



## NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS ASSOCIATION

A Philadelphia Land Trust  
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# Well-Preserved

Updates from

## Neighborhood Gardens Association

A Philadelphia Land Trust

*Preserving community-managed green spaces since 1986*

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### OUR MISSION

**The Neighborhood Gardens Association / A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA)** is a private non-profit corporation founded in 1986. The mission of the land trust is to ensure the continuity and long-term preservation of community-managed gardens and open space in low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Editor: Margot Berg

### Message from the Executive Director

Fall is here and the harvest season is upon us. While the high temperatures and dry conditions made for a difficult gardening season, the land trust gardens continued to thrive with the help of their watering systems and the dedication of the gardeners.

At the *Celebration of Community Gardens* in July, revelers celebrated the 10th anniversary of The Spring Gardens -- the spectacular community garden at 18th and Wallace Streets in the Spring Garden neighborhood. NGA and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society co-sponsored the event with the gardeners, and NGA held its second annual raffle to benefit the Garden Acquisition Fund. The party was a great success -- a beautiful day with terrific turn-out and the gardeners' signature barbeque dishes reflecting the diversity of the families that garden there.

NGA, in collaboration with Urban Partners -- a Philadelphia consulting firm -- has begun a strategic planning process to determine the future direction of the organization. 2006 will mark NGA's twentieth anniversary and much has changed in Philadelphia during that time. The Board and staff recognize the need to re-evaluate NGA's mission and activities in light of these changes. The plan is funded by the William Penn Foundation and will take approximately six months. We look forward to sharing the results with you.



### CONTACT NGA

For information on preserving a Philadelphia community garden or contributing to NGA:

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*Email Margot if you would like to receive the newsletter and NGA announcements via email.*

### EVENTS CALENDAR

**Saturday, October 22, 10AM - 5PM.** Fall Open House at Meadowbrook Farm 1633 Washington Lane, Abington, PA. A costume party for the kids and fall shopping for all. Call 215-887-5900.

**City Gardening Series.** Various locations in October and November. Gardening-related workshops, demonstrations, and events. Call Marilyn Reynolds at 215-988-8872.

**Tree Tenders Training** in Media and West Chester in October. Learn tree biology, identification, and care for the trees in your community. Call Mindy Maslin at 215-988-8844.

**Vacant Land Redefined** exhibit at 3101 Walnut Street at UPenn. NGA & Philadelphia Green display opens November 30. Call 215-573-7240.

# NGA SPOTLIGHT: *New Gardens*

*This issue's Spotlight focuses on two new gardens joining the NGA land trust.*

After a two year process, NGA and the gardeners at two community gardens in North Philadelphia have received title from the City for their gardens. The Friends Community Garden on North Front Street in West Kensington and the North Marshall Street Garden are the latest additions to the land trust. They join twenty-eight other gardens that are permanent parts of their neighborhoods preserved through NGA.

**Friends Community Garden at 2751-2753 North Front Street** reflects the heritage of its Puerto Rican gardeners. Saro Rodriguez, his wife, and neighbors have created a neighborhood place for local youth programs to bring children to learn to garden. The gardeners started this garden in 2003 after attending the Philadelphia Green Garden Tenders class. The front of the garden is landscaped like a private front yard and frames a casita, a small house typical of those in Puerto Rico, complete with



an outdoor kitchen where gardeners prepare traditional Latino dishes. Vegetable plots at the back of the lot are a source for many of the distinctive dishes served at garden events.

**Learn about other NGA gardens on our website:**

[www.ngalandtrust.org](http://www.ngalandtrust.org)



Not far away from the Friends Community Garden, Bob Jacobs, his family, and neighbors have been gardening in the **1900 block of North Marshall Street** for several years. Ten gardeners from the block grow vegetables in raised beds built with the help of APM (the Association of Puerto Ricans on the March) and Philadelphia Green in 2001. The garden covers four lots, one of which is owned by the City and was donated to the land trust and the gardeners this fall. NGA is also pursuing ownership of the other three lots.

Both gardens are part of a new Philadelphia Green program. Twenty gardens have committed to growing and donating extra produce to SHARE, a local food cupboard program. The donated vegetables will be distributed to help alleviate hunger in the City and participants will learn to increase their production and harvest their crops more efficiently, a winning combination for everyone. NGA is pleased that eleven of the land trust gardens will participate in this worthwhile program in 2006.



# GARDEN UPDATES

**Please support these generous businesses that supported NGA's 2005 raffle.**

The July raffle in support of NGA's Garden Acquisition Fund was a great success. We thank the forty-eight local businesses and institutions that donated crafts, gift baskets, art classes, and gift certificates for the Celebration of Community Gardens at The Spring Gardens at 18th and Wallace. Please support these contributors that gave generously to NGA. We also thank The Spring Gardens gardeners and everyone who bought raffle tickets. If you won a gift certificate, please use it so we can request one again next year!

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Arden Theater                     | Mandoline Restaurant                        |
| Aveda                             | Moore Brothers Wine Company                 |
| Benjamin Lovell Shoes             | Mugshots Coffeehouse                        |
| The Body Clinic Spa               | Kevin O'Brien Studio                        |
| The Bridge Cinema De Lux          | Origins                                     |
| Bridgid's Restaurant              | Neil Patterson & Sandi Pierantozzi Ceramics |
| Las Cazuelas Restaurant           | Primex Garden Center                        |
| The Clay Studio                   | Rembrandt's Restaurant                      |
| The Cookbook Stall                | Rittenhouse Sports Specialties              |
| Eastern State Penitentiary        | Ritz Theaters                               |
| Fairmount Chiropractor            | Sophie's Yarns                              |
| Fante's Kitchen Wares Shop        | SOTA (Spirit of the Artist)                 |
| Fine Gardening Magazine           | Sun & Earth, Inc.                           |
| Fleisher Art Memorial             | Tavern on Green                             |
| Fork Restaurant                   | Tower Records                               |
| Friday Saturday Sunday Restaurant | Valanni Restaurant                          |
| Hello World                       | Viv Pickle                                  |
| Hot Soup Glassblowing Studio      | Wake Up Yoga                                |
| Illuminaire Restaurant            | Washington Square Chiropractic Center       |
| Kiehl's Since 1851                | Waterloo Gardens                            |
| The Kimmel Center                 | The White Dog Café & the Black Cat          |
| Lifesport Fitness                 | Whole Foods Market                          |
| Loie Brasserie & NoChe Lounge     | Wilma Theater                               |
| London Grill                      | Zorba's Taverna                             |

## Preserved Gardens

As of July 2005, NGA had preserved thirty community gardens throughout the city. Twenty-one were acquired from the City or individuals, three have long-term leases ensuring their use as a garden, and six are in process.

## Bel Arbor is 10!

October 15th marked Bel Arbor Community Garden's tenth anniversary. Congratulations to the Bel Arbor gardeners!



## Help Save Community Gardens

NGA is a nonprofit urban land trust preserving community-managed gardens and green spaces in Philadelphia's neighborhoods. We need your support!

\_\_\_\$50    \_\_\_\$100    \_\_\_\$250    \_\_\_\$500    \_\_\_Other    NGA's United Way Code is 8206

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(as you wish to be acknowledged in our publications)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to remain anonymous.  I am interested in making a planned gift. Please contact me.

Please make checks payable to the **Neighborhood Gardens Association** and mail to:

NGA, 100 North 20th Street, Suite 309, Philadelphia, PA 19103

If you would like to use a credit card, go to [www.ngalandtrust.org](http://www.ngalandtrust.org) and click on the link to Network for Good.

Clip and send with your donation!