

UPPER FELLS POINT COMMUNITY GARDEN



*Funding, technical assistance and training provided by
The Parks & People Foundation*

It would have been easy for residents of the Upper Fells Point neighborhood to accept the demolition of three houses on the 1800 block of Pratt Street in the late 1980s as a symbol of Baltimore's decline. However, like so many other community gardeners in the city, Barbara Moore, of the Upper Fells Point Community Association, saw the unfortunate situation as an opportunity for neighborhood beautification. After clearing the three vacant lots of trash and debris, Moore and other residents of Upper Fells Point created a community garden in the spring of 1990.

Over the years, the Upper Fells Point Community Garden has benefited from the combined efforts of a series of effective garden managers and a core group of long-time residents. Their collective stewardship has led to the long-term success and sustainability of the garden. Most of the community gardeners have put down strong roots in the neighborhood and are directly invested in the vitality of the garden and of the surrounding areas. Even for those not directly involved in the beautification project, the community garden offers aesthetic appeal and is a place for special community-based events, such as Halloween pumpkin carvings for neighborhood children.

In addition, volunteers from the Baltimore Master Gardeners Association have used the garden to teach local children about worm composting and the Baltimore Cooperative Extension provided funds for a tool shed to be installed inside the fenced garden. Overall, the Upper Fells Point Community Garden is a respected space in this area of Baltimore City.

Despite being located on a block that suffers from illegal drug activity, the garden has thrived since it was created in 1990. Self-sufficiency has played a large part in that success. According to Moore, "We have skilled people that are constantly keeping the garden maintained and upgraded."

Increasing gentrification of the neighborhood led to concerns about the future of this garden space. Until now, dedication, a diverse skill set and community respect have all allowed the Upper Fells Point Community Garden to be a tremendous asset to the neighborhood. "We have achieved all of our goals and now it's just a matter of keeping it maintained," the Garden Manager notes. Through continued assistance from several non-profit organizations, residents of the Upper Fells Point neighborhood hope to maintain the garden long into the future.

WHO

Barbara Moore, Garden Manager

WHAT

Upper Fells Point Community Garden

WHERE

1800 block of Pratt Street in Fells Point

WHEN

Active since the spring of 1990

WHY

To create a sense of community pride

