



Serve . Educate . Regenerate

Green Collar Futures

PERMACULTURE LEARNING GARDEN & APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

August 1, 2011

By the Numbers

Permaculture Learning Garden & Apprenticeship Program

EARLY 2011

- \$50,000 earmarked by Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund & Washington Park Association for creation of Permaculture Learning Garden and implementation of pilot green jobs apprenticeship.
- \$20,000 donated by Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for the same.
- 5 dynamic staff assembled for pilot GCF apprenticeship, including:
 - 3 Permaculture designers, 2 Natural builders, 3 Professional educators
- 1 Partnership woven among Green Collar Futures, Washington Park Association, NJ Youth Corps, Hudson County.

MAY 2011

- 10,000 sq ft of land reserved for Permaculture Learning Garden (PLG).
- 4 apprentices recruited for pilot GCF Apprenticeship
 - all graduates of Jersey City NJ Youth Corps
 - all female, aged 17 & 18
 - 2 apprentices enrolled in AmeriCorps slots of 300 hrs, \$1000 ed award
- May 14, 2011 - Planting in the Park, Washington Park Association's annual event
 - In attendance:
 - 80+ volunteers
 - WPA general membership
 - GCF staff & apprentices
 - Crew chief & corps members from Jersey City NJ Youth Corps
 - 1 aerialist & 1 band
 - 8 "understory guilds" planted below existing cherry trees that surround the gazebos next to the PLG.
 - "guilds" are cooperative communities of organisms
 - 1 rock & herb spiral built & planted
- 2 apprentices let go; 2 new apprentices join.
- 1 Solar Cob Oven built by GCF staff & apprentices at Princeton-Blairstown Center
 - 30 students, teachers & parents from Princeton Friends School help build solar oven.
- 2 Rustic Cedar Benches built by GCF staff & apprentices for the PLG
 - all lumber milled at Castner's Sawmill from sustainably harvested, local cedar trees.



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JUNE 2011

- 50 cubic yards of donated mulch spread around the PLG and nearby triangle beds in Washington Park.
 - Mulch moved from storage bay to garden beds with the help of Hudson County Parks staff & front end loader, spread by GCF team
- 5 swales dug & berms built to capture stormwater, creating a system of passive irrigation for the PLG.
 - length of swales totals over 50 linear feet
 - each swale is 8" to 10" deep and 8" wide
- System of 5 swales brings 3 to 4 times more rainwater into the PLG than before.
 - Stops erosion of hillside adjacent to stairs
 - Stops flooding of stairs and pavement below PLG
- 1 Hillside terraced & planted w/ native & perennial ground cover & flowering plants
- 1 Butterfly / Rain Garden dug, mulched & planted.
 - PLG attracts more butterflies, dragonflies, honey bees... and children than any other garden in Washington Park.
- 3 Mosaic Stepping Stone workshops held in PLG making over 40 mosaics.
 - 3 paths in the PLG lined with mosaic stepping stones
- Team of 12 volunteers (crew chief & corps members) from Newark NJ Youth Corps helps install PLG for 9 days in June (3 days/week for last 3 weeks)
- 3 children spontaneously line each bed in the PLG with small stones they collect.
- GCF staff & apprentices & 12 volunteers from Newark NJ Youth Corps enjoy scenic & educational river tour of Jersey City with the Hackensack River Keeper's Eco-Cruise pontoon boat.
- 20 Staff from Princeton-Blairstown Center learn how to use Cob Solar Oven from GCF staff & apprentices.

JULY 2011

- 1 graduate of GCF apprenticeship and 1 young man from Washington Park neighborhood hired as Summer Garden interns.
- Garden beds weeded & watered at 10,000 sq ft PLG and nearby triangle park.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2011 (forthcoming)

- 1 more Mosaic Workshop
- 3 days of tours of PLG
- 1 Home Energy Efficiency Workshop
- 1 day of soil enrichment of PLG using "compost tea"
- Washington Park Centennial Celebration at PLG & adjacent gazebos