

Chapter 3

BUILDING STRONG GARDENS



BUILDING STRONG GARDENS

A **STRONG GARDEN** involves more than just growing healthy plants. A **strong garden** can raise needed resources, reap the benefit of many hands, + plant the seeds for its continued growth. Most importantly, a **strong garden** supports + adds value to its community.

COMMUNITY GARDENS were once vacant lots that residents turned into resources their neighborhoods. They provide safe spaces, beautify the neighborhood, improve the environment, are a source of fresh food + are gathering places where people of different ages + backgrounds can come together.

Some of the upcoming **changes** in East NY will *greatly* impact your gardens, whether it is 20 years old or has just been built. With **re-zoning + development plans**, community gardens need more support than ever from gardeners + neighbors. Developers are looking at *all* lots to build housing on in the next few years. Gardens are NOT zoned like parks; they can be taken away at anytime. Neighborhoods need **houses**, + they *also* need **gardens** for all of the ways they give back to the neighborhood.

Building + maintaining a garden can be a difficult task to accomplish on one's own. THIS CHAPTER will give you ideas on how to help your garden run smoothly, find resources, + be a strong community space for years to come.

The strongest gardens involve members' voices + ideas. The strongest gardens show their neighbors that they play a large role in making a community vibrant + enjoyable, + need to be supported + preserved.



BYLAWS

Establishing **BYLAWS** is an important step in creating a strong + organized community garden. They help gardens **establish roles, decide responsibilities,** + provide a document that gardeners can return to when there are issues. Bylaws are important for helping garden groups to function properly, + are *strongly recommended* by GreenThumb.

WRITING + AMENDING BYLAWS

Bylaws can be seen as the guiding document of the garden rules.

- **DECIDE TOGETHER:** Bylaws are agreed upon by ALL garden members. More voices + ideas means that the garden will work better for everyone.
- **BE FLEXIBLE + KEEP THINGS SIMPLE:** Bylaws should be broad enough to not need constant re-writing, but can be reviewed every year to see what changes need to be made. A garden might change a lot between when it's founded + when it has 30 members.
- **KEEP EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE:**
 - ◇ **New members** should review + sign bylaws when joining.
 - ◇ **EVERYONE** should receive a copy.
 - ◇ **Post** bylaws on the garden to remind members + visitors of responsibilities.

GARDEN BYLAWS + GUIDELINES

All gardens are different, so bylaws always look different depending each gardens' needs.

Bylaws can include:

- The group's **MISSION** or purpose.
- **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS** + the process for becoming a Member.
- The **EXPECTATIONS** for each Member, including garden upkeep, payments, + meeting attendance.
- Some gardens have **DUES** or **FEES** that help pay for garden up-keep. Outline this procedure clearly.
- **LEADERSHIP** roles, **ELECTION** + **DECISION MAKING** procedures.
- Procedure for **changing BYLAWS** (voting by majority, etc...)
- **GENERAL GUIDELINES/RULES** can include things that members should know; a meeting **SCHEDULE** (Ex. meetings take place on the 2nd, Tues. of every month), open hours, tool use, growing practices, garden **CLOSING DATE**.



GARDEN MISSION STATEMENT + BYLAWS WORKSHEET

MISSION: *The purpose of the garden; Why is the garden important? What value does it bring to the community?*

BY-LAWS:

I. How does one become a member of the garden? Is there a fee? Is there an application or a contract? What are the requirements, i.e. what must gardeners do? If one becomes a member what are the requirements for maintaining membership? What do members have a right to once they become members? What are gardeners not allowed to do? What is the recourse if a member is not complying with the rules of membership?

II. How does the garden make decisions? Is there a minimum number of people required in order to vote + pass proposals? How are decisions communicated to the rest of the group? How often does the garden group meet?

III. Is there a steering committee or other elected leadership group of the garden? What are the positions/responsibilities? How are its members selected? Do they have term limits? How are they reviewed + removed if necessary? How do they make decisions? How often do they meet? Are their meetings open to the garden membership? How are meetings/minutes communicated to the members? Are there other garden committees for other garden needs?

BYLAWS



SAMPLE GARDEN RULES/ GUIDELINES

are a little different than bylaws. They give members a clear idea as to how the garden generally works.

Have your guidelines **TRANSLATED** to make sure non-English speaking gardeners are on the same page.

1. English: Everyone must help keep our garden beautiful (please weed + clean common areas and along the fence).

• **Spanish:** Todos deben ayudar a mantener nuestro jardín hermoso. Por favor, ayude limpiar las áreas comunes y las áreas alrededor de la cerca.

• **Bengali:**

১. বাগানের সৌন্দর্য রক্ষায় অবশ্যই সবাই পরস্পরকে সহযোগীতা করবেন।
(দয়া করে আপনার বাগানের আগাছা এবং চারপাশে হাঁটার জায়গা পরিষ্কার রাখুন)

2. English: Clean up weeds + trash from pathways + around your bed (compost weeds or bag up trash for trash days).

• **Spanish:** Limpiar las mala hierbas y sacar la basura de las vías y alrededor de su parcela. Ponga las mala hierbas en el abono y la basura en bolsas.

• **Bengali:** ২. আপনার বাগানের আগাছা এবং বাগানের চারপাশে হাঁটার পথের ময়লা আবর্জনা পরিষ্কার রাখুন। (প্রতিদিনের ময়লা আবর্জনা এবং জৈবসার গুলি ট্রাশ ব্যাগে ভরে নিদৃষ্ট ডাস্টবিনে ফেলুন)

3. English: Please do not go into or harvest from other people's plots.

• **Spanish:** Por favor no entres o toques la parcela y las verduras de otra persona.

• **Bengali:** ৩. দয়া করে অন্যের বাগানে প্রবেশ করবেন না।

4. English: If you go away, ask someone to take care of your plot.

• **Spanish:** Si estas en vacaciones, pregunte a otra persona que cuide su parcela.

• **Bengali:** ৪. আপনি যদি দীর্ঘ দিনের জন্য বাড়ির বাইরে যান, তাহলে আপনার পরিচিত কাউকে বাগানটির দেখাশোনার দায়িত্ব দিয়ে যান।

5. Think about water: Fill up + close up empty rain barrels. (No one likes mosquitoes!) Save water + only use what you need.

BYLAWS

BYLAWS

- **Spanish:** Conservar el agua: Llenar y cerrar barriles de lluvia vacíos. (A nadie le gustan los mosquitos!) Ahorra agua y sólo usar lo que necesita.

- **Bengali:**

৫. পানির ব্যবহারের নিয়মঃ- বৃষ্টির পানি সংরক্ষণ করার পাত্রটি খালি থাকলে পূর্ণ করুন এবং পাত্রটি সঠিক ভাবে ঢাকনা দিন। (কেউ মশাদের উপদ্রব পছন্দ করেনা!) পানি সংরক্ষণ করুন এবং যতটুকু পানি প্রয়োজন ঠিক ততটুকু পানি ব্যবহার করুন।

- 6. **English:** Tell the Coordinator if you move or change your phone number.

- **Spanish:** Dígale al Coordinador si te mudas o cambias tu número de teléfono.

- **Bengali:**

৬. আপনি যদি আপনার বাসা অথবা ফোন নাম্বার পরিবর্তন করেন তাহলে অবশ্যই বাগানের পরিচালকে অবহিত করুন।

- 7. **English:** If you want more space, or know others who want space, speak to the Coordinator.

- **Spanish:** Si quieres otra parcela, o conoces a otras que buscan una parcela, hable con el Coordinador.

- **Bengali:**

৭. বাগানে আপনার অথবা আপনার পরিচিত অন্য কারো কারো যদি অতিরিক্ত জায়গার প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে বাগানের পরিচালকের সাথে কথা বলুন।

- 8. **English:** If you have a question about cleaning, weeding, space or keys ask the coordinator or look at garden bulletin board.

- **Spanish:** Si usted tiene alguna duda sobre la limpieza, deshierbe, el espacio o las llaves hable al coordinador o mira en el tablón de anuncios del jardín.

- **Bengali:**

৮. আপনার যদি বাগান পরিষ্কার, চারা রোপন, বাগানে জায়গা এবং বাগানের চাবি সম্পর্কিত কোন প্রশ্ন থাকে তাহলে বাগান পরিচালকে জিজ্ঞাসা করুন অথবা নোটিশ বোর্ডে লক্ষ করুন।

- 9. **English:** Please keep the garden open to the public when you are inside. It is important to share our community space!

- **Spanish:** Por favor, mantenga el jardín abierto al público cuando estás dentro. Es importante compartir nuestro espacio de la comunidad!

- **Bengali:**

৯. আপনি যখন বাগানের ভেতরে থাকবেন দয়া করে বাগানের দরজা খোলা রাখবেন। বাগানের কর্মকান্ড সমাজের সকল স্তরের মানুষের

Use a **GARDEN BULLETIN BOARD** inside or outside of the garden to make sure information is always available to garden members or passers by.

IDEAS OF THINGS TO POST ON YOUR GARDEN BULLETIN BOARD:



Based on Materials by Martin Lemos at Cypress Hills Local Development Center + Daryl Marshal at East New York Farms!

GARDEN BULLETIN BOARD



MEETINGS + AGENDAS

GET GARDEN MEMBERS INVOLVED in different ways to keep your garden maintained + members engaged. If you create many ways for different people to be involved, your garden will grow full of all sorts of people: seniors, parents, youth, various religions, skills + cultures.

MEETINGS + AGENDAS

It is common for members' schedules not to coincide. Members can even go weeks without seeing each other in the garden!

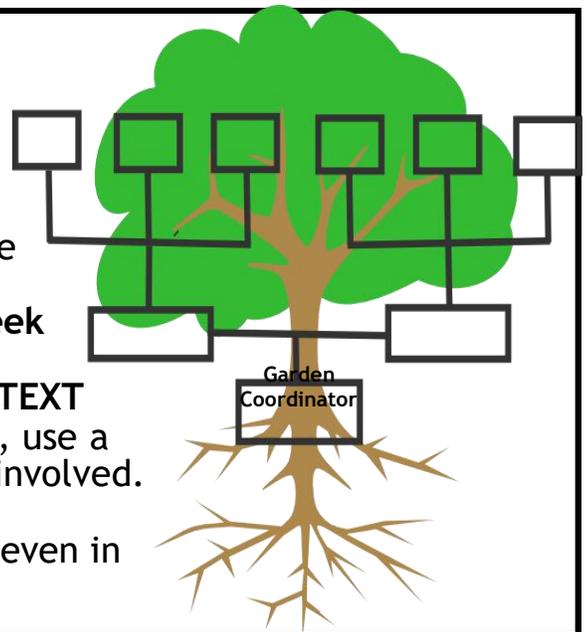
SCHEDULING MEETINGS:

- **MONTHLY MEETINGS** are important to ensure that all members know about upcoming activities, continue to fulfill their responsibilities, + address all concerns as soon as possible.
- **MONTHLY, OR EVEN SEASONAL, MEETINGS** are often enough for a more established garden. A younger garden may need more frequent meetings.
- Set a **FIRM DATE** for every meeting. Schedule them before the season starts, on a **regular day**, e.g. a garden may establish their monthly meeting on the 1st Monday of every month.

MEETING REMINDERS

*Even if it feels repetitive, one of the best ways to make sure that lots of people come is to **REMIN**d them!*

- **GIVE PLENTY OF NOTICE:** Give members a friendly reminder for upcoming meetings at **least 1 week** before the date.
- Make a quick **PHONE CALL** or **TEXT** to members. For smaller gardens, use a **PHONE TREE** to keep everyone involved.
- Leave a note on the **GARDEN BULLETIN BOARD** or **Gate**, or even in the **Bylaws**.



AGENDAS:

Meetings can be as long as needed. However, it is important to have an agenda to help organize the conversation, address all important items, + respect everyone's busy schedules!

- Members often arrive at meetings with their own concerns + updates. **Factor in the TIME** to address everyone's concerns while balancing the need to respect people's time.
- **Set TIMES** for discussion topics so that you are able to talk about everything you need to.



- Make time to talk about at least one **FUN thing** at each meeting: plan a BBQ, celebrate members' birthdays, etc... It will **keep people coming back** for more!
- **SNACKS:** have some snacks to keep people in a good mood during a long meeting. Meetings can be potlucks where everyone brings a dish or you can rotate the snack provider each time.



ENYF! Staff at the grill for our annual Garden Party

COMMUNICATION:

- If you have several languages spoken at the garden, try to **TRANSLATION**.
- Try different ways to make sure **everyone** has a **CHANCE TO SPEAK**:
 - ◊ Set a **2 minute limit** for everyone.
 - ◊ Make a **"stack"** by writing down everyone's name who has something they want to say + then go through the list.
 - ◊ Have a **talking stick**
 - ◊ Go around the meeting to **get a comment from EVERYONE** on important issues.

SAMPLE MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

(This garden has Spanish speaking members, so everything is translated).

AGENDA FOR THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN MONTHLY MEETING

Agenda para la reunión mensual en El Jardín

1. CALENDAR OF EVENTS/CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS (5 min):

- GreenThumb Harvest Fest: September 13: 12-4PM/GT Fiesta de la Cosecha: Sept 13: 12-4PM
- Volunteer Day: Sept.15th 12-4PM/Voluntarios: Sept. 15: 12-4PM
- Chicken Roof Repair Scheduled for October/Arreglo del Gallinero previsto para octubre

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ANUNCIOS (7 min):

- Future announcements will be posted on garden board
Más anuncios serán publicados en el tablón
- Other announcements?/
Más anuncios

3. DISCUSSION TOPICS (20MIN):

- Chicken Care/
Gallinas



MEETINGS+AGENDAS

GARDEN CALENDAR

A **GARDEN CALENDAR** can help you plan for your season, communicate with members about garden activities, + involve neighbors in garden events.

GARDEN CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Garden Clean Up |
| 4 | 5 | 6 ENYF! monthly meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Monthly Garden Meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 Garden Clean Up |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Compost Workshop | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Garden BBQ! | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

DETAILS:

- Saturday **JULY 3RD + JULY 17TH, 10-2PM** Garden Clean Up Day, all members are welcome to clean up trash + common areas!
- Tuesday **JULY 6TH 6:30PM** East NY Farms! meeting. Learn about garden supplies, neighborhood workshops, etc...
- Wednesday **JULY 14TH 6:00PM** Garden Meeting. Come for garden updates + help plan our July BBQ.
- Thursday **JULY 22 6:00PM** Compost Workshop in our garden!
- Sunday **JULY 25TH 11-3PM** Garden BBQ! Invite family, neighbors + friends. Bring a dish to share!



MANAGING GARDEN CONFLICT

Gardens are made up of people from varied backgrounds + ways of looking at the world. This makes gardens great places to learn about different people + cultures, but, sometimes, it can lead to conflict. Having clear bylaws, posted signs, + regular meetings can help. Here are some common solutions for **GARDEN RELATED CONFLICT!**

1. PROBLEM: Garden members keep the gate closed when they're in the garden + don't hold open hours, so **COMMUNITY MEMBERS THINK THE GARDEN IS NEVER OPEN.**

- **A SOLUTION:** GreenThumb states that "...gardens are intended for community use. If your garden group is not allowing public access to the garden (in the form of 20 open hours per week April-October), you risk losing your garden privileges + termination of the garden license." Call GreenThumb for a laminated sign Open Hours sign. You are responsible for having the garden is open when you say it will be!

2. PROBLEM: Garden members are **NOT ALLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN** + are not calling back interested people.

- **A SOLUTION:** Create a **WAITING LIST** + call people back if space opens up. You can even have one online that everyone can see.

3. PROBLEM: Members don't show up for **MEETINGS OR WORKSHOPS.**

- **A SOLUTION:** Try **DIFFERENT TIMES + DAYS** or ask them for input on meeting agendas. Have **SNACKS!**

4. PROBLEM: The people in your community are not attending **GARDEN'S EVENTS.**

- **A SOLUTION:** Post flyers in advance, put them on the gate, invite neighbors (your best supporters!), + try different types of events.

5. PROBLEM: The Garden Coordinator allows people to help but does not give a **KEY** to new members, so they have no access to garden.

- **A SOLUTION:** Ask for a key, as a member you are allowed one.

6. PROBLEM: The Garden Coordinator does not want to give their **CONTACT INFO** for people to join.

- **A SOLUTION:** As Coordinator, they must be reachable or **ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE** be contact person for the garden.

7. PROBLEM: Our garden received **VIOLATIONS** from GreenThumb

- **A SOLUTION:** Contact your GreenThumb Outreach Coordinator to find out about your violation + how to fix it, or your garden could be at risk.

8. PROBLEM: Gardeners are having issues with each other.

- **A SOLUTION:** If garden members' morale is down, try having some fun events or BBQs to get people to relax. If problems persist, try to have a meeting to discuss things at garden or at UCC. That meeting should consist of all members of the garden who agree to come to a workable solution + a mediator (GreenThumb) if necessary.

GREENTHUMB

GreenThumb, the NY city agency that oversees community gardens that are part of the Parks Department, has some requirements to coordinating + maintaining a garden. It is important to stay connected with this agency so they can continue to support your garden. However if you have a violation you must address that also.

Below you will find an example of a GreenThumb violation letter + descriptions of some possible violations that a garden can receive:

January 1st, 2016

To the Contact Person for xxxx- Community Garden,

Earlier this year, a GreenThumb staff person inspected the garden on this date: xx/xx/2015. The inspection showed that the garden is in violation of GreenThumb registration and licensing requirements. This letter serves as a formal warning to the garden group to correct these violations.

You must call xxxx, Outreach Coordinator, at (212) xxx-xxxx to discuss the violations listed below and to develop an action plan for resolving them within 30 days of the postmark of this letter.

Garden groups **must** develop a plan for resolving the garden violations. Otherwise, the garden is in danger of losing eligibility for GreenThumb services. If violations are not cleared in a timely fashion, the registration and license can be cancelled, and the group may lose the legal right to utilize or occupy the garden.



GREENTHUMB REQUIREMENTS

- **Open hours:** 20 open hours a week from April 1st-Oct.31st.
- **Pathways:** Keep them clean + clear.
- **Events:** All gardens must host at least one public event per year.
- **Keys/combo:** G.T. should have a copy of keys or know the lock's combination.
- **Drugs/Alcohol:** Drinking alcohol is prohibited in gardens.
- **Storage:** Personal items should not be stored in garden.
- **Litter/cleanliness:** Trash + litter should be thrown out for sanitation pickup.
- **Public Access:** Gardens are intended for community use.
- **Water Bodies:** Empty bodies of water to deter mosquitos.
- **Structures:** Casitas, sheds + gazebos must meet G.T. regulations.
- **Vehicles:** Cars + trucks may not be parked in garden.
- **Animals:** Unlicensed animals are not allowed in garden.



We strive to create a place where **YOUTH + ADULTS** learn from each other while working to feed our community.

The **ENYF Youth Internship Program** engages over 30 young people each year in paid internships that address **FOOD JUSTICE**. Through hands-on training + leadership development, they **grow + cook fresh food, provide support to local community gardeners, operate farmers markets, examine social justice issues + educate others**. We work to create safe, positive, challenging, + empowering opportunities for youth who are motivated to improve their own skills, their environment + their community.

“When I started off my 1st year, I thought I would just be growing vegetables + working in some garden I never heard of. In a way I was right; I did actually grow in the garden, but I experienced so much more. More than half the vegetables I planted + harvested were new to me. I have experienced working at our farmers market with customers, have met a lot of farmers + gardeners, I started eating better + learning about food security around the world. In my 3rd year, I helped lead 1st year interns in the garden + teach them about why we do what we do.” -Musheerah, Former Intern



YOUTH PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- FIRST YEAR INTERNS (FYI)** are youth, mostly ages 13-15, in their 1st year. They are often having their first experience working. They work in crews at the UCC Youth Farm, at nearby gardens + at the Farmers Market. This is an internship, so, legally, it must be **EDUCATIONAL**, not just work!
- RETURNING INTERNS (RI)** are in their 2nd-4th year in the program + take on greater leadership responsibility managing the Share Table, running the Farmers Market, leading Volunteer Groups on our farm, or Teaching Workshops. They make decisions + lead groups of FY Interns.
- YOUTH SCHEDULE:**

-SPRING + FALL: Youth work one day afterschool (Tuesday, Wednesday OR Friday, 4:00-6:30pm) + a half day on Saturday (9:00am-12:00pm or 1:00-4:00pm). They work at our farm + at over 30 community gardens + backyards in the neighborhood.

-SUMMER: youth work up to 20 hours during the week in gardens. They harvest on our farm, attend workshops + sell at the market.

*We do our best to balance time at our farm + at all the other gardens in the area that need support. *Please let us know in advance if you need help!*

- EXPECTATIONS:** We have a system of **STANDARDS** that we hold youth to that impacts their pay check. The program, overall, values everyone is learning, has the same potential to learn, + is expected to try their best.

Standards (can be earned back)

| | (PW) | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
|--|------|-----|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Come on time (except in case of school schedule when pre-arranged) | | | | | | |
| Work hard and be motivated | (PW) | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Show a positive attitude and be a positive role model | (PW) | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Clean up after yourself | (PW) | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Be prepared for work | (PW) | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Avoid distractions (cell phone that is on, sunglasses, music, etc) | | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Show respect for others (youth, gardeners, or others) | | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Use our resources carefully and correctly (tools, food, plants or other equipment) | | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |
| Teamwork- work cooperatively w/ staff, youth, and community. | | (W) | (\$5) | (\$10) | (\$15) | Fired |

Youth receive comments from RIs + staff after every shift on what they are doing well AND need to work on. Some things can result in a reduction of salary. This reinforces the realities of having a job while leaving them opportunities to earn back that money + giving them chances to improve if it is not a fireable offence.

INTERGENERATIONAL GARDENING



INTERGENERATIONAL GARDENING

We asked youth about what they like when working with gardeners + what makes it challenging. This is what they said:

| + Positive Experience | Δ Challenging Experience |
|--|---|
| “When gardeners are polite and open, willing to talk about the history of their garden and who they are as people.” | “When they are sarcastic and rude right when you walk in.” |
| “Understand that the plants are different in every garden, even if we’ve been working for awhile, we may not know <i>that</i> flower.” | “When they assume we know things about their garden (callaloo is a weed in our garden, but a plant in theirs).” |
| “A gardener asked if I wanted to do something with her, stayed with me and talked with me.” | “When they just tell us what to do quickly and leave OR when the job isn’t finished properly and they overreact (we’re not professionals, we’re <i>learning + make mistakes</i>).” |
| “When gardeners learn your name and remember us when they see us at the market.” | “When Returning Interns go to check on people and they think they aren’t working, and being lazy.” |
| “Gardeners clearly explain tasks, giving specific instructions and are willing to repeat themselves sometimes.” | “When we arrive and the task they want done are not the ones we’d prepared for, then we don’t have the right tools.” |
| “When the gardener appreciates the work you do and thanks you at the end, say how your work has helped and improved the garden” | “When they are negative at the end of the day, don’t close on a good note.” |
| | “Favoritism, gender imbalance (giving boys the ‘hard’ work and girls the ‘easy’ work).” |

Other tips for working with youth...

- Talk to them as much as possible!
- Talk to them **directly** about what to do, not just to staff.
- Always try **positive encouragement** + ask the **Crew Leaders** (Returning Interns) to help you. We will point them out at the start of the shift.
- Remember, **they are learning + each garden is very different**. By taking the time to explain + teach them, they will complete their tasks in the garden the way you want them + be excited about coming back!



Working with **VOLUNTEERS** from in + outside the neighborhood helps you get work done in the garden + helps others learn about the importance of gardens in our community.

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS

- **PUBLICIZE!** Find the people that want to get involved through fliers, signs, + online listings. Reach out to your neighbors.
- **LEARN NAMES** + make connections.
- **INTRODUCE THE GARDEN** + provide a history so that volunteers feel connected to the space.
- **MATCH THE JOB TO THE GROUP**—volunteers should be challenged, not overwhelmed.
- **GIVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS** + break down all the instructions step-by-step, slowly, + making sure all your volunteers are on the same page.
- **BE EQUIPPED!** Gather all of the right tools for the job beforehand.
- **MAKE THE WORK PLEASANT**—tell jokes, sing, have fun!
- **MAKE THE EXPERIENCE COMFORTABLE**—volunteers should know where they can find shade, water, bathrooms, food, etc.
- **DELEGATE!** Assign individual volunteers to be captains, instructing + leading other volunteers.
- **CAPITALIZE ON PREVIOUS SKILLS + EXPERIENCE**—people out there have the skills you need.
- Let volunteers know how their work makes a difference, + **THANK THEM!**
- **STAY IN TOUCH**—call or email to keep them coming back.



RESOURCES

- **City Year:** Malika Khalsa, East New York School Partnerships Director, Program Manager, mkhalsa@cityyear.org
- **Citizens Committee of NYC:** Emily Hirsch, Volunteer Coordinator, 212-822-9555, ehirsch@citizensnyc.org
- **East New York Farms!:** *We can connect you with volunteers, loan you tools, + help you plan for a successful day. 718.649.7979*
- **NY Cares/Annual Events:** Shanée Walker, Manager, 212.402.1485
- **United Way:** Natalia Jasienowicz, Senior Manager, Volunteerism, (212) 251-2421, njasienowicz@uwnyc.org
- **Volunteer websites:** www.nycservice.org, www.idealists.org, www.volunteermatch.org
- **Schools:** After-school programs, high school students with community service requirements, clubs at colleges/universities.

INTERGENERATIONAL GARDENING



GRANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Writing **GRANTS + GETTING SUPPLIES** for your garden can help you realize big ideas, support regular garden activities + help your garden engage more with the neighborhood.

MATERIALS/SUPPLIES

- **Build It Green!NYC:** The **BIG!Gives Back** program donates used building materials to charities, schools, + environmental groups.
<http://www.bignyc.org/big-gives-back>
<http://www.bignyc.org/bigblooms>
- **The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation** is a nonprofit dedicated to planting fruit trees. Donations are for recipients who pledge to care for the trees and utilize them for a charitable purpose. FTPF will provide fruit trees and shrubs, organic soil amendments, equipment, volunteers, design work, workshops, and aftercare training. Recipients must be nonprofits, public schools, or government entities that 1) own the planting site or have long-term arrangements, 2) are committed to caring for the trees in perpetuity, 3) have a source of irrigation, + 4) can help coordinate local volunteers on the day of planting. Visit www.ftpf.org
- **Mr. Pickle** offers extra barrels to gardeners at an affordable price. Barrels are great for **compost tumblers + rain water barrels**. Brooklyn Terminal Market, **718.251.2500** www.mrpickleinc.com
- **Mulch:** Gardens can get deliveries of mulch/woodchips from GreenThumb, the parks department + local tree service companies for free. One recommended company can deliver mulch in Brooklyn + Queens. Gardeners should contact Big Dave at "Trees R' Us" 631-742-3669.
- **NYC Department of Sanitation** offers assistance for community-initiated lot clean up + finished compost for your lot. For more information see <http://596acres.org/en/resources/turning-your-lot-into-a-food-production-space/>
- **New York Restoration Project:** NYRP's Gardens for the City program helps communities transform public spaces. NYRP lends materials, muscle + expertise to communities. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Contact Director of Community Engagement info@nyrp.org, 212-333-2552.
- **Seed Companies:** Johnny's Selected Seeds, Hart Seed Co., Territorial Seeds, Seed Saver's Exchange, and others, provide free seeds for teachers, community gardeners and non-profits for projects in school gardens, community gardens, + prison yards.

MONETARY GRANTS *Talk to East New York Farms! about small grants + for help writing a strong application.*

- **The Brooklyn Community Foundation's** Micro Grants program accepts requests for \$500 or less to help support smaller scale projects + organizations throughout Brooklyn. Micro Grants support grassroots, community efforts like beautification campaigns + community gardens + to serve as seed funding for start-up nonprofit groups to help support immediate needs as they build a rapport within the community members + among other funders.
www.brooklyncommunityfoundation.org/apply



- **Citizen's Committee for New York City** has a number of grants, Conserve H2O Contest, Community Scale Composting Grant, Neighborhood Grants, Love Your Block Grants, with awards of \$750-\$5000.00. Contact them at grants@citizensnyc.org or 212-822-9563, www.citizensnyc.org/grants
- **Department of Environmental Conservation:** DEC also offers **Green Gems Grants** which award \$2,500 to \$10,000 for small scale projects that involve education, stewardship, or monitoring activities related to parks, open space, community gardens or green infrastructure. The projects must include research + educational components that will be used to expand the knowledge or understanding of the community. www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html
- **The East New York Farms! Mini Grant Program** is an opportunity for local residents, organizations + small business to apply for grants for projects that will increase access to healthy food in East New York. These projects can be new or growing.
- **Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb Community Garden Grants:** Apply to \$5,000 in cash + tools for neighborhood beautification, community collaboration, + healthy, sustainable food sources; one applicant will receive a complete garden makeover. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. <http://www2.fiskars.com/Community/Project-Orange-Thumb>
- **Grow to Learn** awards grants of \$500 to \$2000 + support to schools to start or expand learning garden programs at NYC public + charter schools. growtolearn@grownyc.org or (212)788-7916.
- **Green in Action** awards grants to schools, or youth groups for demonstration of commitment, or passion for sustainability. www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenweek/contests/green-in-action-contest.htm
- **Home Depot** offers grants up to \$5000 to organizations using the power of volunteers to improve the health of their community. Grants are given as Home Depot gift cards. <https://corporate.homedepot.com/CorporateResponsibility/HDFoundation/Pages/ComImpactGrant.aspx>
- **Katie's Krops** mission is to start + maintain veggie gardens of all sizes + to donate the harvest to help feed people in need, + to assist + inspire others to do the same. The winner will be awarded a gift card to a garden center in their area for \$400, support from Katie's Krops, + a digital camera to document the garden + harvest. www.katieskrops.com/apply-for-a-grant.html
- **National Gardening Association Youth Garden Grants:** Winners will receive \$1000 and \$500 gift cards to purchase gardening materials + supplies from their local Home Depot. <http://grants.kidsgardening.org/>
- **Outdoor Nation Grants:** Outdoor Nation + Merrell have teamed up to offer grants to projects that increase participation in outdoor activities + create meaningful connections to the natural world. Applications are being accepted now from individuals + 501(c) 3 orgs. www.cybergrants.com
- **National Recreation + Park Association (NRPA)** has grants for community gardens that benefit low-income families. They give \$2,500 to \$7,500 to be used to build/expand community garden

GRANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN



GRANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

facilities or programs that result in the donation of produce.
www.nrpa.org/garden/

- **The Riverside Church NY's Sharing Fund** grants up to \$5,000 to projects outside the church that are consistent with their mission of "education, reflection, + action for peace and justice". Rolling deadline! www.theriversidechurchny.org/socialjustice/?special
- **Seeds of Change Grant Program** offers two \$20,000 grants + fifteen \$15,000 grants to support sustainable, community-based farming + gardening programs. www.seedsofchangegrant.com
- **Wells Fargo Foundation** provides Community Needs Grants to support organizations working to improve communities with low to moderate-income. The Foundation strives to improve education, community development, + environmental health, ensure access to health + human services, + to bolster civic engagement.
- **Wild Ones** supports environmental education with small grants to help you build your native plant teaching space. www.wildones.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/SFE-Cover-Letter.pdf

ALSO:

- Try your hand at crowd-funding your community gardening project using **IOBY** www.ioby.org/idea OR **Kickstarter** www.kickstarter.com
- **JM Kaplan Fund: City Life Program** (rolling deadline)
- **The New York Community Trust** (rolling deadline)
- **The New York Awesome Foundation** (rolling deadline)
- **The America Community Gardening Association Resource Page** <https://communitygarden.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

Some content based on information gathered by 596Acres.org



RESOURCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

There are many hands-on **WORKSHOPS** in East NY to help your garden grow. Contact **Gardener Assistance** at 718.649.7979x15 if you are interested in attending or hosting one in your garden. Below you will find a list of workshops we have supported over the years.

- **BEEKEEPING 101:** Join us for importance of pollination + the fundamentals of beekeeping in an urban setting.
- **CANNING:** Enjoy the bounty of the growing season by learning to preserve your harvest.
- **CARPENTRY OR RAISED BED BUILDING:** Gain basic skills while building a bench for your garden OR Learn how to raise beds higher to make them more accessible, especially for those with limited mobility.
- **COMPOSTING:** Learn the basics of turning vegetables scraps, leaves + more into gold for your garden!
- **COMPOST SIFTER BUILDING:** NYRP + BBG will teach folks how to build a compost sifter.
- **CONTAINER GARDENING:** Learn which plants you can grow indoors or on a patio using recycled materials.
- **COVER CROPS:** Hear about the most updated findings on an alternative to compost that can benefit your soil.
- **CROP PLANNING:** Schedule a 1 on 1 or garden group session to help plan for a productive growing season!
- **DRIP IRRIGATION:** Learn about drip irrigation + other watering saving techniques.
- **FRUIT TREE PRUNING TECHNIQUES + SEASONAL CARE:** Fruit Trees are healthier + productive when cared for correctly throughout the year. Join NYRP to discuss seasonal maintenance, disease + pest control as well as do some hands-on pruning.
- **GARLIC:** Gain tips for growing this special crop.
- **GROWING CARIBBEAN + SOUTH ASIAN CROPS:** Talk with an expert + other gardeners about growing Caribbean crops in our NY climate. Focus will be on Dasheen + Pigeon Peas. Free Seeds and more!
- **HEALTHY SOILS:** Learn how to build healthy + productive soil in your garden. Learn about LEAD + how to deal with it.
- **HONEY TASTING:** Learn about our local honey + how it's made. Taste honey from around the world!
- **LIP BALM:** Make natural lip balms.
- **PEST + DISEASE MANAGEMENT:** A conversation about pests + weeds are + what techniques have worked in your garden. Come for advanced management advice from an expert.
- **PLANTING FOR FALL:** Keep your garden growing longer by learning what to plant for a fall harvest.
- **STARTING THE SEASON BASICS:** Get tips for starting off your season.
- **SEED STARTING:** Start your own seeds at home!
- **SEASON EXTENSION:** Learn techniques to stretch your season.
- **TRELLISING FOR VEGETABLES:** Learn our improved techniques to grow more veggies + harvest them with ease!
- **WINTERIZING YOUR GARDEN:** Learn how to put your garden to bed.
- + **MORE!**



RESOURCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

There are many **ORGANIZATIONS** who provide help to community gardens in East NY. Some, like East New York Farms!, are dedicated to gardens in our community. Others work borough or city-wide as well. They can help every step of the way (providing access to a lot, building a garden, supplying materials, and other support) to help gardens become long-lasting community spaces.

- **596 Acres** maps 100s of acres of vacant public land. They create tools to find information about lots by making city information available, educating about city government, advocating with municipal agencies surrounding public resources. If you want to find out more about turning a vacant lot into a garden contact 718.316.6092 or fill out their form at <http://596acres.org/en/get-involved/contact-us/>
- **Brooklyn GreenBridge** is the community horticulture program of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. They promote urban greening through education, conservation, + creative partnerships. 718.623.7220 or visit www.bbg.org/edu/greenbridge
- **Brownsville East NY Garden Initiative (BENGI)** is a coalition of greening organizations + a city agency that collaborates to bring gardening resources to the neighborhoods of East New York + Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Call Gardener Assistance ENYFarms! to get involved 718.649.7979x15.
- **Citizens Committee** provides small grants, project planning assistance, workshops on topics like writing bylaws for your group and can support your group on opening their own bank account. Call (212) 989-0909 or email info@citizensnyc.org
- **Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation** (CHLDC) runs sustainability programs through its Verde Initiative. CHLDC Healthy Food + CHANGE programs help schedule gardening + cooking workshops in East NY neighborhoods as well as provide technical + leadership development assistance to community gardens. Contact the Community Garden Coordinator at 917.893.8801x214 or chldc.org.
- **East New York Farms!** grows fresh food for our community + provides support to help others do the same. We work with a growing network of backyard + community gardeners throughout East NY. If you are interested in workshops, youth assistance or technical advice, selling at farmers market or finding a garden to grow food in call 718.649.7979 or visit eastnewyorkfarms.org.
- **Five Borough Farm** is compiling data from urban gardening efforts to be used as a wider effort to strengthen and advocate for community gardens in NYC. They have lots of tools that you can use to track different aspects of your garden.
Store your data: <http://farmingconcrete.org/barn/>
Pdf of toolkit: http://designtrust.org/media/files/5BF_Data_Collection_Toolkit.pdf



- **Green Guerillas** helps gardeners find gardens, get materials, + advice to grow more food, strengthen your garden meetings, + manage healthy, vibrant green spaces. They can serve as a fiscal sponsor to help obtain + manage grant funding that supports events, garden improvements, + outreach campaigns. Call 212.594.2155 or visit www.greenguerillas.org
- **GreenThumb** is the city agency that oversees community gardens in NYC. Their services take the form of materials, + technical assistance, including educational workshops. Get help from them for signage, supplies, workshops, hydrant access, portable toilets, + other city-related issues. Call 212.788.8070 or visit www.greenthumbnyc.org
- **GrowNYC** runs an urban gardening program that helps revitalize existing gardens in the city. For information regarding assistance with water-harvesting systems or hosting volunteer groups, contact Mike Rezny at mrezny@grownyc.org or 212.788.7935
- **Just Food** empowers + supports community-led projects that increase access to locally grown food, especially in underserved NYC neighborhoods. They facilitate a number of food + gardening events + workshops all over NYC. Call 212.645.9880x229 or visit www.justfood.org
- **NY City Community Garden Coalition's (NYCCGC)** mission is to promote the preservation + creation of community gardens in NYC, educate the public about the value of gardens, serve as a resource for information + technical support, raise the profile of community gardening among public officials, the media, + the general public, + foster networking + communication. Their meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month. Call 212.926.8648 or visit www.nyccgc.org
- **New York Restoration Project** runs gardens in East NY that need members. They provide supplies, workshops + other resources. Contact Rebecca Fitle a Community Initiatives Coordinator at rfitle@nyrp.org or 212.333.2552
- **Oasisnyc.net** is a comprehensive way to map your garden, find out block + lot numbers + other interesting data about your community. <http://www.oasisnyc.net/garden/gardensearch.aspx>



RESOURCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

ORGANIZATIONS where gardens can go for resources.

| | Organization | Permits + City | Conflict Resolution | Technical Assistance | Volunteer Help | Education + Workshops | Leadership Development | Building Infrastructure |
|---|--|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Active Primarily in East NY + Cypress Hills | BENGI (Brownville East NY Garden Initiative) | | | | ● | ● | ● | |
| | East New York Farms! (ENYF!) | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | Cypress Hills LDC (CHLDC) | | | | | ● | ● | ● |
| Active Primarily within Brooklyn | Brooklyn Botanical Garden's Brooklyn Green Bridge + Compost Project | | | | ● | ● | | *compost bins ● |
| | Green Guerillas | | | | | | ● | |
| | NY Restoration | | | ● | ● | ● | | ● |
| Active within all of NYC | Grow NYC | | | ● | ● | | | ● |
| | NYC Community Garden Coalition | ● | | | | | ● | |
| | JustFood | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | *chickens ● |
| | Green-Thumb (NYC Parks Dept.) | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● |
| | 596 Acres | ● | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |



GARDENS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS: Many gardens are looking for more people to get involved. They run independently, so contact them directly or ask us for help. We can be reached at 718 649-7979.

| GARDEN | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Cleveland Vegetable Garden | Cleveland + Pitkin Aves. | Ms. Samson 718.927.5922 |
| Crystal Wells Garden | Wells + Crystal Sts. | Alberta Gillus 718 509-7209 |
| Clara's Garden | Schenck + Glenmore Aves. | Curt King 718.637.0409 |
| Essex Garden | Essex St + Fulton Ave | Nayda Maymi 718.647.3877 |
| Euclid 500 | Euclid Ave. btwn Sutter & Belmont Aves. | Cynthia Hossain 347.925.9130 |
| TLC Garden | Glenmore between Hinsdale + Williams | Alicia Williamson 201.898.4078 |
| Mamma + Poppa Jones Garden | Van Siclen + Belmont Aves. | Stephanie Reeder simplystephanie1965@yahoo.com |
| St. John Cantius Garden | New Jersey Ave btwn Blake + Dumont Aves. | Gemma Garcia 718.498.3735 |
| Cypress Hills New Urban Farms | Multiple sites: Ashford, Glenmore, Pitkin, Chestnut St. | Aida Castillo 917.893.8801 x213 |
| PS 4 Garden | Glenmore + Cleveland Aves. | Guillermo Gonzalez 917.578.7769 |
| Warwick Greenery Glow | Warwick St. btwn Dumont + Blake Aves. | Joshua Carrera 347.692.0750/ joshua.carrera@tnc.org OR Taylor Gordon gordont032@gmail.com |
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GreenThumb also has information about gardens citywide 212.788.8070 or contact **596 acres** at www.596acres.org 718.316.6092 about starting new garden.

GARDENS ACCEPTING MEMBERS

