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## HISTORY OF BPCG

On May 22, 2012 the City of Ottawa approved the site for Brewer Park Community Garden. At that time, there were only a couple of people involved who had a vision to ensure that organic vegetables were accessible in the city. At the end of 2012 there were 28 plots – 13 for members, 5 for donation and 10 for children. As of 2015, we have 50 member plots, 10 children's garden plots, 4 demonstration plots, 14 communal plots, and 9 donation plots. In the biodome, there are 12 shared member experimental plots.

The purpose of the garden is to cultivate community ties and bring together people from all walks of life to volunteer and work together. It aims to increase food security by providing an affordable and healthy way for people to access food. There is also the hope that in having gardens dedicated to children that they will be inspired and learn ecologically responsible gardening practices. Simply put, the goal of the garden is to learn, teach and inspire people by demonstrating ecologically sustainable gardening practices.



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## STAY CONNECTED WITH BPCG

**Find updates on what is happening in the garden and resources for making your gardening experience fruitful, by visiting our website, Facebook page and Twitter account.**

[www.brewerparkcommunitygarden.com](http://www.brewerparkcommunitygarden.com)

**Facebook:** Brewer Park Community Garden

**Twitter:** @BrewerGarden

Brewer Park Community Garden is a non-profit community-based organization that operates a community garden open to all who live, work or study in Old Ottawa South

**[brewergarden@gmail.com](mailto:brewergarden@gmail.com)**



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# BREWER PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN



**TEACH - LEARN - INSPIRE**

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There are five different types of garden plots: member, communal, donation, demonstration, children's, and shared member experimental.

### **Member Plots**

In February members submit an application for a plot for the upcoming growing season. There is a \$25 annual fee and a one-time \$20 application fee for new members. Members are also expected to complete 5 hours of volunteer work in the garden every year. Members plant, water, care-for and harvest their own plots throughout the season.

### **Communal Plots**

Communal plots are planted and harvested by garden members. The plots usually contain plants such as herbs, berry bushes and garlic. Volunteers maintain and water these plots throughout the season. Produce from these plots is available to all members for consumption.

### **Donation Plots**

The donation plots are planted and looked after by a number of member volunteers. The purpose of these plots is to grow produce that will then be donated to various social programs in the city. At present, the garden donates most of its produce to the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. We have also donated to the May Court Hospice and the "In From the

### **Demonstration Plots**

Our demonstration plots were planted to exhibit various planting and garden maintenance techniques using organic and sustainable principles. Techniques such as interplanting to keep pests away and water conservation practices are showcased here.

### **Children's Garden**

The children's garden plots are mainly used by students at Westboro Academy. They plant in June and harvest in the fall. An automatic watering system is set-up for July and August when school is out. Volunteer members help to weed throughout the summer. There are also a few plots that are used by children's day camps and day cares. Essentially, these plots are there to inspire children to learn where their food comes from and hopefully grow their own food.

### **Shared Member Experimental Plots**

The shared member experimental plots in the biodome are taken care of by about 10 volunteers and members. These plots are intended for use 10 months out of the year and to showcase how greenhouses and biodomes can impact the growth of plants.



## **Biodome & Aquaponics**

The biodome is an off-grid ecosystem that extends the growing season, making it possible to harvest multiple crops year round. The biodome includes raised beds, solar-powered engineering systems, and an aquaponics system (a system that combines growing plants in water with fish farming) that will be launched in August 2015. Being an engineered domed structure, the biodome can withstand harsh weather conditions such as heavy rain and snow. To date, our biodome is used to full capacity for three seasons with constrained operations December through February due to extreme low temperatures and limited sunlight. Pending further enhancements, funding, and approvals, we strive to be fully operational year-round.

In the original BPCG plan, a biodome was included so that the garden could start seedlings and showcase year round gardening. In keeping with the mandate of the garden, the biodome was built "to educate, inspire, promote and raise awareness of sustainable and eco-ethical food producing practices among the greater community".

## **Get Involved**

The garden has a number of coordinating committees that help to organize the different plots, garden socials & work bees, and generally beautify the garden. These committees are always looking for an extra hand. If you would like to be a part of one, send an email to [brewergarden@gmail.com](mailto:brewergarden@gmail.com) explaining what area of work you would like to help with and a coordinating committee leader will be in touch.