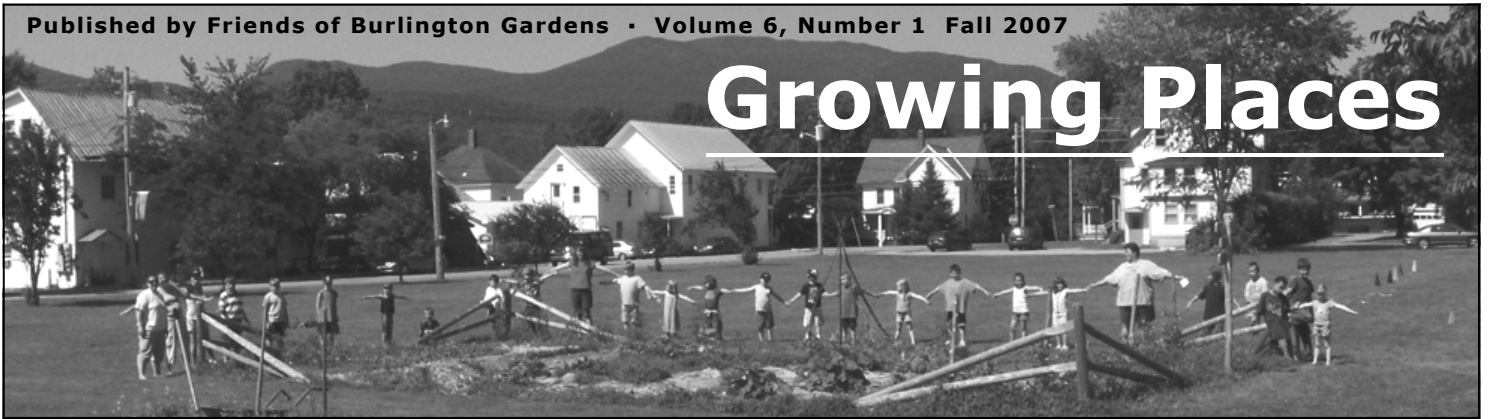


Growing Places



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Our mission

Friends of Burlington Gardens (FBG) is a direct action grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to the continued growth and sustainability of community-based gardening within the city of Burlington and across the state of Vermont.

Through facilitation of the Vermont Community Garden Network (VCGN), FBG works with volunteers, civic groups, and partner organizations to help create, enhance, and preserve community, school, and neighborhood gardens, and to develop education, outreach, and service-learning programs that meet community needs and build social capital.

To learn more about our programs, please visit the FBG web site at www.burlingtongardens.org.

Following in the footsteps of the Fenway Victory Gardeners

The early 1940s were a time of shared sacrifice in America and around the world. As war raged in Europe and spread rapidly to the Pacific, the effects of food and petroleum shortages were keenly felt on the home front. Through rationing and price controls, government agencies worked together to promote conservation while helping to ensure that basic food supplies remained available to all.

Increasing food preparedness was a goal discussed in a 1941 USDA report that encouraged communities to set aside land to support large farm style gardens. Yet through the urging of garden clubs and civic groups, the federal government also recognized the desire of everyday citizens to grow a portion of their own food. This groundswell of support for family gardening would subsequently lead to the National Defense Gardening Conference held December 19, 1941.

Through a 48-state effort, a remarkable 15 million Victory Gardens were cultivated during the 1942 growing season. One of the first Victory Gardens was established on five acres of public land across from Fenway Park stadium in Boston. Aided by the formation of the Fenway Garden Society in 1944, and the leadership of its founder, Richard D. Parker, the Fenway Gardens expanded to nine acres after the war and later withstood several attempts to turn the garden space into parking lots.

In the early 1970s, the story of the Fenway Victory Gardeners came to the attention of Lyman Wood, Dick Raymond, and Sky Thurber of the Garden Way Company, based in Charlotte Vermont. The group envisioned a new national gardening initiative—Gardens for All—which would begin by developing a model city-wide community gardening program in Burlington, Vermont.

After visiting the Fenway Gardens in 1971, Raymond and Thurber teamed up the following spring to help start new community garden sites at Cliffside Park in Burlington and also at Shelburne Farms.

Today the legacy of Gardens for All is carried on in part through the Vermont Community Garden Network, which sent a ten-member delegation to Boston August 9-12, 2007 to attend the 28th annual conference of the American Community Gardening Association.

Through workshops and community garden tours, the delegates could see first hand that people of all ages need gardens—not only for fresh food but even more so for community. Perhaps the words of Tony Siracusa, a 20-year Fenway Victory gardener, sum up the garden way of life best:

“Life is like a garden; you just have to find your spot and you’ll bloom.”

Business partnerships support community and school gardening

The mission of Friends of Burlington Gardens is aided by the support of garden-friendly businesses. Long term FBG sponsors include Sover.net (five years of web site hosting); Gardener’s Supply (three years sponsoring FBG’s garden column and hosting statewide

community garden gatherings); High Mowing Seeds (donating hundreds of seed packets annually); and the Steele Plant Company (annual donation of sweet potato slips). Through the employee matching gift programs of IBM, Ben & Jerry’s, Gardener’s Supply, and B.F. Good-

rich, contributions of individual donors are multiplied. To become a business partner in support of FBG and the Vermont Community Garden Network, please contact Friends of Burlington Gardens office at 802-861-GROW or via email at info@burlingtongardens.org.

Vermont Community Garden Network Symposia energize garden organizers

After holding a successful statewide conference in 2006, the Vermont Community Garden Network increased its outreach and impact by presenting four regional Community and School Garden Symposia during February and March.

The VCGN Symposia, which were held in Burlington, Rutland, Springfield, and Newport, attracted 100 participants. During the morning session of each Symposia, participants shared successes and challenges of their garden projects in an interactive

format. To help facilitate the dialogue and create a "virtual garden tour," each presenter created a visual display to showcase their community or school-based garden programs.

Through questions and networking, symposia participants shared strategies for organizing and sustaining dynamic community and school gardens. During the afternoon session, VCGN organizer Jim Flint presented a workshop to help guide participants through the VCGN mini-grant process.

In an email after the VCGN Symposia held February 3 at Gardener's Supply, Fort Ethan Allen Community Garden coordinator Sonny Orsini wrote:



"This was a great event to connect with others. We met a

school community garden coordinator in Winooski who will make our garden part of their kids' tour during the summer. This could lead to educational programming with our school-age kids centered on gardening. My supervisor thinks it's a great town-gown opportunity and a means to promote UVM's eco-driven advocacy."

VCGN conferences focusing on allotment community gardens and community school gardens are in the preliminary planning stages for winter 2008.

Sixty garden sites across Vermont receive support from 2007 VCGN awards



The School of International Training Community Garden in Brattleboro is one of 23 new community and school gardens started this year in Vermont.

The Vermont Community Garden Network received a fertile boost in January and February 2007 through a \$15,000 grant from The Bay and Paul Foundation and a \$5000 gift from The Ben & Jerry's Foundation.

The grants provided FBG with the outreach funding needed to offer site planning workshops, technical assistance, and mini-grants to support 60 school and community garden projects in

fourteen Vermont counties.

The VCGN mini-grant program was announced March 1, 2007 via FBG's statewide garden list serv, which has grown to more than 400 members.

Through the 2007 VCGN mini-grant program, 55 garden sites received funding for garden site improvements including raised bed timbers, garden signs, top soil, compost, fencing, water systems, tool sheds,

bulletin boards, and garden carts. Five additional garden sites received honorable mention awards and products donated by Gardeners Supply.

With assistance from Friends of Burlington Gardens and the VCGN awards program, 23 new community and school gardens were established in 2007 in Vermont, while 37 community and school garden sites expanded their capacity.

Grants, annual fund, and plant sales support local and statewide programming

Aided by \$16,500 in combined grant support from the Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust, the Harris and Frances Block Foundation, the George W. Mergens Foundation, and the LSK Foundation, Friends of Burlington Gardens expanded its outreach programs in partnership with Burlington schools and agencies serving youths, seniors, and limited income residents.

FBG's 2007 Annual Fund campaign began December 2006 and raised more than \$12,000 to help fund core operations. The Annual Fund was supplemented by generous supporting gifts received from a variety of civic and faith-based groups.

For the third consecutive year, FBG took part in the Feinstein Anti-Hunger Challenge, a nationwide matching grants program

sponsored by the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island. The Feinstein Foundation provides hunger fighting nonprofits with a percentage match for contributions received during March and April.

Proceeds from FBG's 7th Annual Plant Sale on May 12 and Sweet Potato Plant Sale on June 9 benefited the Community Teaching Garden. The

FBG Plant Sales are a favorite for Burlington area gardeners.



A 10-member VCGN delegation attended the 28th annual conference of the American Community Gardening Association in Boston August 9-12.

Community school garden programs offer hands-on lessons for Burlington kids

Among the biggest challenges faced by school garden organizers in Vermont is to find ways to engage students and community members in caring for gardens during the summer months when school isn't in session.

To help meet the challenge locally, FBG partnered with the Burlington Food Council to create the Burlington School Garden Council, which met at FBG's new office in March, April, and May. Through the Garden Council, garden coordinators at Burlington's eight pub-

lic schools are better able to share ideas and secure resources for their garden projects.

\$6000 in combined grant support from the George W. Mergens Foundation and the Morris and Bessie Altman Foundation provided FBG with funding to integrate garden-based nutrition activities into summer recreation and education programs at Flynn Elementary, C.P. Smith Elementary, and Burlington High School. FBG interns Carrie McLane and Emily Piazza, designed and led

the activities which increased participation by students and teachers in the school gardens.



FBG Summer Intern Emily Piazza worked with Burlington High School students to create a new garden to help supply produce for the cafeteria.



FBG Summer Intern Carrie McLane (back left) worked with Champ Camp kids and staff to implement garden-based nutrition activities at C.P. Smith and Flynn elementary schools in Burlington.

Community Teaching Garden celebrates Fifth year at Ethan Allen Homestead

There are literally thousands of hands-on school and youth garden programs in America to provide kids and teens with opportunities to learn how plants grow and where food comes from. But for adults who want to take a season-long course in organic gardening—in the garden—there are only a handful of programs that work as well as the Community Teaching Garden at Ethan Allen Homestead.



Celebrating its fifth season, the Community Teaching Garden lies at the heart of FBG's efforts to teach beginners how to garden and how to use their new skills to serve others. The 20-week program includes 25 participants and is supported by \$5000 in combined funding from the Sid and Cecelia Lance Family Foundation, Sustainable Future Fund, Merchants Bank Foundation, and Gardener's Supply.

Twice weekly classes at the Community Teaching Garden begin in mid May and continue through the end of September. The 2007 program focused on learning the basic methods of permaculture or permanent agriculture. As a special project, stone mason Charley MacMartin worked with CTG gardeners to build a beautiful stone table in the center of the garden's circular meeting space.

Burlington Community Wildlife Habitat Initiative encourages urban gardens

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Gardener's Supply, Friends of Burlington Gardens, and partner organizations are working together to support the Burlington Community Wildlife Habitat Initiative (BCWHI). The multi-year program involves local community members in voluntarily restoring and creating wildlife habitat throughout Burlington, with the goal of certify-

ing Burlington as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat.

The BCWHI incorporates the basic goals of NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program, which include providing food, water, cover, and places where wildlife can raise their young. Creating habitat landscapes in Burlington will also encourage residents to take pride in their neighborhoods.

Through a donation of perennials from Gardener's Supply and the volunteer efforts of the GSC marketing department, a pollinator garden was installed June 8 in front of Friends of Burlington Gardens new office space at 180 Flynn Avenue in Burlington. NWF Habitat steward Char Albers adopted the new garden and helped it become certified as an official NWF wildlife habitat.

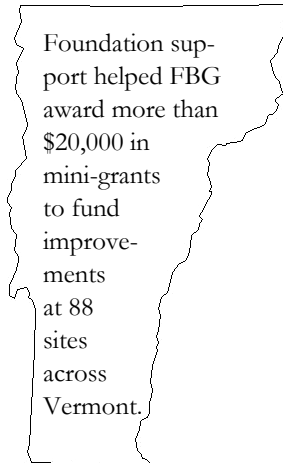


The garden bed in front of 180 Flynn Avenue is now an urban oasis for bees and butterflies.

FBG's Growing Partnerships

Foundations and Grantors that supported FBG in 2007

The Morris and Bessie Altman Foundation
The Bay and Paul Foundations
Ben and Jerry's Foundation
Harris and Frances Block Foundation
Community Development Block Grant Program
Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust
The Feinstein Foundation
Gardener's Supply Company
General Dynamics Employee Action Council
IBM Matching Grants Program
The Sid and Cecelia Lance Family Foundation
LSK Foundation
Merchants Bank Foundation
The George W. Mergens Foundation
Sustainable Future Fund



2007 Board of Directors

Friends of Burlington Gardens

Linda Berlin (President)
Jean Sienkewicz (Secretary)
Joseph Fiacco (Treasurer)
Jim Feinson, Liz Jaquette, Maggie Leugers, Beth Truzansky
Jules Fishelman (ex-officio), Josh Brown (ex-officio).

2007 Staff Members

Friends of Burlington Gardens

Jim Flint, Executive Director (6 years)
Carrie McLane, Spring work study & Summer Nutrition Intern
Emily Piazza, Summer Nutrition Intern

2007 Mini-Grant Review Committee

Vermont Community Garden Network

Liz Jaquette, Joseph Kiefer, Bill McMaster, Sara Coblyn Porth, Noelia Baez-Rodriguez, Peggy Thompson

Community Teaching Garden Assistants

Kirstin McCracken, Yulia Khitrykh, Neal and Susan Sand

Vermont Community Garden Network

2006-2007 Mini-grant awards & honorable mentions

☼ one year mini-grant recipients ☼☼ two-year mini-grant recipients
★ honorable mention recipients

☼☼ Crops by Kids of Barre Town
☼☼ Bellows Falls Community Garden
☼ Sunrise Preschool Community Garden, Bennington
☼ Bradford Elementary School Garden
☼ Academy School Garden, Brattleboro
☼ Green Street School Garden, Brattleboro
☼ School of International Training Community Garden, Brattleboro
☼☼ Upper Dummerston Road Community Garden, Brattleboro
☼ Buell Street Neighborhood Garden, Burlington
★ Cathedral Square Senior Living, Burlington
☼ H.O. Wheeler Elementary School Garden, Burlington
☼ Tommy Thompson Community Garden, Burlington
☼☼ Barnes Elementary Community Garden, Burlington
☼ Burlington High School Garden
☼ Archibald Neighborhood Garden, Burlington
☼ Hunt Middle School Garden, Burlington
☼ Heineberg Senior Center Garden, Burlington
☼☼ Healthy City Youth Farm, Burlington
☼ Flynn Elementary Community Garden, Burlington

☼ Growing Together Garden, Burlington
☼ McClure Multigenerational Center Garden, Burlington
☼ Waterfront Apartments Community Garden, Burlington
☼ Lakeview Community Garden, Burlington
☼ Rock Point Community Garden, Burlington
☼ Roosevelt Park Youth Garden, Burlington
☼ Calais Elementary School Healthy Eating Garden
☼ Seeds of Sustainability Garden, Cambridge
☼ Hillside Community Garden, Chelsea
☼ Fort Ethan Allen Community Garden, Colchester
☼ Harwood Union High School Garden, Duxbury
★ Kids in the Country Sensory Garden, East Dover
☼ Rootwork Community Garden, East Warren
☼ Little Garden in Eden, Eden Central School
☼ Meadow Terrace Community Garden, Essex Junction
☼ Ferrisburgh Elementary School Community Garden
☼ Grafton Community Organic Garden
★ Greensboro Early Learning Center, Greensboro Bend
☼☼ Hardwick Community Garden
☼ Champlain Valley Union High School Garden, Hinesburg
☼ Holland Elementary School Community Garden
☼ Brewster Pierce School Solar Garden, Huntington
☼☼ Hyde Park Elementary School Community Garden
☼ Lamoille High School Community Garden, Hyde Park
☼ Brighton Elementary School Pumpkin Patch, Island Pond
☼ Green Solutions Community Garden, Johnson State College
☼☼ The Garden of Life, Johnson Elementary School
☼☼ Ludlow Community Garden
☼ The Garden Patch at Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury
☼ Milton Youth Garden
☼☼ The Walden Project Community Garden, Monkton
☼☼ Montgomery Elementary School Garden
☼☼ Breezy Acres Farm Community Garden, Montgomery
☼☼ Montpelier North Branch Community Garden
☼ DCYF Community Wellness Garden, Morrisville
☼ Beeman Elementary School Garden, New Haven
☼ Kindle Farm School, Newfane
☼ Community Garden Along the Missisquoi, North Troy
☼ Norwich Community Garden
☼ Bethany Birches Garden, Plymouth
☼ Pownal Community Garden
☼ Putney Central School Community Garden
☼ VYCC West Monitor Barn Garden, Richmond
☼ Ripton Elementary School Community Garden
☼ Rochester Community School Gardens
☼ Rutland Community Garden
☼☼ Hand in the Land Garden, Salisbury Community School
☼ Orchard Elementary School Garden, South Burlington
☼☼ South Burlington Community Garden
☼ The Helping Hands Garden, South Burlington
☼ The Collaborative Community Garden, South Londonderry
☼☼ South Royalton School Garden
☼ Lincoln Street Garden, Springfield
☼ Gateway School Community Garden, Springfield
☼☼ Franklin County Senior Center Garden, Saint Albans
★ Caledonia County 4-H Community Garden, St. Johnsbury
☼ St. Johnsbury School Community Garden
★ Champlain Islands Parent-Child Center, South Hero
☼ Stockbridge Central School Community Garden
☼ Town of Stowe Community Garden
☼☼ Missisquoi Valley UHS Community Garden, Sheldon
☼ Leland & Gray UHS Garden, Townsend
☼ Jay/Westfield School Community Garden
☼ Charleston Elementary School Community Garden
☼ The Haven Community Garden, White River Junction
☼ Dan Healy Memorial Garden, Pine Ridge School, Williston
☼ Williston Community Garden
☼☼ Winooski Community Garden and Youth Farm
☼☼ JFK Elementary School Garden, Winooski