

Community Gardens

Terra Nova Rural Park is home to one of two community gardens in Richmond. The community garden provides a place for gardeners to enjoy the activity of organic gardening, learn gardening techniques from others and to socialize. The community garden relies on the stewardship from each plot holder to help maintain the entire site. There are a minimum of three "clean-up" events scheduled each year and each plot holder is expected to participate in a minimum of two scheduled events. These events are organized by the gardeners and contribute to the overall maintenance of the site.

The Terra Nova Rural Park Community Garden houses the Waterwise Demonstration Garden, planted and maintained by the Richmond Environmental Youth Corps as well as the Compost Demonstration Area, where different composting methods are on display.

The cost of constructing the community gardens in Richmond City Parks is paid for by the city.

Terra Nova Schoolyard Society

The Terra Nova Schoolyard Society was founded in 2006 and has gone from 1 elementary class involved in growing and harvesting vegetables in 1 raised bed to 176 students with 5000 square feet of dirt under their nails! This society creates an environment that inspires a value of fresh food, healthy eating habits and personal and social responsibility that will last a life time. The project inspires and answers questions about the origin of the food that we eat everyday.

The learning happens in the field and in the classroom with the help of volunteers who love to garden. Students learn soil science, environmental impacts of growing food, connect with the earth, prepare food from the produce grown in the garden and learn social responsibility by donating excess crops to the Richmond Food Bank.

UBC Faculty of Education students worked with the Terra Nova Schoolyard Society to develop educational activities and resources to help children understand the issues related to food security, to learn about urban agriculture issues and to develop fun and educational games and activities around food, cooking and nutrition.

The society's partners include the City of Richmond, Richmond Food Bank Richmond Fruit Tree Sharing Project and Master Gardeners of BC. Ian Lai, the Founder and Director is an organizing member of World Food Day, Richmond Poverty Response, was a speaker at the 2006 North American Conference on Food Security and a recipient of the 2007 UROC Adult Mentor Award.

