Annual Sweat Equity _____ 7,949
Grand Total _____ \$46,756

Notes

Annual Capital and Annual Sweat Equity are added together to derive the Annual Maintenance cost. The Annual Maintenance is multiplied by the age of the site and added to the Initial Capital to arrive at the Grand Total.

Sample Project Profile One

The Dome Project Upper West Side, Manhattan

The Dome Project initially began in 1976 one block east of the existing site. In 1978 the garden/park was moved to its current location. The new 10,000 square-foot City-owned vacant lot was leased for \$1.00 per year until 1981 by a youth organization called the Dome Project. Since 1981 the site has been without a leasing arrangement because the City wants to put the land up for auction.

There has been much public pressure to retain the site as an open space, and negotiations are underway to transfer control of the site to the Board of Education.

Over the years the site was developed with the assistance of the Council on the Environment's Plant-A-Lot program. The estimated value of materials, awards, workshops, and staff-time provided by the Council amounts to \$25,000. The Dome Project raised at least \$1,500 towards the initial project cost. The

Annual Capital cost is approximately \$200 which is provided by awards granted by the Citizen's Committee, and by fees charged for horticultural workshops offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Horticultural Society. Manure was donated by the Clairmont Stables which is a few blocks away.

Approximately 90 hours of labor per week was provided by two summer youth programs; The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition's youth program funded by Chase Manhattan Bank, and the Summer Youth Program funded by the New York City Youth Board. Six to ten adults are regularly involved in maintaining the site. Each school year more than 1000 children from local schools come to the site to learn about gardening.

A geodesic dome greenhouse is located in the middle of the site and is surrounded by a lawn. In the back are benches and picnic tables. Vegetable and flower plots are laid out along the site's edges. The motivations for developing the site were: education, sanitation and organization. The site was rated 45444.

COSTS ANALYSIS

Initial Capital (IC)		\$26,500
Annual Capital (AC)	\$ 200	
Annual Sweat Equity (ASE)	7,236	
Annual Maintenance (AM)	7,436	
Age of Site	5 years	
Total Annual Capital (TAC)	1,000	
Total Sweat Equity (TSE)	36,180	
Total Maintenance (TM)	37,180	37,180
Grand TOTAL (GT)		\$63,680

Sample Project Profile Two

Union Prospect Block Assoc. Garden Morrisania, Bronx

In the Spring of 1979 the Union Prospect Block Association established a vegetable garden on a City-owned vacant lot with an annual GreenThumb lease. The site is 3,500 square feet and contains 20 raised beds of vegetables and flowers (7 plots are 100 sq. ft., 13 are 40 sq. ft.) There is a small sitting area with tables and benches surrounded by fruit trees.

DGS GreenThumb provided the fence, soil, trees, tools, and wood for the raised beds, benches and tables. They

also provided horticultural assistance in cooperation with the Horticultural Society of New York. The total estimated contribution by GreenThumb is \$7,668 including \$1,000 for staff-time. The Bronx Frontier Development Corporation donated one truck-load of compost worth \$75 (wholesale).

The site is maintained by 20 Block Association members each paying \$1.50 in monthly dues throughout the year. This Annual Capital amounts to \$360 per year. Each member works at least five hours per week during the growing season.

The motivations for maintaining the site include: sanitation, recreation, social and organizational. The site was rated 43343.

COSTS ANALYSIS

Initial Capital (IC) _____	\$7,743
Annual Capital (AC) _____	360
Annual Sweat Equity (ASE) _____	<u>8,040</u>
Annual Maintenance (AM) _____	8,400
Age of Site _____	4 years
Total Annual Capital (TAC) _____	1,440
Total Sweat Equity (TSE) _____	<u>32,160</u>
Total Maintenance (TM) _____	<u>33,600</u>
Grand Total (GT) _____	<u>\$41,343</u>

Sample Project Profile Three

Sumpter Street Garden Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

In 1979, the Sumpter Street Block Association obtained a one year lease for a 7,500 square foot vacant lot from the DGS GreenThumb program. The group turned the trash-filled site into a garden covered by rows of a wide variety of vegetables.

While the GreenThumb program can provide the materials needed to develop a successful community garden, the Sumpter Street Block Association preferred to be self-sufficient. GreenThumb reports that they did

deliver 24 cubic yards of soil valued at \$384.

The group recycled scrap wood from the site and nearby lots to build a low picket fence with a gate that is never locked. Seeds, tools, fertilizer, and other materials were donated by residents of the block. Three Block Association members have been working an average of 12 hours per week, and they often spend a whole day at a time with their families in one of the two sites they maintain. No more than \$50 is spent each year for supplies.

The garden feeds three large families, and the surplus is given away to children in the neighborhood who come to play and help out in the garden. The motivations reported for developing the site were: recreation, education, and nutrition. The site was rated 32335.

COSTS ANALYSIS

Initial Capital (IC)		\$ 1,384
Annual Capital (AC)	\$ 50	
Annual Sweat Equity (ASE)	2,894	
Annual Maintenance (AM)	2,944	
Age of Site	4 years	
Total Annual Capital (TAC)	200	
Total Sweat Equity (TSE)	11,576	
Total Maintenance (TM)	11,776	11,776
Grand Total (GT)		\$13,160

Sample Project Profile Four

12th Street Preschool Playground Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn

The playground was built in 1980 on a 4,350 square foot City owned vacant lot across the street from the 12th Street Preschool. The site was designed, funded and constructed by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Permanent Site Improvement Program.

The initial cost of development was \$36,000. Neither HPD or the agency

that sponsors the school, the Human Resources Agency for Child Development, have made provisions to maintain the site. The school's janitor spends ten hours per week maintaining the playground. Approximately \$200 from community donations has been spent each year to replace stolen or vandalized equipment.

More than 100 children use the playground, some of whom are not students of the school, but live in the neighborhood. The motivations reported for maintaining the site are: sanitation, recreation, education, and social. The site was rated 23432. It has a serious drainage problem; water collects beneath the play equipment.

COSTS ANALYSIS

Initial Capital (IC)		\$36,000
Annual Capital (AC)	\$ 200	
Annual Sweat Equity (ASE)	804	
Annual Maintenance (AM)	1,004	
Age of Site	3 years	
Total Annual Capital (TAC)	600	
Total Sweat Equity (TSE)	2,412	
Total Maintenance (TM)	3,012	3,012
Grand Total (GT)		\$39,012

Sample Project Profile Five

Queens Botanical Senior Garden Flushing, Queens

The Queens Botanical Garden set aside an area adjacent to its grounds in 1974 for senior citizens to grow their own vegetables. The 65,340 sq. ft. (1.5 acres) landfill site is owned by New York City and has been vacant since it was part of the site of the 1964 World's Fair.

The garden is divided into 62 private garden plots (each 6' x 15') and several large community plots where the seniors grow corn, squash and apple trees. There are three lawns and a sitting area covered by a pavilion.

The Initial Capital was provided by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Natural Heritage Trust. Annual Capital is provided by an annual grant of \$3,000 plus other one-time grants. In 1982 the garden received \$100 from the Citizen's Committee's Mollie Parnis Dress-Up Your Neighborhood Contest.

There are 73 members who pay annual dues of \$10 each. All members work at least nine hours per week. Other assistance including workshops is provided by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Queens Botanical Garden's staff.

The motivations associated with the Senior Garden are: sanitation, recreation, nutrition, and social. The site was rated 44453.

COSTS ANALYSIS

Initial Capital (IC)		\$ 6,000
Annual Capital (AC)	\$ 8,000	
Annual Sweat Equity (ASE)	54,270	
Annual Maintenance (AM)	62,270	
Age of Site	9 years	
Total Annual Capital (TAC)	72,000	
Total Sweat Equity (TSE)	488,430	
Total Maintenance (TM)	560,430	560,430
Grand Total (GT)		\$566,430

Sample Project Profile Six

Serpentine Arts and Nature Commons Serpentine Ridge, Staten Island

Homeowners within the Serpentine Ridge area and along its perimeter formed an organization in 1978 to save 11 acres of hilly, ecologically fragile landscape. Their goal was to protect the area and keep it open for passive recreational uses. In 1981 the group incorporated, and with the technical assistance of the Trust for Public Land, and other organizations, they formed the Serpentine Arts and Nature Commons Land Trust.

Over the last five years the group has been comprised of 30 to 60 dues-paying members (\$4/year). The five officers of the group each devote at least six hours per week (30 hours) to raise funds and work towards establishing the land trust.

Approximately \$20,000 was raised from foundation grants to pay for the planning and design of the project. The group was also supported by the Staten Island Council on the Arts, the Mud Lane Preservation Society, and the local Community Board. The Trust for Public Land provided pro-bono technical assistance including approximately 150 hours of negotiation and 40 to 50 hours of legal services. The group spends about \$6,000 per year for real estate tax, insurance and supplies.

COSTS ANALYSIS

Initial Capital (IC)		\$30,000
Annual Capital (AC)	\$ 6,000	
Annual Sweat Equity (ASE)	2,412	
Annual Maintenance (AM)	8,412	
Age of Site	5 years	
Total Annual Capital (TAC)	30,000	
Total Sweat Equity (TSE)	12,060	
Total Maintenance (TM)	42,060	42,060
Grand Total (GT)		\$72,060

Survey Methodology

In July of 1982 two researchers, working under the direction and supervision of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition set out to gather all available information on the development and maintenance of New York City's community gardens and parks. The first step was to develop a "site-file". Site lists dating back to 1979 were gathered from the following sources:

PRIVATE NONPROFIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

- Bronx Frontier Development Corporation
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Citizen's Committee for New York City
- Council on the Environment of New York
- Green Guerillas
- Horticultural Society of New York
- Housing Conservation Coordinators
- Trust for Public Land

CITY AGENCIES

- Department of General Services, GreenThumb
- Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Interim and Permanent Site Improvement Program

The lists were consolidated into an index card file which was arranged by borough, color coded and organized by zip-code. Each card contained the name of the sponsoring organization, a contact name and telephone number, site address if available, and the source of the information.

As the site lists were being gathered, the following open space experts were consulted regarding the preparation of the survey questionnaire:

- John Ameroso — Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Noelle Brisson — Department of City Planning
- Lisa Cashdan — Trust for Public Land
- Liz Christy — Council on the Environment of New York
- Grace Fisher — Citizen's Committee for New York City
- Kate Hogan — Lower East-Side Gardeners
- Tessa Huxley — Green Guerillas

The questionnaire was designed to gather as broad a range of detailed information as possible. Our major considerations were to develop a format that would be easy to administer in the field, and to define the type of information that could be obtained from the project coordinators. The form was field tested and refined (see questionnaire in the following pages).

Realizing the low percentage of returns normally received from a mail-out questionnaire, the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition decided that as many sites as possible should be visited and surveyed in the field. One researcher spoke with the project leader and filled out the questionnaire, while the other took photos and measured the site. Later it was found that more sites could be inventoried if the two survey interviewers split up and visited different sites. A third researcher was added to the team so that, on a daily basis, one person could remain in the office and coordinate the next day's work.

Whenever possible, contact was made with a project leader to arrange for a meeting at the site so that the questionnaire could be administered in person. When a field interview was not possible, a researcher visited the site to take photos and determine the site's quality rating. The questionnaire was then delivered to the contact person if possible, and the interview was conducted by telephone.

Sites that were not on any of the lists, but were found by the research team while in the field were investigated to identify a contact person. If none could be found, a calling card was left at the site, or with a neighbor. The card requested that whoever was involved in maintaining the site, contact the Coalition.

Approximately 70% of the questionnaires for active sites were administered in the field with the project leader of the group that developed the site. In rare cases where a second questionnaire was completed by another individual associated with a particular site, some minor discrepancies in the information received were found. Most notable were the differences in sources and amounts of technical assistance and materials received. Other factors such as amount of time spent on the site or number of people actively involved were also difficult to determine precisely. In fact, some respondents were unable to come up with any specific numbers at all. When unsure of specific facts, the respondents were encouraged to give reasonable estimates. If that was not possible, the item was left blank. The number of sites responding to each

question (as well as an estimate for the total sample) is described in the beginning of each of the sections presented.

It is very difficult to get statistical information from community residents because they keep very few records, and many of the quantitative facts like average amount of hours spent, would be difficult to record anyway. Some of the questions asked are necessarily projected from the individual to the group rather than drawn from the consensus of the garden members (i.e. Why did your group get involved in this project?) Whenever a range of numbers was given by the respondent, the lowest reasonable figure was used. Therefore, all estimates presented in this report should be considered conservative.

Most City agencies and nonprofit technical assistance organizations don't keep detailed records on material cost and staff time devoted to specific projects. Time constraints and staffing limitations are the primary reason for the lack of detailed recording.

Statistical Techniques

For each type of information analyzed, the following techniques were used to calculate an estimate for 100 percent of the sites analyzed:

$$T = R + NR$$

Where, the total number of sites analyzed (T) equals the number of sites reporting data (R), plus the number of sites not reporting data (NR). Subsequently, the estimate was arrived at by the following formula:

$$E = Rv + (Rav \times NR)$$

Field Questionnaire

Neighborhood Open Space Inventory	
Participants Questionnaire	
<p>The purpose of this questionnaire is to get up-to-date information on how groups like yours are working to make New York City neighborhoods better places to live. With this information we can better understand the successes, problems and needs of community residents who are working to develop and maintain parks and gardens. Similar questionnaires are being given to City agencies, technical assistance groups, and foundation or corporate funding sources. The results will be presented in a report that shows how neighborhood people have taken an active role in the redevelopment of New York City. Please take the time to answer all of the questions that apply to your group as completely as possible.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your help!</p>	
1. Name _____	3. Telephone # _____
2. Address _____	4. Alternate contact name _____
5. Name of sponsoring organization _____	6. Telephone # _____
7. Address _____	8. Telephone # _____
9. Name of your project _____	
Location of the project (fill out one questionnaire for each site)	
10. Address _____	12. Zip Code _____
11. Borough _____	14. Block # _____
13. Community Board number _____	15. Lot # _____
16. Type of project (check one):	
A) Community garden (converted vacant lot)	E) School yard _____
B) Community Park (converted vacant lot)	F) Public Plaza _____
C) City Playground _____	G) Street/Block Improvement _____
D) Rooftop Garden _____	H) Existing City Park _____
	I) Other _____
17. Areas of your project site:	
A) Vegetable Garden _____	F) Playground _____
B) Flower Garden _____	G) Ball Field _____
C) Trees and Shrubs _____	H) Lawn _____
D) Compost/Recycle _____	I) Other _____
E) Sitting Area _____	J) Other _____
18. Who owns the property? _____	
19. If your group does not own the property, what arrangements have been made giving permission to use it? _____	
20. When did the project begin? _____	
21. How many people have been regularly working on the project?	
Children _____	Adults _____
22. How is the work done?	
A) By volunteer workers and staff _____	
B) Volunteer workers and paid staff _____	
C) Paid workers and volunteer staff _____	
D) Paid workers and paid staff _____	
23. Estimate the total number of hours per week spent working in the site: _____	
24. Which months of the year does your group work on the project? _____	
25. What are the dimensions of the site? (size in square feet) _____	
26. How was the design of the project developed? Were local residents involved in the design process? _____	
27. Which type of group sponsors your project?	
A) Block, Tenant or Civic Association _____	F) City Agency _____
B) Commercial or Merchant Association _____	G) School or Youth Group _____
C) Private Nonprofit Organization _____	H) Individual _____
D) Religious Institution _____	I) Other _____
FOR GARDEN PROJECTS ONLY	
28. How many garden plots are maintained by:	
Whole Group _____	Families _____
Individuals _____	
29. What are the sizes of the plots? _____	
30. Is the garden grown organically? _____	
31. Has the soil been tested? What were the results? _____	
32. Which of the following organizations have given you assistance?	
Organization	Type of Assistance
A. Bronx Frontier Development Corp.	How much _____
B. Citizen's Committee of N.Y.	_____
C. Cornell Cooperative Extension	_____
D. Council on the Environment	_____
E. Department of Parks & Rec.	_____
F. Dept. General Services (Operation GreenThumb)	_____
G. Housing Preserv. & Develop.	_____
H. Green Guerrillas	_____
I. Horticultural Society	_____
J. Parks Council	_____
K. Trust for Public Land	_____
L. Other	_____
33. Which groups has your organization helped, and in what way? _____	
34. Where did other funding, materials or other assistance come from?	
Type of Organization	Name
A. Federal Agency	Contribution _____
B. State Agency	_____
C. City Agency	_____
D. Foundation	_____
E. Corporation	_____
F. Local Business	_____
G. Religious Institution	_____
H. Individual	_____
I. Other	_____
35. What local materials were used or recycled to develop your site? _____	
36. How much did the project initially cost to develop? _____	
37. How much of that was raised by your group itself? (fundraisers, contests, etc)? _____	
38. What is the estimated cost of maintaining the site this year? _____	
39. How is entrance to the site controlled? _____	
40. Have there been any problems with theft or vandalism? Please Explain. _____	
41. What are the major problems that you group has faced and how are the problems being dealt with? _____	
42. Why did your group choose to develop the project?	
A. Economic (to save money)	E. Nutritional (to grow better food)
B. Social (meet neighbors)	F. Sanitary (clean up neighborhood)
C. Recreational (outdoor fun)	G. Organizing Strategy _____
D. Educational (teach kids)	H. Other _____
43. How has the project made an impact on the neighborhood? _____	
44. How long do you expect your project to continue and why _____	
45. What are the things that has made your project successful? _____	
46. What are your group's needs in building a better community project? _____	
<p>Thank you very much for your help. If you have any questions about filling out this form please do not hesitate to call Ian Koepfel or Nick Shorr at 736-8439.</p> <p>Please return this as soon as possible to: The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition 110 West 34th Street New York, NY 10001</p>	
For Office Use Only:	
Film Roll # _____	First shot# _____ Last shot# _____ Date _____
Site Code _____	Rating _____

Where, the estimated total value (E) equals the total reported value (Rv), plus the per site reported average value (Rav) multiplied by the number of sites not reporting data (NR).

Unless stated otherwise, the average values are calculated for each of the Boroughs individually.

In most instances, the figures have been calculated using values that have been rounded off to the nearest whole number.

Data Processing

The Oneonta Laboratory for Computer Graphics and Spatial Analysis at the State University of New York College at Oneonta provided in-kind services to computerize the field data and do some preliminary analysis. A coding process was developed to distill the information recorded on the questionnaires onto a form that could be sent to Oneonta for computerization. Paul R. Bauman, Chairman of SUNY Oneonta's Geography Department and his assistant, Thomas G. Smith, developed the software for the analysis of the raw data. The data was analyzed for sixteen different types of information including: total site area, number of sites for each project type, land ownership, sponsorship, land use, motivation, and number of participants, and average hours worked per week.

During the time that the data was being analyzed by Oneonta's Computer Lab, the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition was awarded four Apple II+ computer systems to develop an open space telecommunications network

among its member organizations. The community open space inventory was to become one of the shared data-bases of that network.

The data was re-entered into the Coalition's Apple Computer files so that it could be updated and manipulated in-house. The data-base was updated to January 1, 1983 and a set of data printouts were generated using Visicorp software packages. Once the data was tabulated, the statistical information could be extracted. The statistics were analyzed with the help of the Visicalc and the PFS-Graph computer programs.

Inventory Update

At the time of this writing, a complete update of the Community Open Space Inventory for 1983 was not yet available. However, data gathered up until January of 1984 reveals useful information relating to:

1. The rate at which data changes
2. The accuracy of the initial inventory for 1982
3. General trends in the community open space movement between 1982 and 1983

Three methods were used in gathering data for the update:

1. Feedback from technical assistance organizations that used the 1982 inventory data;
2. Follow-up on missing or questionable data by checking with field contacts and/or records of technical assistance organizations;
3. Review of updated site lists provided by technical assistance organizations that provided aid to new sites developed in 1983.

In exchange for data reports and mailing lists generated by the initial inventory, seven technical assistance groups reported changes and inaccuracies that they found through their work in the field. In the course of one year, data for 64 sites had to be changed (16% of total sites). The most common alterations were in the names and addresses of site contacts and sponsors. That amount of change reflects the transience of people involved in community gardening.

During the period covered in this update, six sites were lost and had to be

dropped from the inventory. Four of those sites, totalling just over one acre, were lost due to the sale of the property for housing development. Three of those four sites were City owned, and the fourth was on Federal property. The other two sites, totalling one-fifth of an acre, were abandoned by the community groups that developed them. One had been heavily vandalized, and the other had lost its group leader.

SITES LOST

Borough	Sites	Sq. Ft.	Participants
MANHATTAN	1	21,000	85
BRONX	3	20,208	7
BROOKLYN	2	14,160	27
TOTAL	6	55,368	119

Due to limited resources available to conduct an update, only two areas of the City were examined in detail: the South Bronx and Bushwick in Brooklyn. Using data generated by the 1982 inventory, the Bronx Frontier Development Corporation did a follow-up survey for the South Bronx including Community Boards 1 through 6. The Bushwick follow-up was conducted by the Coalition as part of its work with the New York City Open Space Task Force. Citywide, 44 new sites have been identified and surveyed. 36 of those sites (82%) were found in the two areas mentioned above.

Of the 44 additional sites, 16 of them existed at the time the 1982 inventory was conducted, but were overlooked. Those sites were missed mainly because they did not appear on any of the original site lists provided by the

technical assistance organizations. Ten of the overlooked sites were found in the South Bronx, and none were found in Bushwick. Thus, the level of survey completeness was 87% for the South Bronx, and 100% for Bushwick.

The remaining 28 additional sites were developed in 1983 after the initial survey was conducted. Because only two areas were examined in detail, we assume that many more new sites may have been developed since the 1982 inventory. 19 of the 28 new sites found are located in the South Bronx, and 7 are in Bushwick. The other two sites are in Queens and Staten Island.

ADDITIONS TO INVENTORY

Area	Missed Sites	New Sites	Total Sites	Total Sq. Ft.	Total Participants
South Bronx	10	19	29	258,747	490
Bushwick	0	7	7	21,655	149
Other	6	2	8	266,067	189
Total	16	28	44	546,469	828

When taking into account the loss of three sites in the South Bronx, the overall rate of growth for 1983 is slightly higher than 25%. That figure is double that of the previous year when only eight sites became active. With seven new sites in Bushwick, the growth rate is nearly 60% for 1983, compared to a zero growth rate in 1982. It is the opinion of professionals in the open space field that the citywide number of community open spaces is increasing.

1983 UPDATE SUMMARY

	Sites	Acres	Participants
Additions	44	12.55	828
Deletions	6	1.27	119
Total Increase	38	11.28	709
1982 Total	410	143.35	10,462
New Total	448	154.63	11,171

PART THREE:

THE

RESOURCES

Technical Assistance Organizations In New York City

ALLEY POND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
228-06 North Blvd.
Douglaston, NY 11363
229-4000

An environmental education facility located on 600 acres of New York City parkland with forests, kettleponds, salt and fresh water marshes. Calender of events published quarterly.

BRONX FRONTIER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
1080 Leggett Avenue
Bronx, NY 10474
542-4640

Operates a large-scale composting operation producing ZooDoo, provides material and technical assistance to community greening projects in the South Bronx, operates the Chuckwagon, a mobile nutrition education program.

BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDEN
1000 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225
622-4433

A public garden on 50 acres which includes a children's garden that has been operating for 70 years. Provides technical assistance and workshops for Brooklyn residents interested in revitalization and beautification. Publishes a series of handbooks, many of which are included in the gardening bibliography. Maintains a sizable botanic library. Calender of events published quarterly.

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK CITY
3 West 29th Street
New York, NY 10001
684-6767

Supports and assists community self-help organizations through publications, conferences, block organizing and small-grant programs. Newsletter — *Citizen's Report* (bi-annual)

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
NYC Gardening Program
15 East 26th Street
New York, NY 10010
340-2900

Provides horticultural advice and technical assistance to urban gardeners throughout the City. Specializes in educational programs for planning gardens and provides trouble-shooting and site visits for on-going site maintenance. Newsletter — *Gotham Gardener* (monthly)

COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
51 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007
566-0990

Provides material and technical assistance to community groups' open space greening projects. Publishes a series of fact sheets on community gardening and park development and maintenance. An extensive resource library where many of the books listed in the gardening bibliography can be found. Newsletter — *NYC Environmental Bulletin* (bi-monthly)

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION
417 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10003
677-1601

Disseminates factual information and implements projects in environmental education aimed at citizen involvement. Primary focus is street trees and recycling. Newsletter — *Eco-News* (occasional)

GATEWAY NAT'L RECREATION AREA
Floyd Bennett Field
Headquarters Building #69
Brooklyn, NY 11234
338-3338

A 26,000 acre National Recreation Area with beaches, historic sites, and visitor centers providing the public with a wide assortment of summer programs, workshops, and special events. Calender of events published bi-annually.

THE GREEN GUERRILLAS
417 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10003
674-8124

An action oriented volunteer greening organization which provides technical assistance and materials to any public greening project. Maintains several demonstration garden sites throughout the City. Publishes a series of fact sheets on urban greening. Newsletter — *Green Guerilla Report* (quarterly)

GREENTHUMB — NYC DEPT. OF GENERAL SERVICES
49 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007
233-2926

Provides long and short-term leases for community garden and park development on vacant City-owned property. Assists in building and maintaining neighborhood sponsored community gardens and parks on these lots. Operates a low-cost, large scale land reclamation program. Newsletter — *DGS GreenThumb* (quarterly)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
128 West 58th Street
New York, NY 10019
757-0915

An 84 year old organization dedicated to increasing the knowledge and love of horticulture through the collection and dissemination of information about the culture and care of plants. Maintains an extensive horticultural library. Newsletter — *Horticultural Society of New York* (bi-monthly)

HOUSING CONSERVATION COORDINATORS
777 10th Avenue
New York, NY 10019
541-5996

A community based housing organization dealing primarily with tenant-landlord problems providing legal clinic, food-coop, and home maintenance classes. Also provides technical assistance to neighborhood greening projects, sponsors neighborhood Summer Youth Program, and works with high school youths. Newspaper — *Clinton Community Press* (monthly)

MAGNOLIA TREE EARTH CENTER
677 Lafayette Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216
387-2116

Environmental education agency sponsoring a wide variety of urban environmental education and community improvement programs, a resource library, and technical assistance for neighborhood greening projects. Major emphasis is street trees.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
Southern Blvd.
Bronx, NY 10458
220-8700

A 250 acre site in North Central Bronx with a 40 acre virgin forest and the home of Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. International Center for science, education, and horticulture concerning the plant world. Calender of events published monthly.

PARKS COUNCIL
457 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10002
838-9410

An organization which provides technical information and materials for community groups interested in planting, recreation, and spruce-up projects in their neighborhood parks. Newsletter — *The Parks Council* (monthly)

QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355
886-3800

A public garden on 38 acres, including a rose garden, woodland garden, demonstration backyard gardens and more. Offers plant information services, group tours, workshops for adults and children, a resource library of gardening books. Education Department open 9-4:30 M-F. Newsletter — *Queens Botanical Garden* (bi-monthly)

NYC STREET TREE CONSORTIUM
3 West 29th Street 6th Fl.
New York, NY 10001
679-4481

Offers courses in street tree maintenance, provides street tree matching funds, and technical and education programs for the maintenance and care of street trees. Publishes fact sheets on tree care and maintenance. Newsletter — *Citizen Pruner* (quarterly)

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
254 West 31st Street
New York, NY 10001
563-5959

A land-conservation organization providing assistance for community-based organizations to acquire, control, and protect property in their neighborhoods. Newsletter — *NYC Land Project — Information Exchange* (quarterly)

WAVE HILL
249th Street and Independence Ave.
Bronx, NY 10471
549-2055

Public garden on 28 acres overlooking the Hudson River, offering a unique site for art exhibitions, indoor/outdoor concerts and nature studies. Greenhouse and garden walks every Sunday at 2:15. Free on weekdays. Calender of events published quarterly.

New York City's Community Gardens 1983

MANHATTAN

118TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
305 W. 118th St.

118TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
NWC 118th St. & 8th Ave.

127TH ST. TENANTS ASSOC.
140-142 W. 127th St.

135TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
308-310 W. 135th St.

135TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
303 W. 135th St.

368 E. 8TH ST. GARDENING GROUP
372 E. Eighth St.

452 W. 50TH ST. TENANTS ASSOC.
448 to 452 W. 50th St.

455 W. 35TH ST. TENANTS ASSOC.
455 W. 35th St.

534 W. 46TH ST. TENANTS ASSOC.
534 W. 46th St.

6TH ST. BLOCK COMMUNITY CENTER
624 E. Sixth St.

96, 97 & PARK MALL TASK FORCE
Bet 96, 97 Sts. & Park Ave.

9TH ST. COMMUNITY GARDEN
Ninth St. at Ave., C

ASSOCIATED BLIND INC.
135 W. 23rd St.

ASSOCIATED BLIND INC.
135 W. 23rd St.

BEDFORD DOWNING GARDENERS
19 Bedford St.

BLOCK ASSOC. OF HOLY REDEEMER
Third St. Bet Aves. A & B

BRADHURST AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
NEC Bradhurst & W. 152 St.

BRADHURST AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC 8th Ave. & W. 152nd St.

CHARAS
SWC E. Ninth St.

CHILDREN'S STOREFRONT INC.
49 E. 129th St.

CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN
W. 48th St. Bet 9th & 10th Aves.

COLONIAL PARK COMMUNITY ASSOC.
8th Ave. N/O 148th St.

COLONIAL PARK COMMUNITY ASSOC.
8th Ave. Bet 148 & 149 Sts.

COMMITTEE FOR ASPHALT GREEN
Bet 90, 91, York & E. End Ave.

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF E. 13TH ST.
Thirteenth St. Bet 2nd & 3rd Aves.

CREATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY
23 E. 104th St.

CROTONA JEFFERSON COMMUNITY ASSOC.
1381 Crotona Ave. at Boston & Jefferson

DEVELOPMENT HOUSING COMMUNITY
RENEWAL
NWC Island Rd. to Coler Hospital

DOME PROJECT INC.
84 St. Bet Amsterdam & Columbus Aves.

DUNWELL PLAZA SENIORS
1920 Amsterdam Ave. Courtyard

DYCKMAN BUILDING 7 TENANT PATROL
3784 10th Ave. Bet 202nd & 203rd Sts.

EAST HARLEM YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER
105 E. 103rd St.

EAST 117TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
221 E. 117th St.

EAST 188TH ST. NEIGHBORS
5 E. 188th St.

EAST MIDTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
332 E. 29th St.

EAST RIVER NORTH RENEWAL INC.
427 E. 117th St. Bet 1st & 2nd Aves.

EDGEComb AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
Edgecomb Ave. & W. 142nd St.

EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
197 E. Broadway

EL GALLO CLUB
SEC E. 118th St. & Lexington Ave.

EL JARDIN DEL PARAISO
Fourth St. Bet Aves. C & D

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO GANA DEVPT.
220 E. 124th St.

EL SOL BRILLANTE
521 E. Twelfth St.

EL SOL BRILLANTE
535 E. 12th St.

ELDRIDGE ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC Eldridge & Stanton Sts.

ELEVENTH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
422 E. Eleventh St.

FIFTH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
E. Fifth St. Bet 1st & 2nd Aves.

FIREMANS MEMORIAL GARDEN
360 E. Eighth St.

FORSYTH COOPERATIVE ASSOC.
156 Forsyth St.

FREDERICK DOUGLAS BLOCK ASSOC.
SEC 2902 8th Ave. & W. 154th St.

FREDERICK DOUGLAS COMMUNITY
GARDEN
ES 8th Ave Bet 136th & 137th Sts.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 3200
Sherman Ave. & Isham St.

GRAND COALITION OF SENIORS INC.
80 Pitt St. at Rivington St.

GREEN GUERRILLAS INC.
Corner of Bowery & Houston St.

HAMILTON MADISON DAYCARE CENTER
Catherine & Monroe Sts.

HAMILTON TERRACE BLOCK ASSOC.
144th St. Bet Hamilton & Convent

HARLEM REHABILITATION CENTER
165 W. 129th St.

HARLEM TEAMS ASSOC.
121 W. 139th St.

HENRY ST. SETTLEMENT
265-267 Henry St.

HOPE COMMUNITY INC.
1651 Lexington Ave.

HOUSING CONSERVATION COORDINATORS
513 W. 46th St. Bet 10th & 11th Aves.

HOUSING CONSERVATION COORDINATORS
505 W. 52nd St.

HOUSING CONSERVATION COORDINATORS
763 Tenth Ave.

IGLESIA PENTECOSTAL
174 Suffolk St.

INNER CITY LIGHT
SWC Stanton & Eldridge Sts.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 195
Courtyard of 625 W. 133rd St.

INWOOD HEIGHTS PARK ALLIANCE
Broadway Bet Isham & 207th Sts.

JARDIN DEL PUEBLO
111th St. & Amsterdam Ave.

JEFFERSON MARKET AREA INC.
Greenwich Bet W. 10th St. & 6th Ave.

KENKELEBA HOUSE
218 E. Second St.

KIWANIS CLUB OF HARLEM
WS Madison Ave. Bet 117th & 118th Sts.

LA GUARDIA COMMUNITY GARDENS
NEC La Guardia Pl. & Bleeker St.

LA GUARDIA MEMORIAL HOUSE
307 E. 116th St.

LITTLE ITALY RESTORATION ASSOC.
182 Mulberry St. Bet Kenmare & Broome Sts.

LOS AMIGOS DEL BLOQUE
1600 Lexington Ave. Bet 101st & 102nd Sts.

LOWER SEAMAN AREA ASSOC.
SWC 204th St. & Seaman Ave.

MADISON SQUARE BOYS CLUB
NEC 2nd Ave. & 29th St.

MANHATTAN MEDICAL GROUP
1865 Amsterdam Ave.

MANHATTAN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER
Wards Island

MANHATTAN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Manhattan Ave. Bet 104th & 105th Sts.

MANHATTAN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CORP.
109th St. & Manhattan Ave.

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK DIV./DSS
Charles H. Gay Center

METRO NORTH ASSOC.
ES 2nd Ave. Bet 100th & 101st Sts.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION RECYCLING
CORPS
Lexington Ave. Bet 28th & 29th Sts.

NERVE
107-111 E. 102nd St.

PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
240-250 E. 110th St.

PARQUE DE TRANQUILIDAD
706 E. 5 St. Bet Aves. C & D

PROJECT GREEN HOPE
334-336 E. 120 St. Bet 1st & 2nd Aves.

ROOSEVELT ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOC.
WS Main Across From Garage

RUPPERT GREEN INC.
Bet 93rd, 94th Sts., 2nd & 3 Aves.

SALEM COMMUNITY COUNCIL
7th Ave. Bet 129th & 130th Sts.

SEVENTH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
223 E. 7th St. Bet Aves. B & C

SHERIDAN SQUARE TRIANGLE ASSOC.
Bet Barrow St., 7th Ave. & 4th St.

SIXTH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
530 E. Sixth St.

STRIVERS INC.
511 W. 157th St.

THE GARDEN COUNCIL
103 W. 82nd St.

THIRTEENTH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
520 E. Thirteenth St.

TIDY COMMITY OF CONVENT AVE.
41 Convent Ave.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Corner of Ninth St. & Ave. B

W. 132 ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
127 W. 132nd St.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS/INWOOD
COALITION
SEC 187th St. & Broadway

WASHINTON MARKET COMMUNITY PARK
Greenwich, Chambers, Duane, & West Sts.

W. 148TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
W. 148th St. Bet Convent & St. Nicholas Aves.

W. 34TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
458 W. 34th St.

WEST HARLEM COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION
228 W. 116th St. Bet 7th & 8th Aves.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN
WS Columbus Ave. Bet 88th and 89th Sts.

BRONX

1050 HOE AVE. GARDEN CLUB
1038-45 Hoe Ave.

1096 TENANTS & COMMUNITY ASSOC.
1121 West Farms Rd. & 1110 Hoe Ave.

1961 MAPES AVE. TENANTS ASSOC.
1970 Mapes Ave.

232RD ST./E. BARNES BLOCK ASSOC.
Behind 817 Bussing Ave.

789 TENANTS ASSOC.
MNS 791 E. 166th St. Bet Tinton & Union

ALEXANDER BURGER SCHOOL, P.S. 139
NWC Brook Ave. & 140th St.

ASSUMPTION/ST. ANTHONY SOCIETY
3184-86 Villa Ave.

BANANA KELLY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
ASSOC.
Beck St. Bet Tiffany St. & Intervale Ave.

BARRETTO ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
650 Barretto St.

BATHGATE TENANTS & BLOCK ASSOC.
Washington & Bathgate Bet 181st & 182nd Sts.

BECK ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
661 Beck St. Bet Leggett & St. Johns Aves.

BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOC.
2984 Bainbridge Ave. & 201st St.

BEECH OAK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.
362 Beekman & 352 St. Marys Ave.

BEECH OAK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.
603 Oak Terrace

BELMONT LITTLE FARMERS
2483 Belmont Ave.

BRONX BORICUAS SPORTS LEAGUE
SEC Fox & 169th Sts.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 2
Manida St. Bet Lafayette & Spofford Aves.

BRONX HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMUNITY CORP.
Nelson Ave. off 174th St. N/O President

BRONX HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMUNITY CORP.
1599 Mccombs Rd.

BRONX HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COMM.
CORP.
1660-62 Nelson Ave at 174th

BRONX RIVER RESTORATION
SWC 180th St. & Devoe Ave.

BRONX RIVER RESTORATION
177th St. & Bronx St.

BRONXWOOD UNITED BLOCK ASSOC.
Bronxwood Ave. Bet 220 & 221 Sts.

BUILDING 16 GARDEN CLUB
600 Baychester Ave.

BUILDING 22A GARDEN CLUB
100-9 Coop City Blvd.

CALDWELL AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
1056 Caldwell Ave.

CEDAR AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
Front of University Park Ford at 179th St.

CLINTON AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
Bet Clinton & Prospect & 176th St.

COA HOUSING CORP.
460 E. 184 St. Bet Park & Washington

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GROUP
360-62 E. 151 St.

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF E. 174TH ST.
NWC 174th St. & Longfellow Ave.

CONCERNED FEW GARDEN CLUB
309-15 E. 165 St.

CONCERNED GARDENERS LAFONTAINE
SWC Arthur Ave. & 178th St.

COOPERATORS COUNCIL FOR ACTION
120 Benchley Pl., Bldg 24

CROTONA COMMUNITY COALITION
E. 180th St. Bet Prospect & Mapes Aves.

CROTONA COMMUNITY COALITION
Clinton Ave. & 182nd St.

CS 134 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
ORGANIZATION
1311 NWC Bristow & Freeman Sts.

DAVIDSON AVE./190TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
Davidson Ave. & 190th St.

DEBRON CIVIC ASSOC.
1060 Cauldwell Ave.

E. 156TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
MWS 753 Forest Ave. Bet 156th & 158th Sts.

E. 221 CARLISLE PL. BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC Carlisle Place & E. 211st St.

EAST BRONX NAACP DAYCARE
Roof of 113 Colgate Ave.

EL BALCON ALEGRE
SEC 352 Will Ave. & 142 St.

EL BATEY BORRINCANO
499 E. 159th St. & Brook Ave.

FORDHAM LUTHERN CHURCH
2432 Walton Ave.

FORDHAM-BEDFORD HOUSING CORP.
26-20 Briggs

FORT APACHE GARDEN
1094-1100 Simpson St. Bet Westchester Ave. & 169th St.

FORT APACHE YOUTH CENTER
1105 Fox St.

GLIE FARMS
1835 Bathgate Ave.

GLIE FARMS
NWC Third Ave. & 174th St.

GLIE FARMS
WS Crotona Bet 178th & 179th Sts.

GUIDING LIGHT FOR TRUTH CHURCH
830 Anthony Ave.

HOE AVE. DEVELOPMENT FUND
956 Hoe Ave.

HOE AVE GARDEN CLUB
1001 Hoe Ave. & Aldus

HOPE OF ISRAEL SENIOR CENTER
838 Gerard Ave. Bet 177th & 158th Sts.

JACKSON AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
NS 757 Jackson Ave. & 156th St.

PUTNAM COMMUNITY GARDEN
NWC Putnam Ave. West & W. 238th St.

VAN NEST CIVIC ASSOC.
Garfield & Mead Sts.
WAYOUT CHURCH MINISTRIES
514 E. 148th St.
YOUTH VILLAGE PARK COMMITTEE
Boston Rd. Bet Home & 168th Sts.

BROOKLYN

'G' COMPANY, PS 290
Fulton St. Bet Hendrix St. & Van Siclin Ave.
1015 WASHINGTON AVE. TENANTS
1015 Washington Ave.
1054 HULL ST. GARDEN
107 Hull St.
1100 BLOCK BERGEN ST. ASSOC.
1103-09 Bergen St.
1100 ST. MARKS JR. BLOCK ASSOC.
1123 St. Marks Ave.
12TH STREET PRESCHOOL
SWC 12th St. & 4th Ave.
500 BLOCK ASSOC.
512 Lafayette St.
500 BLOCK ASSOC.
526 Kosciusko St.
500 MACDONOUGH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
86 Marion St.
600 MONROE ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
616 Monroe St.
64TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
Block at 64th St. Bet 4th & 5th Aves.
ADELPHI STREET BLOCK ASSOC.
NWC Greene & Adelphi Sts.
AMBOY NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
NWC Blake Ave. & Amboy St.
ASTELLA DEVELOPMENT CORP.
2814 W. 15th St.
BRIDGE PLAZA ACTION TWELVE
NEC Bridge & Concord Sts.
BUSHWICK BLOCK ASSOC.
11 Wilson Ave.
BUSHWICK COMMUNITY PARK ASSOC.
Broadway Bet Furman Ave. & Aberdeen St.
CAMBRIDGE PL. BLOCK ASSOC.
Cambridge Pl. Bet Greene & Gates Sts.
CARROLL CROWN BLOCK ASSOC.
346 Troy Ave. Bet President & Carroll Sts.
EAST 48TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
SEC Tilden & Schnecktady Aves.
CHAUNCEY STREET COMMUNITY ASSOC.
1435 Bushwick Ave.
CITCO
Mermaid Ave. Bet W. 29th and W. 30th Sts.
CONEY ISLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT
2702 Neptune Ave. & 27th St.
CONEY ISLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT
2318 Mermaid Ave.

CONEY ISLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT
Neptune Ave. Bet. 23rd & 24th Sts.
CONEY ISLAND GOSPEL ASSEMBLY
2813 W. 29th St.
CONEY ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD
IMPROVEMENT
W. 15th St. Bet Mermaid & Neptune
COOPER BLOCK ASSOC.
251 Cooper St.
COOPER STREET GARDENERS
34 Cooper St.
CORNELL COOP EXTENSION
Floyd Bennett Field Gateway NRA
CROWN HEIGHTS YOUTH COLLECTIVE
121 Crown Ave.
CRYSTAL WELLS BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC 35-37 Wells & Crystal Sts.
CUMBERLAND BLOCK ASSOC.
268 Cumberland St.
CUYLER WARREN COMMUNITY CHURCH
SWC Bond & Warren Sts.
DECATUR & HOPKINS BLOCK ASSOC.
729 Decatur St.
E. 48TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
NWC Ave. D & E. 48th St.
EAST 4TH ST. GARDEN ASSOC.
171 E. 4th St.
EASTERN PARKWAY ASSOC.
Eastern Parkway Bet Franklin & Classon Aves.
ELBERT ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
95 Elbert St.
ERASMUS NEIGHBORHOOD FEDERATION
3409 Tilden Ave.
ERASMUS NEIGHBORHOOD FEDERATION
NEC Tilden Ave. & 34th St.
ERASMUS NEIGHBORHOOD FEDERATION
161 Veronica Pl.
EUCLID AVE. 500 BLOCK ASSOC.
505-521 Euclid Ave.
EUCLID PINE BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC Dumont Ave. & Pine St.
FIFTH AVE. COALITION
640 Union St.
FIFTH AVE. COALITION
634 Union St.
FIFTH AVE. COMMITTEE & ST. MARKS
Across from 6888 Warren St.
FIFTH AVE. COMMITTEE
Baltic St. Bet 4th & 5th Aves.
FIRST QUINCY ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
403 Quincy St.
FIRST QUINCY ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
397-401 Quincy St.
FLATBUSH DEVELOPMENT CORP.
SEC Cortelyou & Argyle Rds.
FLUSHING LAFAYETTE BLOCK ASSOC.
804 Flushing Ave.

GATES AVE. COMMUNITY GROUP
1295-1297 Gates Ave.

GOOD CHEER WEIRFIELD
509-511 Central Ave.

GOODWIN PL. BLOCK ASSOC.
10 Goodwin Pl.

GRAND AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
155-7 Gates & Grand Aves.

GREEN OAK CITIZENS CLUB
68 Dupont St.

GREEN POINT MULTI-SERVICE
164-66 West St.

GREENE BLOCK ASSOC.
978 Greene Ave.

GREENE/FRANKLIN/CLASSON BLOCK ASSOC.
305-309 Greene Ave.

HANCOCK L & T ASSOC.
392 Hancock St.

HANCOCK ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
509-511 Central Ave.

HANCOCK ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
548 Central Ave.

HANCOCK COMMUNITY BLOCK ASSOC.
240 Reid Ave.

HANCOCK T & T BLOCK ASSOC.
322-324 Hancock St.

HAPPY HOUR GARDEN
Lorimer St. W/O Marcy Ave.

HARRISON AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
115 Harrison Ave.

HARRISON AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
154 Lynch St.

HERKIMER GARDEN ASSOC.
1101 Herkimer St.

HERKING ALAGANTIC BLOCK ASSOC.
393 Herkimer St.

HOPKINSON COMMUNITY HELPERS
43 Hopkinson Ave.

HOPKINSON R & L BLOCK ASSOC.
802 Hopkinson & Riverdale Aves.

HOYT ST. ASSOC.
SWC Hoyt St. & Atlantic Ave.

HUMBOLT ST. NORTH BLOCK ASSOC.
SEC Humbolt St. & Norman Ave.

KINGSBORO PSYCHIATRIC CENTER
681 Clarkson Ave. Beh Bldg. 6

LAFAYETTE 900 BLOCK ASSOC.
927 Lafayette Ave. W/O Stuyvesant Ave.

LAFAYETTE IMPROVEMENT ASSOC.
729 Fulton Ave.

LINCOLN BERKELEY BLOCK ASSOC.
20 Berkeley Pl. Bet 5th & 6th Aves.

LINDEN BUSHWICK BLOCK ASSOC.
Behind 1325 Broadway & Linden St.

LINWOOD ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
551 Linwood St.

LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL
Amity St. Bet Henry St. & Clifton Pl.

MADISON ST. COMMUNITY GARDEN
174 Madison St. W/O Nostrand Ave.

MAGNOLIA TREE EARTH CENTER
Marcy Ave. Bet Lafayette Ave. & Clifton St.

MARCY GARDENS ASSOC.
386-388 Marcy St.

MARION ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
Marion St. Bet. Saratoga & Howard Aves.

MARION ST. PARK BLOCK ASSOC.
380-390 Marion St.

MARION ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
Bet Hopkinson Ave., Marion St., Rockaway Ave.,
& Chauncey St.

MIDWOOD GARDENERS
1292 E. 10th St.

MONROE ST. BLOCK ASSOC. T & T
367-369 Monroe St.

MURIEL LANGSOM CHILD CARE CENTER
2001 Oriental Blvd.

NORTH ELLIOT BLOCK ASSOC.
SEC North Elliot Pl. & Flushing Ave.

NORTHSIDE COMM. DEVLPT COUNCIL
599 Driggs Ave.

NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL
N. 3rd St. Bet Berry St. & Bedford Ave.

NOSTRAND AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
NWC Albemarle Rd. & Nostrand Ave.

NUES NINOS DAYCARE CENTER
390-392 S. 4th St.

OCEAN HILL COALITION
Bergen St. Bet Saratoga & Hopkinson Aves.

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH
SWC Mother Gaston & Riverdale Aves.

OUR LADY OF PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD
IMPROVEMENT
SEC Carroll St. & Denton Pl. Bet 3rd & 4th Aves.

OUR LADY OF PRESENTATION CHURCH
1661 St. Marks Ave.

PALMER & GOODWIN BLOCK ASSOC.
479 Christopher Ave.

PALMETTO COMMUNITY CENTER
74 Palmetto St.

PALMETTO ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
80 Palmetto St.

PARK AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
514 Park Ave.

PENTACOSTAL CHURCH
166 Knickerbocker Ave.

POPLAR ST. GARDENERS
NEC Hicks & Poplar Sts.

PRATT AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DeKalb & Hall Sts.

PRATT AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Gates, Green & Washington Aves.

PS 321
180 7th Ave.
PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
492 Powell St.
PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
689 Sackman St.
PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
444 Powell St.
PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
472 Powell St.
PUTNAM DAYCARE CENTER
857 Gates Ave.
ROCKAWAY PKWY. 400 BLOCK ASSOC.
9606 Church Ave. Bet Rockaway Parkway & E.
96 St.
SATELITE EN ORBITA
312 Pennsylvania Ave.
SCHEUR HOUSES-JEWISH AGED ASSOC.
W. 36th St. Bet Mermaid & Surf Aves.
SHILOH GARDEN CLUB
Monroe St. Bet Tompkins & Marcy Aves.
SOUTH PORTLAND BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC S. Portland & Dekalb Aves.
SOUTH SECOND ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
291 Berry St.
SOUTHERN BROTHERS & SISTERS
615 Powell St. S/O Livonia Ave.
SOUTHERN BROTHERS & SISTERS
623 Sackman St.
SOUTHERN BROTHERS & SISTERS
Powell St. Bet Riverdale & Livonia Aves.
SPENCER ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
230 Spencer St.
ST. BARTHALOMEW CHURCH
1233 Pacific St.
ST. MARKS AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
201 St Marks Ave.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL METHADONE CLINIC
NEC Powell St. & Belmont Ave.
ST. NICHOLAS NP & HR CORP.
NWC Olive & Powers Sts.
STUYVESANT AVE. GARDEN PROGRAM
159 Stuyvesant Ave.
SUMPTER ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
170 Sumpter St.
SUMPTER ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
301 Sumpter St.
SUMPTER ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
181 Sumpter St.
T & T VERNN AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
Vernn Ave. Bet Tompkins & Throop Aves.
THIRD WORLD COMMUNITY GARDEN
NEC Montauk & New Lots Aves.
THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
444 Hendrix St. N/O Sutter Ave.
TROY/RUTLAND BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC Troy Ave. & Rutland Rd.

UNITED BLOCK ASSOC.
Howard Ave. Bet Hancock St. & Jefferson Ave.
UNITED BUSHWICK BLOCK ASSOC.
1415-1419 Broadway
UNITED HERKIMER GARDEN CLUB
97 Herkimer St.
UNITED HERKIMER GARDEN CLUB
186 Herkimer St.
UNITED PUERTO RICAN ASSOC.
712 Dekalb Ave.
WASHINGTON HALL GARDENERS
Bet Dekalb, Lafayette, & Washington Aves.
WEEKSVILLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
1698 Bergen St.
WEIRFIELD BLOCK ASSOC.
548 Central Ave.
WYCKOFF-BOND GARDEN CLUB
NWC Wyckoff & Bond Sts.

QUEENS

104TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
106TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
106th St. & Northern Blvd.
119TH AVE. BLOCK ASSOC.
119th Ave. & 115th St.
135TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
South dead end of beach 135th St.
142 ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC 142nd St. & 109th Ave.
142ND ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
104th Ave. & 142nd St.
195 ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
117th Rd. Bet 194th & 195th Sts.
207TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
West of Clearview Expressway
207TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
SEC 42nd Ave. Bet 207th & 208th Sts.
42ND AVE. PATCH OF GREEN BLOCK ASSOC.
42nd Ave. Bet Clearview Expressway & Cpl.
Kennedy St.
91ST ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
Beach 91st St. & Rockaway Blvd.
94TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
94 St. Bet 23rd & 24th Ave.
97TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
33-28 97th St.
99TH ST. BLOCK ASSOC.
32-41 99th St.
ADDESLEIGH PARK CIVIC ASSOC.
Murdock Ave., Linden Blvd. & 174th St.
BAYSIDE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
42nd Ave. Mall & 213th St.
BROOKFIELD CIVIC ASSOC.
223rd St. & 145th Ave.

CAMBRIA HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOC.
NEC 227th St. & Linden Blvd.

CENTRAL FAR ROCKAWAY BLOCK ASSOC.
N/O 657 Grassmere Terr.

CONCERNED PARENTS OF JAMAICA
143-04 101st Ave.

CORONA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEC 103rd St. & 34th Ave.

CORONA TAXPAYERS ASSOC.
SEC 101st St. & Lewis Ave.

CORONA TAXPAYERS ASSOC.
NEC Lewis Ave. & 101 St.

CREEDMORE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER
80-45 Winchester Bldg. 21

DOWN TO EARTH BEAUTIFIERS
Kissena Blvd., Main St. & 41st Rd.

FRIENDLY BLOCK ASSOC. OF SPRINGFIELD
Back of 144-35 168th St.

FRIENDSHIP CIVIC
174th Pl. & 126th Ave.

GOOD NEIGHBOR BLOCK ASSOC.
3513 108th St. Bet 35th & 36th Aves.

GOOD NEIGH BLOCK ASSOC.
37th Ave. & 111th St.

GREATER JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Jamaica Ave., Parsons Blvd., 160th St.

GREATER RIDGEWOOD HISTORICAL
SEC Flushing & Onderdonck Aves.

HAMILTON COURT PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOC.
Bet Skillman & 39th Aves., 45th & 46th Sts.

HOLLIS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEC 99th Ave. & Farmers Blvd.

HOLLIS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
NEC 202nd St. & Hollis Ave.

HOLLIS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEC 196th St. & Hollis Ave.

HOLLIS PARK TERRACE BLOCK ASSOC.
SWC Wood St. & Galway Ave.

HOLLIS WOOD CARE CENTER
195-44 Woodhull Ave.

HYLICK GARDENING GROUP
26-16 96th St.

IVANHOE PARK CIVIC ASSOC.
88 Otto Rd. Bet 65th & 69th Sts.

JACKSON HTS. CHILDREN CENTER
Bet 78th St., 41st Ave. & Broadway

JEFFERSON CT. PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC.
BET Skillman & 39 Aves., 48th & 45th Sts.

JOHN BOWNE HIGH SCHOOL
63-25 Main St.

LINCOLN COURT PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOC.
BET Barnett & Skillman Aves., 44th & 45th Sts.

MADISON COURT NORTH PROPERTY
OWNERS ASSOC.
BET 43rd & 44th Sts., Skillman & Barnett Aves.

MADISON SOUTH COURT ASSOC.
Skillman Ave. BET 43rd & 44th Sts.

MALCOLM X DAY CARE CENTER
Northern Blvd. & 112th St.

MARGERT COMMUNITY CORP.
Beach 38th St. & Rockaway Blvd.

MCINTOSH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.
100th & McIntosh Sts.

MKLV ASSOC.
Mayville St., Murdoch & 113th Aves.

NEPONSIT HOME FOR THE AGED
149-25 Rockaway Beach Blvd.

NEWTON CIVIC ASSOC.
86-01 Broadway (Library)

PS 219
144-39 Gravett Yard

QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN
Queens Botanical Garden at Crommelin St.

QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN
Dahlia Ave. & Crommelin St.

QUEENS DAY TREATMENT CENTER
Across from 87-80 Merrick Blvd.

QUEENS DAY TREATMENT CENTER
Across from 80-75 Hillside Ave.

QUEENS MANOR HOME FOR ADULTS
153-90 Rockaway Blvd.

ROCHDALE URBAN GARDENERS INC.
Baisley Blvd., 137th Ave., New York Blvd.

ROCHDALE URBAN GARDENERS INC.
Baisley Blvd. at 137th Ave.

ROOSEVELT COURT ASSOC.
BET 39th Ave., 47th & 48th Sts.

ROY WILKINS SENIOR CITIZENS GARDEN
119th Ave. & Merrick Blvd.

SANFORD ARMS TENANTS ASSOC.
149-07 Sanford Ave.

SOUTHERN QUEENS PARK ASSOC.
Southern Queens Park

SPRINGFIELD GARDENS FLOWER CLUB
128th Ave. BET 174th Pl. & 176th St.

ST. ALBANS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.
188-22 Linden Blvd.

ST. CALIMUS CHURCH/DAYTON TOWER
102 to 105 Shorefront Parkway

STEINWAY REFORMED CHURCH
Ditmars Blvd. & 41st St.

SUNNYSIDE GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOC.
48-21 39th Ave.

TRIANGLE TOWNHOUSE BLOCK ASSOC.
BET 59th & 60th Sts. at 34th Ave.

UTOPIA JEWISH CENTER
64-41 Utopia Parkway

WOODSIDE ON THE MOVE
33-24 60th St.

STATEN ISLAND

AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOC.

South & Travis Aves.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENTION

Gateway NRA - Millers Field

COTTAGES HILL NEIGHBORHOOD CORP.

Clyde Pl. & Arnold St.

EIBS POND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Manton Pl., Palma Dr. & Mosel Ave.

SERPENTINE ART & NATURE COMMONS

Victory Blvd. & Forest Ave.

STATEN ISLAND BOTANIC GARDEN

914 Richmond Terrace

STATEN ISLAND BOTANICAL GARDEN

460 Brielle Ave.

SUSAN E. WAGNER H.S. PTA

Courtyard at 1200 Manor Rd.

American Community Gardening Association Member Organizations

ARIZONA

SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Student Association
9000 E. Chapanal Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ. 85253
602-941-0999

CALIFORNIA

DAVIS COMMUNITY GARDENS
D. Quickert
1826 Pomona Drive
Davis, CA. 95616
916-324-2532

CITY OF LAWDALE
Brady Cherry
14717 S. Burin Ave.
Lawndale, CA. 90260
213-973-4321

BUENA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.
John Hooper
201 Buena Vista East
San Francisco, CA. 94117
415-552-8144

H C RUSSELL LIBRARY
Strybing Arboretum
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA. 94122
415-661-1514

SAN FRANCISCO LEAGUE OF URBAN GARD.
Helen Baum
678 9th Avenue #3
San Francisco, CA. 94118
415-221-2081

URBAN RESOURCE SYSTEMS
Isabel Wade
783 Buena Vista West
San Francisco, CA. 94117
415-621-3260

SAN JOSE COMMUNITY GARDENS
San Jose Parks & Rec. Dept.
Steve Radosevich
647 S. King Road
San Jose, CA. 95116
408-926-5555

SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY GARDEN
Judy Lowenberg
Box 396
Santa Cruz, CA. 95061
408-475-8912

LA PUENTE VALLEY ADULT SCHOOLS
Vernon Cliffe
14234 E Valley La Puente
Sierra Madre, CA. 91746
213-968-0595

CONNECTICUT

NEW HAVEN PLANT-A-BLOCK
New Haven Parks and Recreation
180 Park Rd.
Hamden, CT. 06514
203-787-8142

ELLIOTT PRATT ED. CENTER INC.
Cathy Setterlin
Paper Mill RD #1
New Milford, CT. 06776
203-355-3137

KNOX PARKS FOUNDATION
Jill Barrett
150 Wallbridge Rd.
West Hartford, CT. 06119
203-523-4276

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON GARDEN CENTER
Ken Nichols
503 Market St. Mall
Wilmington, DE. 19801
302-658-1913

ILLINOIS

CABRINI GREEN COMMUNITY GARDENS
Cora Moore
418 West Oak
Chicago, IL. 60610

CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
Beatrice Garrett
22 West Madison
Chicago, IL. 60602
312-791-8500

EVANSTON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Kathleen Neer
2024 McCormick Blvd.
Evanston, IL. 60201
312-864-5181

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
Becky Severson
Box 400
Glencoe, IL. 60022
312-835-5440

STERLING MORTON LIBRARY
F. Hinton
The Morton Arboretum
Lisle, IL. 60532
312-968-0074

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY-PCCEO
John Colgan
711 West McBean
Peoria, IL. 61605
309-565-7642

INDIANA

COMMUNITY GARDENS, PARKS & REC.
Linda Koontz
1426 West 29th Street
Indianapolis, IN. 46208
317-924-9151

KANSAS

HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY GARDENS
Reno County Extension Service
P.O. Box 948
Hutchinson, KS. 67504
316-662-2371

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY GARDENS INC.
Kay Sylvester
1221 Thurston
Manhattan, KS. 66502
913-532-5866

ECKAN INC.
Gloria Crane
111 W. Second St. Box 110
Ottawa, KS. 66067
913-242-7515

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS
Charlotte Kahn
33 Harrison Avenue, 5th Fl.
Boston, MA. 02116
617-423-7497

MASS. DEPT. OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
Judy Heiman
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA. 02202
617-727-6632

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE
U. of Mass. Downtown
100 Arlington St.
Boston, MA. 02125
617-482-9258

ARNOLD ARBORETUM
Carlton Barry
22 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA. 02138
617-524-1718

MICHIGAN

PROJECT GROW INC.
Cindy Donahey
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI. 48107
313-996-3169

FEAT FOUNDATION
939 Mott Foundation Bldg.
Flint, MI. 48502
312-239-0341

GENESEE COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

Gail Budnick
G-4215 W. Pasadena Ave.
Flint, MI. 48504
313-732-1474

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING

David Houseman
101 N. Pine St./Box 30026
Lansing, MI. 48909
517-373-7874

MINNESOTA

DULUTH PLANT-A-LOT PROGRAM
Carol Heinz
2400 Minnesota Ave.
Duluth, MN. 55802
218-722-6426

SELF RELIANCE CENTER

Rick Bolender
1916 2nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN. 55403
612-870-4255

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS URBAN GARDENING PROGRAM
Ann Rackers
724 North Union St.
St. Louis, MO. 63108
314-367-2585

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Steven Frowine
P.O. Box 299
St. Louis, MO. 63166
314-577-5100

NORTH CAROLINA

MAGIC, INC.
Peter Youngblood
15 Terrace Rd.
Asheville, NC. 28801
704-258-0593

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

I. Robertson
P.O. Box 5014
Swannanda, NC. 28778
704-298-3325

NEW JERSEY

FRIENDS OF FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM
Helen Hesselgrave
Box 1295R
Morristown, NJ. 07960
201-285-6166

ISLES INC.

E. Johnson
204 West State Street
Trenton, NJ. 08608
609-393-7153

NEW YORK

CITY OF ALBANY COMM. GARDENS PROGRAM
Patricia Marsolais
City Hall - 3rd Fl.
Albany, NY. 12207
518-462-8721

BRONX FRONTIER DEVP. CORP.
Kim Schwab
1080 Leggett Ave.
Bronx, NY. 10474
212-542-4640

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
John Reed
Southern Blvd.
Bronx, NY. 10458
212-220-8728

NYC DEPT. OF GENERAL SERVICES
Operation Green Thumb
Ken Davies
49 Chambers St. Rm. 1020
New York, NY. 10007
212-233-2926

THE GREEN GUERRILLAS INC.
Tessa Huxley
417 Lafayette St.
New York, NY. 10003
212-674-8124

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN
Cindy Olson
1000 Washington Ave.
Brooklyn, NY. 11225
212-622-4433

N.E. WESTCHESTER SPECIAL REC. INC.
Deborah Rozelle
63 Bradhurst Ave.
Hawthorne, NY. 10532
914-347-4409

ITHACA COMMUNITY GARDENS
Project Growing Hope
Kristina Elmstrom
101 N. Geneva Street
Ithaca, NY. 14850
607-272-3040

CORNELL COOP. EXTENSION
Urban Gardening Program
Charles Mazza
15 East 26th Street
New York, NY. 10006
212-587-9730

COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Liz Christy
51 Chambers Street Rm. 228
New York, NY. 10007
212-566-0990

NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN SPACE COALITION
Tom Fox
72 Reade St.
New York, NY. 10007
212-513-7555

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND INC.
Lisa Cashdan
254 West 31st St.
New York, NY. 10001
212-563-5959

CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY GARDENS
Paul Winkeller
Box 1296
Troy, NY. 12181
518-274-8685

GARDEN WAY, INC.
J. Madden
102nd Street & 9th Ave.
Troy, NY. 12180
518-235-6010

WHITE PLAINS PARKS & RECREATION
Margaret Carter
White Plains, NY. 10605
914-682-4336

OHIO

CIVIC GARDEN CENTER OF CINCINNATI
Karen Bess
2715 Reading Rd.
Cincinnati, OH. 45206
513-221-0991

GARDEN CENTER OF CLEVELAND
E. McCurdy
11030 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH. 44106
216-721-1600

OREGON

ASHLAND COMMUNITY GARDENS
John King
289 Palm
Ashland, OR. 97520
503-482-0582

CITY OF BEAVERTON
David Bailey
4950 S.W. Hall Blvd.
Beaverton, OR. 97005
503-644-2191

PENNSYLVANIA

RODALE PRESS INC.
David Widenmyer
33 East Minor St.
Emmaus, PA. 18049
215-967-5171

MORRIS ARBORETUM
Dr. Ann F. Rhoads
9414 Meadowbrook Ave.
Philadelphia, PA. 19118
215-247-5777

PENN STATE URBAN GARDEN
Libby Goldstein
5799 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19141
215-276-5182

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
 Pennsylvania Hort. Society
 J. Blaine Bonham Jr.
 325 Walnut St.
 Philadelphia, PA. 19106
 215-625-8283

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY
 COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM
 Jeff Gerson
 316 Fourth Ave., 18th Fl.
 Pittsburgh, PA. 15222
 412-288-2777

GAP'S ASSOCIATION
 Frank Depaola
 c/o 3rd and Spruce
 Reading, PA. 19602
 215-320-6108

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOUNDATION
 S. Wachtel
 P.O. Box 70
 Sellersville, PA. 18960
 215-257-4131

SOUTH CAROLINA
 ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 Earnest Adams
 P.O. Box 2207
 Greenville, S.C. 29602
 803-242-1250

SOUTH DAKOTA
 CITY OF BROOKINGS PARKS & RECREATION
 Allyn Frerichs
 Brookings, S.D. 57006
 605-692-2708

TENNESSEE
 CHRIST CHAPEL COMMUNITY GARDENS
 John Corsaro-Hofer
 1015 Cedar Lane
 Knoxville, TN. 37912
 615-688-5532

TEXAS
 AUSTIN COMMUNITY GARDENS
 Eleanor Mc Kinney
 2330 Guadalupe
 Austin, TX. 78705
 512-472-9246

TRAVIS COUNTY FARMERS MARKET
 Victor Von Zur Muehlen
 1708 E. 38th St.
 Austin, TX. 78722
 512-458-2009

VIRGINIA
 RESTON HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION
 Nancy Herwig
 1930 Isaac Newton Square
 Reston, VA. 22090
 703-437-9580

VERMONT
 GARDENS FOR ALL INC.
 Larry Sommers
 180 Flynn Ave.
 Burlington, VT. 05401
 802-863-1308

WASHINGTON
 CITY OF PULLMAN PARKS AND REC.
 Alan J. Davis
 P.O. Box 249
 Pullman, WA. 99163
 509-334-505

ALLEN MORRIS HILLSIDE PARK
 c/o Neighborhood House
 Rebecca Sandinsky
 905 Spruce St.
 Seattle, WA. 98104
 206-447-4520

INNER CITY SELF HELP PROGRAM
 Jean Colman
 722 18th Avenue
 Seattle, WA. 98122
 206-324-0500

WISCONSIN
 DANE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION
 Tom Butler
 1045 E. Dayton Rm. 308
 Madison, WI. 53703
 608-266-9730

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION
 SHOOT'S'N ROOTS URBAN GARDENING
 Steve Brachman
 929 N. Sixth St.
 Milwaukee, WI. 53202
 414-224-4866

WYOMING
 CHEYENNE COMMUNITY SOLAR GREENHOUSE
 COMMUNITY ACTION OF LARAMIE CO.
 Shane Smith
 3714 Whitney Road
 Cheyenne, WY. 82001
 307-635-9340

Bibliography – Gardening Resources

A GARDEN GUIDE

Huxley, Tessa, and Tom Fox; Bronx Frontier Development Corporation, 1080 Leggett Ave., Bronx, NY 10474

A HANDBOOK OF COMMUNITY GARDENING
Boston Urban Gardeners, Ed. by S. Naimark
Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY
1982

AVANT GARDNER, THE
Powell, Thomas & Betty
Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA
1975

BALL BLUE BOOK, THE GUIDE TO HOMECANNING
AND FREEZING
Ball Corporation
Muncie, Indiana 47302

BASIC BOOK OF ORGANIC GARDENING
Rodale, R., Ed.
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049

BEAUTIFUL FOOD GARDEN, THE
Gessert, Kate Rogers
Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York, NY
1983

BIO-GARDENER'S BIBLE — HOW TO BUILD A
SUPER-FERTILE GARDEN
Fryer, Lee
Chilton Book Co., Radnor, PA 19089
1982

BOOK OF VEGETABLE GARDENING, THE NEW
YORK TIMES
Faust, Joan Lee
Quadrangle/New York Times, New York, NY
1975

BEAUTIFUL SOLAR GREENHOUSE: A GUIDE TO
YEAR-ROUND FOOD PRODUCTION
Smith, Shane
John Muir Publications, Santa Fe, NM 87501
1982

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN — HANDBOOK
SERIES
1000 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225

BUILDING AND USING COLD FRAMES (GARDEN
WAY BULLETIN A-39)
Siegchrist, Charles
Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, VT 05445
1980

CARING FOR TREES ON CITY STREETS
Edwards, Joan
Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY
1975

CITY GREEN — THE URBAN GARDENING
PROGRAM IN PHILADELPHIA
Goldstein, Libby J., Pennsylvania State
Cooperative Extensions
5799 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19141
1979

CITY GREENHOUSE BOOK
Chappel, Paige, Center for Neighborhood
Technology,
570 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60606
1980

CITY PEOPLE'S BOOK OF RAISING FOOD, THE
Olkowski, Helga & William Olkowski
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1975

CITY TREES, COUNTRY TREES (A SCHOOL
CURRICULUM)
Environmental Action Coalition
417 LaFayette St., New York, NY 10003
1980

COMMUNITY GARDEN BOOK, THE
Summers, Larry
Gardens For All
180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT
1984

COMMUNITY GARDENING
Davies, John O.
Gardens For All, Burlington, VT 05401
1977

CROCKETT'S VICTORY GARDEN
Crockett, James Underwood
Little, Brown & Co., Boston, MA
1977

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ORGANIC GARDENING
Organic Gardening Magazine
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1978

FARMING IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT
Fleigel, Frederick, et al.
University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment
Station, Urbana, IL
1979

FOOD AND HEAT PRODUCING SOLAR
GREENHOUSE
Fisher, Yanda
John Muir Publications, Santa Fe, NM 87501
1976

FRUIT: THE SIMON AND SCHUSTER STEP-BY-STEP
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PRACTICAL GARDENING
Baker, Harry
Simon and Schuster, New York, NY 10020
1980

FRUITS AND BERRIES FOR THE HOME GARDENER
Hill, Lewis
Garden Way Publications, Charlotte, VT 05445
1977

GARDEN BLOCKS FOR URBAN AMERICA
Bush-Brown, Louise
Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY
1969

GARDENER'S GUIDE TO BETTER SOIL
Logsdon, Gene
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1975

GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA
Wyman, Donald
MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, NY
1971

GARDENING FOR FOOD & FUN

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC
1977

GARDENING FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED & ELDERLY

Chaplin, Mary
Available from Gardens For All, Burlington, VT
1978

GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES

Miller, Michael
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY
1984

GARDENING PAINS? (GARDEN TOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED)

Berkshire Garden Center, Inc.
Stockbridge, MA
1981

GROUND COVER PLANTS

Wyman, Donald
Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, NY
1973

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE HANDBOOK (3RD ED.)

Conover, Herbert S.
McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, NY
1977

GROWING AND DECORATING WITH GRASSES

Loewer, H. Peter
Walker & Co., New York, NY
1977

GROWING FOOD & FLOWERS IN CONTAINERS

Flanagan, Ted
Garden Way Publishing Co., Burlington, VT
1973

GROWING WITH COMMUNITY GARDENING

Coe, Mary Lee
The Countryman Press, Taftsville, VT
1978

GROWING YOUR OWN VEGETABLES

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC
1977

GUIDE TO FOOD DRYING

Hobson, Phyllis
Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, VT 05440
1980

HOW TO GROW MORE VEGETABLES

Jeavons, John
Ten Speed Press, P.O. Box 7123, Berkeley, CA 94707
1979

INSECTS & DISEASES IN THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sherf, A.F., & A.A. Muka
New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University
Ithaca, NY
1964

INTENSIVE GARDENING ROUND THE YEAR

Doscher, Fisher, Kolb
Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT 05301
1981

JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

The American Community Gardening Association, P.O. Box 93147,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203

KEEPING THE HARVEST

Mead, Thurber
Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, VT 05445
1976

LANDSCAPE GARDENING

Crockett, James Underwood
Time-Life Books, New York, NY
1971

LEAD IN THE SOIL, A GARDENER'S HANDBOOK

Tsen, Alice E., Suffolk County Extension Service
University of Massachusetts, 100 Arlington St., Boston MA 02125
1979

LET IT ROT

Campbell, Stu
Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, VT 05445
1975

MODERN AMERICAN HERBAL, A (VOL. 2) — USEFUL HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Dugdale, Chester B.
A.S. Barnes & Co., New York, NY
1978

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN, THE

Corning, Elizabeth P.
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY
1967

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPOSTING

IN NEW YORK CITY

Christy, Liz, and Douglas Daly
Council on the Environment
New York, NY 10007
1978

NEXT WHOLE EARTH CATALOG —

ACCESS TO TOOLS
Brand, Stewart, Ed.
Co-Evolution Quarterly, Box 428, Sausalito, CA
1982

NURSERY SOURCE GUIDE — A HANDBOOK

McGourty, Fredrick, Jr., Ed.
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225
1977

NUTS FOR THE FOOD GARDENER

Riotte, Louise
Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, VT 05445

ORGANIC ORCHARDING

Logsdon, Gene
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049

ORGANIC PLANT PROTECTION

Yepson, Roger B., Jr.
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1976

ORGANIC PLANT PROTECTION — A
COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE

Yepsen, Roger B., Jr.
Rodale Press, Inc., Emmaus, PA 18049
1976

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Meyer, Mary H.
Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY
1975

PARK/GARDEN MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Alexandra Christy; New York City
Neighborhood Open Space Coalition
110 W. 34th St., New York, NY 10001
1983

PERENNIALS

Crockett, James Underwood
Time-Life Books, New York, NY
1972

RODALE GUIDE TO COMPOSTING

Minnich, Jerry, & Marjorie Hunt
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1982

RODALE'S COLOR HANDBOOK OF
GARDEN INSECTS

Carr, Anna
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1979

ROSES

Crockett, James Underwood
Time-Life Books, New York, NY
1978

Rx FOR WOUNDED TREES

Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, DC
1976

SECRETS OF COMPANION PLANTING FOR
SUCCESSFUL GARDENING

Riotte, Louise
Garden Way Publishing Co., Charlotte, VT
1975

SELF SUFFICIENT GARDENER

Seymour, John
Dolphin Books, Doubleday & Co.,
Garden City, NYS
1978

SOLAR GREENHOUSE BOOK

McCullagh, James C., Ed.
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1978

SOMETHING FOR THE TREES ... SOMETHING
FOR THE CITY (14 MINUTE COLOR FILM)

Produced by the Environmental Action Coalition
Available from EAC at 417 Lafayette St., New
York, NY 10003

SOURCE BOOK FOR SHADE TREE MANAGEMENT

Nelson, Eileen, Ed.
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
1980

STOCKING UP

Stoner, Carol Hopping
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1977

STREET TREES FOR METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

Berrang, P. & D.E. Karnosky; New York Botanical
Garden, Institute for Urban Horticulture, Carey
Arboretum, Millbrook, NY 12545

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING IN THE SHADE

Van Pelt Wilson, Helen
Doubleday & Co. Inc., New York, NY
1975

WAR GARDEN VICTORIOUS, THE, ITS WAR TIME
NEED AND ITS ECONOMIC VALUE IN PEACE

Charles Lothrop Pack
J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, PA
1919

THEORY G: THE EMPLOYEE GARDENING BOOK

Sommers, Larry
Gardens for All
180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT
1984

TREE CROPS — A PERMANENT AGRICULTURE

Smith, J. Russell
Devin-Adair Co., Old Greenwich, CT 06870
1977

TREE MAINTENANCE

Pirone, P.P.
Oxford University Press, New York, NY
1974

TREES FOR AMERICAN GARDENS

Wyman, Donald
Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, NY
1974

TREES HURT TOO

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service,
Washington, DC

URBAN FORESTERS NOTEBOOK

Little, Silas, Ed.
Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, DC
1978

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

Crockett, James Underwood
Time-Life Books, New York, NY
1972

WILD GARDEN, THE —

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO WEEDS
De Bray, Lys
Mayflower Books, Inc., New York, NY
1978

WORMS EAT MY GARBAGE

Appelhof, Mary
Flower Press, Kalamazoo, MI 49002
1982

YOUTH GARDENING BOOK, A COMPLETE GUIDE
FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS & YOUTH LEADERS

Ocone, Lynn
Gardens For All, Burlington, VT 05401
1983

Bibliography – Organizational Resources

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO MAINTAINING NEIGHBORHOOD PLACES

Carney, William, The Trust for Public Land
National Park Service, Dept. of Interior,
Washington, DC
1980

A CITY GARDENER'S GUIDE

Boston Urban Gardeners
33 Harrison Ave., 5th Floor, Boston MA 02111
1982

A GUIDE TO MOBILIZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers in Technical Assistance, Inc.
Mt. Rainier, Maryland
1978

A HANDBOOK OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

Boston Urban Gardeners, Ed. by S. Naimark
Charles Scribner & Sons, New York, NY
1982

BRINGING HOME THE BACON: SCHOOL GARDENS & HOME CAREERS IN URBAN FARMING

Smith, John
Rancho Vejar, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
1980

CHILDREN'S GARDENS: A FIELD GUIDE FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Bremner and Pusey
Common Ground Garden Program, Los Angeles,
CA 90015
1982

CHILDREN'S HORTICULTURE (HANDBOOK #105)

Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225

CITIZEN ACTION GUIDES

Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Washington, DC
20007

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCAL BUDGET PROCESS

Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, DC
20007 1978

CITY STREETS — A GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR BLOCK MORE LIVELY & MORE LIVABLE

Grozier, M. & R. Roberts
Council on the Environment, New York, NY
10007 1973

COMMUNITY GARDEN BOOK, THE

Sommers, Larry
Gardens For All, 180 Flynn Ave.,
Burlington, VT 05401
1984

COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE

Francis, Cashdan & Paxson
Island Press Covelo, CA. 95428
1984

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DESIGN

Fox, Tom and Tessa Huxley
Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Washington, DC
1979

COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE BOOK FOR NEIGHBORHOOD REVIVAL

Community Associations Institute
1832 M St., NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC
20036
1979

CORNUCOPIA PROJECT NEWSLETTER, THE

Cornucopia Project, The

33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049
DEVELOPING SKILLS IN PROPOSAL WRITING
Hall, Mary
Continuing Education Publications, Portland, OR

FARMERS MARKET INFORMATION KIT

Greenmarket
120 E. 16th St., New York, NY 10003

FOUNDATION DIRECTORY

Foundation Center, The
79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10036

FOUNDATIONS: A HANDBOOK

National Park Service
Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC
1979

FUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc.
3 W. 29th St., New York, NY 10001
1983

FUNDRAISING

National Park Service
Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC
1979

GARDENING WITH KIDS

MacLatchie, Sharon
Rodale Press, Inc., Emmaus, PA
1977

GRASSROOTS FUNDRAISING BOOK: HOW TO RAISE MONEY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Flanagan, Joan
Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL 60601
1977

GRASSROOTS FUNDRAISING JOURNAL

Klein, Kim, Lisa Honig
Grassroots Fundraising, San Francisco, CA 94114

GREEN SPACES IN CITY PLACES

(A SCHOOL CURRICULUM)
Environmental Action Coalition
417 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10003
1974

H.C.R.S. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT WORKBOOK

National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior
Pension Bldg., 440 G St., NW, Washington, DC
20243
1978

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY FOR SENIOR CENTERS, NURSING HOMES, RETIREMENT LIVING

Rothert, E.A., Jr., J.R. Daubert
Chicago Horticultural Society, Glencoe, IL

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE YOUR COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES?

National Park Services (DOI) & Urban Land Institute
Washington, DC 20243
1978

HOW TO START A SCHOOL GARDENING PROGRAM — LESSON PLANS

Wotowiec, Peter J.
Gardens For All, Inc., Norwalk, CT
1975

JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

The American Community Gardening Association, P.O. Box 93147,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

LAND INVENTORY HANDBOOK

Trust for Public Land, The
254 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001
1980

MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING: RESOURCES FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

MacGregor, Davis
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
1717 18th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20007

NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE PRIMER

Trust for Public Land, The
254 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001
1983

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKBOOK

Center for Neighborhood Technology
570 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60606

THE NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT MANUAL

Council of New York Law Associates, The
36 W. 44th St., New York, NY 10036
1978

NEW YORK SELF-HELP HANDBOOK: A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Carlson, Karin
Citizens Committee for New York City
3 W. 29th St., New York, NY 10001
1977

NO BOSSES HERE, A MANUAL FOR WORKING COLLECTIVELY AND COOPERATIVELY

Vocations for Social Change
P.O. Box 211, Essex Station, Boston, MA 02112

ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Cooperative Extension Service
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
1977

PARK/GARDEN MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Alexandra Christy; New York City
Neighborhood Open Space Coalition
72 Reade St., Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10007

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONTROL

Francis, M., Ed.
CUNY Center for Human Environments
33 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036
1979

PLANT A TREE FOR ARBOR DAY (A SCHOOL CURRICULUM)

Environmental Action Coalition
417 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10003

RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR FUNDING AND MANAGING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
250 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017

SOMETHING FOR THE TREES ... SOMETHING FOR THE CITY (14 MINUTE COLOR FILM)

Environmental Action Coalition
417 LaFayette St., New York, NY 10003

SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Flanagan, Joan
Contemporary Books, Inc., Chicago, IL 60601

THE GRANTSEEKER'S GUIDE: A DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECTS

Shellow, Jill
National Network of Grantmakers, Chicago, IL 60611

THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR

WRITE PROPOSALS
Mitiguy, Nancy,
Citizen Involvement Training Project
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

THEORY G: THE EMPLOYEE GARDENING BOOK

Sommers, Larry
Gardens For All, 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT
1984

VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

Recreation Resources Division, National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, DC 20240
1978

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

Cimarosa, Patricia Sellow
The Parks Council
457 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022
1979

WORKING TOGETHER: A GUIDE FOR HELPING GROUPS WORK EFFECTIVELY

Giagi, Bob
Citizen Involvement Training Project
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003
1978

YOUTH GARDENING BOOK, A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS & YOUTH LEADERS

Ocone, Lynn
Gardens For All, Burlington, VT 05401
1983

YOUTHBOOK: MODELS AND RESOURCES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD USE

Allen, Patricia
Citizen's Committee for New York City
3 W. 29th St., New York, NY 10001 1980

ORGANIZING A LOCAL CORNUCOPIA PROJECT:

A Manual for Changing Your Food System
Hollander, Helene
The Cornucopia Project
33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, Pennsylvania 11049
1982

Bibliography – Site Design Resources

A HANDBOOK OF SELF-RELIANT LIVING
Szykitka, Walter, Public Works
Links Publishing: Quick Fox, 33 W.60th St.
New York, NY
1974

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS
Bengtsson, Arvid
Praeger Publishers, New York, NY

ANATOMY OF A PARK: THE ESSENTIALS OF
RECREATION ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING &
DESIGN
Rutledge, A.
McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, NY
1971

BARRIER-FREE SITE DESIGN
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC
1977

BUILD IT BETTER YOURSELF
Hylton, William, Ed.
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1977

BUILD YOUR OWN PLAYGROUND
Beckwith, J. & J. Hewes
Houghton-Mifflin, San Francisco, CA
1975

BUILDING AND EQUIPPING THE GARDEN AND
SMALL FARM WORKSHOP
Burch, Monte
Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte VT 05445
1979

COMPLETE BOOK OF EDIBLE LANDSCAPING
Creasy, Rosalind
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA 94108
1982

DESIGN ELEMENTS IN SOLAR GROW FRAMES AND
HORT. ADAPTATIONS FOR THEIR WINTER USE
Mathews, Flower, Ganser, Weinstein
Organic Gardening Research Center, Emmaus, PA
1981

DESIGN FOR PLAY
Dattner, Richard
MIT Press, Cambridge, MA
1974

EDIBLE CITY RESOURCE MANUAL
Britz, Richard, et al.
William Kaufman, Inc., Los Altos CA 94022
1981

EL BARRIO STUDY—PHASE I
City of Dallas Planning Dept.
City Hall, Dallas, TX 75201

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FOR CHILDREN'S
PLAY
Bengtsson, Arvid
Praeger Publishers, Inc., New York, NY
1970

EQUIPMENT FOR PARKS AND AMENITY AREAS
AG-HO Service Co.
615 Merchant St., Suite G, Vacaville, CA 95688
1981

GROWING COMMUNITY GARDENS: IDEAS,
DESIGNS, AND RESOURCES FOR THE CITY
Boston Urban Gardeners
33 Harrison Ave., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111
1981

HANDCRAFTED PLAYGROUNDS
Friedberg, M. Paul
Random House, New York, NY
1975

INTEGRAL URBAN HOUSE
Olkowski, Olkowski, Javits, & Farallones Institute
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA 94108
1979

MAKE YOUR BACKYARD MORE
INTERESTING THAN T.V.
Beckwith, Jay
McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, NY
1980

NATURAL LANDSCAPING — DESIGNING WITH
NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES
Diekelmann, John & Robert Schuster
McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, NY
1982

OFF THE BOARD/INTO THE GROUND —
TECHNIQUES OF PLANTING DESIGN
IMPLEMENTATION
Robinette, Gary O.
Kendall/Hunt Publ. Co., Dubuque, Iowa
1968

OPERATION GREENTHUMB — PLANNING
MANUAL FOR DOING A LOT
Steer, Helen
Dept. of General Services, GreenThumb
51 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007

OUTDOOR EDUCATION EQUIPMENT — PLANS
FOR EASY-TO-MAKE ITEMS
Bachert, R.E., & E.L. Snooks
Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Illinois
1974

PARTICIPATORY DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND
MAINTENANCE
Trust for Public Land, The
254 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001
1980

PERMACULTURE (BOOKS ONE AND TWO)
Mollison, Bill, David Holmgren
International Tree Crops Institute, Winters, CA
1979

PLAN AND MAKE YOUR OWN FENCES, GATES,
WALKWAYS, WALLS AND DRIVES
Proulx, E. Annie
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA 18049
1982

PLANNING FOR PLAY
Lady Allen of Hurtwood
MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.
1974

PLAYGROUNDS FOR CITY CHILDREN

Friedberg, M. Paul
Association for Childhood Education
International, Washington, D.C.
1968

PLAYGROUNDS FOR FREE

Hogan, Paul
MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.
1975

SELF-RELIANT LIVING IN THE CITY

Farallones Institute, Integral Urban House
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA
1981

THE DESIGN OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Brower, Sidney
Baltimore City Planning Commission,
Baltimore, MD
1977

TREES FOR ARCHITECTURE & THE LANDSCAPE

Zion, Robert L.
Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York, N.Y.
1968

U.S. ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND REPORT

American Adventure Play Association
P.O. Box 31686, San Francisco, CA 94131

URBAN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Eckbo, Garrett
McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, N.Y.
1964

Bibliography – Urban Land Use and Design

A BIOGRAPHY OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
(F.L.O.)

Roper, Laura Wood
Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD
1973

A GUIDE TO LAND USE DECISION-MAKING

Cook, Ernest, Ed.
The Trust for Public Land, 254 W. 31st St.
New York, NY 10001
1980

A STANDARD MUNICIPAL TREE ORDINANCE: WITH

STANDARD ARBORICULTURAL SPECIFICATIONS
Neely, Dan, Ed., E.B. Himelick, Special Adviser
International Shade Tree Conference, Urbana, IL
1972

ABSTRACTS OF URBAN FORESTRY — RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS

Rowntree, Rowan A. & Wolfe, Judith L.,
Compilers U.S.D.A. Forest
Service General Technical Report
1980

CENTRAL PARK WORKBOOK — ACTIVITIES FOR AN
URBAN PARK

Finkelstein, R.J., & Central Park Task Force Staff
Central Park Conservancy, 830 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10021
1980

CHILDREN, NATURE & THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

— PROCEEDINGS OF A SYMPOSIUM
Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, DC
1977

CITIZEN'S ACTION MANUAL: A GUIDE TO
RECYCLING VACANT PROPERTY

Bolton, C. & The Trust for Public Land
U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service,
Washington, DC
1980

CITY FARMS: USING URBAN WASTELAND IN
TOWNS AND CITIES

Inter-Action Advisory Service
The Service, London, England
1977

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST HANDBOOK

Institute for Community Economics
151 Montague City Road, Greenfield, MA 01301
1982

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO LAND DEVELOPMENT
CONFLICTS

Cook, Ernest, Ed.
Trust for Public Land, 254 W. 31st St.
New York, NY 10001
1981

DESIGN WITH NATURE

McHarg, Ian L.
Doubleday, New York, NY
1971

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Dober, Richard P. (AIP)
Robert E. Krieger Pub. Co., New York, NY
1975

EXCHANGE (A QUARTERLY JOURNAL)
Land Trust Exchange, The
3 Joy St., Boston MA 02108

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED & THE AMERICAN
ENVIRONMENTAL TRADITION
Fein, Albert

George Braziller, New York, NY
1972

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S NEW YORK
Barlow, Elizabeth
Praeger Publishers, New York, NY
1972

GRANITE GARDEN:
URBAN NATURE AND HUMAN DESIGN
Spirn, Anne Whiston
Basic Books, 10 E. 53rd St., New York 10022
1984

HOW TREES HELP CLEAN THE AIR
Riddle, Jane
Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, DC
1977

LAND CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION
TECHNIQUES
Timothy Fox
U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service,
Washington, DC
1979

COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES
Francis Cashdan, Paxson
Island Press, Covelo, CA 95428
1984

NATIONAL URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE —
VOL. 1
Hopkins, George, Ed.
Syracuse, NY: College of Environmental Science
and Forestry
1978

NATIONAL URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE —
VOL. II
Hopkins, George, Ed.
Syracuse, NY: College of Environmental Science
and Forestry
1978

NEIGHBORHOOD LAND CONTROL TECHNIQUES
(A SERIES)
Trust for Public Land, The
254 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001
1980

NEIGHBORHOOD LAND REVITALIZATION MANUAL
Trust for Public Land, The
National Park Service, Recreation Resources
Division, Washington, DC
1981

NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE

Hester, Jr., Randolph T.
Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross, Stroudsburg, PA
1975

NEW DIRECTIONS IN FARM, LAND AND FOOD
POLICIES
Agricultural Project, The
Conference on Alternative State and Local
Policies
1980

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITY IN
AMERICA'S INNER CITIES
Dunn, Diana
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development,
Washington, DC
1974

OPEN SPACES: THE LIFE OF AMERICAN CITIES
Heckscher, A., with P. Robinson
Harper & Row, New York, NY
1977

PLANTS, PEOPLE, & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Robinette, Gary O.
U.S. Dept. of Interior, National Park Service
1972

PRATT GUIDE TO PLANNING & RENEWAL FOR
NEW YORKERS
Alpern, Robert
Quadrangle/N.Y. Times Book Co.,
New York, NY
1973

PRIVATE OPTIONS: TOOLS AND CONCEPTS FOR
LAND CONSERVATION
Montana Land Reliance, Land Trust Exchange
Island Press, Star Rt. 1, Box 38, Lovelo, CA 95428
1982

PROPOSED COMPOSITING STRATEGY
Lowe, Robert, & Conrad Lee
Recycling & Resource Recovery Program,
Seattle, WA
1980

RESPONDING TO THE URBAN CHALLENGE: THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN NEW YORK CITY
Mackintosh, E., N. Plakins, J. Ullman, E. Wise
Council on the Environment, New York, NY
10007
1972

SAMPLE CITY TREE ORDINANCE (KANSAS)
Nighswonger, J.J., Cooperative Extension Service
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas
1981

THE LAND TRUST MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK
Stone, A., The Trust for Public Land
254 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001
1982

THE POWER BROKER: ROBERT MOSES AND THE
FALL OF NEW YORK
Caro, Robert A.
Vintage Books, Division of Random House, New
York, NY
1975

"THE REGREENING OF URBAN AMERICA" (Article)
Mitchell, J.
Audubon (Magazine, March 1978, pp. 27-32)
1978

THE URBAN ORGANISM — THE CITY'S NATURAL
RESOURCES ...
Havlick, Spenser W.
Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY
1974

TREES FOR URBAN PARKS — GUIDE FOR
... NORTH EAST CITIES
Division of Natural Sciences Research/Resources
Management
National Park Service, Philadelphia, PA
1982

TREES IN URBAN DESIGN
Arnold, Henry F.
Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York, NY
1980

URBAN FORESTRY: A BIBLIOGRAPHY
Albrecht, J. & P.J. Weicherding
University of Minnesota
1983

URBAN LAND BANKING (BIBLIOGRAPHY)
Michniewicz, Claudia M.
Council of Planning Librarians, Chicago IL
1979

URBAN OPEN SPACES
Cooper-Hewitt Museum
Rizzoli, 712 Fifth Ave., New York, NY
1981

URBAN PARKS & RECREATION:
CHALLENGE OF THE 1970's
Community Council of Greater New York
225 Park Ave., New York, NY 10003
1972

EMPTY BREADBASKET?
The Cornucopia Project
33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, PA 18049
1981

THE NEW YORK STATE FOOD SYSTEM
Growing Closer To Home
Messing, Patricia
The Cornucopia Project
1981

FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION IN
KNOXVILLE
Graduate School of Planning
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee
1982

Index

A

American Community Gardening Association 62
Apple Computer Network 55, 71
Astor Foundation, The Vincent 26, 83

B

Botanic Gardens 22
Bronx Frontier Development Corporation 19-20, 51, 57, 58, 59, 127, 132

C

Carthan, Hattie v, 2, 11, 22
Chase Manhattan Bank, The 26, 54
Citizen's Committee of New York 25, 57, 126, 132
SNAP program 25
Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your Neighborhood 25, 43, 117, 130
Clinton Community Garden 9, 25, 35, 39
Community Development Block Grants 77
Con Edison 11, 26, 37
Cornell Cooperative Extension 16-19, 35, 59, 97, 104, 111, 126, 130
Council on the Environment of New York City 17, 25, 38, 54, 57, 58, 126, 132, 140

D

Division of Real Property 31, 35, 38, 87
Dome Project, The, 22, 35
Sample Project Profile 126

E

El Sol Brillante Community Garden 33, 44, 45

F

Federal Works Project Administration 5
Friends of the Parks 21, 51, 90, 92

G

Gardens and Parks, Community
acreage of, 67, 68
capital investment in, 71
children and, 10, 11
community development funding in, 79, 85
community input in, 10, 45, 47, 97, 105, 108
corporations in 81
costs of, 70, 115
during depression, 5

education in, 10-11, 80, 103
environmental protection and, 10
examples of, 126-131
food in, 5, 47, 61, 71, 73, 103
funding for, 25-26
immigration and, 3-5
inventory of, 65, 65, 89-127
listing of, 142-149
long term leasing and, 33
motivations for, 68-69
neighborhood revitalization and, 6, 43, 68, 69, 103
non-profits and, 79-81
numbers of, 67
ownership and, 109-110
people involved in, 67
real-estate values and, 2, 7, 9, 10, 22, 27, 31-34
recreation and, 6, 70, 71, 103, 104
sanitation and, 80
size of, 67
soil in, 17-19, 35, 71, 73
sponsorship and, 107-108
sweat equity in, 71, 113-115, 119
taxes and, 44, 50
vandalism and, 44
water in, 73
youth and, 45-47
zoning and, 58
Getaway National Recreation Area 23, 140
Group-Live-In-Experience (GLIE) 21
Green Guerillas, The 3, 15, 16, 21, 35, 38, 112, 132, 140
Green Thumb, Operation 6, 9, 31, 33, 35, 38, 44, 51, 59, 71, 73, 78, 84, 97, 108, 111, 116, 127, 128, 132, 140

H

Hecksher, August 70, 77, 84, 87
Horticultural Society 22, 126, 127, 132
Housing Conservation Coordinators 25, 35, 132, 140

K

Kaplan Fund, The J.M. 26
Koch, Mayor Ed 37, 39, 58, 86, 87

L

Land Trusts 9, 34, 80, 131
Lindsay, Mayor John 7, 21, 70, 71, 77

M

Magnolia Tree Earth Center 2, 22, 35, 140
Moses, Robert 70, 71, 84

N

- National Victory Garden Program 5
- Neighborhood Open Space Coalition VII 2-3, 51, 85-86, 126, 132
- History 52-58
- Board 59, 60
- Reasons for 61-63
- New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development 33, 39, 44, 51, 53, 77, 97, 108, 116, 117, 129, 132
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation 70, 80, 86
- New York City Open Space Task Force 9, 58, 85, 86
- New York City Street Tree Consortium 22, 112, 140

O

- Oneonta Laboratory for Computer Graphics and Spatial Analysis 71, 135
- Open Spaces (see also Gardens and Parks, Community)
- fiscal crisis and 21, 25, 51, 6., 97
- introduction to vii
- New York City and 9, 15, 58, 67-87

P

- Parks, Community (see Gardens and Parks, Community)
- Parks Council, The 21-22, 51, 70, 140

Q

- Queens Botanical Senior Garden Project Profile 130

R

- Revson Foundation, The Charles H., iii, v
- Ruppert Green 2, 35, 38, 59

S

- Serpentine Arts and Nature Common Project Profile 131
- South Bronx 19-21, 44, 51, 117
- Sumpter Street Garden Project Profile 128

T

- Trust for Public Land, The 3, 9, 20, 39, 44, 57, 140
- Twelfth Street Preschool Playground Project Profile 129

U

- Union Prospect Block Association Garden Project Profile 127
- United States Department of Agriculture 16, 61, 71

Z

- Zeckendorf, Arthur 3

Index of Figures

Fig. 1	Site distribution	93
Fig. 2	Site Locations In Manhattan	94
Fig. 3	Site Locations In the Bronx	94
Fig. 4	Site Locations in Brooklyn	95
Fig. 5	Site Locations in Queens	96
Fig. 6	Site Locations in Staten Island	97
Fig. 7	Citywide Site Sizes	98
Fig. 8	Participants/Community Board	106
Fig. 9	Sponsorship type/Number of sites	108
Fig. 10	Ownership/Number of Sites	109
Fig. 11	Ownership/Total Acreage	110
Fig. 12	Site/Development/Citywide before 1976-1982	112
Fig. 13	Ten Year Start Up Rate	112
Fig. 14	Flow Chart of Costs	114
Fig. 15	Initial Capital Costs	117

Index of Tables

Table 1	Site Count	91
Table 2	Excluded Sites by Borough	92
Table 3	Amount of Land	98
Table 4	Number of Sites by Project	99
Table 5	Percent of Vacant-Lot Garden Parks	100
Table 6	Number of Acres by Project Type	100
Table 7	Number of Sites by Land Use	102
Table 8	Number of Sites by Motivation	103
Table 9	Active Participants	105
Table 10	Number of Sites by Sponsoring Org.	107
Table 11	Percent of Sites by Sponsorship	108
Table 12	Number of Sites by Ownership Type	109
Table 13	Number of Acres by Ownership Type	110
Table 14	Cumulative Site Ages (years)	111
Table 15	Number of Site Start-ups by Year	111
Table 16	Summary of Reported Costs	115
Table 17	Initial Capital Costs	116
Table 18	HPD Interim Site Improvement Program Costs	116
Table 19	DGS Green Thumb Costs	117
Table 20	Annual Capital	118
Table 21	Annual and Total Sweat Equity	119
Table 22	Average Participant Hours Worked Per Week	120
Table 23	Annual and Total Maintenance	121
Table 24	Grand Total	122
Table 25	Site Rating Analysis	123
Table 26	Number of Sites Rated by Borough	123
Table 27	Percent of Sites with Ratings of "3" and Above	124

Neighborhood Open Space Coalition Membership

INDIVIDUALS

John Ameroso
Ruth Anderberg
Claire Beckardt
Barry Benepe
Michael Blumenfeld
Hooper Brooks
Lisa Cashdan
Julio Colon
Margaret Corbellini
Raymond Curran
Keith Davis
Ken Davies
Anne Decker
Sylvia Fava
Albert Fein

Grace Fisher
Jack Flanagan
Eugenia Flatow
Michele Forsten
Martin Gallent
Emily Garcia
Rose Gardella
Peter Gilbert
Sally Goodgold
Peter Greenberg
Jane Grundy
Roger Hart
Baruch Himmelstein
Sam Holmes
Harvey Horowitz

Tessa Huxley
Karen Jore
Mary Beth Kelly
Darylynn Kenny
Fred Kent
Lyn Klinger
Peggy Leary
Bob Lewis
Karl Linn
Kathy Madden
Jason Martinelli
Bob McIntosh
Lys McLaughlin
Lynden Miller
Nelson Resto

John Sarson
Marny Smith
David Soles
Barbara Stabin
Paul Stanton
Henry Stern
Shelley Stiles
Barbara Stonecipher
Claire Tankel
Melissa Weber
Jane Weissman
Lee Weintraub
Larry Wood

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

354 S. 4th Street Housing Dev. Fund
500 Taylor & Soundview Block Assoc.
All People's Garden
Alley Pond Environmental Center
Apartment House Institute
Asphalt Green
Audubon Society — NYC Chapter
Better Community Civic Assoc.
Bronx River Restoration
Carroll-Crown Block Assoc.
Cathedral Garden/Urban Bioshelter
Central Holiness Church of God
Civitas
Clinton Avenue Gardening Group
Clinton Community Garden
Coney Island Gospel Assembly
Co-op City Section 1 Comm. Gardens
Creative Little Garden
Crystal Street Wells Block Assoc.
Dome Project
Eagle Street West Block Assoc.
Earth Environmental Group
East Fourth Street Garden Assoc.
East Third Street Block Assoc.
East River Park Amphitheatre
Federation of Laurelton Block Assoc.
Fifth Avenue Committee
Flatbush Development Corp.
Food & Hunger Hotline
The Garden Council
The Garden Group
Garden of Union
G.L.I.E. Farms
Gowanus Canal Community Dev. Corp.

Hell's Kitchen Park & Neighborhood Assoc.
Hope Community, Inc.
Inwood Heights Parks Alliance
John Bowne High School of NYC
John Jay Park Assoc.
Junction College of Organic Garden Assoc.
Kenkeleba House, Inc.
La Guardia Corner Gardens
Linden-Bushwick Block Assoc.
Local Development Corp. of Broadway
Longfellow Better Block Association
Magnolia Tree Earth Center
Mark King Memorial Garden
Martin de Porres Day Care Center
Parque de Tranquilidad
Prospect Park Env. Center
Prospect Avenue Gardens Group
Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
Riverside-Inwood Neighborhood Garden
Rock Greening Assoc.
Serpentine Art & Nature Commons
Southern Queens Parks Assoc.
Sunnyside Gardens Conservancy
Third World Community Garden
Union & Prospect Area Block Assoc.
United Block Assoc.
United East 220-221 St. Block Assoc.
Upper West Side Recycling
Weeksville Society
West 92nd St. 100 Block Assoc.
West Cunningham Park
West Side Community Garden
Wycoff Bond Garden

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance of Women in Architecture
American Society of Landscape Architects, NYC Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
Bronx Frontier Development Corporation
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Central Park Conservancy
Citizens Committee for New York City
Community Council of Greater New York
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Council on the Environment
Environmental Action Coalition

Green Guerillas
Housing Conservation Coordinators
Horticultural Society of New York
Institute for Social Ecology
Municipal Arts Society
New York Botanical Garden
Parks Council
Save the Children
Teachers College — Nutrition Program
Trust for Public Land
We Care About New York, Inc.



72 READE STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007