

**Memorandum  
City of Lawrence  
City Manager's Office**

**To:** David L. Corliss, City Manager

**From:** Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator

**CC:** Chuck Soules, Mark Hecker, Ernie Shaw, Scott McCullough, Cynthia Wagner

**Date:** October 31, 2012

**RE: Common Ground Program – End of Season Report**

The City's Common Ground program launched during the 2012 growing season, and provided five sites for food production on city-owned properties. The Common Ground Program transformed vacant or under-utilized city properties into lush sites of healthy food production in our city's neighborhoods.

Community organizations and nonprofits licensed sites from the City, and developed them into: *An in-neighborhood community garden, a youth-focused garden at John Taylor Park, a community orchard for free picking, and a market farm coordinated by college and middle school students.*

Here are the impressive results of this pilot year:

Number of gardens: **4**

Number of gardeners: **41**

Number of classes/community work days: **59**

Number of volunteers/community participants: **640**

Pounds of produce grown (*estimate*): **5,800 lbs**

Market value of produce (*estimate*): **\$11,700**

Pounds of donated produce: **550 lbs**

In addition to increasing the availability of fresh, healthy produce in our city's neighborhoods, these sites also provided space for healthy recreation and community connections between citizens. Garden organizers hosted classes on gardening and composting techniques, dozens of community workdays and potlucks, field trips like the "veggie hunt" with Dads of Douglas County, and many participated in the Lawrence Food Garden Tour.

In 2013, the City will make additional sites available for license to community organizations and food entrepreneurs.



## February, 2012



Vacant lot: 1313 Pennsylvania



Vacant lot: 830 Garfield



Vacant lot: 815 Oak



John Taylor Park

## July, 2012



Penn St. Community Garden



Lawrence Community Orchard



JCCC Student Farm



Garden Incubator: Children's and Community Garden