

CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY GARDENS FACT SHEET

Office

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Primary Mission

Capital District Community Gardens' mission is to educate and engage the community in organic gardening and urban revitalization for the benefit of the Region and the health of its citizens. We connect gardeners and the public to healthy, fresh affordable fruits and vegetables, while creating green space and building community.

Founded

1972 as a project of Garden Way. Incorporated as a private non-profit organization in 1975.

Management Team

Amy Klein, Executive Director
Sharon DiLorenzo, Program Manager
Doug Burns, Board of Trustees President

Staff

Sixteen

Operating Budget

Approximately \$500,000

Programs

Community gardens, mobile produce market, urban landscaping, street tree planting, and horticulture and nutrition education

Garden Locations

More than 48 gardens in Albany, Cohoes, Latham, North Greenbush, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Troy

Participating Gardeners

3,300

Special Initiatives

Healthy Heart Initiative in Rensselaer County in partnership with the New York State Department of Health; Squash Hunger Program to encourage gardeners throughout Capital Region to plant an extra row of food for the hungry; and "Know-to-Grow" educational series on gardening and healthy living

CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY GARDENS LOCATIONS

A & V Garden – 9 plots, on 9th Street in Troy
Arthur T. Scott Memorial – 11 plots on the corner of Plum & Franklin streets, partnership with Albany Housing Authority, in Albany
Chuck Shoudy Memorial – 15 plots, bordering Albany’s Lincoln Park
Corliss Park – 32 plots, adjacent to a large public housing project, in North Troy
Craig & Wylie – 19 plots, located on Hamilton Hill, adjacent to I-890, in Schenectady
Culter Avenue – 13 plots, on the corner of Culter and Sixth Avenue in Schenectady’s Mont Pleasant neighborhood
Dana Avenue – 12 plots, just off New Scotland Avenue, near Albany’s Washington Park
Douw Street- Seven plots, tucked between the Hudson River and River Street, in North Central Troy
Downtown Troy – Nine plots, located on Fifth Avenue just off Ferry Street
Edward Street – 15 plots, just off Vliet Street in Cohoes
Eighth Street – 15 plots, just off Route 7 in Troy
Eleventh & Eagle Streets – 16 plots, near Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy
Elfrieda Textores Memorial Garden – 11 plots, on corner of Third Avenue and Elizabeth Street in Albany’s South End
Father Flannigans Farm – 11 plots, on Fifth Avenue in Troy
Garland Court 12 plots, just off Mount Hope Drive in South End of Albany
Hartman Road – 47 plots, on the grounds of the Albany Municipal Golf Course, in Albany
Hawk & Clinton – 10 plots, in Albany
Hill Street – 10 plots, next to Troy’s Prospect Park
Hudson Avenue– 19 plots, located in Albany’s Center Square neighborhood
Hulett Street – 12 plots, between Albany and Hamilton Streets, in Schenectady
Knickerbacker Park – 13 plots, on 103rd Street in North Troy
Leonard Place – 20 plots, next to Hackett Middle School, just off Delaware Avenue, in Albany
Lincoln Park – 51 plots, in Albany at Eagle, Philip, & Warren Streets
Livingston Avenue – 55 plots, behind Tivoli Park Apartments in Albany’s Arbor Hill
MountainView – Eight plots, at the Mountain View Apartments on Pollack Road in Latham
Mumford Street – 21 plots, located on the corner of Mumford and Van Voast Streets, in Schenectady
Myrtle & Irving – 17 plots, situated on a terraced hillside between Irving and Myrtle Streets, in Albany
Ninth Street – 10 plots, located in Troy’s North Central neighborhood
Normanskill Farm – 57 plots, located just off Delaware Ave on the banks of Albany’s Normanskill Creek
Orange Squeezers – 11 plots, on Orange Street, in Albany
Paul’s Place – 9 plots, on the corner of Havermans and Kennedy streets in Troy
Pearl Street – Seven plots, on the corner South Pearl and Schuyler streets, in Albany
Rensselaer Family Farm – 10 plots, on Fifth and Fowler streets in the City of Rensselaer
Ridgefield Park – 42 plots, in Albany bordering the Pine Hills neighborhood
Sam Yanni Memorial – 42 plots, on 3rd Street (just off N. Pearl Street) in North Albany
Sand – 26 plots, on Frisbee Avenue in Albany’s South End
Second Street – Seven plots, in South Troy
State Office Campus – Eight plots, in the State Campus just off Western Avenue in Albany
Steinmetz Homes – 30 plots, two sites on Doherty and Tremont in Steinmetz Housing Complex, in Schenectady
Swift & Seventh – 11 plots, located across from Troy’s North Central Little League field
Tech Park – Seven plots, in North Greenbush
Third Street – 19 plots, located in Albany’s Arbor Hill
Vale Neighborhood – Six plots, on Barney Street between Nott Terrace and Close Street, in Schenectady
Vanderheyden & Fifth – Eight plots, in Troy
Wabash Avenue – 10 plots, on Wasbash Avenue in Schenectady’s Bellevue Neighborhood
Westland Hills Garden – 25 plots, near Central Avenue, in Albany

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CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY GARDENS PROFILE

Capital District Community Gardens (CDCG) is a private non-profit organization offering gardening and urban revitalization programs to residents in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties. Incorporated in 1975, the organization has more than 30 years of service to the Capital Region.

Based in Troy, N.Y., the organization was started as a community service project by Garden Way, the defunct manufacturer of Troy-Bilt lawn and garden equipment. CDCG's mission was then, and is today, to improve the daily lives of Capital Region urbanites through community gardening and beautifying inner-city areas through landscaping and street tree programs.

With a staff of sixteen, plus interns and volunteers, the organization has been housed in eight different offices, with space expanding to keep pace with broader programs and associated staff. It is governed by a board of directors. Funding for the organization's \$500,000 budget comes from a variety of sources, including grants, government partnerships, fee-for-service and fundraising.

The Gardens

Approximately 3,300 gardeners participate in the organization's 48 cooperative food gardens. The gardens cover 15 acres of land, a majority of which was previously vacant land, that include more than 816 individual garden plots. The 300-600 square foot garden plots can yield more than \$1,500 worth of produce per growing season. CDCG provides the land, free seeds and seedlings, tools, information resources, staff support, gardening and nutrition education opportunities, and management to participating gardeners.

Street Tree Planting & Urban Greening

CDCG began planting ornamental trees in the City of Troy in 1989. Working with local municipalities and nonprofit organizations, the organization has planted more than 2,000 trees on residential and commercial properties. Tree plantings occur in the spring and autumn with volunteers from the community.

Over the years, CDCG has designed and consulted on dozens of projects in the Capital Region. These include landscaping of many urban playgrounds, parks and public housing sites.

Other Programs

CDCG has supported a number of local food pantry hunger projects with technical assistance and coordination. The organization launched the Squash Hunger Program in 2004 to encourage the community to donate extra produce to help fight hunger in the Capital Region. The same year CDCG launched a program called "Gardening is Synonymous with Health," an initiative supported by the New York State Department of Health's Healthy Heart Program to encourage residents in Rensselaer County to grow their own produce to improve their nutrition.

In 2003, CDCG received the Harry Chapman Award for Self Reliance.

The organization is in the process of planning for the creation of an urban horticultural education and job training center where residents of all ages will be taught how to grow and market food healthy fresh food. The project will take place on two acres of inner-city land and will include urban farming, high-tech green houses and a building that demonstrates green technologies for energy efficiency.

For additional information on the organization, visit www.cdcg.org.

AMY KLEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With 20 years of experience in nonprofit management, Amy Klein, executive director of Capital District Community Gardens (CDCG), is responsible for managing all aspects of the organization, including program development, planning, project implementation, fundraising, financial matters and public relations.

Under her direction, the organization has thrived. Since joining the organization in 1996, she has dedicated her efforts to expanding the organization's programming and geographic reach. As a result, the organization has grown from 12 gardens to more than 40 — helping more than 750 families — and expanded into Albany and Schenectady Counties as well as into other parts of Rensselaer County.

Klein has forged strong relationships with local governments and creatively used public space for community gardening activities. In 2004, CDCG launched a program called "Gardening is Synonymous with Health," an initiative supported by the New York State Department of Health's Healthy Heart Program to encourage residents in Rensselaer County to grow their own produce to improve their nutrition.

Under her leadership, CDCG received the Harry Chapman Award for Self Reliance in 2003. In addition, the organization took its first critical step in launching the planning process for its education center by securing a \$15,000 matching grant from the Bender Family Foundation.

Prior to joining CDCG, Klein was the acting executive director of Environmental Advocates in Albany, NY. She also served as the director of membership and marketing for People for the American Way in Washington, D.C.

Committed to the revitalization of downtown Troy, she serves on the board of Historic Troy 2020 and as a commissioner on the Troy Waterfront Commission. Klein is highly active in her synagogue and is Second Vice-President of Ohav Shalom. Prior to becoming a Vice-President, she co-chaired Ohav Shalom's board of education.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics & Government from American University.

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