



### **Hello Green Streets gardeners and Neighbourhood Greenway volunteers!**

It is such a pleasure to see this wonderful program grow and flourish as more and more people across the City extend their gardens onto the streets and into their community. Over the past year, nearly 50 new gardens have been added to the Green Street Program, making almost 300 sponsored gardens throughout Vancouver. Amazing! So, on behalf of all of Green Streets, welcome new gardeners!

To celebrate the growth of the Green Streets Program and in the spirit of environmentalism, the Mount Pleasant Community Centre and the Green Streets Program invite you to attend the first ever *Community Eco-Exchange* on April 18th at Mount Pleasant Community Centre. It's an opportunity meet your fellow street gardeners and to swap plants and other gardening paraphernalia. It's also an opportunity to exchange knowledge and skills, with a free composting workshop provided by the composting wizards at City Farmer. Whether you are new to composting or just want to learn more, it will be a fun and informative session. While all this is happening, kids can participate in 'eco' crafts and activities, so make sure to bring the family along. The *Community Eco-Exchange* will also include an Electronic Waste Drop-Off, so start gathering up old computers, cell phones, etc. Mount Pleasant Community Centre will usher it to the appropriate waste facility, reducing the harmful environmental impacts of E-Waste. Overall, it will be a fun and social day to gear-up for the growing season while celebrating the gardening community.

I hope that your experience as a street gardener in the coming months is enjoyable and fulfilling. Thank you for the fabulous contribution you make to our City. Happy Gardening!

Erin MacDonald  
*Green Streets Coordinator*  
t 604.873.7204 f 604.871.6193  
erin.macdonald@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/greestreets

### *In this issue*

Community Eco-Exchange  
April 18th 2009

Green Streets  
Compost Bin Project

Curb-toCurb:  
Green Streets Book  
call for submissions

Updated Website for  
Green Streets and  
Neighbourhood Greenways

Free Compost for Green Streets  
March 6th 2009

Upcoming Events

# Community Eco-Exchange Event

Saturday April 18th  
11am - 3pm

Mount Pleasant Community Center  
3161 Ontario St. at 15th & Ontario

The Mount Pleasant Community Center and the Green Streets Program invite you to join us in celebrating the new growing season in the spirit of volunteerism and environmentalism.

Start the day off with a  
**Free Composting Workshop by City Farmer from 11 - 11:30**

Swap and socialize with fellow  
Green Street gardeners

Bring along items for the E-Waste Drop-Off. Call 604.731.1888 for info on what is accepted (TVs and microwaves are not accepted)

Kids 'eco' activities during the workshop and throughout the day

'Eco' resources and information from groups like PowerSmart BC

## MOPARRC Artist Meet & Greet

The Artists in Residence of *Means of Production Artist Raw Resource Collective* will be around to meet and greet the community. This group of artists use materials grown in the garden to create ephemeral art. Really interesting work that takes community gardening to a whole new level! Chat with them and learn about the many events and programs they run throughout the summer.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!



## Green Streets Compost Bin Project

In an effort to incorporate the City's goals of sustainability into the Green Streets Program, compost bins are available *free of charge* to all interested volunteers. Green Streets gardens are not only opportunities to beautify the neighbourhood, they are opportunities to demonstrate and foster environmental consciousness. This is another step towards volunteer gardeners becoming models of sustainability for their community. So far, 11 gardeners have signed up. If you want to join in the composting revolution, please let me know and I'll happily get you involved in this fantastic project.

Don't know the ins and outs of composting? Come and attend the free composting workshop by City Farmer at the *Community Eco-Exchange* on April 18th. Whether you are new to composting or you've been doing it for years, this is a great opportunity to learn from the experts.

## Curb-to-Curb: Green Streets Book

Some of you may remember past mention of the Green Streets book. The book is really starting to take shape and is planned to be completed by fall of this year – just in time for the Green Streets Party. I would like to receive more submissions from Green Streets gardeners – stories and photos to be incorporated into the book. Text should be between one sentence and one short paragraph. If you have high resolution photos of your garden (especially in spring or fall), please send them to us at [greenstreets@vancouver.ca](mailto:greenstreets@vancouver.ca). Here are some themes that will hopefully stimulate thoughts, insights and stories related to street gardening. I would love to hear more from you and hope that the following will help get the wheels turning. Think...

- volunteerism/collaboration with the City and with your community
- environmental sustainability/ecology/environmentalism
- greening the city/enhancing the urban environment
- community pride and ownership/stewardship
- connection to nature and to our ecosystems
- learning/experimenting/exploring
- teaching/demonstrating/sharing
- your own health and well-being

submit text by **April 30th** and photos by **May 22**



## Website Updates

[vancouver.ca/greestreets](http://vancouver.ca/greestreets)  
[vancouver.ca/greenways](http://vancouver.ca/greenways)

We are currently updating the Green Streets website. The new and improved website will be a better resource for gardeners as well as a better source of information for people who are unfamiliar with the program. The new homepage will include a column with recent news and highlights so you can easily check in on what's happening in the program. We are also adding a 'Photo Gallery' where we can showcase your gardens through the seasons. The overall look of the website will incorporate the City of Vancouver's new layout and format.

The Neighbourhood Greenways website is also being updated. The new homepage will include a map of the City locating each Neighbourhood Greenway so that people can easily visit and enjoy your efforts. Images and information will also be updated, so if you have suggestions on information to include on your greenway, do not hesitate to let us know.

Feel free to provide comments and suggestions as we continue to work out the fine details of the two websites.



green streets in their glory

## Free Compost from March 6th until it's gone

It's that time of year when Green Street gardeners can pick up free compost for their street gardens. On the afternoon of Friday March 6th, compost will be delivered to several central community locations and gardeners can bring buckets, bags and shovels to take away what they need.

**Britannia Community Centre**  
1661 Napier Street  
compost pile at the west end of the parking lot. Enter off the lands south of Venables at Cotton Drive.

**Kitsilano Community Centre**  
2690 Larch Street  
compost pile in the north end of the parking lot just west of the entrance off of 10th Avenue.  
(behind the ice rink)

**Mount Pleasant Community Centre**  
3161 Ontario Street  
compost in the north west corner of the parking lot. Enter off of 15th Avenue at Manitoba.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Free Compost for Green Streets**  
*afternoon of March 6th until it's gone*  
See newsletter for details

**Master Gardeners' Spring Seminar:  
The Ever Changing Garden**  
*Mar 8 from 9am to 3pm*

**7373 MacPherson Ave., Burnaby.**

Seminar on how we can manage our ever changing gardens. Includes plant and compost sale, garden-focused vendors, silent auction, and prizes. \$45. Info and registration at [www.bcmastergardeners.org](http://www.bcmastergardeners.org) or 604-257-8662

**Sustainability Noon Hour Series**

*Mar 12, 19, 26 & April 2 at 12pm*

**UBC Robson Square: Rm C180 - 800 Robson**

A number of free and interesting lectures, including: creating healthy communities, eating trends and local/organic food movements, and a look at how honey bees can give us a new understanding of human systems and the design of cities. Info at [www.robsonsquare.ubc.ca/programs/public\\_lectures](http://www.robsonsquare.ubc.ca/programs/public_lectures) or 604-822-3333

**Community Eco-Exchange**

*April 18th from 11am to 3pm*

**Mount Pleasant Community Centre**

**VanDusen Plant Sale**

*April 26th from 10am-4pm*

**VanDusen Botanical Garden**

THE sale of the year. More than 40,000 plants for sale. Catalogues available in advance at the Garden Cashier for \$2 starting April 1st. Bring your wheelbarrow and a friend. Master gardeners will be on site to give advice. Free admission to the Garden on this day.

**Submission Deadline for Green Streets Book - Text**

*April 30th*

Send to [greenstreets@vancouver.ca](mailto:greenstreets@vancouver.ca)

**The Life and Death of Cities:  
Accounting for Environmental and  
Social Sustainability**

*Apr 30 at 7pm*

**SFU Harbour Centre - 515 W Hastings St**

Free talk on the challenges of providing secure and sustainable places to live. Reservations required. Info at [www.sfu.ca/city/fpl](http://www.sfu.ca/city/fpl) or call 778-782-5100.

**EPIC – Sustainable Living Expo**

*May 8-10*

The Vancouver Sun Sustainable Living Expo  
[www.epicvancouver.com](http://www.epicvancouver.com) or 604-775-7300

**Cedar Series Lecture: Sustainability-  
Flavour of the month or the new  
vanilla?**

*May 14th at 7:30pm*

**VanDusen Floral Hall**

The VanDusen Garden Director will delve into the necessity, and the exciting challenge, of achieving sustainability at VanDusen and in our daily life. Big ideas and practical tips on thinking globally and acting locally. Tickets in advance at VanDusen or at the door. Members \$10, non-members \$15

**Submission Deadline for Green Streets Book - Photos**

*May 22nd*

Send to [greenstreets@vancouver.ca](mailto:greenstreets@vancouver.ca)

**Cedar Series Lecture: Roses North  
and South**

*June 11th at 7:30pm*

**VanDusen Floral Hall**

Rosarian Dr. Donald McLean has had a long interest in roses. Dr. McLean has been a member of the Vancouver Rose Society since 1982 and currently writes 'Rose Tasks' in the Society's journal, The Rose Bed. Tickets in advance at VanDusen or at the door. Members \$10, non-members \$15

**Private Garden Tour**

*June 13th & 14th from 10am-4pm*

A weekend feast of garden hopping in which carefully selected private gardens are open to discerning visitors. Two day self-guided tour. Tickets \$30. Info at [www.vandusengarden.org](http://www.vandusengarden.org) or 604-878-9274

**World Rose Festival**

*June 19-21*

**Vancouver Convention Centre**

An amazing variety of events. \$18 per day or \$49 for all 3 days. Info at [www.worldrosefestival.com](http://www.worldrosefestival.com) or 604-984-6449

**East End Garden Tour**

*June 21*

Every year a dozen or so accomplished East Side Vancouver gardeners open their garden gates and allow people to visit and ask questions. Tickets for self-conducted tours are \$10; available at Figaro's Garden (1896 Victoria) or Britannia Community Centre (1661 Napier). Proceeds go to support the work of Britannia Neighbours. For info, phone Britannia at 604-718-5800 and leave a message for Britannia Neighbours [eastsidegardentour.blogspot.com/](http://eastsidegardentour.blogspot.com/)

**Green Streets Party!**

*September 26th*

**VanDusen Floral Hall**

Book your calendar for the 2009 Green Streets Party. Plant swap, socializing and free admission to VanDusen gardens. Stay tuned for more details.



## LOCAL FOOD <http://www.eatlocal.org/>

**Winter Farmers Market**

*Alternate Saturdays:*

*Mar 14, 28 & Apr 11, 25*

*from 10am-2pm*

WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac St

**Trout Lake Farmers Market**

*Sat from May-Oct, 9am-2pm*

15th & Victoria Dr in the  
Parking Lot of Trout Lake

Community Centre

**West End Farmers Market**

*Sat from Jun-Oct, 9am-2pm*

1100 Block of Comox St across  
from Nelson Park at Mole Hill

**Riley Park Farmers Market**

*Wed from Jun-Oct, 12.30-5.30*

30th & Ontario St, Parking Lot of  
Riley Park Community Centre

**Kitsilano Farmers Market**

*Sun from Jun-Oct, 10am-2pm*

10th & Larch St, Parking Lot of  
Kitsilano Community Centre