

# Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography

Revised and expanded second edition, August 2010





*Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography.*

Revised and updated second edition, August 2010.

Published by Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network

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*The Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network supports and promotes community gardening, and connects community gardeners around Australia. [www.communitygarden.org.au](http://www.communitygarden.org.au)*

## *Why an annotated bibliography?*

The Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network is dedicated to producing resources to promote and support community gardening. We often receive requests from students and researchers looking for information about community gardening, and from community gardeners seeking evidence of the benefits of community gardening to support their submissions and proposals. We hope this publication will meet their needs and encourage and facilitate further research.

The Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network first published *Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography* in early 2008. Community gardening has been the subject of increasing academic and professional attention since then, and this revised and expanded edition includes the latest research and analysis.

## *What's included*

*Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography* includes brief descriptions of guidebooks and manuals, books, Doctoral, Masters and Honours theses, articles in academic and professional journals, and a number of other research-based documents, such as project evaluations and submissions.

In addition, there are brief introductions to sources on key areas that provide additional context and evidence for community gardening: therapeutic horticulture, urban agriculture, organics, food security and permaculture.

The emphasis in this publication is on furthering understanding of community gardening in Australia. Hence we have attempted to be exhaustive in our inclusion of Australian sources.

*Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography* also includes many sources from and about North America and Britain. It doesn't include all published research about British allotments, though it does include a number of articles that raise issues relevant to Australia. The substantial literature on gardening in schools is also omitted, but will hopefully be covered in a future publication.

Sources from or about Australia are marked with 

Publications are listed in chronological order.

# CONTENTS

<b>Guidebooks and Manuals</b> _____	<b>4</b>
<b>Books</b> _____	<b>8</b>
Research and analysis _____	8
History of community gardening _____	10
Stories about community gardens _____	11
<b>Book Chapters</b> _____	<b>13</b>
<b>Theses</b> _____	<b>16</b>
<b>Journal articles and conference papers</b> _____	<b>21</b>
Social impacts and community development _____	21
Health _____	25
Box 1: Restorative gardens and horticultural therapy _____	26
Food security and food policy _____	30
Box 2: Food security _____	31
Urban agriculture _____	32
Box 3: Urban and civic agriculture _____	33
Education _____	34
Politics and social action _____	35
Environment _____	38
Box 5: Organics _____	39
Box 6: Permaculture _____	39
Planning, Urban Design, Place Making _____	41
Economics _____	44
<b>Evaluations, Reports and other Documents....</b> _____	<b>45</b>

# GUIDEBOOKS AND MANUALS<sup>1</sup>

- Jobb, Jamie (1979) *The Complete Book of Community Gardening*. New York: William Morrow and Co.  
One of the earliest US publications. Includes a history of community gardening as well as practical advice.
- Naimark, Susan (Ed.) (1982) *A Handbook of Community Gardening*. Charles Scribner's Sons. 180pp.  
One of the first books on the practice of community gardening. Composed of chapters from several members of Boston Urban Gardeners on the history and practice of community gardening, from the practicalities of finding land and other resources, soils, compost, and water, to land ownership alternatives and local food systems.
- Sommers, Larry (1984) *The Community Garden Book: New Directions for Creating and Managing Neighbourhood Food Gardens in Your Town*. Burlington: Gardens for All/ The National Association for Gardening. 121pp.  
A step-by-step guide to starting community gardens, focusing on forming partnerships with 'sponsoring organisations' such as churches, horticultural groups, community agencies and local councils. Covers budgeting and resource acquisition, getting and keeping land, site design, and soils. Also suggests solutions to perennial problems such as vandalism, pests, effective volunteer management, and dealing with surpluses. Examples from community gardens around the US.
- Abi-Nader, Jeanette, Kendall Dunnigan and Kristen Markley (2001) *Growing Communities Curriculum: Community Building and Organisational Development through Community Gardening*. Philadelphia: The American Community Gardening Association. 352pp.  
A hefty spiral bound volume detailing the ACGA's Growing Communities curriculum, including background information, workshop handouts, and facilitation tips. Workshop outlines cover creating and strengthening community gardening organisations, leadership development, planning, and forming partnerships. Focus is on using community gardens within an assets-based community development framework.

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<sup>1</sup> This section does not include the numerous gardening manuals aimed at allotment holders in the UK and Europe.

Payne, Karen and Deborah Fryman (2001) *Cultivating Community: Principles and Practices for Community Gardening as a Community-Building Tool*. Philadelphia: American Community Gardening Association. 56pp.

Outlines a range of strategies for using community gardens for community organising and development, including nurturing leadership, including families, and 'economic empowerment'. Examples from around the US.

Andrews, Sophie (2001) *The Allotment Handbook: A Guide to Promoting and Protecting Your Site*. Bristol: Eco-logic Books. 108pp.

A handbook with a focus on saving allotments under threat. Includes an overview of allotment history and legislation, ways to revitalise allotments with additional projects, such as community gardens, events, horticultural therapy programs and orchards, and the basics of non-violent direct action if all else fails. Forward by George Monbiot.

Crouch, David, Joe Sempik and Richard Wiltshire (2001) *Growing in the Community: A Good Practice Guide for the Management of Allotments*. London: LGA Publications. 88pp.

Includes sections on the benefits of allotments, and how local authorities can promote and support them, as well as strategies for designing and managing existing and new allotments.

Surls, Rachel (2001) *Community Garden Start-Up Guide*. University of California Cooperative Extension. 9pp.

A basic step-by-step guide to starting a community garden, from gathering people to form a 'garden club' to finding and securing land, and troubleshooting as the garden develops.

✂ Milne, Greg (2003) *The Good Practice Guide For Community Gardens*. Melbourne: Cultivating Community. 40pp.

Australia's first general community gardening manual. Includes practical advice on starting and developing a working group, finding a site, securing resources and funding, garden management, and working with people. Frames community gardens as a form of urban agriculture.

Emerson, Brian (2002) *From Neglected Parcels to Community Gardens: A Handbook*. Salt Lake City: Wasatch Community Gardens. 67pp.

Practical information for starting community gardens, including site assessment, fundraising, and promotion. Includes sample letters to property owners, meeting agendas, budgets, examples of policy documents, and volunteer job descriptions.

✂ Fulton, Claire (2004) *Community Gardening in South Australia: Resource Kit*. Adelaide: Department of Health, Government of South Australia and Community And Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association Inc. 94pp.

Resources for starting new community gardens and developing and maintaining established ones. Outlines benefits of community gardening. Ideas for getting started, involving people

and growing community, garden design, finding resources, garden management, and running workshops and training programs. Includes basic gardening fact sheets.

Zaro-Moore, Kyla, Rina Rossi, Leena Oberthur and Jo Williams (2004) *Twin Cities Community Garden and Urban Greening Resource Guide*. Minneapolis: Twin Cities Greening Coalition. 59pp.

More an alternative phone book than a garden manual, this is an extensive A-Z directory of resources and contacts for community gardeners, on everything from soil remediation services to seed retailers, with practical information on cultivation, fundraising, and starting a new garden.

✂ Thomas, Faith (2008) *Getting Started in Community Gardening*. Sydney: City of Sydney. 77pp.

A comprehensive start-up guide, based on the *Community Gardening in SA Resource Kit*, and ACFCGN start-up guide, covering all the essentials for groups starting out, ongoing management, and social and organisational systems.

✂ Grayson, Russ (2008) *Carss Park Community Garden: Gardeners Guidebook*. Sydney: Carss Park Community Garden, Kogarah Municipal Council and Living Schools. 20pp.

An operations manual, detailing Carss Park's model for garden management and administration. Covers governance, site management, organic gardening basics and safety.

Kirby, Ellen and Elizabeth Peters (Eds) (2008) *Community Gardening*. New York: Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 120pp.

Presents the case for more community gardens and tools for creating them. Includes case studies of a number of different types of urban food garden programs as well as chapters on youth garden programs, therapeutic horticulture, and refugees' gardens. Sections on soil health and safety, bringing community into the garden, and making community gardens more sustainable.

Connell, Liam, Virginie Tassin and Lenka Vodstrcil (2009) *Natopia Community Garden Toolkit*. Melbourne: Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne. 28pp.

A Melbourne-focused guide to starting a community garden on publicly owned land. Covers finding land, garden design for temporary and long-term community gardens, forming partnerships, and funding, with local suggestions for identifying potential stakeholders and supporters.

Corporation for National and Community Service (2009) *Community Gardens Tool Kit*. United States Government. Available at <http://www.serve.gov/toolkits/pdf/comm-gardens.pdf>. 16pp.

On the heels of Michelle Obama's White House kitchen garden, a group of government-sponsored volunteer programs published this online 'toolkit' for using community gardens to produce food in hard economic times. Strong focus on health and increasing fruit and vegetable consumption for low-income households. Frames community gardens primarily as

sites of food production. Practical direction on the social and organizational aspects of starting or linking with a community garden program.

✂ Nettle, Claire (2010) *Growing Community: Starting and Nurturing Community Gardens*. Adelaide: SA Health and CANH. 112pp.

A revised and updated version of Fulton 2004 (above), with additional material on gardening with children and agency supported community gardens.

# BOOKS



Books are divided into research and analysis, histories of community gardening, and stories about community gardens. Book chapters are included in the following section.

## *Research and analysis*

✂ Elliott, Christine (1983) *Growing in the City: Employment, Education and Recreation in Australian City Farms and Community Gardens*. Milsons Point NSW: Social Impacts Publications in association with The Land Commission of NSW.

One of the first Australian publications on community gardens. Describes community gardens as a form of urban agriculture, also emphasising community and job training benefits. Profiles the thirteen community gardens and two city farms identified in Melbourne, including management structures, land tenure, funding, activities, participants, and employment opportunities, with sample documents from profiled gardens, such as newsletters and constitutions. Provides recommendations for local governments to support community gardens.

Francis, Mark, Lisa Cashdan and Lynn Paxson (1984) *Community Open Spaces: Greening neighbourhoods through community action and land conservation*. California: Island Press.

Description and analysis of the community open space movement in the US and Europe, which includes community designed and managed spaces such as community gardens. Detailed case studies from New York City including recommendations.

Landman, Ruth H. (1993) *Creating Community in the City: Cooperatives and Community Gardens in Washington, D.C.* Connecticut: Bergin and Garvey.

An ethnographic study of several co-operative enterprises, a housing co-op and eleven community gardens. Includes physical descriptions of the gardens, interviews with gardeners, historical background, and an analysis of 'community' in community gardens. Also discusses policy issues for community gardens and co-ops.

✂ Phillips, Darren (1996) *Australian City Farms, Community Gardens, and Enterprize Centres. Inventory*. Hobart: Symbion.

The first national study of community gardens in Australia, this booklet gives details of the 38 community gardens, city farms, and 'enterprize centres' Phillips identified around Australia in

1994. Widely distributed, this publication was the impetus behind the establishment of the Australian Community Gardens and City Farms Network.

Feenstra, W. Gail, Sharyl McGrew and David Campbell (1999) *Entrepreneurial Community Gardens: Growing Food, Skills, Jobs and Communities*. California: University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Communication Services.

A study of 27 Californian community gardens focusing on productivity, employment, training and entrepreneurialism. Describes conditions that enable gardens to flourish. Includes in-depth case studies of 5 gardens and lists of contacts and resources.

Wilson, Peter Lamborn and Bill Weinberg (Eds.) (1999) *Avant Gardening: Ecological Struggle in the City and the World*. New York: Autonomedia.

A collection of short articles focusing on gardening as a radical act of resistance and creation. Includes accounts of creating and struggling to save community gardens, issues in food production and urban greening, as well as articles on the meaning and philosophy of gardening.

Ferris, John, Mandy Morris, Carol Norman and Joe Semipk (Eds.) (2001) *People, Land and Sustainability: A Global View of Community Gardening* Nottingham: P.L.S.

Proceedings from an international conference on community gardening held by Nottingham University in 2000. Articles, predominantly from the US and UK, are grouped in five themes: gardening in the community, gardening and health, children and gardening, food security, and reclaiming the land. Many colour photographs.

von Hassell, Malve (2002) *The Struggle for Eden: Community Gardens in New York City*. Westport: Bergin and Garvey.

A scholarly analysis of the history and present of community gardens in the Lower East Side of New York, which emphasises the gardens' organisational forms, activism in support of threatened gardens, the roles children play, and the limitations and possibilities of urban food production.

✂ Bartolomei, Linda, Linda Corkery, Bruce Judd, and Susan Thompson (2003) *A Bountiful Harvest: Community Gardens and Neighbourhood Renewal in Waterloo*. Sydney: NSW Government – Department of Housing and The University of New South Wales.

Billed as 'the first significant study of community gardens in Australia', this publication details an interdisciplinary research project on the role of community gardens in a Sydney public housing estate, focusing on community development and neighbourhood improvement. Based on in-depth interviews, focus groups, and observation, the study finds that community gardens enhance community and social life on the estate, fulfilling multiple roles including community building, health promotion, reclamation of public space, environmental education, and providing opportunities for cultural expression. Also covers policy and design

issues and makes a number of recommendations for public housing authorities, community workers, designers and gardeners.

Crouch, David (2003) *The Art of Allotments: Culture and Cultivation*. Nottingham: Five Leaves.  
Explores the culture of allotments through art produced in and about them. Written by the preeminent scholar of British allotments. Reflects on allotments and friendship, landscape, and politics. Includes many colour and black and white illustrations.

Boekelheide, Don (Ed.) (2004) *Community Greening Review: 25 Years of Community Gardening*. Philadelphia: American Community Gardening Association.  
Community Gardening Review is the ACGA's annual publication, directed at academics and the general public as well as community gardeners. This 160 page 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition includes articles from 1984 – 2002, grouped in themes of 'what good are gardens?', history, transformation, managing, and 'the world in the garden'. Includes several oft-cited articles, such as David Malakoff's (1995) 'What good is community greening?' and reports of the ACGA's major surveys.

Hou, Jeffrey, Julie M. Johnson and Laura J. Lawson (2009) *Greening Cities, Growing Communities: Learning from Seattle's Urban Community Gardens*. Washington: University of Washington Press.  
Looks at community gardens from a planning perspective, exploring ways that planners can support the development of community gardens, including approaches to design, community participation, and policy development. Uses case studies of six community gardens in Seattle to demonstrate the benefits of community gardens.

Hou, Jeffrey (Ed.) (2010) *Insurgent Public Space: Guerrilla Urbanism and the Remaking of Contemporary Cities*. New York: Routledge.  
This collection of articles on the ways communities are reclaiming and re-imagining public space for sociability and sustainability contains several chapters on community gardening including 'Urban Agriculture in the Making of Insurgent Spaces in Los Angeles and Seattle' by Teresa M. Mares and Devon G. Peña and 'When Overwhelming Needs Meet Underwhelming Prospects: Sustaining Community Open Space Activism' by Laura Lawson and Janni Sorensen.

## *History of community gardening*

Coe, Mary Lee (1978) *Growing with Community Gardening*. Countryman Press.  
One of the early community gardening books from the US, with a focus on the history of community gardening. Also provides step-by-step instructions on starting community garden projects.

Warner, Sam Bass Jr. (1987) *To Dwell is to Garden: A History of Boston's Community Gardens*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

Maps the development of community gardening in the US, from its roots in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Britain, to the first US urban gardens in the late 1890s, American community gardening in WWI and WWII, and the role of the Civil Rights movement in community garden development in the 1960s. Warner then uses garden plots in contemporary Boston community gardens to tell stories of migration from Italy, Africa, China, Latin America and the UK. Also includes beautiful portraits by photographer Hansi Durlach, with quotes from the gardeners. A key source on the history of US community gardens.

Crouch, David and Colin Ward (1988) *The Allotment: Its Landscape and Culture*. Faber and Faber (reprinted by Five Leaves in 2003).

The definitive history of allotments and community gardens in Britain and Europe. Explores the culture and landscape of allotments from the struggle for their creation to their revitalization by environmentalists, focusing on allotments' culture of community and reciprocity.

Jeremy Burchardt (2002) *The Allotment Movement in England, 1793-1873*. Woodbridge: Boydell Press. A socio-political history of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century allotments and their role in the lives of rural workers. Based on a PhD thesis. Shows the development of allotments as a form of resistance, rather than an example of paternalism.

Lawson, Laura J. (2005) *City bountiful: A Century of Community Gardening in America*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press.

Draws on Bassett's (1979) analysis to describe the history of community gardening in the US as a series of 'movements' responding to political and social contexts and economic cycles. Covers urban gardening programs emerging in the 1890s, gardens during and between the World Wars, new movements for 'community greening' from the 1970s, and developments from the 1990s to present.

## *Stories about community gardens*

✂ Ball, Colin and The Urban Permaculture Consultants (1985) *Sustainable Urban Renewal: Urban Permaculture in Bowden, Brompton and Ridleyton*. Armidale, NSW: Social Impacts Publications in association with the Permaculture Association of South Australia.

Details a plan to redesign an entire gentrifying former industrial area of Adelaide along permaculture principles. A city farm was at the centre of the design (and was established in 1986). One of the first permaculture books and an example of the relationships between community gardening and permaculture.

- Hynes, H. Patricia (1996) *A Patch of Eden: America's Inner-City Gardeners*. Vermont: Chelsea Green.  
Success stories of many urban community gardens in Harlem, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco, their development and impact on their local communities, with analysis of why so many of the gardens are run by women.
- Hassler, David, Lynn Gregor, Don Snyder (eds) (1998) *A Place to Grow: Voices and Images of Urban Gardeners*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press.  
A collection of stories from inner-city community gardeners in the US.
- Woelfle-Erskine, Cleo (ed) (2002) *Urban Wilds: Gardeners' Stories of the Struggle for Land and Justice* revised and expanded second edition. Oakland: Water/under/ground Publications and AK Press.  
An inspiring collection of articles about community garden projects in the US (and Cuba and Slovenia), and campaigns to keep them growing. Includes a section on practical permaculture strategies for guerrilla gardening, urban water, and neighbourhood food production.  
Community gardens are portrayed as part of a grassroots movement for sustainable cities and a 'free and just' world.
- Alaimo, Katherine and David Hassler (2003) *From Seeds to Stories: The Community Garden Storytelling Project of Flint*. Michigan: Flint Urban Gardening and Land Use Corporation and The University of Michigan Prevention Program.  
Stories and pictures gathered from community and school gardens that were part of a community storytelling project. Includes an introduction outlining the gardens' significance to their communities, particularly though increasing community safety.
- Woodward, Penny and Pam Vardy (2005) *Community Gardens: A Celebration of the People, Recipes and Plants*. Victoria: Hyland House.  
Profiles plot holders in Melbourne's inner-city public housing community gardens, and the plants they grow. Focuses on ethnic diversity, with stories arranged by gardeners' countries of origin. Many colour photographs. Forwards by Peter Cundall and Stephanie Alexander.
- Pasquali, Michela (2006) *Loisaida: NYC Community Gardens*. New York: A and M Bookstore.  
With parallel English and Italian text, this book celebrates the gardens of the Manhattan, New York in the context of neighbourhood history and culture. Many colour photos.
- Finlayson, Susan (2010 forthcoming) *Community Gardens*. Gibbs Smith.  
Stories and photographs of community gardens around the United States.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Hopkins, Rob (2002) “The Food Producing Neighbourhood” in Hugh Barton (Ed.) *Sustainable Communities: The Potential for Eco-neighbourhoods*. UK: Earthscan. pp. 199 – 215.

An argument for producing food in cities, citing environmental and social benefits.

Advocates a permaculture approach and suggests principles for effective urban food growing projects, including promoting local wealth and using and building upon existing networks.

Describes allotments and community gardens as strategies to provide city-dwellers with ‘clean, fresh and affordable food’. Includes considerations for urban planners and urban eco-village designers.

Buckingham, Susan (2003) “Allotments and community gardens: A DIY Approach to Environmental Sustainability” in Susan Buckingham and Kate Theobald (Eds.) *Local Environmental Sustainability*. Cambridge: Woodhead Publishing. pp. 195 – 212.

Describes allotments as ‘the epitome’ of Local Agenda 21 at its best. Argues that allotments and community gardens are becoming ‘re-radicalised’, with people increasingly seeing them as a means to ‘empower disadvantaged social groups’, avoid the marketplace, and produce ecologically sustainable food. Outlines international research discussing the social (including health, community development, and education), economic, and environmental benefits of community gardens and allotments. Strengths are said to stem from co-operation ‘synergies’ among local people, community groups, and local authorities (though acknowledges gardens often thrive despite local government). Suggests that local authorities learn from and support grassroots community gardens, rather than running community gardens themselves.

✂ Matthews, Freya (2005) “Singing the Ground” in *Reinhabiting Reality: Towards a Recovery of Culture*. Albany: State University of New York Press. pp. 199 – 204.

In the concluding chapter of her book, Matthews describes the Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival at Melbourne’s CERES as an example of an environmentalist practice that invites people to enter into deep connection with place by drawing on mythic, Indigenous, and spiritual poetics, as well as celebrating the practical land regenerating work of the community (see also Matthews 2000).

Alaimo, Katherine, Thomas M. Reischl, Pete Hutchinson, and Ashley E. Atkinson (2005) “We don’t only grow vegetables, we grow values’: Neighbourhood Benefits of Community Gardens in Flint, Michigan” In Doug Brugge and H. Patricia Hynes (Eds.) *Community Research in Environmental Health: Studies in Science, Advocacy and Ethics*. Burlington: Ashgate Publishing.

Describes a collaborative research project involving storytelling and photography, which documented the benefits of community gardens for crime prevention, beautification, health, and community building. See also Allen, Alaimo, et al (2008) below.

✂ Davison, Aidan (2006) “New Environmental Movements, Community Gardens and the Not-for-profit Business, Sustaining Settlements Inc., an Obituary” in *Community Voices: Creating sustainable spaces*. Perth: University of Western Australia Press. pp. 205-218

The story of the development and demise of the Fremantle Community Garden Nursery in the context of the wider Western Australian community gardening milieu and the Australian environmental movement.

✂ Holmes, Katie, Susan K. Martin and Kylie Mirmohamadi (2008) “Reimagining the Garden” in *Reading the Garden: The Settlement of Australia*. Carlton: Melbourne University Press. pp. 196 – 222

An exploration of the role of gardens in multicultural identities. Community gardens are shown as places where non-Anglo migrants create public spaces, raising issues of difference, belonging, memory and place. Analyses the construction of community gardens as sites that embody the success of multiculturalism, including in Woodward and Vardy (2005) above.

Shepard, Benjamin (2009) “Community Gardens, Convivial Spaces, and the Seeds of a Radical Democratic Counterpublic” in Heather D. Gautney, Omar Dahbour and Neil Smith (Eds.) *Democracy, States, and the Struggle for Global Justice*. New York: Routledge. pp. 273 - 296.

Shows community gardens as community spaces that are vital for democracy, enabling people to meet, dialogue, share pleasures and concerns, and act together. Argues that community gardeners used creative, festive forms of protest in campaigns to protect gardens in New York, and frames the conflict as being about the meaning and significance of public space. Community gardening is shown as a movement to create inclusive, convivial public spaces, with much in common with other public space movements, such as Critical Mass and Reclaim the Streets.

✂ Donati, Kelly, Susan Cleary and Lucinda Pike (2009) “Bodies, Bugs and Dirt: Sustainability Reimagined in Community Gardens” in Geoffrey Lawrence, Kristen Lyons and Tabatha Wallington (Eds.) *Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainability*. London: Earthscan. pp. 207 – 222.

This case study of the Garden of Eden – which grew in inner Melbourne between 2000 and 2007 – focuses on the pleasures of gardening and its potential for cultivating meaningful connections between humans and more-than-human nature. Community gardening is seen as an embodied practice that opens up spaces of ethical and political possibility and community gardeners as people actively engaged with issues of living sustainably in the city.

Harnik, Peter (2010) “Community Gardens” in *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities*. New York: Island Press. pp. 83 – 89.

Looks at community gardens in the context of a city’s system of public parks. Addressing both stand-alone community gardens, and those created within existing parks, Harnik argues that community gardens should be recognised as ‘an integral part of a city’s park system’ (87). Community gardens are also recommended as a strategy to help rejuvenate parks, particularly those that have fallen into disuse because of safety or crime concerns.

Krasny, Marianne E., Katherine Hess Pace, Keith G. Tidball and Kenneth Helphand (2011 forthcoming) “Nature Engagement to Foster Resilience in Military Communities” in Keith Tidball and Marianne Krasny (Eds.) *Greening in the Red Zone: Disaster, Resilience and Community Greening*. Springer.

Argues for the use of nature-based community capacity building interventions – such as community gardens – to address military service related stress, pre- and post-deployment, in a way that sees soldiers as embedded in families and communities. Drawing on research in horticultural therapy and conservation psychology, the chapter argues that community gardens increase the resilience of both soldiers and their families, including those dealing with post-traumatic stress disorders. Includes examples of where community gardens have been used as an intervention with returned soldiers.

## THESES



Theses have generally been included only if they are reasonably easy to access, for example online or via interlibrary loan from a university library. We encourage people who have written theses to make them available at [www.communitygarden.org.au](http://www.communitygarden.org.au).

Hall, Diana (1989) *Community Gardens as an Urban Planning Issue*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of British Columbia.

Argues that community gardens should be a planning priority, recognised as valuable recreational facilities as well as sites of food production, and zoned to protect tenure.

Community gardens are portrayed as an ‘incremental step to more sustainable communities’ by easing the stress of alienating urban environments, and preserving green and community spaces in the midst of increases in urban density. The thesis applies lessons from the analysis of benefits generated and obstacles faced by an existing community garden to the development of a new garden

✂ Barnett, Kate (1996) *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden: Place-making at King William Park*. Unpublished Honours Thesis, Murdoch University, Perth.

A reflective case study of the FINCA community garden in Fremantle, by one of its initiators and organisers. Explores the development process, the garden’s aims and visions, relationships with local council and with wider concerns of place-making and community. See also Stocker and Barnett (1998) under journal articles/environment.

✂ Sullivan, Daniel (1997) *Community Gardens and Sustainability*. Unpublished Honours Thesis, Monash University, Melbourne.

A review of Melbourne’s community gardens before the Department of Human Services – Housing created a position supporting community gardens and funded Cultivating Community to manage the housing estate gardens. Identifies and provides details of 42 gardens, and assesses their potential contributions to urban and household sustainability.

✂ Crabtree, Louise A. (1999) *Sustainability as Seen from a Vegetable Garden*. Unpublished Honours Thesis, Macquarie University, New South Wales.

Case studies of eight Sydney community gardens and the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network outline management structures, what the gardens mean to

participants and 'issues' identified by gardeners. Analyses the gardens' sustainability and accessibility, drawing on Actor Network Theory and permaculture principles and emphasising information flows and networks among gardens, NGOs and local councils.

✂ Gelsi, Emanuele John (1999) *Gardening in the Street: Sociality, Production and Consumption in Northey Street City Farm*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Queensland.

Based on interviews and participant observation at Northey Street City Farm (Brisbane) in its early years of development. Focuses on 'consumption' as an economic and cultural practice. Frames community gardens as a form of urban agriculture and suggests that 'the emergence of community gardens in Australia seems to be both unnecessary and undesirable, given that presently most... consumer goods can be easily obtained from commercial outlets.' As food produced at the farm did not significantly add to gardeners' income, participation is explained as resulting from 'environmentalist ideology' and group identity, rather than personal benefit. Emphasises potential differences in motivation between community garden organisers and gardeners/ plot holders.

Westphal, Lynne M. (1999) *Growing Power?: Social benefits from urban greening projects*. Unpublished PhD thesis, Public Policy Analysis-Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Evaluates the social benefits of four urban greening sites in Chicago using empowerment theory to analyse empirical data and contextualise greening advocates' practices. Concludes that community greening projects (including, but not limited to community gardens) have the potential to provide social outcomes, but that empowerment is not an automatic outcome, and depends on organisers' practices.

Warman, Dena Sacha (1999) *Community Gardens: A Tool for Community Building*. Unpublished Honours thesis, University of Waterloo.

Based on a survey of organisers of 14 community gardens in suburban Canada. Unlike the gardens in much US research, most of these projects were initiated by organisations such as churches and food banks, rather than by neighbourhood groups, and most had good security of tenure. Concludes that gardens started by agencies can be as successful in meeting community development aims as grassroots projects, provided gardeners 'share in the garden's responsibilities and accomplishments'. Identifies conflict between gaining support from local authorities, and remaining independent from bureaucratic assumptions as an issue for community gardens.

Spence, Sarah Eve (2001) *Benefits of Adult Education in Community Gardens as Perceived by Community Garden Educators*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Outlines and compares six US community gardens' adult education programmes, based on telephone interviews with co-ordinators. Reviews and compares horticultural therapy and adult education literature.

Maxwell, Jody K. (2002) *Community Gardens: Marigolds of the Inner City*. Unpublished Honours Thesis, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Washington State University.

Drawing on social capital theory, Maxwell surveys 27 community gardens in urban blight neighbourhoods. The gardens were found to contribute to increased physical order, such as reduction of graffiti and vandalism, and to social outcomes such as increased intergenerational interaction and access to fresh food. Includes narrative case studies of five of the gardens.

Richardson, Kay (2002) *Collingwood College Kitchen Garden – Digging In!* Unpublished Masters Thesis, Le Cordon Bleu Graduate Program in Gastronomy, University of Adelaide.

Qualitative study involving students, teachers and parents of the Kitchen Garden at Collingwood College, run by Stephanie Alexander and Cultivating Community. Shows the innovative curriculum has potential positive impacts on children's food preferences, learning, and social development. Recommends further evaluation of the program.

Williamson, Erin A. (2002) *A Deeper Ecology: Community Gardens in the Urban Environment*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Delaware.

Outlines history of community gardens in US, following Bassett's (1979) argument. Drawing on ecofeminism and deep ecology, argues that community gardens redress dualism and disconnection by addressing multiple interlinked issues, and enabling people to reconnect with 'nature', 'community' and food systems. Proposes deep ecology as a guiding philosophy for community gardening. Also reviews issues for planners and policy makers, recommending holistic and collaborative food systems planning within a strong philosophical framework.

Joss, Nerida (2003) *'Growing Communities': Improving the Health of Recent Arrived Migrants Through the Use of Urban Community Gardens*. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Deakin University, Melbourne.

A review of the public health benefits of community gardens for recently arrived migrants living in public housing in inner-city Melbourne.

Walter, Andrew (2003) *A Pattern Language for Community Gardens*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Landscape Architecture, University of Georgia.

Inspired by Christopher Alexander's *A Pattern Language* (1977), this thesis identifies common themes in case studies of seven community gardens in South East USA, and from these proposes elements to include in the design of community gardens to maximise productivity and community building. Suggested design elements include 'A mixture of personal and communal beds', 'a shaded seating area with a view of the garden', 'a participatory and changing aesthetic' and 'an attractive public face'.

Warner, Valerie Dawn (2006) *Finding Common Ground: Community Garden as Connector Between Culture, Nature, and the Individual*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Landscape Architecture, University of Texas at Arlington.

Focuses on gardening as a practice of connection with nature, and concludes that participation in community gardens can produce greater social and environmental connections than gardening individually. Based on case studies of four gardens and interviews with community gardeners, organisers, and professor of landscape architecture, Mark Francis. Includes transcripts of interviews.

☞ Hujber, Dorottya (2008) *Barriers and Challenges of 'Grow your own' Food Schemes in Melbourne, Australia*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Erasmus Mundus Masters Course in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

A multiple stakeholder analysis of non-commercial urban food production in Melbourne backyards and community gardens. Found that main reasons for participating in food production were the enjoyment and production of fresh tasty food. Health, environment, community involvement were secondary motivations, while economic benefits and food security were less important. Barriers included availability of space as well as land tenure, funding for insurance and start-up costs, and water restrictions.

☞ Harris, Elise (2008) *Urban Planning for Community Gardens: What Has Been Done Overseas, and What Can We Do in South Australia?* Unpublished Honours Thesis, University of South Australia.

Finding that there is little planning policy on community gardens in South Australia, this thesis makes a number of recommendations for state and local government bodies to enable the development of community gardens, including integrating community gardens into strategic plans and developing zoning regulations that support community gardening. Reviews literature on the benefits of community gardens and community garden planning strategies from the United States and New Zealand.

Chisholm, Alex (2008) *Growing Bridges: Community Gardens and Civic Governments*. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Royal Roads University.

Interviews community gardeners and local government officials in Vancouver Canada. Recommends the establishment of an umbrella organisation for community gardens.

Bosco, Cassandra B. (2009) *Socially-Constructed Landscapes: Evolving governing structures to sustain community gardens*. Unpublished Honours Thesis, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University.

Community gardens as analysed as 'place making' strategies to develop sense of place and community. Includes case studies of three community gardens in New York City, focusing on the development of governance systems, and a comparative case study of a cohousing community. Argues that community gardens can be a model for successful community-managed open spaces. Numerous photos.

Couët, Marie-Laure Zolcinski (2009) *Strengthening Providence with Community Gardens*. Unpublished Masters thesis, Environmental Studies, Brown University.

A study of the net economic benefits of community gardens to participants and communities. Found that plots produced from \$90 to \$130 of food per season, with the potential to produce up to \$200 worth. Concludes that community gardens provide direct fiscal benefits to participants and to the City through vegetable production, health promotion, and low-cost management of green space. Provides a costing argument for local authorities to fund community garden support organisations.

☞ Green, Rachel (2009) *From Little Things, Big Things Grow: Investigating Remote Aboriginal Community Gardens*. Unpublished Honours thesis, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.

A qualitative study of seven community gardens in remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The gardens are shown to bring significant benefits, including building trust and relationships and increasing fruit and vegetable consumption. Found that the role of garden co-ordinator or trainer was crucial, but constrained by short CDEP funding cycles that removed funding for co-ordinators before garden participants were ready to self-manage projects.

# *JOURNAL ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS*



Journal articles and conference papers are listed in sections focused on

- social impacts and community development
- health
- food security and food policy
- urban agriculture education
- politics and social action
- environment
- planning, urban design and place making and
- economics.

## *Social impacts and community development*

Klein, Barbro (1993) “Fences, Fertilizers, and Foreigners: Moral Dilemmas in the Swedish Cultural Landscape” *Journal of Folklore Research* **30**(1): pp. 45 – 59.

Looks at a Swedish allotment garden as a site of negotiation between ethnic groups. In contrast with North American accounts, Klein finds that while the gardens enable feel-good stories about ‘good interethnic relations’, there was in practice little interaction among different cultural and ethnic groups in the garden. Debates about fences and chemical use are shown to reflect wider discourses about the supposedly detrimental impact of ‘foreigners’ on Swedish culture.

Schukoske, Jane E. (2000) “Community Development Through Gardening: State and Local Policies Transforming Urban Open Space” *Legislation and Public Policy* **3**(35): pp. 351 – 392.

Written in response to struggles over community gardens in New York in the late 1990s. Shows the success of community gardeners in the United States in turning urban ‘blight sites’ into safe, productive, and beautiful spaces, which build social capital through collaborative action. Outlines legislative obstacles, including forms of tenure, and proposes legislation at local and state level in the US that would support community gardens.

Hanna, Autumn K. and Rikai Oh (2000) “Rethinking Urban Poverty: A Look at Community Gardens” *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* **20**(3): pp. 207 – 216.

Summary of two undergraduate theses on community gardens in Philadelphia. Focuses on the benefits of community gardens to de-industrialised inner-city communities dominated by poverty. Analysis of poverty as having multiple interconnected causes that cannot be redressed by solely economic means. Primary benefit of community gardens is identified as food production as a means of alleviating poverty, particularly in areas where there is limited availability of fresh produce, with the additional benefits of social capital creation, access to ‘nature’, neighbourhood improvement and community building, and the potential for small enterprises.

Kurtz, Hilda (2001) “Differentiating Multiple Meanings of Garden and Community” *Urban Geography* **22**(7): pp. 656 – 670.

Frames community gardens as places where people develop understandings of ‘garden’ and ‘community’, and where different interpretations of these ideas become embodied. Case studies of three gardens in urban Minneapolis (one a collection of allotments remaining from the 1940s, one an open, mostly ornamental garden focusing on involving children, and the third a fenced garden with individual plots and an emphasis on community building) focus on their differences, particularly in regards to their enclosure and their subsequent ability to involve people and foster community. Argues for need to make distinctions among different types of urban gardens.

Griffiths, Richard (2002) “Plotting Eden: Community Gardens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: An Analysis of Community Gardening in Three Pacific Rim Cities” *Suburbia: A Conference* National Trust of Australia (NSW) February 23 – 25 2002. pp. 89 – 93.

Describes community gardens in Seattle, Vancouver and Sydney. Attributes the Seattle gardens’ success to city council support, and partnerships between grassroots organisations and local government. Suggests that Sydney gardens would be assisted by statutory authorities integrating community gardening into planning processes and employing community garden co-ordinators/liaison officers.

Glover, Troy D. (2002) “The Story of the Queen Anne Memorial Garden: Resisting a Dominant Cultural Narrative” *Journal of Leisure Research* **35**(2): pp. 190 – 212.

Report of a narrative inquiry on the establishment of an urban community garden in a US neighbourhood affected by poverty, violence and drug use. Demonstrates how the development of the garden enabled residents of a neighbourhood that had developed a negative reputation to tell a different story, one which emphasised effective community collaboration and resistance. Includes a brief review of community gardening literature, with sources on psychological and community building benefits of community gardening.

Glover, Troy D. (2004) "Social Capital in the Lived Experiences of Community Gardeners" *Leisure Sciences* **26**: pp.143 – 162.

Uses the social networks of the community gardeners in the above study as a context to theorise about the nature of social capital. Frames community gardens as 'third places' (Oldenberg 1999) where people generate and draw on forms of 'social capital' such as reciprocity, trust and civic participation. Shows that social capital was a prerequisite to the development of the garden, but that some participants had less access than others to the social resources the garden generated. Access to social capital was not commensurate with effort, but reflected and reinforced a wider context of inequality and oppression. Glover argues that social capital needs to be regarded as a potential mechanism of inequality as well as a social benefit.

Shinew, Kimberley J., Troy D. Glover and Diana C. Parry (2004) "Leisure Spaces as Potential Sites for Interracial Interaction: Community Gardens in Urban Areas" *Journal of Leisure Research* **36**(3): pp. 336 – 355.

Shows community gardens as places where positive interracial interaction and relationship building occurs. Found that community gardens were less racially segregated than other leisure settings, and that many gardeners believed community gardening brought people of different ethnic backgrounds together. Also found that the reasons for, and satisfaction with, involvement in a community garden were similar for black and white interviewees. Includes statistics about gardeners' motivations and sense of community.

Saldivar-Tanaka, Laura and Marianne E. Krasny (2004) "Culturing Community Development, Neighbourhood Open Space, and Civic Agriculture: The Case of Latino Community Gardens in New York City" *Agriculture and Human Values* **21**: pp. 399 – 412.

Describes the multiple roles of 20 Latino gardens, their organisational structures, gardener demographics, gardening practices, institutional support, cultural and educational activities, and the issues they face. Finds that gardeners and support organisations viewed the gardens more in terms of community building than agricultural production. Gardens also lead to further community organising, and contributed to community food security and agricultural literacy.

Parry, Diana C, Troy D. Glover and Kimberly J. Shinew (2005) "Mary, Mary quite contrary, how does your garden grow?": Examining gender roles and relations in community gardens" *Leisure Studies* **24**(2): pp. 177 – 192.

Looks at community gardens as sites where gender roles and relations are both reproduced and resisted. Considers division of garden labour, leadership, and impacts beyond the garden.

Glover, Troy D., Diana C. Parry, and Kimberly J. Shinew (2005) "Mobilizing Social Capital in Community Gardening Contexts" in Tom Delamere, Carleigh Randall, and David Robinson (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Eleventh Canadian Congress on Leisure Research*. Department of Recreation and Tourism Management, Malaspina University-College, Nanaimo, BC: Canadian Association for Leisure Studies.

Ways 'grassroots organisations' such as community gardens mobilize social resources to meet their projects' needs. Based on interviews with gardeners in the US, the paper identifies relationships within and beyond the garden as mechanisms for resource acquisition.

Sociability – being friendly and welcoming – and engaging in 'leisure' as well as 'work' are recognised as essential to form the social ties necessary to produce and access social capital.

Buckingham, Susan (2005) "Women (re)construct the Plot: The Regen(d)eration of Urban Food Growing" *Area* **37**(2): pp. 171 – 179.

British allotments have traditionally been seen as the province of low income, older men. Since the late 1990s, numbers of women, middle-class, and tertiary-educated plot holders have been increasing. This article, based on surveys and interviews in London allotments, explores the significance of these changes. Finds that women, across classes, were more focused on environmental sustainability and organic food production than men, and were more likely to involve children in their allotments – hence that allotments were becoming more focused on these issues. Reviews literature about women as food gardeners. Also touches on women's roles in establishing community gardens.

✂ Kingsley, Jonathan 'Yotti' and Mardie Townsend (2006) "'Dig In' to Social Capital: Community Gardens as Mechanisms for Growing Urban Social Connectedness" *Urban Policy and Research* **24**(4): pp. 525 – 537.

Qualitative study of a Melbourne community garden considering the kinds of connections that have been formed among gardeners in terms of social capital theory. Finds that members experienced the community garden as socially beneficial, but that connections formed within the garden did not appear to extend outside the garden setting. Factors that enhanced social connectedness were the layout, location, and effective voluntary management of the garden.

Langhout, Regina Day (2006) "Where am I? Locating Myself and its Implications for Collaborative Research" *American Journal of Community Psychology* **37**: pp. 267 – 274.

An 'autoethnography' about the experience of a white academic working with an African American community to grow a community garden in a school, reflecting on her realisation of the role of racism and white privilege in her interactions with gardeners and students.

## Health

Labonté, Ronald (1986) “Social inequality and healthy public policy” *Health Promotion* **1**(3): pp. 341 – 351.

An early example of community gardens as part of a public health program. Outlines a social and ecological view of health promotion, as adopted by the City of Toronto. Describes a community garden that was central to the community development aspect of the City’s health promotion strategy.

Blair, Dorothy, Carol C. Giesecke, and Sandra Sherman (1991) “A Dietary, Social and Economic Evaluation of the Philadelphia Urban Gardening Project” *The Journal of Nutrition Education* **23**: pp. 161-167.

Survey of 144 community gardeners and 67 non-gardeners from the same neighbourhoods. Found that gardeners ate significantly more vegetables than control interviewees, particularly brassicas, squashes and eggplants, and less sweets, soft drinks and dairy products. The output of garden plots was measured and estimated the market value of the produce calculated at between \$2 to \$1134, with an average of \$160 of produce from each plot (values calculated as conventional, not organic produce). Gardeners’ reasons for involvement included recreation, mental health, exercise, produce and contact with nature. There was also a correlation found between involvement in a community garden and life satisfaction.

Waliczek, Tina M., Richard H. Mattson and Jayne M. Zajicek (1996) “Benefits of Community Gardening on Quality-of-Life Issues” *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* **14**(4) pp. 204 – 209.

Looks at the perceptions of US community gardeners on the benefits of community gardening, framed in terms of Maslow’s hierarchy of human needs. Detailed results of a survey of 361 gardeners from 36 community garden sites are provided, and analysis focuses on findings that gender, ethnicity and city size effect gardeners’ assessments of the impacts of community gardening on meeting life needs, with women valuing money saving and beauty, and gardeners in larger cities finding community gardens particularly important.

Hancock, Trevor (2000) “People, Partnerships and Human Progress: Building Community Capital” *Health Promotion International* **16**(3) pp. 275 – 280.

Assuming that ‘health is wealth’, article looks at how community gardens create ‘community capital’ by generating natural, social, human and economic resources.

## *Box 1: Restorative gardens and horticultural therapy*

Research data on the health-promoting and therapeutic use of gardening provides further evidence of the benefits of community gardening. It is produced in several disciplines and research clusters, including ‘people plant interactions’, leisure studies, public health, occupational therapy, and horticultural therapy.

Two professional journals specialise in research and reporting about horticultural therapy:

- *Journal of Therapeutic Horticulture* is published by the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Details are available at <http://www.ahta.org>
- *Growthpoint: The Journal of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture* is published by Thrive in the UK, with details available at [www.thrive.org.au](http://www.thrive.org.au)

Other key sources include:

Ulrich, Roger S (1981) “Natural Versus Urban Scenes: Some Psychophysiological Effects”  
*Environment and Behavior* **13**(5): pp. 523-556

One of several oft-cited articles by Ulrich detailing research demonstrating that views of gardens and nature having positive influences on emotional and physiological wellbeing. Ulrich examines and advocates the ‘biophilia’ hypothesis – that contact with ‘nature’ is beneficial to human wellbeing.

Relf, Diane (Ed.) (1992) *The Role of Horticulture in Human Well-Being and Social Development* Oregon: Timber Press

A collection of papers from a symposium on people-plant interactions, including gardens’ role in communities, in human culture, in health promotion, and for people with disabilities.

Lewis, Charles A.(1996) *Green Nature, Human Nature* University of Illinois Press

Maps the theory and practice of horticultural therapy, from the role of plants in human evolution to participation with green nature in the garden, by one of the key proponents of people-plant interactions and horticultural therapy.

Sempik, Joe, Jo Aldridge and Saul Becker (2003) *Social and therapeutic horticulture: Evidence and messages from research* UK: Thrive/ Centre for Child and Family Research, University of Loughborough 60pp.

Comprehensive literature review of more than 300 articles about the practices and outcomes of social and therapeutic horticulture.

Armstrong, Donna (2000) “A survey of community gardens in upstate New York: Implications for Health Promotion and Community Development” *Health and Place* **6**(2000): pp. 319 – 327.

Based on a survey of co-ordinators of 63 urban and rural community gardens. Describes physical characteristics of gardens, people’s reasons for participation, and demographics of gardeners. Finds that gardens improved social networks and community capacity by creating a social gathering space and a focus for community organising. Concludes that community gardens are useful for health promotion, addressing multiple determinants of health. Includes literature review demonstrating benefits of gardening for a range of health outcomes.

Maller, Cecily, Mardie Townsend, Peter Brown and Lawrence St Leger (2002) *The Health Benefits of Contact with Nature in a Park Context: A Review of Current Literature*. Social and Mental Health Priority Area Occasional Paper Series Vol. 1: Report to Parks Victoria and the International Park Strategic Partners Group, Melbourne: Deakin University Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

A comprehensive review of literature about the links between human health and access to parks and nature. Includes references to community gardening. See also Volume 2, an annotated bibliography of literature about health and parks.

Twiss, Joan, Joy Dickinson, Shirley Duma, Tanya Kleinman, Heather Paulsen and Liz Rilveria (2003) “Community Gardens: Lessons Learned From California Healthy Cities and Communities” *American Journal of Public Health* **93**(9): pp. 1435 – 1438.

Evaluation of a program that initiated six community gardens, showing that participants increased their physical activity and their fruit and vegetable consumption. Identifies ‘key elements’ for community garden programs to succeed in improving public health and increasing community capacity: local leadership, community participation and partnerships, and skill-building opportunities for participants. Argues for the need to develop tools to effectively quantify the benefits of community gardens.

Milligan, Christine, Anthony Catrell and Amanda Bingley (2004) “‘Cultivating Health’: Therapeutic Landscapes and Older People in Northern England” *Social Science and Medicine* **58**(2004): pp. 1781 – 1793.

A study of 20 people aged over 65 who were recruited to participate in a gardening activity – collectively cultivating an allotment – tracking their experience over a 9-month period. Reviews the health benefits of gardening, noting that most research focuses on the benefits of physical activity. Argues that allotments and community gardens are ‘therapeutic landscapes’, which can contribute to maintenance of health and wellbeing amongst older people by combining the benefits of gardening with social connectedness and support.

✂ Somerset, Shawn, Richard Ball, Melanie Flett and Rebecca Ceissman (2005) “School-based community gardens: Re-establishing healthy relationships with food” *Journal of the Home Economics Institute of Australia* **12**(2): pp. 25 – 33.

Report of a research project involving 13 school gardens in South East Queensland. Despite nutrition not being a primary focus for most of the gardens, increased familiarity, enjoyment

and consumption of vegetables resulted from children's involvement. Provides an overview of evidence for the benefits of school gardens for health promotion, along with evidence on the benefits of gardening, increased fruit and vegetable consumption, and community gardens. Recommends school-based community gardens as a way to 'embed nutrition, physical activity and environmental sustainability' into school curricula.

✂ Henderson-Wilson, Claire (2005) "The impacts of access to 'nature' on inner city highrise residents' quality of life" *Urbanism Down Under Conference: Creative Urban Futures* Wellington, New Zealand, 18-20 August 2005.

Based on surveys and interviews with inner-city highrise residents in Melbourne and Sydney, including public housing tenants. Survey respondents with good access to 'natural environments', including community gardens, reported higher levels of 'quality of life' than those with poor access. (See also Henderson-Wilson 2007).

Lautenschlager, Lauren and Cherry Smith (2007) "Beliefs, Knowledge, and Values Held by Inner-city Youth About Gardening, Nutrition, and Cooking" *Agriculture and Human Values* **24**: pp. 245 – 258.

A study of youth involved with community gardens in Minneapolis, US. Finds that garden participants were more willing to eat nutritious foods and to try unfamiliar foods than those not involved. Also finds that garden participants had a better understanding of the food system and were more likely to cook and garden independently.

Wakefield, Sarah, Fiona Yeudall, Carolin Taron, Jennifer Reynolds and Ana Skinner (2007) "Growing Urban Health: Community Gardening in South-East Toronto" *Health Promotion International* **22**(2): pp. 92 – 101.

Based on focus groups, interviews, and participant observation in ethnically diverse community gardens in Toronto, this article focuses on gardeners' perceptions of the health benefits of community gardening. In line with other investigations, this study finds that access to fresh, culturally appropriate food, increased veg consumption, physical activity, and social support were they key health benefits. Gardeners also reported that insecurity of tenure produced uncertainty and anxiety, and expressed concerns about soil contamination.

Alaimo, Katherine, Elizabeth Packnett, Richard A Miles, and Daniel J. Kruger (2008) "Fruit and Vegetable Intake among Urban Community Gardeners" *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* **40**(2) pp. 94 – 101.

Quantitative data substantiating a link between participation in a community garden and increased fruit and vegetable consumption. The survey of 776 adults in a US city found that adults with a household member who participated in a community garden consumed fruits and vegetables 1.4 more times per day than those who did not participate, and they were 3.5 times more likely to consume fruits and vegetables at least 5 times daily. The authors suggest that community gardens may encourage fruit and vegetable consumption by increasing access

to fresh produce, providing low-cost produce that is perceived as of high-quality, and increasing people's preference for fruit and vegetables.

Allen, Julie Ober, Katherine Alaimo, Doris Elam and Elizabeth Perry (2008) "Growing vegetables and values: Benefits of Neighborhood-based community gardens for youth development and nutrition" *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition* **34** (4): pp. 418 – 439.

A qualitative study using a community-based participatory research methodology involving academics community organisations. Case studies of two Michigan community gardens, both running programs for youth focus on community gardens' capacity to generate 'developmental assets' (such as commitment to learning and positive identity) and healthy eating in youth participants. Suggests that the gardens brought a number of benefits to their young participants, including increased vegetable consumption, increased self-esteem through contributing to meaningful voluntary work (growing vegetables for homeless shelters), skills development, and reducing fear of crime.

D'Abundo, Michelle L. and Andrea M. Carden (2008) "Growing Wellness': The Possibility of Promoting Collective Wellness through Community Garden Education Programs" *Community Development* **39**(4): 83 – 94.

A study of a program in North Carolina designed to reduce obesity through classes on nutrition and gardening. While the administrators' goals were centred on obesity reduction, participants identified holistic wellness benefits, community development and nutrition outcomes.

✂ Kingsley, Jonathan 'Yotti', Mardie Townsend and Claire Henderson-Wilson (2009) "Cultivating Health and Wellbeing: Members' Perceptions of the Health Benefits of a Port Melbourne Community Garden" *Leisure Studies* **28**(2): 207 – 219.

A qualitative study based on interviews with 10 plot holders at Dig In Community Garden in the parklands of Port Melbourne. Interviewees identified the health benefits they gained from participation in the garden, and their responses are correlated with previous research. Benefits included relaxation, social connection and support, connection with nature, experiences of efficacy and achievement, organic vegetable consumption, and an improved sense of wellbeing and health. Walking or bicycle riding to the garden was seen by the researchers as adding to the physical exercise benefits of gardening.

Teig, Ellen, Joy Amulya, Lisa Bardwell, Michael Muchenau, Julie A. Marshall, Jill S. Lift (2009) "Collective Efficacy in Denver, Colorado: Strengthening Neighborhoods and Health Through Community Gardens" *Health and Place* **15**: pp. 1115 – 1122.

Looks at the health benefits of community gardens primarily in terms of social support and collective efficacy, a combination of mutual trust and action for common good. Based on interviews with 67 people from 29 gardens, the article finds that community gardens promoted health through social connections characterised by trust and reciprocity leading to increased social support and within a community that looked out for each other and were

willing to help and the establishment of social norms of mutual reciprocity and care for neighbourhood. These were seen as buffering against violence and crime and embedding healthy food choices and vegetable consumption. Specific mechanisms facilitating social health benefits included engagement in voluntary activity, leadership development, organised activities such as working bees, shared meals and festivals, and acting as a catalyst for neighbourhood activity.

## *Food security and food policy*

Gottlieb, Robert and Andrew Fisher (1996) “Community Food Security and Environmental Justice: Searching for a Common Discourse” *Agriculture and Human Values* 3(3): pp. 23 – 32.

A clear, though somewhat dated, introduction to a community food security perspective.

Identifies bridges between the environmental justice and community food security movements based on their shared systemic analyses and commitment to social justice and community empowerment. Community gardens and urban farms are offered as examples of projects integrating food security, environmental and social justice issues.

Corlett, Jan L, Ellen A. Dean and Louis E. Grivetti (2003) “Hmong gardens: Botanical diversity in an urban setting” *Economic Botany* 57(3): pp. 365 – 379.

A study of the plants in a community garden created by Hmong immigrants in California, focusing on agricultural biodiversity and ethnobotanical usage, reflecting also on the significance of the gardens in maintaining cultural identity. Lists names and culinary and medicinal uses of the 72 different plants identified in the plots of Hmong gardeners. Compares the community garden plots with traditional Hmong agriculture in Laos and Thailand, finding additional usages not recorded in Asian studies. Hmong gardeners cultivated traditional species, enabling the continued practice of traditional medicine and food preparation, and also adopted plants from other cultures and neighbouring non-Hmong plot holders.

Baker, Lauren E. (2004) “Tending Cultural Landscapes and Food Citizenship in Toronto’s Community Gardens” *Geographical Review* 94(3): pp. 305 – 325.

Situates community gardens within the community food security movement, as alternative food networks enabling people to begin ‘delinking’ from global corporate food systems and as means for food education and participation. The three case studies of community gardens in Toronto, Canada show plots being cultivated intensively and creatively to produce substantial amounts of food, and growing diverse crops not otherwise available. In stories that closely parallel those from Melbourne’s public housing community gardens, Baker emphasises the importance of translators and culturally sensitive NGOs to enable participation of non-English speaking gardeners and meet the needs of immigrants and refugees.

## *Box 2: Food Security*

While increasingly a part of policy discourse and popular consciousness, food security is a contested concept. The vying definitions range from the narrow focus of the World Bank and FAO to expanded notions such as those advocated by the US Community Food Security Coalition. There are also those who reject the notion of food security in favour of ‘food sovereignty’.

✂ Lawrence, Geoffrey, Kristen Lyons and Tabatha Wallington (2009) *Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainability* London: Earthscan.

A collection of articles from a range of theoretical perspectives addressing the social, environmental and health issues of food security with international case studies. Includes a chapter on Australian community gardens.

Holt-Giménez, Eric and Raj Patel (2009) *Food Rebellions! Crisis and the Hunger for Justice* Pambazuka Press, Food First and Grassroots International.

An analysis of the world food crisis and its roots in the industrial agrifood system and an argument for a ‘food sovereignty’ response.

Winne, Mark (2008) *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty* Boston: Beacon Press.

Looks at the history of food movements in the United States, and Farmers’ Markets, community gardens and food banks in particular. Advocates a community food security approach to addressing ‘food deserts’, obesity, and other problems in the industrial food system.

✂ Dixon, Jane M., Kelly J. Donati, Lucy L. Pike, and Libby Hattersley (2009) “Functional Foods and Urban Agriculture: Two Responses to Climate Change-Related Food Insecurity” *NSW Public Health Bulletin*. **20**(1 - 2): pp. 14 – 18.

This article evaluates two strategies for dealing with food system issues expected to emerge with climate change. It outlines the environmental costs of food production and distribution systems, and contrasts functional foods, which they describe as a corporate and profit driven solution, with community gardening, a solution emerging from grassroots environmental and food movements. The authors argue that urban agriculture is limited as a response to food insecurity and climate change because of the contested nature of the land it occupies and a lack of institutional support, and that the multiple benefits of urban agriculture should be more widely recognised.

## *Urban agriculture*

Howe, Joe and Paul Wheeler (1999) "Urban Food Growing: The Experience of Two UK Cities" *Sustainable Development* 7(1): pp. 13 – 24.

A study of the allotments, city farms and community gardens in Leeds and Bradford and their contributions to sustainability. Looks at community gardens as a form of urban agriculture, but acknowledges that community development and education may be more of a focus than food production at some sites. Outlines the arguments for growing food in the cities of developed nations, including environmental, social, economic, educational, and health benefits. Finds that community gardens and city farms contribute in a range of ways to environmental and social sustainability, as well as education and health, with allotments having a narrower range of benefits. Argues that urban food growing should be supported as part of local government policy.

Garnett, Tara (2000) Urban agriculture in London: rethinking our food economy in Henk de Zeeuw, N. Bakker, M. Dubbeling, S. Gundel and U. Sabel-Koschella (Eds.) *Growing cities, growing food* Feldafing: German Foundation for International Development (DSE) pp. 477-500.

Overview of urban agriculture in London, focusing on allotments, community gardens and city farms, mapping who is involved, what's produced, and current and potential contributions of urban agriculture to health, environmental, economic, educational, community goals.

McClintock, Nathan (2010) "Why Farm the City? Theorising Urban Agriculture Through a Lens of Metabolic Rift" *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 3: pp. 191 – 207.

An analysis of urban agriculture (particularly community gardens but also guerrilla gardens and other urban food production) in the Global North from a Marxian geography perspective. Sees urban agriculture as increasing in the developed world in the context of the current financial crisis, but as more than a response to economic need. Drawing on Marx and Polanyi, urban agriculture is framed as a way to reclaim 'community commons', and to overcome alienation from nature and production.

### *Box 3: Urban and Civic Agriculture*

The RUA Foundation (Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Security) website [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org) contains an enormous amount of information including the Annotated Bibliography listed below, conference papers and policy briefs. RUA also produces *Urban Agriculture Magazine*.

Bruinsma, Wietse and Wilfrid Hertog (Eds.) (2003) *Annotated Bibliography on Urban Agriculture* prepared for the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) by ETC - Urban Agriculture Programme in cooperation with TUAN and other organisations Leusden, The Netherlands: ETC Urban Agriculture Programme

An exhaustive 804 page bibliography of research on urban agriculture, with introductory essays to each section. Indexed and cross-referenced. Includes numerous references to overseas research on community gardening (in several languages). Downloadable in searchable pdf format from [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org) via publications page.

Brown, Karen H. (2002) *Urban Agriculture and Community Food Security in the United States: Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe*, report prepared by the Urban Agriculture Committee of the Community Food Security Coalition, February 2002, available at [www.foodsecurity.org/urbanag.html](http://www.foodsecurity.org/urbanag.html)

Overview of current urban and peri-urban food production in the US, including home, community garden and commercial agriculture, challenges facing urban agriculture, and policy changes to promote and preserve urban food production.

DeLind, Laura B. (2002) "Place, work, and civic agriculture: Common fields for cultivation" *Agriculture and Human Values* 19: pp. 217 – 224

Defines civic agriculture as a 'collection of food and farming enterprises that addresses the needs of local growers, consumers, rural economies, and communities of place', including farmers' markets, CSAs and community gardens. Argues that civic agriculture has the potential to create a food system that promotes civic engagement and place-based ecological restoration.

Lyson, Thomas A (2004) *Civic Agriculture: Reconnecting Farm, Food and Community* Massachusetts: Tufts University Press

The most comprehensive introduction to civic agriculture by the writer who coined the term. Includes history of agriculture in the US and the impact of globalising food systems. Includes community gardens and city farms as examples of food production based on non-marketed defined relationships.

✂ Gaynor, Andrea (2006) *Harvest of the Suburbs: An Environmental History of Growing Food in Australian Cities* WA: University of Western Australia Press

A fascinating history of the culture and practice of food production in Australian cities from the 1880s to the present. Includes community gardening as a form of urban food production.

## Education

Fusco, Dana (2001) “Creating Relevant Science through Urban Planning and Gardening” *Journal of Science in Teaching* **38**(8): pp. 860 – 877.

Describes a project to engage high school students in science through a hands-on project to transform a vacant block into a community garden. Shows students’ learning outcomes and the benefits of an approach to science education that engages participants’ concerns, interests and experiences outside science, enables ideas to be enacted, and is situated within the wider community.

Doyle, Rebekah and Marianne Krasny (2003) “Participatory Rural Appraisal as an Approach to Environmental Education in Urban Community Gardens” *Environmental Education Research* **9**(1): pp. 91 – 115.

Describes the process of engaging students in research in community gardens using Participatory Rural Appraisal – a form of action research – as a methodology. Young people in a community environmental education program documented the gardening practices of recent immigrants in urban community gardens, collecting oral histories and mapping garden processes. (See also Krasny and Doyle (2002) “Participatory Approaches to Program Development and Engaging Youth in Research: The Case of an Inter-Generational Urban Community Gardening Program” *Journal of Extension* **40** (5)).

✂ Corkery, Linda (2004) “Community Gardens as a Platform for Education for Sustainability” *Effective Sustainability Education: What Works? Why? Where Next? Linking Research and Practice* Proceedings from Council on Environmental Education Conference Sydney, 18 – 20 February 2004 (also published in *Australian Journal of Environmental Education* **20**(1): pp. 61 – 75).

This article revisits a study of community gardens in one of Sydney’s public housing estates (see Bartolomei, et al 2003 above) to assess their contributions to non-formal education for sustainability. Draws on the NSW Environmental Education Plan. Finds that the gardens contribute to multiple dimensions of sustainability, through the gardeners’ learning about sustainable gardening practices and self-management, the physical benefits of the gardens to the quality of life in the estate, and the involvement of multiple agencies in a project with sustainability education outcomes.

Krasny, Marianne E. and Keith G. Tidball (2009) “Community Gardens as Contexts for Science, Stewardship, and Civic Action Learning” *Cities and the Environment* **2**(1): art. 8.

Examines the Garden Mosaics program, an out of school learning program that takes place in community gardens across the US. Garden Mosaics focuses on science content and inquiry skills for people aged 9 – 18 years, working with elder community gardeners. The authors consider the program in the context of social and interactive models of learning, and argue that community gardens are communities of practice that present multiple opportunities for learning, which are not available in classrooms.

## *Politics and social action*

Jamison, Michael S. (1985) "The Joys of Gardening: Collectivist and Bureaucratic Cultures in Conflict" *The Sociological Quarterly* **26**(4): pp. 473 – 490.

Compares the ways community garden movement activists and government agencies supporting and running community gardens viewed and practiced urban gardening. Despite claiming the same benefits for community gardening (community development, increasing self-worth and confidence, food production, promoting equality and co-operation), Jamison found that agencies attributed these to individual gardening activities, while movement organisations attributed benefits to the community effort of starting and growing the gardens. Agencies saw gardeners as 'clients' or facility users, movement organisations saw them as participants and movement members, with gardeners expected to be involved in the management of the garden. Shows the community gardening movement having to change its structures and ways of working to accommodate bureaucratic assumptions in order to gain government support and funding.

Schmelzkopf, Karen (1995) "Urban Community Gardens as Contested Space" *Geographical Review* **85**(3): pp. 364 – 381.

Discussion of conflicts over land use between developers, low-cost housing advocates and community gardeners. Based on an area of New York with over 75 community gardens. Describes their diversity – some squatted, some well-established community parks with gazebos and lawns and fruit trees, some inspired by Puerto Rican casitas, some growing only flowers where the soil is too contaminated for food – the reasons people are involved, and the impacts the gardens have had in creating community and safety. Analyses the involvement of non-government organisations such as Green Guerillas (they spell it with one 'r'), and government programs in both supporting the community gardeners and engaging in conflict over land use.

Crouch, David (2000) Reinventing Allotments For The Twenty-First Century: The UK Experience *Acta Hort* **523**: pp.135 – 142.

Outlines arguments by current allotment activists and advocates based on environmental and community-building benefits. Brief history of allotments in the UK, from their origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

✂ Perkins, Sue and Robyn Lynn (2000) "A Women's Community Garden: A Small Step Towards a Future of Peace?" *Women Against Violence Journal* **9**: pp. 74 – 83.

Describes a women's community garden in Townsville, which was started as a response to the 'culture of violence' against women and the earth, and a way of developing 'resourcefulness' and community self-reliance. The article describes the ecofeminist and Heart Politics (Peavey, Levy et al. 1985) ideas which influenced the project, and offers critical reflections on the process of initiating the garden, including integrating the garden with the

wider work of the women's community health centre, on whose grounds it grew, and the collective's difficulty encouraging the involvement of more women.

Staeheli, Lynn A, Don Mitchell and Kristina Gibson (2002) "Conflicting Rights to the City in New York's Community Gardens" *GeoJournal* **58**: pp. 197 – 205.

Based on interviews with community garden activists, this article reviews the campaigns to save New York's community gardens, and argues that they reflect the City's and gardeners' different conceptualisations of 'the public'. The City, they argue, saw the public as 'aggregation of abstract political subjects' (p. 202), while the garden activists campaigned from a perspective of communal community rights. Argues that successes in saving gardens were due more to campaigning by community activists than the lawsuits that accompanied it.

DeSilvey, Caitlin (2003) "Cultivated Histories in a Scottish Allotment Garden" *Cultural Geographies* **10**: pp. 442 – 468.

An exploration of the ways allotments' complexity – resisting categories of urban/rural, public/private, leisure/production, and having multiple benefits relevant to several portfolios – affects advocates' efforts to frame their value. Draws on de Certeau's conceptualisation of tactics and strategies to examine gardeners' political practices, focusing on submissions to the Scottish Parliamentary Inquiry into allotments in 2001. Includes historical examples of ways allotment's benefits have been described, and how advocates have tentatively drawn on contemporary discourses such as 'sustainability' and 'social inclusion'.

Schmelzkopf, Karen (2002) "Incommensurability, Land Use, and the Right to Space: Community Gardens in New York City" *Urban Geography* **23**(4): pp. 323 – 343.

An analysis of the campaign to save New York's community gardens in the late 1990s.

Details the history of campaigns to save NY's gardens, in which housing advocates joined with community gardeners in refusing Mayor Giuliani's framing of the issue as 'gardens vs. affordable housing'. Affirms that conflict was not about need for housing, but about values. Drawing on the work of Lefebvre (1991, 1996), shows how market values and metaphors are incompatible with people's right to 'inhabit' cities and public spaces, that they are and incapable of assessing the use value of community gardens.

Smith, Christopher M. and Hilda E. Kurtz (2003) "Community Gardens and Politics of Scale in New York City" *Geographical Review* **93**(2): pp. 193 – 212.

Further analysis of the 1990s conflict over NY's community gardens. Shows how community gardeners mobilised support at various 'scales' to resist the destruction of their gardens and the 'neoliberalization' of urban space through neighbourhood, local area, city-wide and national organising. Gardeners' strategies included staging public protests to raise awareness of the issue, linking their cause to wider political struggles, and using the internet to gain support outside New York. Also shows how framing was used on both sides of the

controversy, suggesting the ‘housing-versus-gardens’ conflict was fabricated by Mayor Giuliani’s office.

Elder, Robert Fox (2005) “Protecting New York City’s Community Gardens” *N.Y.U. Environmental Law Journal* **13**: pp. 769 – 800.

Explores the background to the 2003 settlement between community gardeners and the State and City of New York. Details the quite distinct arguments made by two different community coalitions and the Attorney General in court cases in defence of the gardens. Compares the local government’s approach to community gardens in New York with other US cities, and makes recommendations about how it could develop better policy and practice in regards to urban and community green space.

Glover, Troy D., Kimberly J. Shinew and Diana C. Parry (2005) “Association, Sociability, and Civic Culture: The Democratic Effect of Community Gardening” *Leisure Sciences* **27**: pp. 75 – 92.

Examines the links between participation in a community garden and democratic values and skills. A survey of 190 randomly selected community gardeners finds that community gardens were venues for the development of civic virtues such as public spiritedness, participation and trust, of feelings of efficacy, and of skills necessary to partake in public life. Self-identified leaders were found to have stronger democratic values than other garden participants.

Pudup, Mary Beth (2008) “It takes a Garden: Cultivating Citizen-subjects in Organised Garden Projects” *Geoforum* **38**: pp. 1228 – 1240.

Examines the changing discourses about ‘the supposedly transformative power’ of gardening. Analyses recent developments in community gardening in the context of neoliberalism. Argues that since the early 1990s, a new discourse has emerged which is distinct from the previous era’s emphasis on community organising and development, environmental improvement, food security, and social space. The new wave of programs draw on this tradition, but seek not to facilitate collective resistance or action, but individual transformation and the cultivation of neoliberal citizen/subjects. These projects are initiated not by local neighbourhood members, but ‘quazi-state’ actors. Benefits are seen as coming from relationship with ‘nature’ and ‘gardening’ rather than community engagement.

Martinez, Miranda (2009) “Attack of the Butterfly Spirits: The Impact of Movement Framing by Community Garden Preservation Activists” *Social Movement Studies* **8**(4): pp. 323 – 339.

Drawing on the frame alignment strand within social movement theory, Martinez argues that New York community garden activists were ultimately successful in their late 1990s campaign because of their symbolic work in framing the conflict in ways that garnered allies and resources. Garden activists framed the list of auctionable gardens as a ‘hit list’, associating their destruction with killing and portraying the gardens as loved and grieved for spaces. Bulldozers were depicted as symbols of the destructive power of development. Gardeners

also linked their campaign to wider issues of democracy under neoliberalism and to growing disquiet about the Giuliani administration.

Irزابál, Clara and Anita Punja (2009) “Cultivating Just Planning and Legal Institutions: A Critical Assessment of the South Central Farm Struggle in Los Angeles” *Journal of Urban Affairs* **31**(1): pp. 1 – 23.

An analysis of the destruction of the 14 acre South Central Farm in Los Angeles, which was the subject of the film *The Garden* (dir. Scott Hamilton Kennedy). Analyses the struggle to defend the garden as resistance to discriminatory legal and planning practices and develops an argument for the preservation of threatened community gardens based on environmental justice principles.

Barraclough, Laura R. (2009) “South Central Farmers and Shadow Hills Homeowners: Land Use Policy and Relational Racialization in Los Angeles” *Professional Geographer* **2**: pp. 164 – 186.

Another analysis of the loss of South Central Farm, this time focusing on the ways racism is reproduced through land use policy, and the ways racism impacted on the gardeners’ ability to mobilise the discourses of property rights and heritage.

## *Environment*

✂ Bodel, Neal and Martin Anda (1996) “Community Gardens: Places for Food Production, Places for People” *Proceedings from International Permaculture Convergence VI*, September 1996, Perth Western Australia.

Frames community gardens as part of a permaculture approach to redesigning cities and as a form of urban food production that is compatible with increased urban density and community space. Describes five Western Australian community gardens.

✂ Stocker, Laura and Kate Barnett (1998) “The Significance and Praxis of Community-based Sustainability Projects: Community Gardens in Western Australia” *Local Environment* **3**(2) pp. 179 – 189

Based on Barnett’s honours thesis (see above), this article explores grassroots community gardens’ contributions to local sustainability, with a case study of FINCA community garden in Western Australia.

Martin, Ruth and Terry Marsden (1999) “Food for Urban Spaces: The Development of Urban Food Production in England and Wales” *International Planning Studies* **4**(3): pp. 398 – 412.

Looks at the re-emergence of urban food production initiatives in the context of Local Agenda 21. Focuses on attitudes and knowledge of local government and makes recommendations to assist local authorities in enabling increased community gardening and urban food production.

## Box 4: Organics

Throughout the US, UK, Canada and Australia, community gardens are predominantly organic in their outlook and methods, and an understanding of organics is important to understanding the values and practices of community gardeners.

The proceedings from IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements) and ISOFAR (International Society of Organic Agriculture Research) conferences are useful sources of research and analysis on organics.

✂ Lockie, Stewart, Kristen Lyons, Geoffrey Lawrence and Darren Halpin (2006) *Going Organic: Mobilising Networks for Environmentally Responsible Food Production* Wallingford: CABI Publishing

An Australian publication with a focus on the politics and social aspects of organics. The individual authors have also published a number of relevant papers.

✂ Jones, Rebecca (2010 forthcoming) *Green Harvest: A History of Organic Farming in Australia* Melbourne: CSIRO.

Based on a PhD thesis, this accessible book explores the ideas and practices that have animated organic growing in Australia since the 1940s.

## Box 5: Permaculture

Coined by Australian environmental designers David Holmgren and Bill Mollison in Tasmania, permaculture takes a systems design approach to sustainability. Many community gardens in Australia have been influenced by permaculture.

✂ Mollison, Bill (1988) *Permaculture: A Designers' Manual*, Tasmania: Tagari Publications

In addition to practical strategies, the *Designers' Manual* details permaculture philosophy and ethics. The chapter on 'The strategies of an alternative global nation' is particularly useful in understanding permaculture's influence on community gardening, and how the permaculture movement sees community gardening as central to its agenda.

✂ Holmgren, David (2002) *Permaculture Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability* Melbourne: Holmgren Design Services

Holmgren explores the understandings which underpin permaculture practice, and questions many of the assumptions of the 'sustainability' debate.

✂ Hill, Stuart and Martin Mulligan (2002) *Ecological Pioneers: A Social History of Australian Ecological Thought and Action*, Cambridge University Press

Chapter 8, 'Thinking like an Ecosystem: Australian Innovations in Land and Resource Management' includes a critical review of the history of permaculture, which celebrates the role of Holmgren and the influence of PA Yeoman's Keyline system on permaculture.

Ferris, John, Carol Norman, and Joe Sempik (2001) "People, Land, and Sustainability: Community Gardens and the Social Dimension of Sustainable Development" *Social Policy and Administration* **35**(5): pp. 559 – 568.

Reports on research carried out in the US, aimed at relevance to policy development in the UK, with a focus on Local Agenda 21 and social aspects of sustainable development. Avoids defining community gardens, but offers a typology of kinds of garden, including demonstration gardens, child and school gardens, and healing and therapy gardens. Argues that all types contribute to environmental justice and sustainability.

Holland, Leigh (2004) "Diversity and Connections in Community Gardens: A Contribution to Local Sustainability" *Local Environment* **9**(3): pp. 285 – 305.

Survey of community gardens in the UK, focusing on their relevance to Local Agenda 21. Reports results of a range of questions asked of 96 community gardens and city farms including reasons for gardening, organisational structure, demographics of participants, and how successful gardens have been in moving towards their aims. Although the gardens were not developed in response to LA 21, Holland suggests that the community garden model could inform the implementation of integrated social, economic and environmental policies at the local level.

✂ Fulton, Claire (2005) "Growing Sustainable Communities: Community Gardens in the Australian Organic Movement" in Köpke (Ed.) *Researching Sustainable Systems: Proceedings of the 1st Scientific Conference of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR)*, held in co-operation with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) and the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA), 21 - 23 September 2005, Adelaide, South Australia.

Frames organics as a social movement with a broad social as well as environmental agenda. Outlines community gardens' contributions to the organic movement as incubators of organic enterprises (including farmers' markets), developers of innovative urban agricultural practices, and through education and awareness raising about organic food production.

✂ King, Christine Anne (2006) "Contemporary Agri-ecological Systems and their Contribution to Community Resilience: Reconnecting People with Food and People with People" paper presented at *Complexity, Democracy and Sustainability: The 50th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences*, Sonoma State University, California, 9-14 July 2006.

Looks at community gardens, along with CSAs and farmers' markets, organics and permaculture, as examples of community-lead agri-ecological systems, and argues that they can be understood using concepts from ecological systems thinking, such as resilience and holism. (See also King 2008).

Matteson, Kevin C., John S. Ascher, and Gail A. Langellotto (2008) "Bee Richness and Abundance in New York City Urban Gardens" *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* **101**(1): pp. 140 – 150.

A survey of bee populations in NY community gardens, finding that despite their small size, the gardens provide habitat for a diversity of bee species, and that they have the potential to contribute to plant pollination in urban areas.

Svendsen, Erika S. and Lindsay K. Campbell (2008) "Urban Ecological Stewardship: Understanding the Structure, Function, and Network of Community-based Urban Land Management" *Cities and the Environment* 1(1): art. 4.

Maps the roles, resources, contributions, and networks of local environmental NGOs in the management of urban spaces in northeast USA. Includes community gardens as examples of 'urban ecology stewardship' and community-based resource management.

Williams, Yvette (2008) "Investigating Vegetation Dynamics of Vacant Lots and Community Gardens in an Urban Watershed" *93rd Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting*, 6th August Midwest Airlines Centre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A report of a study-in-progress investigating the urban ecology of community gardens in Baltimore, focusing on vegetation diversity and ecosystem services provided by the gardens, as well as the effects of changing demographics on landscape management.

## *Planning, Urban Design, Place Making*

Francis, Mark (1987) "Some Different meanings attached to a public park and community gardens" *Landscape Journal* 6(2): pp. 101 – 112.

A comparison between a public park and community garden, focusing on the perceptions of users, non-users, and government officials. Community gardens in this article are framed primarily as user-developed and managed open space. Finds that the development and maintenance of the community garden cost a fraction of that of the park (\$2 750 cf \$61 000). Both spaces were well utilised, with the park mostly used for passive activities, such as eating and resting, and the community garden for active uses – watering, weeding, harvesting and so on. When describing the gardens, community garden users referred to sociability and production. The park users referred mostly to visual attractiveness and space for children. Safety and homeless users were major concerns for park users and barriers to non-users, but not for people in the fenced community garden. Residents, both park and garden users and non-users, were favourable to the community gardens, seeing them as visually pleasing, inclusive and deserving of permanency, whereas city officials saw them as a temporary use of vacant land, and as being perceived as restrictive because of fences.

Crouch David (1989) "The Allotment Landscape and Locality: Ways of Seeing Landscape and Culture" *Area* 21: pp. 261 – 267.

One of many articles by David Crouch on the culture and landscapes of British allotments. This one looks at the allotment as one of the few landscapes in contemporary culture that is created by its users, within political and economic contexts, and explores connections

between local culture and relations and the landscapes they produce. Compares allotments in four parts of Britain.

DeKay, Mark (1997) "The Implications of Community Gardening for Land Use and Density" *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* **14**(2): pp. 126 – 149.

Develops a number of practical design tools for including community gardens as part of new urban design projects (rather than as infill in existing developments). Covers gardens' requirements for solar access, proximity to users, and balancing community gardening goals with other site functions, such as buildings and parking. Frames community gardens as a form of urban agriculture necessary for sustainable cities.

✂ Cook, Andrea and David Williamson (1998) "Northcote Community Gardens: An Integrated Community Safety Approach. Paper presented at *Safer Communities: Strategic Directions in Urban Planning* convened jointly by the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Victorian Community Council Against Violence. Melbourne, 10-11 September 1998.

While focused on the process of implementing design for safety principles in a Melbourne community garden, this article also looks at planning for community gardens at local government level more generally, including the use of community development principles to gain community support.

Irvine, Seana, Lorraine Johnson, and Kim Peters (1999) "Community Gardens and Sustainable Land Use Planning: A Case Study of the Alex Wilson Community Garden" *Local Environment* **4**(1): pp. 33 – 46.

Case study of the establishment of a community garden in Toronto, Canada, which combines food production with ecological restoration. Planning process used Local Agenda 21 guidelines to address socio-economic, community participation and ecological considerations, and were based on a desire to create a landscape that could 'heal connect and empower, that make[s] intelligible our relations with each other and with the natural world'. A literature review with an international perspective frames community gardening in 'First' and 'Third' world cities as a response to environmental and social consequences of globalisation and looks at them in the context of urban agriculture and sustainable development.

Rishbeth, Clare (2001) "Ethnic Minority Groups and the Design of Public Open Space: An Inclusive Landscape?" *Landscape Research* **26**(4): pp. 351 – 336.

Reviews literature about the use and experience of parks and the 'countryside' by immigrants and ethnic minorities. Explores allotments and community gardens as landscapes designed with a 'facility provision' approach to including people of ethnic minorities, which meet needs enabling the cultivation of preferred food plants, and space for socialising and sharing food.

Salvadori, Ilaria (2001) "'Remove a Fence, Invite Chaos': Children as Active Agents of Change" *Local Environment* **6**(1): pp. 87 – 91.

Recounts the process of involving children from immigrant backgrounds in redesigning the landscape of the high-density housing estate where they lived. The children designed and implemented a community kitchen garden, as well as other play spaces.

✂ Hatherly, Janelle (2003) “Community Gardens: More than Urban Green Spaces” proceedings from *Greening Cities: A New Urban Ecology, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Conference*, Sydney 29 – 30 April 2003.

Review of Sydney’s ‘Community Greening’ program, established by Sydney Botanic Gardens and the NSW Department of Housing to support community gardening. Compares it with New York’s ‘Green Thumb’ program. Suggests that planners and government organisations should support, rather than drive, garden initiatives and that representatives of all community groups should be included in planning processes to increase acceptance and reduce vandalism of gardens.

✂ Freestone, Robert and David Nichols (2004) “Realising new leisure opportunities for old urban parks: the internal reserve in Australia” *Landscape and Urban Planning* **68**: pp. 109– 120.

Concludes that community gardens may be useful models for addressing issues in the maintenance of small pockets of urban land.

Lawson, Laura (2004) “The Planner in the Garden: A Historical View into the Relationship between Planning and Community Gardens” *Journal of Planning History* **3**(2): pp.151 – 176.

Outlines the history of community gardening in the US from the 1890s, showing community gardens being used to address multiple agendas in different periods. Argues that despite ongoing interest in the idea of community gardening, and intermittent support from planners and public agencies, community gardens are seen as interim activities, rather than as permanent places or public resources. Lawson identifies three reasons that planners have neglected community gardens: the persistent idea of community gardens as a temporary use of land that will be given over to a planned park or other development; the association of gardening with private land and the household and therefore belonging in the design of the suburbs, not the city; and that gardens initiated by ‘planners’ – including social workers and urban designers – are not necessarily successful in involving neighbouring residents in running the garden. Suggests need for ‘collaborative partnerships’ between grassroots gardeners and planners that balance participatory and evolving processes with long-term planning to create more strength and permanence for community gardens.

Dunn, Alexandra Dapolito (2010) “Siting Green Infrastructure: Legal and Policy Solutions to Alleviate Urban Poverty and Promote Healthy Communities” *Environmental Affairs* **37**(41): pp. 41 – 66.

Provides a detailed review of the evidence for the importance of gardens in urban environments, including on quality of life, particularly for the urban poor, on air pollution, water management, aesthetics, safety, job creation, and food security. Recommends ways to

remove legal and policy barriers to the development of 'green infrastructure' including community gardens.

## *Economics*

Bassett, Thomas J. (1981) "Reaping on the Margins: A Century of Community Gardening in America" *Landscape* **25**(2): pp. 1 – 8.

The study upon which most other histories of community gardening in the US are based (eg. Lawson 2005). Based on his (1979) masters thesis, Bassett argues that communal food growing endeavours rise and fall in association with economic cycles. He identifies seven periods of urban gardening activity linked with campaigns during the 1890s and 1930s depressions and World Wars I and II.

Patel, Ishwarbhai C. (1991) "Gardening's Socioeconomic Impacts" *Journal of Extension* **29**(4).

Based on interviews with 178 community gardeners in New Jersey, US. Finds that economic benefits were significant to many gardeners. Estimates that in 1989 the area's 905 community gardens produced over \$450 000 worth of vegetables, \$500 per plot. Social contact and urban greening were also valued.

Voicu, Ioan and Vicki Been (2008) "The Effect of Community Gardens on Neighboring Property Values" *Real Estate Economics* **36**(2): pp. 241 – 283.

Based in New York City, provides quantitative evidence to support gardeners' claims that community gardens are a valuable use of open space. Community gardens were found to have significant positive effects on the value of surrounding properties (and therefore on tax revenue available to the community). Gardens were found to have the most impact in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, and 'higher quality' gardens had the greatest positive impact. (See Pruijt (2003) for an analysis of the role of squatters and community gardeners in gentrifying neighbourhoods, and various articles on community gardens in NY for some of the consequences of garden-led increases in property values).

## EVALUATIONS, REPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS....

✂ Campbell, Angus (1998) *Community Gardens and Community Waste: Report into the Development, Management and Operation of Community Food Gardens in the South Sydney Council area* Produced for South Sydney City Council's Community Gardens Networks Project. Sydney: NSW Institute for Local Self Reliance inc.

A substantial report that identified ways the Council could best support the development of community gardens, emphasising community gardens' potential role in urban waste management and local food production. Includes case studies of several NSW gardens, models of garden management, and information on nutrition promotion and soil fertility in community gardens. This report led to the employment of a Community Gardens Officer by South Sydney Council.

Nemore, Carole (1998) *Rooted in Community: Community Gardens in New York City* Report to the New York Senate, Senate Minority Office.

Further background and a state-level perspective on the struggle over land for community gardens in NY. Advocates the support of community gardening in context of NY state policy. Reports findings of a survey of 229 gardens in NY City, including gardens' ages, physical description, activities, and gardener demographics. Finds that community gardens are an important resource, able to uniquely meet needs of diverse communities in ways that other open spaces – such as playgrounds – do not, and benefiting the wider community as well as garden members. Many gardens provided open space where no alternative spaces were available. Many gardeners were found to be involved in campaigns to save gardens, whether or not their garden was directly under threat.

✂ Li Stange, Luke (2002) *Perth City Farm: Cultivating a Vital Urban Community* Department of the Premier and Cabinet Sustainability Policy Unit, Government of Western Australia.

Case Study of City Farm Perth, including its history, programs, and contribution to sustainability.

Urbis Keys Young Pty Ltd. (2004) *Community Greening Program Evaluation Final Report* Prepared for The Botanic Gardens Trust and the NSW Department of Housing, April 2004.

A detailed review of Sydney's Community Greening Program (see Hatherly 2003 above).

Includes case studies of 5 gardens, new and established, urban and rural (including the Waterloo gardens in Bartolomei *et al* 2003 above). Found the gardens were effective in reducing crime, such as vandalism, and in increasing feelings of ownership and safety for both gardeners and neighbouring residents. They also decreased social isolation and benefited the health of gardeners. Provision of individual plots appeared to increase sense of ownership of the garden and encourage ongoing involvement. There was much learning, including of work skills, but there was been no significant change to employment status of gardeners. The program was also found to have had 'a considerable impact' on linking government and non-government agencies. Recommends sustained funding, start-up support for new gardens, increased knowledge-sharing among gardens, providing a range of activities in the gardens, efforts to involve young people and Indigenous people, and ongoing community consultation and involvement.

Astbury, Brad and Patricia Rogers (2004) *Evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2000 – 2004: Gilles Plains Community Garden, A Case Study*. Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services and RMIT University Circle.

A profile and evaluation of Kurruru Pingyarendi Community Garden in the northeast suburbs of Adelaide, with a focus on its effectiveness in building community capacity and capital. Explores the garden's development, aims, management, what it means to participants, and the impact of government policy and strategy. Includes an overview of community gardening literature and history and many photographs.

Christensen, Peta (2005) *Overseas developments in urban agriculture and food security focusing on community garden projects and community markets in low income communities* Report to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia, available at <[www.churchilltrust.com.au/res/File/Fellow\\_Reports/Christensen%20Peta%202004.pdf](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/res/File/Fellow_Reports/Christensen%20Peta%202004.pdf)>

Outline of Cultivating Community worker, Peta Christensen's 2004 research tour as a Churchill Fellow. Includes vivid descriptions and photographs of numerous community gardens and community food systems in South America, the US and Denmark.

Grayson, Russ (2007) *Community Gardens: Policy Directions for Marrickville Council* Petersham, NSW: Marrickville Council.

Includes a brief history of community gardening in Australia, analysis of benefits, and a range of management models, with examples from around Australia. Relates community gardening to global trends, such as interest in local food production, global warming, and peak oil. Examples of community garden policies from local governments other countries. Includes guide for community groups making submissions to councils.

Grayson, Russ (2008) *Community Gardens: Policy Directions for Kogarah Municipal Council* Sydney: Kogarah Municipal Council and Living Schools.

Includes overviews of the history and practice of community gardening in Australia, with examples from Sydney, Melbourne, Western Australia and Tasmania, and outlines social and environmental benefits. Reviews global trends that have stimulated the growth of community gardening in Australia. Outlines roles local government bodies play in supporting community gardens, and ways gardens benefit local government. Describes various models of garden governance and organisation, with recommendations for the development of proposed and future gardens in the Council area.

*Additional bibliographical information is available in:*

Duensing, Edward and Christopher Brune (1979) *Urban Community Gardens* Vance Bibliographies Public Administration Series, Bibliography #P-354 Monticello: Vance Bibliographies 11pp.

A comprehensive listing of publications on community gardening in North America from 1975 to 1979. Including newspaper and magazine articles, government publications and books, with a brief introduction by the authors.



## *Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography.*

Claire Nettle

*Community Gardening: An Annotated Bibliography* is a comprehensive guide to research and analysis on community gardening. Focused on Australian sources, it includes guidebooks and manuals, books, Doctoral, Masters and Honours theses, articles in academic and professional journals, and a number of other research-based documents, such as project evaluations and submissions. In addition, there are brief introductions to sources on key areas that provide additional context and evidence for community gardening: therapeutic horticulture, urban agriculture, organics, food security and permaculture.