



Thank you to everyone who helped City Sprouts so much during 2007.

Here's some of what City Sprouts has been doing this year:

The Garden Redesign

With help from UNO volunteers and many others, we finished building the raised beds. We now have 45 raised beds, seven of which are tall beds for wheelchair access.

The pergola is finished, with some nice seats and classy cast metal supports. It provides a lovely outdoor meeting place.

The plantings around the garden are greatly improved.

We had our best year beating back bindweed. Thanks especially to members of the "Order of the Bindweed" who pitched in and pulled weeds.

The Garden

About 25 individuals, families, and groups gardened with us this summer. A half dozen or so were from Orchard Hill and nearby. Friends from all around the city also showed up to garden.

A group of developmentally delayed adults working with Munroe-Meyer Institute at UNMC raised vegetables and flowers with the leadership of board co-secretary Nicole Giron, a horticultural therapist.

Stefanie Jones did a great job heading up the gardening this summer. Deb Holterman got the season started. At the end of the season, Ben Nauslar contributed many hours finishing the raised beds and other projects.

Education & Events

We began holding classes at the house and the garden. Rose Bernstein held a class on raising and using herbs. John Pollack conducted a class on seed saving.

We presented our program and ideas at various events during the year, such as at Countryside Church, Social Justice Sunday at Omaha's First Unitarian Church, and Creighton University's Volunteer Day.

Thanks to all who helped so much with our spring plant sale, and with our August annual Gala at Lauritzen Gardens. Thanks especially to Norita Matt for leading the Gala committee, and to Nicole Giron for leading the spring planting and sale.

The House

Trisha Otto, an interior designer at Purdy and Slack, helped us to develop a beautiful interior design for the house supporting our goals and emphasizing sustainable materials.

With board member Mike Carroll's help and that of many UNO students and staff in the Goodrich Program, the Service Learning program, and ROTC, we made great progress fixing up the house. Eric Dickes completed the plumbing repairs.

In November, gardener and friend of City Sprouts, Terry Fowler moved into the second floor of the house. He is helping to defray the costs of the house and to keep it in order.

Church of the Open Door is holding weekly meetings at the house.

Orchard Hill Neighborhood Association uses the house as community center.

Mike McMahon, Margaret Wilmeth, and Carolyn Rooker presented a beautiful and moving music program at the house in late September.

Our Orchard Hill Neighborhood

In 2006, UNL architecture student Chad Schmeackle drew up innovative plans for more sustainability, energy efficiency, growing areas, bike paths, and co-housing in the neighborhood.

During 2007, we have begun to build relationships with groups around Omaha who can help us to begin to realize these plans.

We helped the neighborhood association and Steve Virgil at the Nebraska Appleseed Center to oppose a new liquor license in Orchard Hill. Steve won an important precedent in the Nebraska Supreme Court on this case.

When the local fast food shop on the corner closed, we made a bid to buy it to set up a storefront that would better serve basic local needs. We were out-bid, and the store is still closed.

City Sprouts 2008 Needs

City Sprouts needs a director. As much of a director as we can get. Paid or volunteer, or both:

So, pledges and donations to City Sprouts will primarily go this year to hiring a director. Thanks to a grant from the Omaha Community Foundation, we have enough funds to pay a director one day a week.

But, we have more work to do than one day will allow. Things that would go better, faster, and more effectively, with a director are:

- Better contact with and involvement in the neighborhood
- Better support for gardeners
- A more ample education program regarding food, gardening, and simple living
- Programs for children and youth
- More scientific and sustainable gardening techniques
- A program of adaptation to climate change in the region
- Finishing the garden redesign with rainwater and gray-water systems
- Installing a windmill for energy and water collection
- Fundraising and grant applications
- Developing the house along the designs developed by Trisha Otto
- Developing the neighborhood along a sustainable, communitarian design, like that of Chad Schmeackle's

- Linking City Sprouts with improved food supply and security in the Orchard Hill and surrounding neighborhoods, by working with the Nebraska Food Co-op, Walnut Hill buying club, Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, and others
- Improving the stability and quantity of City Sprouts' food donations to churches and shelters
- Building service and research relationships with the academic centers in the area
- Building relationships with the WIC program and other health and food related programs

There is a lot of ferment in Omaha these days. We have a real opportunity to build links with public schools, clubs such as Future Farmers of America, the Augustana Lutheran Cornerstone Project, North Omaha Development, 40th Street Neighborhood Association, Omaha by Design, Activate Omaha, Destination Midtown, and the other wonderful community gardening projects in town, such as Gifford Park and the BIG Garden Project.

To succeed at these projects, City Sprouts needs a director!

Thanks to all who helped out this year. Thanks especially to such volunteer groups as UNO, Duschene, Beth El Social Action Day, Opportunity Omaha, Creighton College of Pharmacy, and many others.

Thanks to our funders, too – our many pledged donors, occasional contributors, the Kiewit Foundation, the Omaha Community Foundation, donors of matching funds, sponsors of the Gala, and many others.

And most particular thanks to our steady gardeners who gave of their “state, their strength, and years with care, that after-comers with them might have share.”

Warmest Holiday Regards to All Our Friends from the City Sprouts Board

Becky Anderson, Garden Redesign
 Mary Baluff
 Pamela Jo Berry
 Mike Carroll, UNO Goodrich Program
 Jeannie Dickes, Orchard Hill Neighborhood Association
 Nicole Giron, Board Co-Secretary
 Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Board Co-Secretary

Andrew Jameton, Board Chair
 Euwanda Jennings
 Jennifer Maassen
 Norita Matt, 2007 & 2008 Gala Coordinator
 Jumoke Omojola
 Marsha Sullivan, Board Treasurer

To make a pledge or donation, please use the form at our web site www.omahasprouts.org or mail to:

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Questions: Call Board Chair Andy Jameton at 402-559-4680 or email: ajameton@unmc.edu