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Our Mission

The Neighborhood Gardens Association / A Philadelphia Land Trust (NGA) is a private nonprofit corporation founded in 1986. Its mission is to preserve and develop community-managed green spaces and gardens that enhance Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

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Well-Preserved

Newsletter of the
**Neighborhood Gardens Association/
A Philadelphia Land Trust**

Preserving community-managed green spaces since 1986

NGA Receives Funding for an Expanded Land Trust Feasibility Study

The William Penn Foundation has just made a grant to NGA to fund a Feasibility Study for expanding the land trust. The need for this study came out of the NGA Strategic Plan completed in March 2007. NGA has worked closely with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program since 1986. Over the next year, representatives from NGA and PHS working with a consultant will look at options and resources for expanding the land trust work in Philadelphia to further the work being done by both groups with vacant land. Stay tuned for more news of this study in future newsletters.

We Have Moved to the 5th Floor

In December 2007, the NGA office moved to the fifth floor with other Pennsylvania Horticultural Society staff. We have a close working relationship with PHS, especially the Philadelphia Green program; so the move makes it easier for us to network. Our main phone number will remain the same, but you need to change your address books to:

Neighborhood Gardens Association
A Philadelphia Land Trust
100 North 20th Street, *Fifth Floor*
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: 215-988-8797

Two More Gardens Preserved

In the Fall 2007 newsletter, we told you about three new gardens being added to the land trust, The Bodine Garden in Queen Village and The Friends Garden & North Marshall Street Garden in North Philadelphia. Since that time, two more gardens have joined the land trust.



The Fitzwater 2000 Garden is located in Southwest Center City, named one of the city's up-and-coming neighborhoods. Near 21st and Fitzwater Street, local residents have been tending two abandoned vacant lots since 1997. The neighbors cleared the trash-filled lots and created an award-winning garden and green oasis in their community. Due to the increase of infill housing development in the area, the gardeners requested NGA's help to preserve their garden. City Council President Anna Verna's staff worked with the gardeners and NGA to condemn the privately-owned properties and transfer the land to NGA and the gardeners in August 2007.

Not too far away is the **Hicks Street Memory Garden**, our newest and youngest land trusted community garden. This small, single lot garden began in January 2007 with a small group of concerned residents and block captains. The lot

in question is located on a struggling block that has several vacant and deteriorating houses, and increasing development pressure. Many people see the garden as not only a way to make the neighborhood greener, but also as an opportunity to restore the quality of life for residents and make the entire neighborhood safer.

In addition to planting, the Hicks gardeners have cleaned up the alley and constructed a secure, attractive fence at the rear of the lot. Illegal dumping in the alley has dramatically decreased, as has vandalism and trespassing into neighboring yards and vacant houses.



The garden now has about thirty contributing neighborhood participants including young children, and over sixty residents signed a petition of support for the garden. A donor purchased the lot on the gardeners' behalf in March 2007 from a private owner and donated it to the land trust in December so the garden could be permanently preserved. The gardeners are fundraising to pay back the donor.

Hayward Ford Receives PHS Leadership Award

At the Community Gardeners Brunch on March 9th at the Philadelphia Flower Show, Blaine Bonham, Executive Vice President, presented **Hayward Ford**, an NGA board member, with the 1st Philadelphia Green Leadership Award.



Here is an excerpt from Bonham's presentation: "For more than three decades, Hayward has been a driving force behind Aspen Farms in West Philadelphia, one of the city's most successful and enduring community gardens. Hayward and his garden group have shepherded the garden from a small eight-plot patch into a thriving, comprehensive community garden.

"Aspen Farms was created in 1975 with support from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's city gardening program—now Philadelphia Green—at 49th and Aspen Streets, on a plot of abandoned land where houses and a dry-cleaning business once stood. A few years later, Hayward became president of the Aspen Farms Community Garden Club, a post he held until just recently.

"During the late 1980s, Hayward and the other Aspen Farms gardeners developed a close

relationship with University of Pennsylvania professor Anne Spirn and her landscape architecture students. The students worked closely with the gardeners to develop the current garden, including the gazebo, three ponds, and butterfly garden. The garden is a frequent prize-winner in the PHS City Gardens Contest.

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Pentridge Children's Photo Show

The Pentridge Children's Garden celebrated its 15th anniversary with a photo exhibit by the children of their own lives. The photo exhibit—selected, prepared, and installed by the children—took place at the Satellite Coffee Shop, at 50th Street and Baltimore Avenue during the month of December 2007.

The Pentridge Children's Garden is a volunteer-run community children's garden in West Philadelphia. According to Beth Pulcinella, one of the adult leaders "We have grown hundreds of tomatoes, moved wheel barrow after wheel barrow of dirt, counted worms, eaten green beans, sorrel, sunflower seeds and popcorn that we harvested. Our apple trees climb bigger and taller each year. There have been camping trips to Seven Star Farm, adventures to Cobbs



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Help Save Community Gardens

NGA is a nonprofit urban land trust preserving community-managed gardens and green spaces in Philadelphia's neighborhoods since 1986. We need your support!

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 _____ Other NGA's United Way Code is **8206**

Name: _____

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, Fifth Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

If you would like to use a credit card, go to www.ngalandtrust.org and click on the Donate Now button.

Clip and send with your donation!



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Hayward Ford

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“When he’s not in the garden, Hayward volunteers for the organizations he cares about. He has served on PHS Council, the Education Committee, and the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. He has been president and treasurer of the Neighborhood Gardens Association—which has held Aspen Farms in land trust since 2004 and funded the solar panels and other improvements—and is currently NGA’s recording secretary.

“Hayward Ford is a Philadelphia treasure. He is tireless ambassador, not only for Aspen Farms, but also for community green spaces everywhere. He is a true believer in the joy of gardening and in the power of community.”

Photo Show

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Creek, and field trips to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Annual cookouts, pumpkin carvings, and parades are talked about as the years come and go. Eight year old “old timers” give tours to the new kids, violence is not tolerated and amazing conversations about food, nature and the world spill into our well loved soil.”

Pentridge Children’s Garden also sells vegetables at Clark Park Farmers Market on Saturdays during the season. The kids fill their cart with their vegetables and flowers and walk several blocks to the market. They take turns talking with the customers about the vegetables and carefully record all of their sales.