Community Gardens:
Opportunities for Madison & Dane County

Considerations for supporting vital, sustainable community gardens
A community garden story: “We look out for one another”

A couple of years ago, we noticed one of our long-time gardener’s plots starting to look unkempt, and we knew that wasn’t normal. His garden plot neighbors said he hadn’t been around much.

This gardener lives alone and has little interaction with others at his workplace. We knew him through the garden, so we called him. We found out that he had severe pain and swelling in his legs and couldn’t stand or bend down in his garden.

After talking with him, it seemed like something more than typical aches and pains. He had not seen a doctor for it because he couldn’t afford the doctor visit. We looked into some options and urged him to go to the clinic. He went and was admitted to the hospital for two to three days to treat a heart condition.

Later, he called us to thank us. Since then, he has stayed out of the hospital. Last year, he started gardening in our tabletop beds and this year may even go back to using a regular garden plot. I hate to think what might have happened to him if he hadn’t been part of our gardening community where we look out for one another.

Contributed by Jill Schneider
Gardener at Troy Community Gardens
Executive summary

Community gardens are places where people grow food, social connections, and overall well-being. In fact, a growing body of research demonstrates that community gardens contribute to the health of individuals, families and neighborhoods. Vacant land, transformed by neighborhood residents, can change the fabric of a neighborhood, enriching social networks in the process. Community gardens can improve these while increasing neighborhood safety and physical activity along the way.

In Madison and Dane County, dramatic differences in health status have emerged among socioeconomic, as well as racial and ethnic groups (Public Health Madison & Dane County 2013). The root causes of these inequities are complex, requiring long-term, community-driven, comprehensive approaches for change. Community gardens represent one vital asset among those approaches.

Community gardeners in Madison represent a diverse range of cultures, races, languages, and income levels. Because of this, the gardens hold promise in fostering the kinds of community dynamics integral to social change. While community gardens are no panacea for complex issues facing Madison and Dane County, they offer residents ways to shape the places where they live. Visit a garden on a summer Saturday, and you’ll see why.

Gardens are one way that communities use to increase social cohesion, engage youth, increase access to healthy foods, and make healthy choices easier. Even with many new gardens emerging over the past two to five years, the average length of time gardens have been operating is six years, with many in place far longer.

This discussion paper, prepared by Public Health Madison & Dane County in collaboration with Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, identifies considerations and opportunities to strengthen and sustain community gardens as one component of a comprehensive approach to improving community health.
History

For over three decades, Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc. (CAC) has been the leading supporter of the grassroots community garden movement in Madison and Dane County. With origins in anti-poverty strategies, CAC has supported garden maintenance and expansion in neighborhoods with high proportions of low-income families.

CAC is reviewing its role as administrator and steward of community gardens in Madison and Dane County. In late 2013, the City of Madison asked for input from the community about options to house oversight of community gardens after 2014. Staff from Community Development and Public Health met with members of the City’s Community Gardens Committee and agreed that it would be helpful to identify the goals of community gardens and to identify some of the possibilities for supporting them. Staff from Public Health Madison & Dane County, with consultation from CAC staff and review from the committee, prepared this discussion paper.

Depending on how community gardens are operated and supported, they can offer multiple benefits to community development and health, particularly in neighborhoods with high proportions of low-to-moderate income families.

This discussion paper reviews key questions, research evidence and tested models to consider when building a sustainable effort to support community gardens.
Community gardeners represent a diverse group

Each year, CAC collects information from registered gardeners. In 2013, CAC directly supported 26 of the 50 community gardens in and around Madison. More than 1,000 families use over 1,700 CAC-supported plots, covering roughly ten acres of public use land. For these 26 gardens, CAC holds leases and insurance. The table to the right represents zip code of residence for 701 of these families. Three CAC-supported gardens are community-school gardens.

CAC staff also supported the installation of ten additional school gardens through the GROW Coalition pilot project, an outdoor learning initiative funded by the Madison Community Foundation. The 10 GROW School Gardens are not counted in the 26 gardens supported by CAC.

Characteristics of gardeners at CAC-supported gardens

In 2013, CAC collected data from 701 families representing 2,137 people who rented plots at twenty-six CAC-supported gardens. At many of the gardens, there are waiting lists for plots.

- Nearly 40% (273 families) reported using a primary language other than English at home. Spanish, Hmong and Laotian were the most common languages reported.
- Over half were people of color.
- Nearly half of families (48%) report incomes at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- 59% of gardeners reported renting their homes; in Dane County as a whole, about 40% of people rent their homes or apartments.
- One in six families reports living in a single parent household; more than three quarters (527) said they have families of between two and eight members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip code</th>
<th>No. of Families</th>
<th>Zip code area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53704</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>North Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>53713</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Southeast Madison/Olin</td>
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<tr>
<td>53711</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>South Madison/Fitchburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>53705</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Shorewood/Eagle Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>53714</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>East Madison/Monona</td>
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<tr>
<td>53703</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Isthmus</td>
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<tr>
<td>53715</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Greenbush / Bay Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53716</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>East--Monona to Beltline</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>None listed</td>
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Total 701

Source: CAC Garden Registration, 2013
Nearly 20% of families (139 of 701) reported someone with a disability; the range of households with someone reporting disability in Wisconsin is 5 – 12%, depending on how disability is defined. Over 16% of individuals in these households (349 of 2,137) were uninsured (the 2012 Dane County uninsured rate was 9%).

**Land ownership and lease information.** Data available from 22 of these gardens indicates that the City of Madison owns a total of ten public use acres of community garden land. Another 6.7 acres with community gardens are owned by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Center for Resilient Cities, and the State of Wisconsin. The remainder are located at churches or other locations. The average length of leases for these 22 gardens is 6 years, with 6 gardens leased for more than 13 years.

**Volunteer hours.** Reports from 25 of the gardens indicate that in 2013, volunteer garden leaders logged more than 5,000 hours in community garden operations, maintenance, conflict management, and administration.
Research: The impact of Community Gardens

A review of research literature suggests that community gardens can offer a range of benefits at the individual, family and neighborhood levels. The following page offers a glimpse of some of the research findings related to community gardens.

Community gardens are one way to engage community members to create healthy places (Armstrong 2000; Tieg 2009). Urban and small-town community gardens provide many residents a place where they can return to the natural world, escape the fast-paced din, and restore their ability to cope with stress (Austin 2006; Hale et al 2011). Community gardens can also offer place-making and social opportunities that characterize the elements researchers point out are central to neighborhood revitalization (Gorham 2009; Miller 2012; George 2013; Comstock 2010; Litt 2011).

Community development. Community gardens can contribute to community development, or processes where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (Armstrong 2009; Zanko 2012; Miller 2012).

One indicator of community development is the extent to which people report social capital, or resources that are available to people because of their relationships (Miller 2012). Do members of a neighborhood or community know and trust each other? Do they share resources or common interests? Do they engage in similar tasks? Are they proud of belonging to the group or community? Is there a process that fosters inclusivity and cooperation? According to the research, community gardens foster these kinds of characteristics, which can lead to more resilient neighborhoods (Glover 2004; Glover et al 2007). From a health perspective, people with strong social connections are more likely to rate their health favorably than those without (Berkman 2000).

We hoped the garden would be one way to start bridging the divide [in the neighborhood] and form friendships....It gives adults a reason to go to the park.

Shari Rembert, Meadowood Garden Madison Commons, 10/23/2011
### Community garden goals and options to boost impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>References</th>
<th>Options to boost impact of community gardens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community development</td>
<td>• Diverse relationships form</td>
<td>Tieg et al, 2009. Miller</td>
<td>• Provide gathering spaces with outdoor kitchens, food preparation areas, and seating</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provides a space for leisure time, where relationships are more likely to emerge</td>
<td>2012. Glover 2004. Glover</td>
<td>• Train garden leaders and provide tools for networking across community gardens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Leadership emerges</td>
<td>2005. Wakefield 2008.</td>
<td>• Enlist the support of organizations that residents might not otherwise access (e.g., university, job training, support for people with developmental disabilities)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• People connect to otherwise inaccessible external networks</td>
<td>Gorham 2009.</td>
<td>• Connect to local cultural organizations and groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Participants affirm their own cultures and learn about others</td>
<td>Litt 2011.</td>
<td>• Create signage in multiple languages</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Livability improves</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Partnership with arts educators to engage community members in creating art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Neighborhood beautification</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Engage police and community to use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Public safety increases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Noise pollution mitigated</td>
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<td>Youth development</td>
<td>Youth build intergenerational networks and skills they may otherwise not</td>
<td>Urban Institute 2010.</td>
<td>• Integrate garden maintenance with youth employment and kids’ gardening programs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ratcliffe 2009.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>• Reduce social isolation</td>
<td>Lee 2012.</td>
<td>• Support evidence-based nutrition education programs to support the linkage between those who garden and their dietary choices.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Help people cope with stress</td>
<td>Litt 2011.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improve nutrition and food literacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increase physical activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecology &amp; sustainability</td>
<td>• Reduce food miles</td>
<td>Comstock 2010. Center for</td>
<td>• Designate space for community gardens in comprehensive plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improve runoff management</td>
<td>Neighborhood Technology</td>
<td>• Engage Extension colleagues to guide gardeners in best practices for runoff and pest management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Encourage integrated pest management practices</td>
<td>2010.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increase opportunities for biodiversity among pollinators and predators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
<td>• Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Voicu &amp; Been 2008.</td>
<td>• Link gardeners explicitly to urban agriculture opportunities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increase in property values</td>
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</tbody>
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Other research finds benefit through community gardens’ fostering intergenerational activities, enhanced public safety (Gorham 2009), increased property values (Voicu and Been 2008), and improved neighborhood resilience. Police departments in other communities have used community gardens as a strategy for crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). In fact, after the 2013 installation of Brittingham Park’s community garden, anecdotal reports indicated a noticeable decline in crime.

For many Wisconsin residents, gardening is an opportunity to connect with their agrarian heritage. In Madison, community gardens showcase the efforts of Latino, Hmong, Bhutanese, and Vietnamese, and a host of other gardening cultures. New relationships are more likely to emerge through a community garden setting when the process of involving community members is supported.

**Health and well being:** Gardens foster active living (George 2013; Zick 2013). Caring for plants can also improve mental well-being and outlook, while gardens yield relatively low-cost, healthy produce (Travis and Lam 2013). Not surprisingly, research suggests that people who grow food in community gardens consume more vegetables and fruits than those who don’t (Litt 2011).

Because of the network of relationships garden leaders form at the community level, they can help engage community members and set realistic expectations about how to increase food security among low-income populations. For many low-income families, gardening requires time, skills, resources and transportation they may not possess (Hallberg 2009). Some populations with strong agricultural traditions or gardening resources might use garden plots to improve food security more effectively than others without such traditions or resources (Carney 2007). The research supports community gardens less as a food security strategy than a community development strategy—with significant perks for those who garden and the neighborhoods where they are located.
People active in community gardens are more likely to become involved in other sustainable agriculture initiatives (Armstrong 2000). With appropriate knowledge and skills to prepare fresh foods, gardeners and their families will more likely eat them. Evidence-based nutrition education programs, like those offered through Dane County Extension, can help teach food preparation skills, maximizing the nutritional impact of garden produce.

**Building on assets.** Research on sustainable social change initiatives demonstrates that when community members make changes that advance their self-interests, the changes and efforts supporting them are more likely to endure (Trent & Chavis 2009; Ganz 2010; Kincaid & Figueroa 2009; Fawcett 1999). To that end, community gardens can play an important role for community-based organizations, including churches, community centers, neighborhood nonprofits and other groups with neighborhood-level direct service functions. In 2012, CAC staff facilitated a garden installation at Madison employment assistance center for people transitioning from incarceration to the community. Staff noted a strong sense of purpose, connection and belonging among participants.

**Ecology.** Studies on community gardening suggest that gardeners learn sustainable land use practices, including storm water runoff management and organic gardening. Community gardens can also contribute to urban biodiversity, increasing the range and types of plants, pollinators, and predators. Community gardening can also foster intergenerational knowledge transfer, where sustainable land management practices are passed from one generation to the next.

When designing an approach to help achieve common goals, engage organizations and residents who can actively steward the space. This might include leadership development training and networking with other garden leaders.
**Comprehensive planning.** Economic development and planning officials in other communities have recognized community gardens as a relatively inexpensive mechanism to convert public space into a vital resource for community development.

One guide for planners (Cassidy & Patterson 2008) suggested the following steps:

- Assess urban public lands that could be used for agricultural activities, paying attention to spaces like utility corridors that are otherwise unused
- Assess zoning and land use policies for how they encourage/discourage agricultural activities and how they protect agricultural resources
- Use tools such as transferable development rights and conservation easements to protect local agricultural resources
- Create a regulation about the number of community gardens per capita

The Public Health Law Center also provides a Community Garden Policy Reference Guide.

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**A connection to loved ones**

An elderly Hmong gardener, Mrs. Peng, had been gardening with us for many years. She passed away in the winter of 2012; we didn’t receive a garden application from her that spring.

I reached out to Peng’s daughter-in-law who had gardened with her. She asked that I assign one of Peng’s four plots to a dear family friend who had also helped her mother garden. Another Hmong gardener, a friend of Peng’s, urged me to continue to allow the family friend to garden in the same plot because Peng’s son would occasionally visit as a way to remember his mother.

The importance of land for gardening for the Hmong community cannot be overstated. The great majority of them live in apartments and do not have access to land. These 20 x 20 foot plots give them an opportunity to stay connected to the land and, in some cases, to their loved ones.

Many Hmong gardeners also grow culturally significant herbs, either in their own plots or in a shared Hmong herb garden maintained by a few of our Hmong families.

—Jill Schneider
What does it take to administer a city-wide or county-wide community gardens program?

When designing an approach to help achieve common goals, consider an explicit function that builds capacity among community-based organizations to engage residents who can actively steward and offer caretaking to keep gardens secure. This might include leadership development training and networking with other garden leaders.

Depending on the goals of a community gardens program, the following functions support a vital community gardens. CAC staff detailed the following functions from their work over the years:

**Overall Program and Projects Administration**: Non-profit/other legal entity umbrella for grant and funding acquisition and oversight, office and staffing, benefit packages, work plans, record keeping, workplace compliances, education and outreach regarding responsibilities and rules, overall budget, management, fee collection, data collection and management, evaluations, translation services, garden site referrals, develop and maintain public/on-line garden listings and open access to garden resources/documents.

**Land access, usage and management**: liability insurance, lease arrangements, land acquisition, compliance with regulations and legal requirements for use of land, acquiring appropriate permits, and installation of water/electric lines.

**Site (Gardens) Administration**: registration, plot management schemes, local budgets, compliance, safety, lists, reports, surveys.

**Physical site maintenance**: equipment purchasing and inventory, equipment storage and maintenance, water supply maintenance, composting facilities, delivery of goods, fencing, signage, repairs and tilling.

**Garden Fund (Small Grant Administration)**: manage awards for small development grants for gardens.

**New Garden and Expansion Support**: site analysis, start-up help, garden design, group facilitation, advocacy, installation timeline, sourcing resources, liaison and leverage city/county/other resources for installation.
Community engagement and capacity-building: including relationship building (interagency collaborations and laying the groundwork for future projects), ongoing fostering of relationships among neighborhood garden groups, connecting garden leaders with community resources, including conflict management, communications, community building, building connections to schools/community centers/churches, supporting event planning and management

Education and training: including training for garden and community leadership, training on technical topics (e.g., appropriate organic gardening strategies, IPM, involving youth in gardening, seed starting, encouraging biodiversity, seed saving and exchange, inclusive gardening/gardening for all abilities)

Program incubation: house innovative, garden-related programs and spin them off to partner agencies/groups/orgs. as necessary, provide oversight, financial contributions, organizational/administrative support, and/or fiscal sponsorship and grant disbursement

Low-Income support: financial help for low-income gardeners to subsidize plot fees; free seeds, transplants, and other materials; advocacy, cultural programming, translation

Considerations to support a community gardens program

Several considerations emerged when CAC staff considered next steps in providing an organizational home that can support a vital network of community gardens in Madison and Dane County.

- A 501(c)3 or other formally incorporated organization to act as the backbone for administration, coordination and technical assistance to gardens
- Clear goals
- Guiding principles and mechanisms to involve community representatives in leadership and goal-setting
- A steering and oversight group with shared vision and goals
- Sustainability of funding for administration and leadership
- Vital partnerships across the community
- Secure access to land and other resources
- Evaluation capacity to improve programming
Opportunities for synergy

Reviewing models from other communities offers insights into myriad opportunities for community gardens in Madison and Dane County. Like the efforts supported by the CAC over the past two decades, a common theme in other communities is a focus on supporting community garden activities in neighborhoods with a higher proportion of low-to-moderate-income families. Many communities also explicitly focus on providing youth development activities in community garden settings.

In Madison and Dane County, specific opportunities exist for synergy around the future of community gardens.

- **Madison Out of School Time (MOST)** is an emerging collective action initiative supported by the City of Madison, Dane County, and the Madison Metropolitan School District. It is focused on bringing youth services providers together to build a coordinated initiative, ultimately providing high-quality out-of-school-time activities for all youth.
- **Building capacity for neighborhood leadership** has been raised as a need across several groups in the City, including community garden leaders, neighborhood associations, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations. One model to consider is the [San Diego Resident Leadership Academy](#).
- **Outdoor learning**, fostered locally through the [GROW Coalition](#), provides a hands-on, engaged learning approach to youth development. GROW members promote outdoor learning as a means for youth development. Activities include teacher professional development, parent and community engagement and networking among interested organizations and many other organizations across the County. Some community gardens incorporate youth gardens and nature-based play areas so that all visitors can engage in gardening without needing to own a plot.
• **Entrepreneur training** is another key area of opportunity that could dovetail with the support of community gardens. The [Spring Rose Growers’ Cooperative](#) and [FEED Kitchen](#) offer local examples of organizations that have shaped a space to promote entrepreneurial development.

• **Place making**, including current efforts to design and build a public market in Madison, may provide synergies for community garden administration and support.

• **Therapeutic horticulture** provides a way to help residents engage in their communities. Therapeutic gardens have demonstrated benefits for a range of populations, including older adults needing memory care or social contact, families battling mental health issues, refugees finding ways to integrate and connect, veterans coping with PTSD, and children learning to navigate sensory processing differences. [Gardening for Good](#) is an example from Madison’s North Side of neighbors coming together at Troy Gardens to garden with adults who live with developmental differences.

**What community gardening models exist in other communities?**

We were unable to identify a comparison of the distinct organizational structures that support community gardens. In some cities, a public-private partnership has evolved to support gardens, while in others, the local university partners with the city and/or a local non-profit organization.

• [Kansas City Community Gardens](#) is a non-profit dedicated to supporting gardens among low-income individuals and families. Partner Gardens is an initiative to establish gardens at organizations serving those populations.

• [Seattle’s P-Patch](#) program is a partnership between the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, which provides land and staff support, and the P-Patch Trust, a non-profit which provides funding for gardening efforts.
• **Denver Urban Gardens** (DUG) offers neighborhoods the essential resources for community gardens. DUG provides ongoing technical expertise with securing sustainable land for gardens; designing and building gardens; supporting garden organization, leadership, outreach and maintenance; utilizing gardens as extraordinary places for learning and healthy living; and linking gardens with related local food system projects and policy. DUG operates more than 120 community gardens throughout Metro Denver, including 30 school-based community gardens, a community farm, and youth education initiatives.

• **Nuestras Raíces (Our Roots)**, a nonprofit organization in Holyoke, MA, has a network of 10 community gardens with over 100 member families, an environmental program that addresses issues affecting the Holyoke community, a Youth Program for inner city youth that gives them the opportunity to organize about food and environmental related topics, and a 30-acre inner city farm that focuses on food systems, economic development and agriculture. It was founded by members of the area’s Puerto Rican community.

• **Missoula, Montana’s Garden City Harvest** builds community through agriculture by growing produce with and for people with low-incomes, offering education and training in ecologically conscious agriculture, and using sites for the personal restoration of youth and adults. See Jeremy Smith’s *Growing A Garden City* for stories.

• **Chicago’s Neighborspace** provides long-term protection for more than 80 vegetable, flower and prairie gardens across the City. The Chicago Parks District, the City of Chicago, and the Cook County Forest Preserve contribute funding.

• **San Jose, California’s Veggilution** urban farm empowers youth and adults from diverse backgrounds to create a sustainable food system in San Jose. The farm engages the community by providing access to healthy and local food, creating leadership opportunities, and developing creative solutions to social and environmental justice issues.

• **In Europe**, where in some countries community garden models span back nearly 200 years, research on allotment gardens has shown community development, ecologic and health impacts across multiple generations.
Map of community gardens in Madison and Dane County, 2013
Source: Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc.
Isthmus Gardens

- **Brittingham.** The Brittingham Community Garden is located in Brittingham Park next to the playground between the Park View Apartments and the bike path. 28 plots are 10x20 feet each.
- **Reynolds.** 634 East Mifflin Street, between Blount and Blair Streets. Reynolds Homestead Community Garden is a very small garden with twenty-six 8'x10' plots, 1 wheelchair-accessible raised bed and strict maintenance rules due to its nestled urban setting.

Northside Gardens

- **Black Hawk Middle School.** 1402 Wyoming Way, behind Black Hawk/Gompers, along Wheeler Road. The Growing Together School and Community Garden at Black Hawk Middle School was a 2011 Project Orange Thumb garden makeover recipient, a collaboration between Fiskars Brands, Inc., Community Action Coalition, Madison Metropolitan School District, and The Home Depot Foundation. The garden provides 18 plots for community gardening and a large children's garden for the students.
- **Lindbergh Elementary.** 4500 Kennedy Road, behind Lindbergh Elementary School. Lindbergh School Community Garden was developed in 2010 and combines 20 10'x20' family plot rental gardens with a school and food pantry garden.
- **Majestic Oaks.** Located in Oak Park Terrace Mobile Home Community. Majestic Oaks Community Garden is a new raised-bed garden located in Oak Park Terrace Mobile Home Community on Madison's northside. The garden's sole purpose is to collectively grow fresh, nutritious produce to supplement the diets of members of their mobile home community. As such, this garden does not offer individual plot rentals.
- **Troy (visit [Troy Gardens on the web])** North of the 500 block of Troy Drive. This is a very large garden with 327 plots, including a no-till organic section.

Eastside Gardens

- **Atwood.** North of Atwood Avenue, along the Isthmus bike path. One of Madison’s oldest community gardens, this garden has 110 garden plots and offers youth programming for the Goodman Community Center
- **East Main.** 2000 through 2100 blocks of East Main Street, along the railroad tracks. There is no coordinator for this garden and gardeners don’t have permission or a lease from the railroad, which owns the land. Neighbors across East Main Street have traditionally gardened the area across from their house, and non-neighbors who want garden space ask permission at houses across from garden sections that seem empty.
- **Eastmorland.** 3501 Hargrove Street (SE corner of Hargrove and Walter Streets). This small garden has 19 plots for neighborhood residents. Due to limited space, those from outside the neighborhood are encouraged to seek plots at larger gardens elsewhere.
- **McCormick.** Located at 702 McCormick Avenue, where McCormick dead-ends into Aberg Avenue. McCormick is a newer garden that began in 2010.
Eastside Gardens, continued

- **Monona United Methodist Church (Monona)**
  606 Nichols Road in Monona. This church-based garden serves as a small community garden as well as a food pantry garden.

- **North Lawn Avenue Garden**
  Located near the intersection of East Johnson and East Washington Ave. on North Lawn Ave. This is a small new garden with just four plots.

- **Reindahl**
  Located at 1818 Portage Road (on the south edge of Reindahl Park). This garden has 200 tilled gardens and 60 no-till plots. Garden registration begins in February for the previous year's gardeners and is open to new gardeners in April.

- **Saint Paul**
  3000 through 3200 blocks of Saint Paul Avenue, along railroad tracks, off Milwaukee Street. This is an organic garden with over 70 garden plots.

- **Saint Stephens Community Garden**
  5700 Pheasant Hill Road in Monona
  This church-based community garden has 29 plots dedicated to community gardening as well as food pantry gardening.

- **Truax**
  Located at 8 Straubel Court, northwest of the intersection of Straubel Street and Rowland Avenue on land adjacent to the East Madison Community Center. This eastside garden offers 30 plots for community members and also includes a children's garden that provides programming for the youth at East Madison Cr.

Southside Gardens

- **All Saints**
  2951 Chapel Valley Road, on the grounds of All Saints Lutheran Church. This garden offers 55 plots for community gardening.

- **Arbor / McDivitt**
  2509 McDivitt Road, on the grounds of Arbor Covenant Church. This garden provides 12 plots for community gardening.

- **Badger Fountain of Life Garden**
  Located in the interior lot at Fountain of Life Family Worship Center, 633 W. Badger Road (the garden is adjacent to the car wash). This garden provides 80 plots for nearby residents, church members and food pantry needs.

- **Baird**
  2200 block of Baird Street, next to CDA housing. This 12 plot garden serves only CDA residents and those living on nearby Baird, Fisher, Taft and Center Streets.

- **Burr Oaks**
  Located between Magnolia Lane and Hackberry Lane on the grounds of Lincoln Elementary School, 909 Sequoia Trail. This community garden combines plot rental gardens with a school garden.

- **Marlborough Park**
  Located in the northwest corner of Marlborough Park, which is immediately south of the beltline, between Seminole Highway and Allied Drive
  This large garden provides over 160 plots with both till and no-till sections.

- **Moorland**
  1133 Moorland Road, just east of Wayland Road, behind the Water Utility Building. This large garden has 150 plots of no-till gardening space.
Southside Gardens, continued

- **Rimrock (Green Gardens)**. 300 block of Englehart Drive, west of Artesian Lane. This garden is mainly a large plot garden due to limited water. Smaller plots are sometimes available.
- **Quann (visit Quann Garden on the web)**. Located at the intersection of Bram and Koster Streets (behind the Alliant Energy Center Coliseum on the south edge of Quann Park, where the bike path meets Bram Street). This is a large, no-till, organic garden that includes the Jessica Bullen Memorial Orchard and Quiet Garden.
- **Southdale Community Garden**. 2609 Country Rose Court. The garden has 20 plots of about 220 sq. ft., two accessible raised beds of 20 sq. ft. each and 10 barrel planters for children. Preference is given to gardeners who are residents of the many nearby apartments.
- **Waunona**. 5000 block of Raywood Road, in Waunona Park, next to the tennis court. This community garden provides 30 plots of gardening space in Waunona Park.

Westside Gardens

- **Bock Community Garden (Middleton)**. Located on Highland Way and Cedar Ridge Road in Middleton. All gardens are organic; garden rental preference is given to Middleton residents. This garden includes plot rental gardens, a new fruit orchard as well as a food pantry garden.
- **Eagle Heights (visit Eagle Heights on the web)**. West of the intersection of Eagle Heights Drive and Lake Mendota Drive. This garden is one of the largest and oldest community gardens in Madison with 535 plots.
- **Hammersley**. Located at 6120 Hammersley Road. This is a newer garden with 20 rental plots in a small park next to Falk Elementary.
- **Gammon (visit Gammon on the web)**. 110 North Gammon Road (on grounds of Church of the Living Christ Church) This small 30-plot garden is a great example of a diverse community garden serving many refugees/immigrants.
- **Meadowood**. Located on the corner of Leland Drive and Thrush Lane in Meadowood Park. Meadowood Community Garden is located in a small park and has 28 plots and regular youth programming.
- **Meadowood Baptist Church**. 2817 Prairie Road, on the grounds of Meadowood Baptist Church. Founded in 2010, this garden includes 9 plot rental gardens as well as a food pantry garden.
- **Middleton Hills**. High Road and Apprentice Place. This garden provides 50 garden plots for residents of Middleton Hills.
- **Middleton Outreach Ministries Food Pantry and Community Garden**
  Located on Evergreen road between Fir Land and Pleasant View Road (next to MOM Food Pantry in Middleton's Industrial Park) The garden is approximately ¼ acre, and most of the land is dedicated to growing food for MOM's food pantry. 20'x20' garden plots are available at no cost to those who are clients of the Middleton Outreach Ministry Food Pantry.
- **Midvale School and Community Garden** (visit Midvale Garden on the web). 502 Caromar Drive. This combination garden offers 26 10'x10' plots for the community as well as a large children’s garden for the students of Midvale Elementary.
Westside Gardens, continued

- **Old Sauk.** East of 700 block of North Westfield Road, 150 feet south of Harvest Hill Road. This garden is located on grounds of Madison Christian Community Church, a partnership of Community of Hope UCC and Advent Lutheran Churches. This garden serves over 50 families as well as a vibrant youth gardening program in collaboration with the Lussier Community Education Center at Wexford Ridge.
- **Prairie Hills.** Located in Lucy-Lincoln Heistand Park, north of Raymond Road, east of Frisch Road and west of Prairie Road. This large community garden offers 65 plots for gardening.
- **Sheboygan Avenue.** 4800 block of Sheboygan Avenue, between Hill Farms State Office Building and the Red Cross, near Segoe Road. This vibrant community garden has nearly 90 families gardening on 60 plots.
- **Shorewood Hills.** Located north of Shorewood Hills Pool and south of the intersection of Harvard Dr. and Yale Rd. This garden offers 64 plots for the residents of Shorewood Hills.
- **Terra Grower Farm.** Terra Grower Farm is a 100-year old family farm located approximately 1 mile north of Middleton on Pheasant Branch Road. The owners would like to offer garden plots to interested community gardeners.
- **University Housing.** Northeast of Shady Lane and northwest of west edge of Bowdoin Road.
- **Cottage Grove.** 229 North Main Street, Cottage Grove. This community garden is located on the grounds of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church and offers 40 garden plots.
- **Cross Plains Community Garden.** Located in the middle of Cross Plains on Park Street directly across from the Cross Plains post office.
- **Oregon.** This community garden is located on the grounds of Peoples United Methodist Church, 103 N. Alpine Parkway, and offers 16 garden plots.
- **Stoughton.** This organic community garden is located on the grounds of Stoughton United Methodist Church at 525 Lincoln Avenue.
- **Sun Prairie.** Located on Linnerud Drive, between the Library and Aquatic Center
This organic community garden is sponsored by the City of Sun Prairie Public Works Department and has 162 garden plots available to be reserved by City of Sun Prairie residents only.
References


Ratcliffe et al. The Effects of School Garden Experiences on Middle School-Aged Students’ Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors Associated With Vegetable Consumption *Health Promot Pract January 2011* 12: 36-43.


