

Community Gardening in Hamilton

February through May 2012



Board of Health

July 11, 2012

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Sara Collyer (Neighbour to Neighbour Centre)

Presentation Overview

Update on the Hamilton Community Garden Network (HCGN) for the period from February to May 2012 funded by the City of Hamilton Public Health and Public Works.

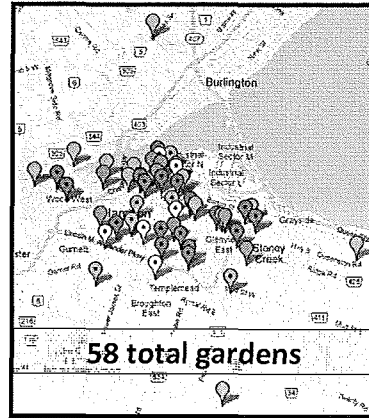
- HCGN overview
- Hamilton community garden statistics for 2012
- HCGN highlights for 2012
- Partner Spotlight: Neighbour to Neighbour
- Testimonials from participants
- Future plans

The Hamilton Community Garden Network

a collaboration of community garden organizers, members, and supporters helping to develop and maintain community gardens in Hamilton with outreach, networking, tools, and training.

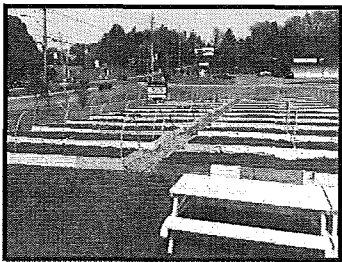
Why?

- Create connections
- Promote new growth
- Enhance benefits
- Support sustainability

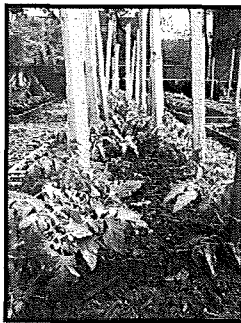


Hamilton Numbers – Spring 2012

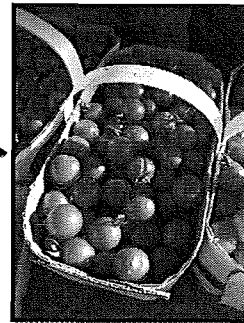
15 new gardens +2
expansions



16,000+ square feet
new garden space



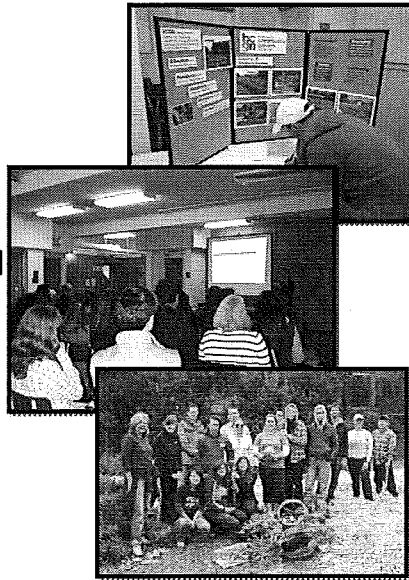
16,000+ potential new
pounds of food



Plus countless new community connections and
still over 150 people on waiting lists!

HCGN 2012 Highlights: Jan-May

- **350 attendees at Seedy Saturday** with over **\$1000** raised
- **11 gardens** enriched through garden and social media workshops
- **900 people** reached through exhibits
- **55 inquiries** for garden space answered
- **7 consultations** with new or current garden leaders
- Over **200 volunteer hours**



In-Kind Support Summary

In-Kind Donations Summary Table, February through May 2012

Item	Total
Volunteers/Coop students	3,000.00
Website and Design specialists	1,500.00
Space rental	1,000.00
Compost	10,800.00
Mulch	5,967.00
Soil	4,000.00
Seedlings	300.00
Event supplies for Seedy Saturday	957.00
Total In-Kind	27,524.00

Over \$25,000 worth of in-kind contributions secured including volunteer time, garden supplies, and specialist support

Cash Support Summary

Cash Support Summary Table, February through May 2012

Item	Total
HCGN Garden Support Funds	3,185.00
Funds secured by gardens	22,525.75
Oliver's Garden Project	2,000.00
Small Space Gardening Project	5,000.00
Depave Paradise	15,000.00
Total Cash	47,710.75

Almost \$50,000 in cash
secured by HCGN and gardens it
works with directly

Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Programs

Community Gardens - 13
mixed gardens across our
service area

Benefits

- ↓ poverty
- ↑ food security
- Improve healthy eating
- Promote community



St Michaels Elementary Garden Build

Neighbour to Neighbour Community Gardens

- HCGN - links our community gardens to needed resources
- HCGN - builds capacity within Community Gardens
- Takes the lead to build gardens
- Provides education and workshops
- Links gardens to City's soil and compost
- Uses Train the Trainer model
- Future – seedlings



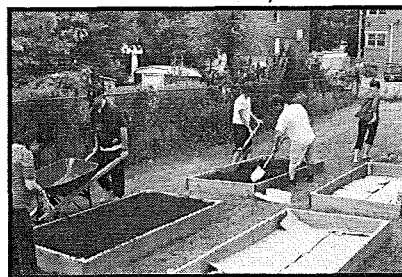
St Michaels Elementary Planting Day

Neighbour to Neighbour Community Gardens

Sherwood High school

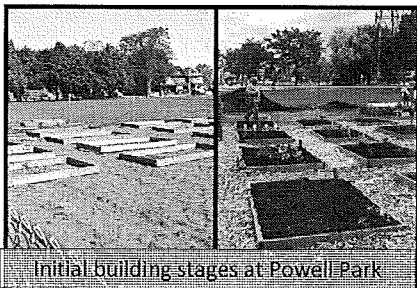


Eastmount Elementary



Chalmers Church

Quotes from HCGN Participants



Initial building stages at Powell Park

"We honestly could not have done this without the help from the HCGN coordinator (and) the support from the Network. We wanted...to let everyone know how thankful we are."

—Chad McKay, garden coordinator at Powell Park's Little Green Garden

"Thanks again, for your help in setting this up! You've been fantastic!"

—Ben, donor of \$4,000 worth of soil

"...with your vision, encouragement and resources we have built a new Community Garden"

—Dave, community garden coordinator, new site for 2012



The Future

The HCGN will be supported through December 2012 through

- Oliver's Garden Project
- Small Space Gardening with Volunteer Hamilton
- Depave Paradise

Working to secure funding to reach sustainability and continue special projects

