

Coalition Goals:

- 1) an inventory of all gardens for all City departments and offices;
- 2) a halt to the sale of gardens before impact studies are completed and evaluated
- 3) a review of all existing development plans by the City, to evaluate the needs of communities that may have changed since these plans were devised.

(continued)

As a leading preservation organization, our work will be crucial in the coming months. We hope that you will help us fight this fight and also help us to continue building the network of support we call NYC Coalition for the Preservation of the Gardens.

Here's what you can do:

- **Join NYC Coalition** by contacting NYC Coalition for the Preservation of the Gardens, 638 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10009. Phone (212) 777-7969. Fax (212) 505-7303 E-mail: earthcel@interport.net or visit our web site: <http://www.interport.net/~earthcel/>
- **Fight back** by helping NYC Coalition gather information for a lawsuit challenging the City's destruction of precious open space in our communities. **Fill out the Garden Inventory** (see the Inventory Insert)
- **Get involved in the movement**, sharing the information in this newsletter with your neighbors and other gardeners in your community. Make a donation of whatever you can afford to NYC Coalition to support the fight. Volunteer your time and talents by filling out and returning the Sign-up Sheet in this newsletter. To confront all of the areas needing attention, we have established committees including: Research, Outreach, Web-site/Internet, Events, Media, and Legal.
- **Attend monthly NYC Coalition meetings** the second Wednesday of the Month at 638 East Sixth Street, 3rd floor (btw Aves B & C). For the summer meetings (July, August) we will be meeting in the gardens. **The next meeting** will be Wednesday, July 9th, 7pm at Project Harmony Garden, Harlem, 216 W. 122nd Street. Call for other meeting times and locations.

Join our list of supporters and endorsers.

Have your garden or organization write a letter in support of NYC Coalition for the Preservation of the Gardens.

Save the Gardens Legislation Introduced in Albany

Responding to the recent NY Times coverage of City plans to sell its community gardens for development, State Senator John Sampson of Brooklyn has introduced legislation calling for their preservation in accordance with the State's Open Space Plan. The legislation calls for gardens to be protected as "park land" and prohibits sale of the spaces without Community Board approval. While the legislation is not expected to pass in this

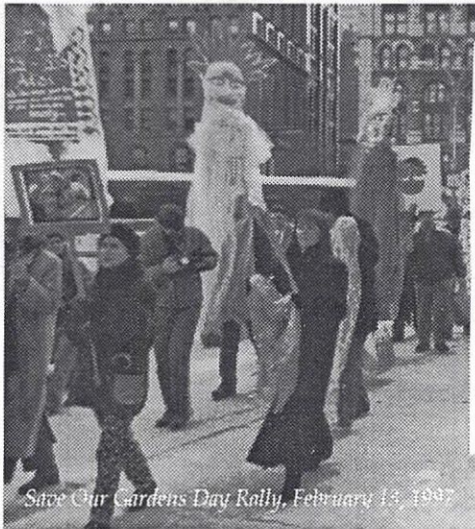


photo credit: Rev. Finley Schaefer

session, hearings can provide an opportunity for gardeners, garden neighbors, and other users to call attention to the wide range of neighborhood resources that would be lost if the spaces were destroyed. Garden Supporters should **call Senator Sampson**, thank him for his support and ask him to schedule hearings and keep you informed. (Senator Sampson (718) 649-7653)

In addition, letters addressed to **Governor Pataki**, recognizing his long-term commitment to open space, his support for the State's open space plan which calls for the preservation of the gardens might help generate support for the measure. Remind him that the gardens cost the government almost nothing, and they are a model of neighbors working together to improve their own lives. Include a few lines about what your community garden means to you. Then ask him to reply to your concerns. (Send a copy of your letter to NYC Coalition, we may try to reprint it in a future issue of The Garden Gate.)

Governor George Pataki

The Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
Fax: (518) 474-1513 Tel: (212) 681-4580

Additional letters in support of the NYC community gardens should be sent to:

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
Fax: (212) 406-3587 Tel: (212) 788-3000

Fernando Ferrer, Bronx Borough President
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
Fax: (718) 590-3537 Tel: (718) 590-3500

Howard Golden, Brooklyn Borough President
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fax: (718) 802-3959 Tel: (718) 802-3700

Ruth Messenger, Manhattan Borough President
Attn: David Wang
Municipal Building, 19th floor
New York, NY 10007
Fax: (212) 669-4900 Tel: (212) 669-8300

Claire Shulman, Queens Borough President
120-55 Queens Blvd
Kew Gardens, NY 11424
Fax: (718) 286-2885 Tel: (718) 286-3000

Mr. William J. Diamond, Commissioner
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
1 Centre Street, 17th fl
New York, NY 10007
Fax: (212) 669-8992 Tel: (212) 669-7111

Hon Richard T. Roberts, Commissioner
Housing Preservation and Development
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038
Fax: (212) 386-6666 Tel: (212) 386-6482

Commissioner Joseph Rose
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street New York, NY 10007
Fax: (212) 720-3219 Tel: (212) 720-3206

Mr. Peter Vallone
City Council, Speaker
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
Fax: 788-7207 Tel: 788-7210

PLEASE SEND/FAX COPIES OF LETTERS TO:

**NYC COALITION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF THE GARDENS**
638 East Sixth Street, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10009

Tel: (212) 777-7969 Fax: (212) 505-7303