

## Project Description

The Dufferin Grove Garden Rejuvenation Project included four components:

1. We created **4 detailed garden signs** (Savannah Garden, Rooftop Garden, Vegetable Gardens and Native Tree Grove) that inform passersby about the type of garden and its ecological benefits or the plant species it contains, or communicate garden group meeting times (all of the signs have been posted except for the sign for the native tree grove in the SW of the park, which will be posted in the spring).  
An additional communication piece has been the development of new content for the garden website, including a plant list for the Savannah garden here:  
<http://dufferinpark.ca/gardens/wiki/wiki.php/TheGardens.SavannahInTheCity>
2. We **redeveloped the cob rooftop garden** by adding new plants, seeds and soil.
3. We **restored and naturalized a pre-existing garden bed** as a "Savannah Garden" on the north side of the park by reintroducing meadow/tallgrass prairie species.
4. We ran **7 gardening workshops**: One each on container gardening, the naturalized garden, vegetable harvesting techniques, composting, the rooftop garden, and two workshops on preserving.

## Project Results

- **Increased accessibility of gardens**: The new garden signs, together with advertising for the workshops boosted the active and passive enjoyment of the gardens. In addition, the Savannah garden at the north end of the park, with its tall grasses, bright flowers and new sign, is next to a busy pathway to Dufferin Mall, and invites passersby to learn about the original ecology of the area.
- **Increased participation at drop-in garden times**. The number of volunteers who joined us in the gardens steadily rose over the summer, and by the end of the year, we had a committed group of 8 gardeners who enjoyed working together and sharing their knowledge of different gardening topics, as well as keeping the gardens in good shape.
- A rejuvenated **rooftop garden** that demonstrates what plants are suitable for rooftop gardening.
- The establishment of the historically significant and ecologically beneficial **naturalized savannah garden**.
- **Higher productivity and better maintenance of gardens** as a result of workshops and increased participation at the drop-in gardening times.
- Successful and increasingly well-attended **workshops**, which apart from contributing to the results listed above and sharing knowledge of a range gardening topics, also provided a new platform for local gardeners to meet and express their particular interests, which will guide us in planning workshops for next year. For example, the response for our preserving workshop was so enthusiastic that we added a second workshop the following weekend, and plans are in the works to hold regular community preserving sessions next season. Another project in the works for next year is a compost bin building session.
- Because of the success of the plants in the Savannah Garden, we were able to use the extra plants in the **Fountain Garden**, in the southwest part of the park. With the new plants, and some special attention from our gardening group and landscape gardener Gene Threndyle this fall, we expect that this garden will look great in the spring.

## Who benefited from the project

- **Park users in general**. With increased signage and better maintained beds, the gardens are more accessible for the community to enjoy, both actively and passively.
- **Drop-in gardening program participants**. Participants enjoyed the workshops as well as being able to help plant the new plants and seeds that were acquired through the grant.
- **Participants in other park activities**. Herbs, fruits, and vegetables are harvested by both recreation staff (for the Friday Night Suppers and Farmer's Market), and by "make your own pizza" program participants. Better signage and more defined and productive beds (resulting from gardening workshops) will improve this experience for everyone. Through getting the word out to other park programs about our workshops, we attracted some people who were used to coming to the park for other reasons to join us for gardening activities too.
- **Participants in gardening activities** coordinated in collaboration with the Working Women Centre and local schools.
- **Participants in the gardening workshops** (approximately 60 people in total).

### Detailed project budget

Activity	Item	Funding Source	Cost	Actual Cost
Project outreach	Labour (Web posting, poster design)	CELOS fundraising from food sales	\$240	\$240
	Materials (Paper, printing)	Parks and Trees	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$41.45</b>
Signage	Labour (15 hrs x \$12)	Parks and Trees	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$180</b>
	Supplies (paint, wood)	Parks and Trees	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$264.55</b>
Replanting rooftop garden	Coordination (4 hrs x \$16)	City of Toronto Recreation	\$64	\$64
	Staff support (4 hrs x \$16)	City of Toronto Recreation	\$64	\$64
	Materials: seeds	CELOS fundraising from food sales	\$20	\$20
	organic lightweight soil	Community donation	on-site	
	tools	City of Toronto	on-site	
	plants	Parks and Trees Divisions to be made from other plantings in park (4 hrs x \$16) (Recreation staff)	<b>\$100</b> \$64	<b>\$100</b> \$64
Naturalized garden	Coordination (20 hrs x \$16)	Parks and Trees	<b>\$320</b>	<b>\$320</b>
	Staff support (10 hrs x \$16)	City of Toronto Recreation	\$160	\$160
	Materials: seeds	Parks and Trees	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$40</b>
	compost	City of Toronto On-site composting facilities	Parks Dept on-site	
	mulch	Community donation	on-site	
	soil	City of Toronto	Available from Parks Dept	
	fencing	City of Toronto	Available from Parks Dept	
	tools	City of Toronto	on-site	
	plants	CELOS fundraising from food sales Divisions to be made from other plantings (4 hrs x \$16) (Recreation staff) Parks and Trees	\$50 \$64 <b>\$200</b>	\$50 \$64 <b>\$200</b>
Gardening workshops (6)	Supplies	Parks and Trees	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$104</b>
	Honoraria	Parks and Trees	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>
	Coordination (12 hrs x \$16)	City of Toronto	\$192	\$192
Total budget			\$2,468	
<b>Total from Parks and Trees Foundation</b>			<b>\$1,550</b>	<b>\$1,550</b>