Community Gardens: Marigolds of the Inner City
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Honors Thesis
*************************************************************************
PASS WITH DISTINCTION
TO THE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE:

As thesis advisor for Jody K. Maxwell.

I have read this paper and find it satisfactory.

[Signature]
Thesis Advisor

9/26/02 Date
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Lastly, thanks to Ethan Cramer, my internship supervisor, for his encouragement to develop my interest in community gardening and to step outside of my comfort zone. Only by stepping outside of my comfort zone did I begin to understand the gardeners, the inner city, and what effect community gardening has on both. He also helped me to not only observe what happened in the gardens and as a result of the gardens, but to think about why and how.
Introduction:
The results of formal and informal studies suggest that community gardening is beneficial to residents of disadvantaged urban neighborhoods (Alaimo and Stickney 2002; Lewis 1997; Patel 1991; Schrieber 1998; Waliczek et al 1996). Results indicate that community gardens not only beautify neighborhoods, but the gardeners also have access to fresh vegetables, and exposure to a wide variety of educational programs for all ages (Patel 1991; Schrieber 1998). In addition, ethnic, socio-economic, and generational boundaries between gardeners are reduced, which leads to increased community unity and involvement (Landman 1993; Patel 1991; Waliczek et al 1996). When gardeners can proudly point to their harvest of vegetables and the betterment of their neighborhood as a result of their hard work, their self-esteem and perceived self-power over their environment is heightened (Lewis 1979; Schrieber 1998; Waliczek et al 1996; Warner 1987). When the gardeners initiate the formation of the garden and are the primary maintainers and decision makers, the development of ownership that ensues adds to the gardeners' sense of control (Keller 1994; Warner 1987).

The increased sense of control over one's environment leads to a feeling that one has power to change the circumstances in which they live (Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). This perception of increased power is based on the person's mental acknowledgement of their ability to change their environment (Minkler 1998; Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). When people feel that they have control over their environment, they are more willing to trust other people (Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). Through increased trust, individuals can form groups and begin to accomplish greater tasks than they would separately (Coleman 1988; Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). Groups accessing resources not available to individuals is defined as "social capital" (Coleman 1988). Increased social capital is an indicator of a
healthy society (Paxton 1999). The inner city is usually characterized as an unhealthy society due to signs of social and physical disorder such as crime, poverty, dysfunctional families, and drug use (Geis and Ross 1998). Therefore, as an answer to the social problems present in the inner city, cities should seek to increase their social capital. One method of increasing social capital is through community gardening (Payne and Fryman 2001). It is hypothesized that the benefits of community gardening facilitate the increase in physical and social order in the inner city, which results in the formation of social capital. This process is illustrated in Figure 1.

*Figure 1 - Flow Chart of Community Gardening's Role in Social Theory Concepts:*

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Social Capital

Trust

Increased Perceived Power

Physical Order

Social Order

Community Gardening
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Background:
Social Theory:

As previously mentioned, "social capital is the idea that individuals in a group can gain resources from their connection to one another" (Paxton 1999). This network facilitates productive action that benefits the individuals in the group and society as a whole (Coleman 1988). The problem is that social capital cannot exist without the individuals in the group trusting one another (Coleman 1988; Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). To be able to work collaboratively, group members must trust that all members are working for a common good of one another (Coleman 1988). The problem that often arises in disadvantaged neighborhoods is a lack of trust (Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). According to Geis and Ross, an environment of continuous physical and social disorder fosters mistrust (1998). Signs of physical disorder are graffiti, boarded up housing, lack of trees and green space, bleak surroundings, and trash strewn vacant lots. Signs of social disorder are drug dealing, teenagers hanging out on the streets, unsupervised young children roaming the neighborhood, no racial or generational mixing, and a feeling of danger (Ross and Mirowsky 1999). Indicators of social and physical disorder are seen in many urban disadvantaged neighborhoods (Geis and Ross 1998).

The lack of perceived control, meaning that the residents of the neighborhood believe that they have no power to change the condition of physical and social disorder, results in neighbors trying to avoid any situation in which they could be further victimized (Geis and Ross 1998; Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001). The fear of being harmed due to a lack of social and physical order causes residents to isolate themselves (Geis and Ross 1998). Therefore mistrust, which is the loss of faith in other people, increases and becomes "the cognitive habit of interpreting the intention and behavior of others as unsupportive, self-seeking, and
dishonest” (Ross and Jang 2000). When residents do not trust one another, they cannot band together to fix situations, and therefore they sink into a vicious downward spiral of mistrust (Ross, Mirowsky, Pribesh 2001).

Community Gardening:
The foundation of a truly successful community garden is the ownership of the garden by the gardeners (Barkes 1997; Cramer 2002; Keller 1994; Payne and Fryman 2001; Schrieber 1998; Warner 1987). Throughout the history of community gardening, the gardens that are started as acts of charity for the poor and are controlled by wealthy outsiders end within several years. On the other hand, the community gardens that are initiated by the gardeners and in which the gardeners continue to be the primary decision makers become a central part of a neighborhood (Bassett 1979; von Hassell 2002; Warner 1987).

Neighborhood parks have a similar history. For example, many small neighborhood parks, also referred to as pocket parks (Cramer 2002; von Hassell 2002), were established in New York City in the 1960’s to increase open space. However, the establishment of the parks was usually a top-down effort on the part of the upper middle class to provide for the underprivileged. Within several years the parks became prime drug dealing arenas due to the lack of community support or involvement (von Hassell 2002). The same happened in Wilmington Delaware (Cramer 2002). In New York, during the 1980’s, community members with the help of a greening support group, GreenThumb, began to reclaim the pocket parks. Not until the neighbors had personal control over the decision making process did they take pride in the park and in the beauty and order it lent to the neighborhood environment (Schrieber 1998; von Hassell 2002). Community gardens further foster an environment of order (Relf 1979) by allowing neighbors to gain control over the social as well as the physical disorder. Such a combination results in the gardeners being able to point not only to the
decrease in trash on the sidewalks, but also to the positive changes in their neighborhood relationships as a result of their personal physical labor (Warner 1987). Due to pride in their work, the gardeners' self-esteem increases, which begins to act as therapy for those who have been ashamed of their life, choices, or environment (Lewis 1979; Relf 1979; Schrieber 1998; Segal 1979).

Since the community garden in the true sense of the term should be community owned, the establishment of one often sparks an entire neighborhood clean up as the neighborhood begins to take pride in their residences (Lewis 1979; Serlin 1979; Warner 1987). Murals take the place of graffiti on walls (Cramer 2002; ?). Where a vacant lot was, piled high with illegal trash dumped by building contactors, a garden grows and produces fresh vegetables for the entire neighborhood (Segal 1979; Schrieber 1998). Gardens provide green space and color that is often lacking in the inner city, which is composed primarily of concrete and asphalt (Lewis 1979; Warner 1987). As people take ownership of their neighborhood and observe physical order increased, people begin to perceive that they have gained power over their environment (Lewis 1979; Warner 1987). The increased sense of perceived power results in people beginning to trust one another.

Community gardening also provides answers to gaining control over many social order issues. The activity of gardening can provide recreation for young children, teenagers, single mothers, families, inmates, incarcerated youth, homeless men and women, recovering drug addicts, or senior citizens (Beatty 1979; McGourty 1979; Schrieber 1998; Serlin 1979). A single mother can grow fresh, high quality vegetables to supplement her family’s inner city diet, while having a safe area in which her children can play (von Hassell 2002). Bringing the children to the garden, or incorporating gardening activities into school curriculum creates a
link to nature that is often absent in the life of a child raised in the inner city (Lewis 1979; Waliczek et al 1996; Wearne 1979; Wotowiec 1979). Gardening is also a constructive activity that promotes responsibility and hard work (Schrieber 1998; Waliczek et al 1996; Wotowiec 1997). For teenagers gardening can supply an alternative to illegal activity and can also provide training for a possible profession (Lewis 1979; Patel 1991; Schrieber 1998;).

The garden also supplies outdoor exercise for the elderly, and therefore promotes better health (Lewis 1979). The interacting of the elderly with the younger generation can also provide the elderly with opportunities to share their knowledge and experience, thereby benefiting the entire community (Segal 1979). It has also been shown that residents feel safer in their neighborhood because of having a community garden (Waliczek et al 1996). A feeling of overall safety is a sign of social order (Ross).

As people work together in a non-threatening environment and promote physical and social order, they begin to trust one another (Lewis 1979; Relf 1979). The trust then leads to an increased ability to form groups that can petition city council, or start a soup kitchen. Such occurrences result in the accumulation of social capital. Not only are community gardens the catalyst in the formation of groups that produce social capital, but they are also often the formal and informal meeting places for the participants in the group to discuss what needs to be achieved by the neighborhood (Payne and Fryman 2001; Warner 1987). Through this community gardens serve a double purpose of promoting the trust needed for social capital and providing the meeting place for this to occur.

Many non-profit organizations and governmental agencies support community gardening because of the resources it makes available to inner city residents. The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) is a non-profit organization that has a history of supporting
community gardening to increase the quality of life in the inner city of Wilmington, Delaware (Huxley 1990; Landman 1993). The Center’s approach is an overall promotion of increased greening in the city of Wilmington though planting street trees, landscaping median strips, and supporting community gardens. The community gardening program is under the direction of the Greening Program Assistant Manager, Ethan Cramer. His goal is to promote ownership of the garden by the gardeners. He accomplishes this by creating a full partnership with the gardeners. He views each gardener with respect and acknowledges their full capability to accomplish their goals. His role then is not to run the garden but simply to assist the gardeners in accomplishing their goals through financial or physical support. In addition, horticultural advice is also given through formal classes and informal meetings (Cramer 2002). The Center finances one internship per summer to promote the understanding of community gardening.

The hypothesis that community gardening promotes physical and social order, and thereby builds social capital, was tested through interning with DCH’s community gardening program. Though social capital was not directly measured, according to the social theory presented, if physical and social order is attained, then an increase in social capital should follow. The internship provided opportunities to observe social interaction in inner city community gardens along with the degree of physical and social order attained through first-hand experience and personal interaction. In addition, a survey was conducted to measure what community gardeners and supporting organization members viewed as important outcomes of community gardening. Several outcomes included attaining physical and social order, ownership of the garden by the gardeners, and community building.
Methods and Procedure:

Internship and the Community Gardens:

The internship with the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) consisted of spending between 40-48 hours per week from May 16, 2002 to August 10, 2002 working directly with the community gardeners, discussing philosophies of community gardening with Ethan Cramer, or designing community garden programs. The community gardens that were observed were located in the disadvantaged neighborhoods of Wilmington, Delaware, the Baylor Delaware Women’s Prison, and the New Castle County Juvenile Detention Center. The twenty-seven community gardens that were studied varied in focus from vegetable production, to beautification, to education, to informal therapy. All gardens except for the Union Park Garden Civic Association Garden and the Fraim Boys and Girls Club Garden were in neighborhoods characterized by blight. The gardens catered to senior citizens, younger families, single parents, homeless men and women, imprisoned women and youth, teenagers, and elementary children. The gardeners were of different ethnic origins, including African American, Latino, Polish, and Russian. Six of the projects worked in conjunction with religious organizations that vary in faith from Protestant, to Catholic, to Muslim.

Table 1 describes each garden and the benefits that it provides. Further demographic and detailed information is contained in Table A (Appendix). At the beginning of the summer of 2002 both the Neighborhood House Garden and the Lombard Street Garden were recognized as DCH supported gardens. However, due to lack of the gardeners taking initiative, support was discontinued. Therefore, the descriptions of the two gardens in Table 1 and A are the only mention of the two gardens in this analysis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Name</th>
<th>Garden Description</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borinquen Garden</td>
<td>Vacant lot garden that provides means for one family to grow ethnic food.</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Program</td>
<td>Barrel beautification project with teens involved in a pregnancy prevention program.</td>
<td>Ed and Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor Women's Prison Garden</td>
<td>Veg and flower gardens in the courtyard of Delaware's only Women's Correctional Institute. Gardeners participate freely and can sell their produce to staff of the prison.</td>
<td>Food, Ed, Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Street Community Garden</td>
<td>Veg garden operated by one family. In neighborhood with little open green space.</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraim Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>Beautification project with after school and summer camp program.</td>
<td>Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway House Garden</td>
<td>Veg and flower garden at home for homeless men.</td>
<td>Food and Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hattie Phelan Community Garden</td>
<td>Vacant lot flower sitting garden. One block over from one of the major drug dealing blocks in Wilmington.</td>
<td>Beautification and Community,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard High School</td>
<td>Beautification project at the only remaining inner city high school.</td>
<td>Ed and Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmar Nickel Challenger Program Garden</td>
<td>Beginnings of community garden at job training program for inner city youth.</td>
<td>Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lombard Street Garden</td>
<td>Vacant lot, family vegetable garden.</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Abuelos Community Garden</td>
<td>Seniors at Adult Day Care tend 4 raised bed gardens. Wheel chair accessible.</td>
<td>Food, Therapy, Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion T. Academy Garden</td>
<td>Beautification project at only inner city charter school in bleak neighborhood.</td>
<td>Ed and Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masjid al Kauthar Mosque Garden</td>
<td>Barrels decorate the entrance to the mosque.</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Joy UMC Garden</td>
<td>Barrels decorate the parking lot of the church. Church is in one of the two worst neighborhoods in Wilm.</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowlds Cottage Garden</td>
<td>Decorative walkway boarders, 2 flower beds, and 3 beds that encircle 3 trees brighten up the male boarding house at the Ferris Reformed School for delinquent youth.</td>
<td>Beautification, Ed, and Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood House Garden</td>
<td>Daycare center that wanted to plant 2 barrels in play area. They did not clean up the play area though, and DCH withdrew their support.</td>
<td>Beautification and Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Castle County Detention Center Garden</td>
<td>2 raised beds and some scattered flowers enliven the courtyard at the Juvenile Detention Center.</td>
<td>Therapy, Beautification, Food, and Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Street Garden</td>
<td>2 planters filled with flowers in a decaying pocket park that was primarily used for drug dealing and using. Tended by children in the Little Futures Daycare Program.</td>
<td>Ed, Beautification, and Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaritan Outreach Community Garden</td>
<td>The beginnings to a large vacant lot community garden next to a Ministry of Caring outreach program that provides showers, clothing, and counseling to the homeless.</td>
<td>Food, Beautification, and Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Garrett Community Garden</td>
<td>A decorative container garden in tribute to the neighborhood handyman. On lot that was formerly filled with abandoned cars.</td>
<td>Beautification and Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secret Garden</td>
<td>5-7 volunteers offer bi-weekly programs for pre-Kindergarten age children in co-operation with Ministry of Caring Child Care Center in vacant lot children's' garden. The Center provides care for children from homeless or below poverty level income families.</td>
<td>Ed and Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shearman Street Community Garden</td>
<td>Vacant lot, multi-raised bed veg garden. Gardened by members of the neighborhood. In neighborhood with little open green space.</td>
<td>Food, Community, Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlidge Academy Garden</td>
<td>Several raised beds for school program.</td>
<td>Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sojourner's Place Garden</td>
<td>Decorative and Vegetable gardens at transitional house. Produce used for meals.</td>
<td>Therapy, Food, and Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Park Gardens Civic Association Garden</td>
<td>2 ornamental gardens to beautify the entrance to Wilm. Gardener does in memory of mother.</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity Garden</td>
<td>Vacant lot decorative garden that brightens up neighborhood. One family on block tends it with the financial help of MBNA credit union.</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Community Garden</td>
<td>Vacant lot, multi-raised bed veg garden. Gardened by members of the West Center City Adult Center and members of the neighborhood. In other of the two worst neighborhoods in Wilm</td>
<td>Food, Community, Beautification, and Exercise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Collection:
The data collection included a semi-quantitative measurement and analysis of relative change from physical and social disorder to order, the compilation of case studies from a daily journal (Appendix), and a survey. The data collection included both quantitative and qualitative measurements, however the explanations below only detail the methods of quantitative data collection.

In order to analyze the relative change from physical and social disorder to order, signs of physical and social disorder were selected due to their relevance to the Wilmington neighborhoods. The signs of physical disorder were the presence of trash, presence of graffiti, occurrence of vandalism, lack of color in the landscape, and lack of green space. Similarly, the chosen signs of social disorder were lack of neighborhood awareness, intergenerational interaction, recreation, availability of fresh food, educational opportunities, and informal therapy. Then the degree to which physical and social order was attained to counter each disorder sign was measured according to a scale of low, medium, and high. By adding the physical order factors together and the social order factors together, an overall measurement of increased physical order and social order was attained.

The manner in which low, medium, and high ratings were determined for the physical order factors is self explanatory, except for the “absence of vandalism” factor. A low rating indicates that the garden experienced at least one major act of vandalism, a medium rating indicates that the garden had one or two minor occurrences of vandalism (such as a stolen or broken plant), and a high rating corresponding to a low degree of vandalism indicates that the garden experienced no acts of vandalism.

The method by which ratings were determined for social order factors were necessarily more regimented to minimize bias. For “increased neighborhood awareness”, a
low rating indicated that not many people acknowledged the garden, a medium rating meant that people passing by noticed the garden OR the neighborhood watched out for and took pride in the garden, and a high rating indicated that most people passing by commented positively AND the neighborhood watched out for and took pride in the garden. The “intergenerational interaction” rating scale was based on the extent of generational mixing and the degree that garden facilitated teaching of the younger generation by the older. “Recreational” order was measured from a low suggesting that the garden was merely another exercise outlet among others, to a high indicating that without garden the gardeners would have almost no exercise. Similarly, the increase in fresh produce is based on the otherwise lack of affordable, quality, fresh vegetables. The scale that measures the “increased educational opportunities” is based on low representing knowledgeable gardeners passing on little to neighbors, medium representing gardeners having prior horticulture knowledge and sharing it with neighbors, and high being that gardeners had very little to no prior exposure to horticulture before becoming involved with the community garden. The last factor, “therapy”, measures the effect of community gardening on self-worth with low rating indicating a little effect and a high rating indicating a large impact. The measurements of all six factors were added together to obtain a measurement of the overall increase in social order.

Another aspect of collecting quantitative data included conducting a survey (Appendix) that polled community gardeners, members of supporting organizations, and members of supporting organizations who were also community gardeners. The survey was composed of seven sentences each summarizing a principle theorized to be necessary to a successful community garden. The principles were networking, community development,
ownership, respect, social and physical order, personalization, and organization. Participants were asked to objectively rate the importance of each principle to the success of community gardening on a scale of 1 (not important) to 10 (very important). Secondly, participants were asked to rank each principle in importance, on a scale of 1 (indicating that the principle was overall most important) to 7 (indicating that the principle was least important to a successful community gardening program). Community gardeners in Wilmington were polled, as well as several members of DCH. While attending the American Community Gardening Association conference in New York in July, community gardeners, members of supporting organizations, and members of supporting organizations who were also community gardeners were also surveyed. The total number of participants was 55, of which 53 were used. Two surveys were not used due to miscommunication of directions.

Findings/Discussion:

The results from the semi-quantitative analysis of relative change from physical and social disorder to order will be presented in tabular form and discussed. The case studies based on the daily journal will also be presented, along with a discussion of the survey’s results.

Social and Physical Order Measurements:

The signs of physical order depicted in Table 2 show that all gardens contributed to increased physical order. The narrow range of scores varied from a medium rating of 2.4 to the highest score of 3, with no low scores. Only Union Park Garden Civic Association had a medium (2.4) level of impact on the physical order of the immediate surrounding neighborhood. A possible explanation of this may be that the neighborhood had little physical disorder to begin with, leading to a reduced effect of the garden. The gardens that were determined to have a high level of impact on the neighborhood physical order were typically
in neighborhoods that are either very bleak, such as the prisons, and/or are tended by skilled gardeners backed by the community as can be seen with the Unity, Hattie Phelan, Shearman, and Samuel Garret Gardens.

**Table 2 - Degree of Physical Order Attained due to Community Gardening:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Name</th>
<th>Absence of Trash</th>
<th>Absence of Graffiti</th>
<th>Absence of Vandalism</th>
<th>Increased Color in Landscape</th>
<th>Impact of Green Space</th>
<th>Improvement of Physical Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boriuen</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>High 2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraim</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>High 2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hattie Phelan</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenger</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Abuelos</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>Medium 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion T.</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosque</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Joy</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowlds</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detention Center</td>
<td>high</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rodney</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaritan</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Garrett</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secret</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shearman</td>
<td>high</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlidge</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sejourner’s</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Park</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scores for signs of social order described in Table 3 show that most gardens contribute to increased social order. The broad range of scores varied from a low of 1.4 to a high of 2.8. The broader range of scores can be contributed to the social signs of order being more unique to each garden’s purpose. For example, a garden maybe more focused on education that providing fresh produce. The Masijid al Kauthar Mosque Garden and Mount Joy UMC Garden were the two gardens that had a low (1.4) impact on the social order of their neighborhood. A possible explanation for this is that both gardens merely consist of two to four decorative barrels that contain a few flowers. Due to the small size of the “garden”, the implementation and maintenance require little social interaction. Thereby, the
intergenerational, recreational, and therapeutic value is decreased. The gardens that received a 2.5 or higher are gardens that either having very high community involvement or are in areas that have major social disorder problems. In some cases, both factors contribute to the garden’s high impact on the community, such as with the Hattie Phelan, Shearman, and Valley Gardens. In all three of those gardens, the garden coordinator is also a very active community member, and therefore the community has a feeling of ownership of the garden.

The gardens are also in neighborhoods characterized by serious social disorder.

### Table 3 - Degree of Social Order Attained due to Community Gardening:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Name</th>
<th>Neighborhood Awareness</th>
<th>Intergenerational Interaction</th>
<th>Recreational</th>
<th>Fresh Food</th>
<th>Educational</th>
<th>Therapy</th>
<th>Overall Improvement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Borinquen</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>High 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.6</td>
</tr>
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<td>Baylor</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.5</td>
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<td>Carter</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraim</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Medium 2.0</td>
</tr>
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<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
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<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
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<td>high</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>medium</td>
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<td>low</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
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<td>Challenger</td>
<td>medium</td>
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<td>low</td>
<td>low</td>
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<td>low</td>
<td>Medium 1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Abuelos</td>
<td>medium</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion T.</td>
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<td>low</td>
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<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
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</tr>
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<td>low</td>
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<td>low</td>
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</tr>
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<td>medium</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Low 1.4</td>
</tr>
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<td>medium</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>high</td>
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<td>Detention Center</td>
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<td>high</td>
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<td>high</td>
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<td>Rodney</td>
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<td>medium</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 2.3</td>
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<td>Shearman</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.7</td>
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<td>Shortbridge</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Medium 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sojourner's</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 2.3</td>
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<td>Union Park</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>Medium 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley</td>
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<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>High 2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Case Studies:**

To complement the quantitative measurements of physical and social order, five narrative case studies of several gardens were composed from daily journal recordings. The case studies detail how particular community gardens increased the physical or social order in the surrounding environment. Data was collected by interacting with the gardeners. The gardens discussed are the Hattie Phelan Community Garden, the Baylor Women’s...
Correctional Institute Garden, the New Castle County Juvenile Detention Center Garden, the Valley Community Garden, and the Rodney Street Community Garden.

Case Study 1 - Hattie Phelan Community Garden:
The Hattie Phelan Community Garden has significantly contributed to increased social and physical order. The beautiful garden is located on a lot formerly piled high with trash and abandoned cars. Now the garden is such an integral part of the community, that it is hard to imagine the block without it.

The garden provides a source of pride in a neighborhood characterized by heavy drug dealing, abandoned and boarded up houses, and a generally unfriendly attitude. Such signs of social and physical disorder are clearly evident on the surrounding blocks, however the block on which the garden is located has a general atmosphere of peace and friendliness. There is no evident drug dealing, the houses are relatively well maintained, and neighbors chat while sitting on their front steps. The increased self-pride and order appears to be primarily due to the level of ownership the neighbors have of the garden. They know that they have invested in a neighborhood landmark that people consider valuable.

Case Study 2 - New Castle County Juvenile Detention Center Garden:
In the New Castle County Juvenile Detention Center, 120 youth ages 8-18 are housed in a facility that was built for 60. There is little decoration or color in the hallways. The overall atmosphere is one of hopelessness; and it is not surprising that some of the youth tend towards suicidal activities. These signs of social and physical disorder, however, have reduced since the installation of the garden at the start of the summer of 2002.

The color that the garden adds to the once bleak courtyard is refreshing, and thus has increased the physical order. As the youth walk past the window, their heads come up and
they watch to see what is happening with the garden. However, the impacts of the garden on social order are the most intriguing.

The garden contributes to education, informal therapy, and recreation. The best illustration of how the garden has contributed to the increase of social order can be seen in a boy 12 years of age. This young man had severe suicidal tendencies before beginning to work in the garden. However, since he started gardening, his suicidal tendencies have decreased. Though he shows no emotion through his speech or facial expressions, his enjoyment of gathering seeds and planting them can be seen through his actions. Where other forms of education, therapy, and recreation failed to produce change, gardening succeeded in producing positive change.

Case Study 3 - Baylor Women's Correctional Institute Garden:
Similarly, the garden at the Baylor Women's Correctional Institute has had a noticeable effect on the inmates and their surroundings. It has helped to increase physical order by providing an inviting patch of vegetables and flowers in the midst of barbed wire fences and thick walls. The garden provides an area of which the prisoners are proud. Social order is also promoted through the garden due to the recreational, educational, and therapeutic value. It is also interesting to note that the inmates and the guards are on more equal footing when in the garden. The pond in the garden also furnishes an area to merely sit and enjoy nature, which fosters a peaceful atmosphere.

Traveling from the indoor corridors of the prison to the outside garden illustrates the impact of the garden. Inside the inmates are usually distant and formal, and the tone is tense. However, once in the garden it seems as if one is not even in the prison. The inmates relax, and the atmosphere becomes peaceful. A possible explanation for the change in attitude from
indoors to out, is that the inmates have an element of ownership in the garden. They make the decisions and therefore have a sense of control over order in the garden.

*Case Study 4 - Valley Community Garden:*

The Valley Community Garden adds to the physical order of the neighborhood by beautifying a vacant lot and turning it into a productive vegetable garden. The garden also provides green space that is almost impossible to find in West Center City Wilmington. Social order has increased in the form of neighbors watching out for the garden, increased exercise for senior citizen gardeners from the West Center City Adult Center (WCCAC), and availability of fresh food in a neighborhood with no grocery store.

The gardeners taking ownership of the garden have accomplished much. After the first workday, a sign announcing the coming of the garden was erected. The next day when a person tried to steal it, one of the neighbors ran after the thief and took the sign back. At later garden workdays, the neighbors, young and old would come help the members of the WCCAC. Finally, at the dedication ceremony for the garden, the neighbors and the members of the WCCAC proudly showed off their garden to the mayor of Wilmington, members of the Delaware Department of Agriculture, and reports from the major Delaware newspaper.

*Case Study 5 - Rodney Street Garden:*

Another example of one group starting a gardening project that the community latter supported is the Forth and Rodney Street Garden. The director of a daycare center, Little Futures, decided that action must be taken to restore the physical order of the pocket park across the street from her facility. Work began in preparing the two concrete planters to be filled with flowers. A lesson in planting flowers was given. The children were fascinated by finding a mass of white roots by removing the flowerpot. Then the children were given free rein over where to plant each plant. The neighborhood children began to come and join the
fun. Soon, several members of the halfway house across the street joined in to help the children and drag water from a few houses down the street. People would walk by and state that the garden would never last because the plants would be stolen. The children just kept planting and watering, and at the end of the afternoon they were proud of their work.

During the rest of the summer the children watered the flowers each day. A man from down the street who spoke no English began to help the children and his grandson joined in the care of the garden. The son of one of the construction workers who was working on a project near by even helped to mulch the flowerbeds. He would most likely have been roaming the streets otherwise, but because of the gardening project he gained knowledge and created something beautiful and productive with his time and energy.

Not only was physical order increased due to increased color in the landscape, but also significantly less trash was apparent in the park during the weeks following the implementation of the garden. Social order was increased by greater community collaboration and educational opportunities due to the implementation and care of the garden.

Survey Results:
The survey results point towards some interesting aspects of what community gardeners (group 1), members of supporting organizations (group 2), and members of supporting organizations that are also community gardeners (group 3) find as valuable outcomes of community gardening. Several points can be drawn from how the groups rated and ranked the principles of community gardening to format a more comprehensive conclusion.

The results of asking participants to rate the importance of each principle to community gardening on a scale of 1 to 10, were somewhat inconclusive (Graph 1). However, it was noted was that the community gardeners as a whole were much more
enthusiastic about the different principles behind community gardening than the members of the supporting organization. One possible explanation for this pattern is that the supporting organizational members were more concerned with having the correct theories to develop their programs upon, whereas the gardeners simply enjoyed what the garden provided them.

Graph 1 - Rating the Necessity for Success Survey Results:

The results from the ranking part of the survey were much more conclusive. The primary area of interest in the Community Gardeners' survey responses is that the gardeners indicated that the garden's provision of food, alternative to drugs for activity, and other indicators of social and physical control were most important. Secondly they ranked the gardeners having ownership of the garden as significant. The importance of the gardening being organized was ranked third and the supporting organization respecting the gardeners was ranked forth. The importance of community building was only ranked fifth. However, the members of supporting organizations ranked community building of first importance.
They then ranked ownership of the garden by the gardeners as second, and thirdly they ranked it important for the garden to provide aspects that indicate social and physical order.

Members of supporting organizations also rated the garden having a solid organizational structure as seventh in importance.

*Graph 2 - Ranking of Importance Survey Results:*

The survey results suggest that the gardeners value the social and physical order garden provides. They appreciate the structure that the garden gives their lives. Their primary interest is in restoring order to their lives and environment as seen by their ranking of restoring social and physical order and organization in the process. However, it is important that the transformation is accomplished by their doing with only minimal help from supporting organizations. The ranking of the importance of ownership and respect backs such a conclusion. They are focused on their immediate needs, and not on the theoretical backing of community gardening that promotes community building.
However, members of supporting organizations value the theoretical principles backing community gardening and are focused on the long-term goals. Building community is the reason that many organizations such as the Philadelphia Horticultural Society’s community gardening program, Philadelphia Green, promote community gardening. Yet, before community is built, the issues of social and physical order must be resolved in the gardeners’ mind.

The results from the survey are not completely conclusive, however. It is possible that several of the community gardeners did not completely understand the survey questions due to a lack of literacy or education. Yet, that introduces another interesting idea. Community gardeners may have ranked the description of social and physical order as first because they identified with what they understood as a problem community gardening helps to resolve. The more theoretical aspects of community gardening were not as tangible to them. A follow-up study should be conducted, which polls a larger number of participants.

Conclusion:
The results of this study suggest that community gardening improves both the social and physical order in the immediate neighborhoods of the gardens. Therefore, based on the theory that increased social and physical order results in greater perceived control, which leads to the formation of trust and therefore social capital, it is concluded that community gardening benefits the community by contributing to social capital in the inner city.
Works Cited/Consulted


Works Consulted


Appendix

Table A – Demographics of Community Gardens Studied

Table B – Survey Results

Survey Example

Internship Journal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Name</th>
<th>Garden type</th>
<th>Ethnicity of gardeners</th>
<th>Age of gardeners</th>
<th># of gardeners</th>
<th>Hrs spent/# visits</th>
<th>Size of garden</th>
<th>Yr. Est.</th>
<th>Method of gardening</th>
<th>Value of Material Support 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borinquen Garden</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Lat</td>
<td>25-70</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>960 sq ft</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>rs beds and grd</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Program</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am</td>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>4 barrels</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>barrels</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Baylor Women's Prison Garden</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Af Am, Wh</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16/4</td>
<td>8,000 sq ft</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>grd and rs beds</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Street Community Garden</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Af Am</td>
<td>50-70</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8/1</td>
<td>5,500 sq ft</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>grd</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraim Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am, Lat, Wh</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>300 sq ft</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>grd and planters</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
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<td>Gateway House Garden</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Wh</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/4</td>
<td>3,000 sq ft</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>grd</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>Hattie Phelan Community Garden</td>
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<td>Af Am</td>
<td>40-75</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20/</td>
<td>2,250 sq ft</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>grd</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>Howard High School</td>
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<td>Af Am, Wh</td>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>500 sq ft</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>barrels and planters</td>
<td>400</td>
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<td>Kalmar Nickel Challenger Program</td>
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<td>Af Am, Lat, Wh</td>
<td>14-20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>1,000 sq ft</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>rs beds and barrels</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>Lombard Street Garden</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>60-80</td>
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<td>8/1</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>rs bed</td>
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<td>Marion T. Academy Garden</td>
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<td>Af Am</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8/2</td>
<td>60 sq ft and 4 barrels</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>planter and barrels</td>
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<td>Masijid al Kauthar Mosque Garden</td>
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<td>Af Am</td>
<td>18-65</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>2 barrels</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>barrels</td>
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<td>Af Am</td>
<td>55-80</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>4 barrels</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>barrels</td>
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<td>Mowlds Cottage Garden</td>
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<td>Af Am, Lat, Wh</td>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>1,500 sq ft</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>grd</td>
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<td>Af Am</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>barrels</td>
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<td>8-14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>2,000 sq ft</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>rs beds and grd</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rodney Street Garden</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am, Lat, Wh</td>
<td>3-6 and 60</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32/4</td>
<td>160 sq ft</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>planters</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samaritan Outreach Community Garden</td>
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<td>Af Am, Wh</td>
<td>60-80</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>10,000 sq ft</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>rs beds</td>
<td>750</td>
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<td>Samuel Garrett Community Garden</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am</td>
<td>50-80</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>250 sq ft</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>containers</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secret Garden</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am, Lat, Russian, Wh</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40/8</td>
<td>1,800 sq ft</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>grd and rs beds</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shearman Street Community Garden</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Af Am, Wh</td>
<td>50-80</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>2,700 sq ft</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>grd and rs beds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortridge Academy Garden</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Af Am, Wh,</td>
<td>10,25-65</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>400 sq ft</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>1,250</td>
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<td>Sojourner's Place Garden</td>
<td>Vegetable and Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am, Wh</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>1,500 sq ft</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>grd and rs beds</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Park Gardens Civic Association Garden</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>500 sq ft</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>grd</td>
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<td>Unity Garden</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
<td>Af Am</td>
<td>40-70</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>1,250 sq ft</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Af Am</td>
<td>35-80</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>80/12</td>
<td>2,800 sq ft</td>
<td>2002</td>
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Table B – Survey Results:

Survey Results

Group 1: Community gardeners
Group 2: Members of supporting organization
Group 3: Community gardeners as well as members of supporting organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Group 2</th>
<th></th>
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<th>Group 3</th>
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To establish a community garden that will continue to be a functional part of a neighborhood, certain principles must be central to its being.

**Part A** What of the following principles are necessary for a successful community garden? Please rate the following principles from 1 being not necessary, 5 being neutral, and 10 being absolutely necessary by circling the chosen number below the statement.

**Part B** Next, in the spaces to the left of the below principles, please order the statements from 1 being most important to 7 being the least important to the success of a community garden.

---

(1) The community garden works with other groups in the area such as the Food Bank to promote better nutrition or the local shelter to provide food for the Soup Kitchen. Thereby, more people (i.e. politicians) outside of the neighborhood become involved and recognize the value of the garden to the community.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(2) The community garden becomes a place for people to interact with neighbors and meet new people.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(3) The community garden is started and maintained primarily by the gardeners. The gardeners draft the rules and design the garden.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(4) The supporting organization’s primary role is encouraging the gardeners who are attempting to change their neighborhood through gardening, rather than investing through direct labor help.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(5) The community garden provides fresh food, adds beauty to the neighborhood, helps decrease drug activity, and promotes education.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(6) The supporting organization spends time getting to know each gardener personally.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(7) The community garden is highly organized, due to organized gardeners and staff of the supporting organization.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
May 16th – Thursday
Activities:
- meeting with 8th and Jefferson garden committee
- Sherman Street Garden – leveled beds and instructed HIP workers
- met Ms. Hoye
- passed out fliers for the mural project meeting

Comments:
It was a day in the city, which is something that I am not used to. I was basically the only white person, besides Ethan, whom I interacted with all day! Being the minority is not something that I have had to deal with very often. The surroundings seemed so drab and run-down. Yet, there were some pretty neat people, like the 8th and Jeff. gardeners, whom I feel more comfortable with. Fliering of the neighborhood was the scariest thing. I had to talk to people I didn’t know while being in a neighborhood that I was definitely not comfortable in! We did talk to one boy, Chris, who I really enjoyed talking with. He was interested in helping with the mural project that Ethan is starting. It was neat to see how once he saw that his talents and interests could be used to better his neighborhood he really got into the idea.

May 17th – Friday
Activities
- Secret Garden
- Marian T. Academy planting

Comments:
I love teaching kids how to garden! At the Secret Garden we just let the kids play in the dirt, find bugs, harvest radishes, etc. They loved it! There is a central need in children that can only be satisfied by playing outside, in the dirt. Technology has its benefits, but I firmly believe that children need to be able to grow plants and be outside. They then develop an appreciation for nature. They also develop an appreciation for order, and processes like seed germination. This, I believe, translates into them understanding that everything is not all about them, but that there is a bigger and greater world out there that they are privileged to be a part of – yet it is also a gift to them to enjoy.

At Marian T., it was again so inspiring to see how enthusiastic the 4th grade students were to be planting flowers. They almost fought over who would get to prepare the flowerbed by turning over the soil! That made me laugh! Who argues over who gets to do the grunt work? It was also interesting to see how they laid out the plants. They had a very hard time understanding that the plants would get bigger. They wanted to squish in as much as they could, because it looked empty to them. It will fun for them to come back in a month or two and see how the bed has filled out, and for them to know that they helped to beautify their school.

May 20th – Monday
Activities:
- 22nd and Carter Garden – spread 19 yards of soil
- checked in with Challenger Program
- checked in with Samaritan Outreach
- checked in the Sojourners Place
- mural project meeting (7-9pm)

Comments:
Moving 19 yards of soil in 4 hours is hard work! It was good for me to see that community gardening is not just about having fun and playing with kids, but it requires you to sometimes and do the grunt work with the gardeners.

It was also fun to meet the community gardeners at Challenger, Samaritan, and Sojourners. They were all so different! Miss Karen from Samaritan is full of youth energy. She says the funniest things and is very sweet. Yet she can be so tough. Miss Sandy is experienced in working with the homeless at Sojourners. She really cares for her clients and is very dedicated to getting them plugged into work that they enjoy so they don’t end up on the street again. Andrew from Challenger is very much more the businessman. He obviously cares for the guys who work in his job-training program, but he is also tough with them. He brought up something that I had never thought about – when they have a yard workday someone almost always complains that they are...
working like a slave on a plantation. He says that because most of the youth in his job-training program are African American and half of his supervisors are white, that it can appear that way, even though the supervisors and youth are working together. He says he almost dreads any work related to agriculture because of that issue.

The mural meeting was fascinating because I got to see how proud the people form the Eastside of Wilmington are of their heritage. I have never had Black History, so tonight was a brief lesson, which taught me so much because the people who were telling it had strong personal ties to it.

May 21st – Tuesday
Activities
- built 4 raised beds and filled them for Los Abelos
- cleaned-up shed
Comments:
The hard work never ceases. In the past few days I’ve seen that usually Ethan and I set the pace for how much gets done when we are working with the gardeners. However, Darrel from Los Abelos kept telling us to move faster! He was a powerhouse of energy! I think a lot of the gardens lack strong able younger men to help with the hard labor. Lots of kids and senior citizens are involved, but the middle generation is missing.

May 22nd – Wednesday
Activities
- Moldows Cottage – edged, weeded, cultivated soil, planted, mulched
- visited with Ms. Hazel to talk about mural meeting
- set up meetings for CGC with volunteers
Comments:
Working with the youth at the reformed school was at first a little intimidating, and then enjoyable by the end of the day. We worked with about 10 young men ages 15-18. I didn’t quite know how they would respond to me, but once we started working together trimming the sod, weeding, planting, and mulching, the awkwardness mostly wore away. I also tried to let the guys make the decisions as to where the plants were going to go etc. One of the guys had worked for a landscaping company before he got in trouble. I tried to let him use his expertise. He slowly but surely began to come out of his shell because I acknowledged his talents. Some of the other guys were just goofballs. It was like I was hanging out with several of my younger brothers.

One awkward thing that happened was one of the guys asked how much my college tuition was. My tuition of $12,000 is more that the average income in inner city Wilmington, which is about $10,000. I tried to avoid the question by saying it was a lot, but that scholarships covered a lot of it and not name the price. He kept insisting on the exact price, and finally I had to tell him. He didn’t make too big of a deal about it, but I just hope that doesn’t discourage him in any way from trying to go to college, which he talking about towards the beginning of our conversation.

May 23rd – Thursday
Activities
- talked about City Garden Contest (CGC)
- talked about Honor’s Thesis project
- data base entry
- met with Rachel from Delaware Food Bank to talk about combining on a community gardening project
Comments:
While meeting with Rachel, it was interesting to note how our mission and the DE Food Bank missions are so similar, yet so different. It was that difference that resulted in the meeting not being that productive and all three of us leaving the meeting realizing that collaboration between our two organizations wouldn’t really work.

May 24th – Friday
Activities:
- database entrees
- 8th and Jefferson – built raised beds and spread woodchips
- stopped by old garden that DCH used to support in front of halfway house
Comments:
Working at 8th and Jeff was so different than Los Abelos because we didn't have the manpower. It was primarily Ethan and I. Ms. Vivian and Ms. Zellar were there, even though they couldn't do a lot, they stayed out in that hot sun with us. They are taking a lot responsibility for the garden. It was exciting to see the first two beds be finished, filled, and planted. Ms. Vivian and Ms. Zellar took such excitement in planting their tomatoes, peppers, and beans. I can't wait to see what everything looks like in a few months!

Week 3

May 27th – Monday – Labor Day

May 28th – Tuesday
Activities:
- met with Don Gerwig to discuss street tree category criteria
- met with Jen Gaughan to discuss DE Nature Society category criteria
- typed up judging score sheet for street tree category
- 4th and Rodney planting

Comments:
Ethan and I began preparing the flowerbed at 4th and Rodney pocket park by ourselves, and soon had 3 neighborhood children helping us. The park was littered with trash and broken bottles and was apparently the one of the popular places in the neighborhood to get high on drugs. We found so much glass when we were digging up the flowerbed! The Parks and Rec crew had repainted the limited playground equipment, but that was it. If I were a parent, I would not allow my children to play there. Ms. Eartha Kinard, who runs the day care at the church across the street, had the idea to beautify the park through establishing the flowerbeds and have it be the daycare's project.

Once we were mostly done with the hard work of digging up the garden, Ms. Eartha and the 10 children from the daycare came over to help plant the flowers. While Ethan and I finished preparing the bed, the kids dug in the soil to find worms, glass, bugs, etc. We had a few magnifying glasses that they used to look at everything they could think of. They were one excited bunch – which ended-up being around 20 children after all the neighborhood kids joined in. I got to do a quick presentation of the different flowers we were going to be planting and teach the children how to plant. It was fun to see how they responded – since most of them had never planted flowers before, everything was a new experience and so exciting. When I showed them how to pull off the pot from the roots of the plant, they reacted like it was magic – pulling off the pot to reveal a bunch of white roots. The next hour was full of trying to help 20 kids all at one time plant 20 different plants. It was so much fun to encourage and praise the children's efforts! They thrived on praise and affection. It was clearly evident that most of them do not get enough caring at home. The neighbors from the area also helped out some – some people came over from the halfway house across the street for recovering addicts and helped Ethan and I with some of the harder labor.

Towards the end of the planting, police cars started to swarm around the block, so we hurriedly cleaned up just in case a drug bust or something happened near by. So often I forget that I'm in the rough part of the city because I'm gardening, but then something will remind me of where I am. I think it is like that for the kids too – gardening allows them for a few moments to forget that they live in a tough city and that they come from broken homes or whatever hard life they have.

May 29th – Wednesday
Activities:
- staff meeting
- office details
- visited the New Castle County Juvenile Detention Center
- checked in with Moldows Cottage
- met with Terry O'Brien and Paul Beckett to discuss contest strategies

Comments:
It was encouraging to hear Ethan recount all that we have been doing in the past two weeks at the staff meeting – it made me realize how much we have been doing and how many people we have been helping.

The detention center was depressing – except for the courtyard where they have just started their garden. It was the weirdest feeling to be under lock and key. All the youth (ages 11-18 years old) seemed so sad and hopeless. One of the boys who is in charge of watering the gardens, Brandon, is only 11 and has some psychological problems. He had scars on his forehead from self-mutilation attempts. Ms. Lavato, the main force
behind getting this garden going, said that Brandon had talked about maybe having some sort of horticultural career when he grew up. That is encouraging to see because that means he is now looking forward to a hopefully future. Mickey, the other staff person who is helping with the garden said that the older guys who are in the detention center who had been making fun of the idea of a garden are now stopping to look at the garden as they walk by the courtyard. I never realized how much a bunch of flowers could do to change the atmosphere of a place, but in that emotionally dark place, the flowers change the atmosphere in incredible ways.

May 30th – Thursday
Activities:
- organized plants into bunches to be delivered to the various gardens
- office work - called people about contest and set up meetings with volunteers
- check in with Challenger Program
- checked in with Gateway house and dropped off plants
- ran errands to purchase supplies for the gardens

Comments:
- It was good to see how much behind the scenes work is performed for each garden. Ethan’s modo is always to be prepared, or over prepared. Therefore, even though it felt like we only accomplished little things, those little things will make it possible to devote all out time tomorrow to big things. I was also impressed with how much money is involved with maintaining each garden. Without our assistance, both monetarily and expertise wise, many of the community gardens would not be able to thrive as they are doing now. We provide the encouragement and the means, and the gardeners provide the zeal and the persistence.

May 31st – Friday
Activities:
- mulched at 4th and Rodney park
- built raised beds at 8th and Jefferson Garden
- replaced river birch tree at Hattie Phalen Garden
- planned out following week

Comments:
- Today was a clear example of how people must participate in the gardening process – everything from building the raised beds, or preparing the soil to planting the flowers or vegetables and mulching – to create a sense of ownership. The kids that we helped plant flowers at the pocket park on 4th and Rodney helped us also mulch the flowerbed this morning. They made a mess all over the sidewalk because they were so enthusiastic to be helping. Yet, if Ethan and I had simply done the mulching ourselves and had the kids watch or come over and see it later, we would have lost some of their excitement for the garden. Right now the flower garden belongs to those children because they have helped with every step of the process. Therefore they will keep that park cleaner and have a greater appreciation for the flowers. By having them help mulch, possibly it also taught them that beautify something is also hard work. Hopefully a stronger work ethic will develop because of this little project.

At 8th and Jefferson community garden I watched as Ethan let the garden coordinator, Ms. Vivian, settle a dispute that had arisen about who was going to get their bed when. I would have jumped in and tried to diplomatically solve it. Yet, Ethan stepped back and allowed Ms. Vivian, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Cater deal with the problem in their often-blunt way. This illustrated to me how much the garden is the gardeners’ not the Center’s project. Because the gardeners have been the moving force from the beginning, Ms. Vivian was willing to go to great length to see that her garden runs the way that she wants – she has taken complete responsibility for it. She will also brave the heat and humidity, with her broken foot, for several hours so that Ethan and I can stay and help (the policy is that we don’t do any work unless one of the garden members is there to work with us).

June 3rd – Monday
Activities:
- database entries
- received containers
- CGC timeline
- stopped by to drop-off plants for Ernest
While Ethan did the weed whacking and other gardening work, I played with lema and Jayvon at the Secret Garden. These two kids, ages 8 or 9, were roaming the street totally unsupervised when Ethan and I arrived at the Secret Garden. Ethan told me, after we left, that lema's parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins were mostly all drug dealers. She will have a hard life ahead.

The three of us played house. I was the princess, lema the queen, and Jayvon the king. It was interesting to see how they played house — it revealed what their home life is like and what they wish it was like. lema kept telling me "young lady, if you open your mouth again, you'll go to your room", when I was doing nothing at all. That made me wonder if she is often told to be quiet with out reason. Later in the game she kept wanting to get me ready to go out to see a movie. She and Jayvon arranged my hair in crazy styles and drove me around in a pretend limo. At one point lema told me "I will give you whatever you want because I'm your mother and I love you." All I wanted to do was to just take her home with me at that point — because obviously she is starved for love and attention.

Something that is hard for me to realize is that spending time with people is one of the major aspects of my job. I keep wanting to "do" stuff like weeding, or shoveling dirt, something to keep me busy. Yet, what many of the people we interact with need is simply someone to listen to them. Giving people personal attention is key.

Meeting Ernest today was a great experience. As a recovering addict he, started living at a transitional house, found out about the DCH, and started a garden at the transitional house. Ethan says that almost immediately the neighbors started to keep the area around the garden cleaner and there was less drug dealing in front of the house. The guys next door would get up and move across the street to smoke dope when Ernest was outside gardening. Ernest has since moved into a house with 6 other guys who are all recovering addicts. They keep each other accountable and encourage one another. He is truly an inspiring man.

June 4th — Tuesday
Activities:
- finished tree score sheet
- tree hunting and soliciting entries for contest
- barrels at Mount Joy UMC Church
- delivered plants to Samuel Garrett Community Garden
Comments:
While we were hunting for entries for the CGC we got to talk to a few gardeners. It is really neat to be able to see how the fact that Ethan and I are from the DCH and we notice their garden gives the gardeners so much more confidence. They light up at our praise.

June 5th — Wednesday
Activities
- 8th and Jefferson workday
- Sojourner's Place
- cleaned and organized outdoor storage space
Comments:
One of the ladies that is involved with the 8th and Jefferson garden, Ms. Comfort, has been someone whom I was kind of afraid of, until today. She can be sort of grouchy and hard to deal with. However, today we became friends because I brought her tomato plants and made sure to show interest in her garden. That was all it took — some personal attention and sincere interest in her garden plot. She was teasing me and joking around with me by the end of the day. I kept coming back to the realization that personal attention to the garden members and people I'm working with is key to making a gardening program work. Ethan is especially good at it.

June 6th — Thursday
Activities:
- Baylor Women's Prison
- 4th and Rodney
Comments:
Today was exciting! I had never been in a prison before, so that in itself was exciting. However, the fact that not more than 2 minutes after the last iron door had slammed behind Ethan and I, the guard who was escorting us had to run off to deal with a “code 1” issue, made it ten times more exciting. Seconds after our escort and the other guard in the corridor ran off to deal with the “unknown problem”, about 20 more guards came racing down the corridor to help deal with the code 1 problem. Meanwhile Ethan and I were left with our sharp tools, no guards, and in the company of several in-mates. We had no idea what was going on and our imagination lead us to believe that code 1 would most likely indicate prison riot, in which case we would be prime hostages! We found out later that code one indicates “officer down”, and that the situation was caused by one of the inmates trying to get onto a different cell block and in the process hitting one of the officers with a mop handle.

The rest of the morning went by without incident, and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. We built two raised beds and planted several flowers. It was so exciting to see how the 4 inmates we were working with responded to the work we got to do. They loved it! Tonya, the lady I got to know best, told me that she rarely does any type of physical exercise, and so this was a treat. At one point she was both drilling and pounding the nails into the bed – jobs usually done by two people. While we were planting flowers, I found out that she wants to go into fashion design and graph arts. Once I found that out, I let her do all the designing in our flowerbeds. She responded well to my putting my trust in her abilities and began to open up about her personal life. We spent a lot of time talking about her two young children, our dads, and all sorts of other stuff. She was so proud of the work she had done that day!

Later Ethan and I were talking about how I felt so comfortable working with those inmates. I think that stems from being able to look past the fact that they are in a prison, and appreciate them and relate with them as the people they are, not because of what they have done. There is an element of respect in that outlook. I had to respect Tonya’s hard work ethic, and her love for her children, and her artistic abilities, before she began to look at me as a confidant.

June 7th – Friday
Activities:
- worked on CGC timeline
- Secret Garden
- dropped off plants to Boriquen and Jr. Ortega
- database entries
Comments:
Working with the kids this morning was fun. It is amusing to see how some of them love getting their hands dirty and some hate it. They all love getting your attention – they are starved for attention and love.

Jr. Ortega is one of the city council members, and one of our greatest supporters. The community garden that he headed up was bulldozed this past April. This happens with many community gardens all over the USA – the demand of housing or whatever takes precedence over gardens. It has been really hard for Jr. and his neighbors. However, Jr. is now very animated about fighting to get the city to turn the water on at the 8th and Jefferson garden, where the city had promised free water, and now is charging a $4,000 fee. Politics are unfortunately a huge part of community gardening scene.

June 10th – Monday
Activities:
- finished CGC timeline
- scouted for entries
- staff meeting
- talked to Terry about contest progress
- database entries
- finance organization
- figured out letter formatting
Comments:
While scouting for entries again we were able to encourage several gardeners. That is what the contest is all about.

Ethan and I spent a good hour or so on organizing out finances.
June 11th – Tuesday
Activities:
- made copies of various documents
- printed letters
- handed out plants to Union Park Civic Assoc., 10th and Pine, and Fire Dept.
- called civic associations

Comments:
Ethan was gone all day at meetings, so I had to make several executive decisions. That was scary and good for me.
The rest of the day consisted of office details in preparation for the CGC.

June 12th – Wednesday - Vacation
Comments:
Ethan said that Ernest and he went over the transitional house to do some weeding and found the three butterfly bushes torn out. That is what the house did to “help” with garden maintenance. Ethan said that already the attitude in the neighborhood had changed. The garden was trashed (never had been before), the guys next door didn’t move across the street to smoke dope, etc. Ernest said that this is a prime example of what happens if people stop gardening.

June 13th – Thursday
Activities:
- Valley Garden (8th and Jefferson) work day and meeting
- library orientation
- meeting with Aggie Prigle about volunteer participation in CGC

Comments:
When we got to that Valley Garden it looked like Ethan and I were going to be the only ones capable of hard manual labor. However, by the end of the morning, we had so much help and we finished building the 14th raised bed – which is our final goal. It was exciting to see young and old working together to get the garden finished. We had three boys around 10 years old who were so excited to shovel dirt that we could barely keep up with them. In their excitement they almost got hurt on several occasions. Mr. Thornton and his son helped, Nate, Ernest, some of the ladies from the senior center (one of them was one of the best hammers I’ve ever seen at the age of 10), and the list goes on. This is what community gardening is supposed to be about – bringing the community together over the common interest of gardening. It is exciting to see that the neighbors are even trying to keep the street cleaner in respect for what the gardeners are doing. I can’t wait to see how the garden looks once all the tomato plants and other veggies get huge.

June 14th – Friday
Activities:
- visiting with community garden members
- moving picnic tables that Howard High made for community gardens
- sent off letters
- mapped out entrants’ gardens
- scouting for entries

Comments:
Most of this morning was spent talking and visiting with people. I’m still having a hard time not feeling like I’m wasting my time, yet it is so important for us to spend time getting to know our gardeners. Some of them are so lonely. Personal time with the gardeners is probably one of the key reasons that Ethan’s program has worked – he has built relationships with each gardener.
We are getting a nice representation from all parts of the city for the contest.

June 17th – Monday
Activities:
- scouting for CGC entrees in South Bridge
- visiting – Valley Garden (gave plants), Boys and Girl’s Club, Neighborhood House
sent letters

Comments:
We had to tell Neighborhood House Daycare Center that we couldn’t continue to support them because they were not completing their half of the deal. They were supposed to clear the glass from the play area in the backyard before we put in containers. They had over a year to do that task and did not. It was interesting though to find out that they had recently built a 3rd story onto their building to provide room for a new technology area for the kids. Mean while they take the kids all the way down the block to the park, instead of spending a few hours in their own backyard to clean it up. Personally, emphasizing technology without promoting children playing outside, is lopsided. Kids do not need to be parked in front of a computer with minimal face-to-face interaction when they are 3-6 years old. They should also be playing outside with one another, learning to play with other kids and to use their imaginations. A community garden would supply that for the kids at that daycare center. However, in order for that program to work, the people must take ownership – which will not happen if they do not care enough to clean up a little bit of glass.

In complete contrast, as far as ownership issues, Ethan and I talked to one lady for about ½ hour about her yard. She lives in South Bridge, which is the oldest neighborhood in Wilm. and the worst. There are hardly any gardens. Therefore, her yard is really unique. She says that she takes care of her garden, trims the hedges for her yard and the vacant house next door, and calls the city to come and cut the grass at the vacant house. She keeps her street clean. She has pride in what she has done. She most definitely has taken ownership of that block.

June 18th – Tuesday
Activities:
- staff garden work day to prepare for garden dedication
- sent letters

Comments:
It was fun to have all my co-workers out doing what we are best at – horticultural work. We mulched the entire new garden and did some planting. I really enjoyed having a chance to get to know some of my co-workers on a more personal level. I was also able to get lots of advice from Amy about the different horticultural educational internships.

June 19th – Wednesday
Activities:
- worked on letters
- meeting with Mark Bristle-Evens (City Planner)
- publicity meeting with Paul B. and Valerie Trammel

Comments:
It was interesting to spend time with Mark because of his view of the city as a landscape. It wasn’t as much about people as it was about planning a landscape.

June 20th – Thursday
Activities:
- meeting with Valley Garden members to plan for garden kick-off
- helped get ready for garden dedication
- Garden Dedication – helped with children’s activities

Comments:
We had so much fun with the gardeners in our planning meeting. The meeting lasted for about 2 hours...and we laughed almost the entire time! Our co-workers were saying that rarely have they ever heard people having so much fun in a meeting. It was neat to see how at first when the gardeners got to DCH they were a little weary of the “plush” surroundings, but with a little chatter, they were fine. It was neat to see how the relationships that Ethan and I had built with them in their comfort zones, i.e. the garden and the WCCAC, could carry over into our work place that was not their comfort zone.

The Dedication party was very interesting. I enjoyed working with the kids at the “plant a shoe” table. It was fun to talk to Amy and eat fancy food that all had something to do with plants and flowers. It was a very wealthy crowd though – and I wasn’t all that comfortable. It is interesting how I can feel so much more comfortable with the gardeners than that crowd.
June 21st – Friday
Activities:
- Secret Garden
- helped elderly lady
- showed group of 4 children around garden
Comments:
The amount of variety in this job is pretty incredible. The age range of people we help and the types of situations...are very unusual. It is such a good experience though, because I get stretched beyond my comfort zone. I have to be able to transition quickly between working with children to communicating with adults. Today I had to change from disciplinarian of children to comforter of an elderly lady who was lost in the city in a minute. These skills are going to helpful in all areas of life!

Week 7

June 24th – Monday
Activities:
- called former judges with Mrs. Pringle to ask if they would judge for the CGC
- sent out letters for CGC
- picked-up tools from Samaritan
- met with Terry about CGC
Comments:
It is incredible what the work party at Samaritan did towards clearing the lot next door! Just goes to show what a bunch of people organized by a very motivated and detailed person can do! This is how I think community gardening should be – organized and run by the gardeners.

June 25th – Tuesday
Activities:
- worked on judging packet for workshop
- staff meeting
Comments:
Just the necessary office work.

June 26th – Wednesday
Activities:
- prepared for workshop
- sent letters
- middle of internship review
- designed and printed up judging reminders for contestants and sign directions
Comments:
During the middle of the internship review Ethan was liberal in his praise. He says that I do a good job with both the organizational aspect of the gardens contest ,and the people aspect of the community gardens. It is nice to know that I am good at what I’m doing and that I’m helping Ethan out tremendously.

June 27th – Thursday
Activities:
- prepared for workshop
- sent letters
- picked-up signs
- workshop
Comments:
The workshop was good. People seemed excited about the contest. We really tried to stress that the judges were our ambassadors to the gardeners of Wilm. They are to encourage them and have a good time connecting with other gardeners.

June 28th – Friday
Activities:
- sent letters
- prepared and mailed signs
- tear down from workshop

Comments:
Saw the only main grocery store in Wilmington. The inner city population has a serious lack of fresh produce. Not only is it not within walking distance for most of the people, but the quality of the produce is horrible - or so I've been told. For senior citizens who have a hard time walking and no car, getting fresh produce is nearly impossible. Having the vegetable gardens takes on a whole new meaning when seen in that light.

June 29th - Saturday
Activities:
- painted ceramic tiles that will be used for awards for CGC

Comments:
We are trying to make the awards more personal this year - and so we are hand painting tiles that say the place the winner got in the CGC and what year.

Week 8

July 1st - Monday
Activities:
- finished mailing signs
- wrote up letter to city council members requesting that they judge for the contest - and delivered letters to city council building

Comments:
A big part of community gardening is creating the right type of political connections. This is something that I don't really like doing, because I feel like I'm playing favorites. However, with that political backing, much more can be accomplished. Ethan says that it is part of the principles that a good program is based upon - forming a deliberate political support group.

July 2nd - Tuesday
Activities:
- designed and printed up reminder postcards for judges (using Word Page Maker)
- organized mural arts project binder
- meeting with Stan about mural project

Comments:
I love the artistic part of this job - the flier and postcard making. The best thing about this internship is the variety of my tasks. There is a disadvantage to that in that I sometimes feel like I'm pulled in many directions at one time. However, the good part is that my tasks are rarely the same day to day. It also means that I'm getting experience in a wide variety of areas - good for future jobs.

July 3rd - Wednesday
Activities:
- letters
- purchased bagged mulch and distributed it to Fraim, Valley, and Baylor Gardens
- community garden tour with Ameenah and Amy
- reading for thesis

Comments:
It is fun to go drop in on the different gardens. It is always like we are bringing these incredible presents, even if it is simply mulch or a few flowers. My favorite is to stop in at Baylor, because the inmates have so few visitors. It was also nice to get outside and do some "hard labor". I like the air-conditioning of the office, but I like being outside and interacting with our gardeners too. This love of people interaction that I have is the main reason I want to go into some sort of public horticulture.

It is interesting each time to go on community garden tours because I know more each time. Every time it is a good reminder that not everyone knows what I know about CGs. It will be interesting to see what happens with the meshing of the education and community gardening programs in the coming years at DCH.

July 4th - 8th OFF
Week 9

July 9th – Tuesday
Activities:
- grouped judging teams with Aggie Pringle
- started to group gardens and assign judging teams to each group
Comments:
It is a very interesting process – assigning judging teams...having to think of who goes best with whom and what type of gardens they could judge best.

July 10th – Wednesday
Activities:
- letters
- staff meeting
- finished assigned judging teams to garden groups
- started marking maps
Comments:
It is fun to see how good I am at knowing different parts of the city. When we were marking up the maps I knew where about 50% of the gardens were! That is a far cry from how well I knew the city at the start of my internship.

July 11th – Thursday
Activities:
- finished maps for judging packets
- proofread all info for judging packet
- copied papers for judging packet
- compiled all judging packets
- printed up name tags for judges
Comments:
It takes so much work to be organized – but I think it will pay off. For once in my life I’m a head of the game – I’m not procrastinating and I love it! It feels so good to be on schedule and be super organized. I guess part of it is that I have time to be organized. During the school year, etc. I don’t have time to just be organized. Now that it is my job, I have the allotted time.

July 12th – Friday
Activities:
- set up for judging – shopping, setting up tables, welcome table, food, table number place cards
- made several changes to judging packets
- answered phone calls about contest
- stopped by Hazel Brown’s garden to make sure she was set for the contest
- stopped by Marion T. Academy
- helped replant some of Bridges Program’s barrels since they were vandalized
- dropped off sign at Ortega’s
Comments:
It was incredible to see how the Marion T. planting that we did back in May has grown! It makes such a difference to the otherwise bleak area!
Helping replant some of the barrels at the Bridges program was the second experience I’ve had with vandalism. It just makes you wonder why someone would mess up flowers?! However, it was a good experience because that is something that most urban gardeners have to deal with. It was also neat to see how proud the kids were of their barrels. They had a real sense of ownership – just from watering the barrels every day.

July 13th – Saturday
Activities:
- 1st judging round for the city gardens contest
- public speaking
helping judge
- set up and clean up

Comments:

The report is that this is probably the smoothest year we have ever had for our CGC! We ended up having about 95 judges, judging 164 gardens! It was pretty impressive to see it all come together and watch how excited all the judges were when they got back from viewing the gardens all over the city. We truly accomplished our goal encouraging gardeners all over the city and helping gardeners — the judges and contestants — make connections.

I also got to help judge with my mom on one of the community garden judging teams. It was fun to see the judges’ reactions to seeing the Hattie Phalen garden and the Sherman St. garden for the first time. My mom and the rest of the judges were really impressed.

It is neat to see the gardens with someone who is not as familiar with them, to really understand what a difference they make in the neighborhood. I also got to introduce my mom to Ms. Brown and Mr. Nezmith.

**Week 10**

**July 15th – Monday**
Activities:

- sorted through all score sheets
- cleaned up from Sat judging
- delivered mulch to Valley
- conference on how the judging went
- called community gardeners about at tour of Philly community gardens

Comments:

We ran into Nate while we were dropping off mulch for the Valley Garden. He is so willing to help. I think that one area our program could improve on is being more organized so that we could give the gardeners printed resources or something so that they become more independent. As of right now the Valley gardeners — like Nate — depend on us to tell them what to do when. It is not as much of their garden as I would like it to be. Because we are over committed and rarely have time to attend to details, we are usually behind, which means that if the gardeners are depending on us, they are behind too. If they had more knowledge, then they would know what to do when and therefore be more independent, and our workload would decrease.

**July 16th – Tuesday**

Activities:

- designed Valley garden’s dedication flier
- met with Jim from Little Italy about how to start a mural project
- took 3 judges to judge the prison gardens (Baylor, NCCD, and Mowlds)
- planned out my tasks for next two weeks so I know what to do while Ethan is on vacation

Comments:

It was so interesting to see how the volunteer judges reacted to the inmates at the women’s prison. At first they were obviously nervous, but as soon as we got outside, they began to feel more comfortable. I feel the same way, once we are all in the garden, we are somewhat equal grounds in that we are all gardeners. Those ladies have done a fabulous job of taking care of their garden! It was weed free and healthy. It is also nice to see how we’ve begun to build relationships with some of the ladies. When we come to visit, they always ask me lots of questions (most of which I don’t know the answer to — but they don’t mind) and are so glad to see us! Donae said that I have to come back to see them once more before I leave for the summer. It really hit me then that we are a huge part of making their lives a little more exciting. Not only do they seldom have visitors, but we all have something in common — gardening — that makes them feel a little more like they are doing something good with their lives.

At the New Castle County Detention Center (NCCD) we were escorted through their garden by two of the boys who help with it — Josh and Danny. Josh apparently has suicidal tendencies, but Mickey (one of the teachers) said that since he has started gardening his suicidal tendencies have decreased drastically. Josh and I spent quite a while finding vegetables to pick and seeds from dried out flower heads. Though he has some mental disability or is on some medication that causes him to show basically no emotion and communicate in primitive vocabulary, he did show his interest in harvesting and planting seeds by immediately digging in the dirt by the sidewalk and planting his new seeds. Josh also was really interested in picking the vegetables since he
had never eaten a cherry tomato or cucumber – even though he is 12 years old! I hope that this garden can some-
how provide hope for those boys’ lives – cause right now they don’t have a lot going for them.

Prison work is very draining, but very rewarding! It is so emotionally draining because you have to be so cheerful and enthusiastic in such a dismal and hopeless place.

July 17th – Wednesday
Activities:
- met with the DNREC rep – Paul Will- and Marian Young about soil testing for gardens
- discussed how community gardens are funded
- printed up thank you letters for judges and wrote personal notes
- WMAC meeting

Comments:
A couple positive points about getting all the CGs into raised beds is that the gardeners then do not have to wait for us to till the soil, and they avoid the hazards of possibly having contaminated soils. One major worry with urban gardening is that the gardens most likely are on sites that used to be industrial. If there was a tannery in the vicinity, there is probably arsenic in the soil. If a house burned down near the site, the possibly of lead from the paint is very high. Other metals are usually present, and the harm from that is not well understood.

By having the beds finished and filled with soil, the gardeners are independent from DCH in one major way – they can plant whenever they wish. Plus, it means that we do not have to spend the time tilling every spring for 20 gardens. The more I see and read about CG – the more I am forming the theory that the gardeners should be the ones making the decisions about the garden. They should also be the primary work force and motivating force. Places like DCH should be the means by which funds come in (we do the fundraising), the expertise is supplied, and occasional emotional or physical support is supplied. However, to make the community garden a thriving stable part of the community – it must be maintained by the gardeners.

July 18th – Thursday
Activities:
- thank you letters to all judges
- labeled tools
- selected several trees with Vik for Valley gardeners to pick from
- worked on Valley dedication flier

Comments:
We’ve invited many politicians to the Valley Garden dedication in hopes that they will see what can be accomplished by networking. Between the Community Housing Inc. (CHI) and DCH we were able to rise near $25,000 for the garden to install the fence, sidewalk, and raised beds. It is important to have the city behind your efforts – especially if there is ever a case when there are threats to have the garden demolished to build houses.

July 19th – Friday
Activities:
- sent out Valley Garden dedication fliers
- looked for resources on the web for thesis paper
- returned phone calls
- labeled tools

Comments:
Ethan was out of the office, so I got to be the one I charge. Though it is a little intimidating to have to make decisions, it is really good practice. I like being able to budget my time and have a to-do-list on which I get to check everything off.

I sent fliers about the Valley dedication to everyone and their cousin. I sent them to all of our board members, council of advisors, politicians, all our garden coordinators, etc. I sent out 100 fliers! We’ll see who comes. One reason we are doing this party is that Ethan said a very wise friend said “when it comes to community gardening, you should celebrate EVERYTHING!” Plus, this is a way to show off for our supporters.

July 20th – Saturday
Activities:
- tour of the Philadelphia community gardens

Comments:
The Philadelphia Green Program (PGP) is one of the most active community gardening supporters in the US. There are about 700 CGs in Philly! One of the gardens we went to see has been in existence for 18 years! It was incredible! There was amazing art work, a rainwater recycling system worked out, sitting areas, outdoor classrooms, a grape arbor, etc! Our community gardeners were very impressed! Something that Ethan noted that is interesting – is that the structures – like the benches etc. make the garden seem more permanent. The other garden we saw was only one year old – but it was amazing! It had brick sidewalks, beautifully tended plots, a picnic table, and an apple tree. The thing that made that garden become so beautiful in only 1 year – was the motivation of the gardeners. Not the assistance that PGP gave – which was very little. One of the gardeners rode his bike to the rock quarry every day and would carry back one rock at a time. He now has an amazing rock garden! That is persistence!

It was good for our gardeners to see what they could become – if they work hard enough. I hope it was inspiring to them to work hard for their garden – not to just ask us to provide benches and man power for them. It was really neat to see the pride in the gardeners faces at the one-year-old garden. They know they have made a huge difference in their neighborhood. They know that they have fashioned something beautiful and practical from an old junkyard. I want our gardeners to have that same pride – but I can’t make them have that – they have to gain that for themselves.

Another interesting thing about the Philly tour was the amount of vacant land in Philly! Janet, our guide said rightly “There is no reason that anyone should go hungry in the city during the summer – look at all this land that they could garden on!” One of the main reasons that I think we have so many people on Welfare is that some many people have been stripped of their pride. Without pride, they have no desire to do anything with their lives. I also think that growing vegetables produces a great amount of pride – especially when you can then share it with the community. Therefore, if people in the city would begin to garden, they would gain pride in their work, provide food for their families, and then there would hopefully be less people on Welfare.

**Week 11**

**July 22nd – Monday - Off**

Activities:
- spent several hours in the library finding resources
- refined interview questions

**July 23rd – Tuesday**

Activities:
- VISTA conference

Comments:
I wasn’t aware that I was going to a conference today till 15 minutes before I had to be there! However, I’m learning tons and the way that the conference is structured – thinking pattern wise – is perfect for how I need to think through my thesis stuff. The material covers how to create a sustainable program and how to network in the community. Plus, I’m getting to meet all these cool people and learn from them.

**July 24th – Wednesday**

Activities:
- VISTA conference
- rearranged Secret
- finished interview questions

Comments:
At the VISTA conference I had the opportunity to talk with Kelly and Cindy at lunch about what it means to work with poorer people in the inner city. It is so nice to be able to talk to people who are going through the same struggles as you are – and who talk the same language. They also struggle with people who come in from the outside and think that they are going to help the poor by giving them all this stuff – not asking the poor what they want. Yet, really what one has to do is to think of it at coming along side of people who are really struggling in life, but who have dignity and are trying. I have learned that I have to respect the people I work with, and have the prospective of learning from them. They have so much wisdom to give, even though it is not expressed in educated terms. I have to acknowledge their choices and preferences, and then somehow find a way to give them a type of assistance that allows them to help themselves in a way. Kelly is involved with a soup kitchen in the Bronx that allows people to choose for themselves what they want for a meal, and they set
the outdoor kitchen up like an outdoor café. The whole purpose is to give the people dignity, even though they are eating at a soup kitchen.

July 25th – Thursday
Activities:
- VISTA conference
- to-do list for rest of internship
- selected workshops for American Community Gardening Association
- traveled to NY city for ACGA conference

Comments:
Ethan mentioned something that I’d never considered concerning fundraising – when fundraising, you should go at it as a partnership. Never beg for money. The corporations have money that they need to spend on the local community, and we are doing something that is making a change in the community. Therefore, we do them a favor and vice versa. He said that you thank the donors etc, but never grovel.

July 26th – Friday
Activities:
- ACGA conference: - workshops – “We Don’t Just Grow Vegetables, We Grow Values”
- “Growing Land, Culture, and Community”
- “Looking Beyond the Garden Gate”
- “The Participatory Design Process”
- film festival of community gardening films
- had about 10 people fill out survey

Comments:
It has been a pretty intense day for thinking about the community gardening movement. I had no idea it was so big – we had people from France, England, Germany, and all over the USA at this conference. There are all types of people too – the environmental activists, the academic, the artistic, and the list goes on.

The workshop on “We Don’t Just…” was to explain a new study on how people who are involved in community gardens and their neighborhood, are more likely going to take interest in protecting their neighborhood. That translates into better crime prevention. This research is ground breaking because nothing like it has been done. The foundation in Flint, MI, has used these results to gain incredible grants. It made me realize that research is the bridge between the less educated community gardeners and the educated wealthy that will give the grants. Therefore, by investing myself in research of community gardening, I would be doing an invaluable service that not many people are doing. By providing concrete evidence, more of the cynics would be won over. One cool thing that the community gardeners do in Flint is that they have an Urban Garden Expo once a year. There are demos on mulching, raised bed building, etc.

“Growing Land…” was about how a landscape architect and an artist strove to help make Boston’s South End garden become more aesthetically pleasing without destroying the garden’s cultural heritage and uniqueness. They focused on working around the garden, not in it.

“Looking Beyond…” was about how gardeners need to be politically involved. The speaker said that community gardening is “50% the gardeners and 100% political involvement”. He suggested making the garden the voting registration site, etc.

“The Participatory…” was a very well done workshop on how the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Env. Dept. of Chicago/IL involved the community in the garden design process. They are very convinced that the garden needs to be organized from the start and that the gardeners need to have what they want so that they take care of it. The main thing that struck me was that they let the gardeners know how much money they had to work with, and then the price tag of certain things like a tool shed, or an art object. Something that we have trouble with at DCH is that each garden will call again and again asking for things and Ethan has a hard time saying no. If at the beginning of the year he was to say “here is how much you have to spend – what do you want” – maybe we could avoid some of that. The other thing they do is that they provide well-structured classes, and several events during the year. They have the “Great Perennial Divide” (in the fall and lots of people bring donations) and a bulb/annual give away etc. They sound very organized, and therefore successful.

The films were incredible! In one of the films they showed one of NY City’s 20-year-old gardens being bulldozed. It made me cry! Years of work and community building had gone into that garden and it was razed to make way for “affordable housing” which is for $35,000 incomes, in a neighborhood where the average
income is about $20,000 or less – usually less. Some of the other gardens focused on how the community gardens are providing thousands of fresh produce to the inner city where fresh produce is so hard to come by.

**July 27th – Saturday**

Activities:
- ACGA conference tours
- Survey interviews

Comments:

The farmers market that we went to see was really interesting. It is a joint effort between the community gardeners and the local farmers to provide fresh produce to the community. Women on WICK (women who are pregnant or nursing) can also use their food stamp like coupons to buy fresh produce. Though the market we went to wasn’t completely independent money wise, it sounds like it will become that way in another year or two.

We also got to see one of the most amazing community gardens in NY City. It has a basketball court and a food pantry! They serve about 1000 families through their food pantry and share their left over produce with about 500 families. It is amazing how that community garden has turned the neighborhood into a safer more family friendly place. The coordinator said that when he was little growing up in that neighborhood he and his siblings would sleep on the floor so as to not be hit by bullets flying through the windows! It is pretty amazing to see how organization and networking has made this garden very strong.

The workshop I went to on Food Security though was a joke. The people in workshop were primarily upper class white people (from my guessing) and so could be concerned about all food being grown locally and organically. However, the poorer group of people they were attempting to theoretically help, are usually more concerned about simply eating. It was frustrating and very hard not to stand up and tell everyone that they were being irrational and not thinking through the situation. However, what good would that do.

I did meet the main community garden coordinator for the St Louis Gateway Greening program and we had a great conversation all the way back to the campus. I also met the program coordinator for the Chicago and Portland Parks and Rec Community Gardening programs. They all had some great advice and insight. Some of the younger people on the tour however, had less realistic ideas. Two guys wanted to established community gardens in their town of Asheville NC without and plant fruit trees all over the city to provide anyone with fruit. All this will be done without spraying chemicals of course – because they are the source of all evil. However, when they have no fruit for people to share equally, I will not be surprised. There are too many bugs and diseases out there to avoid spraying all together in most cases. That is just one example of how inexperienced some of the people on the tour were.

**Week 12**

**July 29th – Monday**

Activities:
- Secret Garden
- started finalist and non-finalist letters

Comments:

We just did a project with the children inside for the Secret Garden because of the yellow jackets in the garden. It is incredible how disappointed the children were! They love being in that garden!

**July 30th – Tuesday**

Activities:
- finished finalist and non-finalist letters
- faxed press release for Valley dedication
- designed judging reminder postcard
- designed WAMC fliers
- returned phone calls
- called volunteer photographers for the CGC

Comments:

Just necessary office work.

**July 31st – Wednesday**

Activities:
- surveyed community gardeners
- designed and prepared judging reminder postcards
- labeled flowers in Ms. Hazel's garden

Comments:
Doing that survey was one of the hardest things I've ever done! The main issue was the educational gap between the gardeners and the way in which the survey was constructed. All my life it has been a goal to become more academic and professional in my writing. Today I had to take several steps back while re-explaining what each question meant and how to answer it. I was drained by the end of several hours! I hope that I didn't make any of the gardeners feel stupid! Thankfully Ethan was able to help out by explaining certain questions in a different manner. I did have a nice conversation with Ms. Eartha and Ms. Hazel because of the survey.

August 1st – Thursday
Activities:
- copied material for judging packets
- prepared for Valley Garden kick off
- purchased tree with Ms. Comfort for Valley Garden
- meet with Ms. Karen about soil testing for Samaritan garden
- fire alarm

Comments:
Going to buy the tree with Ms. Comfort was hilarious! She told us all these stories about growing up, her kids, and her life in general. She really is quite a tough person! It was nice to spend some one-on-one time with her. She definitely came out of her shell and warmed up to Ethan and I. I think it also gave a sense of importance because she was representing the gardening group. The importance of spending personal time with the gardeners was re-enforced. Also, because she came with us and made the final decision as to which tree to buy, she took ownership of it. No longer was it OCH buying an expensive tree that we thought would be best, without taking into consideration what the gardeners wanted.

August 2nd – Friday
Activities:
- Valley Kick-off
- dispute with CHI

Comments:
Ethan had a confrontation with one of our partners in the Valley garden, CHI. What it came down to was our view of our roles in the kick-off. Ethan and I viewed DCH as simply behind the scenes, where as CHI was looking to the event to generate some publicity for their organization. It was a good reminder that you and your partners in a project need to have the same views and goals.

The kick-off, despite the rocky morning, went very well. We had the mayor, DE Dept of Ag, Council member Ortega, and tons of other people. We even had people from the News Journal and a TV station show up. The gardeners had a great time showing off their garden. It was also neat to have several of the community gardeners from other gardens come.

One thing that meant a lot to me was that Ms. Vivian thanked me for all my work during her brief speech. She called me the "fire cracker of the garden". It means so much to me to know that I've been able to help out with the garden, but even more, to become good friends with the gardeners.

Something happened today that really shook me up. Ethan and I had dropped off some stuff for the party in the morning. We were getting ready to go and a lady walked by. Ethan, as usual, said hi to her. She stopped and said "hey white girl", obviously referring to me. She said something else that Ethan and I didn't understand. The main part that was really hard for me to take was being called "white girl". All summer I have felt so a part of the group that I was working with, that race sort of melted into the background. Ms. Vivian's comments meant all the more to me after that incident.

Week 13
Activities:
- mailed reminder postcards
- staff meeting
August 6th – Tuesday
Activities:
- grouped gardens
- marked maps
- began to put packets together
- called photographers
- visited women’s prison to say good-bye and drop off the rest of our plants
Comments:
It was very hard to say goodbye to the women at the prison! Out of all the people I’ve worked with this summer, these women and the Valley gardeners have become the closest. We all sat around and watched the dragonflies hover around the water pond and talked about nature. It is really incredible to see how much that garden means to those ladies. It is their one link to the outside. It is their one major area of freedom. They are such an example to me in how to learn so much from such simple “every day occurrences” for me. They didn’t want me to leave either. They really wanted me to come back with the judges the coming Tues. I told them I was going to have to pack etc. They said they’d come help me pack.(-: I will miss Donae especially. I told her Happy B-day, and she was so excited that I remembered. Those ladies are really starved for attention and love. It is so nice to have the garden as a way in which to do that naturally, and not in a false or forced environment.

August 7th – Wednesday
Activities:
- end of internship evaluation
- packets
- called captains
Comments:
There were a few things that really impacted me about the end of the internship evaluation. One was the extent that Ethan said I had helped community gardening in Wilmington. He said that before I came he was tired and no one at DCH really had the same vision as he did. When I came I was able to help with the workload and I could talk through ideas with him because I understood where he was coming from. He said that at the beginning of the summer DCH could have gotten ride of the community gardening program, but because of the progress we had made this summer, DCH couldn’t get ride of the program. That was really neat for me to hear—that what I did this summer counted and will be continued.

Another compliment that meant a lot to me was that I had carried out my work joyfully. I’m glad that Ethan and the gardeners saw that I enjoyed my work and that I gave it my all.

August 8th – Thursday
Activities:
- good-bye party DCH
- good-bye party with Valley gardeners
- good-bye to Ms. Hazel
- environmental assessment of Sherman garden
- dealt with loose pit bull in Sherman garden
- name tags for CGC
- set up tables for CGC
Comments:
It was very interesting to look at the difference in the good-bye parties. The Valley gardeners gave a very simple one, but it was so full of genuine appreciation! The DCH party was much more refined and cost more, but it wasn’t as emotional. The main cause of that is that I have worked so hard to accomplish something that is important with the gardeners. We have the common bond of working together in the heat and humidity. We have laughed together over innocent events, not the worldly “high brow” jokes of the office. The gardeners and I are open with each other – we are true friends that truly love each other. They gave me gifts that were
simple and handmade – and from the heart. DCH gave me some very nice pruners, etc. I sincerely appreciated both parties, but what the gardeners gave me was more meaningful, because it signified greater sacrifice.

It was also a really incredible feeling of having truly broken through simply enjoying upper-middle class company. I feel more at home with the gardeners of the inner city – that is what I wanted to accomplish this summer.

August 9th – Friday

Activities:
- purchased food and drinks
- photographers' packets (maps, film, garden descriptions)

Comments:
Just office work. It was hard to say good-bye to Pam, Sharon, and Lenny. It is amazing how attached you get to people in such a short time.

August 10th – Saturday

Activities:
- 2nd round of judging for CGC (set up, tear down, food prep, speech)
- photographed gardens

Comments:
I photographed with one other girl, Danielle. At first we were going to photograph separately, but she was pretty nervous about going into the city by herself, so we teamed up. We had a great time talking to the gardeners and to each other. Some of the gardens were pretty incredible! It was fun to talk to Danielle about community gardening too – she was really interested in the prison gardens. It is neat to see how much my knowledge of the subject has increased, so that I can then share it with others and get more people excited about community gardening.
August 6, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

Jody Maxwell worked closely with me during the summer of 2002, building our community garden program and running our urban garden contest. Her job performance was exceptional, and I can guarantee that she will be conscientious, competent, and thorough in her future endeavors.

Beyond these basic qualities, Jody has a wealth of character that makes her much more than just a good employee. She is an extraordinarily committed person, and has a strong sense of purpose. She has a wonderful ability to empathize with and support those around her. She is genuinely enthusiastic, and has an ability to convey that to others. She learns quickly, and she understands projects at a profound level. Because of these talents, Jody is not someone who will ever be a passive participant in an organization; she is a strong presence, and will affect whatever she is a part of for the better.

Jody’s experience with the Delaware Center for Horticulture was not an easy one. We asked her to immerse herself in the community we serve, which includes the entire city of Wilmington but concentrates on those areas affected by urban blight. This was sometimes daunting; Jody had to work very hard in a public role with a diverse constituency, including many who have been affected by poverty, incarceration, or homelessness. She responded with enormous self-assurance and openness, and in a short time became a valuable part of that community. In a tribute to the role she fit into so quickly, the coordinator of a new garden singled her out publicly as the group’s ‘firecracker’ – motivator and hard worker – during the garden’s dedication ceremony at the end of the summer.

Jody connected with people in many situations, from a women’s prison in which she built strong relationships with inmates to a pocket park planting in which she managed to win the respect of children who are tough enough to roam the streets in a drug-infested part of town. These connections were honest, respectful, and genuine, and they served our program’s mission well. In three months, Jody made herself someone who will be missed in vacant lots and social service agencies all over Wilmington.

Jody is tough enough to do this kind of work, but sensitive enough to make the connections that matter. She can make a perfectible project out of a complicated database mailing, but she also can stand up in front of a room of strangers and get them on her side. She can swing a hammer all day in the Delaware summer heat, but she also understands the big picture that the project she’s working on contributes to.

Perhaps the most telling thing I can convey about Jody is this: after three months, she was a full collaborator on the work we do. She participated, she supported, she learned, she moved the programs forward, and she became a much valued colleague. I am enormously grateful for her help, and I am confident that she will be a tremendous asset wherever she goes.

Sincerely,

Ethan Cramer
Assistant Greening Program Manager