

## Completion of First Year 2009

### What is CGRN?

The Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN) provides the resources, education, and connections that Baltimore City's community gardeners and greeners need to be successful. The Parks & People Foundation and University of Maryland Extension are the founding partners of CGRN and Parks & People is the primary sponsor with the support of many partners. Studies show that urban greening and gardening can play a significant role in revitalizing communities and reducing the impacts of poverty. By coordinating the resources of many area organizations and gardeners, and creating a comprehensive and consistent network, CGRN allows citizens to more easily sustain their community's valuable green spaces.

### Accomplishments in 2009

- CGRN provided resources to over **67 community gardens and 19 school gardens** in Baltimore City, reaching over **1,281 adults and 2,378 children**.
- Participants picked up over **2,766 seed packets, 5,146 vegetable and herb seedlings, 8.5 yards of soil and compost, 2,617 perennial plants and bulbs, and 38 flats of annuals** at Give-Away Days.
- In 2009, CGRN partnered with organizations to open **four Community Tool Banks**, providing 37 different types of tools (and over 1,000 tools) for gardeners to use.
- Throughout the 2009 growing season, **132 volunteers** gave over **424 hours of service**.
- The shared calendar included over **189** workdays, workshops, trainings, tree sales, celebrations, volunteer days, films, short courses, conferences, Give-Away Days, and tours for Baltimore's gardeners, led by a variety of organizations and groups throughout the City!
- This year, **194 gardeners** learned and advanced their skills at **23 workshops** and trainings designed specifically for CGRN members.
- **15 partner organizations** promoted communication and connections between gardeners and helped develop a city-wide resource network that supports healthy land and communities.
- In 2009, **27 participants** shared their input and feedback during focus groups located at three sites around the City, **31** shared their thoughts in the end of year strategic Planning Meeting, and **37** took the opportunity to meet and talk with other gardeners during garden Site Shares.
- **Sponsors**, graciously providing financial, material, advertising, and administrative assistance, INCLUDE: Brent and Becky's Bulbs - Cylburn Arboretum - East Coast Organics - Edible Landscapes - Johnny's Seeds - Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund - Landreth Seed Company - Meyer Seed Company - MICA - Potts and Callahan - Pro-Line Rentals - Storey Publishing - Tonal Vision LLC - US Fish and Wildlife Service - Valley View Farms

### Goals for 2010

- Expanded membership now includes private family gardens and gardens in areas of the County.
- Additional levels of support for school gardens include a list of funding resources, professional development, and maintenance calendars.
- CGRN will partner with Sustainable Urban Infrastructures to open Small Batch Community Kitchen at the Mill Valley Garden Center so gardeners can process and sell value-added products.
- CGRN will organize spring meetings and tours that will further connect gardeners in the same neighborhoods, providing opportunities for gardeners to meet and help each other.
- New Community Tool Banks are being planned for the Greater Charles Village and Druid Heights neighborhoods.

### Contact Information

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