<u>1993 Project Abstract</u> FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1995 This project was supported by the MN Future Resources Fund

TITLE:Urban Community Gardening Program - ContinuationPROGRAM MANAGER:Sue GundersonORGANIZATION:Sustainable Resources CenterLEGAL CITATION:M.L. 1993, Ch. 172, Sec. 14, Subd. 10(u)APPROPRIATION AMT:\$110,000

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The Urban Community Gardening Program sought to rehabilitate marginal and vacant urban open land into productive and beautiful community green space, and to encourage vegetable and fruit gardening in low-income neighborhoods and by under-served populations.

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS

Over 55 new urban community gardens were established with the assistance of the project, serving from 6 to 50 gardeners each. The gardens transformed unused, vacant, and blighted lands into community natural resources, and added value and beauty to neighborhoods ranging in socioeconomic status from St. Paul's Frogtown to Minneapolis' Uptown. Project organizers helped community volunteers achieve their goals through one-to-one assistance, informational printed materials, and telephone referrals; and by providing tools and physical assistance. \$14,450 worth of untreated seed was distributed to low-income gardeners. Technical assistance (in the form of materials, information, or administrative help) was provided to over 50 established gardens throughout the metro area, ensuring that the gardens remained productive and well-maintained. Approximately 600 callers received telephone referral to garden sites. Gardening classes were offered in central locations in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, featuring such topics as basic organic vegetable gardening, cooking with garden produce, seed starting & saving, planting with perennials, growing herbs, composting vegetable and yard wastes, organic home fruit orchard care, freezing, drying, and canning garden produce, and many others. More than 800 residents attended these classes, some of which were held in partnership with the U of M Extension Service, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Community Education, or the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Classes were offered free of charge to encourage participation by low and middle-income residents. The project newsletter mailing list grew to 1400 subscribers from throughout the metro area. Newsletter features included articles and tips on non-chemical vegetable gardening; information on local gardening resources, such as free composting sites; recipes, and updates on local policies affecting community gardening.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

Project staff were regularly invited to make presentations at community and neighborhood forums and meetings where the idea of land reclamation was being considered. The information shared at these meetings often resulted in the implementation of new gardening projects. Interest in starting gardens is growing almost exponentially, and requests for the written guidelines created during this project are used widely. The *Urban Gardener* newsletter (as described above) doubled in numbers of subscribers during the course of this project.

July 1, 1995

LCMR Final Workprogram Update Report

I. Project Title: Urban Community Gardening Program - Continuation

Program Manager: Sue Gunderson Agency Affiliation: Sustainable Resources Center Address: 1916 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403 Phone: (612) 872-3283

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 1993 Chpt. 172, Sect. 14, Subd. 10(u)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$110,000

Balance: \$0

Appropriation Language as drafted 7/27/92: Subd. 10 (u) This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for a contract with the Sustainable Resources Center to provide technical assistance and information to neighborhood based groups, special populations, and municipalities for community gardening, including the rehabilitation of urban open space.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: N/A C. Status of Match Requirement: N/A

II. Narrative: SRC will encourage productive use and rehabilitation of urban open space by promoting community gardening. SRC will provide technical assistance, information, and support to neighborhood based groups, special populations and municipalities. The community gardens established will offer recreational, educational, visual, and tangible (food) benefits to urban gardeners and communities.

III. Statement of Objectives: (1) Rehabilitate urban open space; (2) encourage gardening by special populations and in low-income neighborhoods; (3) maximize community-based urban food production by low-income residents.

IV. Objectives:

A. Title of Objective: Rehabilitate urban open space

A.1. Narrative: Promote conversion of vacant lots and other usable space into long-term or permanent community garden parks by assisting neighborhood and block groups. Provide ongoing technical assistance to existing community gardens to ensure maintenance and maximum productivity. SRC exposts to help establish 6 to 10 new gardens each year.

A.2. Procedures: Within the seven county metropolitan area,SAC will assist potential gardeners with the identification of suitable vacant properties for garden development; will provide telephone information and referral to gardeners seeking garden plots; will make presentations and provide informational materials to neighborhood groups, government agencies, and others to promote community gardening and green space preservation; will research and promote permanent gardens through land trusts or other mechanisms; will publish and distribute a newsletter three times annually; and will provide direct technical and organizational assistance to developing and established community gardens.

A. 3. Budget:

a. Amount budgeted: \$70,000 b. Balance: \$ 0

A.4. Timeline:	7/93	1/94		6/94	1/95	6/95	
Telephone referral Public presentations		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx			xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Newsletter publication	XX	XX	XX	xx	XX	XX	
New site development		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Technical/organization	al						
assistance	XXXXXX	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxx	****	

A.5. Status: New community garden site assistance was provided to the Riverview United Methodist Church/City of Brooklyn Park, East Metro Women's Place/Redeemer Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, the City of Rosemount for a public housing garden project, Anna Sevey/City of Champlin, the Neighborhood House Food Shelf (St. Paul), Freedom Place center for homeless people, Selby Area Gardening Enthusiasts, the Frogtown Artists' Cooperative, Frogtown Future Force garden, Frogtown Family garden, the Rondo Area Gardening Enthusiasts, and the Mounds Park Community garden in St. Paul: to residents of the Shingle Creek neighborhood (Minneapolis), to the transitional housing program at Ascension Place, and to new gardens in the Kingfield, Bryant, Longfellow, Seward (2 sites). Bancroft, Central, Windom Park, Phillips (2 sites), Near North (3 sites, including Oak Park Center, N. 4th St. & 6th Ave. garden, and a major gardening project at the Olson Towne Homes subsidized housing), Lyndale, Como, Marshall Terrace, and Whittier neighborhoods in Minneapolis. among others. Technical assistance was provided to the Soo Line Garden (So. Minneapolis) regarding zoning issues and lease negotiation, to the City of Eden Prairie regarding garden budgeting, to the Ramsey County Correctional Facility to help develop a community garden on marginal prison land, and to the City of Edina regarding garden implementation considerations. Telephone referral and a newsletter announcement were provided to the City of Bloomington to assist in referrals to their new garden. A directory and description of 74 metro-area community gardens was provided to the Science Museum of MN for their Green Street exhibit. Provided locations of all west metro gardens and ideas for revenue-producing garden programs to Hennepin County Works Commission. With representatives of the Minneapolis City Council, the MCDA and the

2

Trust for Public L xamined options for long-term property access and/ nership for gardening. Spons a half-day conference on urban open land permane. Jan. 1994). Provided staffing for foundation of new urban/suburban open space preservation group, which will assist community gardeners and others with land protection. Assisted numerous gardens (over 50) with maintenance (tilling, wood chip and municipal compost provision, design, composting questions, community organizing, publicity, providing liability insurance, troubleshooting, etc.). Published Summer and Fall 1993, Winter and Spring 1994, Holiday 1994, Spring 1995, and Summer 1995 (in press) editions of newsletter, sent to 1400 subscribers. Provided referral to existing community gardens to approximately 600 callers. Made public presentations at the 1994 MN State Horticultural Society community gardening conference, the 1994 National Community Education Association conference, and at numerous neighborhood, civic, religious, and city-sponsored events. Held two urban community garden bus tours in August 1993 and August 1994.

It is clear from the number of community projects assisted that the demand for community gardens and open space in urban and suburban areas continues to increase, and that a larger effort to supply resources and information would be beneficial. Project staff were hard-pressed to satisfy the requests coming in to our office.

A.6. Benefits: Community gardens provide outdoor recreation for diverse populations, significantly enhance the urban environment, and encourage cooperation among residents and neighborhood based organizations.

B. Title of Objective: Encourage gardening by special populations and in low-income neighborhoods

B.1. Narrative: Facilitate community gardening in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods; and by special populations, including ethnic minorities, refugees, seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

B.2. Procedures: Identify and contact target neighborhoods and special populations; sponsor gardening workshops; organize and assist targeted communities in creating gardens. At least one half of the new gardens SRC assists each year will serve special populations as described in the narrative above.

B.3. Budget: a. Amount b. Balance	budgeted: \$32,5 : \$ 0	500			
B.4. Timeline:	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Identify neighborho	ods,speciał pop xxxxxxxxx	ulations, and c	ooperators xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxx	
Sponsor gardening	workshops)	(XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	xx	xxxxxx
Community organiz	ing & technical	assistance			
0		XXXXXXXX	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxx	XXXXXXX
3	•	le la			

B. 5. Status: Partici in the Phillips neighborhood NRP process at reque residents to promote community en development. Connected traditional Native Ame a gardeners from the Dominican Center for Women with staff naturalists at Fort Snelling State Park to coordinate an interpretive demonstration garden, and with staff of the American Indian Center to start a new, on-site garden for the Golden Eagles youth group. Assisted with garden development at the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center. Consulted with Four Winds School about curriculum related grounds plantings. Taught one gardening class to elementary age American Indian children w/MIGIZI Communications. In newsletter, listed garden grant source and a local garden tool supplier for people with a variety of disabilities. Provided consultation to Whittier Coop regarding wheelchair accessible gardens. Led children in the Urban P.L.A.C.E. program on an urban garden "discovery tour." Provided four horticulture classes to students at risk for St. Paul Area Learning Center and the Technology Learning Center. Provided horticulture classes and technical support for gardening exhibits to the youth Projects Club of the Science Museum of MN. Worked with Hmong and African-American gardeners to promote racial integration at north Minneapolis public housing gardens. Taught three gardening classes for Hmong elders, 60 people per class, through the Institute for Education and Advocacy. Assisted African-American men's garden group with site relocation in north Mpls. Worked with Habitat for Humanity to promote sustainable landscapes and raised-bed vegetable gardens as part of a new Habitat-sponsored housing development. Organized meetings of the 100 Markets Initiative, whose members seek to establish urban market gardens and farmer's markets within low-income neighborhoods. Sought and received pass-through funds (\$5800 from the Aveda Corporation) to assist two fledgling youth-run market gardens in the Phillips and Lyndale neighborhoods of Mpls. Provided consultation to HOPE (Houses on Portland Enterprises), an organization which is acquiring homes on Portland Ave. (between Franklin Ave. and 22nd Ave. in Mpls.) for rehabilitation, and which is planning to integrate a community garden into the overall land use plan. Provided technical assistance to a new community garden associated with New Village, an Asian-American apartment building. Held series of youth gardening workdays at American Indian Center's Golden Eagles garden. Sponsored workshops on garden crafts, composting, seed saving, organic plant care, the medicinal properties of plants, no-till gardening, perennial gardening, and square foot gardening.

One procedure which we have changed as a result of this project is to minimize the scheduling of classes during the summer months, during which attendance is quite low. Minnesota gardeners prefer to attend classes during the fall, winter, and early spring.

B. 6. Benefits: Senior citizens, people with disabilities, refugees, and children derive tremendous benefits from gardening. Close proximity to neighborhood garden parks provides enjoyable, accessible recreation and food. People in low-income areas take control of decaying landscapes and transform them into beautiful urban green spaces.

C. Title of Objective: Maximize community-based urban food production by low-income residents.

C. 1. Narrative: Encourage low-income metro-area residents to grow vegetables and fruit trees, and demonstrate how to cook simple, nutritious meals, and how to preserve produce.

10 (u).2 4

C. 2. Procedures: Attain and redistribute vegetable seeds and fruit trees to at least 25 community garden groups; teach intensive gardening techniques; sponsor cooking classes and food preservation demonstrations at times and locations convenient to target populations.

C. 3. Budget:

a. Amount budgeted: \$7,500 b. Balance: \$ 0

7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95		
Distribute vegetable seeds and fruit trees			×	xxxxxxxxxxxx		
Trainings in intensive gardening methods Cooking classes			×	xxxxxxxxxxxxx		
				XXXXX		
lemonstrations		xxxxxxxxxx		XXXXXXX		
	seeds and fruit e gardening me	seeds and fruit trees e gardening methods	e gardening methods	e gardening methods xxxxxxxxxx xx xx xxxxxxxxxx xx xx xx xx		

C. 5. Status: Sponsored classes on freezing and drying garden produce, and on canning tomato products, pickles, and pears during summer 1993. Negotiated a donation of untreated seed for northern climates from a Montana seed company; distributed \$8,500 worth of seed in spring '94, and \$5,950 worth of seed in spring '95. The bulk of the seed distribution went to low-income gardeners. Purchased hard-to-find seed for Asian gardeners for redistribution. Sponsored four workshops on intensive organic vegetable gardening, attended by 75; five workshops on basic organic gardening, attended by 90; two workshops on selecting and starting seeds, attended by 43, and provided numerous small group classes on an as-requested basis.

During summer and fall '94, sponsored workshops on freezing and drying produce, canning fruits and vegetables, cooking for nutrition. Held hands on organic fruit tree care workshops in fall '94 and spring '95 attended by 44. Published garden recipes (including ways to cook, rather than poison, dandelions) in newsletter.

Helped to establish the Franklin Avenue MarketPlace—an organic farmer's market on one of the most impoverished streets in the city. Developed printed recipes for distribution at the Market, featuring simple, nutritious, and very tasty ways to prepare the seasonal vegetables available from week to week. Purchased fruit-bearing trees, vines, and shrubs for Phillips community orchard.

C. 6. Benefits: Small-scale intensive gardening produces significant amounts of food. Low-income families can extend their food budgets by growing their own nutritious vegetables and fruits in the city and by preserving them for year-round use.

V. Evaluation: The project will be evaluated based on the establishment of from 12 to 20 new community gardens, of which at least six shall be in low-income neighborhoods and/or established by special populations such as ethnic minorities, refugees, seniors, children, or people with disabilities. Governmental policy changes which reflect acceptance of long-term urban gardening and green spaces will be tracked. Records of class attendance, seed and tree distribution and success rates will be kept. Model informational materials will be developed for current and future gardener and government use.

VI. Context:

A. Demand by the public to use vacant urban land for green space, food production, and recreation is high. SRC and the MN Horticultural Society have been the only two sources available to provide information, referral and technical assistance to would-be gardeners.

B. The proposed work will provide for a coordinated staff to specialize in assisting urban groups.

C. SRC has been working with urban community gardeners since 1976. Most gardens were located in South Minneapolis. Now gardens are distributed through Minneapolis, St. Paul, and suburban areas. LCMR funding provided important continuity to the program, leading to the establishment of pro-gardening policies in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

VII. Qualifications:

1. Program Manager

a. Sue Gunderson has developed and administered community land programs for six years. Prior to joining SRC, she directed the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program for the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development.

b. Ms. Gunderson is the Associate Director of the Sustainable Resources Center.

2. <u>Cooperators/Other Investigators</u>

a. Mary Morse (Project Coordinator) has provided technical assistance to community gardeners since January 1990. She has experience in urban gardening, community organizing, working with local governments, and training. Community Outreach Coordinator (to be hired) will identify and organize special population gardeners. This staff person will have community organizing experience,gardening abilities, and familiarity with the demographic makeup of the Twin Cities. Contract educators will be fully qualified to teach cooking, gardening, and food preservation classes. Likely cooperators will be MN Extension Service Master Gardeners and Certified Canning Instructors.

b. Ms. Morse is the Urban Lands Program Manager at the Sustainable Resources Center.

VIII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than Jan. 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, Jan. 1, 1995 and a final status report by June 30, 1995.

page 5

10 (u). 3