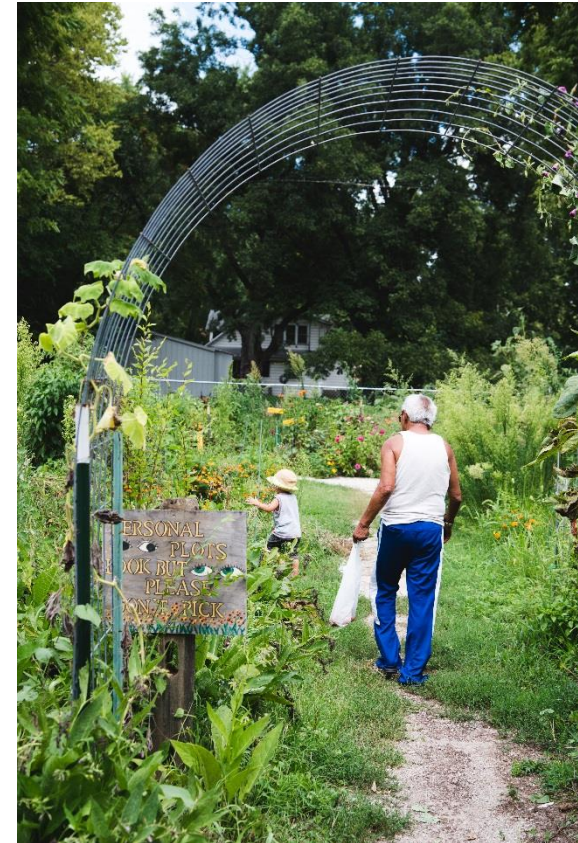


# 2018 Program Highlights



## The **Common Ground**

**Program** is a community gardening and urban agriculture program created by the City of Lawrence in 2012. The Common Ground Program's goal is to transform vacant or under-utilized city properties into vibrant sites of healthy food production for our residents.

The gardens and farms have resulted in thousands of pounds of produce donated to local food pantries, field trips for student groups, and community gardening class topics from compost to tree pruning.



*Above: Work day at the Garden Incubator at John Taylor Park*

*Below: Larry Fullerton tours Commissioner Larsen, others at Pearl Clark*



# Common Ground Program Sites:

**Garden Incubator at John Taylor Park**  
(7th & Walnut)

**PermaCommons**  
(1304 Pennsylvania St.)

**Penn St. Community Garden**  
(1313 Pennsylvania St.)

**Pearl Clark Community Garden**  
(639 Illinois St.)

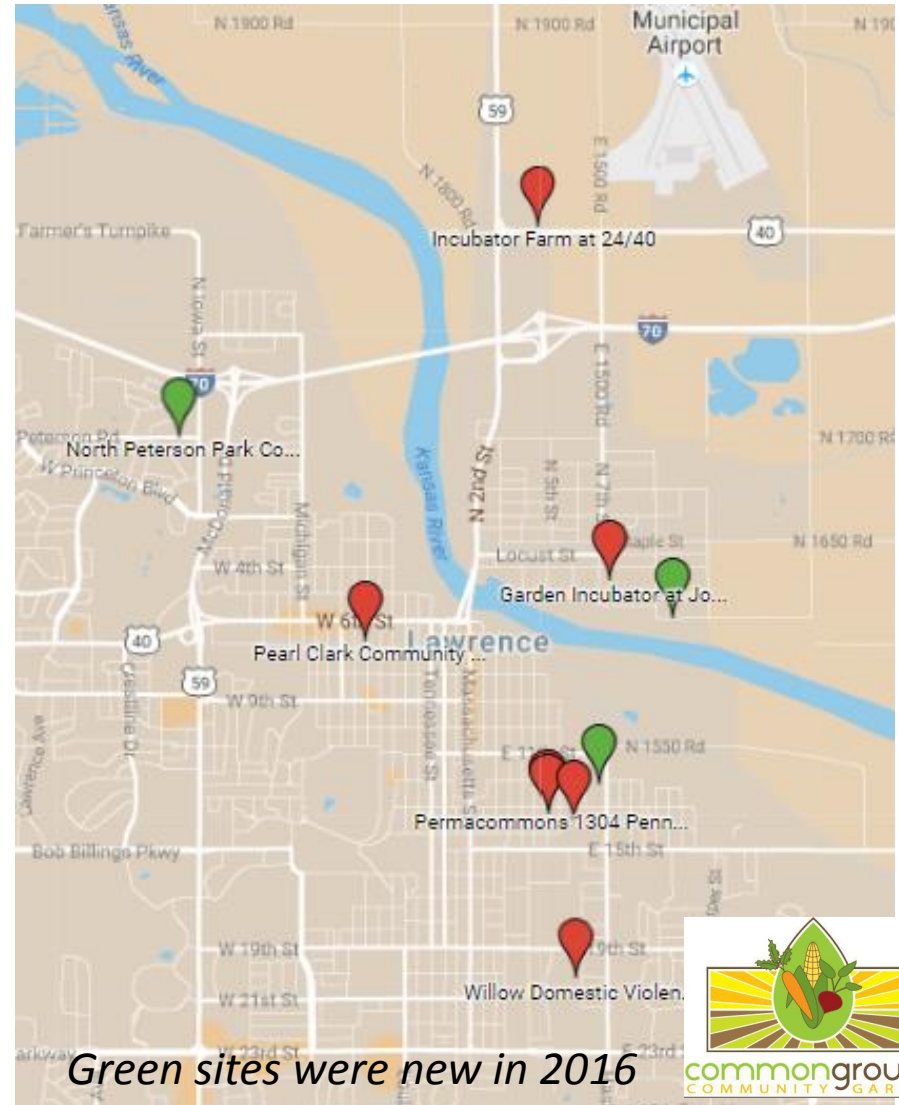
**Little Prairie Community Garden**  
(Peterson Rd. and N. Iowa St.)

**The Lawrence Community Orchard**  
(830 Garfield St.)

**Oread Friends Garden/Farm**  
(1146 Oregon St)

**Incubator Farm**  
(24/40 and 59)

**Just Food Community Garden and Farm**  
(817 Oak St)



# 2018 Program Accomplishments:

## By the Numbers:

Gardens/farms: **9**

Plots: **116 + 4 cooperative areas**

Gardeners/farmers + volunteers: **272**

Community events & classes: **35**

Pounds of produce donated: **1539 lbs.**

- Plus 2 sites open to community harvest!

Mini-grants awarded: **4 for \$1835\***

- New tools, shed
- New shade structure
- New perennial plants

\*Funding from Green Wish Lawrence!

Aimee Polson, founder of Garden Incubator at John Taylor Park, recognized as **Community Health Champion** by Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department



Helen Schnoes, Common Ground program anager, left, and Kelly Barth, community gardener, right, are pictured with Health Champion Aimee Polson. Aimee had the prize winnings go to Rubber and Glue, a non-profit she started to support the garden.

Learn more!

<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2018/mar/25/douglas-county-health-champions-2018-advocate-new/>



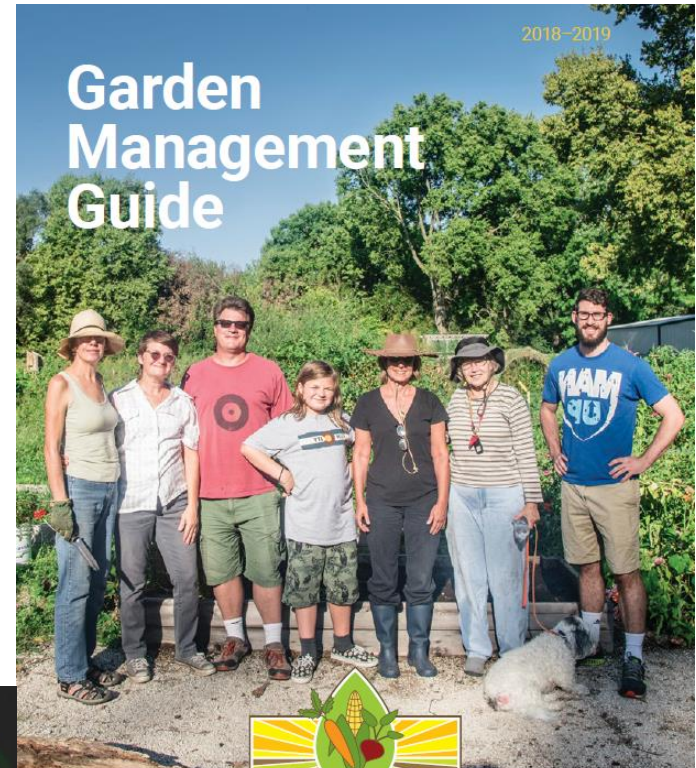
# Community Partners:

- KU Big Event
- Sunrise Youth
- KU Permaculture and community-based classes
- Just Food
- Sunrise Project
- Area foster homes
- Bishop Seabury
- Office of Multicultural Affairs (KU)
- KU Campus Cupboard
- KU Center for Community Outreach
- Kaw Valley Seed Fair
- Lawrence Public Library
- GreenWish Lawrence
- Oread Friends
- K-State Research & Extension
- Douglas County Conservation District
- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
- KLWN
- KU Super Service Saturday
- Wichita's KKGU College Access Advisor



# Conservation District Grant

- \$50,000 received by [Douglas Co. Conservation District](#) in 2017 for year-long project to enhance local urban agriculture.
- 2018 Outcomes:
  - Garden Management Guide --->>
  - Program Evaluation (internal report)
  - Fall Garden Tour + Stakeholder Visioning



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

# Program Evaluation (Internal Report)

## Sources Used:

- Program Records
- Participant Survey
- Conversations with Program Staff
- Site Visits
- Garden Manager Focus Group
- City / County Staff Focus Group

## Key Questions Identified

- Gardener Support
  - City and community partners
  - Communication / collaboration across sites
- Program Management
  - Policies and services
  - Internal communication
- Future Operations
  - What does the future of Common Ground look like?
  - How does Common Ground fit in the City's priorities?

Sustainability staff using outcomes of report for 2019 Common Ground planning!

# Garden Tour + Stakeholder Visioning

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE  
DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
K-STATE RESEARCH & EXTENSION—DOUGLAS COUNTY

## YOU'RE INVITED COMMUNITY GARDEN TOUR

The City of Lawrence Common Ground community garden program was created in 2011 in collaboration with City leadership, staff, and the Food Policy Council. The program supports urban agriculture, increasing local food production, and providing community benefits like access to healthy food and neighborhood connections.

This tour will celebrate the program's seventh season and launch a discussion this fall about Common Ground's future.

**OCTOBER 5, 2018**

John Taylor Park 200 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, KS

3pm Optional Bus Tour (meet at John Taylor)

- Pearl Clark Community Garden
- Little Prairie Community Garden

4pm - 5:30pm

Garden Incubator @ John Taylor

- Garden social (LuckyBerry!)
- Program overview
- Guided tour

RSVP BY OCTOBER 1 TO HELEN S  
COMMONGROUND@LAWRENCE



- Review external report, other data
- Draft vision for program future, ID possible changes

Stakeholder  
Visioning

Create Staff  
Team

- Engage multiple City departments
- Review Stakeholder Visioning results, provide input

- Finalize Common Ground program strategy
- Share 2018 program report

Launch 2019  
growing  
season!



# 2018 Program Reflections from Garden Managers and Farmers:

- “We love the garden and look forward to continue next year.”
- “This garden has been an amazing ride, we love it.”
- “I had a good 1st season! Decent crops despite dry season & insect predation. Good neighbors & goldfinches were incredible. Looking forward to '19!”
- “The Common Ground program, for me, is the best program available.”
- “Thank you so much for providing affordable access to an agricultural career!!”
- “2018 was my first season as garden manager and I think things went well for the first year! Next year, I'd like to continue working to expand Grow-A-Row participation.”

# 2019 Common Ground Plans:

- Create internal City staff team
- Identify ways to engage other advisory boards, in addition to Food Policy Council
  - Parks & Recreation, Sustainability Advisory Board, Arts & Culture
- Engage community in discussion of future garden sites, interested neighborhoods for 2020 and beyond
- Strengthen Community Partnerships
- Continue strategic development



Lawrence City Commissioners interested in a guided tour of Common Ground can coordinate with Sustainability Staff at [commonground@lawrenceks.org](mailto:commonground@lawrenceks.org)





[www.lawrenceks.org/common-ground](http://www.lawrenceks.org/common-ground)

