

ACT Tree by Tree Street by Street



Openlands



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Openlands, founded in 1963, is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing public open space in northeastern Illinois. Openlands is one of the nation's oldest and most successful urban conservation organizations. To date, Openlands has taken leadership roles in securing more than 45,000 acres of land in the Chicago area for public parks, forest preserves, land and water greenway corridors, and urban gardens.



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Openlands runs an educational arboretum that teaches about trees through multi-divisional curriculum (math, science, social studies, language arts, etc.).

There are 50 active teachers with the program, and several hundred that use the resources.

Educators who are involved in establishing and maintaining a garden or school "growing program" have a Network designed for all levels of gardening experience.



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The Green Teacher Network (GTN) is Chicago's educational resource network for schools with gardens or growing windowsills that use gardening activities to support curricular goals. GTN was created to sustain existing gardens and for teachers who found the school garden an exciting vehicle for action-based teaching of math, science, reading and social studies.

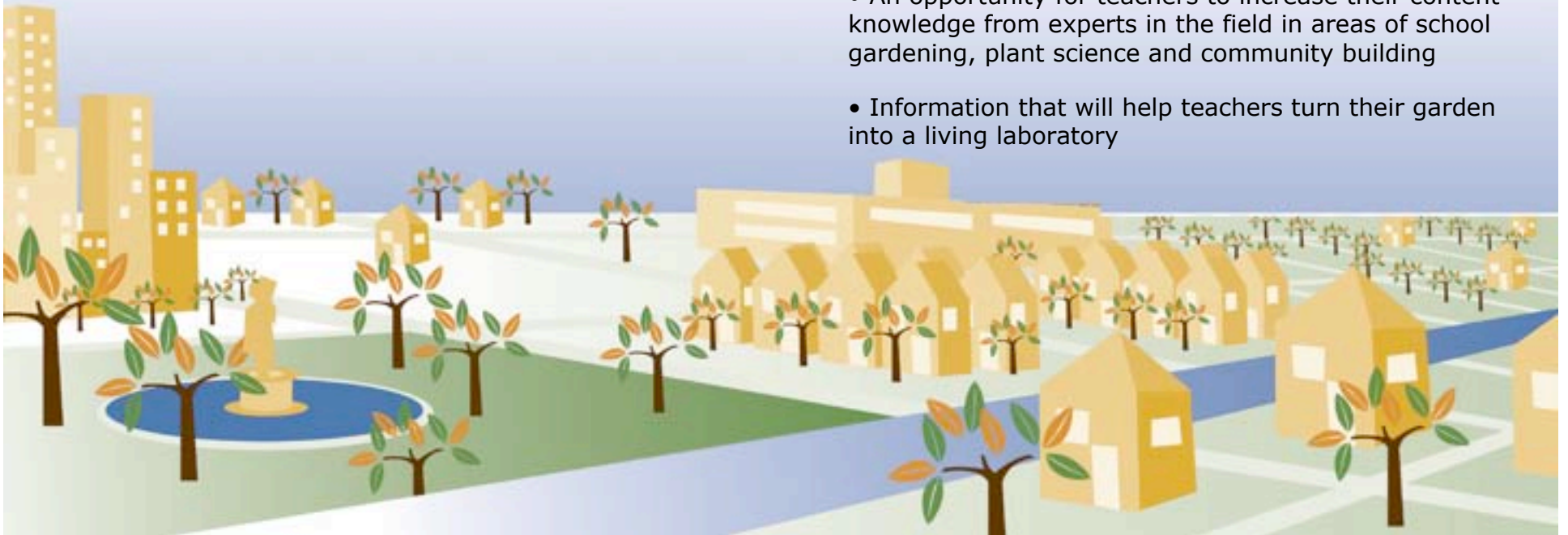


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Membership in GTN includes:

- Four programs featuring leaders in the field, lessons for the classroom, networking opportunities and more. Each meeting includes refreshments, gifts, and raffle prizes at possible field trip locations for your students
- Workshop admittance for any interested parents/volunteers or teachers at your school
- Two colorful, informative news-letters with standards-based activities and resources produced by teachers, for teachers E-letters that will keep members up-to-date on the latest programs, classes and reviews
- An opportunity for teachers to increase their content knowledge from experts in the field in areas of school gardening, plant science and community building
- Information that will help teachers turn their garden into a living laboratory



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The Arboretum is maintained by Openlands' TreeKeeper volunteers. As a next step, the arboretum will be expanding to a public walk focusing on native, shade, and ornamental trees.



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The project came about because Openlands wanted a site of their own. Previously they were helping others community gardens to thrive, but now they have a permanent place in which to stage programs.





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