

Parkdale
Neighbourhood
Land Trust

GreenestCity
eat · grow · share



MILKY WAY TSEYSHING (GARDEN)

A Community Owned Shared Urban Agriculture Space for Parkdale
Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust & Greenest City

HISTORY OF THE MILKY WAY GARDEN

The Milky Way Garden is a 7000 sq ft vacant property in the heart of Parkdale. For 10 years, 1/3rd of the site has been operated as a newcomer community garden by mostly Tibetan community members who are part of an adult ESL program, facilitated by teacher Tish Carnat at the Parkdale Pubic Library, and supported by Greenest City (GC). The site is a core community asset to newcomers as a site of social connection and as a place where they can grow culturally appropriate food. Until recently Milky Way was privately owned.



FOR 10 YEARS THE MOSTLY NEWCOMER GARDENERS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO GROW FOOD FOR THEIR OWN USE.

COMMUNITY OWNED LAND

In 2016 the former private owners, John Greyson and Stephen Andrews, graciously agreed to sell the property to the Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust (PNLT), creating the opportunity for the community to take ownership. We successfully raised over \$115,000.00 to cover the costs of acquisition and environmental assessments. This included \$25,500 raised through 188 donations from community members and business owners, as well as a \$60,000 contribution from the Echo Foundation and \$25,000 from the Metcalf Foundation. On June 15th 2017 PNLТ successfully acquired the Milky Way Garden. PNLТ will preserve Milky Way Garden as a shared urban agriculture space for Parkdale, and providing a long-term lease to Greenest City, who will operate programming on the site. As the first community owned property of the land trust, this transfer from private ownership to community ownership enables a unique opportunity for the community to come together to shape both the design and programs for this amazing space!

COMMUNITY VISIONING & DESIGN PROCESS

Greenest City has the intention to transform Milky Way Garden into an Urban Agriculture Space & Social Enterprise, a site of environmental education, intensified urban agriculture and the continued growth of a newcomer community garden. In 2017, through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, GC and PNLТ hosted 6 community consultations that brought over 200 diverse community members together to co-create the design and future programs for the Milky Way Garden.



THE FUTURE OF MILKY WAY GARDEN

Objectives the Milky Way Garden:

- Connecting community through Healthy Food
- Connecting Community through Creating Opportunities for Learning
- Connecting Community through Skills Development

Three Business Activities for an urban agriculture based Social Enterprise:

- Milky Way Seedling Production - GC will produce vegetable seedlings for sale to residents.
- Home-grown Parkdale Hot Sauce - GC will grow fresh ingredients for a value-added product for sale. This activity will enable skill development and employment for marginalized community members.
- Interactive Gardening and Cooking Classes - GC will host cultural food experiences to enable Parkdale residents to gather, grow, cook and share food together. Diverse community members will be instructors and access supplementary income.

Site Plan & Design: The proposed site plan includes for a greenhouse, accessible walkways, a pergola, additional raised planting areas for food growing and a potential shipping container for year round growing.

