

HAMILTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING PROJECT PROPOSAL

2017



Presented By: Kelia Ray

kelia.ray@spsmail.cuny.edu

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Mission and Goals

The Mission of this 2017 Spring Garden Project is to build a sustainable community garden to enhance community appeal and healthy living in New York City. A plot of land has been selected to host a community garden, and must now invite interested participants to help plant, grow and harvest the necessary fruits, vegetables, vitamins and nutrients they need to stay healthy into their diets. The purpose of this project is to increase access to fresh, healthy food and to providing safe green spaces where youth can play in Hamilton Height, New York. To begin we will: discuss whether a community garden will benefit the Hamilton Heights community; holding regular meetings to collaborate on ideas and goals. Develop an action plan to plant, grow, and sell the produce to families in the neighborhood. At the outcome of this project neighborhood residents will see: improved quality of life, community development, a beautified neighborhood producing nutritious food, reduction in family food budgets, opportunities for recreation and exercise, family activity, and increased horticultural education.

Identify Resources

Forming local partnerships is an excellent way to leverage resources and gain access to needed materials, tools, funding, volunteers, and technical support. Reaching out to local vendors for sponsorship will help raise funds for initial start up costs and to maintain gardening practices. The long-term success of the community garden will depend a great deal on relationships with partners. The finance committee will contact local vendors in the neighborhood to help with the following gardening supplies.

- Approximately 80% of community gardens in NYC grow food.
- 43% of community gardens in NYC partner with at least one local school.

Tools	Quantity	Cost	Total
6 shovels	6	\$15	\$90
6 hoes	6	\$15	\$90
6 other tools	6	\$15	\$90
1 wheelbarrow	1	\$70	\$70
Irrigation Equipment	800 ft. sprinklers	\$750	\$750
Compost Delivery	1 truckload	\$850	\$850
Tiller/equipment rental		\$200	\$200
Shed	1	\$500 (varies)	\$500
Portapotty	5 months	\$90/month	\$450
Total			\$3,090

It's time to design the garden to fit the needs of the community it serves. Before planting, it is important to research the history and past uses of the chosen land site. Consult with the NY state environmental agency, or local health department to learn how to take a soil sample to determine which plants will thrive in the Northeast part of the country. The quality of the soil will have an effect on the design of the garden. Incorporate sustainable gardening techniques such as: using native plants, composting, mulching, using water wisely or installing a rain barrel.



Get Growing

Start gardening and implementing the community garden program. Once the project is up and running, reach out to local new media for coverage. Gain greater community support by welcoming visitors and sharing updates on how the neighborhood is benefiting from the garden. Requesting feedback and planning ahead will allow the garden to continue to grow for seasons to come.

One program designed to bring in revenue for annual garden maintenance, as well as neighborhood teenagers is called the Truck Farm. A 2007 Dodge Ram pick-up truck travels to “Food Desert” communities to introduce gardening and sell local produce. All sorts of vegetables and herbs can grow in the bed of the Truck Farm during the growing season. The truck can generate income with visits to local events, as well as city farmers markets.



Site Location

The land in between 150-151st streets and St. Nicholas Ave hosts an available land plot, close to three elementary schools and a city college. The short plat frontage and depth are 132.00Ft, valued at \$28,000.00. According to the food workers union, only 550 supermarkets remain in the city, and 750,000 people live more than five blocks from a supermarket. The study estimated that three million New Yorkers live in zones considered “Food Deserts” (communities characterized by not enough supermarkets). Amanda Burden, the city’s planning director, said “People in low-income neighborhoods spend their food budget at pharmacies where there is no fresh produce”. Hamilton Heights, New York is located in a “Food Desert” zone.

This location receives at least six hours of direct sunlight per day with easy access to water and proper drainage. The landowner has agreed to donate the fees for water, sewage, and liability insurance for the first tax year. Annual sponsorship of \$5000.00 is required per year. Fundraising and sponsorship efforts will be required to supplement the proceeds of all seasonal sales.

Hamilton Heights is located in a NYC food desert zone.



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