

BRONX:

Cherrytree Association (CTA): On December 5 the **Cherrytree Association Garden** (Bruckner Blvd & 136 St), which has an HPD hold for development, was seized as part of the eviction issued to residents of the adjacent building, **Casa del Sol** (672 E. 136th St.). The residents and gardeners have commenced an Article 78 action contesting the legality of the seizures.

The CTA has also been involved in the development and cultivation of the threatened **United We Stand Garden** (Block 2550, L.49, 55) since its inception. The CTA hopes to work to keep this garden, serving over 50 families in the poorest congressional district in the nation, as a permanent community garden and Nature Resource Center operated and managed by the community itself, outside the purview of the Parks Department.

South Bronx Gardeners' Coalition (SBGC): The Shakespeare Garden (1345 Shakespeare Ave), which had its GreenThumb lease terminated December 15, will be presenting petitions for its preservation to Councilmember Wendell Foster. The SBGC is also working with the **United We Stand**

(627 E. 137 St) and **Sunflower Gardens** (639 E. 137 St) to mount campaigns to preserve the community gardens as such in the "St. Lukes Park" proposed for the sites. Moreover, the **Getting It Together Community Garden** (1430 Plimpton Ave), the **Roberto Clemente Community Garden** (1272,1276,1280 Shakespeare Ave.), the **Alegria Garden** (530 E. 139 St) and the **Crimins Group Association Garden** (587-591 E. 141 St) received letters from GreenThumb indicating that their leases are to be terminated. The SBGC is considering the next active steps to take to assist these gardens. In addition, the SBGC aims to become an early participant in the land use planning process by monitoring Community Boards and identifying developers.

BROOKLYN:

Two dedicated and tireless NYC Coalition members have begun a project to notify all gardeners of the threat to their gardens and to document all of the gardens in Brooklyn. To date they have completed files on all the gardens in Coney Island, Bushwick and Williamsburg, and have begun Bedford Stuyvesant. Their efforts in Williamsburg may have saved the **El Bohio Garden** (249-53 South 2 St): after *El Bohio* members they spoke to lobbied their City Council and Community Board members, the garden was pulled from a list of potential sites for a daycare center.

Brooklyn NYC Coalition members emphasize that in Coney Island and Bushwick, HPD terminated the GreenThumb Licenses for the sites and conveyed them to developers, but there has been no demolition or construction.

The plants (and now accumulating trash) are still there, merely the gardeners have been cleared! These gardeners could have had another season, maybe more. Moreover, the Coney Island gardens were all terminated for commercial development; as in Bushwick no action has been taken on the sites. Posted signs read: "Build To Suit." How's that for urban planning!

Several NYC Coalition members, who attended the Brooklyn Environmental Summit (11/20) sponsored by State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, report that Montgomery and Senate Democratic Leader Martin Connor seemed particularly interested in the plight of the gardens. Senator Montgomery is going to see what she can do about the endangered **Comm. Betterment Assn. Down Home Garden** (1099-1107 Herkimer St).

A new garden coalition has been formed for central Brooklyn gardens called **BANG (Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens)**. Many of the organizers of this group are NYC Coalition members. Their goal is to become more familiar with each others gardening projects, and to share experience, resources, and people power. For info, call (718) 636-GARDen.

Contribute to the Community Garden Legal Defense Fund:

Checks or money orders (no cash) should be made out to :
The Legal Aid Society/Garden Defense Fund

Send to: **Community Garden Legal Defense Fund**

c/o The Legal Aid Society
230 East 106th Street
New York, NY 10029
Attention: David Weschler

Join NYC Coalition for the Preservation of the Gardens

YES! I want to join the fight to save New York's community gardens.

I can make a donation:

- \$5 Voting Member
- \$25 Friend/Garden Group
- \$50 Donor
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 or more Sponsor

I can volunteer to:

- Act as community liaison
- Work on phone bank
- Do computer work
- Work on the Newsletter
- Help with mailings
- Attend rallies/events
- Assist Events Committee
- Assist Legal Committee
- Assist Research Committee
- Assist Outreach Committee
- Assist Media/Press Committee
- Other (please specify)

My skills are:

- Computer graphics
- Word Processing/Database
- Writing
- Public Speaking
- Bilingual (what languages)
- Photo/Video
- Other (please specify)

Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Tel: (Day) (Evening)

Fax: E-mail:

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
Make checks payable to Earth Celebrations, with note: "for NYC Coalition"
(All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.)

Detach this form and mail to:

NYC Coalition for the Preservation of the Gardens
638 East 6th Street, 3rd Floor New York NY 10009
or call (212) 777-7969 or Fax (212) 505-7303
E-mail earthcel@interport.net Web-site: <http://www.interport.net/~earthcel/>