2015 Colgate Community Garden Update

Watch us Grow!

Beth Roy, Colgate Community Garden Consultant
How it all began...

- 2009 ENST 480 students- feasibility report as part of class project
- Class of 2010- gave startup costs as part of class gift
- 2010- ground broken at Newell Apartments
The Big Move...

- June 2013- major flooding in CNY
  - Garden under water for almost 2 weeks!
- Winter 2013-2014- garden team developed proposal to move the garden
- Early 2014- University approved and funded the proposal to move the garden to it’s current location
- May 2014- ground broken at new location, the move was underway!
- 2015- First full growing season at the Broad Street location
Mission of the Garden

- Serve as an educational space providing student interns and campus community members first-hand opportunities to learn about gardening and small-scale agriculture
- Raise awareness of local food production, sustainable agriculture, and the campus food cycle
- Increase local food options available to students through a student-run farm stand on campus
- Serve as a place of interaction and positive engagement that further strengthens the bond within the Colgate community and with our Hamilton neighbors
How the garden runs...

- **GARDEN TEAM:**
  - Beth Roy; part-time Garden Consultant
  - John Pumilio; Director of Sustainability
  - Chris Henke; Faculty Director of Upstate Institute, Associate Professor Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- **Student Interns**
  - Spring/Summer: 2 full time (40 hrs./week) interns
  - Fall: 3 part time (6 hrs./week) interns

- **Green Thumbs student group volunteers**
Student Interns

- **Spring/Summer interns**
  - Learning how to manage and operate a garden
  - Community outreach
    - Hamilton Center for the Arts
    - Tours/volunteering at local farms
    - Hamilton Central School
  - Special individual project

- **Fall interns**
  - Operating a garden
  - Campus outreach
Garden space...

- ½ acre garden space
- 30’x 60’ greenhouse, unheated
- 11 community garden plots
- Herb garden
- Flower garden
- Demonstration area
- Production area
- Compost area
- Tool Shed
What we grow... a little of everything!

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Onions
- Eggplant
- Cucumber
- Zucchini
- Squash
- Carrots
- Peas
- Beans
- Flowers
- Watermelon
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Swiss chard
- Herbs
- Kohlrabi
- Pumpkins
- Raspberries
- Gourds
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Beets
How much can we grow?

- **2014- close to 2000 pounds of vegetables and herbs**
  - Approx. 1000 pounds of food donated to Food Cupboard
  - 30 vegetables, 11 herbs

- **2015- on track to grow 4000 pounds of vegetables and herbs!**
  - 35 vegetables and fruits, 10 herbs
  - On track to make back our operating expenses (outside of labor) for 1st time since garden started
Where does the food go?

- ½ of everything we grow is donated to the Hamilton Food Cupboard
  - HFC grows several hundred starter plants for CCG
- The other ½ is divided:
  - Chartwell’s- Colgate’s dining services
  - On campus Farm Stand
  - Special events
  - Campus requests
Events/Activities at the garden...

- Potlucks for community plot members
- Student work parties
- Annual Open House
- Open Volunteer Hours
- Student volunteer groups
  - FSEM
  - Wilderness Adventure
  - SOAN volunteers
  - COVE
- Student research projects
- Local volunteers
2015 Highlights

- Pumpkin/melon patch
- New fruit area
- Utilized the entire garden space for 1st time
- Built 5 more raised beds for Community Plot Members
- Recovered greenhouse
- Able to get produce back into the dining halls
- Demonstration area
- Compost program started
Future Goals...

- Continued partnership with:
  - Hamilton Food Cupboard
  - Chartwell’s Dining Services
  - Green Thumbs student group
- Build more raised beds inside Green House
- Recruit more community garden plot members
- Host more educational events at the garden and/or on-campus
- Pair with academic departments
More changes to come?

- Good Nature Brewing
  - Purchasing the property where garden sits
  - Plan to lease the garden space back to Colgate Community Garden