



# Community Gardens - Creating Opportunities and Education

**Michael Hatton**

2011 Higher Education and Skills Group Overseas Fellowship

**An ISS Institute Fellowship sponsored by**

Higher Education and Skills Group



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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Having experienced the early development and process of community gardens from a garden designer/ builder to a volunteer, the Fellow was fortunate to experience an international perspective of community gardens that enabled a clear view of the many variables that go towards creating positive opportunities and education in community gardens.

The Fellow focused part his investigation in the United Kingdom because of its strong community garden links and partnerships with government and charitable organisations. The fellow also investigated community gardens and education organisations in the United States because of the strong links and partnerships associated with private business.

The international experience was a memorable event for the fellow who commenced the journey in the United Kingdom and visited incredible and diverse community gardens in Scotland, Wales and London. The Fellow also visited community garden organisations in Chicago, Milwaukee and New York City where the Fellow participated in the construction of a community garden in the Bronx, NYC.

It was identified by the Fellow that strong-minded passionate people with creative ideas with a desire for growing and nurturing plants is not enough to sustain a community garden. Such people drive community garden projects and ultimately give the project the balance and drive it deserves; however there are many other factors that contribute towards the permanency of community gardens.

The behind the scenes, interaction of well managed committees and volunteers, government departments, financial sponsors and suppliers are all key stakeholders in the support of successful community gardens. Partnerships between local government, education providers and/ or financial sponsors and suppliers was a key factor in the Fellow's major findings to provide a sustainable community garden model that offers real opportunities and education in 'real time'.

The opportunities in Australia to achieve strong, positive outcomes and successful community gardens that grow more than food is a challenge for government, education providers and gardeners. The major findings highlight international organisations and education providers that have made significant pathways into developing creative partnerships both socially and financially that are investing in opportunities and education for people in community gardens.

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## II. ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

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<b>CERES</b>	Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies
<b>DET</b>	Department of Education and Training (formerly Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Human Services
<b>FCFCG</b>	Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
<b>GOTAFE</b>	Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE
<b>HESG</b>	Higher Education and Skills Group
<b>ISS Institute</b>	International Specialised Skills Institute
<b>NHS</b>	National Health Service
<b>MP</b>	Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT - Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE)
<b>NYC</b>	New York City
<b>NYCDPR</b>	New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
<b>RCMA</b>	Riverside Community Markets Association
<b>RTO</b>	Registered Training Organisations
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>VRIC</b>	Vocational Rehabilitation Impact Centre

## III. DEFINITIONS

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### **Training Package**

A nationally endorsed, integrated set of competency standards, assessment guidelines and Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications for a specific industry, industry sector or enterprise.

### **Registered Training Organisation (RTO)**

A training organisation registered by a state registering body in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF).

### **Live work**

A project-based learning teaching model that is considered an alternative to paper-based learning.

### **Therapeutic garden**

Is an outdoor garden space that has been specifically designed to meet physical, physiological, social and spiritual needs.

### **Sensory garden**

Is a garden specifically created to be accessible and enjoyable to visitors, both disabled and non-disabled.

### **Bush tucker**

Is a colloquial term used to describe foods found in the native Australian bush and outback.

### **“People plant interaction”**

Plants and people have an intimate connection that evolves around sustainable, environmental and social-psychological parameters.

# 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Fellow sincerely thanks the following individuals and organisations who gave generously of their time and their expertise to assist, advise and guide him throughout the Fellowship program.

## Awarding Body – International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute)

The International Specialised Skills Institute Inc is an independent, national organisation that for over two decades has worked with Australian governments, industry and education institutions to enable individuals to gain enhanced skills and experience in traditional trades, professions and leading-edge technologies.

At the heart of the ISS Institute are our Fellows. Under the **Overseas Applied Research Fellowship Program** the Fellows travel overseas. Upon their return, they are required to pass on what they have learnt by:

1. Preparing a detailed report for distribution to government departments, industry and educational institutions.
2. Recommending improvements to accredited educational courses.
3. Delivering training activities including workshops, conferences and forums.

Over 200 Australians have received Fellowships, across many industry sectors. In addition, recognised experts from overseas conduct training activities and events. To date, 22 leaders in their field have shared their expertise in Australia.

According to Skills Australia's 'Australian Workforce Futures: A National Workforce Development Strategy 2010':

Australia requires a highly skilled population to maintain and improve our economic position in the face of increasing global competition, and to have the skills to adapt to the introduction of new technology and rapid change.

International and Australian research indicates we need a deeper level of skills than currently exists in the Australian labour market to lift productivity. We need a workforce in which more people have skills, but also multiple and higher level skills and qualifications. Deepening skills across all occupations is crucial to achieving long-term productivity growth. It also reflects the recent trend for jobs to become more complex and the consequent increased demand for higher level skills. This trend is projected to continue regardless of whether we experience strong or weak economic growth in the future. Future environmental challenges will also create demand for more sustainability related skills across a range of industries and occupations.

In this context, the ISS Institute works with Fellows, industry and government to identify specific skills in Australia that require enhancing, where accredited courses are not available through Australian higher education institutions or other Registered Training Organisations. The Fellows' overseas experience sees them broadening and deepening their own professional practice, which they then share with their peers, industry and government upon their return. This is the focus of the ISS Institute's work.

For further information on our Fellows and our work see <http://www.issinstitute.org.au>.

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## 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### Fellowship Sponsor - The Higher Educations Skills Group

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### Supporters

- Peta Christensen, Food Systems Manager, Cultivating Community
- Paul Culpan, CEO, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE
- Paul de la Motte, President, Horticultural Therapy Association of Victoria
- Fergus Garrett, CEO and Head Gardener, Great Dixter House and Garden
- Jess Grimble, Sub Editor, Shepparton News
- Ken Greenhill and Paul Sumner, ISS Institute
- Katie Jones, Development Manager, Federation of City Farms and Community

### Gardens

- Garden Coordinator, Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens
- Naomi Knights, Scotland Development Worker, Federation of City Farms

### Community Gardens

- Martha Orbach, Garden Manager, Culpeper Community Garden, London
- Julie Salomon, Acting CEO, City of Greater Shepparton
- Edie Stone, Director, New York City Dept of Parks Green Thumb Program
- Beth Urban, Executive Director, American Community Garden Association
- Jenny Howell, Garden Manager, Riverside Community Garden, Cardiff
- Sarah McFadden, Food Growing Coordinator, Food From the Sky
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- Paul Culpan, CEO, GOTAFE
- Kate Gillespie, Workplace Mentor, GOTAFE

### Organisations Impacted by the Fellowship

#### Government

- Cultivating Community
- Department of Planning and Community Development Office of the Community Sector
- Our Community Matters
- Higher Education and Skills Group (Skills Victoria)
- Sustainability Victoria

#### Industry

- Primary Industries Victoria
- AgriFood Skills Australia

#### Professional Associations

- Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH)
- Australian Horticultural Society
- Australian institute of landscape Designers and Managers (AILDM)
- Horticultural Therapy Association of Victoria

#### Education and Training

- Victorian Horticultural Teachers Network
- Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network
- National Horticultural Network
- Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES)

#### Community

- City of Bendigo
- City of Shepparton
- City of Wangaratta
- Cultivating Community
- Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network
- North Shepparton Community Garden

#### Media

- Gardening Australia
- Horticulture Australia
- Landscape Manager Magazine
- Shepparton News
- ONE FM 98.5 Community Radio

## 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### **Mentors**

- Jessica Grimble, Shepparton News (Report Writing Mentor)
- Peta Christensen, Cultivating Community (Industry Mentor)
- Kate Gillespie, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (Workplace Mentor)

## 2. ABOUT THE FELLOW

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**Name:** Michael Hatton

**Employment:**

- Landscape Contractor - Michael Hatton Landscapes 1982-Current
- Landscape Teacher - TAFE and Private Training Organisations 1999-Current
- Garden Writer - Shepparton News 2009-Current
- Garden Radio Presenter- ONE FM 98.5 Community Radio 2006-Current

**Qualifications:**

- Indenture of Apprenticeship (Landscape Gardening), NMIT, Victoria, 1985
- Certificate of Landscape Technology, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, 1990
- Certificate of Recreational Turf Management, University of Melbourne, Melb,1995
- Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training, GOTAFE, Shepparton, 2001
- Diploma of Horticulture, Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE, Bendigo, 2003
- Graduate Diploma of Vocational Education and Training, La Trobe University, Victoria, 2005

Passion, determination and persistence to create gardens shaped the pathway that led Michael Hatton into the landscape industry as an Apprentice Landscape Gardener in inner city Melbourne in 1982 at the age of 15. Hatton now combines his Horticultural skills and knowledge with a mix of landscape contracting, education and media. Hatton has worked at various TAFE Colleges and Private Training Organisations and has developed an interactive teaching model that creates 'live work' or project-based learning that simulates time constraints, problem solving and employability skills. Hatton believes this creates an environment for genuine learning outcomes in real time for students to achieve horticulture qualifications aligned to the National Accredited Training Package.

Hatton's 'Live work' projects in the past have consisted of therapeutic gardens, sensory gardens, dry climate gardens, kitchen gardens, bush tucker gardens and community gardens that benefit the local community for the purpose of 'people plant interaction' via food production, health promotion and education.

Hatton works actively in the landscape industry designing and building specialised therapeutic styled gardens that create unique 'enabling' gardens for schools, hospitals and aged care facilities. Hatton strongly believes in the importance of community gardens providing horticultural therapy that can be accessible and beneficial for people of all ages and abilities.

Hatton has forged a strong horticultural path in Central Victoria with the local media with a weekly garden column in the Shepparton News, and regularly speaks at local garden clubs and community events. Hatton presents a popular garden radio program on local community radio in Central Victoria.

# 3. AIMS OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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The aims of the Fellowship program were as follows:

- Explore the management, supervision and communication processes and networks involved in the design, production and maintenance of community gardens
- Investigate the general day-to-day running of community gardens and the people who 'drive' them
- Report on the administration and funding elements of community-style food gardens
- Examine and report on the success of delivering curriculum (short course) workshops and how they are funded, developed and managed by community groups and government
- Analyse the learning outcomes from community garden workshops and the benefits that exist for employment pathways and further education pathways
- Explore the government relationship with the community groups and the affiliation they have with each other when making executive decisions
- Observe the overall design element of community gardens, i.e. location, aesthetics, function, technique, processes and sense of place.

## 4. THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

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### What is a community garden?

The Australian Community Gardens Network (2003) provides a useful starting point for researching and investigating the concept of community gardening in the Australian contextualisation. They define community gardens as, 'places where people come together to grow fresh food, to learn, relax and make new friends.'<sup>1</sup>

The history of community gardens in Australia has been traced back to the Second World War in the form of 'victory gardens', a necessary form of community gardening brought on by food shortages, skilled labour shortages and economic depression. Victory gardens were developed by the government of the time to grow fruit and vegetables for Australian families.

Community gardens again re-emerged in the last three decades mainly due to urbanisation and large populations building up in mainstream cities in Australia such as Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. Australia's very first documented community garden originated in Melbourne with the creation of the Nunawading Community Garden in 1977, established on vacated council land. The development of the garden was led by Dr Gavan Oakley, then a local councillor who believed that community garden activities would contribute to social interaction and development, also reducing social isolation and providing the unemployed with something to do throughout the day. The Nunawading Community Garden has operated successfully for many years and has provided a working model for other community gardens developed throughout Australia.

Sydney's first community garden originated in Rozelle with the creation of Glovers Community Garden, established in 1986 on Health Departmental land. Brisbane created its first community garden called Northey Street City Farm in 1991 that has slowly developed into a very successful learning centre for sustainability, similar to Centre for education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES), based in Melbourne from 1984. Perth City Farm in Western Australia was introduced to the community in 1994. Adelaide has developed a large assortment of impressive community gardens over the last two decades.

Another important factor that has driven and promoted the practice and recognition of community gardens is the creation of the Australian City Farms & Community Garden Network. This was created by Darren Phillips in 1994 as a result of his PhD research that found that many community-based garden projects throughout Australia had no form of communication or network to provide a support base to each other. The Internet network through the World Wide Web now provides an extensive resource of information, news, email and correspondence. Its main feature it has provided to those interested in community gardens is social media via blogs, Facebook and Twitter that have helped to influence the movement and the common goals of individual community garden projects. More importantly, it creates a powerful national movement and strength to deliver outcomes, statistics and a voice to the policy makers in government that make decisions that can influence and support the community garden movement in Australia.

The late 1990s resulted in a moderate number of community gardens developing across the nation, mainly in larger urban areas. More importantly, around this period the Local and State Governments started to take interest in community gardens. The best example of government involvement with community gardens during the late nineties was the establishment of Cultivating Community in Melbourne. The model was the brainchild of Basil Natoli, who created the innovative model with the Victorian Government through the Department of Human Services (DHS). Cultivating Community currently manages 21 community gardens in the Melbourne metro area for low-income communities. Cultivating Community successfully runs and manages the community gardens and food program in Melbourne.

From the year 2000 onwards the number of community gardens has increased dramatically and grown at a steady pace mainly through voluntary community participation and informal partnerships through

## 4. THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

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local council. Community gardens are now seen to be attractive, functional and positive spaces for the community on environmental, health, social, psychological and economical levels, although local government are still unsure how to manage, coordinate and fund community gardens.

Although community gardens are increasing, there seems to be a lack of government policy and regulation. It is believed the first community garden at a local level to adopt government policy came in 2007 when Marrickville Council commissioned the first government policy in NSW and possibly Australia; other councils in NSW have followed the trend with reasonable results. The advantage of local council adopting government policy is that the process is properly managed, budgeted and delegated to council employees. These employees oversee the application, planning, development and implementation of community gardens in either the short term or the long term and record the progress of the community garden establishment. Unfortunately the lack of government policy with local council creates a hopeless gap that creates serious issues for community cohorts trying to plan, develop and establish community gardens with successful outcomes.

There are six models of community gardens that have evolved over the past three decades:

- Self-Managed Garden, in which the gardeners form committees and these committees make the decisions and have responsibility for the direction the garden takes with regard to its day-to-day operation. This model seems to be the most popular among community groups.
- Council-volunteer community garden, in which the gardeners are council volunteers. Generally a council volunteer needs to be on-site when the group is gardening to supervise and co-ordinate the activities and materials, similar to the role Michael Hatton plays at the North Shepparton Community Garden.
- Council-managed community gardens, which operate much like UK allotment garden, with council licensing access to an allotment for a fixed period of time. The council remains responsible for major decisions and the garden is normally managed by a dedicated staff member similar to the Veg Out community garden in St Kilda, Victoria.
- Agency community gardens, generally established by a community centre, health centre or disability centre for their clients needs. Some are now developing into private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to provide education and career pathways. Agency community gardens are generally supported by government and/ or government grants.
- Social housing community gardens. Cultivating Community in Melbourne manages these types of gardens. These gardens are for low-income communities that are financed by the government.
- Community garden education and research hubs. These are community gardens that provide multiple-use facilities on a large scale, similar to CERES in Melbourne, that include education programs, plant nurseries, cafes, allotment gardens, propagation areas, health food shops, market stalls, cultural areas, playgrounds, bookshops, venue hire facilities, administration hubs and environmental research centres. CERES runs as a non-profit organisation and has a Board of Management with a local council representative.

The following community gardens are examples of different models that coexist in Victoria:

### **Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) <sup>3</sup>**

CERES is an internationally recognised model of sustainable society located in Melbourne, Australia. CERES shares its name with the Roman goddess for agriculture, Ceres.

## 4. THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

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CERES is located on 4.5 hectares (10 acres) on the banks of Merri Creek, in East Brunswick, close to the centre of Melbourne, Victoria. Built originally on a decommissioned rubbish tip that was once a bluestone quarry, Ceres is engaging 350,000 people each year and is the most visited community environmental centre in Australia. It is known for being a pioneer of community arts, experimental education and sustainable urban agriculture. CERES is Australia's largest deliverer of environmental education, an event venue and conference centre. It has developed the Sustainable Schools Program, which delivers sustainable education to schools across the state. CERES has developed social enterprises such as a retail nursery, a cafe, an organic farm and market, venue hire facilities, tours and education programs that support the development of the community garden and allotment gardens for the community to grow and harvest fresh food. CERES has been in existence for 27 years and employs 150 people (equivalent to 45 full time staff). It is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation governed by a Committee of Management.

### **Veg Out Community Garden-St Kilda <sup>4</sup>**

Veg Out has come to be known as a thriving, chemical-free garden situated on a former lawn bowls green in the hustle and bustle of St Kilda. The community garden is made up of 140 allotments that are individually creative and eclectic with the gardener's own artistic signature that could only work in the streetscape of St Kilda. Each plot is packed full of healthy produce and maintained to the highest standard. Free-range chooks run freely while gardeners calmly tend to their garden plots. The community garden seems to have a real flow and sense of place. The garden is successful on a number of fronts: firstly a dedicated committee of volunteers have developed social media sites, including a very informative and interactive website, that keeps plot holders updated with events, newsletters, maintenance techniques and planting guides. The other factor that makes the garden successful is the monthly Veg Out Farmers Market that generates both social interactions and financial support towards the garden.

Veg Out comprises of 145 garden plots as well as communal spaces. Ten plots are held by local community groups and the remainder are held by private individuals. Private plot holders pay a six-monthly fee of \$4/m<sup>2</sup> or \$2.5/m<sup>2</sup> concession. Once allotted, the plot becomes the responsibility of the plot holder.

### **Cultivating Community <sup>5</sup>**

Cultivating Community is Melbourne based and is the brainchild of Basil Natoli, who created the innovative model with the State Government of Victoria in 1998. Cultivating Community currently manages 21 community gardens in Melbourne for diverse and low-income communities. Cultivating Community is a non-profit organisation that develops and supports community gardens and local food projects. Cultivating Community is part of a growing national and international 'fair food' movement that recognise the value of ethical and sustainable food production.

Cultivating Community employs seven part-time staff made up of committed individuals who manage and support 21 food gardens on public housing estates across inner Melbourne suburbs including Richmond, Collingwood, Fitzroy, North Melbourne, Carlton, South Melbourne and Prahran. Their programs includes community gardens, school gardens (Edible Classrooms), Community Food Systems and Food Politics Advocacy.

The gardens have become very popular with long waiting lists for most gardens. Local residents are charged a small fee to gain access to the community garden and to be allocated plot that they become responsible for a period of time. The work related to community gardens in public housing is undertaken with financial and partnership support from the Victorian Government through the Department of Human Services (DHS).

## 4. THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

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### **North Shepparton Community Garden**

Located in Shepparton, Victoria, at the North Shepparton Community Hub, this garden is coordinated by Michael Hatton (volunteer) and a small number of loyal volunteers from the local community. The community garden was proposed to the City of Greater Shepparton by Michael Hatton as part of the planning process in the development of the new North Shepparton Community Hub in Parkside Drive, Shepparton. The project was part of the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Project that proposed, 'All Victorians should have the opportunity to live in supportive environments that will promote their health and improve wellbeing.

Other key actions and achievements that were to form the development of the 'Neighbourhood Renewal Project' were:

- Promoting physical activity and active communities
- Promoting accessible and nutritious food
- Promoting mental health and wellbeing.

Financial support for the community garden was funded by the Mental Illness Fellowship of Victoria as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Project. The planning process was conducted by the City of Greater Shepparton, local residents and GOTAFE. The garden design and construction was carried out by Michael Hatton (Horticultural Teacher) and the Certificate III Horticultural students from GOTAFE.

The garden is now managed and co-ordinated by committed volunteers that conduct garden workshops once a month to encourage the local community to interact, socialise and come together to learn and share the craft of growing and harvesting fresh, edible produce. The community garden receives a small amount of support from the City of Greater Shepparton; however, it seems the community garden will have to become self-sufficient to survive the test of time. The garden is attended by a diverse range of residents who participate in food growing workshops and garden maintenance activities.

### SWOT Analysis

#### Strengths

- Australia has a rich multicultural population that has a wealth of knowledge related growing a variety of fruit, vegetables and herbs.
- Australia's diverse population is growing and requires large community garden growing areas.
- Australia is leading the way with environmental best practice, from waste recycling to rainwater harvest and dry climate gardening techniques.

#### Weaknesses

- A lack of understanding of food production, heirloom food varieties and community growing their own food seasonally.
- Community gardens are generally funded by local government with reduced budgets that affect the success and overall food production of community food gardens.
- Lack of administration, management and communication networks.
- Very little accredited training and workshop opportunities.

#### Opportunities

- Ability to conduct purposeful garden workshops (government accredited funded training) to finance and support local community gardens-to formulate a sustainable and productive approach.
- Encourage the value of growing heirloom fruit and vegetable cultivars in community food gardens (food security).
- Educating the community with food growing techniques, create employment and education pathways towards the horticulture stream of Primary Industries.
- Provide suitable spaces that are both functional and well managed by the community and government, that are self-funded by implementing 'fee for service' workshops.
- Produce an incredible diversity of plants, from heirloom varieties to unusual herbs for culinary and medicinal uses.
- Protect food biodiversity by saving and sharing seed.
- Promote the importance of food literacy and healthy eating.
- Provide places of learning and information sharing.
- Inspire to challenge people to grow food in their own homes, schools and nature strips.

#### Threats

- Lack of understanding and education in the community benefits of growing your own fresh food in the community.
- Food security at a local level - shortage of locally grown fresh food and a lack of knowledge with heirloom varieties.
- Failure to sustain community food gardens in the long term.
- The risk of community food gardens being mismanaged by poorly funded local government organisations.

# 5. IDENTIFYING THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENTS REQUIRED

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There are examples of areas in Australian industries and activities where there are weaknesses in skills, knowledge, experience, innovation, policies and/or formal organisational structures to support the ongoing successful development and recognition of individuals and the particular sector.

The focus of all ISS Institute Fellowships is on applied research and investigation overseas by Australians. The main objective is to enable enhancement and improvement in skills and practice not currently available or implemented in Australia and the subsequent dissemination and sharing of those skills and recommendations throughout the relevant Australian industry, education, government bodies and the community.

The skill enhancement areas to be addressed through this Fellowship were:

## **5.1 Influence government policy and recommend the importance of creating policy for community gardens.**

The conclusion with most community garden reports researched in Australia over the past ten years finds a clear gap with the lack of government policy. Getting the attention of policy-makers at the Federal, State and Local levels is of great importance to the development and establishment of community gardens, particularly in the long term.

## **5.2 Review the lack of administration and communication networks with smaller community gardens.**

Community gardens that only support themselves through community exchange will, in the Fellow's opinion, fail in the short term. Community gardens require strong local residents to form committees, administration and policy. Networks via social media in the form of localised Websites, Facebook and Twitter have the ability to generate successful outcomes, particularly in regional areas that have smaller populations.

## **5.3 Improve understanding or address the lack of understanding of why we have community gardens and how they function in society.**

Community gardens are a place for people to come together from all walks of life to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The gardens help to build the community by providing social focus and giving the residents an introduction to growing their own fresh produce that they wouldn't otherwise grow. They also highlight the importance of growing your own fresh food in a local community environment.

## **5.4 Recommend education and training improvements for government-funded training.**

Community gardens are generally funded by local government with reduced budgets. However, in some cases, particularly in regional areas, they do not receive any funding at any level. Creating a secure financial platform for community gardens is critical for their survival. Establishing education programs funded by the government through Registered Training Organisations using the National Training Package could provide the opportunity to support community gardens in the long term.

## **5.5 Identify and recommend career opportunities and skill deficiencies.**

Community gardens have the potential to create career opportunities and pathways for people of all ages, particularly low-income communities that could transition from community food growing into production horticultural or agriculture industries. The other area of interest is improving the skills deficiencies of general horticultural practices, preparing soil, composting, harvesting and planting of edible food.

# 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

## Destination: Gorgie City Farm

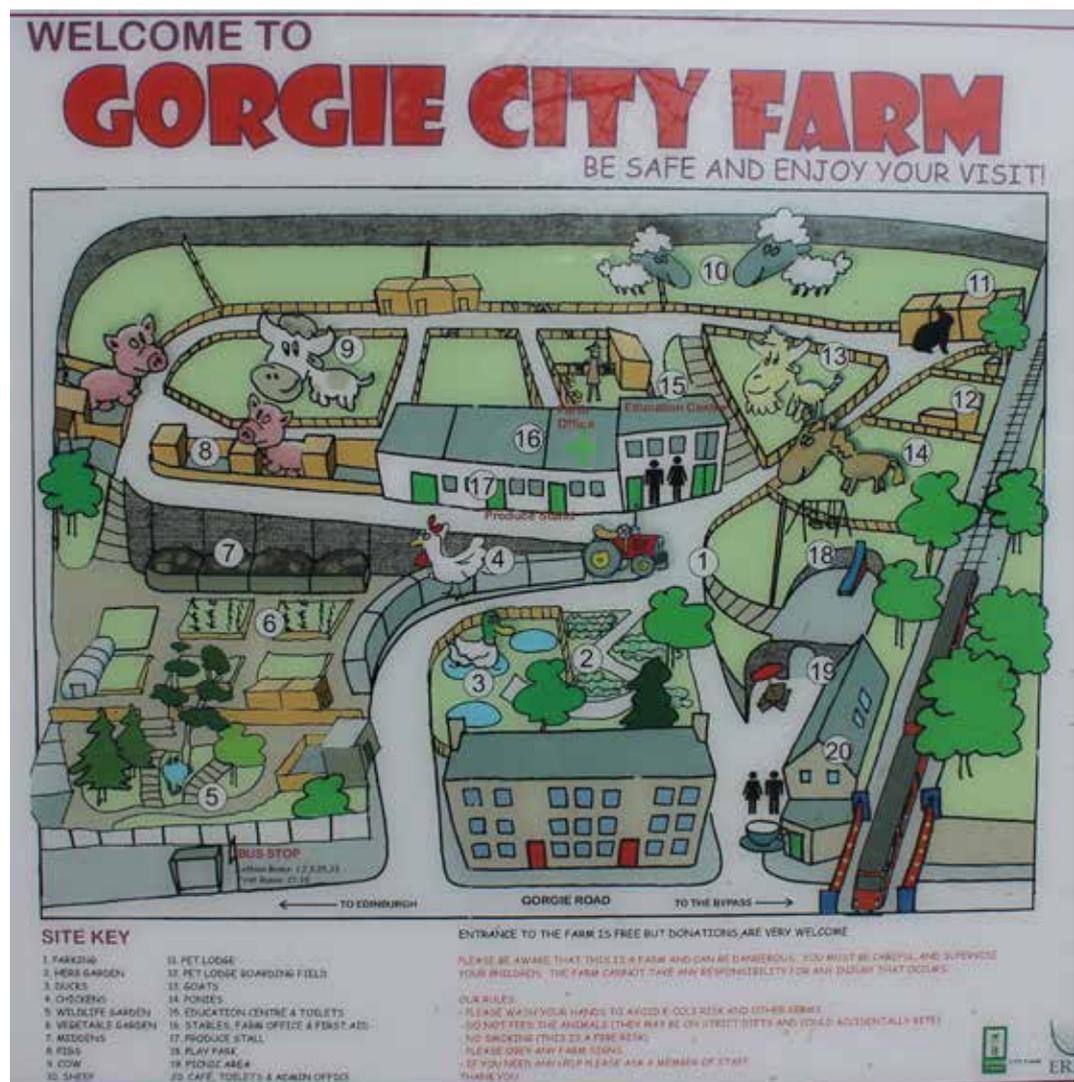
**Location:** Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

**Contact:** Naomi Knights, Scotland Development Worker, Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.

**Organisation overview:** Gorgie City Farm is a popular community gathering space for the local community in Edinburgh and was established in 1982. Gorgie City Farm offers courses in agriculture, gardening and handicrafts for adults and children. <sup>6</sup>

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** The main source of income is from donations of visitors and people buying from the café and



Site plan of Gorgie City Farm

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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produce grown in the community garden. The program also generates income from partnerships with government schools that offer non-accredited horticulture training delivered by qualified horticulturists. A pet holding facility and agriculture program also generates income for Gorgie City Farm.

**Concluding remarks:** Gorgie City Farm is strategically located in a low-income sector of Edinburgh to support low-income families and individuals. It has a long history of development and clearly understands what programs are effective when supporting long-term unemployed and disaffected youth. The community space offers a diverse range of activities, programs and social enterprise services that provide income to support the day-to-day running of the Farm.



*Cafe located at Gorgie City Farm*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



*Produce stall located at Gorgie City Farm*



*Pet lodge located at Gorgie City Farm*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Mother and child interacting and experiencing the farm animals*



*Community work activities carried out by the unemployed workers at Gorgie City Farm*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens

**Location:** NHS Lothian hospital, Morningside Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

**Contact:** Daisy Muir, Garden Supervisor, Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens

**Organisation overview:** The Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens is an NHS Lothian initiative with a mission to make opportunities for good food and healthy lifestyles available to the local communities in which NHS Lothian hospitals are based. The gardens have a particular focus on welcoming people who are experiencing mental or physical health problems, disadvantage, isolation or poverty.<sup>7</sup>

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** The Gardens represent a holistic approach to health promotion which recognises the long term beneficial impacts of community gardening through the opportunities they provide for physical activity, a relaxing and serene environment, healthy lifestyles, healthy eating, social inclusion, contact with the natural world and community building.

**Concluding remarks:** Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens is supported through strong established partnerships consolidated with multiple groups, organisations and associations such as NHS Lothian<sup>8</sup>. NHS Lothian is a charitable organisation that provides a comprehensive range of primary, community-based and acute hospital services for the second largest residential population in Scotland - circa 800,000 people. Cyrenians, Edinburgh Cyrenians Trust<sup>9</sup> is a charitable organisation was formed in 1968 by the local community out of concern for the growing problem of homelessness in Scotland's capital city. Other relevant and notable organisations that support the Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens are Trellis<sup>10</sup> and Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.<sup>11</sup>



*Morning tea with the community volunteers in the produce garden*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Harvest time in the produce garden*

See attachment 1: Site map of REBG

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Riverside Community Garden

**Location:** Pontcanna Allotments, Western Ave, Cardiff, Wales, UK

**Contact:** Jenny Howell, Riverside Community Garden, Cardiff

**Organisation overview:** Riverside Community Markets Association (RCMA)<sup>12</sup> is a local social enterprise created 10 years ago that provides the smaller local producers an opportunity to trade directly with the public. Riverside Community Garden<sup>13</sup> is part of the association and was developed six years ago to support the goals of the social enterprise.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** The RCMA Community Allotment project located at the Pontcanna Allotments provides a place where people can learn how to grow food in a sociable and supportive atmosphere. The Allotment has two working poly-tunnels where peppers, tomatoes, grapes and aubergines are grown, as well as raised beds and an accessible pond and wildlife area. There are a wide variety of different vegetables, fruit and flowers grown at the Allotment - many reflecting the diverse cultural backgrounds of members. The group have created a Facebook group where the social aspect of what they do continues online. Recent additions to the garden included a solar cooker and a compost toilet. Some of these have been built with help from young offenders from a nearby probation hostel.

**Concluding remarks:** Funding is sourced through government grants and partnerships with assistance from local government agencies. The group have developed strong links with school programs that use the garden as a resource and demonstration area that assists with the growing of the garden. The existing partnership between Riverside Community Markets Association (RCMA) and Riverside Community Garden is commercially successful while providing strong outcomes for the community.

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Community volunteers maintaining the produce garden*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Rain garden that creates a central focal point at the Riverside community garden*



## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Food from the Sky

**Location:** Thornton's Budgens, Crouch End, London, UK

**Contact:** Sarah McFadden, Food Growing Coordinator

**Organisation overview:** A Permaculture styled community garden established in May 2010 that grows and harvests food on a supermarket rooftop to sell in the supermarket eight meters below while providing a learning and educational space for the different facets of the communities.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** FOOD from the SKY<sup>14</sup> is a social enterprise supported by dedicated volunteers (two days a week and the last Saturday of the month) on the roof top of Thornton's Budgens supermarket, Crouch End, North London. 'Food from the SKY' has a strong message about inspiring and growing a healthy and sustainable relationship with food in cities and with supermarkets. This is achieved by organic food growing on roofs and running educational programmes for individuals, schools, supermarket employees and organisations to support the message. The organisation has developed a strong base of dedicated volunteers, a Facebook page that has a strong following of 1509 people. Food from the Sky is one of many gardens supported through the Capital Growth program<sup>15</sup> that is a partnership initiative between London Food Link<sup>16</sup>, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson and the Big Lottery's Local Food Fund<sup>17</sup>. It is championed by the Chair of the London Food Board Rosie Boycott and aims to create 2012 new community food-growing spaces across London by the end of 2012. Capital Growth offers practical help, grants, training and support to groups wanting to establish community food growing projects as well as advice to landowners.

Capital growth program commenced in 2011 and have created multiple initiatives to encourage the urban agriculture movement in London including the Grow to Sell support program that helps Capital Growth sites sell their surplus produce to local restaurants and market stalls. Since its launch in 2011 groups have been helped to start growing produce to sell, through support with crop planning, training and selling to restaurants and at events. Grow to Sell support helps growing spaces to make some extra cash for their food-growing space. This could be through:

- Selling surplus through market stalls and one of sales
- Learning how to grow produce to sell through our training
- Help with finding restaurants and other regular buyers
- Ideas on how to add value to produce and to generate income through other ideas.

**Concluding remarks:** FOOD from the SKY is creative partnership between Thornton's Budgens supermarket in North London and Azul-Valerie Thome. The organisation is socially active within the community - offering non-accredited training programs to volunteers with suggested minimum donations and occasional social gathering that require payment. Overall the model offers strong important environmental messages to the community. Grows, harvests and sells healthy food economically and sustainably while connecting with the community in a cost effective means.

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Builders scaffold and aluminium steps is the entrance to the Food from the Sky community garden*



*Produce garden on the roof-top of the supermarket with a featured hot house constructed from recycled plastic drink bottles*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Supermarket situated under the roof top produce garden



Promotional signage board inside the supermarket

### Destination: Culpeper Community Garden

**Location:** Islington, London, UK

**Contact:** Martha Orbach, Garden Manager, Culpeper Community Garden

**Organisation overview:** Culpeper Community Garden<sup>18</sup> is a beautiful public open space in the heart of Islington, London, which serves both as a city park and as an environmental community project. Managed by and for local people, it is a unique project where people from all walks of life come together to appreciate and enhance their city environment.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** The overall garden provides somewhere for children to learn to grow and care for plants and vegetables. In 1982, with a small grant from Islington Council, work began to transform a derelict, rubbish-filled site into the beautiful public open space it is today. The organic garden comprises a lawn, ponds, rose pergolas, ornamental beds, vegetable plots, seating and a wildlife area. It contains 50 plots including two raised beds for disabled gardeners: these small gardens are for community groups, children and for people living nearby who do not have gardens. Tending the garden is a communal effort by garden members and volunteers. Culpeper has won many awards over the years, including 'best display in a public space in London', awarded by the London Gardens Society, 1999, 2000 and 2002, and 'Best Communal Garden in London', awarded by London in Bloom, 2003. Funding is supported by membership fees, government assistance.

**Concluding remarks:** Culpeper Community Garden is managed carefully and ideally located in a picturesque area of Islington. The community garden provides a multipurpose and functional space for members and the general public of various ages and cultures that work and live together in a harmonious style.



*Signage to the main entrance*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Lunchtime visitors relax in the outdoor space at the Culpeper Community Garden*

See Attachment 6: Culpeper community garden plan

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Federation of City Farms and Community office

**Location:** Kentish Town City Farm, Camden, London, UK

**Contact:** Nemone Mercer, Development Worker, Federation of City Farms and

#### Community Gardens (FCFCG).

**Organisation overview:** FCFCG<sup>19</sup> are a registered charity that has been established for 30 years. Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens supports, represents and promotes community-managed farms, gardens, allotments and other green spaces, creating opportunities for local communities to grow in the UK.

They work with these community groups to help empower local people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to build better communities, often in deprived areas, and to make a positive impact on their surrounding environment. FCFCG work contributes to creating better communities across the UK in both urban and isolated rural areas.

FCFCG provide the national face of the community farm and garden movement, promoting its work and raising its profile with decision-makers, funders, the public and the media.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** FCFCG support community-managed groups working with people, animals and plants. They represent around 120 city and school farms, nearly 1,000 community gardens, a growing number of community-managed allotments and at least 200 city farms and community gardens in development.

Between them their members employ around 550 people, engage and empower thousands of volunteers and attract over three million visitors each year. Their estimated combined annual turnover is £40 million.

These are groups set up by local people, run by local people and primarily for the benefit of local people. They are usually established in response to a lack of access to green space combined with a desire to encourage strong community relationships and an awareness of farming and gardening. FCFCG provide a significant website that offers information, communication links and support mechanisms for members and support staff.

The groups they represent are incredibly diverse in size and location. They include city and school farms, community gardens and orchards, allotment gardens and just about any other piece of community-managed green space. They also offer our services to any other organisation running a community farm or garden (for example local authorities, schools, trusts, hospitals, housing associations and public buildings).

**Concluding remarks:** Hatton visited the staff of the FCFCG in Edinburgh, Cardiff and London offices. Hatton interviewed the Managers and development officers relating to the history, program outline and funding structure of the FCFCG and found the staff to be very competent, knowledgeable, dedicated and passionate about their organisation and programs.

FCFCG are supported from a number of Government departments, regional development organisations and local authorities, although difficult funding and financial restraints have continued to pose key questions for the organisation in the future.

In 2012 the organisation has developed a number of responses to focus on the future with the Growing People Program<sup>20</sup>; in Wales that aims to help people manage food and gardening schemes. Further key development work has eventuated in Northern Ireland with the employment of the first staff member to help support partnerships with local authorities and key stakeholders. Another financial

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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opportunity developed is the partnership recently created with Cultivating Communities<sup>21</sup>, a trading arm of FCFCG that will develop sponsorship opportunities to diversify income and create a possible financial strategies for FCFCG in the future. In addition, there is support from various voluntary sector organisations such as Trellis<sup>22</sup> whose work intersects with the FCFCG as well as a variety of funding organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund<sup>23</sup>.



*Nemone Mercer in her office where she co-ordinates the day to day activities.*

### Destination: Growing Communities

**Location:** Allens Garden Site, Hackney, UK

**Contact:** Paul Bradbury, Grower, Growing Communities

**Organisation overview:** Growing Communities is a social enterprise based in Hackney, London that grows a wide variety of salad greens on multiple community garden sites.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** Growing Communities<sup>24</sup> has spent the past eighteen years building up the box scheme and market and growing sites. It now has twenty-six part-time members of staff. It has recently launched a Start-up Programme<sup>25</sup> to enable other groups to set up similar community-led box schemes based on the successful model created in Hackney, supporting local farmers and creating jobs elsewhere in the UK. The organisation has also recently set up a Starter Farm in Dagenham which is now starting to produce organic vegetables for sale in Hackney and Dagenham. Salad production from all of the sites produced 80kg per week in the summer of 2011.

**Concluding remarks:** Growing Communities operate organically certified urban market gardens through 'community lead trade'<sup>26</sup> meaning that volunteers contribute to growing the crops in preparation for sale at market gardens. Other significant income comes from government funded partnerships. Their urban growing sites also provide non-accredited training for apprentice growers and volunteers provide their time and labour in the garden to experience hands on gardening principles and techniques that are supervised by a qualified grower.



*Community volunteers prepare the harvest for the local markets*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Michael Hatton and volunteers prepare a planting bed*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Destination: Feedback Farms

**Location:** Brooklyn, NYC, USA

**Contact:** Edie Stone, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation,  
Green Thumb Program, New York, USA

**Organisation overview:** Feedback Farms formed in 2011 and is an experimental urban agricultural model of community gardening.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, program outline and funding structure.

**Findings:** Feedback Farms<sup>27</sup> is a blend of social enterprise and community volunteer participation that uses temporary urban sites owned by the city or private developers that can reclaim the site at any time. Because the site contains contaminated soil the produce grown is raised in movable plastic bags designed to be moved at short notice using forklift pallets. The program is a result of a grass roots group of Brooklyn gardeners with an idea: identify all the vacant land in the borough, and then help the neighbourhood residents take them over. They created an online web database and map, then a mobile app with information about the plots, including the names and phone numbers of the agencies that owned them. They call themselves 596 Acres<sup>28</sup>, after the total area of unused public land in Brooklyn, according to current data (all featured and accessed on the public website 596acres.org).

**Concluding remarks:** The gardeners are also experimenting with planters that are irrigated from below and equipped with electronic sensors that monitor the moisture levels and provide information to the server nearby. They are also testing various soil media in various type of planters and expect to grow 1,200-1,900 pounds of produce this season that consist of tomatoes, Shishito peppers, lettuce, kale and bok-choy that are planned to be sold to restaurants and markets to support the garden. Feedback Farms is also supported by Green Thumbs Program, New York, NY<sup>29</sup> and various community lead grants.



*Passionate food grower tends to her crop of tomatoes in preparation for harvest and delivery for local restaurants in NYC*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Feedback Farms is an experimental urban agricultural model of community gardening.*

### Destination: New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Green Thumb Program

**Location:** NYC Parks GreenThumb Office, Manhattan, New York, USA

**Contact:** Edie Stone, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Green Thumb Program, New York, USA

**Organisation overview:** New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Green Thumb Program (GreenThumb)<sup>30</sup> provides programming and material support to over 600 registered community gardens in New York City and is the largest community garden program in the nation serving over 8,000 registered garden members.

**Objectives:** To investigate the history, current programming and funding structure.

**Findings:** GreenThumb<sup>30</sup> was established in 1978 to manage and support the growing number of community groups claiming and taking possession of discarded city owned property that was a result of a late 1970s activist agenda to reclaim and beautify derelict sites of public and private land. Hatton interviewed Edie Stone, who is the director of GreenThumb, the community garden program at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. GreenThumb runs on a budget of \$US600,000 to \$US800,000 a year, Stone said, mostly with federal Community Development Block Grants designated for poorer neighborhoods. From this pool, a typical garden receives about \$US600 in support and materials. The entire GreenThumb staff, including seasonal employees, numbers between 15 to 20 people. Yet by necessity and by design, the gardens are largely on their own. And so are the gardeners. It is the volunteers who shoulder the responsibility to maintain the lots and open the gates to the public for 20 hours a week (between April 1 and October 31)<sup>31</sup>. Hatton was impressed with the focus and work ethic of GreenThumb staff, particularly the devotion and forward thinking of the GreenThumb director Edie Stone.

**Concluding remarks:** Currently in New York City there are multiple food-garden proposals and initiatives labelled Foodworks<sup>32</sup>, FoodNYC<sup>33</sup> and PLaNYC<sup>34</sup> all driven by the New York City Government to identify vacant land that has the possibility for urban agriculture projects. Also participating in the trend is a grass roots Brooklyn based garden-advocacy group called 596Acres<sup>35</sup>. Ms Stone stated that with all the new stake-claimers, they receive three or four requests a week, currently probably the most it's ever been. She further stated that perhaps 100 potential sites should be evaluated by spring.

A 2009 survey commissioned by GreenThumb, found that the average community garden listed 29 members on its official rolls. But for many gardens, nearly 10 per cent, struggle to meet the 10-person minimum that the agency require to renew each group's registration.

Who will actually do these jobs is an interesting question and one that hasn't necessarily been asked amid the blossoming of enthusiasm. Ms. Stone also said that everybody is assuming there's an infinite list of people waiting for a spot in the garden, but that she is yet to be convinced that this is the case.

In other words, before acres of pavement can turn into urban farmland, someone will have to figure out how to grow a healthy crop of urban farmers.<sup>36</sup>

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Edie Stone*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Michael Hatton and Edie Stone in front of one of the six-hundred community gardens co-ordinated by the Green Thumbs program in NYC*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Lets Get Dirty-Community Garden Project

**Location:** Melrose, Bronx, NYC, USA

**Contact:** Edie Stone, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Green Thumb Program, New York, USA

**Organisation overview:** New York City Department of Parks and Recreation<sup>37</sup> (NYCDPR), Green Thumb Program, (GreenThumb) provides programming and material support to over 600 registered community gardens in New York City and is the largest community garden program in the nation serving over 8,000 registered garden members.

**Objectives:** Volunteer to help build the community garden, observe the planning, process and outcomes. To investigate the funding model and outcomes.

**Concluding remarks:** The garden planning, organising and funding was cleverly devised and sourced from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Green Thumb Program, (GreenThumb). The design and construction was supported by The New York Botanical Gardens<sup>38</sup> and NYCDPR as part of the Bronx Green-Up program<sup>39</sup>, a community outreach program that provides horticultural advice, training to community gardeners, school groups, and other organisations interested in improving urban neighbourhoods in the Bronx through greening projects. The labour intensive work was a combined effort by the Parks Dept, children, parents, garden volunteers and one Hollywood actor. In just one impressive day, a fully funded community garden was constructed while city officials and a Hollywood movie (Spiderman) were promoted extensively by the fast paced media and movie making marketers. The Fellow particularly enjoyed the hype and community spirit that created a sense of fun and inclusion during the build - all cleverly planned and devised by the forward thinking Green Thumb team. Creativity and innovation seems to be key to turning empty urban lots into green belts!



*Michelle Correa a volunteer garden coordinator planting a fruit tree during the garden construction*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Balloons and children's activity created a sense of fun and hype during the build*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Hollywood actor Rhys Ifans visited during the garden construction as part of the organised media hype and release of the new spider-man movie*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Growing Power from the ground up workshop

**Location:** Growing Power Milwaukee Headquarter and Urban Farm, Milwaukee, WI, USA

**Contact:** Will Allen

**Organisation overview:** Growing Power<sup>40</sup> is an urban agriculture organisation in Milwaukee and office, workshop and growing area in Chicago. It currently runs the last functional farm within the city limits of Milwaukee. Growing Power was started by Will Allen who bought the Milwaukee farm in 1993. In 2008 he was awarded a MacArthur Foundation<sup>41</sup> “Genius Grant” of \$500,000 for his work on urban farming and sustainable food production.

**Objectives:** To attend a compressive workshop and experience the Growing Power social movement.

**Concluding remarks:** Incredibly active and enthusiastic group that have formed a strong social movement in America that supports urban agriculture and food systems that are sustainable and accessible to inner city communities living in what is now referred to as “food deserts”. The hands on workshop was for two days and made of approximately 200 people that where either wanting to create urban agriculture businesses or community garden spaces for food production. The program was made up of introductions, farm tours and workshop breakout groups that involved aquaponics, beekeeping, composting, vermicomposting, community project design, hoop house construction, mushroom cultivation, green house production and renewable energy with focus on solar power. Growing Power is a modern action group that utilise technology and government assistance with a business sense to move forward the message of social change and understanding of urban agriculture.



*Growing Power headquarters in Milwaukee*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Soil workshop in progress headed by Will Allen the founder of Growing Power*

6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



Garden Design workshop in progress for community gardens at Growing Power in Milwaukee

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Windy City Harvest

**Location:** Richard J. Daley College, Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Contact:** Angela Mason, Director of Community Gardening, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Organisation overview:** Windy City Harvest program<sup>42</sup> provides a nine-month certificate job training program including work placement in horticulture and urban farming in the new “green collar” jobs sector. The program is delivered by the Chicago Botanic Garden<sup>43</sup> in partnership with Richard J. Daley College<sup>44</sup>. Organic vegetables are grown by students and sold to the community in areas known as “food deserts”.

**Objectives:** To visit the program and observe and experience the training model and partnership between the Chicago Botanical Garden and Richard J. Daley College. Gather information from the trainers and students regarding the experience and outcomes the training program produces.

**Concluding remarks:** The Windy City Harvest Program raises the benchmark and leads the way in sustainable horticulture and urban agriculture training. The training program and industry compliant facilities offer a well developed interactive teaching model that creates ‘live work’ or project-based learning that simulates the workplace. Participants are hands-on with the complete cycle of organic food production. Students are trained and experience organic growing, harvesting, packaging, food handling, transporting, pricing, selling and marketing the product. This training model creates an environment of problem solving, time constraints and forward thinking to develop genuine learning outcomes in real time for students to achieve and prepare for the workplace. The enthusiasm of the staff was impressive and clearly has impacted on the program and student outcomes. This success ultimately stems from strong leadership and management driven-outcomes that has developed a strong and cost effective training model. The impressive list of partnerships and networks created by Chicago Botanical Garden to develop the education program into a community enterprise is another strong element of the success of the Windy City Harvest Program.



*Students from the Windy City Harvest program maintain there crop*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Windy City Harvest production area at Richard J. Daley College in Chicago*



*Students prepare their organic produce for the weekend market*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Destination: Cook County Boot Camp

**Location:** Cook County Jail Boot Camp, Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Contact:** Kelly Larson, Manager of Windy City Harvest, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Organisation overview:** Windy City Harvest also operates a produce and training garden at the Cook County Sheriffs Boot Camp. Windy City Harvest is a program developed by the Chicago Botanical Garden that offers a range of alternative and progressive opportunities for young men. The Chicago Botanical Garden is partnered with the Cook County Sheriffs Vocational Rehabilitation Impact Centre<sup>45</sup> or V.R.I.C that is designed to provide court-ordered non-violent offenders a four-month strict detention program based on basic discipline, educational skills, counselling and alcohol substance abuse treatment.

**Objectives:** To observe the structure of the Windy City Harvest gardening program, visit and discuss the program with the manager and farm coordinator of Windy City Harvest at the Cook County Sheriffs Boot Camp. To discuss the program with the participants of the program.

**Concluding remarks:** The program partnership between Cook County Sheriffs Boot Camp and Chicago Botanical Garden is extremely well organised and managed. Facilities, production area, garden training centre are well established and managed that it reflected a profitable horticultural business. The majority of the staff are well educated, motivated and enthusiastic towards the Windy City Harvest program and its “people” and production outcomes. The yield produces a staggering 18,000 pounds of produce annually and is distributed into disadvantaged community groups. Participants of the program had positive attitudes towards the staff and program that offers many opportunities and prepares graduates for post-release work in Windy City Harvests transitional jobs program and also encourages graduates of the Boot Camp to apply for the Windy City Harvest certificate program<sup>46</sup>.



*Windy City Harvest Manager-Kelly Larsen and Farm coordinator-Chris Prochot from Chicago Botanical Garden at the Cook County Sheriffs Boot Camp*

## 6. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Produce farm located at Cook County Sheriffs Boot Camp in Chicago*

# 7. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER: APPLYING THE OUTCOMES

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The Fellow has developed a one-hour presentation about the different international models of community gardens, education and management from the Fellows international experience. Hatton also gives examples of successful partnerships between community garden organisations and stakeholders from his international experience.

The expected outcomes of the presentation are to assist individuals to develop, manage and create successful partnerships and affiliations to sustain a community garden.

The presentation will be delivered to the following sectors:

## **Garden clubs and associations**

- Tatura Garden Club-March 2013
- Murchison Garden Club-June 2013
- Kyabram Garden Club- December 2013
- Bunbartha Garden Club-March 2014

## **Student and Industry workshops**

- Therapeutic Association of Victoria Conference – September 2013
- Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE- Landscape Design students-August 2012

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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The following observations were made and information was gained throughout the journey of the Fellowship program that have led to a range of recommendations made:

- Appropriate sequenced planning with community, government, industry partners and stakeholders is crucial for a successful community garden outcome
- Liaising with planners and horticultural professionals is a necessary process to have a successful community garden outcome
- The community or volunteers must be part of the design and build process otherwise there will be a risk of a disconnection towards the community garden space
- Community partnerships with the appropriate stakeholders can create opportunities for education and training
- Community partnerships with the appropriate stakeholders can create cost effective incentives to make the community garden financially sustainable and viable for the future
- Strong forward thinking individuals with select skills are a necessary requirement to sustain a successful community garden
- Acknowledging social trends and current events that effect community and standards of living is a necessary observation towards planning and sustaining community gardens
- Social Media is a powerful communication tool and is a necessary solution to managing community garden and events.

### Industry

In view of the findings the Primary Industries sector are encouraged to:

- Create business partnerships with community gardens and community urban farms that create opportunities similar to Growing Communities 24. Growing produce while engaging community connection can be partnered with industry and have positive outcomes for all concerned.
- A creative business element between the Hospitality Industry and community grown produce is another pathway to a successful community managed gardens similar to Feedback Farms 27.

### Government

In view of the findings the Australian Government is encouraged to:

- Endorse, support and financially assist one main network similar to the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) in the United Kingdom. There are already splintered groups of existing networks in Australia (Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Network) that offer community gardens support; however one main body endorsed by the Federal Government would be beneficial to all States of Australia who require support to build, maintain and manage community gardens.
- State and Federal governments could develop government departments that can initiate programs similar to New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Green Thumb Program, (GreenThumb)<sup>39</sup> and the Bronx Green-Up program<sup>39</sup>.
- The Australian Government is encouraged to investigate the Big Lottery's Local Food Fund 17 and Capital Growth program 15 that has the potential to financially support community garden networks and organisations.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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### Education and Training

In view of the findings the Education and Training organisations are encouraged to:

- Partner and network with community garden networks to create programs and develop curriculum related activities that could be aligned to training package outcomes similar to the Chicago Botanical Garden - Windy City Harvest Program<sup>42</sup>, and the Richard J. Daley College<sup>44</sup> and the Cook County Sheriffs Vocational Rehabilitation Impact Centre program<sup>45</sup>.

### Community

In view of the findings the community organisations are encouraged to:

- Partner with creative stakeholders to sustain and promote the community garden to its full potential similar to the charity organisations Trellis 10 and Thrive<sup>47</sup>. Community gardens that regularly fail are due to a lack of creative partnerships between stakeholders. Community gardens or urban farms have incredible opportunities with government, education, and Industry similar to partnerships created with the Gorgie City Farm<sup>6</sup>, Chicago Botanic Garden<sup>43</sup>, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation<sup>37</sup> Growing Power<sup>40</sup>.

### ISS Institute

In view of the findings the ISS Institute are encouraged to investigate charity organisations or not for profit organisations similar to Trellis 10 and Thrive<sup>10</sup> that create social partnerships between community garden networks and organisations. These organisations support health and wellbeing through Horticulture and have the potential to create a beneficial partnership between community garden networks and education in Australia.

## 9. REFERENCES

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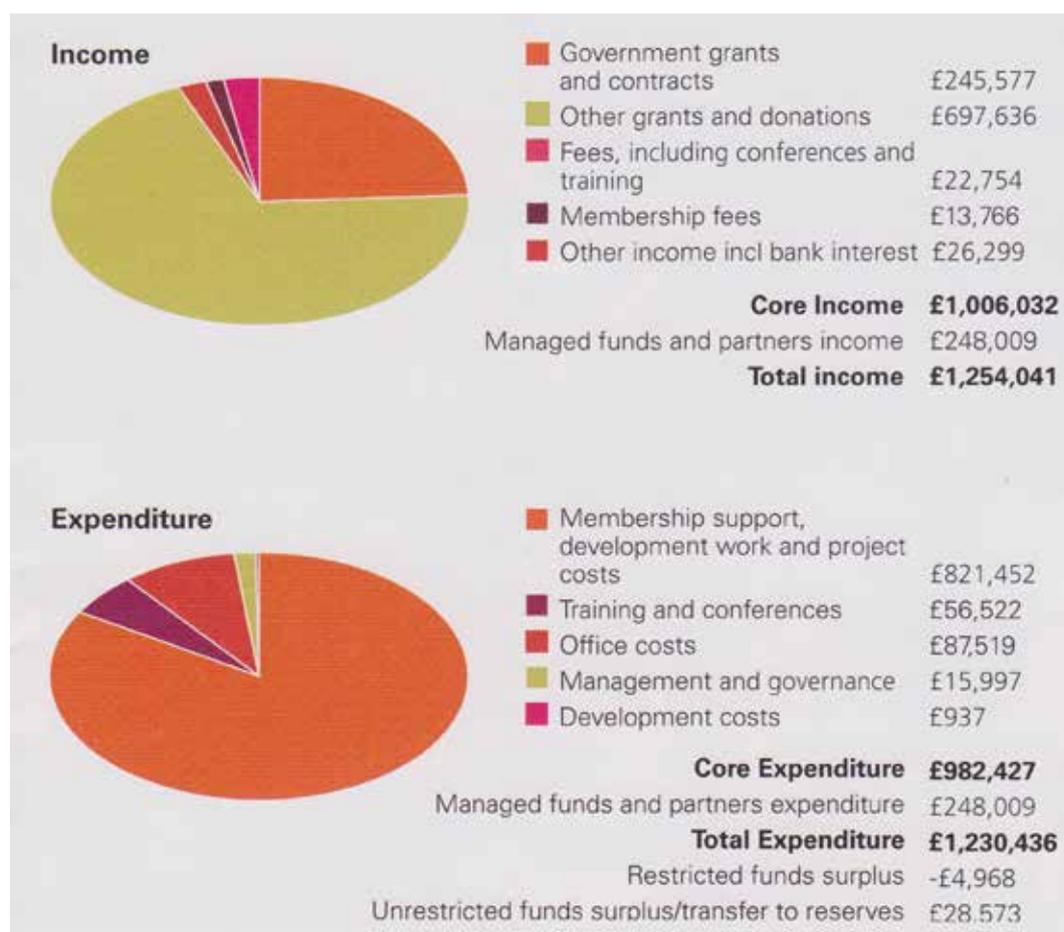
# 10. ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment 1** - RECG Plan of garden site

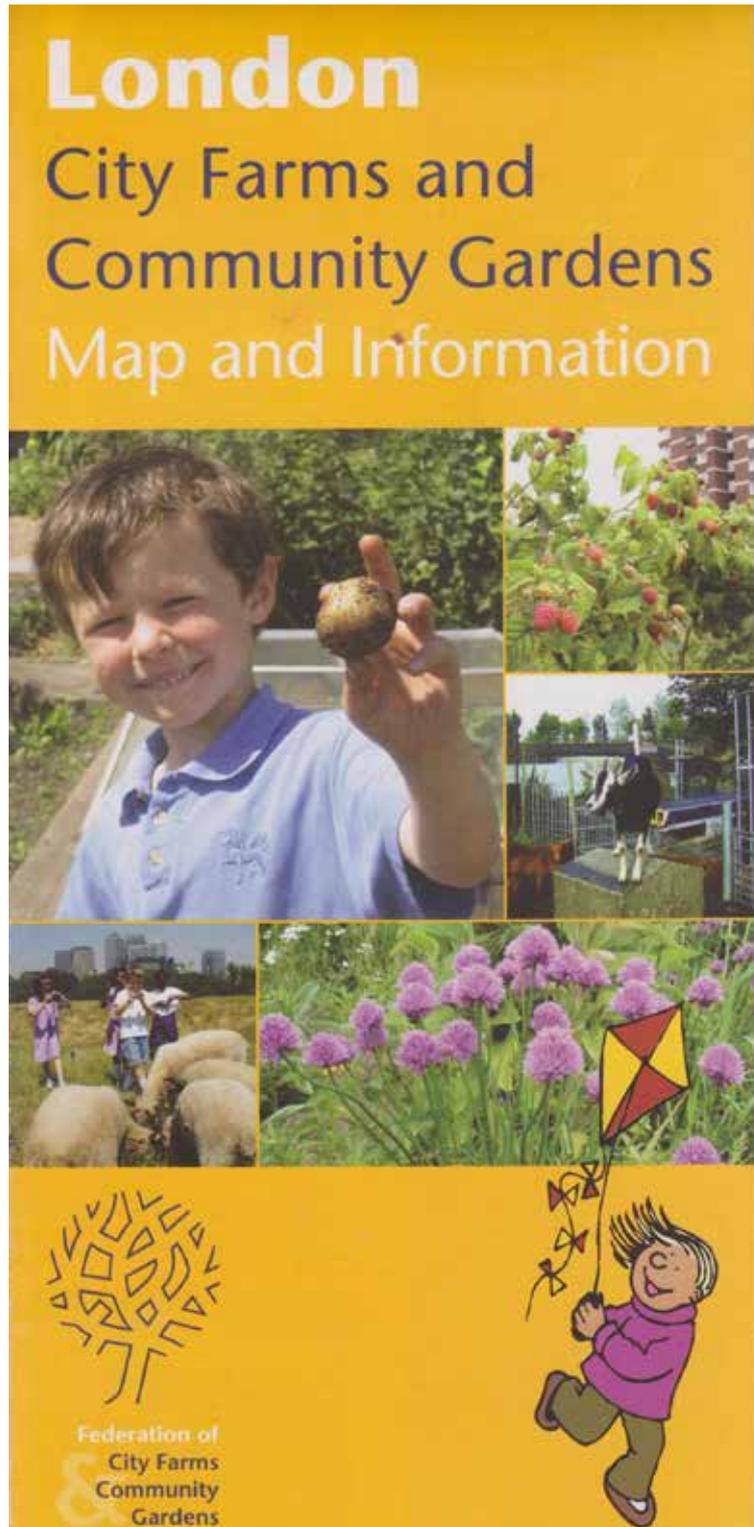


## 10. ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment 2 - FCFCG 2011-2012 Financial Report



Attachment 3 - FCFCG Map and Information (London)



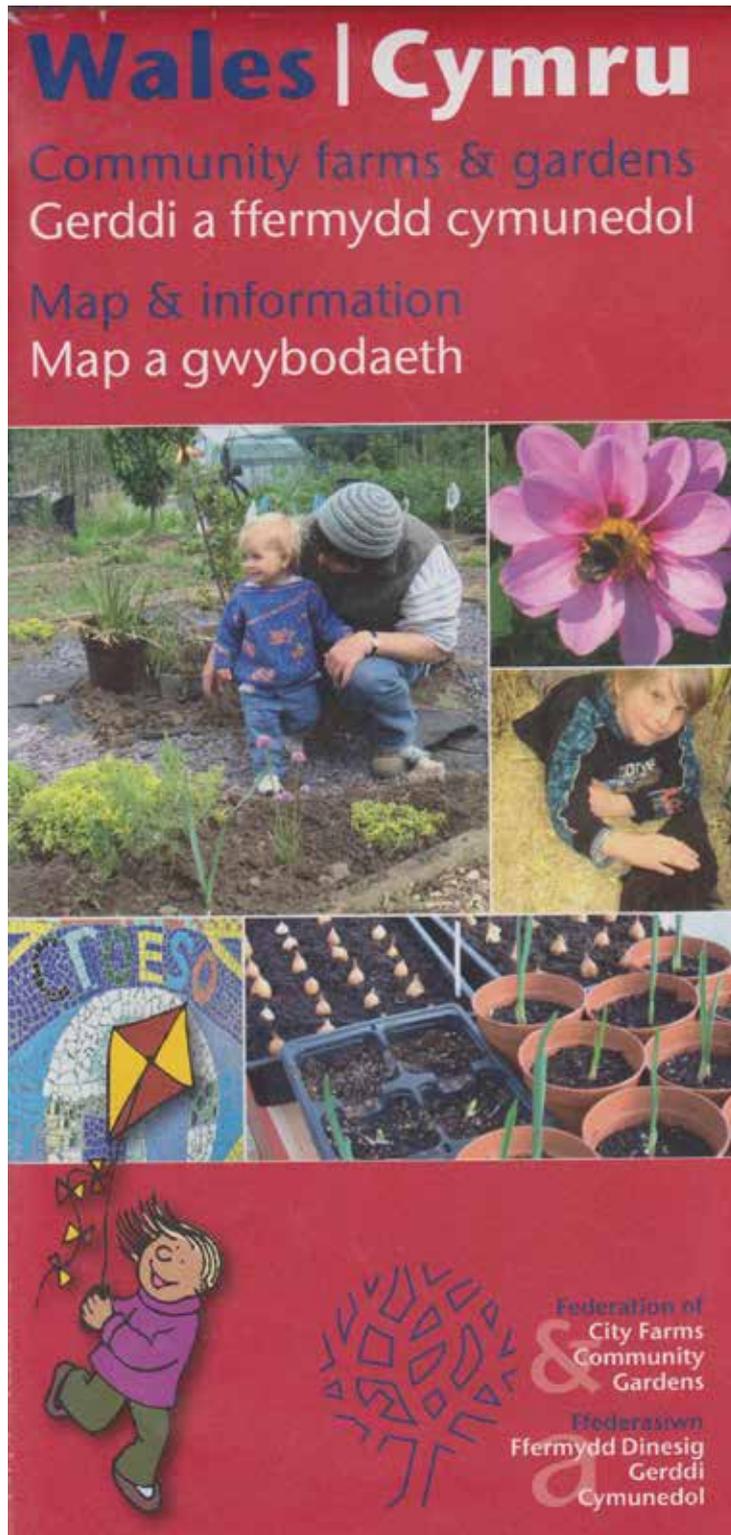
## 10. ATTACHMENTS

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### Attachment 4 - FCFCG Map and Information (Scotland)

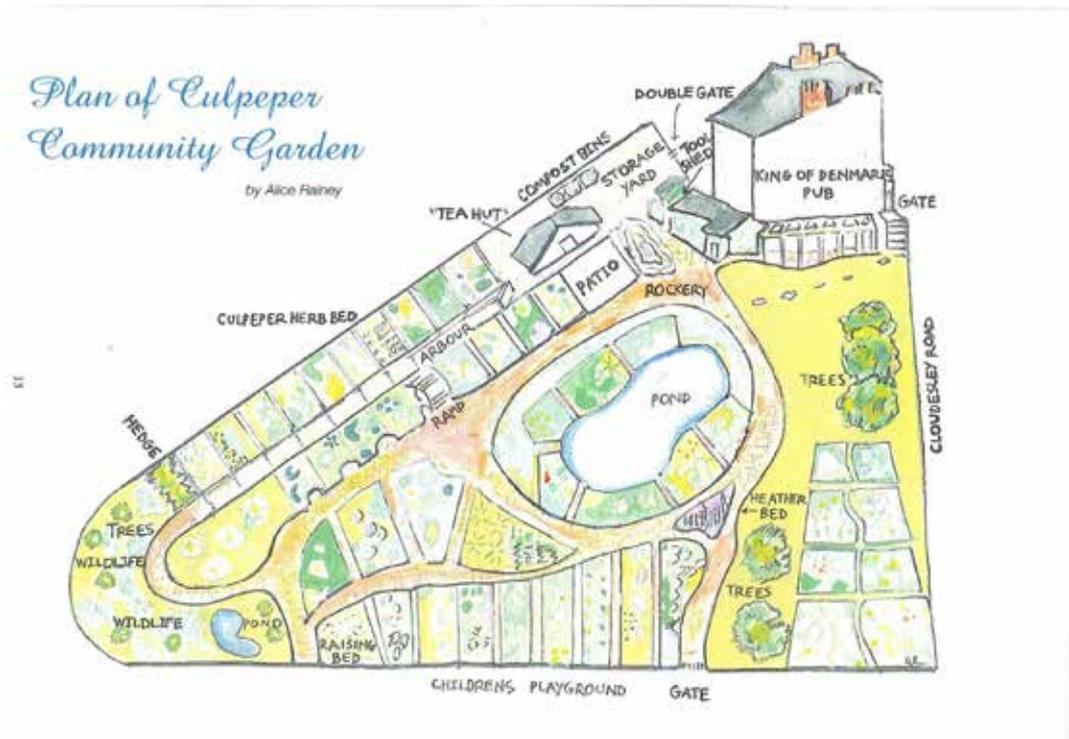


Attachment 5 - FCFCG Map and Information (Wales)

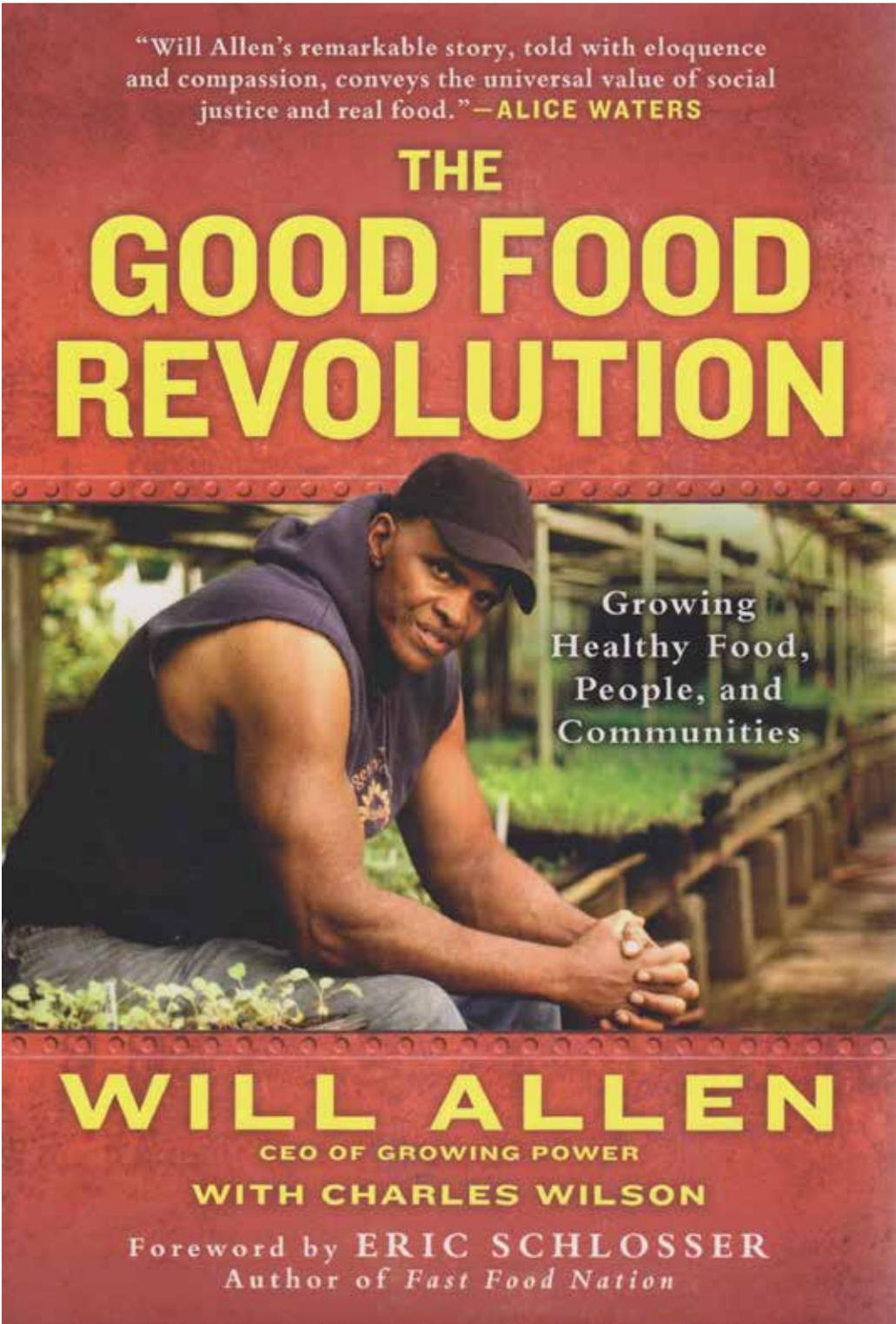


## 10. ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment 6 - Culpepper Community Garden Plan



Attachment 7 - The Good Food Revolution. Author-Will Allen



## 10. ATTACHMENTS

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**Attachment 8 -** Growing Power Workshop (Image 2)



*Julgeek Boston  
9-6-12.*

# GROWING POWER FROM THE GROUND UP! WORKSHOP JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> 2012

Welcome to Growing Power Community Food Center

**Agenda\***

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30AM - 10AM** Registration, Continental Breakfast, Network and Mingle with other participants
- 10AM -11AM** Introduction to Growing Power and participants
- 11AM -1 PM** Tour of Growing Power Farm
- 1PM – 2PM** Lunch
- 2PM - 6PM** Workshop break-out session  
(Participants choose one break out session, see next page.)
- 6PM – 8PM** Dinner and social time

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 9AM – 10AM** Continental breakfast, network and mingle
- 10AM- 2PM** Workshop break-out session  
(Participants choose one break out session, see next page.)
- 2PM-3PM** Lunch and workshop wrap-up

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** These times are approximate! We encourage networking with other participants, involvement, and questions so each participant can get the most out of the experience. Due to the hands-on nature of our workshops, we do not adhere to a specific time frame.

## Attachment 9 - Windy City Fact Sheet (Icon 9)



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

# Windy City Harvest

Richard J. Daley College  
*A Growing Community Enterprise*





**What is Windy City Harvest?**  
Windy City Harvest is a social enterprise that provides a nine-month certificate training program and internship in sustainable horticulture and urban agriculture. Students grow fruits and vegetables using organic methods and gain experience in a variety of urban farming and horticulture activities through work placements with other organizations and production sites. The program is offered in partnership with Richard J. Daley College/Arturo Velasquez Institute and accredited by the Illinois Community College Board.

**Who participates?**  
Adults, 18 years and older from the city of Chicago are eligible to participate.

**What do the students learn?**  
Participants acquire hands-on experience with sustainable vegetable production and learn essential business skills, including planning, pricing, sales, and marketing. Students receive six months of hands-on instruction in greenhouse and outdoor growing practices, followed by a three-month paid internship. New in 2011, the program includes training in aquaponics—a method of growing organic produce and fresh fish year-round using a symbiotic, closed-loop system. After satisfactory completion of the curriculum and training requirements, students achieve certification in sustainable horticulture and urban agriculture. The certificate from the Richard J. Daley College readies participants for employment in the new “green collar” jobs sector. Windy City Harvest will soon offer additional credit-earning opportunities to graduates and other qualified applicants through mini-certificate courses in areas such as aquaponics, composting, rooftop fruit and vegetable gardening, food safety and preservation, micro farm business development, and native plant gardening.

**Where does it take place?**  
Windy City Harvest participants study at the Richard J. Daley College’s Arturo Velasquez Institute at 2800 South Western Avenue in Chicago, and at other sites. The locations provide year-round greenhouses, fully equipped classrooms, and high-quality outdoor plant production spaces.

**What is the future of windy city harvest?**  
The growing demand by individuals, commercial establishments, and educational and healthcare institutions for locally grown, affordable produce indicates a bright future for Windy City Harvest and its graduates. The future is even more promising, given Mayor Emanuel’s plan to expand healthy food access to all Chicago communities.

## 10. ATTACHMENTS



### Where is Windy City Harvest produce sold?

- Dill Pickle Food Co-op
- Green Grocer Chicago
- Pilsen Community Market
- Chicago Botanic Garden Farmers' Market
- Edible Alchemy Food Co-op
- Fresh Moves
- Midwest Foods

### Who are the Garden's partners in the initiative?

Major funding for Windy City Harvest is provided by an anonymous donor, the Cook County Environmental Control Department, The Helen V. Froehlich Foundation, Leo S. Guthman Fund, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Polk Bros. Foundation, SARE-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, and the United States Department of Agriculture NIFA. Additional support is provided by an anonymous donor, the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund, The Brinson Foundation, The Crown Family, Kemper Educational and Charitable Fund, Midwest Foods, Sara Lee Foundation, HSBC – North America, and the Steans Family Foundation. Also contributing to Windy City Harvest is NeighborSpace.

### Cook County Boot Camp

Windy City Harvest also operates a production and training garden at the Cook County Sheriff's Boot Camp, an alternative sentencing facility for young men. Employment has been shown to be powerful in reducing recidivism among ex-offenders, and through its partnership with the Boot Camp, Windy City Harvest has developed a progression of opportunities for this population, including an eight-week residential garden program at the Boot Camp, paid transitional jobs for selected graduates, and certification in environmental literacy for green jobs. Graduates of the Boot Camp residential garden program are encouraged to apply to the Windy City Harvest certificate program.

### Short Courses on Organic Vegetable Production

Windy City Harvest offers a series of short courses on organic vegetable production and post-harvest food preservation. The courses are offered at the Arturo Velasquez Institute (2800 South Western Avenue) and descriptions are available on the Windy City Harvest web page.

**For more information, visit [www.chicagobotanic.org/windycityharvest](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/windycityharvest) for details or contact Angela Mason, director of community gardening, at [windycityharvest@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:windycityharvest@chicagobotanic.org) or by calling (847) 835-6970.**



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

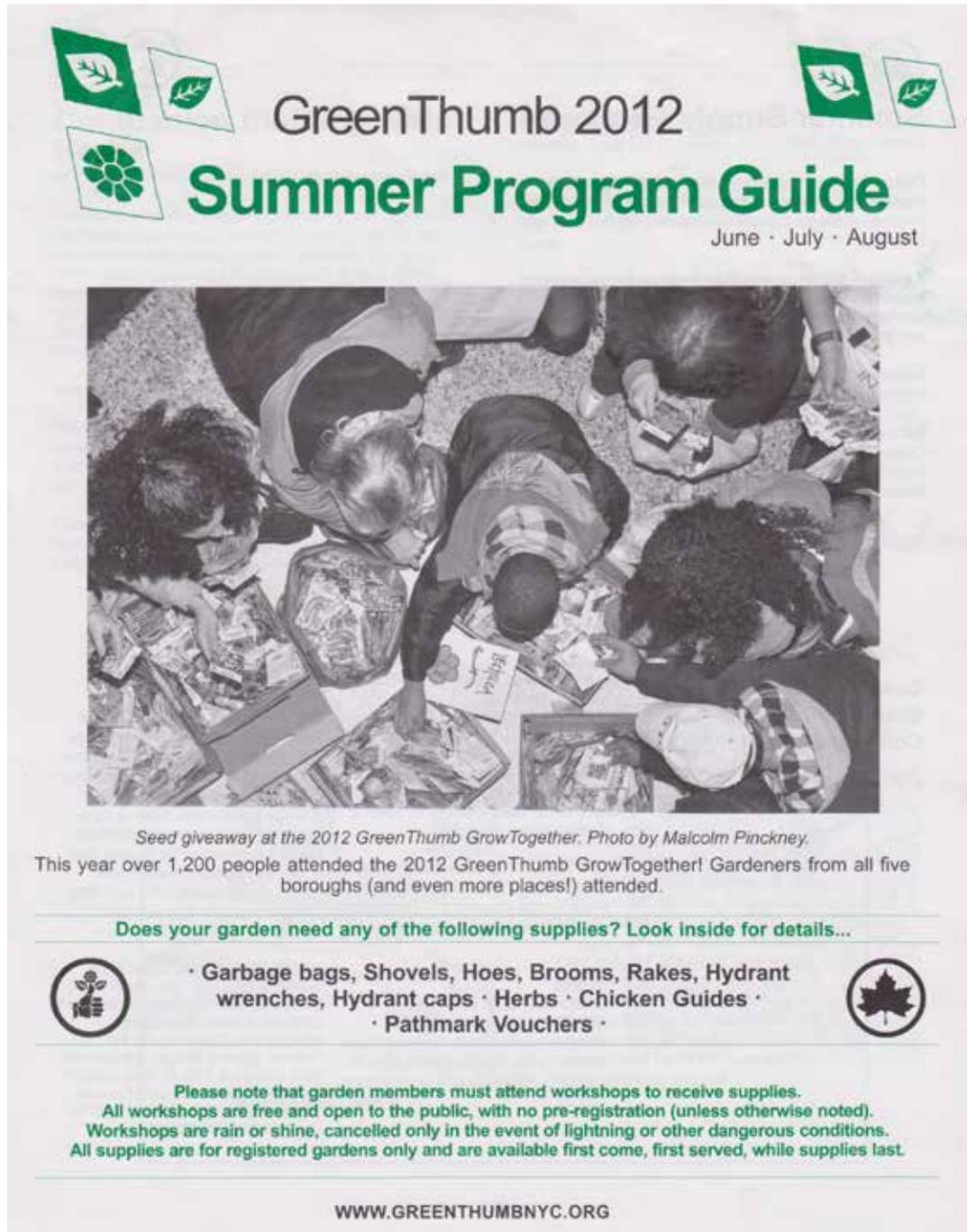
WINDY CITY HARVEST

1000 lake cook road glencoe, illinois 60022

[www.chicagobotanic.org/windycityharvest](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/windycityharvest)

*One of the treasures of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County*

Attachment 10 - Green Thumbs-2012 Summer Program Guide (Image 10)



The image shows the cover of the 'GreenThumb 2012 Summer Program Guide'. At the top, there are four green icons: two leaves and two circular patterns. The title 'GreenThumb 2012' is in a dark font, and 'Summer Program Guide' is in a larger, bold green font. Below the title, it says 'June · July · August'. The central part of the cover features a black and white photograph of a group of people, including children and adults, gathered around a table, looking at various items, likely seeds or gardening supplies. Below the photo, there is a caption: 'Seed giveaway at the 2012 GreenThumb GrowTogether. Photo by Malcolm Pinckney. This year over 1,200 people attended the 2012 GreenThumb GrowTogether! Gardeners from all five boroughs (and even more places!) attended.' Below this, a green line separates the text from a section titled 'Does your garden need any of the following supplies? Look inside for details...'. This section lists supplies: 'Garbage bags, Shovels, Hoes, Brooms, Rakes, Hydrant wrenches, Hydrant caps · Herbs · Chicken Guides · Pathmark Vouchers'. The list is flanked by two circular icons: a flower on the left and a maple leaf on the right. Below the list, there is a note: 'Please note that garden members must attend workshops to receive supplies. All workshops are free and open to the public, with no pre-registration (unless otherwise noted). Workshops are rain or shine, cancelled only in the event of lightning or other dangerous conditions. All supplies are for registered gardens only and are available first come, first served, while supplies last.' At the bottom of the cover, the website 'WWW.GREENTHUMBNYC.ORG' is printed.

GreenThumb 2012  
**Summer Program Guide**  
June · July · August

*Seed giveaway at the 2012 GreenThumb GrowTogether. Photo by Malcolm Pinckney.*  
This year over 1,200 people attended the 2012 GreenThumb GrowTogether! Gardeners from all five boroughs (and even more places!) attended.

**Does your garden need any of the following supplies? Look inside for details...**

- Garbage bags, Shovels, Hoes, Brooms, Rakes, Hydrant wrenches, Hydrant caps · Herbs · Chicken Guides · Pathmark Vouchers ·

Please note that garden members must attend workshops to receive supplies.  
All workshops are free and open to the public, with no pre-registration (unless otherwise noted).  
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WWW.GREENTHUMBNYC.ORG

