

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK

March 2011

“Whether praised by the president or an anonymous gardener, gardens have been lauded as symbols of hope for a better, more cooperative, and more beautiful, healthy world.”

— Laura J. Lawson,

“City Bountiful: A Century of Community Gardening in America”, 2005

The mission of the San Diego Community Garden Network (Network) is to create a healthy community garden movement in the County of San Diego and assist in the formation of community gardens through education, technical assistance and by linking gardeners.

The Network views community gardening as a method for building and empowering communities and for promoting social and economic justice, good health and nutrition, access to healthy, fresh local food, a sustainable urban environment and breaking down cultural, ethnic and generational barriers. The Network also envisions community gardens as partners with other groups working for similar goals.



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK

The goals of the Network are to:

- I. Provide support services, technical expertise and educational programs to assist in the development of new community gardens that share the Network's values and are viewed as an asset by their surrounding communities.
- II. Foster the development of support links within the garden community and with community partners, including the business community, nonprofits, schools, health providers, community leaders, government and the general public.
- III. Promote the creation of a community identity for San Diego community gardens and increase public awareness of the contribution gardens make to their neighborhoods by developing a website and garden blog, organizing garden activities such as garden tours, potlucks, workshops, speaker events and by maintaining a list of community gardens.
- IV. Support environmentally and people friendly garden practices and the expansion of green spaces in our cities.



Where we are today

Two years in the making, the Network became a nonprofit corporation in September 2010 and, with funding from the San Diego Master Gardener Association, has filed for nonprofit tax status. The Network is working to create a master liability insurance policy for community gardens, is currently providing technical assistance to community garden startups around the county and has a website at www.SDCGN.org and a Facebook page.

Get involved

Whether you are currently a community gardener, would like to become one, or are a friend of community gardens it is your participation and support that will create a vibrant community garden movement in San Diego. Volunteer opportunities abound. The Network needs people with experience in all of the following: gardening, web site maintenance, fundraising, accounting/finance, writing skills, teaching, advocacy, carpentry, public speaking, irrigation, composting, cooking, event planning and research. Whether any of these sounds like you today, getting involved will help you build these skills through hands on experience.