Seeds for Change: Creative Urban Gardens and Edible Parks

Presentation by Tori Kjer
Presentation Overview

• Overview of The Trust for Public Land

• Garden Projects

• Logistics and key elements of establishing a project
The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.
• National non-profit
(46 states, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands)
• 40 years of work
• Five primary conservation initiatives
Since 1972 over 2.2 million acres protected
FMV of land protected $4.6 billion
Only national conservation organization that also builds parks and gardens
Martis Valley near Truckee, California
Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo County, California
White Rock Lake near Truckee, California
Kathadin Lake (head of The Appalachian Trail), Maine
9th Street Community Garden 1979
Community Gardens
Bay Area Program

• Visitacion Valley

• Eco Village

• Canal Community Garden
Visitacion Valley Greenway: San Francisco
Community Garden

Project Details
• 10,000 SF
• Public Right-of-Way
• Completed in June 2008
• $530K

Community partners included:
• The Friends of Visitacion Valley
• San Francisco Park and Recreation
Visitacion Valley Community Garden, SF
Visitacion Valley Greenway, San Francisco
Eco-Village Farm Center, Richmond, CA

- 6 acres
- Coastal Conservancy provided funding
- TPL acquired
- Urban environmental education program
Inner-city youth have positive experience

“Farms teach that everything is connected, choices you make, or the environment you live in.”
Canal Community Garden
Canal Community Garden

Project Details

- Outreach 2008
- Budget $630K
- Will open Summer 2012
- City of San Rafael property
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Project Elements

- 92 garden beds
- Storage shed
- Greenhouse
- Outdoor education center
- Seating
- Raised ADA beds
- Bike parking
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Project Partners

Country Supervisor:
Active in raising money and awareness

Non-profit partner:
Canal Alliance outreach, design and fund-raising

Community gardeners:
Input on the design of the garden

The Trust for Public Land:
Fundraising, coordination, outreach, design and construction
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Getting it done!

• Funding
• Community outreach
• Partnerships
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Funding

- Grants (public and private)
- In-kind donations
Community Process and Planning: Outreach

Setting the tone and developing support for the project – local ownership

• Use variety of outreach methods
• Host meetings of different types and at different times
• Hold meetings at the site
• Use creative methods to generate input – photos, voting with dots
• Make sure the meetings are comfortable and accessible – have translation available
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Community Process and Planning: Design

*Identify and understand the practical issues*

- Land tenure
- Maintenance
- Permits and building codes
- Water: location and who pays
- Storage
- Budget
Community Process and Planning: Design

*Design – Meeting the needs of the community*

- Work closely with gardeners, they are the ones who will be working the soil
- Listen, they know the land and what they need
- Accessibility, consider raised beds for use with wheelchairs and seniors
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Partnerships and Garden Leadership

- Identifying need for and develop legal agreements early
- Public agency support with permitting and other requirements
- Have a local champion – community resident or non-profit
- Maintenance – who will maintain the site
- Full suite of partners (public, non-profit, community)
- Governance structure of the garden
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Conclusion and Lessons Learned

• Planning: maintenance, long term plans, budget

• Understanding stakeholders

• Partnerships

• Community support from beginning

• Patience
The Trust for Public Land
www.tpl.org

Tori Kjer
Senior Program Manager
Parks for People, Los Angeles
323-223-0441 ext. 11
tori.kjer@tpl.org