



# Archibald Neighborhood Garden

## 2011 Report



## About Grow Team ONE

Grow Team ONE (Old North End) is a grassroots community organization in Burlington, Vt. that cultivates leadership and learning through gardening.

The all-volunteer group is a resource for residents who want to learn about growing, harvesting, and preserving food; facilitates the creation of sustainable home and neighborhood gardens; and aims to increase access to fresh produce in Burlington's Old North End.

Grow Team ONE's two gardens, the Archibald Neighborhood Garden and Riverside Neighborhood Garden, provide safe, affordable garden space for 33 households and 4 youth groups, and Grow Team ONE's workshops and events are open to all!

## Community and business support

Grow Team ONE extends a big THANK YOU to everyone who helps our gardens grow - especially the volunteers, neighbors, and businesses who offer contributions and in-kind support, including:

American Flatbread Burlington Hearth

Burlington's Community and Economic  
Development Office

Burlington's Community Development  
Block Grant program

Burlington Housing Authority

Burlington Parks and Recreation  
Department

Burlington Permaculture

Burlington Time Banks

Chittenden Solid Waste District

City Market

Dot's Market

Elmore Roots Nursery

Friends of Burlington Gardens

Gardener's Supply

Healthy City Youth Farm

Intervale Community Farm

Intervale Compost Products

Koenig Cedar Company

New England Grassroots  
Environment Fund

Panadero

Pitchfork Farm

Red Wagon Plants

ReSOURCE YouthBuild

RivenWoodCrafts

Round River Design

Shelburne Farms

Skinny Pancake Restaurant

UVM Plant and Soil Sciences  
Department

UVM Soil Testing Lab

Vermont Community Garden Network

Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden  
& Grand Isle Counties

Growing Community and Food Security in Burlington's Old North End

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

## Archibald Neighborhood Garden

The Archibald Neighborhood Garden was established in 2007. Located at the intersection of Archibald and Walnut streets, across from H.O. Wheeler School, the garden has 24 full-size plots, 6 half-plots, and a common herb spiral, raspberries, blueberries, and apple trees. Burlington Children's Space and the Integrated Arts Academy (H.O. Wheeler School) have youth plots onsite.

The gardeners, volunteers, and mentors who hold gardening and wellness workshops at the site have created a vibrant community hub.

In 2011, 26 households had garden plots at the site. Most of the gardeners live within five blocks of the garden site and all are closely connected with the surrounding neighborhood.

Space for the garden is provided by the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties. Intervale Compost Products donated all the soil for the raised beds. The independently run garden is sponsored by Burlington Parks & Recreation Department and receives guidance from Friends of Burlington Gardens.

***Grow Team ONE and the Archibald gardeners are grateful for the Visiting Nurse Association's support and partnership. The VNA's recognition of the important role of community-based food production is a big step toward strengthening the physical, social, and environmental health of our families and neighbors.***



## Successes

In its fifth year of operation, the Archibald Neighborhood Garden continued to provide safe, affordable garden space for neighboring families and a positive green space for the neighborhood.

The garden was very productive and gardeners grew hundreds of pounds of food for their families and neighbors.

Several events were held at the garden site, including workshops and potlucks. The events brought the gardeners together and introduced other community members to the garden.

- The annual Garden Party, held during the Old North End Ramble, was bigger than ever, with more than 100 people visiting the garden for a free veggie bar-b-cue, live music, kids activities and garden tours.
- Archibald and Riverside gardeners organized a well-attended community contra dance at the Integrated Arts Academy (H. O. Wheeler School) that connected neighbors with gardens and raised funds for garden improvements.
- Archibald gardeners joined Riverside Neighborhood Gardeners and other community members for special events and City Market cooking workshops.
- A free vegetable start giveaway sponsored by Gardener's Supply and Friends of Burlington Gardens was held at the garden and thousands of plants were distributed to school and community gardens and local home gardeners.

Partnerships with the Community College of Vermont, Tuttle Middle School, and COTS brought teams of volunteers to the site to help with planting projects and site maintenance.



## Challenges

The Archibald Neighborhood Garden site faced a few challenges in 2011. Garden theft was a big problem and many families lost the produce that they had been carefully tending throughout the growing season. Additional signage, outreach and the watchful eye of garden neighbors helped, but more measures may be necessary in 2012.

Plans to install a garden shed in memory of garden supporter Kathleen Smith did not come together due to permissions and permitting concerns. It was decided that a piece of garden art would be a better way to honor Ms. Smith's memory and garden legacy.

## Future Plans

Grow Team ONE's vision for the garden includes increasing gardener engagement and strengthening the partnership with Burlington Parks & Recreation. Site improvements include the installation of a sculpture in memory of garden supporter Kathleen Smith and the addition of soil amendments to improve the quality of the raised beds.

