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Nancy Kohn, Director

NYC Parks GreenThumb

Parks

Città degli orti
"Bologna Green un nuovo verde urbano"

Bologna, Italy

Overview: GreenThumb

Initiated in 1978, in response to the 1970s fiscal crisis, GreenThumb assists community residents to transform once derelict vacant lots into community gardens.

Today, we educate and support community gardens and urban farming throughout NYC, while preserving open space.

- ❑ GreenThumb portfolio holds over 600 community gardens
- ❑ Partners with Grow To Learn, School Garden Initiative
 - ❑ 500 School Gardens
- ❑ Over 20,000 volunteers



GreenThumb Provides Garden Support Citywide



This is a gardener receiving lumber at a GreenThumb Garden for constructing raised beds in Brooklyn.



Gardeners pick out vegetable seedlings at a Veggie Start Giveaway in Brooklyn



Material Support

Distribution of over 100 tools and materials:

- Soil
- Clean fill
- Compost
- Garbage Bags
- Garbage Cans
- Wheelbarrows
- Lumber
- Watering Supplies
- Tools
- Plant Material
- Hoses
- Gloves
- Screws
- Hammers, Nails
- Concrete Mix, and much more!



Citywide Events

- GrowTogether Conference, Summer Festival, Harvest Fair



GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference at Hostos Community College in the Bronx





CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Technical Assistance

- **Membership building & group development**
- **Horticultural & sustainable best practices**
- **Referrals for fundraising & grant opportunities**
- **Mutual support network among community leaders...**
 - Linking leaders with other city agencies and greening groups
 - Linking new gardeners with experienced gardeners



Educational Workshops & Programming

Combined *community education model and resource distribution system* - replicated locally and nationally

- 72 free public workshops
- 2,280 attendees
- 32 people per average workshop



GreenThumb Programs



Physical

- 攢 Effective resource distribution
- 攢 Materials + skill building
- 攢 DPR standards

Social

- 攢 Quality, educational workshops
- 攢 Nurture NYC CG network
- 攢 Strategic partnerships

Environmental

- 攢 Eco - appropriate materials
- 攢 Emerging concerns & trends

Urban Agriculture in GreenThumb Gardens



Beach 45th Street Farm in Far Rockaway, NY (above); Lucia Hernandez, Bryant Hill Community Garden in Bronx, NY (right)









Urban Agriculture / Market Gardens

"The life expectancy in New York City is higher than in the rest of the country....Yet there are too many New Yorkers without the ability to select healthy foods, because those foods are not on their store shelves."

Mayor De Blasio announced OneNYC to support community gardens and urban farms in low income neighborhoods to increase access to healthy foods



- Opportunities for residents to engage in growing local produce
- Educates youth about nutrition and offers training in food preparation, gardening and retailing skills
- GreenThumb expands model to service market gardens
- Public-private collaboration to max NYC urban agriculture potential



Urban Agriculture in GreenThumb Gardens

- ◆ Over 50% of Greenthumb gardens are food producing
- ◆ At least 200,000 pounds of edibles are grown each year
- ◆ Up to 35 operational Farmer's Markets and garden stands
- ◆ More than 2,000 fruit trees planted
- ◆ 40 community gardens with over 100 beehives



Thank You!

NYC Parks GreenThumb

Nancy Kohn, Executive Director

Nancy.Kohn@parks.nyc.gov

49 Chambers Street Room 1020

New York, NY – 10007

(212) 788-8070

www.greenthumbnyc.org

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