

greenguerillas

2016 Program Accomplishments

Providing community gardeners the materials they need to produce a bountiful harvest

Spring giveaway: This year we decided to provide a larger supply of vegetable seedlings to a smaller number of community gardens in the spring to really boost the harvest in significant ways. We delivered multiple flats of tomatoes, peppers, beans, okra, eggplants and herbs to:

Central Brooklyn: Hattie Carthan Community Garden, Herban Farm, Shiloh Garden, Feeding Tree Garden, Phoenix Community Garden, Euclid 500 Block Association Garden, Hull Street Community Garden, Greene Acres Community Garden, Tranquility Farm, Hart to Hart Garden, New Vision Garden, Clifton Place Memorial Garden, Vernon & Throop Community Garden, PS 262 Garden, Good Shepherds Garden, T&T Vernon Block Association Garden, Flatbush Community Garden, and Madison Street Block Association Garden. Bronx: River Garden, Garden of Eden, Learning Tree Garden, Neighborhood Advisory Committee Garden, Bainbridge Garden, Jacqueline Denise Davis Garden, Anthony Avenue Garden, Belmont Little Farmers Garden, Sherman Avenue Garden, Tremont Community Garden, 176 Street Community Garden, and Townsend Garden. Harlem: La Perla Garden, Hope Steven Garden, and Frank White, Jr. Memorial Garden.

Season extension giveaway: We provided summer season seedlings to: Herban Farm, Tranquility Farm, Vernon and Throop Garden, Green Acres Community Garden, Hart to Hart Garden, Shiloh Garden, Vernon T&T Garden, and Madison Harvest Garden.

Soil: Green Guerillas delivered several tons of healthy soil to Belmont Little Farmers and Sherman Avenue Garden in the Bronx and Tranquility Farm, Hart to Hart Community Garden, Vernon and Throop Community Garden, and Vernon T&T Garden in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

Helping gardeners make improvements to food-growing community gardens

Clifton Place Memorial Park and Garden (Bedford-Stuyvesant): We helped the Clifton Place gardeners plant up and manage four different vertical growing systems in this large, active food-growing garden as part of our Grow Vertical NYC Campaign. We also provided a large supply of lumber to help them re-build all of the garden's vegetable beds.

Leave it Better Kids Garden, Townsend Garden, and 176th Community Garden (South Bronx) and Hope Steven Garden (Harlem): We provided lumber and soil to these food-growing community gardens to help the gardeners re-build their vegetable beds.

Fundraising for a bountiful harvest

Council District 7: Green Guerillas received funding from Council Member Mark Levine to support uptown Manhattan food-growing community gardens including Hope Steven Garden, Mo Pals Garden, William A Harris Garden, La Perla Garden, and Frank White Memorial Garden.

Council District 14: We received Parks Equity Initiative funding to support South Bronx food-growing community gardens, including Davidson Avenue Garden, 176th Street Community Garden, Townsend Garden, and Leave it Better Kids Garden.

Phoenix Community Garden: We continued to serve as the fiscal sponsor for this large, active food-growing community garden on Fulton Street by helping them manage individual donations and a grant from the Citizens Committee for NYC.

Supporting grassroots land trusts

Bronx and Manhattan Land Trusts: Our executive director and program consultants provided critical organizational assistance to these two grassroots land trusts. We provided services to their 32 members gardens, helped them with property management issues, helped the land trust leaders organize fundraising events, and helped both land trusts obtain pro-bono legal assistance for pressing issues.

Helping the Youth Farm thrive

Green Guerillas helped urban farmers and youth leaders manage a bountiful urban production farm that produced a bountiful harvest of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables for the Crown Heights/East Flatbush community and created service and learning opportunities for dozens of young people.

Creating youth-powered food access: The YF team signed up 25 vegetable CSA members, and managed a weekly farmers market for 2,000 local residents. The market now has products from local businesses like hand-formed bread, small-batch jam, and honey. We hosted weekly market tours and cooking demonstrations for 200 CAMBA food pantry clients. Produce and flower sales to restaurants and flower CSA shares provided revenue to support for our food access work.

Youth Farm Leadership Council: The 8 YLC members met twice per week, for a total of 68 hours. They gave weekly health tips and fun facts about organic agriculture to the student body via the school's PA system. The YLC gave away 86 sample salad cups to students and staff. During their sample sale they surveyed their audience to assess which healthy snacks and beverages the students and staff would like to purchase in the future. Each YLC youth participated in outreach to the student body and teachers about the CSA and farmers market. They attended the online Black Sustainability Summit, the City Growers Education Conference, and the Just Food Conference. They presented on their worm composting bin at the International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit and the GROW BK Festival.

Field trips: 12 schools and more than 500 youth visited the farm to get their hands dirty, experience farming, and participate in workshops like Farm to Table, Food Justice, Compost, and Science Prep.

Go Green!: Through an elective class Go Green! 130 freshman attended a total of 33 hours of lessons about urban agriculture, health and wellness, and food justice. Each student sowed tomato seeds, learned how to prep a bed, sort compost, harvest produce, and weed.

After School Farm Club: The club met once per week for two hours with an average of 10 regular HSPS attendees who pitched in 68 hours on the farm. 4 students and their adviser from the Brooklyn Institute for Liberal Arts and 8 students and 3 advisers from the Global Youth Kids Program of the School for Human Rights also participated in Farm Club. Farm Club students learned how to weed, bed prep, manage our compost bins, harvest produce, helped organize our October Harvest Festival, processed plants into paint and dyes, and gave cooking demonstrations at our market.

Building community: The YF team organized 20 volunteer workdays on the farm for dozens of community members to pitch in.

Helping create a new generation of urban farmers: The 10 Urban Farm Training Program apprentices put in more than 4,000 hours on the farm as they learned how to manage soil, grow food, and engage in the day-to-day work of making a vibrant production farm flourish. The UFTP apprentices also provided important mentoring and guidance to youth on the farm throughout the growing season.

Helping community gardeners organize events to celebrate, raise funds, build community

Bronx and Manhattan Land Trusts: Green Guerillas sponsored an annual fundraiser to help these two important grassroots land trusts raise funds to support their 32 member gardens.

Jes Good Rewards Children's Garden: We sponsored a back to school BBQ, a Halloween party, and a Fall clean-up day at this Brownsville community garden.

Phoenix Community Garden: We helped the Phoenix gardeners organize an energetic Children's Harvest Festival in the fall.

Engaging youth at the core of our work

Youth Tillers: Our YT team of 6 youth engaged in paid internships at the Youth Farm that helped them gain skills as they led fieldwork activities for adult and youth volunteers, led farm tours, worked at the market, conducted cooking demonstrations, did market outreach, and surveyed market customers.

Youth Poised: 6 High School for Public Service students made up the inaugural Youth Poised committee. They evaluated grant applications and awarded grants to 11 central Brooklyn community garden groups to support garden projects and events.

Youth Mural Project: We engaged children and teenagers in organized community arts activities to help them unleash their creativity and connect art with nature, food, and ecology. Youth at the Leave it Better Kids Garden in the Bronx painted colorful pots for the garden. Youth at the Hattie Carthan Community Market in Bedford-Stuyvesant painted a unique mural to attract shoppers to the market.

Advocating for preservation

La Perla Community Garden: Green Guerillas continued to help this food-growing Manhattan Land Trust garden in Manhattan Valley deal with the impending sale of one of their three lots by a private owner. With help from GGs, TPL, and pro-bono legal representation, they negotiated a swap of lots with the provide owner to allow them to continue to garden on two of the three lots.

HPD Community Gardens in Peril: We pitched in to advocate to public officials and help rally community gardeners and GGs members to advocate for the removal of 18 community gardens from a list of possible development sites for affordable housing. The campaign was led by the NYC Community Garden Coalition and 596 Acres. 34 community gardens were transferred to the Parks Department, though tempered by the loss of 7 active community gardens.

Engaging garden stewards

Our annual meeting and our benefit party served as energetic, educational, and celebratory opportunities to inspire our members, supporters, and board of directors to support the work of community gardeners.