



Community



1100 Bergen Street Community Garden Receives Innovative Watering System



Suzanne Hurley, 77th Precinct Community Council President James Caldwell, Hazel Hurley, New York State Assemblyman Karim Camera, District Leader Shirley Patterson and Marie Louis at the 1100 Bergen Street Community Garden Celebration. (Photograph Courtesy of Tony Donawa)

On Thursday, August 9TH, 2007 the 1100 Bergen Street Community Garden celebrated the commemoration of a new rainwater and a tool shed. The garden was selected by the 2007 WaterWorks Program sponsored by Organic Gardening Magazine, the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) and Nature's Path as one of 12 across the United States and one of the two gardens in New York State selected to receive a rainwater harvesting system. The water conservation system is tailored to the garden, complete with installation services and maintenance training to assist with sustainable water conservation efforts. Rainwater is the best water for plants. In addition during drought periods water from hydrants cannot be used to water community gardens in the city. The 1100 Bergen Street Community Garden established a basic reservoir using twelve barrels to collect rainwater from local rooftops. The newly awarded system is a much needed upgrade for collecting and using rainwater. The system was assembled by Gerald Lordahl, Lars Chelberg and Lenny Librizzi from the Council on the Environment of New York City.

State Senator Eric L Adams, Assemblyman Karim Camara, District Leader Shirley Patterson, Carl Luciano from Council Member Al Vann's office, James E Caldwell of the 77TH Precinct Community Council and a host of other community leaders and residents attended the ceremony and picnic supper. The 1100 Bergen Street Community Garden was founded around 1978 by Sophie Johnson, the Block Association President at the time. The 10,000 square foot garden in Crown Heights is incorporated into the curriculum of three local schools and has been a venue for school commencement exercises. The garden has vegetable and flower gardens as well as a large central lawn and mature shade trees. It is truly a unique green oasis in a modern urban neighborhood.