

## **HELP SAVE THE GARDEN!**

Ten years ago the Crease Street Garden was born when neighbors came together to clear an abandoned lot and turn it into something wonderful. It has grown to be a bright and beautiful symbol of how working together can create a vital community resource. During the pandemic, this city oasis has become increasingly important to those with limited outdoor space. This pocket of green is critical to the environmental and societal health of our neighborhood. The rapid gentrification of the neighborhood now puts the Garden in danger. When the current lease expires in 2026, we will lose this precious community space to development - unless we take action today.

In cooperation with the Fishtown Neighbors Association, the Neighborhood Gardens Trust, and the Penn Treaty Special Services District, the volunteer, non-compensated seven-membered Board that oversees the Garden, is fundraising to purchase this valuable land from the current owner. The purchase price will be \$300,000. The Garden Board has set the goal of raising \$100,000 in 2021, which is certainly a daunting number. Fortunately, PTSSD has very graciously agreed to match the first \$40,000 raised by the Board, so the Board will actually to raise \$60,000 from the public. In 2022 NGT will seek the balance of the purchase price from Harrisburg. NGT, (which owns almost 40 gardens across Philadelphia and a leader in urban land preservation, and an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society), will hold title to the Crease Street Garden, preserving the Garden in perpetuity, although the Garden Board will be retain responsibility for maintenance. The FNA is supporting this effort by inviting its wide, powerful network of supporters throughout the community to participate in the appeal.

But we need your help! The state funding needed to reach the purchase price is much more likely to be awarded if we demonstrate significant support of the community. Can you help us reach our goal of raising \$100,000\* by the end of this year? Given the restraints of COVID safety protocols, we will start our fundraising with a GoFundMe page and will be following with more events in the Spring.

We hope you will join us in this first step towards preserving this land as a valuable public resource! Remember, all donations up to the first \$40,000 will be **DOUBLED** by the PTSSD!

*\*As we want to focus our energies on this major goal, we will undertake our usual fundraisers to raise the funds to meet the annual maintenance costs of the Garden. These annual costs include real estate taxes, insurance, and maintenance, and total between \$2,500 and \$3,000. Therefore, a small portion of funds raised for purchase may be directed towards these annual maintenance costs between now and when NGT takes ownership.*