

Healthy Gardens, Healthy Cities

Naomi Cole & Julia Cox

Urban Gardens:

History

- Part of life for city dwellers throughout history
- Tradition continues in third world countries, but until recently, many modernized societies abandoned practice.
- In the past century, cities have begun to appreciate the value of urban gardens.

Urban Gardens:

a definition



A plot of land allotted to the general public to use for recreational flower growing or the cultivation of food.

Urban Gardens:

benefits

- Provide food, better nutrition
- Create income opportunities
- Encourage recreation
- Less food waste from transport and storage
- Valuable use of vacant land
- Education of urban land values
- Spaces for people to gather.

Berlin:

an innovator in 'Green Urbanism'

- First urban gardens emerged 200 years ago when poverty and hunger were widespread in Germany
- Response to the industrialization, urbanism, and migration in the city that forced large numbers into below-standard living conditions
- The government allotted small garden plots (200 to 400 square meters) to the impoverished population

Berlin:

an innovator in 'Green Urbanism'

- More than 80,000 community gardeners working small plots of land.
- Nearly 15% of Berlin's land use is dedicated to these small horticultural plots.

Berlin:

an innovator in 'Green Urbanism'

As a result of urban gardens, the city has a healthier urban environment and increased biodiversity



Berlin:

an innovator in 'Green Urbanism'



-Example: plan for creation of a Statteil, community farm in Berlin

Berlin:

an innovator in 'Green Urbanism'

- 2000 Berlin Symposium 2000 at the World Conference on the Future of Cities promotes urban gardens as an essential part of urban planning
- Cities around the world are inspired by Berlin model

Milwaukee:

learning by example

- “Milwaukee Urban Gardens” dedicated to protecting, creating and enhancing community gardens and urban space in the city.



Montreal:

learning by example

- Montreal has more municipality sponsored community gardens than in any other city in North America.



Los Angeles:

learning by example

- Los Angeles urban gardens are set in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the country, which preserved land from development threats

New York:

learning by example

-In New York City, Green Thumb, provided more than 1,000 vacant lots to community groups looking to grow their own vegetables.



Urban Gardens:

The Future

- Europe continues to set examples for the future of urban gardens
- Urban gardens factored into master plans for most European cities

Urban Gardens:

Implementation

- Outside of Europe examples have proved positive, but practical implementation is still relatively uncoordinated
- Stakeholders need to understand value of urban gardens
- Integration of urban gardens into cities is essential to promoting green space in cities