

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The City of Buffalo owns vacant parcels of land throughout the city. Individuals or organizations interested in community gardening activities can utilize many of these lots. Community Gardens are an opportunity to use City owned lots for neighborhood beautification by transforming vacant parcels into passive garden space or non-commercial vegetable gardens. The City encourages the temporary use of vacant lots for green initiatives and community gardens and currently has agreements with 30 community groups, utilizing over 90 parcels of land for Community Gardens.

Interested parties can apply to the City of Buffalo Division of Real Estate, 901 City Hall, Buffalo NY 14202 (716-851-6541).

### **Requirements, Restrictions and answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

- The lot(s) requested for garden use must not be needed for a public purpose or development.
- The Land Use Planning Committee must review the request and release the parcel(s).
- The City requires General Liability Insurance in the minimum amount of \$1 Million naming the City as an additional insured.
- The sponsor must enter into an agreement with the City. Common Council approval of the agreement or any amendments is required.
- No permanent structures can be erected on the City parcel being used as a community garden.
- The agreement between the city and sponsoring agent can be cancelled for cause. Prior notification is required.
- The city requires a minimum lead-time of 6 weeks for review of a request to establish a community garden.

The City of Buffalo has an existing agreement with GRASSROOTS GARDENS OF BUFFALO as a sponsoring agent for community gardens. GRASSROOTS GARDENS is an independent organization with its own application and review process.

For information, contact GRASSROOTS GARDENS OF BUFFALO at (716) 783-9685 or <http://www.grassrootsgardens.org>