



The GreenThumb Print

GreenThumb News and Topics of Interest to Community Gardeners in New York City

October 2002

The bulletin of GreenThumb, a program of City of New York/Parks & Recreation

GreenThumb Updates

GREENTHUMB HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS



Nicole Morehead, new Director of Field Operations

After a long and difficult search, GreenThumb is very pleased to present the new Director of Field Operations, Nicole Morehead. We are confident that Nicole will help us fill the pieces of GreenThumb missing since Dave Flanigan's departure.

Nicole brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and is well-acquainted with the nuts and bolts of the Parks Department. After graduating from Amherst College in 1997, Nicole joined City of New York/Parks & Recreation. Organized and detail-oriented, Nicole helped create a city-wide welfare-to-work program and other job training programs as a Brooklyn Job Assistance Center (JAC) Coordinator, Job Preparation and Computer Skills Trainer, Teens at Parks (TAP), and Work Experience Program (WEP) Analyst. In these positions, Nicole interacted with a wide cross-section of the public on a daily basis while developing and conducting job training workshops for high-school students and welfare recipients and attending and reporting at City Council Hearings. In 2000, her innovation and strong leadership skills brought her to Next Step Placement, Project Renewal, Inc. (PRI). As a Suburban Jobs Program Coordinator, she managed and coordinated a program to connect New York City job seekers with suburban employment opportunities in addition to completing a grant that secured funds to provide comprehensive HIV services to PRI's clientele. Nicole's fluency in Spanish enabled her to reach out to a wider population.

GreenThumb is very excited that Nicole has joined our staff and look forward to working with her. Welcome Nicole! Please don't be shy and welcome Nicole yourself at nicole@greenthumbnyc.org.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SETTLEMENT

The following is an excerpt from the Mayor's press release of September 18, 2002:

Gardens That Are To Be Protected. The City will offer 198 sites to the Parks Department and/or to not-for-profit land trust organizations for preservation as community gardens or as open space. 197 gardens that were already preserved will be granted additional protection and the City will not seek to develop 100 gardens maintained by the Department of Education, raising the number of preserved gardens to 495.

Garden Review Process. The agreement establishes a garden review process that will provide detailed information about each garden planned for development during the public review process for the proposed development. The agreement also provides for the relocation of a garden to an alternate site if available when a garden is developed.

City To Offer Licenses. Gardeners will be offered licenses to operate gardens, and the GreenThumb Program will be continued.

Housing Development Immediately. The City can move forward with the development of 2,319 units of affordable housing. Plans for an additional 710 units can proceed. A total of 153 GreenThumb sites may be returned to residential use.

GreenThumb will continue to provide further information to community gardeners as it becomes available. Please look in your mail for updates. If you would like further details on the settlement, go to the AG's website at www.oag.state.ny.us/environment/community_gardens_sum.html

HARVEST FAIR 2002



A cornucopia of garden fruits and vegetables grace the entrance to the 2002 GreenThumb Harvest Festival.



One of GreenThumb's oldest members, Vyrus Preston of Preston Community Garden doesn't let age keep her from the GreenThumb Harvest Festival.



Professional chefs, Sohe Kim and Gary Rego helped to judge this year's new cooking category. It was all so yummy!



It was no lengthy debate to declare McKinley Hightower and Farreed Anderson of God's Battalion Garden winners of the longest squash category.

On Saturday, September 14th, GreenThumb hosted the 2002 Harvest Festival at Mt. Prospect Park and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The festivities started at 10:30 AM with the fruit and vegetable competition at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Community gardeners from all over NYC arrived with their harvest held proudly in their arms ready to win that coveted Blue Ribbon! Vyrus Preston, impressed us upon her arrival with quite a bountiful and seemingly heavy bouquet of fruits and vegetables balanced delicately on her head! That was quite a feat for a one of GreenThumb's oldest members! The new cooking category was quite an attraction bringing in many scrumptious dishes including Classie Parker's 1st prize sweet potato pie and Sohair Hassan's 1st prize herb recipe for her fresh tabouli--all prepared with ingredients from the garden. Meanwhile, over at Mt. Prospect Park, the jazzy, swinging beats of Genarro's Wax Trio began to fill the air at 12:30 PM. Community gardeners began to stream in from Brooklyn Botanic Garden and were delighted by the cornucopia of food before them. Gardeners happily chowed down on 6 ft. heroes and all the delectable caribbean and southern food you could eat, catered by Papa Jones of Jordan Magic. Around 2:30 Judy Brown Eyes and Big Band took center stage and wowed the audience with her strong soulful voice. Gardeners danced in between platefuls of food and exchanged growing tips when the bands took a break. The afternoon concluded with the rockin beats of Say Hi to Your Mom. We all had a great time at the 2002 Harvest Fair. And if you didn't get a chance to make it, you can join us on TV. That's right, TV! BCAT was at the Harvest Fair all afternoon and will be airing the event next month (see schedule). See you next year at GreenThumb's first big event, the 19th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether. More information will follow.



Judy Brown bellows it out at Mt. Prospect Park. What a voice!



Papa Jones doesn't joke around when it comes to a cooking. Look at all that delicious caribbean and southern food!



Tom Goodrich of P.S. 76 Garden of Love delights kids with his creepy critter.

BCAT Viewing of 2002 GreenThumb Harvest Festival

Manhattan : October 5, 12, 14, 26
Ch 56, Ch 104, Ch 69

Brooklyn: October 2, 9, 16
Ch 35, Ch 68

Bronx: October 5, 12, 14, 26
Ch 68

Queens: October 24, November 2
Ch 34, Ch 56

Landscape Architecture & Community Design Assistance for Your Garden

New Yorkers for Parks is a coalition of civic, greening, recreation and economic development organizations. Part of New Yorkers for Parks' mission is to provide professional design assistance for community open space and landscape design projects. As part of this assistance, New Yorkers for Parks can provide your community group with a Landscape Architecture and Community Design Intern to assist with land use research, support the creation of a new open space or aid in designing the renovation of a community space.

El Jardin del Paraiso is a GreenThumb garden who benefitted from New Yorkers for Parks' design intern. El Jardin was looking to redesign their community garden. Through a grant from the Greenacre Foundation, the group was able to hire a landscape architect, Marie Stella Burns, to construct a master plan of their new space. Marie led them to New Yorkers for Parks. Excited about additional help with their design plans, the group submitted an application. A few weeks later, David Schmidlock appeared, ready, willing and able to work his expertise into the plans for El Jardin.

El Jardin had ideas of what they wanted but needed someone, a designer to help them visualize their dreams. Julie Kirkpatrick, El Jardin's contact was immediately impressed with David's dedication and efficiency. He attended a lot of garden meetings to listen and get feedback on what the group's needs are. Moreover, David lived in the neighborhood and knew and understood, as a resident, the community's needs. Based on the group's input, and Marie's master plan, David helped to visualize each new design change or addition piece by piece, before it was implemented. The process of visualizing the garden helped the group to decide what worked in the garden and what didn't. And because the process involved the group's input, it was a design truly by the community, for the community.

For info about a Landscape Architecture and Community Design Intern, contact New Yorkers for Parks at (212) 838-9410 or Pgovernale@newyorkersforparks.org.

IMPORTANT!

The GreenThumb warehouse is now closed for the season.

It will re-open after the 2003 GreenThumb GrowTogether in March



October Event

Halloween Treats

The Clifton Place Memorial Garden and Park, Clinton Hill/Fort Greene

Thursday, October 31, 6-8pm

Run away from ghouls and goblins and run into Clifton Place for Halloween treats and games. Prizes for apple bobbing winners, pumpkin carving and treat bags for the kids. And maybe even a haunted house.

Location: Bedford Avenue corner of Clifton Place

Directions: By train-C,G to Clinton-Washington Aves. By bus-B38,B52 to Washington Ave

Info: Contact Melvin Foster at Cliftonplacebloc@aol.com

