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As we cool down for the winter months ahead, the gardener is offered a moment to reflect on the success and lessons of the season past. Without doubt, it has been a successful year for Green Streets and Neighbourhood Greenways. At this year's Green Streets Garden Party the evidence of your many successes and accomplishments was apparent, both in the images of your work on display and in the positive spirit that each of you brought with you to the celebration. Joining our gathering of street gardeners, Mayor Robertson offered insights on the valuable role that you play in creating a greener and more sustainable Vancouver. Not only are your gardens small acts of beautification, they are places that enhance the ecology of our City, making our neighbourhoods more liveable for both people and for creatures of the natural world. The Green Streets network is collaboratively infusing our urban infrastructure with the gardener's nurturing touch. Once again, thanks to each of you for enriching Vancouver and helping to create a vibrant and diverse city!

This year's party at VanDusen was an incredible source of inspiration and ideas for another great year of gardening in 2010 – Green Streets is warming up before we've even had the chance to cool down! With the many lessons the past season has taught me about gardening and about our city, motivation to further develop Green Streets and Neighbourhood Greenways is in full force. At the 2007 party, many of you provided feedback and suggestions for improving the programs. Your input is invaluable and as interest and involvement in gardening continues to increase, we will continue to find new and better ways to support you in your green endeavours.

One of the most rewarding projects to realize this year was the completion of the *Green Streets Vancouver* book - a spectacular portrait of the program and a tribute to the work that you do. You have helped create a stunning legacy for the program and I hope that it will be a source of inspiration not only to Vancouver's street gardeners and residents, but also to people around the world who look to our city as a leader in community engagement and environmental stewardship. Congratulations on a project well done!

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Celebrating the legacy of Green Streets...



The long awaited release of *Green Streets Vancouver* has finally come! The book is a tribute to the many people who develop and maintain our city's gardens, and in the process enrich and beautify Vancouver's neighbourhoods. The contributions from our Green Streets volunteers create colourful streets, personalized neighbourhoods, and foster a sense of community pride and ownership. To all the Green Streets gardeners, thank you for sharing your passion and love of gardening with us!

May *Green Streets Vancouver* inspire everyone to create a greener Vancouver, and motivate cities around the world to encourage their own Green Streets gardeners.

As a token of our appreciation, each Green Streets garden may receive a copy of the book. If you were not able to attend the Green Streets Garden Party and would like to get your copy, please let us know. Additional copies will be available to purchase. A special thanks to all of you who sent us your beautiful photos and heart-warming stories and to staff in Greenways and Neighbourhood Transportation who helped to capture the Green Streets gardens featured in the book.

Green Streets Feature

Blenheim Street Bulges

Story submitted by Ellen Hockin, Blenheim Neighbourhood Group

The Blenheim Street redesign: A community's initiative to create a street of gardens, realizing their vision of a beautiful, blooming neighbourhood

It's been an honour and a pleasure to be involved in the Green Streets bulge planting initiative for Blenheim Street, and to work with our neighbours and the City on this community-building project.

This is not our group's first foray into street gardening. The Blenheim Neighbourhood Group has been working on safety and traffic calming for our street for almost ten years now. One of our earliest projects involved planting drifts of King Alfred daffodils along the Blenheim Street boulevards, creating a gorgeous bright yellow display each spring.

Recently, major road improvements have been implemented on Blenheim Street, putting the Boulevard Bulb project on hold. As part of the improvements, close to 50 traffic bulges were constructed between W 16th Ave and SW Marine Drive. Our group seized the opportunity to add to our boulevard plantings by creating gardens in the new bulges. Thus began our partnership with the Green Streets Program and another rewarding "grassroots" project for our street. With no funding designated for the planting or maintenance of the bulges, we worked creatively with Engineering, Planning, the Parks Board and Green Streets, as well as our neighbours, to help realize our vision.

The project is a brilliant success involving about 35 resident gardeners. We started planting the bulges in the fall of 2008 and almost all are now fully planted. I love that each bulge is different and unique but all contain at least a few of the same plants, providing a thread of continuity while allowing for individual expression. We are most appreciative of the City's support and the amazing efforts of all of our street gardeners.





Creating the Mosaic

The City's **Host a City Happening Program** has provided opportunities to City departments that have close working relationships with community groups to initiate new and on-going events and projects with financial support from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Fund. This funding was a great way for the City to support citizen involvement in the 2010 Winter Games experience.

The Cedar Cottage Greenway Revitalization incorporates and celebrates the values of the 2010 Winter Games...

Olympic Values...

- optimism
- empowerment
- friendship
- solidarity
- peace
- fair play
- inspiration

City Values...

- diversity
- accessibility
- sustainability
- public involvement
- inclusivity
- community building



Revitalizing Community Space

Neighbourhood Greenways Feature Cedar Cottage Greenway Revitalisation

Story submitted by Beth Brooks, Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood Greenway volunteer

In 1994, the Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood Greenway transformed the unopened 19th Avenue road allowance into a garden-like connection between Dumfries and Fleming Streets. The greenway was initiated and built by the community, using bricks from the Expo 86 site for the walkways. A heritage-planting theme featured plants native to or developed in British Columbia, many of which were donated by UBC Botanical Garden as well as plants from local residents. Over the past fifteen years various groups within the community have continued to maintain the greenway with assistance from the City of Vancouver Engineering Department and the Parks Board.

Although the Greenway has stood the test of time, a refurbishment was needed to bring it back to its original beauty. An opportunity presented itself in the form of the "Host a City Happening" community grant program. With the focus of the program on building community and fostering the values of the Olympics - friendship, solidarity, peace, fair play, optimism, inspiration and empowerment – at the local community level, the Cedar Cottage Greenway successfully received funding to host community events within the context of revitalizing the Greenway.

Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, work has been steadily progressing. The project was in full swing by spring with several 'happenings' throughout the season. Events included the herb garden planting in May, community lamb roast in July and the unveiling of a new Welcome Mosaic in September. This colourful mosaic at the west entrance to the greenway was created by grade 5 students at Tye and Lord Selkirk Elementary Schools with the guidance of Mosaic artist, Corinna Hanson. The mosaic's palette will serve as inspiration for plant selection throughout the entire garden. Although all major refurbishments have been completed, more volunteers are always welcome! Neighbours and friends of the greenway will have the opportunity to come together to acknowledge the Greenway's past, present and future place in the community at a Community Spirit Potluck, scheduled for Saturday November 14, 2009 5-9pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (1573 East 18th Avenue). Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to share and to join in the celebration of this extraordinary space in our community.

For more information or to volunteer, please email cgreenway@gmail.com

Great reasons to compost



Reduce your garbage

Organic waste (such as kitchen scraps and garden clippings) make up 30% of the household garbage currently being sent to the landfill. Composting your organic waste is a great way to reduce this volume.

Help the environment

Less waste means less trucks on the road and less methane gas generated from the landfills. It also recycles nutrients back into the earth.

Improve your garden

Your compost will help your garden soil retain moisture after rain or watering.

Reduce use of chemical fertilizers

Keep local waterways clean by avoiding chemical fertilizers. Composting is a natural way to add nutrients to the garden.

Fall Gardening Tips

Composting

Information on composting contained in this newsletter is from Metro Vancouver's brochure on Backyard Composting. For more information on composting, visit www.metrovancouver.org or call the Compost Hotline at 604-736-2250

Steps for creating rich, healthy compost for your street garden while reducing your waste!

1. Obtain a free compost bin form the Green Streets program by contacting greenstreets@vancouver.ca or 604-873-7204.

2. Choose a flat, partly-sunny area with good drainage on your own property - the bin should not be placed in your street garden.

3. To promote air circulation, create a 6–10cm base using straw, leaves, or woody brushy material as the first layer in your bin.

4. Start adding compostable materials. Alternate layers of green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) materials. See the chart for details green vs. brown materials.

tip: Leaves are the perfect 'brown' layer for your composter. Collect dry leaves into an old garbage container so that you can use them year-round.

tip: Chop up large materials for faster decomposition.

tip: Whenever you add a food scrap layer, top it off with a layer of brown material (5–8cm). If you only use kitchen scraps (green material), your compost will likely be wet and break down more slowly.

5. Mix bin contents every week or two. This aerates the materials, allowing them to decompose faster. You can use a specialized aerator tool or simply use an old ski pole or broom handle.

tip: Moisture content of the bin should be like a wrung-out dishrag. Only add water if it is very dry after mixing.

6. Your compost pile will shrink. Continue to add layers of green and brown materials until bin is almost full.

7. Compost will typically be ready within 4-5 months but aging the compost for an extra month or two is recommended.

tip: If you have room, set up two composters so you can add to one bin as the other one matures.

8. Harvest that rich, nutritious compost and feed your street garden!!! You'll know it's ready when it's moist and full of healthy worms. Dig out the compost from the door at the bottom of your bin and spread it around!

tip: You may choose to sift your compost through a mesh screen to remove large chunks or unfinished material

Green material (nitrogen-rich)	
Kitchen scraps	Vegetable peelings and rotting fruit.
Plant trimmings from your garden	Leaves, old flowers, end-of-season greenery.
Grass clippings (fresh)	Best used as a mulch on your lawn; not from lawns recently treated with pesticides.
Coffee grounds and tea leaves	
Pet manure	Use only from grass eaters such as rabbits, gerbils, guinea pigs, sheep, horses or cows.
Large leafy weeds	Not once in seed, and only when still green. Avoid invasive weeds like morning glory.
Rhubarb leaves	Safe for composting. Note: contain a natural chemical, oxalate, making leaves (NOT stems) poisonous to eat in large amounts.
Vegetables and fruit	Cut into thumb-sized pieces for faster composting. Note: no salad dressing.

Brown material (carbon-rich)	
Leaves	Save leaves from the fall in a dry bin. Note: Oak leaves are good, but they decompose slowly, so use few.
Newsprint	Shred.
Cardboard	Cut some into small pieces to compost. Recycle large pieces.
Corn cobs, corn stalks	
Brown paper bags	Shred.
Grass clippings (dry)	
Straw	Excellent carbon source; can use in place of leaves.
Paper towels and napkins	

Other acceptable materials	
Eggshells	Rinse and crush.
Wood ash from a fireplace	Can compost but best to add directly to garden.

Unacceptable materials	
Grease, cooked food including rice or pasta, oils	Attracts rodents and pests. Composts very slowly. Can cause odour problems.
Fish, meat, bones	Attracts animals and can cause odour problems.
Dog or cat feces*	Meat-eating animals can carry disease.
Kitty litter	May contain chemicals and disease organisms.
Barbecue ash, coal	Contains chemicals such as sulphur oxides.

Autumn leaves

Yard Trimmings Collection

Any extra leaves or garden waste that you are not able to compost can be set out for yard trimmings collection. Fill your yard trimmings cart with your leaves and set it out on your scheduled yard trimmings collection day. Remember, no plastic bags or liners in the cart.

Unlimited Leaf Collection Program

From October 1st to January 31st, the City collects unlimited quantities of leaves from Vancouver homes (every second week) as part of the yard trimmings collection program. Use a "leaf can" (standard garbage can) or a biodegradable paper bag for your extra leaves (any that don't fit into your yard trimmings cart). Set your leaf can or paper bags 1 m away from your trimmings cart on your scheduled collection day.



For more information on the City's Yard Trimmings Collection Program or Unlimited Leaf Collection Program, visit vancouver.ca/yardtrimmings
Call 604-326-4600 or email sanitation.ops@vancouver.ca

Fall Gardening Tips

Leaves & Garden Trimmings



Since 2006, The City of Vancouver has provided fully automated yard trimmings collection to residential dwellings (single-family, duplex, and rowhouses) as well as some apartments and non-residential properties. Many street gardeners use their own trimmings cart to manage garden waste; however, there have been several requests from gardeners over the years for assistance from the City with the removal of Green Streets garden trimmings. In 2007, a workshop was held as part of the annual Green Streets Garden Party where gardeners were asked to provide feedback for improving the Program. One of the most prevalent comments was the challenge street gardeners face in dealing with waste from their street garden. This was particularly the case for residents of multi-family units where regular cart service was not in place. As a result of your input and in an effort to integrate Green Streets into the standard services provided by Sanitation Operations, here are some guidelines to assist you in managing your garden waste.

Garden Trimmings Guidelines

Manage your garden waste locally by *composting*. Green Streets gardeners are encouraged to compost as much as possible - we will even provide you with a free compost bin to support you in your sustainable efforts!

Ask neighbours and near-by residents if you can use extra space in their trimmings carts for your Green Streets waste. Street gardens benefit the entire community and often, neighbours are happy to support Green Streets volunteers. It's another great example of street gardening building community and connecting people!

Between Oct 1st and Jan 31st, any extra waste that does not fit in a trimmings cart can be placed in biodegradable bags or a 'leaf can' and placed out for regular yard trimmings collection as part of the *Unlimited Leaf Collection Program*. Contact Green Streets if you require additional biodegradable bags for your traffic circle or corner bulge.

If you live in a multi-family unit and have difficulty obtaining access to your neighbours' trimmings cart, contact the Green Streets Program to find out about obtaining a *special Green Streets Trimmings Cart*. In some cases, Green Streets can provide a trimmings cart free of charge to Green Streets and Neighbourhood Greenway volunteers.

If you have extra trimmings outside of the unlimited collection period:

- *store extra garden waste* and re-fill your cart after it's emptied on collection day
- contact Green Streets to have a *special pick-up* of trimmings bags arranged
- if you have a vehicle you can *drop off your trimmings* at the Vancouver South Transfer Station or the Vancouver Landfill. There is a \$6 drop off charge

What happens to your collected garden trimmings?

Yard trimmings collected in Vancouver by City crews are taken to the Vancouver South Transfer Station (VSTS) and then transported in City of Vancouver tractor trailers to the composting facility at the Vancouver Landfill (VLF) in Delta. Some of the compost produced at the landfill is donated to Green Streets every spring and fall and delivered to several community centres around the city.

Washing Up! Water conservation made easy with the indoor water saver kit

Submitted by Preet Bal, Waterworks Design, City of Vancouver

Digging, seeding, weeding, SUN. Planting, watering, lifting, HEAT. Bending, mending, fending, CRITTERS. Yes gardeners, it was an incredible summer! Record-breaking temperatures and long days of sunlight were indeed beneficial to gardens. Your diligent work provided this city with breathtaking sights, a palette of colour and forage for bees. Thank you.

Yours is a labour of love with many awesome moments. But let's be facetious for just a few paragraphs. Love HURTS. Backaches, sunburns, blisters, stings, mangled manicures and is that a mosquito eating you alive?! For all the rewarding emotions gardening offers, there are days when we crave spas rather than piles of manure.

During your winter dormancy take some time to freshen up – nails desoiled, body rinsed, old t-shirt and cap that you wore every waking moment – washed, and those stained coffee mugs that you misplaced in the garden – soaked.

It's a given that the above cleansing will require the use of water, but many of our typical fixtures are water guzzlers. So while our gardening activities do best to enhance the outdoor environment, the clean-up shouldn't undo good karma.

To "green-up" the indoor environment, the City is offering the Indoor Water Saver Kit, available to Vancouver residents only at a reduced price. For just \$12 this easy-to-implement kit could help use 15 to 20 per cent less water indoors, and 10 to 15 per cent less energy for heating water. Now you'll be saving water and money. How? Faucet aerators, toilet tank bags, leak detection tablets, and the "Earth Massage" showerhead reduce the amount of drinking water used without sacrificing performance. Genius and easy. Kits are readily available at the Client Services Centre, on the 5th Floor of 507 West Broadway (limit 2 per household). For a visual of the kit or to read how much water could be saved, visit us at vancouver.ca/water

In closing, let's say a toast, with a mug of hot chocolate. To the Green Street gardeners, bravo for a job well done! Celebrate your hard work, enjoy the changing colours of fall, feast on local harvests, and wash-up mindfully. For when springtime comes again, and you are beckoned back to the garden, other methods of water conservation such as rain barrels and the City's Outdoor Water Saver kit might turn your interest. But, for now, enjoy practicing the good deed indoors. As with gardening, water conservation can be a rewarding habit. It stresses a need-based approach to a resource often taken for granted.



Fall 2009 and Winter 2010

Upcoming Garden Related Events

Nov 12 Thursday 7:30pm

VanDusen Botanical Garden - Floral Hall
5251 Oak St 604-878-9274

Cedar Lecture, Garden Artistry with renowned garden author and humourist, Des Kennedy.

A 'how to' look at the use of art and 'artistic touches' in the gardens of Ireland, New Zealand, England and China along with a self-deprecating look at the evolution of Mr. Kennedy's own Denman Island country garden. Tickets in advance from the Administration Office or at the door. Members \$10 and non-members \$15

Nov 26 - Dec 5 Daily 10am-4:30pm

In the Plant Centre at UBC Shop in the Garden
6804 SW Marine Drive 604-822-4529

Fresh Holiday Wreath Sale Unusual evergreens, colourful berries and exotic foliage are crafted into beautiful fresh Holiday wreaths, baskets and door swags. With approximately 300 wreaths made, it's essential to get there early for the best selection. Priced from \$35-\$80. Sales support research and educational activities at UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research.

Dec 11-13 Friday-Sunday 10am-4pm

VanDusen Botanical Garden - Entrance Pavilion
5251 Oak St 604-878-9274

Holiday Wreath & Centrepiece Sale presented by VanDusen Dried Flower Arrangers

Dec 11 - Jan 3 4:30pm - 9pm

VanDusen Botanical Gardens, 5251 Oak St.
Festival of Lights every evening except Christmas Day when the Garden is closed. A magical experience for the whole family with 1.4 million twinkling lights. Purchase advance tickets at the Garden starting November 1st or call Tickets Tonight at 604.684-2787.

Dec 21 6pm-9pm

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
578 Carrall St. 604-662-3207
Winter Solstice Lantern Festival
Celebrate the longest night of the year in a classical garden with pines, bamboo and winter-flowering plum illuminated by hundreds of intricately hand-crafted lanterns. It's the 15th annual festival with live music, Chinese paintings and a special display of local children's glowing creations. Join the procession from the Strathcona

Community Centre at 6 p.m. or meet at the garden at 6:30 p.m. Entry by donation.

Apr 15-18 Thursday-Sunday

BC Place Stadium, 777 Pacific Boulevard
BC Home and Garden Show Thanks to Marketplace Events for generously donating free passes to all the Green Streets gardeners that attended the party. Enjoy the Show!

Early May Saturday 10am-4pm

In the parking lot at UBC Botanical Garden
6804 SW Marine Drive 604-822-4529
UBC Perennial Plant Sale
Looking for hard-to-find plants? Searching for "just the right" plant to fit that garden trouble spot? The annual Perennial Plant Sale at UBC Botanical Garden has what you are looking for. Featuring a wide selection of plants propagated by the *Friends of the Garden*, the sale is a popular gardening event in the Lower Mainland. This event is brought to you by the Friends of the UBC Botanical Garden. All funds generated from the plant sale support research and educational activities at UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. Entrance by donation.