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Interview with Rodney Bender, Growing Gardens, 2009 (audio)

Rodney Bender

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Date 29/Jul/2009

Interviewee: Rodney Bender

Interviewer: Sarah Roecker

Location: Coffee shop near Growing Gardens in NE Portland

Research Assistant: Kristin Milner

Interview Series: Sustaining Northwest Landscapes and Communities

Recording Equipment: Digital Recorder (Windows media audio file) with an external, omnidirectional microphone.

0:05 – Thank you to Rodney

0:20 – Where were you born and raised?

0:28 – How long have you lived in Portland?

0:35 – What brought you to Portland?

1:01 - When did you move here?

1:10 – What is your educational background?

1:24 – How did you get involved in your work?

2:20 – Describe a typical day/week/event

3:12 – How many volunteers work with Growing Gardens, how many households do you serve?

3:45 – 174 homes this season

3:55 – What are your proudest achievements?

4:50 – What are some of your persistent challenges?

5:40 – How do you, or Growing Gardens, define sustainability?

6:42 – Do you teach people how to compost?

7:25 – How do you assess your progress towards sustainability?

8:55 – Do you perform free soil testing?

10:01 – Does the soil need to be totally free of lead?

10:45 – What are some of the challenges with that program?

11:40 – Are you, or Growing Gardens, involved with other organizations?

12:55 – What is needed in the future to expand the program?

13:40 – How has the economic downturn affected Growing Gardens?

15:15 – Any additional questions or comments?