



Spring has given us an early start this year and the streets are now speckled with colour as blooms emerge across the city. Even in February your gardens were looking spectacular for all of our visitors.

Green Streets is getting quite a bit of attention these days with the *Green Streets Vancouver* book finding its way around the world. City Hall has seen an abundance of international visitors over the past couple of months and staff have been proud to share your book as a souvenir for our guests. From London England to Guangzhou China, *Green Streets Vancouver* is showing other cities how influential residents can be in creating a greener, more beautiful and more sustainable city.

Let's continue to build interest in the program! If you have ideas for getting more folks involved with Green Streets, please let me know. Last year, new safety vests with 'Green Streets Volunteer' printed across the back were made available at the suggestion of a group of volunteers that were frequently mistaken as City workers. What a great way to let more people know about the volunteer power behind Vancouver's street gardens.

Already, several new gardeners have joined the program for the 2010 gardening season, so on behalf of all of Green Streets I would like to extend a warm welcome. If you are new to the program this year, check out the Fall 2009 Newsletter for great tips and information on managing your street garden. Find out how the program can support you with composting and garden waste collection. Visit the 'News and Events' page at vancouver.ca/greenstreets to find the link to past Newsletters.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events. The *Green Streets Plant Swap* will take place on Sunday April 18th and the annual *Green Streets Garden Party* will be on Saturday September 25th. We had a great time last year, so be sure to mark your calendars and make it out to these wonderful events. See you there!

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Newsletter Spring 2010

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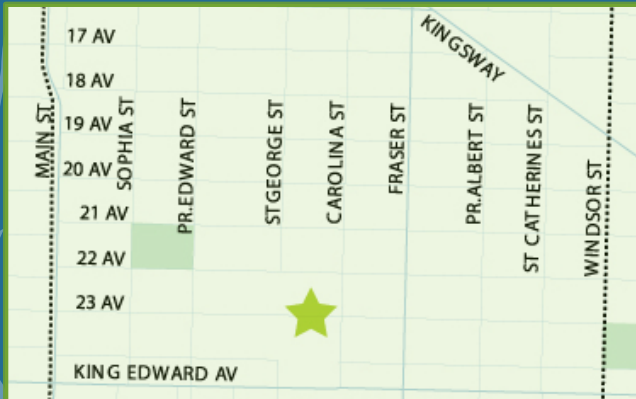
Upcoming Gardening Events



Green Streets Plant Swap

Sunday April 18th from 1-4pm

Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway on E23rd Avenue
between Carolina Street and St. George Street



Volunteers Needed!

Interested in other ways of getting involved with Green Streets? Help us organize and set up for the upcoming plant swap on April 18th. Just a few hours of your time will help make this event a great success! Contact the Green Streets Coordinator if you are interested in helping or want to learn more.

Street gardeners from around the city will be getting together to **swap plants** and other gardening items like tools and books. There will also be inexpensive plants for sale to help support the volunteer gardeners at Tupper Greenway so come even if you don't have plants to share. *Last year we even had free extras at the end of the day!*

Come pick up **free compost** for your garden.

Stop to chat with the **Master Gardeners**. They will be there to answer any gardening questions you may have. Whether you are curious about a certain plant or have garden management/design questions, they are there to share their wisdom with you.





Located in the beautiful Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway, another volunteer-based street garden. Bring a snack and sit to enjoy music in the company of fellow gardeners. In the spirit of swapping, bring some snacks to share with other gardeners for the potluck table. *Learn more about the Tupper Greenway on p 6-7.*



Online Plant & Seed Exchange

vanseedtrade.theforum.name

There is now an online forum for Vancouver gardeners to swap plants and seeds. An excellent resource for street gardeners to find free and inexpensive plants for their gardens. Sign up for the Vancouver Plant and Seed Exchange Network and start swapping!

-  connect with other local gardeners
-  share plants and seeds that you have an excess of
-  find out about free or inexpensive plants even if you don't have something to swap
-  overcome barriers to diversifying your garden such as cost, access to suppliers, or lack of plant and gardening knowledge

VPS EN
VANCOUVER PLANT & SEED
EXCHANGE NETWORK

Connecting local gardeners with an
appreciation for plant diversity

An initiative of the ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ALLIANCE

BC Home + Garden Show Your Tickets

Everyone that attended the Green Streets Garden Party last September received 2 free passes to the BC Home + Garden Show that was scheduled for **April 15th - 18th**. Unfortunately, due to roof work at BC Place Stadium, the show has been cancelled.

The tickets were generously donated by the show organizers, Marketplace Events. They have kindly extended the free invitation to the BC Home + Interior Design Show instead. The show takes place this fall from **September 9th - 12th** in the Vancouver Convention Centre West Building.


Thanks Marketplace!



Turn to the Sun is a local non-profit group of nurses, friends, school children and families committed to raising funds which support community based HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.

On Saturday May 8th from 10am - 3pm join *Turn to the Sun* for their 6th Annual Sunflower Seedling Sale to raise money for the project. Check out one of two Vancouver locations:

 **Kitsilano**
3608 West 4th Ave
at Banyen Books

 **East Vancouver**
2133 East 7th Ave
between Lakewood & Nanaimo

Over 30 varieties of ornamental sunflower seedlings grown locally by nurses and friends in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

By donation, with 100% of proceeds to HIV/AIDS projects in sub saharan Africa.

For full details see: www.turntothesun.org

kitsTREEmap Walking Tour

Check out this great walking tour of Kitsilano and it's beautiful trees. The entire project was the voluntary efforts of a few local residents! Impressive.

kitsTREEmap is a circular tree walk around the streets of Kitsilano. It leads to all the hotspots of the neighbourhood including: Kits beach, Cypress Community Gardens, 4th Avenue and Broadway. In addition to celebrating this vibrant and colourful neighbourhood, the walk seeks to show off some of the great trees and tree-lined streets of the area. European Hornbeams on Trafalgar Street, Tulip trees lining 10th Avenue, English Holly hiding in Tatlow Park are just a few of our woody friends you will meet and connect with en-route.

- Ryanne, kitsTREEmap collaborator

www.kitstreemap.com





Gardener Profile:

Alison Cerney, Birch & 10th



My name is Alison and I have a big bulge.

For years I have been truly, madly, deeply in love with rock climbing. I embraced the sport with my soul, forsaking family, friends, and all other activities in pursuit of jamming my feet, fists, and fingers into sharp exhilarating granite cracks. I despised the rain, and only when it rained did I remember to spend time with those dearest to me. I was obsessed and I didn't care. I climbed. I was on top of the world.

And then, one fine spring day it all came crashing down around me. Actually, I came crashing down in a nasty fall that resulted in a broken leg/ankle/foot, and the affair with my cold hard granite lover was over as quickly as I had descended. It hurt, a lot.

I had alienated many friends with my rainy day only availability, but my family was stuck with me. For weeks post surgery my worried mother administered whopping dosages of codeine and fresh cut fruit while I lay helpless on her sofa. My brother and his wife took care of Rex, my petite 90lb Bullmastiff; and my son Joe picked up and delivered all of my necessities: groceries, Band-Aids, vodka, and kibble.

Once I had mastered the art of crutching, Rex and I both returned home. Our days consisted of lying around on the bed, short hops to the kitchen for food and beverages, and meandering walks up the back alley for Rex to do his business. For two months I filled the time with books and movies, martinis, and a whole lot of napping, but when my ankle began to look more like a football and less like a basketball, I felt ready to expand my horizons.



It was precisely then that the City created a traffic circle at the intersection next to my apartment building. The construction of the traffic circle included a corner bulge and both areas became available as garden plots with the Vancouver City Green Streets Program. I applied for and got the bulge.

Before planting my new piece of prime real estate I had to prepare the soil. Each day I tied Rex, aghast, to the street parking sign, while I sat on my butt, flung my crutches across the sidewalk, and dug up the dirt with a hand shovel. People in the neighbourhood all stopped to stare and nod and question and suggest. I enjoyed the human contact and I discovered that the people in this town are highly opinionated when it comes to gardens:

What are you doing? Digging. Have you ever had a garden before? No. Why does your dog look like that? He doesn't like to be outside. What are you going to plant? I don't know. Do you have permission to do this? Yes. I have a garden. I have over 100 plant specimens. You know perennials are the only way to go, don't you? What are perennials? You have to water a garden, you know. Yes. That's true. What happened to your leg? It broke. With the southwest exposure, a rose garden would be perfect here. Rose gardens are nice. Why doesn't your dog sit down? Why does he just stand there with that look on his face? He doesn't like the dirt. You need mulch. Mulch is really important. Mulch? Why don't you use a bigger shovel? It's going to take you forever using that little thing. My leg is broken. I can't use a big shovel. Are you getting paid to do this? Is the City giving you money for the plants? No. No money from the City. It's all my own money.

My son brought me some gardening how-to books and a handful of gardening magazines and I found a website through which a person can place orders, and in turn boxes and boxes of bulbs and plants and shrubs and packets of seeds and rhizomes and roots will be delivered right to the door. It's quite addictive.



"I came to understand that a good garden takes years to grow and develop and evolve and that a masterful gardener was one who had blooms and plants of interest throughout the seasons."

I studied hard, suddenly intimidated by the prospect of planting a garden in public for everyone to see and judge. I felt that my garden would be a reflection of who I was as a person and I was struggling with who I was since I was no longer an invincible, cool rock climbing chick; I was now a weak, broken-legged friendless old hen and I didn't want to portray that picture through my garden. That would be a garden with a few stray dandelions languishing in a patch of dry clumpy dirt surrounded by non-descript weeds. People would have to avert their eyes, or cross the street, or take antidepressants any time they walked past my bulge.

I came to understand that a good garden takes years to grow and develop and evolve and that a masterful gardener was one who had blooms and plants of interest throughout the seasons. Interest. I had become the most uninteresting person I knew. How could I create interest?

When my plan came together and green things began to grow and grin and bob and bloom in the wind, another challenge reared its buggy-eyed head: garden pests. I am a nature lover, a believer in chemical free foods, and I will go out of my way to set free a trapped wasp from my bathroom, but seeing my fussy white perfume rose lose her dignity while suffering the public humiliation of black spot; standing helpless as my blue Phlox coughs and sneezes, obviously allergic to the powdery mildew that is spreading over his leaves; and watching, horrified as an aphid infestation of biblical proportions takes up residency on my special Agapanthus "Streamline", I have a powerful urge to eradicate these pests with a blast of Napalm, or at least a quick squirt of DDT. However, I have resisted my innate instincts and I diligently and lovingly bathe my plants, leaf by leaf, in buckets of warm innocuous soapy water. For now.

My neighbour Robert is planting in the traffic circle and it has been interesting to see the differences in our developing gardens. Robert can be seen watering two or three times a day. There is something peculiar about a man and his hose. Robert is creative and he clearly has vision. He is most clearly creative in the early hours of the morning after knocking back what I imagine to be several rum and cokes. His vision included planting a good fifty sunflowers of exotic varieties. These sunflowers grew eight feet tall and when they showed their big yellow and burnt orange faces, it became a circle of brilliant hazard lights warning drivers to slow down. It was a fantastic achievement, especially since the City prohibits sunflowers in street gardens, ironically to prevent

blocking drivers' visibility. Robert also planted Echinacea and artichokes and tomatoes and lilies and cacti and Aloe Vera. He says he can't discern between the weeds and what he's planted so he allows everything to grow into a wild, swampy jungle of giant mushrooms and dark purple frondy things that sometimes arouses in me the idea of traipsing through it with a machete. Robert just says that I have a girl garden and he has a boy garden.

Often, when I'm out caring for my English inspired flower garden, passers-by will clear their throats and ask if I also care for the traffic circle. I find it odd they could consider that the same person might be responsible for both. It would have to be a person with multiple personalities, someone like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In any case, the passers-by breathe an audible sigh of relief when I quickly say, "No. No, Robert is responsible for that," and they smile and relax and stay to chat about the ways of the world and the plants and the weather and about how people are so diverse and so interesting.

A lot of time has passed since my accident and my limb has mostly healed. I am back climbing rocks, getting reacquainted with my old lover. The relationship has been slow to rekindle, perhaps due to lingering fears of being hurt again, but the passion still burns deep. Yet, it is different. Some days, when it's warm and dry and perfect for a glorious day of rock climbing, I walk past my bulge with my rope and backpack and I stop and gaze lovingly at my fading Rhoaphypoxis Bauril "red", I caress the little mop top of my Thuja "Teddy", I sniff my Lavandula Stoeches, and I secretly wish for rain.

2010 Updates:

Robert moved to the Interior and is now managing a vineyard. The circle is now being cared for by Jennifer. As far as I know, she doesn't drink rum and cokes.

My best friend Rex, sadly, passed away. My neighbour Linc the Puggle often accompanies me whilst tending to my garden. He's not so keen either.

Green Streets would love to hear and share your story. Let us know about your street gardening experience. Anything goes!

Send it to greenstreets@vancouver.ca

Come and get it!

Free Compost for your garden...

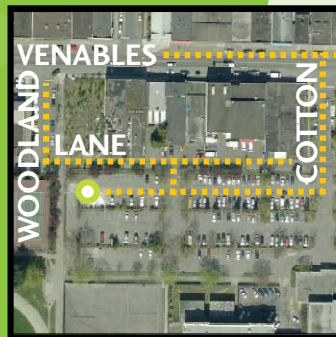
Starting Friday March 19th until it's gone!

You are invited to pick up free compost for your street garden starting Friday March 19th from the following locations. Bring your own shovels and buckets.

Britannia Community Centre

1661 Napier Street

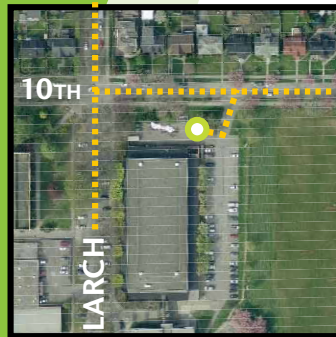
The compost is located at the west end of the parking lot. Enter off the lane south of Venables at Cotton or Woodland.



Kitsilano Community Centre

2690 Larch Street

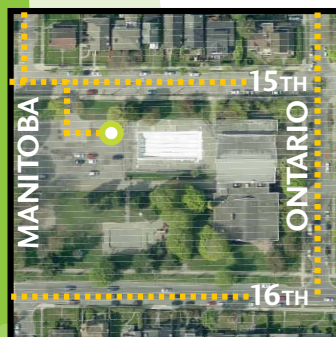
The compost is located at the north east end of the parking next to the entrance off of 10th.



Old Mount Pleasant Community Centre

3161 Ontario Street

The compost is located in the north east corner of the parking lot. Enter off 15th by Manitoba.



Start making compost

in your own backyard!

The most sustainable way to manage your garden waste and nourish your soil. Green Streets gardeners can get a free compost bin to help get going.



The Tupper Greenway Story

"Planting Diversity, Celebrating Community"

The following story is an abbreviated version of the Tupper Greenway story submitted by TINGA and students of Tupper Secondary School

Since opening in June 2008, the Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway has become a jewel in the neighbourhood and a focal point for Tupper School and the surrounding community. Neighbourhood Greenways have been a part of Vancouver's landscape since 1995, enhancing local connections, reflecting community issues and identifying neighbourhood needs. The successes of the Greenway are readily seen, however, the significance of this unique place lies in its origins. Tupper has long been known as a school that cares deeply for its students, often referred to as the "Tupper Family". As with any family, it celebrates triumphs, endures hardships and most importantly, finds ways to overcome adversity. The story of Tupper Greenway illustrates what can happen when a school reaches out and collaborates with community members to find meaningful ways to affect positive change.

Hands of Hope

The roots of the Greenway were born from a deep sorrow faced by the school and local community with the tragic death of Tupper student, Jomar Lanot in 2003. Jomar was the victim of a violent beating that took place the night of Nov 27th on school grounds. Immediately following, Tupper launched the "Hands of Hope" art project which was a reflection on the student's individual values and strengths and those of the school and community. Themes emerged on ways to work together to build a stronger, safer community and a more respectful school culture. The project provided a springboard for further action and became an enduring symbol that helped transform the school from a profound state of grief to a place of healing.

Finding Student Voice

The Vancouver School Board Crisis Response Team suggested that Tupper gather various stakeholders to discuss issues of safety. A Community Action Team (CAT) was formed including students, staff, parents, and the City's Social Planning Department. During discussions, students felt their input and leadership was lacking. As a result, the Tupper Student Action Team (TSAT) was formed to encourage student engagement in building a safer and more caring school/community environment. Students took part in training and leadership workshops with school counsellors and the City's social planners to develop skills in facilitation, advocacy, networking, conflict resolution and communication. These workshops became crucial in enabling students with the resolve and skills to take further action.

...The Tupper Greenway Story Continued

Creating a Community That Cares

Both CAT and TSAT worked together to organize the first community connections event in June 2004. The event focused on 3 critical questions: What does a safe community look like? What is working to make our neighbourhood safe and what can be done to make it safer? How can Tupper School and the local community be more connected with one another? Ideas from the event were compiled to create "Hope Into Action", a document which later helped guide the planning and development of the Greenway.

Hope Into Action

As part of a Community Visions Workshop, students of TSAT helped identify areas within the community where they felt safe, unsafe or vulnerable. The closed portion of East 23rd Ave that intersects the school grounds was identified as an area where students felt unsafe. Plans to transform the street into a beautiful healing garden began to unfold by the fall of 2005. Over the next few years, Tupper staff, students and community members worked together with the City's Greenways staff to design the Greenway. Features included a memorial in honour of Jomar, a culinary herb garden, outdoor classroom, bicycle path, walkways, wetland gardens, green spaces and improved lighting. Construction of the Greenway was completed by the fall of 2007 and in the following spring, a Community Planting Day finalized its development. The City marked the official opening of Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway in June 2008 and joined the local community in a celebration. TSAT was honoured to receive the City of Vancouver Youth Award for civic engagement which recognized the important contribution they made to their community and the development of the Greenway.

"TINGA" Stewards of the Greenway

As with all Neighbourhood Greenways, the community is responsible for stewardship and maintenance. In January 2007, the group involved with the Greenway since its inception formed an official non-profit organization: Tupper Integrated Neighbourhood Greenway Association, TINGA. The purpose of TINGA is threefold: to facilitate intergenerational and multicultural involvement in the stewardship of the Greenway; to encourage its use and to promote and enhance social harmony within the richly diverse community; to build collaborative relationships through various events involving members of the immediate neighbourhood and larger community.



Over the past year, TINGA has successfully implemented a range of exciting initiatives. Student involvement in greenway activities is ever increasing. For the past two years, students in Tupper's Cook Training Program have used herbs from the garden for their culinary classes while students in the Art Program worked with community members under the direction of a mosaic artist to build five lovely mosaic benches. The Tupper Tech Program has been actively involved in designing and building a community bulletin board to be installed in May 2010. Master Gardeners have been working with students and community members to organize a series of upcoming Volunteer Garden Days that include a range of sessions including: Dividing Perennials, Planting Annuals, Maintaining and Harvesting Herbs and Composting. TINGA is always looking for more volunteers so consider getting involved!

To learn more about the Tupper Greenway story, contact Marty Dolan, Teacher at Tupper Secondary School at splendid@shaw.ca, mdolan@vsb.bc.ca or by phone at 604-713-8233

Want to make a difference at Tupper? Get involved!

Mar 27th	Spring Spruce Up / Dividing Perennials
Apr 10th	Composting the Garden
May 15th	Planting Annuals / Brick Edging
Jun 12th	Garden Orientation and Tour
July 17th	Strawberry Tea Celebration for Volunteers
Aug 14th	Maintaining and Harvesting Herbs
Sep 11th	Maintaining and Harvesting Herbs
Oct 16th	Fall Clean up

All sessions are Saturday from 10am – 1pm.
Busy? Come for half an hour if that's all you have. Tools available and Master Gardeners on hand to guide and answer questions.
To get involved, contact Linda Wishart at lwish@shaw.ca.

Upcoming Dates

Gardening Events

Fri Mar 19 until it's gone

Free Compost available for Green Streets gardeners at Britannia, Mount Pleasant and Kitsilano Community Centres. See inside newsletter for details.

Sat Mar 27 at 10am

Bird Walk Beginners' birding exploration in VanDusen Garden. Free for Members or with Garden admission. For info visit www.naturevancouver.ca

Sun Apr 4 from 1pm - 3pm

Biodiversity walk in Stanley Park. Explore and discuss the state of biodiversity in the park in a global context. Walk leaves from Stanley Park Nature House. \$5 - \$10

Thur Apr 8, May 13 & Jun 10 at 7.30pm

Cedar Series Lectures at VanDusen Floral Hall. Visit vandusengarden.org for info. Tickets in adv at administration office or at the door if available. Members \$10 & non-members \$15.

-Across the Grain: The Nature of Wood
-The Natural World of William Shakespeare
-Lecture Hardy Orchids

Sun Apr 18 from 1pm - 4pm

Green Streets Plant Swap in Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway (E 23rd between Carolina & St. George). Swap plants & pick up free compost. Master gardeners will be on site to give advice.

Sat Apr 24 from 9am - Noon

Soil Fertility and Plant Health Workshop with organic gardener Grant Watson at the SPEC Office in Kitsilano. For info or to register visit gourmetgardens.ca under workshops. Suggested donation \$35, pay what you can.

Sun Apr 25 from 10am - 4pm

VanDusen Plant Sale. THE sale of the year - more than 40,000 plants for sale. Catalogues in advance at the Garden Cashier for \$2 starting April 1. Master gardeners will be on site to give advice. Admission to the Garden is free this day.
Sat May 8 from 10am - 3pm

Turn to the Sun: 6th Annual Sunflower Seedling Sale
2133 E 7th Ave. between Lakewood and Nanaimo.

Sat May 8 from 10am - 4pm

UBC Perennial Plant Sale in Botanical Garden parking lot. Admission by donation.

Thur Jun 24 from 7pm - 9pm

Night Shift Jazz on VanDusen Centre Court lawn. 19-piece Big Band plays jazz, blues and Latin tunes. Included with admission to the Garden. For info 604.771.3390, RonRealtor@telus.net or www.nightshiftjazz.com

Sun July 11, 18 & 25 from 5.30pm - 8.30pm

Jazz in Bloom. Series of 3 jazz concerts on VanDusen's Great Lawn. Go early & stroll through the Garden, bring a picnic & blanket. Seating is not provided & is on first-come basis. \$25 per evening or early bird before July 9 is \$60 for all 3. Purchase starts June 1. Tickets: 604.684.2787, www.ticketstonight.ca & at VanDusen Garden Shop or Cellar Jazz Club.

Sat Sept 25 from 2pm - 4pm

Green Streets Garden Party at VanDusen Floral Hall. See you then!

Summer Markets

Eat Local

Trout Lake Farmers Market

Saturdays, May - October; 9am - 2pm each week
New location for 2010 to be determined. Check eatlocal.org for info.

West End Farmers Market

Saturdays, June - October; 9am - 2pm each week
1100 Block of Comox Street across from Nelson Park at Mole Hill

Main Street Station at Thornton Park

Wednesdays, June - October; 3pm - 7pm
Thornton Park across from the VIA Rail Station and near the Main St Skytrain Station

Kitsilano Farmers Market

Sundays, June - October; 10am - 2pm each week
10th Avenue and Larch Street, Parking Lot of Kitsilano Community Centre

www.eatlocal.org

