



### Background & Context:

In the late 1980s, Duke University sold a number of properties in the Burch Avenue neighborhood to the Durham CLT. One of the properties included a noncompliant lot that was too small for housing development, which the Burch Avenue Neighborhood Association advocated to become a community garden. Durham CLT was happy to support this community-based vision and eager to find a constructive use for the vacant lot.

### Implementation:

Construction of the community garden was financed through in-kind contributions and grant funds. The Burch Avenue Neighborhood Association is now responsible for overseeing the community garden, as Durham CLT does not have the organizational capacity or expertise to manage the program directly. However, Durham CLT periodically helps the community garden access grant funds by acting as a fiscal agent.

“Community gardens provide food for the body and the soul.”

### Challenges

The activity and the use of the community garden vary from year to year. The garden thrives when there are individuals from the neighborhood to champion the cause. However, there have been years when interest in the garden has waned and the site became overgrown. At one point, Durham CLT reached out to the Burch Avenue Neighborhood Association and considered stepping in. In the end, interest in the garden renewed and the site is again thriving.

### Benefits

The community garden has enhanced Durham CLT's presence in the neighborhood and helps the organization build stronger community relationships.

### Project at a Glance

Location:	Durham, NC
Project Category:	Urban Agriculture
Year Completed:	1992
Agricultural Acreage:	1/4 Acre
CLT Role	Securing Land
Agricultural Activities:	Community Garden
Tenure Arrangements for Securing Land:	Fee Simple Ownership
Major Partners:	Burch Avenue Neighborhood Association
Website:	<a href="http://www.dclt.org">www.dclt.org</a>
Staff Contact:	Selina Mack, Executive Director <a href="mailto:selina@dclt.org">selina@dclt.org</a>

### Lessons Learned

While the community garden does not generate any revenue, it also offers very low risks and management responsibility for Durham CLT. The nominal lease structure is also beneficial to Durham CLT, as the organization is primarily a housing organization and does not have the capacity to take on community garden management. At the same time, the community garden helps Durham CLT address evolving neighborhood desires and needs.