



# Community Garden Survey

## New York City

Results 2009/2010

For more information:

GrowNYC  
Visit [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org) or  
contact Lenny Librizzi at  
[LLibrizzi@grownyc.org](mailto:LLibrizzi@grownyc.org)

GreenThumb  
Visit [www.greenthumbnyc.org](http://www.greenthumbnyc.org)  
or contact the main office at  
(212) 788-8070



# Authors

**Mara Gittleman**

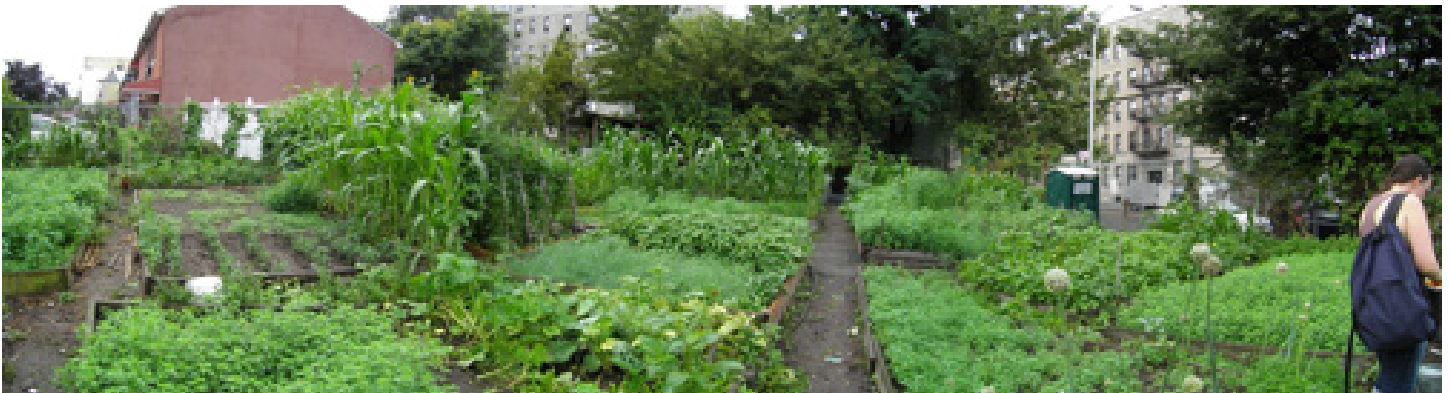
2009/2010 Compton Mentor Fellow, GrowNYC

**Lenny Librizzi**

GrowNYC

**Edie Stone**

GreenThumb, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation



## Acknowledgements

The 2009/2010 Community Garden Survey and Report would not be possible without generous funding from the Compton Foundation. Special thanks to all of the staff at GrowNYC and GreenThumb; Bob Lewis and Christina Grace of the NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets; Guennivere Ury, Rob Callaghan, and Marcello Gasdia of Hunter College; and everyone else who helped design the survey, stuff envelopes, enter data, call gardeners, and visit gardens.

Community Garden Survey packet designed by Nora Chovanec.

More grows in the  
garden than the  
gardener sows  
- Old Spanish Proverb

# Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
HIGHLIGHTS	6
BACKGROUND & HISTORY	7
HOW MANY GARDENS ARE THERE TODAY?	9
SURVEY RESULTS	10
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; MEMBERSHIP</b>	10
LAND OWNERSHIP	11
ORGANIZATION AFFILIATIONS	11
MEMBERSHIP	12
<b>FOOD PRODUCTION</b>	14
SPACE DEVOTED TO FOOD PRODUCTION	14
END USE OF FOOD GROWN IN GARDEN	14
TYPES OF FOOD GROWN	15
FRUIT TREES	19
<b>ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS, SHADE TREES, &amp; WATER GARDENS</b>	21
<b>COMPOSTING</b>	22
<b>STRUCTURES</b>	24
SOCIAL STRUCTURES	25
STRUCTURES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS	25
STRUCTURES FOR THE ARTS	26
<b>EVENTS</b>	27
<b>PARTNERSHIPS</b>	28
PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS	28
PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS/CENTERS	29
HOSTING VOLUNTEERS	30
CONCLUSION	31
APPENDIX A: GARDENS THAT COMPLETED THE SURVEY	32
APPENDIX B: SURVEY INSTRUMENT	38
APPENDIX C: COMPOSTING IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE	47
APPENDIX D: PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS	48
APPENDIX E: PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS/CENTERS	53

# Executive Summary

There are nearly 500 community gardens in New York City, and many more blossoming in schools, backyards, and public housing property. They are spaces where city residents can come together to build and enjoy green space, grow food, learn, meet, and spend time together, and have been enormously valuable ecologically, socially, and economically for decades. In New York City, community gardens contribute to healthier air quality, a decreased urban heat island effect, access to fresh produce, a connection to nature, opportunities for environmental education, and much more.

The 2009/2010 survey of community gardens was designed to update GrowNYC's central database of community gardens, update OASIS , and create new datasets around issues like food production and partnerships with schools. Survey design, implementation, and analysis were completed by Mara Gittleman, 2009 Compton Mentor Fellow, funded by the Compton Foundation, with Lenny Librizzi, Assistant Director of Open Space Greening, GrowNYC. Responses used in this report were collected from August 2009 to July 2010, with a total of 223 survey respondents.

Community gardening is gaining in popularity, and NYC is experiencing an increase in urban agriculture and sustainability initiatives such as rainwater harvesting and composting. This paper establishes an up-to-date baseline of information about these items and numerous other aspects of community gardening.

1. Open Accessible Space Information System <<http://www.oasisnyc.net>>
2. See Appendix A for complete list of respondents

## Highlights

- In 2009, there were at least 490 community gardens in NYC
- Approximately 80% of community gardens in NYC grow food
- 65.6% of community gardens in NYC compost, and 20 of these gardens will accept organic waste from the public
- 43% of community gardens in NYC partner with at least one local school, and another 39% would like to

# Methods

The data used in this report was collected using a survey instrument based on past surveys issued by GreenThumb and GrowNYC. Questions and checklists were designed to gather data on information such as organization affiliation, membership, food production, composting, structures, events, and partnerships with schools and community organizations. Using the same order and wording, the survey was made available online on Survey Monkey ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)), in PDF form for emails and downloading off GrowNYC and GreenThumb's websites, and in hard copy form for handing out at events.

During the months of August-December of 2009, the survey was delivered twice to the garden coordinators of the city's community gardens via email and mail, once in August and once in November. There were follow-up phone calls after the first mailing. Answers from mailed-in hard copies and from phone interviews were entered into Survey Monkey as a central database.

A cutoff in survey collection was determined in mid-July 2010 in order to write this report, although the survey will be on-going as a way to continue to update the fields in OASIS.

The database from Survey Monkey was downloaded and analyzed using Microsoft Excel to produce the following tables, graphs, and statistics.

3. See Appendix B



# Background & History

We can trace the recent history of community gardens in New York City to the early 1970's. At this time there were more than 10,000 city owned vacant lots in the city, mostly in neighborhoods where buildings were abandoned by landlords and tenants and many were burned and demolished. Neighborhood residents worked together to turn these lots into places to beautify the neighborhood, grow food and keep eyes and ears "on the street" as a way to combat crime and drugs. The first Garden advocacy group the Green Guerillas started in 1973 and the Council on the Environment the city to start a municipal gardening program, Operation GreenThumb (OGT). OGT was established in 1978 initially as part of the Department of General Services, the city agency which managed city property. Using Federal Block grants OGT provided materials and services to community groups that received interim leases for city owned vacant lots.

Community Garden Advocacy groups negotiated with the city to offer longer term protection for gardens. Initially 5 year leases were issued to a small number of gardens with appraised value of less than \$20,000. These leases were renewable and extended to 10 years. Except for a few instances where other preservation mechanisms were used, outright purchase of the land by the garden group and incorporation as a land trust of El Sol Brillante in Manhattan and the 1100 Block Bergen Street Garden in Brooklyn and the symbolic square inch sale of the garden land at the Clinton Community Garden in Manhattan which convinced the city to make that site into city parkland, long term leasing was the preservation method used. Most gardens with strong groups continued to survive even without the long term protection. The first notable garden that was destroyed for subsidized housing was Adam Purples Garden of Eden in 1986.

A very small percentage of gardens had any type of long term protection throughout the 1980's and 1990's. In 2 national surveys of community gardens published in 1992 and 1998 by the American Community Gardening Association, the numbers of community gardens in NYC were listed as 845 and 869 respectively; very few had any type of permanency. The gardens were still considered a temporary use. Many lots were leased by groups and not turned into gardens so during that 6 year period almost as many gardens were lost as were started.

As the city emerged from the fiscal crisis and housing development began in earnest in the mid 1990's, the gardens were sought after as development sites. The city moved the GreenThumb program from the Department of General Services to the Parks Department, the long term leases were no longer offered and license agreements replaced the interim leases. Several gardens were transferred to Parks jurisdiction but were not mapped as Parkland. Some garden licenses were cancelled and the land developed as low income housing.

The highest profile garden to be developed into housing was the D.O.M.E. Garden on the Upper West Side. Despite protests, press coverage and court hearings the garden was destroyed but was the catalyst that increased the notoriety and advocacy in support of gardens. Greening non-profit groups began meeting to collaborate on garden preservation strategies. Community gardeners formed

Garden Coalitions beginning with the Lower East Side Garden Coalition and the New York City Coalition for the Preservation of Gardens to create a united front to fight against the loss of any additional gardens.

A great deal of activity for and against community gardens took place between 1997 and 2000. The city canceled licenses for a number of gardens, then canceled all licenses and began making plans to build on garden sites and to bulldoze gardens in preparation for transfer of the sites to developers. One notable case was the bulldozing of the PS76 Garden of Love in Harlem as the children from the elementary school who planted the garden looked on. Mayor Giuliani made his famous "...welcome to the era after communism" comment in response to protests about the City's plan to auction over 100 community gardens to the highest bidder regardless of how the land would be used.

Activists took part in rallies and disruptive protests and many were arrested. The Standing Our Ground Conference and Rally attracted politicians and gardeners from across the country which broadened the support for preserving the gardens. A large amount of money was raised in order to purchase the gardens. GrowNYC's (formerly Council on the Environment) Community Garden Mapping Project made maps and other information available on the OASIS website for supporters to use to preserve gardens. The community gardeners and non profit greening organizations filed lawsuits to stop the destruction of the gardens. In an 11th hour move, then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer a lawsuit on behalf of the gardens on the day before the auction and an injunction stops the auction. The following day the City reached an agreement with the Trust for Public Land and the New York Restoration Project to purchase 114 gardens for 4.2 million dollars.

This purchase stopped the loss of a large number of gardens but the City continued to convey community gardens to developers for low and market rate housing. Thirty two gardens were transferred to the Parks Department for preservation but still not mapped as Parkland. In February 2000 Attorney General Spitzer was granted a Temporary Restraining Order which prevented any development on any community garden and halted any further attempts by the Giuliani administration to destroy community gardens.

The Temporary Restraining Order remained in effect until September 2002 when Mayor Bloomberg and Attorney General Spitzer reached an agreement (The Agreement) that preserved nearly 400 community gardens on city owned land while allowing development to move forward on over 100 gardens that were already included in proposed development plans. Before development could take place in these gardens "subject to development", a garden review process was required and the community gardeners were offered a site to relocate the garden.

The Agreement continued to protect community gardens until September 2010 when new garden rules were announced with similar wording and protections as in The Agreement. Under the garden rules new gardens will be allowed and will receive the same protections as existing ones. Discussions are ongoing to make sure that the gardens have the best long term preservation protection possible.



While very few new gardens have started since 1999, much effort has been made since then to ensure the long term viability of community gardens by promoting sustainable gardening practices like composting and rainwater harvesting. Community gardeners and non profit greening organizations have also worked towards achieving social sustainability by strengthening the community garden groups. Community gardens have become part of the vocabulary of the city and vital to their neighborhoods. The community gardeners continue to create a history of working together to make a positive impact on the city’s environment.

## How Many Gardens Are There Today?

The term “community garden” has a number of definitions. The American Community Garden Association defines the community garden as “any piece of land gardened by a group of people.” In New York City, any space that satisfies this definition and that has permission from the landlord may register with GreenThumb – as such, their database of community gardens includes school gardens, church gardens, and more. For the purpose of this paper, we define community gardens as gardening spaces that are open to the public and that in theory anyone can join (this excludes most schools).

Using this definition, there are 299 community gardens under the jurisdiction of the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation, 118 community gardens owned by a land trust, at least 36 privately owned community gardens, 13 HPD gardens, and 23 more of various jurisdictions (See Figure 1 and Table 1).

4. “What is a community garden?” American Community Garden Association. <http://communitygarden.org/learn> (Accessed October 15, 2010)

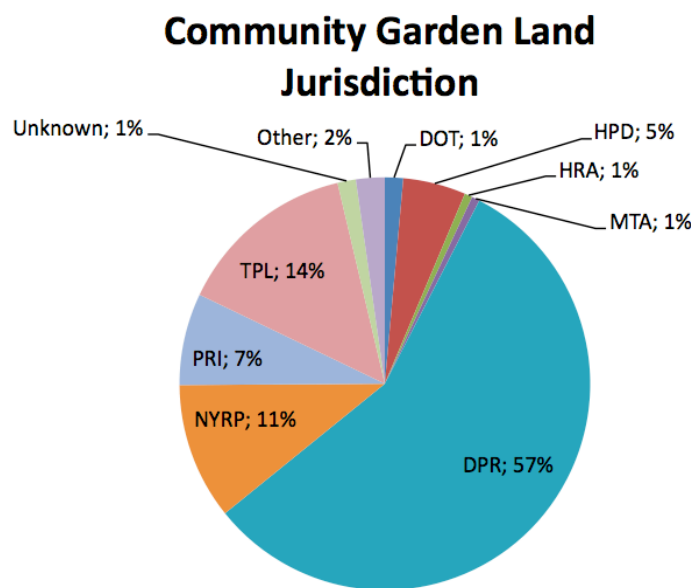


Figure 1

Land Jurisdiction	Number of Gardens
Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR)	299
Trust for Public Land (TPL)	69
New York Restoration Project (NYRP)	49
Private (PRI)	36
Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)	14
Dept. of Transportation (DOT)	7
HRA	3
Unknown	3
DCAS	2
DEP	2
MTA	2
DCA	1
DHS	1
FED	1
NYS	1
	<b>TOTAL: 490</b>

**Table 1**

## Survey Results

The gardens that responded to the survey represented a wide sample of age, size, type, and ownership. Participating gardens represent more than 6,300 garden members, with an average of 29.2 members per garden (outlier of 600 key-holders withheld from calculation).

## Administration & Membership

Community gardens in NYC operate with a number of different administrative structures. Depending on the garden's history, land ownership, and the level of involvement neighborhood residents have in the garden, a community garden might be organized by one long-time gardener, by a rotating board of officers, by an outside organization, or another such leadership structure. Members are mostly responsible for both individual plots and communal garden space (63.7%), and more than half of the gardens that responded indicated that their members are responsible for hosting open hours (55.3%) (see Table 4).

# Land Ownership

In New York City, most of the community gardens are under the jurisdiction of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (see Figure 2). These gardens were generally formed on city- or privately-owned vacant lots, and were transferred to the Parks Department for administrative purposes. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and New York Restoration Project (NYRP) are both private land trusts, and collectively own approximately 25% of the city’s community gardens.

The distribution of land ownership within survey respondents is different from actual distribution in a number of ways. For example, NYRP gardens constituted 25% of survey respondents, while only 6% of the responding gardens were owned by the Trust for Public Land. The actual distribution is 11% and 14% respectively.

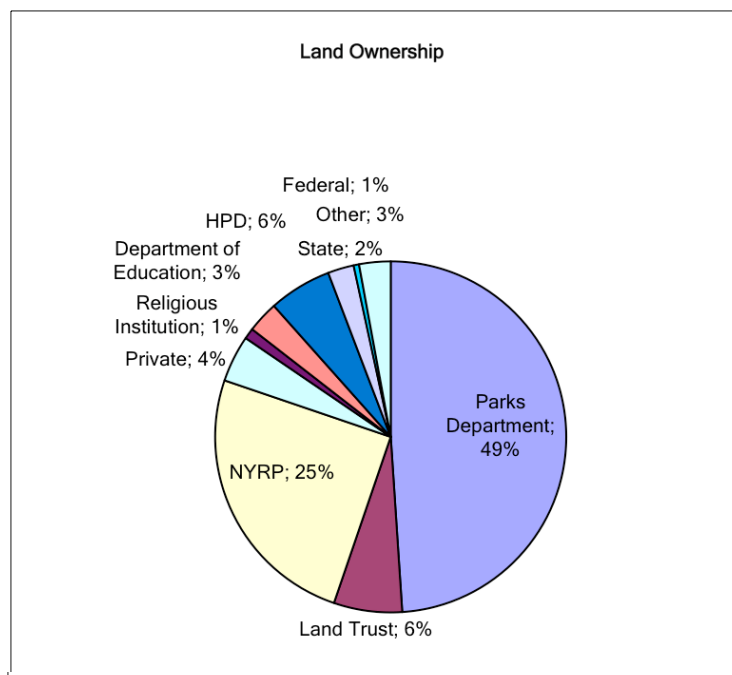


Figure 2: Land Ownership Distribution in Survey Responses

# Organization Affiliations

Community gardens in NYC may also choose to affiliate with any number of greening and gardening organizations, institutions, and agencies (See Table 2). These organizations provide everything from resources and a network to fiscal sponsorship and workshops. They are critical to helping gardeners increase membership, learn new skills, and access free materials.

GreenThumb is the branch of the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation that registers community gardens. In return for registering with the city, gardens are identified as gardens instead of vacant lots, and may be eligible to receive resources such as lumber for raised beds and soil. Green Guerillas, GrowNYC, and Just Food work with gardens individually to help build infrastructure like chicken coops, rainwater harvesting systems, pathways, and sometimes help with building membership or community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. Brooklyn GreenBridge and Bronx Green Up are programs of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the New York Botanical Gardens respectively. These programs are enormously supportive with horticultural advice and educational resources. More Gardens! focuses mostly on advocacy and political activism around garden preservation. Most of the agencies, institutions, and organizations provide educational workshops that are open to the public.

Organization Affiliation	Response Percent	Response Count
GreenThumb	69.6%	149
Green Guerillas	31.8%	68
GrowNYC	24.8%	53
Community Garden Coalition	19.6%	42
Brooklyn GreenBridge (Brooklyn Botanic Garden)	16.8%	36
Just Food	12.6%	27
Bronx Green Up	9.3%	20
More Gardens!	6.5%	14
Other (please specify)	20.1%	43
<i>answered question</i>		<b>214</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>8</b>

**Table 2: Organizations**

# Membership

An active membership is one of the key ingredients to ensuring a community garden’s success and longevity – some have memberships numbering in the hundreds. While maintaining a membership is one of the primary rules for being a GreenThumb garden, some have over time become adopted by only one or a handful of gardeners. Nearly 10% of Survey respondents reported fewer than 10 members, the minimum for compliancy with GreenThumb rules.

Gardens that regularly accept new members typically have protocol (formal or informal) for doing so. How to join a community garden is a frequently answered question by GrowNYC and GreenThumb staff; this issue was included in the survey in order to make this information public knowledge on OASIS (See Figure 3). Many gardens have a sign on their front gate with the protocol for joining, and GreenThumb provides signage with GreenThumb’s phone number so that passersby can call for the contact information of the garden coordinator(s).

Generally, the way to join a garden is to stop by when the gate is open and ask a member. If the gate is frequently closed, one should call GreenThumb to ask for the name and phone number of the garden coordinator (212-788-8070).

Land allocation within the garden, as membership and leadership, functions differently across gardens. Community gardens may have individual plots, which are tended by individuals or families, or may be shared by two or three garden members. This allows landless gardeners a space of their own, to grow herbs, flowers, food, etc., within a community of fellow gardeners. Many gardens also maintain communal space, or consist of only communal space, whether this is used for food, seating, or general horticulture.

The maintenance of the garden requires various responsibilities. For many gardens that have both individual plots and communal space, members must agree to help care for both (63.7%). More than a third of participating gardens (35.3%) indicate that they are entirely communal (See Table 3).

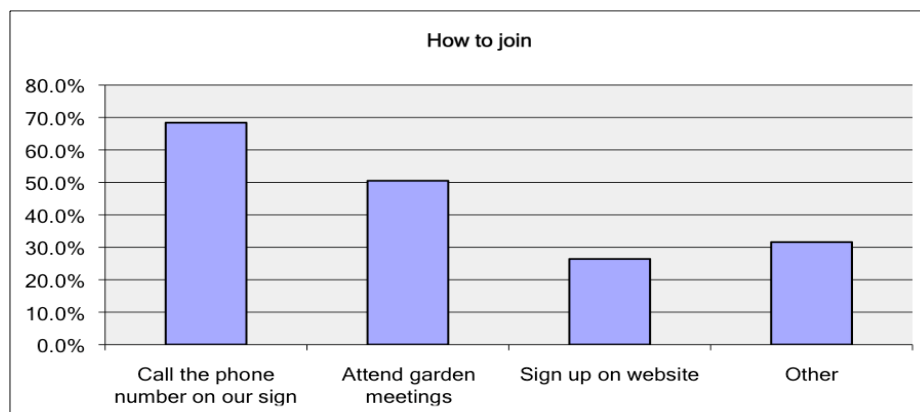


Figure 3: How to Join

Member Responsibilities	Response Percent	Response Count
Only their own plot	9.5%	18
Overall garden care (no plots)	35.3%	67
<b>Their own plot and communal garden space</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>121</b>
Hosting open hours	55.3%	105
Other (please specify)		44
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>190</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>32</b>

Table 3: Member Responsibilities

# Food Production

The act of cultivating one's own food fosters self-sufficiency, healthier eating habits, and community empowerment. Many of NYC's community gardens are in low-income neighborhoods with little access to high quality, affordable fresh produce, and gardening may help reduce one's grocery bill. The ability to ensure access to healthy food for family and friends has resounding benefits for people of all ages and for the city overall.

Approximately 80% of New York City community gardens grow food, and many of the gardeners give away their surplus produce to neighbors and passers-by. Data on the types of food grown in community gardens allows city agencies and non-profit organizations to best support urban agricultural initiatives, as well as draw attention to the wide variety of fruits and vegetables that grow in this climate.

## Space Devoted to Food Production

Our survey found that 43.7% of community gardens are growing more than 50% of their garden as edibles (see Table 4). This is a broad approximation, as it asks gardeners to estimate off-hand. More accurate estimates would require measurements of square footage of areas under food production within each garden, a study of which is taking place during the 2010 and 2011 growing seasons through GreenThumb, Just Food, and NYRP.

## End Use of Food Grown in Gardens

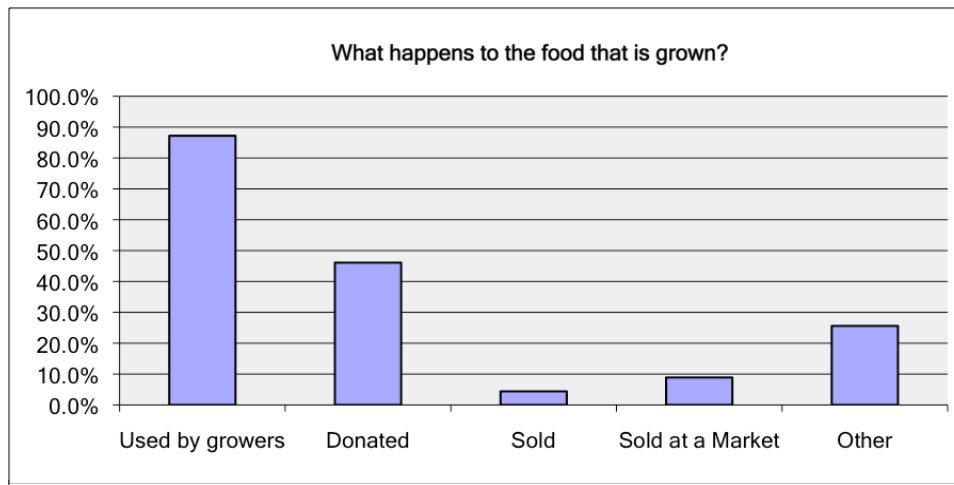
Community gardeners grow food most often for themselves, friends, and family (see Figure 5). Some gardens, like Two Coves and Greens for Queens, partner with and donate to a local food pantry, and many gardeners attest to giving their harvests away to curious and hungry passers by (included in the "Other" category of Figure 4). Several gardens also participate in small farmers markets, where they sell their produce alongside other gardeners and/or local farmers. Examples include the La Familia Verde gardens in the Bronx and East New York Farms! in Brooklyn. Garden of Union in Brooklyn houses the Park Slope CSA (community supported agriculture) program – the produce itself does not come from the garden, but it functions similarly in its ability to increase awareness of healthy eating and seasonality in local produce. Money raised through these endeavors often goes toward garden maintenance and materials.

5. Farming Concrete <<http://farmingconcrete.com>>

6. Informal conversation with gardeners at the La Familia Verde farmers' market in the Bronx

Percent of garden that is food/edible	Response Percent	Response Count
0-25%	31.7%	63
26-50%	24.6%	49
51-75%	21.6%	43
76-100%	22.1%	44
<i>answered question</i>		<b>199</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>23</b>

**Table 4: Estimated percent of garden devoted to food**



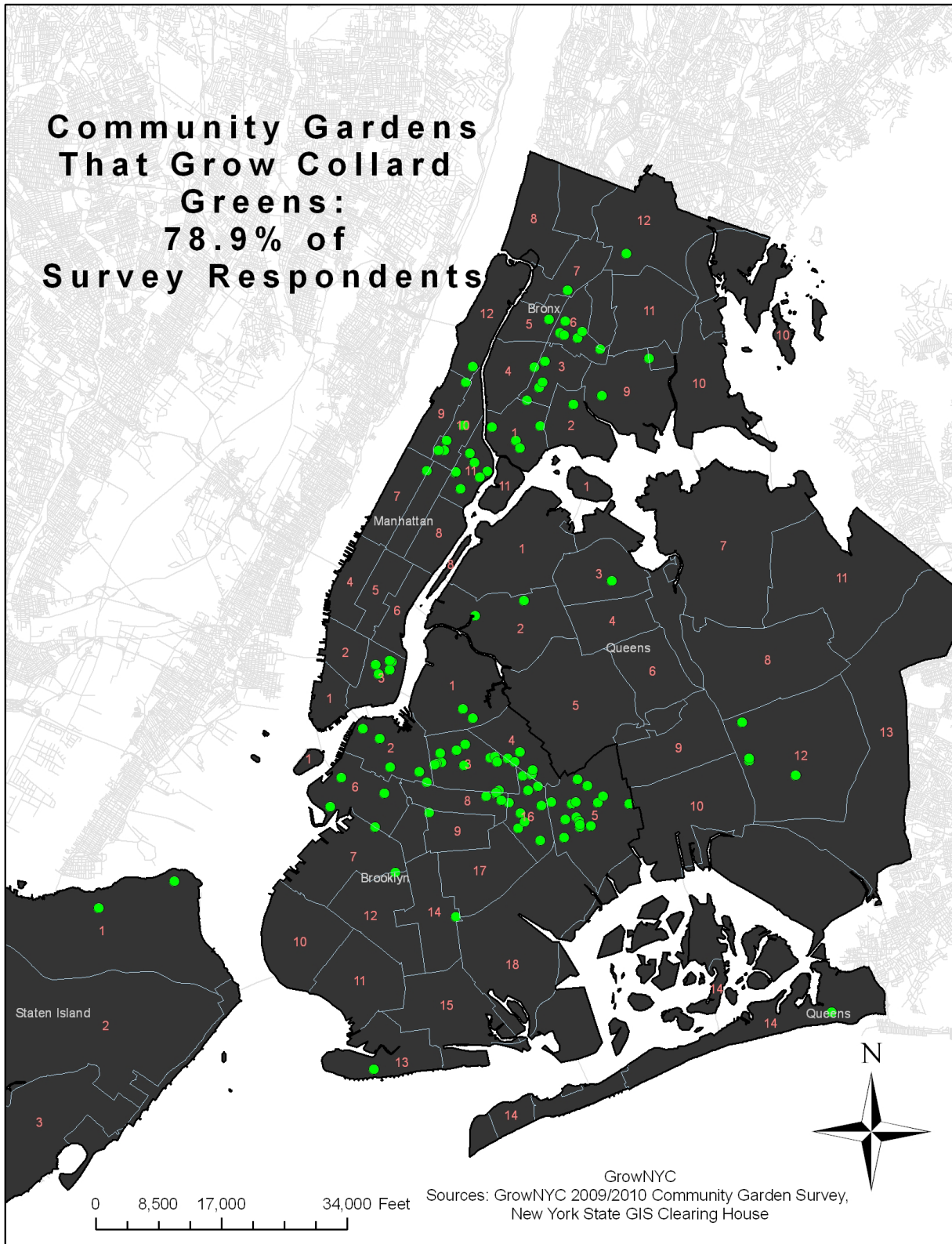
**Figure 4: End use of food**

## Types of Food Grown

The top five garden fruits and vegetables are tomato, sweet peppers, beans, eggplant, and cucumber (see Table 5). Collard greens are the most common leafy green grown in NYC community gardens, closely followed by lettuce (see Figure 5 and Table 6). Out of those that answered the question, 78.9% of gardens grow collard greens – 54% of total respondents. The top five herbs are basil, mint, parsley, sage, and thyme (see Table 7).

The list of produce used in this survey was compiled using a combination of GreenThumb’s 2008 community garden survey and Cornell University’s Garden Mosaics program. Edible crops were divided into four categories: “Fruits and Vegetables,” “Greens,” “Herbs,” and “Fruit Trees.” The most common edible crop is tomato, which appeared in 94.7% of the gardens that responded to the question of fruit and veggie production, or 73% of all gardens surveyed.

8. Garden Mosaics: Community Garden Inventory Form <<http://www.gardenmosaics.cornell.edu/pgs/data/inventoryform.aspx>>



**Figure 5: Collard Greens in NYC**



<b>Fruits and Vegetables</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Tomato	94.7%	162
Sweet Peppers	77.2%	132
Beans	76.0%	130
Eggplant	73.1%	125
Cucumber	69.0%	118
Jalapeño	57.9%	99
Summer Squash	55.0%	94
Peas	54.4%	93
Cabbage	51.5%	88
Onion	49.7%	85
Strawberry	48.5%	83
Corn	47.4%	81
Carrot	46.8%	80
Broccoli	45.0%	77
Radish	43.9%	75
Scallion	39.8%	68
Garlic	38.0%	65
Grape	35.7%	61
Pumpkin	35.1%	60
Beet	31.6%	54
Potato	29.2%	50
Habañero	28.7%	49
Turnip	25.7%	44
Cauliflower	22.8%	39
Raspberry	22.8%	39
Winter Squash	21.6%	37
Celery	19.9%	34
Watermelon	19.3%	33
Cantaloupe	17.5%	30
Brussell Sprouts	17.0%	29
Cayenne	16.4%	28
Blackberry	14.0%	24
Blueberry	13.5%	23
Rhubarb	11.7%	20
Parsnip	10.5%	18
Asparagus	9.9%	17
Bitter Melon	7.6%	13
Honeydew	4.1%	7
Elderberry	3.5%	6
Hardy Kiwi	2.3%	4
Currant	2.3%	4
Artichoke	1.2%	2
Gooseberry	1.2%	2
Other	24.6%	42
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>171</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>51</b>

**Table 5: Fruits and Vegetables**

Greens	Response Percent	Response Count
Collard	78.9%	120
Lettuce	77.6%	118
Kale	61.2%	93
Spinach	50.0%	76
Chard	44.1%	67
Arugula	36.2%	55
Mesclun	24.3%	37
Bok Choy	21.7%	33
Lamb's Quarters	11.8%	18
Amaranth	11.8%	18
Endive	5.9%	9
Mache	5.3%	8
Other		16
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>152</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>70</b>

**Table 6: Greens**

Herbs	Response Percent	Response Count
Basil	87.3%	144
Mint	80.0%	132
Parsley	71.5%	118
Sage	64.8%	107
Thyme	57.0%	94
Cilantro	55.2%	91
Oregano	54.5%	90
Chive	47.3%	78
Lavender	43.0%	71
Dill	42.4%	70
Chamomile	25.5%	42
Echinacea	24.8%	41
Lemongrass	23.0%	38
Fennel	17.6%	29
Marjoram	12.7%	21
Comfrey	11.5%	19
Horseradish	5.5%	9
Lleva buena	5.5%	9
Epazote	4.2%	7
Other (please specify)		29
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>165</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>57</b>

**Table 7: Herbs**

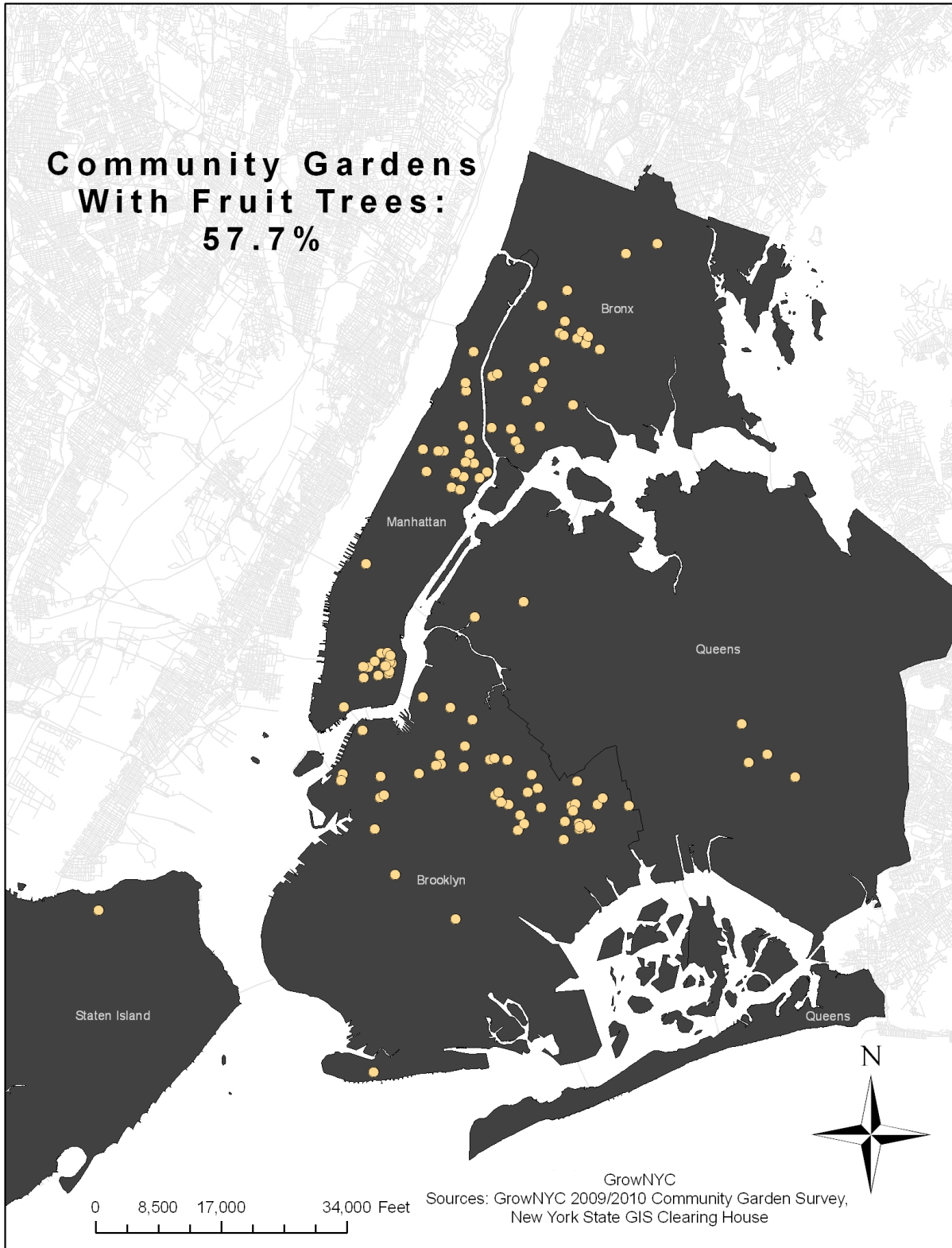
# Fruit Trees

Fruit trees provide another means of food production in NYC community gardens, sometimes with less maintenance. The benefits of shade and a shared ample harvest can make fruit trees a source of pride within community gardens. The top two most prevalent fruit trees are apple (35.8% of question respondents) and peach (33.8% of question respondents).

<b>Fruit Trees</b>	<b># Trees</b>	<b>#Gardens</b>	<b>%Gardens</b>
Apple	128	72	35.8
Peach	102	68	33.8
Cherry	67	45	22.4
Pear	28	23.0	11.4
Apricot	25	20	10.0
Fig	17	16.0	8.0
Mulberry	16	11	5.5
Plum	14	11.0	5.5
Other	9	9.0	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>		

**Table 8: Fruit Trees**

Community gardens not only grow fresh produce in many areas where it may be difficult to access healthy food otherwise, but many do it in a way that educates community members and children about healthy eating and general environmental sustainability. Partnerships with schools and community groups will be discussed later in this paper.



**Figure 6: Gardens with fruit trees**

# Ornamental Plantings, Shade Trees, & Water Gardens

Besides edible cultivations, community gardeners use their horticultural skills to plant countless species of annuals, perennials, shade trees, shrubs, etc. There are many examples throughout the city of native plant gardens, alpine foliage gardens, botanical gardens, and others that serve a myriad of ecological and educational benefits. Just as community gardens may provide a source of fresh produce in a neighborhood that has little access otherwise, community gardens also offer opportunities of a connection to nature, environmental education, and numerous psychological benefits associated with access to green space.

84.4% of question respondents report having shade trees (distinguished from fruit trees), which have the benefits of providing respite from summer heat, filtering air pollutants, and increasing local biodiversity (see Table 9). Nearly a quarter of question respondents (23.5%) boast native planting areas in their gardens, which attract important pollinators and other native biodiversity, and can also educate community members about local ecology. Water gardens and botanical gardens also offer habitats for wildlife that wouldn't exist otherwise, further enhancing NYC's urban ecology.

Ornamentals	Response Percent	Response Count
Shade Trees	83.4%	156
Ornamental Plantings and Flowers	75.4%	141
Botanical Garden	18.7%	35
Shrubs	69.0%	129
Native Plant Garden	23.5%	44
Water Garden	16.0%	30
Other (please specify)		18
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>187</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>35</b>

**Table 9: Ornamentals**

# Composting

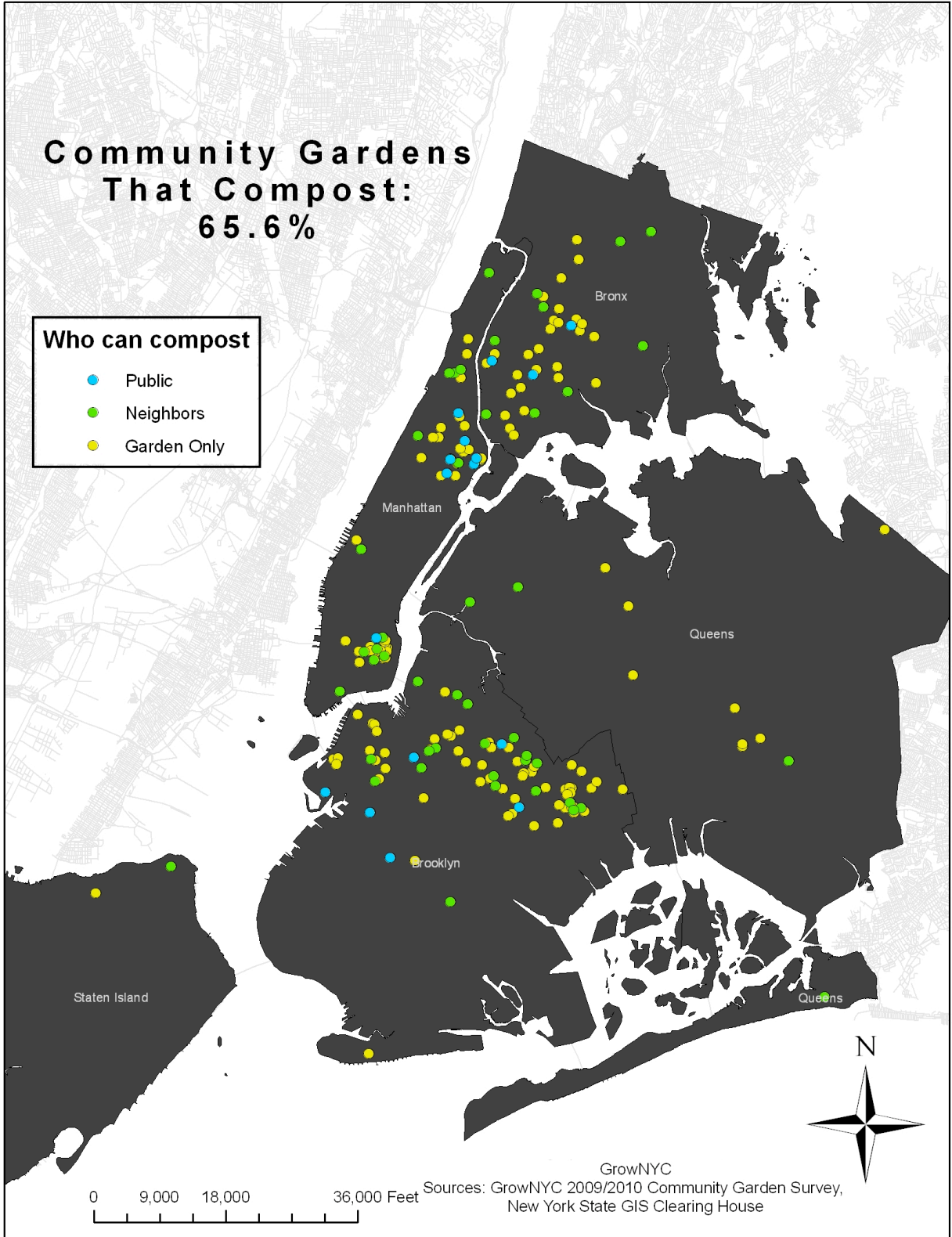
The act of composting turns garden scraps (pruned branches, weeds, etc.) and food scraps into a nutritious, fertilizing soil amendment. Where gardens are constructed on soil contaminated by past buildings and construction methods, compost is critical to growing healthy plants, especially edible crops. Many gardens have been doing this for years, whereas some are just getting started. Composting practices were surveyed to highlight the varying compost practices, as well as the variation in who is allowed to participate in the garden compost piles (see Figure 7).

Approximately 65.4% of community gardens currently have a compost system (see Table 10). Of the 59 gardens that don't currently compost, 21 gardens (~35.6% of those that don't compost) plan to start in the near future, and yet another 16 gardens (~27% of those that don't compost) indicate that they might or that it is still an uncertainty.

There are 11 gardens that used to have compost systems, but don't anymore (7.2% of question respondents). This may be due to neighborhood complaints, pest problems, or over-capacity, among many other possible issues. Over half of these gardens plan to start composting again sometime in the future.

Status of composting in the garden*	Response Percent	Response Count
<i>Currently composts</i>		
• Yes	65.6%	137
• No	28.2%	59
• Maybe/Uncertain	6.2%	13
<b>Total question responses</b>		<b>209</b>
<i>Doesn't currently compost, and didn't in the past</i>	28.1%	43
• Plans to compost in the future	9.8%	15
• Does not plan to compost in the future	8.5%	13
1. Maybe/Uncertain about future composting	9.8%	15
<i>Doesn't currently compost, but did in the past</i>	7.2%	11
• Plans to compost in the future	3.9%	6
• Does not plan to compost in the future	2.6%	4
• Maybe/Uncertain	0.7%	1
<b>Total question responses</b>		<b>153</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>14</b>

**Table 10: Status of composting (\*Percentages may not add up to 100%. For complete table of survey responses, see Appendix B.)**



**Figure 7: Gardens that compost**

The compost piles in community gardens have a variety of allowed inputs, for reasons of limited capacity, limited gardener and volunteer hours for maintenance, and more. Some gardens prefer to limit their compost systems to just garden scraps (no food waste), where as others will accept organic material from non-gardening neighbors, local CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), and farmers' markets.

Nearly 13% of question respondents indicated that their garden accepts organic material from the general public (see Figure 8). In the absence of a municipal composting service, these 20 gardens are providing a major service for their neighbors and the city as a whole by removing organic material from the waste stream. In turn, these gardens produce an abundance of healthy, nutritious compost that they can use in place of purchased soil and chemical fertilizers.

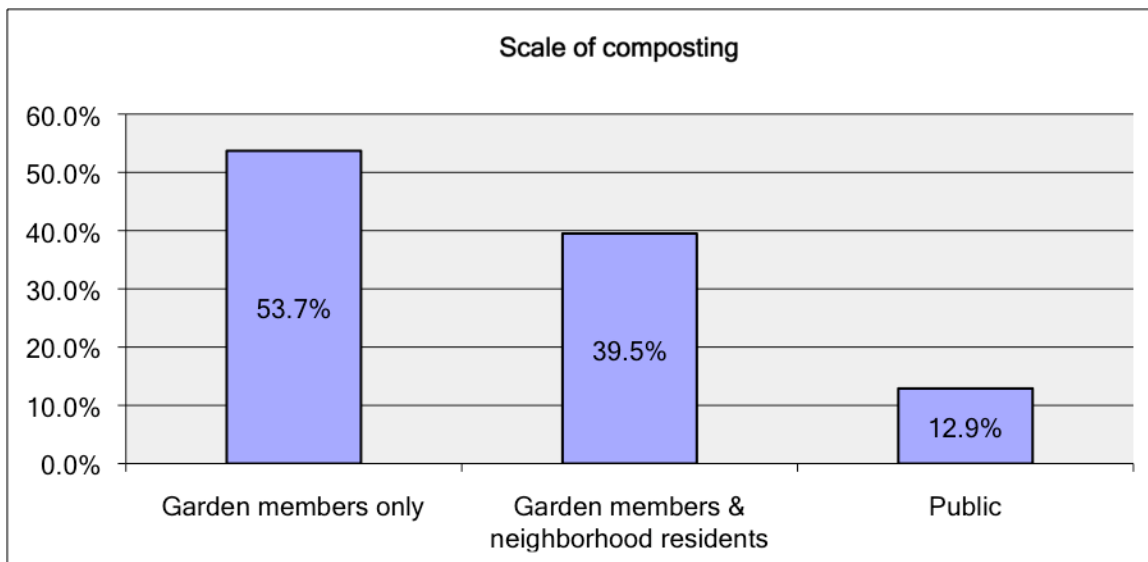


Figure 8: Who can participate in garden compost pile

## Structures

The physical layouts of community gardens include a variety of structures and amenities besides the raised beds (see Table 11). These structures often define the character of a garden, and determine the types of uses and events the space can maintain. In many cases, the garden structures, design and plants reflect the country of origin of the gardeners and garden members.

8. Saldivar-Tanaka, Laura and Marianne E. Krasny. "Culturing community development, neighborhood open space, and civic agriculture: The case of Latino community gardens in New York City." *Agriculture and Human Values* 21: 399-412, 2004



# Social Structures

The most common garden structure is a seating area (82.2% of question respondents) followed by pathways (72.1%) and tables (70.7%). These structures make the garden fundamentally conducive to visitors, exploration, and general use of the space, whether for leisure, events, or meetings. Likewise, the use of casitas and gazebos (40.4%) create a social space within the garden, as well as a connection to heritage for many of NYC's cultures and backgrounds. For example, a casita, literally small house, is a reminder to Puerto Rican people of their Taino ancestral indigenous tradition – it is an expression of the bohio or communal house usually found in Taino conucos or communal gathering places in Puerto Rico. They often represent the town center (plaza) that appears in many Latin American communities, and thus act as social and cultural community centers for the neighborhood.

Most gardens also have tool sheds (69.7%), which aid the gardens enormously in their ability to maintain the grounds and cultivate crops without borrowing tools or risking getting their tools stolen. Tool sheds are critical for a garden to be able to maintain the grounds, rather than having to borrow tools or hire landscapers and allowing gardeners and garden members the means to build, create, and cultivate for themselves.

## Structures With Environmental Benefits

Several gardens enhance their positive effects on the environment through the use of structures such as rainwater catchment systems, which approximately a third of the gardens employ, greenhouses and/or hoop houses, and composting toilets (see Table 11). Rainwater harvesting systems capture water from rooftops and garden structures such as casitas and gazebos as a source of water for the garden. This has the added benefits of preventing stormwater runoff, which collects pollutants as it flows from rooftop to street to sewer, from entering the rivers, the city.

Approximately 8.2% of gardens employ greenhouses or hoop houses, which can extend the growing season enough to allow for almost year-round food production. For inedible plants, they provide the infrastructure for starting seeds and protecting fragile plants from severe weather.

Four gardens (2%) listed having a composting toilet. This not only removes the need for an expensive portable toilet or access to a nearby bathroom, but also removes waste from the waste water stream.

9. Ibid.

Structures	Response Percent	Response Count
Seating Area	82.2%	171
Pathways	72.1%	150
Table(s)	70.7%	147
Toolshed	69.7%	145
Raised Beds	63.5%	132
Grill	58.7%	122
Gazebo/Casita	40.4%	84
Rainwater Catchment System	33.7%	70
Educational Signs	26.9%	56
Mural	17.3%	36
Sculpture(s)	13.9%	29
Playground	13.0%	27
Greenhouse or Hoop House	8.2%	17
Chicken Coop	3.8%	8
Stage	2.4%	5
Composting Toilet	1.9%	4
Other		45
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>208</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>14</b>

**Table 11: Garden Structures**

## Structures For the Arts

36 of the 208 question respondents (17.3%) have at least one mural and 29 (13.9%) have at least one sculpture. These murals may be on one of the interior walls of the garden, as many are city lots sandwiched between two buildings, or on another garden structure. Garden murals often celebrate the garden, nature, Earth, and the neighborhood, and may be painted by a local artist, children, or other entity. These murals serve to bring beauty and character to the space, as well as highlight the values of the garden.

Five surveyed gardens boast stages, which are used for events and to draw a wider audience into the garden. Including art and the arts in the garden landscape provides a space for art, artists, and creativity outside of the typical venue or gallery setting, introduce art into neighborhoods without art galleries and can serve to bring more people into the garden than would otherwise enter.

# Events

More than half of the gardens that responded to the survey question about garden structures noted that they have a grill for cooking food, and the most common type of event in community gardens in NYC is the barbecue (see Table 12). This indicates a widespread use of community gardens as a space that brings community members together, not just around gardening, but also around recreation, sharing food and recipes with others, spending time with friends and family, and getting to know one another.

Gardens act as venues for everything from barbeques and picnics to educational workshops and concerts. Some host farmers' markets and CSAs (community supported agriculture), and some maintain regular film screenings or story nights. Some gardens can be rented for private events as well, as a source of funds for garden needs.

Garden Events	Response Percent	Response Count
Barbecues	64.4%	134
Picnics	60.6%	126
Workshops	54.8%	114
Educational Events	51.0%	106
Arts & Crafts	43.3%	90
Private Events	38.9%	81
Performance	24.5%	51
Concerts	22.6%	47
Movies	14.9%	31
Religious Activities	11.1%	23
None	8.2%	17
Farmers' Markets	6.7%	14
Sports	5.3%	11
Other (please specify)		44
	<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>208</b>
	<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>14</b>

**Table 12: Garden Events**

# Partnerships With Schools

Gardens provide a unique learning experience for children, and for this reason, school gardening is increasing in popularity. In 2010, to increase the amount of support and resources available to school gardens. An online network of teachers and supporters was started to facilitate resource sharing and dialogue. More and more, people are beginning to realize the benefits gardens can play in a child's ability to learn, relate to nature and food, and experience science hands-on.

One major barrier to a school's ability to build a school garden is land. Some schools build gardens on their roofs, but many look to find space nearby. In many cases, the closest accessible open space is a local community garden.

42.8% of community gardens that responded to the question of partnerships with schools indicated that there was at least one school that they partner with on some level (see Table 13). Some gardens offer classes their own plot(s), or they might hold regular educational events with the school (see Table 14). Some gardens hold workshops in the classes they partner with, and some host workshops in the garden. For a list of gardens and the schools that they partner with, see Appendix C.

Does the garden partner with any schools?	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.8%	89
No	57.2%	119
Please list any partnering schools (see Appendix C)		75
<i>answered question</i>		<b>208</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>15</b>

**Table 13: Partnership with schools**

In what capacity does the garden work with the school(s), if any?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
School garden/plot	33.1%	44
Educational events	41.4%	55
Regular visits by classes	48.1%	64
In-school workshops	13.5%	18
Nothing yet, but we would like to	39.1%	52
Notes		27
<i>answered question</i>		<b>133</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>89</b>

**Table 14: Type of partnership**

# Partnerships With Community Groups/Centers

Similar to their partnerships with schools, many (nearly a third of) community gardens partner with or work with local community centers and community groups (see Tables 15 and 16). For a list of gardens and the community groups they partner with, see Appendix D.

Does the garden partner with any senior citizen groups/centers or community groups/centers?	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.8%	64
No	68.2%	137
<i>answered question</i>		201
<i>skipped question</i>		21

**Table 15: Community partners**

In what capacity does the garden work with these groups/centers?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Garden workshops	30.0%	36
Off-site workshops	6.7%	8
Educational events	25.0%	30
Nothing yet, but we would like to	46.7%	56
Other events/services (please describe)	36.7%	44
<i>answered question</i>		120
<i>skipped question</i>		102

**Table 16: Scale of partnership**

# Hosting Volunteers

Besides formal partnerships, 62.8% of community gardens in NYC will host volunteer groups (see Table 17). These are usually one-day workdays through community service and volunteer organizations, corporations, and other larger entities looking to make an impact through a few hours of service. These larger workdays often help gardens enormously, accomplishing large tasks like building paths and filling raised beds in a short amount of time.

Does the garden host volunteer groups?	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.8%	130
No	37.2%	77
<i>answered question</i>		<b>207</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>15</b>

Table 17: Volunteer groups



# Conclusion

In a city with approximately 500 publicly accessible gardens used by thousands of city residents, community gardens are hubs of neighborhood pride and activity. Some issues that warrant further research include garden governance, amount of food produced and who consumes it, and how much rainwater and organic waste are taken out of the waste stream through rainwater harvesting and composting practices. The social and psychological benefits of community gardens have been widely explored, however understanding the economic and environmental benefits of community gardens to New York City requires deeper investigation.

Broadly speaking, community gardens in NYC provide a myriad of environmental, economic, and social benefits to the neighborhoods in which they thrive. They slow the flow of stormwater into the water system as well as the sewage system, they provide habitat for migrating birds and various other biodiversity, and they remove organic waste from the waste stream through composting. They are beacons of green space within the city's vast expanses of asphalt and buildings, providing participants and visitors with the psychological and physical health benefits of nature. Gardeners use them to grow food, increasing the intake of healthy fruits and vegetables in their diets as well as those of friends, families, and passersby. They also act as educational grounds, partnering with schools, community centers, and volunteer groups. Understanding more about community gardens will inform decision-making about their preservation and creation, and will ultimately push New York City ahead of the curve in access to green space, urban food production, and environmental and social sustainability.



# Appendix A

## Gardens That Completed the Survey

1. 103rd Street Community Garden
2. 1100 Bergen St. Community Garden
3. 110th St. Block Association Community Garden
4. 117th Street Community Garden
5. 11th Street Community Garden
6. 1st Street Garden
7. 211th Street Community Garden
8. 5th Street Slope Children's Garden
9. 6/15 Green
10. 700 Decatur Street Community Garden
11. 97th Street Block Association Community Garden, Corona
12. 9th St. Community Garden
13. Aberdeen Street Community Garden
14. Abib Newborn
15. Added Value & Red Hook Community Farm
16. All People's Garden Inc
17. Amazing Garden
18. Ann Richards Garden
19. Annie Wyche (Hands & Heart (New Lots Urban Farm)?)
20. Anthony Avenue Garden
21. Back to Eden Community Garden
22. Bathgate Garden
23. Bedford Stuyvesant Community Garden
24. Berry Street Garden
25. Bette's Rose Garden
26. Better Community Garden
27. Blue Gem Community Garden
28. Boys & Girls Club @ PS 64M After-School Garden
29. Bridge Plaza Court
30. Bridge Plaza Garden
31. Brisas del Caribe
32. Brooklyn Bears Rockwell Place Garden
33. Brooklyn's Finest Garden/The Greene Room
34. Cabrini Green Urban Meadow
35. Campus Road Garden
36. Carrie McCracken TRUCE Community Garden
37. Carroll Street Community Garden



38. Cauldwell Youth Garden
39. Claremont Neighborhood Garden
40. Clay Avenue Community Garden
41. Clifton Place Memorial Garden and Park
42. Clinton Avenue Community Garden
43. Clinton Community Garden
44. College Avenue GreenThumb
45. Community Block #81 Garden
46. Concerned Residents of Montauk
47. concrn redsident of barbey st
48. Cooper Street Blockbusters Community Garden
49. Cooper Street Community Garden
50. Courtlandt Avenue Association/Courtlandt Community Garden
51. Creative Little Garden
52. Creston Jungle Playground
53. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden
54. David Foulke Memorial Garden
55. Decatur St Community Garden
56. Dias y Flores Community Garden
57. East 143rd Street Community Garden
58. East 4th Street Community Garden/Windsor Terrace Kensington Veterans Memorial Garden
59. East End Community Garden
60. Eastchester Road Community Garden
61. Edgecombe Avenue Garden Park Sanctuary (EAGPS)
62. El Batey de Dona Provi Graden
63. El Cataño Community Garden
64. El Flamboyan
65. El JJardin Del Paraiso
66. El Sitio Feliz (The Happy Place)
67. El Sol Brilliante` Jr. Community Garden
68. Espiritu Tierra Community Garden
69. Essex Street Community Garden
70. Family Community Garden
71. Family Garden – Sponsored by Tiffany & Co.
72. Fantasy Garden
73. Farr Community Garden
74. First Quincy Street GreenThumb Garden
75. First Temple of David Garden
76. FishBridge Park
77. Flatbush CommUNITY Garden
78. Fordham Bedford Lot Busters Community Garden
79. Franklin Memorial Garden
80. Fresh Youth Community Garden @ P.S. 128
81. Friendship Garden
82. Garden of Angels

83. Garden of Happiness
84. Garden of Hope
85. Garden of Love
86. Garden of Union
87. Genesis Park Community Garden
88. George Eagle Carr
89. George Washington Carver - Garden for Living
90. George Washington Carver Botanical Garden
91. George Westinghouse High School/Marvin's Garden
92. Georgia Avenue Garden
93. Glover Street Garden
94. Green Gems
95. Green Oasis Community Garden/Gilbert's Garden
96. Greene Acres Community Garden
97. Greene Avenue United Neighbors
98. Harlem Rose Garden
99. Hart to Hart
100. Heckscher Foundation for Children's Garden
101. Hendrix Street Community Garden
102. Herb Garden
103. HERBAL GARDEN OF ENY
104. Highland Park Children's Garden
105. Hispanos Unidos
106. Howard Garden
107. Hoyt Street Garden
108. Hull Community Garden
109. Hull Street Community Garden
110. Human Compass Community Garden
111. Infant Jesus Garden
112. Jackie Robinson Community Garden
113. Jacqueline Denise Davis Garden
114. Jane Bailey Memorial Garden
115. Jardin de la Familia
116. Jardin de las Rosas
117. Jerry and the Senbior Gents of ENY
118. Jes Good Rewards Children's Garden
119. Joe Holzka Community Garden
120. Juan Alonzo Community Garden
121. Kemit Gardens
122. La Casita Community Garden
123. La Finca Del Sur
124. La Isla Garden
125. La Plaza Cultural Armando Perez
126. LaGuardia Corner Gardens
127. Las Casitas

128. LDC of Broadway
129. Le Petit Versailles
130. Lincoln Berkeley
131. Linden-Bushwick Block Association Garden
132. Liz Christy Community Garden
133. Long Island City Roots Community Garden & FF Michael Brennan Memorial
134. Los Amigos Community Garden
135. Lotus Garden
136. M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden
137. Madison Street Community Garden
138. Maggie's Garden
139. Manor Avenue Senior Garden
140. Marcus Garvey Green Thumb
141. Margrchantie Memorial Garden
142. McLeod's Community Garden
143. Mildred T. Rhodebeck Garden
144. Miracle Garden
145. Momma-n-Poppa Historical Garden
146. MORRIS JUMELCOMMUNITY GARDEN
147. MOSAIC SUCCESS GARDEN
148. Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church Memorial Garden
149. New Age Pride
150. New Vision Garden
151. Newport Gardens
152. NYRP Members' Garden / Dahlia Group Community Garden
153. Orchard Alley
154. Our Little Green Acre
155. P.S. 59 - Thomas W. Cooke Farm
156. Pablo Valdez Family Community Garden
157. Padre Plaza Success Garden
158. Paradise on Earth
159. Parque de Tranquilidad
160. Pembroke Avenue Community Garden
161. Phoenix Community Garden
162. Pleasant Village Community Garden, Inc.
163. Plenty: Food For All
164. Poplar Street Community Garden
165. PROJECT EDEN
166. Prospect Heights Community Farm
167. Pueblo Unido Garden
168. Radcliff Avenue Garden
169. Rainbow Block Association
170. Red Gate Garden
171. Red Hook Community Farm
172. Riley-Levin Children's Garden

173. RING Riverside Inwood Neighborhood Garden
174. Risse Street Community Garden
175. River Garden
176. Rodale Pleasant Park Community Garden
177. Sam and Sadie Koenig Garden
178. Schenectady Avenue Community Garden
179. Seagirt Garden
180. Seasons of Vision
181. Shiloh Garden Inc.
182. St John Cantius Community Garden
183. st.mark's block association/community garden
184. Suffolk Street Community Garden
185. Sugar Hill Park
186. Summit Street Community Garden
187. Sunflower Garden
188. Sunnyside Park Garden
189. SUNSHINE COMMUNITY GARDEN
190. Target Bronx Community Garden
191. Target Community Garden
192. Target East Harlem Community Garden
193. Ten Eyck Houses HDFC Garden
194. The Bainbridge Avenue Garden
195. The Earth School Slow Foods Victory Garden
196. The Hollenback Community Garden
197. The Home Depot Community Garden
198. The Little Green Garden
199. The Magic Garden
200. The Third Street Childrens Garden
201. Thomas Boyland Community Garden
202. Toyota Children's Learning Garden
203. Tremont Community Garden
204. Triple R Garden
205. Two Coves Community Garden
206. UCC Youth Farm
207. Union Street Garden and Community Development
208. Unity Tower Tenant Association
209. Vamos Sembrar: For the Beloved and Otherwise Forgotten
210. Vernon & Throop Community Garden
211. Vernon Cases Community Garden
212. Volky Flower Garden
213. Warren St Marks Community Garden
214. Weat 132nd Street Community Garden
215. Weeksville Kitchen Garden
216. West 104 St. Community Garden
217. West 113th Street Play Garden

- 218. Westervelt Family and Community Garden
- 219. William A. Harris Garden
- 220. Williams Avenue Community Garden
- 221. Wishing Well
- 222. Woodbine Street Block Association Garden
- 223. Wyckoff-Bond Garden

# Appendix B

## Survey Instrument



### NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



Thank you for helping us update your community garden's information! Your garden is extraordinarily important to the city's environment, beauty, and to its people, communities, and schools. Keeping up-to-date records of our city's community gardens helps us improve them, understand their needs, and preserve them. The information collected here is used to update basic information about each garden on the OASIS website ([www.oasisnyc.net](http://www.oasisnyc.net)) and will help us accurately portray your garden's contribution to the city landscape. Please help us out by being sure to fill in all of the fields and by providing accurate information, so that we can best serve you in the future. Thanks for all of your hard work! If you have any questions or need help filling out this survey, please contact Mara Gittleman at [mgittleman@grownyc.org](mailto:mgittleman@grownyc.org), 212-788-7923 (office), 908-787-2711 (cell), or 212-788-7913 (fax). You may return this survey either by fax or by mail: Mara Gittleman, 51 Chambers Street, Room 228, New York, NY 10007.

<b>General Info</b>	
Today's Date:	Boro:
Garden Name:	
Garden Address:	
Neighborhood:	Block:
Zip Code:	Lot:
Cross Streets:	

Year Founded:	Area/Acreage/sq. ft:
Garden Website:	
Open Hours:	

<i>Organization(s) garden is affiliated with (circle as many as apply):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenthumb <input type="checkbox"/> NYRP <input type="checkbox"/> NYCHA <input type="checkbox"/> CENYC <input type="checkbox"/> Green Guerillas <input type="checkbox"/> TPL <input type="checkbox"/> Bronx Green Up <input type="checkbox"/> Brooklyn Green Bridge  <input type="checkbox"/> Just Food <input type="checkbox"/> More Gardens <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden Coalition  Other (please specify): _____



# NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



<i>Type of Community Garden:</i>			
Neighborhood	Church/Mosque/Synagogue/Temple	Public Housing	School
Senior Center/Housing	Community Center	Other (please specify): _____	

<i>Languages spoken:</i>										
Arabic	Chinese	Creole	English	French	German	Hindi	Hmong	Italian	Japanese	Korean
Portuguese	Russian	Spanish	Other (please list): _____							

<b>Membership</b>	
# Members:	
<i>How to join (circle one):</i>	
Call the phone number on our sign	Sign up on website
Attend garden meetings	Other (please describe): _____

Dues?	Yes    No	Annual dues amount:
Wait list?	Yes    No	
# of people on the wait list:		



# NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



*Each member is responsible for (circle all that apply):*

Only their own plot	Their own plot and communal space
Only communal space (no plots)	Hosting open hours
Other (please describe): _____	

Description
<i>General description of garden:</i>

<i>Most unique aspect about your garden and/or your garden's history:</i>





# NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



*What was on the site before it was a garden (circle one)?*

Abandoned Building    Park    Vacant Lot    Yard    Unknown

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

*Which entity owns the land (circle one)?*

Land Trust    NYRP    Private    Dept. of Education    State    Federal    HPD    Parks Dept.

Religious Institution    Other city agency (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Food Production**

*Percent of garden that is food/edible:*    0-25%    26-50%    51-75%    76-100%

*What happens to the food that is grown (circle all that apply):*    Used by growers    donated    sold    sold at a market

Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

*Fruits and Vegetables (Circle all that apply):*

Tomato	Jalapeño	Chickens	Raspberry
Onion	Turnip	Brussell sprouts	Peach trees (# : _____)
Raddish	Carrot	Grape	Cherry trees (# : _____)
Summer squash	Parsnip	Blueberry	Apple trees (# : _____)
Winter squash	Artichoke	Corn	Apricot trees (# : _____)
Cucumber	Cabbage	Other fruit trees:	



## NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



Broccoli	Cauliflower	Beet	Currant
Bitter melon	Beans	Honeydew	Cayenne
Cantaloupe	Peas	Habañero	Pumpkin
Sweet peppers	Hardy kiwi	Celery	Elderberry
Blackberry	Garlic	Eggplant	Gooseberry
Rhubarb	Potato	Scallion	Strawberry
Watermelon	Asparagus		
Other (please specify): _____			

<i>Greens (circle all that apply)</i>			
Amaranth	Chard	Kale	Mache
Arugula	Collard	Lamb's Quarters	Spinach
Bok Choy	Endive	Lettuce	Mesclun
Other (please specify): _____			

<i>Herbs (circle all that apply)</i>			
Basil	Lavender	Cilantro	Mint
Chamomile	Lemongrass	Dill	Oregano
Chive	Lleva buena	Echinacea	Parsley
Comfrey	Marjoram	Epazote	Sage



## NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



Fennel	Thyme	Horseradish	Rosemary
Other herbs (please specify):			

<i>Flowers and Plants (circle all that apply)</i>		
Shade trees	Botanical Garden	Shrubs
Ornamental Plantings	Water Garden	Native plant garden

<b>Composting</b>		
Does the garden compost?	Yes	No
Please indicate the scale of composting:		
Garden members only	Gardeners + nearby residents	Public
Did the garden compost in the past, but not anymore?	Yes	No
Does the garden plan to compost in the future?	Yes	No

<b>Structures/Amenities</b>				
Fence:	Chain Link	Iron	Wood & Wire	No Fence
Water Bodies:	Pond	Water Pump	Fish	Other Aquatic Life
Toolshed	Yes	No	<i>Notes (condition of structure, plans for construction, etc.):</i>	
Greenhouse or hoop house	Yes	No		
Chicken coop	Yes	No		



## NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



Seating Area	Yes	No
Gazebo/Casita	Yes	No
Educational Signs	Yes	No
Raised Beds	Yes	No
Rainwater Catchment	Yes	No
Pathways	Yes	No
Grill	Yes	No
Playground	Yes	No
Mural	Yes	No
Stage	Yes	No
Table(s)	Yes	No
Beekeeping	Yes	No
Sculpture(s)	Yes	No
Other:		

<b>Events</b> (circle all that apply)			
Workshops	Arts & Crafts	Sports	Religious activities
Movies	Picnics	Private Events	Farmers' Markets
Performance	Educational Events	Other (please specify):	
Barbecues	Concerts		



## NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



<p>Is the garden available to rent for private occasions?      Yes      No</p>	
<p>If so, in what capacity?</p>	
<p>Members only (no non-members can rent)      members and non-members      Reservation only</p>	
<p>Reservation + rental fee (\$ _____)      Informal      Other (please describe): _____</p>	

<p><b>Education</b></p>	
<p>Does the garden partner with any schools?      Yes      No</p>	
<p>Please list any partnering schools:</p>	
<p> </p>	
<p> </p>	
<p>In what capacity does the garden work with the school(s), if any?</p>	
<p>School garden/plot      Educational events      Regular visits      In-school workshops      Nothing yet, but we would like to</p>	

<p>Does the garden partner with any senior citizen groups/centers or community groups/centers?      Yes      No</p>	
<p>In what capacity does the garden work with these groups/centers?</p>	
<p>Garden workshops      Off-site workshops      Educational events</p>	
<p>Nothing yet, but we would like to      Other events/services: _____</p>	
<p>Please list any partnering groups/centers:</p>	
<p> </p>	



## NYC Community Garden Questionnaire



Does the garden host volunteer groups?    Yes    No

**Contact Information (will not be posted on the website)**

Contact 1

Contact 2

Name

Name

E-mail

E-mail

Phone Number

Phone Number

Phone 2

Phone 2

Address

Address

*Additional notes, needs, concerns:*

# Appendix C

## Composting in the Past, Present, and Future

Currently Composts	Composted in the Past	Will compost in the Future	Percent Response	Response Count
Yes	Yes	Yes	34.2%	52
Yes	Yes	No	0.0%	0
Yes	Yes	Maybe/Uncertain	0.7%	1
Yes	No	Yes	13.8%	21
Yes	No	No	0.7%	1
Yes	No	Maybe/Uncertain	0.0%	0
Yes	Maybe/Uncertain	Yes	5.3%	8
Yes	Maybe/Uncertain	No	0.0%	0
Yes	Maybe/Uncertain	Maybe/Uncertain	0.0%	0
No	Yes	Yes	3.9%	6
No	Yes	No	2.6%	4
No	Yes	Maybe/Uncertain	0.7%	1
No	No	Yes	9.9%	15
No	No	No	8.6%	13
No	No	Maybe/Uncertain	9.9%	15
No	Maybe/Uncertain	Yes	0.0%	0
No	Maybe/Uncertain	No	0.7%	1
No	Maybe/Uncertain	Maybe/Uncertain	0.7%	1
Maybe/Uncertain	Yes	Yes	0.0%	0
Maybe/Uncertain	Yes	No	0.0%	0
Maybe/Uncertain	Yes	Maybe/Uncertain	0.7%	1
Maybe/Uncertain	No	Yes	0.7%	1
Maybe/Uncertain	No	No	0.0%	0
Maybe/Uncertain	No	Maybe/Uncertain	0.0%	0
Maybe/Uncertain	Maybe/Uncertain	Yes	1.3%	2
Maybe/Uncertain	Maybe/Uncertain	No	0.0%	0
Maybe/Uncertain	Maybe/Uncertain	Maybe/Uncertain	5.9%	9
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>152</b>

# Appendix D

## Partnerships With Schools

Garden Name	Partnering School
1100 Bergen St. Community Garden	The neighborhood after school program
1st Street Garden	AS mentioned, it is partnered with the Girls Club, but no school.
6/15 Green	PS 295, The Brooklyn New School, PS 320, PS 10, PS 230
9th St. Community Garden	Formally: Bank Street Informally: Several neighborhood schools regularly bring classes by for lectures/ tours
All People's Garden Inc	Lower East Side Girls Club Little Missionary Day Nursery
Back to Eden Community Garden	Working toward partnerships in 2010 with PS 150 and PS 60.
Berry Street Garden	PS 84
Better Community Garden	Unity in the Community (2 years)
Boys & Girls Club @ PS 64M After-School Garden	PS 64M
Bridge Plaza Garden	Science Skills Center High School
Campus Road Garden	Brooklyn College
Carroll Street Community Garden	PS 342, The Children's School
Community Block #81 Garden	After school programs
Courtlandt Avenue Association/ Courtlandt Community Garden	It has in the past and we would like to reconnect with the schools in the neighborhood.
Creston Jungle Playground	PS 79
Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden	PS 40, Myrtle P Jarmon Educational Center
David Foulke Memorial Garden	It only works when we have found a teacher who made it work, but trying to work with a principal is impossible. We have tried with 2 public schools



## Garden Name

## Partnering School

East 4th Street Community Garden/  
Windsor Terrace Kensington Veterans  
Memorial Garden

PS 230 and PS 130

Edgecombe Avenue Garden Park Sanctuary  
(EAGPS)

The Small Idea Learning Center.

El Batey de Dona Provi Graden

The children from St. Joseph School and Bathgate  
Day Care Center visit the garden in the Spring and  
Summer.

El Flamboyan

P.S.161.

El JJardin Del Paraiso

Bard school, PS 15, PS 63, Girls Prep.

El Sitio Feliz (The Happy Place)

We have five child care centers that utilize our garden  
on a regular basis

Espiritu Tierra Community Garden

El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice

Franklin Memorial Garden

Morris High School

Fresh Youth Community Garden @ P.S. 128

P.S. 128 Annex and Elementary

Garden of Happiness

PS 211

Garden of Love

We have teachers as garden members. They plan to  
bring their class to visit the garden.

Garden of Union

Not formally, many come for visits and some have  
come for several years: PS 321, MS 51, PS 289,  
Berkeley Carroll, Brooklyn College

Genesis Park Community Garden

St. Augustine Catholic School

George Washington Carver  
Botanical Garden

ICMASS - International Center for Medicinal and  
Scientific Study; over time wishes to partner with local  
elementary schools

Green Oasis Community Garden  
/Gilbert's Garden

PS 112, Children's Liberation Day Care,(presently not  
in operation, but may return), We are talking to a  
couple of schools, and trying to encourage them to

## Garden Name

## Partnering School

Hart to Hart	Beginning With Children Charter Schools
Heckscher Foundation for Children's Garden	The Greene School
Herbal Garden of East New York	Many school groups volunteer during the year.
Highland Park Children's Garden	P89K @ IS 302 & P771K
Howard Garden	Kindergarten of Ralph Ave
Hoyt Street Garden	The local schools all have keys and do use the Garden as a quiet place to observe nature. PS 261, PS 38, The Sterling School on Pacific Street, the local daycare groups, etc.
Hull Street Community Garden	P.S. 73 – The Thomas Boyland School
Jardin de la Familia	PS 45
Jes Good Rewards Children's Garden	P.S./I.S. 327, P.S. 396, PAL Head Start
La Finca Del Sur	High School For Social Justice, Bronx Studio School
La Plaza Cultural Armando Perez	East Village Kids' Coop, Earth School, E. V. Community School
LaGuardia Corner Gardens	PS 41, Little Red Schoolhouse, Children's Aid Society, Cooke Academy, Blue Men School
Linden-Bushwick Block Association Garden	Lyons School (casita renovation, tables & benches construction) PS 377
Long Island City Roots Community Garden & FF Michael Brennan Memorial	RF Wagner, Jr. Secondary School; International HS
M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden	PS 130, Marte Valle Junior High School, MS 131, University Settlement Head Start
Margrchantie Memorial Garden	P.S. 175 Manhattan Day Care, Harlem Children Zone/Community Pride
Mildred T. Rhodebeck Garden	P.S. 75

<b>Garden Name</b>	<b>Partnering School</b>
Mosaic Success Garden	PS 11x
New Vision Garden	Stuyvesant High School
NYRP Members' Garden / Dahlia Group Community Garden	PS 29
Our Little Green Acre	P.S. 76, Boys Harbor
Padre Plaza Success Garden	PS 30, PS 369, South Bronx Head Start
Phoenix Community Garden	Love in Action Daycare, I.S. 155
Pleasant Village Community Garden, Inc.	P.S. 112 - kids have two large plots
Red Hook Community Farm	PS 15, PS 27, BCS, BNS, PS 29, PS 321
Riley-Levin Children's Garden	PS 5
RING Riverside Inwood Neighborhood Garden	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Arden Street NY
Risse Street Community Garden	P.S. 51
Sunnyside Park Garden	We hosted a kindergarden class from Greenwich Village who used our plot to plant in the spring.
Target Bronx Community Garden	CES 73
The Earth School Slow Foods Victory Garden	School garden for The Earth School
The Hollenback Community Garden	P.S. 11
The Home Depot Community Garden	P.S. 155
The Magic Garden	St. Paul's School
The Third Street Childrens Garden	PS 63 and the Neighborhood School
Tremont Community Garden	Tremont United Methodist Church (After School Program)
Union Street Garden and Community Development	BASE

## Garden Name

## Partnering School

Vamos Sembrar: For the Beloved and  
Otherwise Forgotten

Children's workshop has had a key in the past we have  
a combination lock so schools are welcome to call and  
we'll give the combo but most schools just stop by as  
we are always open

Vernon & Throop Community Garden

PS 44 - plans are in the works.

Weeksville Kitchen Garden

PS 243, Boys & Girls High School

West 104 St. Community Garden

Park West Montessori

William A. Harris Garden

PS 28, we had a nursery school but they closed down  
last year.

Woodbine Street Block Association Garden

PS 377

# Appendix E

## Partnerships With Community Groups/Centers

<b>Garden Name</b>	<b>Partnering Group/Center</b>
103rd Street Community Garden	Hope Community, E Museo del Barrio, East Harlem Preservation, East Harlem Cares, Mount Sinai
1st Street Garden	Lower East Side Girl's Club
Abib Newborn	Community Partners Coalition Alliance (CPCA)
Amazing Garden	local neighborhood groups use garden for large meeting but there is no fee.
Back to Eden Community Garden	Antioch Baptist Church, Dunton Block & Civic Association, Grand St. Settlement Youth Program, Just Food, Connell Nutrient Program, Cornell Ornithology, other greening & conservation groups
Bedford Stuyvesant Community Garden	Bread for Life
Bette's Rose Garden	AHRC NYC
Bridge Plaza Garden	FEGS
Carrie McCracken TRUCE Community Garden	Citizen's Care Senior Center; TRUCE after-school program of Harlem Children's Zone; Housing Authority Tenant Gardeners Group; New Song daycare and community center
Carroll Street Community Garden	Root Hill Cafe, CityPitties
Community Block #81	GardenBrooks United Methodist Church, Children Visit, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
David Foulke Memorial Garden	We have hosted other gardening groups i.e. Olympus Gardening
East End Community Garden	Sunshine Steppers (Senior Walking Group)

## Garden Name

## Partnering Group/Center

El Flamboyant	Douglas Leon, Maria Isabel Senior Centers
Herbal Garden of East New York	Olympus Garden Club, Inc., 3 different senior centers, Brooklyn Public Library, and a high school
Human Compass Community Garden	Carroll Gardens Association
Jes Good Rewards Children's Garden	PAL Head Start
La Finca Del Sur	Food Bank Summer Educational Program, Training programs of Sustainable South Bronx
La Isla Garden	Senior Community Residents
Le Petit Versailles	NYC Dept of Parks, Hamilton Fish Computer Lab, Youth video mentoring in collaboration with Mix NYC
Linden-Bushwick Block Association Garden	Bushwick Farmers Market / EcoStation: NY
M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden	St. Augustine's Church, Eldridge Street Synagogue, Rivington House (HIV-AIDS Hospice), PS 130, University Settlement Head Start, many others...
Margrithantje Memorial Garden	Community Pride/Harlem Children Zone
Pembroke Avenue Community Garden	Mercy Home, FECS
Phoenix Community Garden	Neighbors Together (soup kitchen)
Poplar Street Community Garden	Planning to distribute food to poor through local church
Red Hook Community Farm	Red Hook Initiative, Red Hook Senior Center, Good Shepherd Social Services, The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation, the King Street Block Association, The Lower East Side Girls Club, Red Hook East Tenants Association, The Red Hook Initiative, The Red Hook Public Library, The Red Hook Public Safety Corps, The Red Hook Seniors Center, Red Hook West Tenants Association, The South Brooklyn Community Health Center, and The South Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation.

## Garden Name

## Partnering Group/Center

River Garden	Many senior members are part of Phipps Housing
Rodale Pleasant Park Community Garden	LES Ecology Center, CENYC, LSA group
Seagirt Garden	Rockaway Waterfront Alliance
Suffolk Street Community Garden	AHRC
Sugar Hill Park	In the past we have partnered with a now defunct children's program from Jackie Robinson Park.
Target East Harlem Community Garden	Nourishing Kitchen
UCC Youth Farm	United Community Centers
William A. Harris Garden	Major Morris Senior Senior Center
Woodbine Street Block Association Garden	Hope Gardens Community Center Ridgewood/ Bushwick Youth Center