

COMBINING AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND HOUSING: MADISON'S TROY GARDENS

Martin Bailkey

Dane County Food Council
North American Urban and Periurban Agriculture Alliance

**Symposium: “The Role of Food and Agriculture in the Design
and Planning of Buildings and Cities”**

Ryerson University, Toronto
May 3, 2008

Troy Gardens PUD
 January 14, 2003
 Site Plan (Overall)



Legend

- Boundary Line
- Primary Trail System
- Secondary Trail System
- Deer Fence
- Information Signage
- Rest Area
- Structures
- Bituminous Pavement
- Sidewalks
- Hard Packed Trail
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees

SmithGroup JIR
 0 100' 200'

Central Wisconsin Center

Fairfield Manor

North Shore Neighborhood



INITIAL TROY GARDENS ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

- Northside Planning Council
- Madison Area Community Land Trust
- Urban Open Space Foundation
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - Urban and Regional Planning
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
 - Rural Sociology

TROY GARDENS / UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

- University represented since the early stages of Troy Gardens discussions in mid-1990s
- Initial apprehension on part of Northside/Troy Gardens community
- University representatives and activities had to be vetted by community
- Once relationship became solidified, University became a valued organizational partner

UW-MADISON DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LA 451 OPEN SPACE PLANNING & DESIGN
SPRING 2000

STUDIO:

- Intent of instilling a more complex understanding of *open space*
- First real Community Studio
- Two studio projects: Lynden Hill (inner city Milwaukee) & Troy Gardens; each involved community gardens/urban agriculture

STUDENTS:

- 17 students; third-year undergraduates; suburban and rural backgrounds
- Newly-confident in problem solving/design abilities; now willing to explore new open space functions (like urban agriculture)
- Less-confident of bringing together *community knowledge* and *expert knowledge*

LA 451 & TROY GARDENS

PROGRAM ISSUES

- Students investigated knowledge areas little-known to they and Troy Gardens organizers
- Group subject reports established guidelines and design considerations: urban agriculture, edible landscaping, native plant restorations, cohousing, park design

SITE ANALYSIS ISSUES

- No formal site analysis had been done to date
- Student work confirmed community's initial placement of activities

DESIGN ISSUES

- Basic placement of on-sire programs was already established
- Linkages between programs?
- How “designy” to be??

OUTCOME: Class produced four site plans reviewed by community, then synthesized into single concept plan developed for city review.

UW-MADISON & TROY GARDENS

- Although University became valued and equal partner, University participation was screened by Troy Gardens Working Group, now by Friends of Troy Gardens Board and Staff.
- University involvement at both macro and program activity scales.
- University involvement based in personal interests/values of UW faculty.
- No involvement on part of UW Extension; University outreach based in academic units (facilitates student participation)
- Now into Second Generation of UW participants.
- History of individuals staying connected to Troy Gardens after University ties end.
- Would Troy Gardens have happened without UW-Madison?



Friends of Troy Gardens
www.troygardens.org

