## GRASS ROOTS CULTIVATION IN THE EAST VILLAGE

A Guide to East Village Green Spaces

Two members of EVPC and long time residents of the East Village, are writing a guide to East Village Green Spaces. They are Ellen LeCompte, who is on our Board, and Grace Tankersley, who designed our Summer/Winter postcards. The two of them have been at work on the guide for almost two years now. Yes, two years. Jobs and other projects have intervened but this is a labor of love and they have stuck to it.

Grace, a graphic designer, got interested in the project when her friend, Ellen, took her around to see some of the community gardens. The gardens are remarkable even when viewed from the street, but if you actually enter, you are suddenly transported into an entirely new world. The sounds of the street become subsumed by the magic of the garden. Ellen says that for her it's like lying down in the sand and closing her eyes on a crowded ocean beach. sounds and activity of the people around her are still there, but they become a luxurious back-drop.

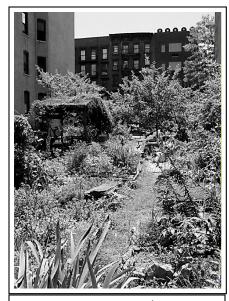
The two hope to be able to produce a guide as unique as the gardens themselves, emphasizing the distinctive qualities of each green space through the layout on the page and the content selected from the interviews.

Together, Grace and Ellen have compiled a list of all the East Village parks and community gardens from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Houston and from The Bowery to the East River, taken many photos of each in all seasons, and interviewed gardeners from a dozen or so of the gardens. Grace has completed a map showing the position of each green space and has begun designing the guide while Ellen edits the interviews. They have come far enough in their project to actually make a tentative deadline for their first draft – early next fall.

If you are interested in contributing to the guide or are just plain curious, drop them a line. Ellen can be reached at emlecompte@aol.com and Grace can be reached at nqgt@earthlink.net. Be sure and put Garden Guide in the subject line. We've listed the gardens included below. Let them know if they've missed any!

11th BC Garden 11th Street Community Garden 6BC Botanical Garden 6th Street and Ave B Garden 9th Street Community Garden Albert's Garden All Peoples Brisas del Caribe CAMPOS Children's Garden Coradan Evaeden Creative Little Garden De Colores Dias v Flores Earth People East Side Community HS/Green Space El Jardin del Paraiso El Sol Brillante El Sol Brillante Jr Fifth Street Slope Garden Club Firemen's Memorial Garden First Street Garden Gilbert's Garden

Grandma & Children Community Garden Green Oasis Hope Garden Jardin Los Amigos KenKeleba House La Plaza Cultural Armando Perez Las Siete Potencias Le Petit Versailles Liz Christy Garden Lower East Side Ecology Ctr Miracle Garden Orchard Alley Parque de Tranquilidad Peach Tree Garden Sauer Park Sunrise The Secret Garden Tompkins Square Generation X Vamos Sembrar Yu Suen Dragon Garden



Peachtree Garden – East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

## EVPC'S ANNUAL PARTY

celebrating
our volunteers and supporters
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late February.
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January's mail.

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