

# Gadfly learns about the Southside Garden Alliance

The Bethlehem Gadfly community gardens, gardens, community May 28, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on community gardens* 

## **Southside Garden Alliance Overview**

Gadfly absolutely loves this job.







Mary Toulouse spends exactly 2:43 (less time than it takes for this morning's tea and toast) at City Council May 19 pitching the idea of community gardens, and within a short time a whole new dimension of our town opened up to him.

Kim Carrell-Smith pointed Gadfly to Connor Burbridge, and in the meantime Breena Holland provided meaningful background and he also found Ken Ranieri's delightful article on this vegetable aspect of Southside history. Then Connor appeared with this valuable information below about the quite ambitious Southside Garden Alliance.

We look forward to Connor posting soon, but Gadfly invites you to read this detailed overview of the project with timeline beginning Winter 2019 and extending into 2021.

## **Southside Garden Alliance Overview**

A timeline upon which no doubt the coronavirus has unfortunately left a mark.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SOUTHSide</b> <b>GARDEN ALLIANCE</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SOUTHSide</b> <b>GARDEN ALLIANCE</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Participe en proyectos de jardines comunitarios</b> Ayudamos a administrar los jardines locales del Southside Community, un bosque urbano de alimentos, y un programa comunitario de compostaje. Nuestros programas dan prioridad a ayudar a los necesitados a cultivar sus propios alimentos saludables.</li> <li> <b>Ayude a construir la biblioteca de herramientas de Southside y la biblioteca de semillas</b> Comenzamos la primera biblioteca de herramientas y biblioteca de semillas en el Valle de Lehigh. ¡Todos que tengan una tarjeta de la biblioteca pueden obtener semillas o prestar herramientas gratis!</li> <li> <b>Asista a nuestros talleres gratuitos de jardinería y ecología</b> Con Penn State Extension Master Gardeners y Southside Permaculture Park, llevamos la educación pública sobre jardinería y ecología a la comunidad. Organizamos talleres en festivales comunitarios y en la biblioteca local.</li> <li> <b>Voluntario con nosotros</b> Crece y aprende con nosotros. Cualquiera puede ayudar con los días de trabajo de Community Garden, el mantenimiento de bosques urbanos de alimentos, los programas de compostaje comunitario, la educación de la granja a la escuela y la tutoría de nuevos jardineros.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Get Involved with Community Garden Projects</b> We help manage local Southside Community gardens, an urban food forrest, and a community composting program. Our programs prioritize helping those in need to grow their own healthy food.</li> <li> <b>Help Build the Southside Tool Library and Seed Library</b> We are starting the first ever tool library and seed library in the Lehigh Valley. Everyone with a library card can get free seeds.</li> <li> <b>Attend our free Gardening and Ecology Workshops</b> With Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, we bring public education on gardening and ecology into the community. We host workshops at community festivals and the local library.</li> <li> <b>Volunteer with Us</b> Grow and learn with us. Anyone is welcome to help with Community Garden workdays, urban food forrest maintenance, community composting programs, Farm to School education, and mentoring new gardeners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOUTHSide</b> The Southside Garden Alliance es un proyecto de Southside Vision en colaboración con the City of Bethlehem</p> 	<p><b>SOUTHSide</b> The Southside Garden Alliance is a project of Southside Vision in partnership with the City of Bethlehem</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BETHLEHEM, PA</b></p> <p>Facebook: Southside Garden Alliance      Southsidepermaculturepark.org Email: cburbridge@alum.lehigh.edu</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BETHLEHEM, PA</b></p> <p>Facebook: Southside Garden Alliance      Southsidepermaculturepark.org Email: cburbridge@alum.lehigh.edu</p>

## Southside Garden Alliance Overview

**Mission:** The Southside Backyard Gardens Alliance seeks to build community connections, increase community health, and advocate for environmental sustainability through the creation of community spaces and backyard gardens throughout South Bethlehem and through educational workshops, children’s camps, and community potlucks.

**Vision:** There are a number of urban agriculture projects on Bethlehem’s Southside, including the Southside Initiative’s MLK Garden and Esperanza Garden, as well as nascent gardens at the Lynnfield Community Center, Southside Permaculture Park, Victory House, and Hispanic Center. The Southside Backyard Gardens Alliance will act to help collaborate efforts between these projects as well as provide

resources to help expand them. The Southside Backyard Gardens Alliance will provide resources and technical assistance to would-be community backyard gardeners and will aid in the construction of garden beds with involved community members. Rainwater barrels and container gardens can also be constructed and installed in community members' yards. A tool library will be available for community members to begin their own projects or expand on existing ones. Master Gardeners will provide discussions on how to build and maintain healthy soil and healthy plants. Southside Arts District can help infuse local art into the events to increase engagement and promote local artists. Health and Nutrition experts from the community can provide information on healthy eating habits, and local chefs can teach creative ways to prepare various vegetables. Southside Backyard Gardens Alliance will host regular potlucks to build connections among community and conduct a dialogue on how we all can come together to better meet the community's needs.

*Wonderful project, wonderful people!*