



How to Join a GreenThumb Community Garden

Parks

History of GreenThumb



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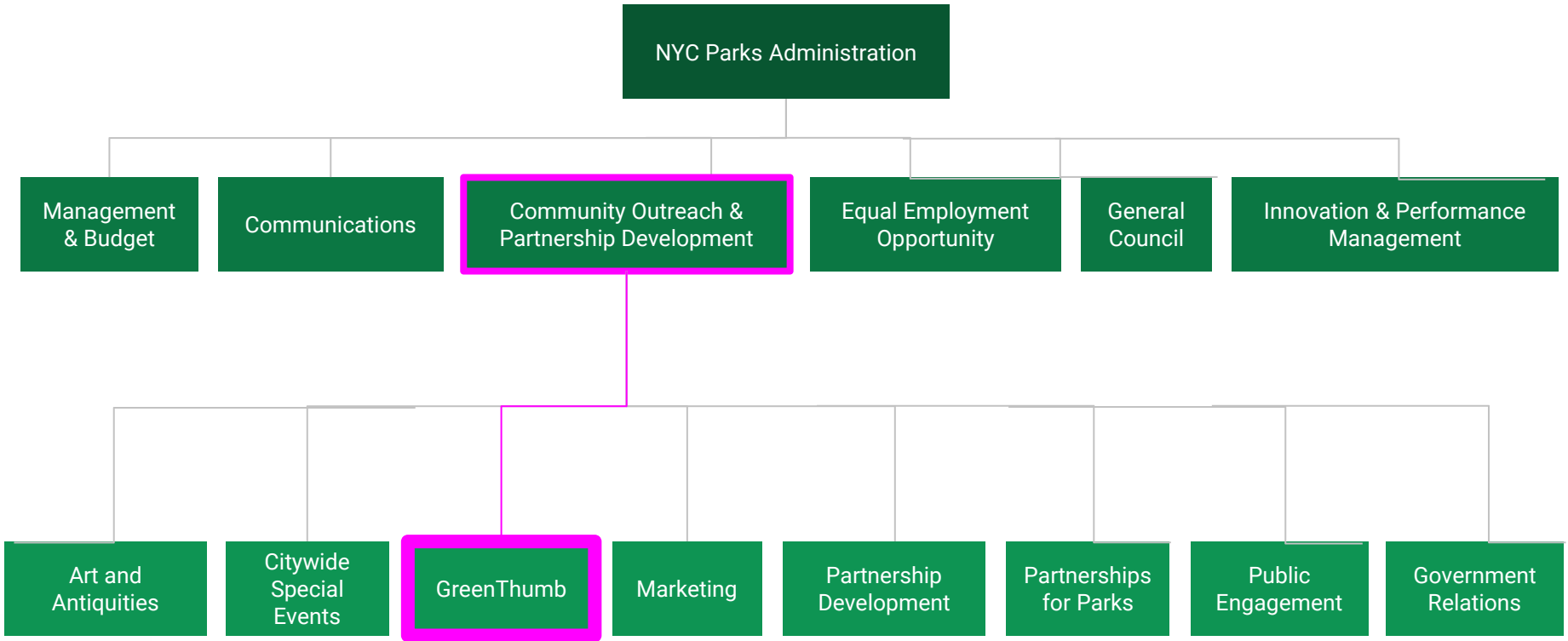
Who are we?

- GreenThumb started in 1978 and is now a division of NYC Parks
- GreenThumb is proud to be the nation's largest urban gardening program, supporting over 550 community gardens and 20,000 volunteer gardeners throughout New York City.
- GreenThumb maintains a unique mission within NYC Parks: to help New Yorkers strengthen their neighborhoods by building and caring for community gardens.



GreenThumb: We're a Leaf on the NYC Parks Tree





How we Support our Gardeners

- **Community Engagement**
- **Planning & Programs**
- **Operations**



Community Engagement

Outreach Coordinators (OCs) help community garden groups to navigate city government to get the resources groups need to succeed by:

- Coordinating supply deliveries
- Facilitating garden meetings
- Encouraging group development
- To find your OC, go to [this link](#).



Planning and Programs

This team works on special projects and major events such as

- **GrowTogether Conference**
- **Harvest Fair**
- **Workshops and trainings**
- **Garden visioning**
- **Volunteers and work days**
- **Arts in the Garden**



GreenThumb Operations (GTO)

This team provides support to gardens by:

- delivering important supplies to gardens
- installing garden infrastructure
- performing property management
- coordinating with other NYC Parks divisions and city agencies



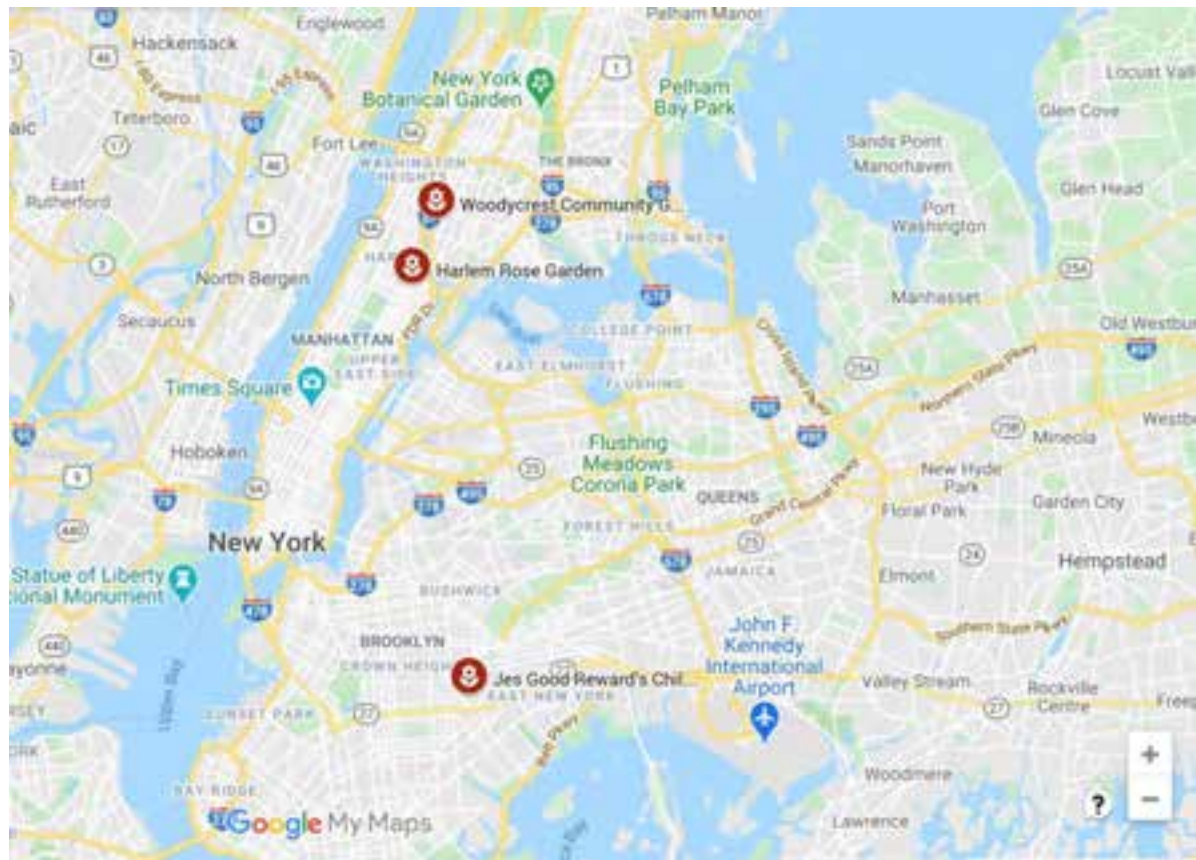
Garden groups *choose* how they *govern* themselves

- As volunteer stewards, gardeners have the autonomy to create a decision-making process and group structure that work best for them.
- Hierarchical or one leader; steering committee; consensus-based. Garden groups make that choice.

GreenThumb gardens come in many sizes, shapes, and types

- **Food Production**
- **Botanical/Horticultural**
- **Children's Garden**
- **Social and Cultural Preservation**
- **Art and Memorial Gardens**
- **Mixed Use**

Meet the Panelists and Their Gardens





Jes Good Rewards Children's Garden - Brooklyn, New York

Jes Good Reward Children's Garden was started in 1987. The story of our founding and how we got to where we are today is a story of **persistence** and a lot of **hard work** by volunteers

We are a garden for all people and so welcome all people in the garden. We have a special place in our hearts, and through our events, for the children of our neighborhood in Brownsville.

The Garden hosts many activities including an Easter Egg Hunt, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), a Back-to-School BBQ, Halloween Party, a Christmas toy give-away, garden vegetable give-aways.

In 2017 we hosted a special 25th Anniversary weekend celebration.

Woodycrest COMMUNITY GARDEN



Woodycrest Community Garden – Bronx, New York

This garden was founded in 1983 in the Highbridge Neighborhood of the Bronx, located on the shoulders of Yankee Stadium.

The garden emerged as part of a grassroots community effort to give new life to an abandoned lot, on which stood a demolished building; a gang was using it as their clubhouse.

Harlem Rose Garden – New York, New York

When Carolyn Schaefer moved to E 129th Street, she grew tired of looking out onto an empty, derelict lot.

In 2002, she started holding meetings with neighbors and they worked tirelessly with the NYC Parks Dept, GreenThumb & Green Gorillas so that it would not fall in the hands of developers.

The plants, trees, and flowers in the garden have been planted since 2003, except for 4 trees along the west fence.

We continue creating community and bonds throughout the neighborhood with events and energizing green space.



**Let's answer questions from
our phone-only participants &
some submitted before the
webinar**





Thank You!

For more information about how to join a garden, please email greenthumbinfo@parks.nyc.gov

Parks