

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

### A TEN-YEAR TREK

The nonprofit organization Community GroundWorks (CGW), formerly the Friends of Troy Gardens, is 10 years old this year. Our work has grown beyond the boundaries of our home at Troy Gardens, and we couldn't be prouder.

With this issue, we invite you to take a virtual tour of Troy Gardens and CGW's programs—to see where we came from and what we are now.

The signposts inside match signposts on the land. We invite you to come to Troy Gardens and make the trek on foot whenever you like.

Enjoy the journey, and if you if you like what you see and read, please help us to continue!

### **Welcome Bienvenidos Zoo Siab Txais Tos**

On the 26 acres of Troy Gardens, Community GroundWorks cultivates a shared vision: community gardens; a community-supported organic farm; natural areas stewarded by volunteers; a beautiful, edible landscape open to all. A broad ethic of learning and respect motivates our work.

Favor de reunirse con nosotros. Thov tuaj koom peb. Please join us.

**Growing food. Growing minds.  
Together.**

## URBAN LAND ISN'T LOST FOR FARMING

by Tom Popp, CGW Board of Directors

When what used to be farmland becomes an urban or suburban development, is it "lost" for growing food? Do roads and buildings, cars and houses on the land mean an end to agriculture?

Not necessarily. One of many big ideas I have learned from Community GroundWorks is to think of urban land not as being gone irretrievably from food production, but as land that can still be farmed productively. I'm seeing more and more people wanting to grow as much of their own food as they can, learning how and then doing it, right in the city where they live.

Is "urban farmland" an oxymoron? I don't think so. After all, we speak of urban forests. Although I would strongly prefer to see less sprawl and more farmland preservation, I'm learning that when development does come,

much of that land can still be available for growing food.

Of course, there have always been small kitchen gardens in cities—a few tomato plants here, a fruit tree there. But city dwellers growing most of the food they need—well, to me at least, that's a pretty new thing.

Take Community GroundWorks, now just ten years old. Kids come to Troy Gardens and learn how to grow, prepare and enjoy vegetables. Troy Community Farm, on the same urban land, supplies an organic harvest to some 160 shareholder families. Another 200-plus families grow their own food in Troy Community Gardens, as folks are doing in increasing numbers in many American cities.

Our new business, Madison Farmworks, teaches still more urbanites how to sustain themselves by their own efforts on their own land. And it's all being done on city land which isn't "lost" after all, but is clearly being reclaimed.

To my way of thinking, this heralds a major shift in land use in this country, reflecting the values of sustainability and self-reliance, a need to know where one's food comes from and what's in it, a desire to know on a first-name basis the farmer who grows it, the importance of eating fresh and local food.

I am hugely heartened to be able to think of "developed" land being available for food production again. Community GroundWorks has expanded my view of what is possible, which gives me hope; and for that I am very grateful.



## NOTES FROM OUR DIRECTOR



**Jill Jacklitz, Executive Director**

As you read these pages, picture yourself walking the land at Troy Gardens. Imagine hearing the conversations of gardeners as they take a moment to stretch and discuss their progress with one another; the laughter of children when one of the chickens catches a worm.

Now imagine this land ten years ago—or try to remember. Fifty community gardens sat at the front of the property, and a vast field of weeds filled in behind. Would you have thought—did you think—that creating what we have now was possible? Luckily for all of us, enough neighbors, gardeners, community organizers, professors and even local videographers did; and they

collaborated to make it happen. Troy Gardens—the farm, community gardens, co-housing community and collectively stewarded natural areas remain an all-too-rare example of what is possible for urban land use.

Protecting the possibilities that Troy Gardens inspires is an essential part of our work. Our vision statement pulls us forward: **People cooperate to create and sustain healthy communities by growing food and caring for nature within their urban environments.** We'll succeed only if we join with others who work toward the same vision. Whether that means helping a business transform their lawn into gardens for their employees, working with schools to design meaningful garden-based education programs, or driving our tractor around the state capitol to promote farmland protection, we work toward this vision every day.

As we set out on the next ten years of our journey, we're anchored by a newly articulated set of goals: **to help people live a healthy lifestyle; to empower children and adults to become active stewards of urban natural and agricultural lands; and to continue to grow as an example of economically and environmentally sustainable farming.**

At a recent ceremony at Warner Park Community Center, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz presented us with the 2011 Distinguished Service Award from Public Health Madison & Dane County. We share their goals of supporting healthy bodies and healthy community, and we are humbly gratified by their recognition.

We hope you will join us for our grand 10-year anniversary celebration in September, showcasing the beauty and bounty of the land. Stay tuned for details. In the meantime, there are many other ways to celebrate with us. Join us at the Passive Solar Greenhouse Grand Opening on May 14, the Savor the Summer Community Garden Feast on August 6, or simply come take a walk on the land whenever you like. Troy Gardens is always open.

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



### Staff

**Megan Cain**  
*Program Manager*

**Julie Engel**  
*Troy Farm Crew Leader*

**Elizabeth Gering**  
*Youth Grow Local Coordinator*

**Jake Hoeksema**  
*Troy Farm Assistant Manager*

**Jill Jacklitz**  
*Executive Director*

**Nathan Larson**  
*Education Director*

**Jamie Pratt**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Christie Ralston**  
*Associate Director/Natural Areas Coordinator*

**Claire Strader**  
*Troy Farm Manager*

[www.communitygroundworks.org](http://www.communitygroundworks.org)  
608-240-0409

### Board of Directors

**Gerianne Holzman, President**  
*Troy CSA Farm*

**Anne Pryor, Vice President**  
*Northside Community*

**Martha Worcester, Secretary**  
*Troy Gardens CoHousing Community*

**Holly Sledge, Treasurer**  
*At Large*

**Terrie Anderson**  
*Northside Planning Council*

**Phil Bower**  
*At Large*

**Sam Dennis**  
*UW-Madison*

**Marge Pitts**  
*Learning Community*

**Tom Popp**  
*At Large*

**Gergens Polynice**  
*At Large*

**Samuel Pratsch**  
*At Large*

**Kurt Schneider**  
*Troy Community Gardens*

**Laura Wyatt**  
*Troy Natural Areas*

## TRIBUTE

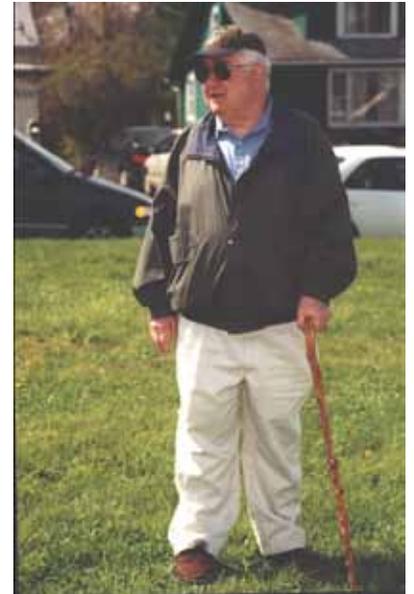
**We hope you discover something to cherish about Troy Gardens. The vision, like the land itself, belongs to all of us.**

That vision began to coalesce in 1995 when this formerly state-owned open space went up for sale. Gardeners, neighbors and supporters, along with various local nonprofit organizations, collaborated to preserve this land by creating an enduring project here, linking affordable housing, urban agriculture, protected natural areas, and life-long education. This collaboration could not have succeeded without the guidance, wisdom and tenacity of Sol Levin, 1932-2002, founder of the Madison Area Community Land Trust (MACLT).

John Bell, a veteran Troy gardener and one of the key volunteers for this endeavor from the very beginning, wrote the following words when Sol passed away in 2002—just after the sale of the land to MACLT was completed and this project and its potential were safeguarded forever.

“More than anyone I’ve known,” John wrote, “Sol Levin had the vision to see what could be built—and the intellect, affability and persistence to lead the task of construction. He told us that if we could come together and commit ourselves to the work that would follow, it could happen. Our garden plots, affordable homes and green space could co-exist at Troy for a long, long time.

“Troy Gardens was the culmination of Sol’s career in affordable housing and community based land use. Though deeply saddened by his absence, we continue now in celebration of the goodness of life and the community that has grown among us.”



**Sol Levin, 1932-2002**

## We Salute Our Supporters!

**Ale Asylum**

**Alliant Energy Foundation**

**American Girl’s Fund for Children**

**Anonymous Fund (a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation)**

**Blooming Prairie Foundation**

**Capital Times Kids Fund**

**Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems**

**Common Future Fund of RSF Social Finance**

**Community Action Coalition**

**Dane County Timebank**

**David S. Bourne Foundation**

**Evjue Foundation**

**Findorff**

**Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier**

**Glass Nickel Pizza Co.**

**Goodland Tree Works**

**Just Coffee**

**The Great Dane**

**Hooper Foundation**

**Huron Consulting Services**

**Hy-Vee**

**Jung Seed**

**Madison Civics Club**

**Madison Community Foundation**

**Madison Gas and Electric**

**Madison Metropolitan School District - Aristos Grant**

**Marling Lumber Company**

**Mendota Garden Club**

**Meriter**

**Northside TownCenter**

**Pierce’s Northside Market**

**Rosenlund Family Foundation**

**Steve’s Wine Beer Spirits**

**The Old Fashioned**

**UW Health**

**Webcrafters-Frautschi Foundation**

**West Side Garden Club**

**Whole Foods Market**

**Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.**

**Williamson Street Cooperative Community Reinvestment Fund**

**Willy Street Co-op**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program**

**Wisconsin Environmental Education Board**

**Wisconsin Partners for SustainAbility**

**ZDA - Ziegler Design Associates**

**Community GroundWorks donors!**



## URBAN FARM

**At home I serve the kind of food I know the story behind. *Michael Pollan***

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is the backbone of Troy Community Farm. In early spring, families purchase a share of the harvest for the year. This way the farm receives a significant portion of its operating expenses up front, when they are needed. Each week, members come to pick up their share of the harvest. They receive a newsletter describing the activities and conditions at the farm that week, plus a recipe featuring the vegetables in their share. Members share in the risks, rewards and drama inherent in farming, establishing a connection with the farm that is based as much on understanding as eating. Troy Community Farm provides over 160 member families a broad variety of organic vegetables from June through October.

Troy Community Farm was established in 2002, with 14 members on a quarter-acre of tilled land at Troy Gardens. Today we have five acres in production, supplying not only CSA members but also the general public at our weekly farm stand, and local groceries with our fresh sprouts and herb business. With the addition of the greenhouse in the front of Troy Gardens, our farm can increase the variety and availability of food it produces. Our primary goal is to be sustainable—from the health of our soil, to our finances, to our connection with the community.

That connection resonates most deeply in our role as teachers. Each year the work at Troy Community Farm is ac-

complished by interns under the direction of our farm managers. Many of our interns go on to work on other farms or start their own. We strive to keep fossil fuel inputs minimal at the farm, utilizing and teaching “hand scale agriculture” for most tasks.

In 2009, Community GroundWorks launched an offshoot business, Madison FarmWorks, which helps local homeowners, businesses and schools to plan, build and maintain vegetable gardens on their properties.



## SEAS OF GRASS

**All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts . . . The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land. *Aldo Leopold***

In a thriving prairie, you can see the blueprint for a healthy community—diverse, interdependent plants and animals linked by their relationships to one another, utilizing the neighborhood’s natural resources without depleting them, navigating between conflict and attraction in a complex web of life designed for all to exist in balance. If you understand prairies, then you know how community grows best.

Fire is the keeper of a prairie. Centuries of evolution have honed this amazing dependence. Prairie plants not only tolerate but benefit from the fast sweep of a wildfire over the land. Trees, shrubs and invasive species that would colonize the prairie are wiped out by flames, which return nutrients to the soil and create a fertile bed for another year of prairie life.

Native Americans understood this relationship and used fire to keep their prairies open and healthy. Today, we use the same strategy—with updated methods—on our prairie.



## EDIBLE LANDSCAPE

**Eating with the fullest pleasure—pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance—is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world. *Wendell Berry***

The earth is abundant and delicious, especially when people take care of it. For proof, look no further than the Edible Woodland at Troy Gardens. Fruit and nut trees, berry bushes and herbs, planted by staff and volunteers in 2004, invite the wanderer to find something good to eat.

Whenever you walk through our Edible Landscape, we invite you to ponder what it means to be fruitful, and our dual responsibility both to steward the earth and to relish the sweet generosity of plants.



## WOODLAND WONDER

**The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands.**

*Aldo Leopold*

A century ago, maple trees were planted along the lane that is the western boundary of Troy Gardens. Over the years, as the maples reached their great maturity, invasive species like buckthorn and garlic mustard colonized the understory—but that isn't the end of the story.

In 2002, the landscape firm Ziegler Design Associates created a management plan for this woodland that called for removing invasive species and replacing them with plants that belong in the understory of maple woodlands: shrubs like American filbert, witch hazel and bladdernut; wildflowers like trillium and Jack-in-the-pulpit. In all, thousands of invasive plants were removed by volunteer stewards led by Steve Ziegler and staff from our organization. More than 3000 indigenous shrubs and flowers were planted.

Most of these flowers are “spring ephemerals.” They succeed in shady woodlands by growing and flowering all at once in the spring, before the trees leaf out and block the sun. When summer comes and the shade returns, spring ephemerals disappear, returning to earth to wait until the next springtime. These splendid plants are gravely threatened by garlic mustard, an invasive species that begins its robust growth before the spring ephemerals, crowding them out before they have a chance to emerge.

Volunteer stewards and Community GroundWorks staff must continue to maintain this woodland forevermore against the ubiquitous invasive species.

All of this land—like the earth itself—requires our diligence or its beauty and biodiversity will prove to be as ephemeral as the spring flowers.



## TOUCHING LIFE



**If we can learn to grow beans, we can learn to share this green earth in peace.**

**Marge Pitts**

In 1995, the State of Wisconsin deemed this property “surplus land” and put it up for sale. That would have resulted in a typical housing development, except for one thing: community gardens had been here for years. The gardeners had too much to lose, and people started talking about it. Saving the community gardens became a catalyst that brought people and organizations together to create a new model of urban land use right here.

In a community garden, individuals or families rent plots to raise their own produce. Usually, the cost is fixed to a sliding scale that makes the gar-

dens affordable to all regardless of income. A patchwork of unique plots emerges each spring, reflecting myriad personal and ethnic differences. Gardeners volunteer to maintain the structure and organization of the whole. It adds up to a culture of tolerance, inventiveness, hard work and pride.

At Troy Community Garden, people grow their own food on land that feels like it belongs to them and they belong to it. Some families pass on a long historical culture of farming to their children here. Others are newly discovering the trials and rewards of gardening. For everyone, community gardening is a way to establish a connection with nature that our ancestors understood well.

Troy Community Garden was the catalyst, and remains the soul of Community GroundWorks.

### —Madison FarmWorks—

— DESIGN • INSTALL • MAINTAIN —

VEGETABLE GARDENS



**We can help you become a better vegetable gardener by teaching you right in your own garden!**

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS

CUSTOM GARDEN PLANS

PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATIONS

ONE-ON-ONE INSTRUCTION IN YOUR GARDEN



communitygroundworks.org



## Dane County Timebank

**Timebank members—donate some of your Timebank Hours to us. We'll use them to pay volunteers for helping out on the land and in our office. It's easy to do online at [www.danecountytimebank.org](http://www.danecountytimebank.org).**

**Open the My Account page and choose the Deduct time box under the My Hours tab. Designate Community GroundWorks as the Service Provider.**

**It's like paying someone else to volunteer!**

# GROWING TOGETHER

**What's most important is that we build our muscles digging. I guess it would be cool to find a treasure too. *Troy Kid Gardener***

Education lies at the heart of Community GroundWorks' mission. Troy Kids' Garden offers children from area schools and community centers a hands-on, outdoor experience. Over the course of the growing season, children participate and learn as seeds become plants, plants become vegetables, and vegetables become something wonderful to eat on the very day you picked them.

We have found that when young people cultivate, prepare and eat their own vegetables, they forge a deeply personal relationship with their garden and the natural world it represents. This relationship inspires children to be adventurous about eating fruits and vegetables—an appetite that will enhance their health and well-being for the rest of their lives.

At Troy Kids' Garden, children acquire a sense of place as well as purpose. They gain profound feelings of confidence and vigor, intimacy and belonging to this green earth that feeds us.



## TROY COMMUNITY FARM GREENHOUSE GRAND OPENING & PLANT SALE

Saturday May 14, 10am-2pm at Troy Gardens

**Tour the greenhouse and learn about its passive solar design**

**Fill your garden with our certified organic bedding plants, including heirloom tomatoes, lettuces, eggplant, kale, and more!**

**How do you want to change the world?**  
Building Social and Economic Equity and a Healthy Environment



Collecting prairie seeds (photo provided by Madison Audubon Society.)

With Community Shares, you decide. Support more than 60 local nonprofits through workplace giving.



608.256.1066

www.communityshares.com



**SAVOR THE SUMMER CELEBRATION**  
**Free Community Feast!**

**Boys & Girls Club Black Star Drum Line**

**Family Fun & Activities**

**Saturday, Aug. 6, 3-7pm at Troy Gardens**



**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 61**

**3601 Memorial Dr., Suite 4  
Madison, WI 53704**



*Mark your calendar!*

**Troy Community  
Gardens  
Annual  
PLANT SALE**

**Sunday, May 22  
9am - 1pm  
In front of  
Pierce's Northside Market**

Heirloom and hybrid  
tomato & pepper plants,  
flowers, herbs and more!

All proceeds benefit Troy Gardens



## **Come out in support of Community Ground- Works!**

**Your gift to Community Ground-  
Works 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.**

**Gifts of Cash:** Send a check to our office or donate  
online at [www.communitygroundworks.org](http://www.communitygroundworks.org). Consider  
giving monthly donations; contact our office to learn  
more!

**Workplace Giving:** We are part of Community Shares'  
workplace giving campaign.

**Community CHIP:** When you shop at the Willy Street  
Co-op, a portion of your "CHIP" will go to Community  
GroundWorks. For more information, visit [www.com-  
munityshares.com](http://www.communityshares.com).

**Stock & Securities:** You can avoid capital gain taxes  
while receiving a tax deduction by giving a gift of stock  
or securities.

**Charitable Gift Annuity:** Make a tax deductible gift  
while receiving a lifetime annual income from the gift.  
You must be 60 or older to establish a charitable gift  
annuity (CGA). We partner with the Madison Commu-  
nity Foundation to offer CGAs.

**Planned Giving:** Bequests are a powerful way to  
leave a lasting legacy. Gifts can take many forms: will  
provisions, life insurance policies, IRAs and qualified  
retirement plans such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans. We  
partner with the Madison Community Foundation to  
provide donors with the opportunity to give back to  
future generations.

## **Our programs are made possible by donors like you.**

Contact Christie Ralston (page 2) to learn more about  
these options for giving. Please use the enclosed reply  
envelope, or visit our website to make your donation  
today.