



WALK ON

Small, Consistent Steps Forward To a Greener, Healthier World

After this organization was incorporated as The Friends of Troy Gardens in late 2001, some well-meaning advisors suggested we would be more efficient, and things would be easier, if instead of trying to do everything—run an organic CSA farm; engage volunteers in urban natural lands stewardship; offer community garden plots to a diverse constituency; create a vibrant Kids' Gardening Program; maintain an open, collaborative process; and teach others to do what we were doing—we should pick just one of those areas and concentrate on that.

We didn't buy it. From the beginning, people wanted Troy Gardens to contain all these endeavors. The whole thing was what we were after, not one piece over another. That old advice was right about two things, though. It hasn't been efficient, because openness and collaboration takes longer than top-down authority. And it hasn't been easy, because diligently tackling a complex task is never easy.

But there has always been a way forward—to take things one step at a time constantly; and that's how we've done it. Eventually we developed a knack for success. We began to grow beyond the boundaries of Troy Gardens, and we changed our name to Community GroundWorks to reflect our aspiration to bring our vision of connecting people to nature and healthy food to a broader arena. By creating a learning community at Troy Gardens, we've exported our success to many other places, including school gardens and new small scale organic farms in our area.

Not to mention the impact this model project has had nationally and internationally. That's right—Community GroundWorks attracts notice because what we're doing is exactly what our beleaguered world is gasping for at this crucial time in history: food that satisfies body and soul; love and care for nature where we live; teaching the skills of cultivation and stewardship to people of all ages. And all of this practiced within a collaborative community process that respects the voice of every participant.

Our secret is no secret. None of this could or can happen without the financial support of individuals. As you read this Gazette and discover the wonderful things we've accomplished this year, you may find that you support our work intellectually and emotionally. We also need your financial support. We're doing what the world needs, and we need your help to walk on into a greener, healthier future.



Apple pressing at Troy Community Gardens Harvest Day Celebration



Lush learning in Troy Kids Gardening Program



Practicing organic urban agriculture at Troy Farm

DIRECTOR'S TAKE

2013 has been a time of many changes for Community GroundWorks. This year we also had a change in leadership, when I started as Executive Director in July. Change is always hard, even as it creates opportunity, and I'm excited to be a part of such a committed group of staff, board, volunteers, interns, and community members.



Karen von Huene,
Executive Director

The northside community and other stakeholders—collaborators, funders, CSA members, gardeners, neighbors, volunteers and interns—are the strong foundation of Community GroundWorks. The resources, passion, and commitment of the community to the success of CGW are fine examples of synergy: what we create together is greater than the sum of our individual selves. And we all get stronger the more we work together.

As I've been meeting folks and asking questions, I'm finding that lots of people have thoughts about how CGW fits into the community and what we should be doing. In some cases there is confusion about what CGW has to do with Troy Gardens, and vice versa. CGW is the nonprofit agency that stewards the land and runs programs at Troy Gardens and elsewhere; Troy

Gardens is the flagship project of CGW.

During the off season our staff and the board of directors will be asking some of our stakeholders to sit down and help us brainstorm gaps, needs, and ideas for direction over the next few years. Involving stakeholders will help inform our planning process and formulate a basis for sustainability and focus.



Justin Markofski, Troy Farm
Crew Leader



Growing Food. Growing Minds. Together

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Troy Gardens is
located on the 500
block of Troy Drive on
Madison's Northside.



HOW TO BUILD AN EARTH OVEN IN A KIDS' GARDEN

First, start a Kids' Garden. Invite many, many children to participate. It's easy to do in a city. Through collaboration, hard work, getting other people to help you, and doing a lot of it yourself, keep making the garden better every year. That's what Community GroundWorks has done at Troy Kids' Garden.

Pretty soon ten years will have gone by and your Kids' Garden will be awesome. Then, build an earth oven. You'll use it to make garden vegetable pizzas to share with everyone who helped.

Here's how we did it at Troy Kids' Garden this year:

We used 32 beer bottles as an insulating layer between the foundation and oven floor.

Construction of the earth oven took us, kids and adults, five weeks.

The oven was made from a mixture of sand, straw, water, and clay that we mixed with our feet.

Sixteen adult volunteers and over 100 kids helped with construction.

The oven takes 3 hours to heat up to its maximum temperature of about 600 degrees.

One pizza takes about 6 minutes to cook in the oven.



Adults and children are needed to pat the mud sufficiently smooth when making the interior of an earth oven in a Kids' Garden.

Our earth oven was inaugurated on October 14th at a GROW (Grass Roots Outdoor Wonder) Happy Hour event. The GROW Coalition of Greater Madison promotes the benefits of discovery and wonder in learning through meaningful outdoor experiences. The event was attended by over 30 adults and 15 kids. Thirty-five delicious garden vegetable pizzas were cooked in two hours.

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URBAN NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

United Way Brings Volunteers

Each year teams of people from various local businesses volunteer at United Way Days of Caring projects. Teams choose from projects at a variety of local non-profit organizations across many social issues. This year, Troy Gardens Natural Areas was selected as one of the project areas.

A group of thirty people can prune the entire Edible Woodland, thin sumac, mulch trails and water new plantings in just four hours. All of the trails in the Maple Woodland were lined with branches in thirty minutes. With smaller groups these tasks are often left unfinished, which does not give volunteers the opportunity to see a project from beginning to end.

One group, from CUNA Mutual, snuck off during a water break to purchase new buckets and tarps which have been used by every volunteer group since the donation. Another group, from Fiskars, gave advice on tools and are donating items for future employees and volunteers to use.

Not only do volunteers leave knowing that they helped a community program, they leave with knowledge about invasive species, plant life and how to care for natural areas. Upon learning how to identify wild parsnip (a plant that can cause blistering when touched), one volunteer exclaimed that it was growing behind his children's playset!

Many of the volunteers had never been to Troy Gardens before. They enjoyed looking at the community gardeners' plots, the organic farm, kids' garden and the biodiversity in the natural areas. Larry, from Strang Inc., was not familiar with the area prior to volunteering but now enjoys walking his dog throughout the grounds. Troy Gardens is open to the public from dawn to dusk every day for fun, relaxation—and volunteering.



Volunteers from United Way Days of Caring loading weeds from the Edible Landscape at Troy Gardens.

Grant Will Help Restore Maple Woodland

We recently received a grant from the John C. Bock Foundation to assist in restoring the Sugar Maple Woodland at Troy Gardens.

The grant will support restoration work and educational events over the next two years. Next spring, we'll hire a team of arborists and interns to perform specialized restoration work that our Natural Areas Stewards are unable to tackle on their own, including removal of select ash trees (in anticipation of the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer). In late summer, we'll hire a portable sawmill operator to mill our trees into lumber onsite, to be used in upcoming construction projects at Troy Gardens. Finally, in spring 2015, we'll bolster the diversity of the maple woodland by planting a variety of ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.

Over the course of the project, we'll be inviting the public to a series of education events on the topics of small-scale woodland management, ecological diversity, and urban wood reuse.

The Urban Natural Areas program at Community GroundWorks is currently supported by an Urban Forestry grant from the Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources, and a Forestry Education grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

CGW's Urban Natural Areas Program's reach is expanding beyond the landscape at Troy Gardens. For the past several years, we have been actively involved in Emerald Ash Borer education and outreach. Last year we hosted an Urban Forestry Summit for nonprofits in South Central Wisconsin. As a result, participants created a new network, the Wisconsin Urban Forest Friends (WUFF). WUFF connects individuals and organizations invested in the health and future of our urban trees, in order to provide tools and knowledge to build a healthy, sustainable urban forest community.



TROY COMMUNITY FARM BY THE NUMBERS

By *Jake Hoeksema, Troy Community Farm Director*

5: Acres at Troy Farm

3.75: Tillable acres

0.83: Acres we left fallow this year, to let the soil rejuvenate

2.92: Acres we actually grew food on this year

196: Families that were regularly fed from those acres

13: Interns who worked tirelessly (12 to 20 hours per week)

11: Worker shares who helped them (4 hours per week)

4: Community GroundWorks staff who tried to make sure we weren't forgetting anything

Zillions: Flea beetles this spring

12: Sit-down intern lectures we taught

8000: Garlic cloves we set aside as seed for next year's crop

938.75: Pounds of broccoli we harvested this year

6652: Summer squashes we harvested this year (sorry about that!)

6000: Beautiful onions we grew

1648.75: Pounds of beans we picked one by one

7: Days per week that our sprout operation requires attention

16: Times we had to wade into the mud and push a truck out

41.5: Hours we used the tractor this year

0: Times we used any kind of sprays or black plastic

56: Different vegetable crops we grew

268: Varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers on the farm

8: Times we transplanted lettuce this year

238: Days between seeding and harvesting the leeks we grew

6.022 x 10²³: Weeds that germinated this year

1: Times I saw a fox scurry out of the peas this spring

A Few: Mornings I woke up at 4:30 and wished I could keep sleeping

0: Mornings I woke up at 4:30 and failed to feel grateful that my job is to teach our next crop of farmers and grow quality food for all of you.



Jake Hoeksema, far left, with crew of staff and interns, assessed the growing crops every Monday to determine work priorities for the week.

Teens Inspired, Fed at Goodman Youth Grow Local Farm

Over 70 students in two classes from Madison's East High School participated in a field day at the Goodman Youth Grow Local Farm this September, taking part in hands-on farming and outdoor cooking experiences.

The field trips were designed for East's Urban Agriculture and Advanced Foods classes, respectively. Urban Ag students, who had already learned about compost and soil fertility, helped plant a fall cover crop of oats and peas and harvested greens, herbs, and peppers for a tasty garden salad mix. Advanced Foods students were challenged to prepare three different dishes that utilized seasonal Youth Farm produce, beginning with harvesting the needed ingredients from the farm.

Both classes also had the chance to participate in the Youth Farm's fall honey extraction—an ingredient in some of the dishes prepared that afternoon.

There was a celebratory feeling in the air as a vegetable feast was devoured, and several students expressed interest in future internships at the Youth Farm. One student made a point of thanking his teacher for bringing their class on the trip, because he appreciated seeing the farming process from start to finish.





Growing gardens makes for healthier children. Students across Wisconsin are a testament to this principle. With their hands in the dirt planting, tending, and harvesting, students from Bayfield to Beloit are learning how to grow and enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables.

Community GroundWorks is proud to be collaborating with the University of Wisconsin and other state partners to help even more Wisconsin students experience the joy of time in a school garden. The Wisconsin School Garden Initiative (WSGI) will support early childhood, school, and afterschool gardens across the state. Sites interested in starting a new garden have access to free trainings and resources, while those with established gardens will have a venue to ask questions and share success stories.

Angela Larkins, a second grade teacher at Marshall Early Learning Center, knows a garden will change her students. “They ask me every day if we can go outside. I can’t wait for them to have a garden to experience. The outdoors is our classroom and a garden will become another lesson.”

With support from Community GroundWorks and other local organizations, Larkins’ students will not have to wait long. And with it, her child gardeners will not only be more likely to eat more fruits and vegetables, but they will also show improvements in academic performance, social skills, and behavior when outside of the garden.

“Through WSGI, Community GroundWorks is able to share the wonder and myriad benefits of planting a carrot seed at Troy Kids’ Garden with educators around the state,” said Beth Hanna, Training and Outreach Specialist for Community GroundWorks. “And even better, WSGI brings the stories and inspiration of school garden enthusiasts from around the state, back home. We all win.”

Funding for WSGI was provided by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health from the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

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Collecting prairie seeds (photo provided by Madison Audubon Society)

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LOCAL BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS MAKE GOOD FOOD GARDEN PARTY GREAT!

The Good Food Garden Party, our biggest yearly fundraiser, sported a new concept and new restaurants this time. We kept the silent auction, a fun activity that also boosts our bottom line; but we moved the date from September to the summer solstice. Numerous tables offered choice seating under a huge white tent, where three local restaurants each prepared its own distinctive “mini-entree”. Guests mingled about as they visited each restaurant to pick up their entrees.

The evening began in Troy Kids’ Garden for appetizers: sushi from Restaurant Muramoto and tapas from Cafe Costa Rica.

Next, guests strolled up the community gardens lane to the big lawn for dinner. There they enjoyed entrees from Tornado Steakhouse, Salvatore’s Tomato Pies, and The Coopers Tavern. Dessert was a luscious chocolate strawberry tart, made with locally grown berries by Chocolaterian Cafe.

Flowers for the table decorations were provided by Abundance Acres Wedding Flowers. Volunteers from Troy Community Gardens’ Gardening for Good program arranged all the vases and displays for the Good Food Garden Party.

Music was provided throughout the evening by the Triple Lindy Band. A passing rain shower annointed the event during dessert, but the tent kept everyone dry and the party went on until the sun set on the longest and most delicious night of the year.



SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Absolutely Art | Jennica Skoug |
| Ale Asylum | Jim’s Meat Market |
| Alterra Coffee | Jim Winkle |
| Ancora Coffee | L’Arc-en-Ciel Farm |
| A Woman’s Touch | Manna Café |
| Benvenuto’s Italian Grill | Mariner’s Inn |
| Betty Lou Cruise | Marge Pitts |
| Bleu Mont Dairy | Martha Worcester |
| Bunky’s Café | Nau-ti-gal |
| Burnie’s Rock Shop | Nature’s Bakery |
| Captain Bill’s Restaurant | Cooperative |
| Center for Mindfulness & Justice | Olbrich Botanical Society |
| Century House | Old Sugar Distillery |
| Chazen Museum of Art | Orange Tree Imports |
| Cluck. . .the Chicken Store | Purple Cow Organics |
| Community Pharmacy | Sally K Salon |
| Cress Spring Bakery | Steenbock’s on Orchard |
| Dan Wyatt | Sundance Cinemas |
| Dog Haus | Synergy BodyworksYoga |
| Essen Haus | The Old Fashioned |
| Fiskars | The Sow’s Ear |
| Holly Sledge | Underground Food Collective |
| Lazy Jane’s Café | Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. |
| LaFortuna Pizza | Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra |
| Ian’s Pizza | |

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See a video about Gardening for Good, a program at Troy Community Gardens for people with and without disabilities. Visit communitygroundworks.org today!



**Small gifts
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results.**

Your gift helps us to continue our mission: to grow wholesome and organic food for local tables, to cultivate a diverse learning community, and to nurture a meaningful relationship between people and the land. In fact, our very existence is made possible by donors like you. There are many options for giving.

We rely on you.

Contact us (see page 2) to learn more about all the options for giving. Visit communitygroundworks.org to make a donation today.

*Community GroundWorks pursues its mission
guided by these core values:*

We grow stronger by welcoming diverse experiences, cultures and points of view; and by respecting the integrity of the natural world.

We are committed to collaborative decision-making. We partner with and support the efforts of others who share in the work of building enduring communities.

We share in the collective responsibility to steward and protect the earth's resources. We are committed to ethical business practices that ensure an economically healthy organization.

We are a model for innovative land use, by developing program designs and strategies to grow food and support healthful lifestyles.

We invite people to stray off the path, allowing individuals to define their own experiences and interactions within a shared natural resource.

We believe social justice must include access to nourishing, fresh food, and broad opportunity for people to embrace the natural world in a meaningful way.