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# (Eight)finity lessons on learning of growing food

**The story of the people who turned the landfill into a flowering garden and now teach children in it - Lilia Moruha and Nick Nesprava**

by Iryna Kazakova, 2021

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## Before

Lilia Moruha – flower fairy. For the first time, she turned a pile of forgotten construction waste near her house into a mini-garden with sunflowers, morning glories and cucumbers in 2014, with the help of bored people, children and their mothers.

Nick Nesprava is a biker, traveler, PhD, landscape designer and priest in the temple. It was he who in March 2015 posted an announcement about the search for a specialist to create a garden near the temple.



## Process

5 years ago, there was a landfill of building materials in this place. Residents of the surrounding houses and cottages, as usual, brought here all the junk and garbage from their farms and homes. Because of this, the land under this spot was deprived of a layer of fertile soil and consisted of sand, slag, concrete and debris.

All activities were based on the permaculture principles: step by step. Lilia had found Bill Molison's books, completed a Permaculture Design Course, and shared her discoveries with Nick. Mini beds with plant companions were laid around the fruit trees, edible berries, vegetables, and spicy aromatic herbs were planted together. A few exotics were added into the garden: bamboo and actinidia. Ornamental chickens were introduced to improve soil fertility, the pond with carps was built to create a microclimate. Lilia and Nick began to collect rainwater and water from the fog.

## Now

It has not always been believed here that a fence can be a protection from the wind but not from people. Children trying to eat grapes through the fence are invited to enter the garden through the gate. Those who agree, return there again and again – not as students, but as helpers. A little girl will be amazed when she sees chicken eggs and calls

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mini chickens "cakes" because of their chocolate-cream feathers, but every other day these children are less and less surprised that not every product lives "on the supermarket shelf".

Children help to plant, mulch, create decor, care for chickens, harvest, and all this together with adults. As it turns out, adults also like to ride in a wheelbarrow and laugh out loud. Children who get to Krin-Кріп usually do not return alone. They bring friends and then their parents. For many, this is their favorite place in the city.

Designers urge that the presence of different types of landfills can be perceived as a negative aspect, and can be seen as a stimulus for creative and permaculture ideas. Finally, one can just stop talking and start acting.

## **I.K. Comment**

Permaculture not only allows you to turn poor soil into rich, it allows you to revive the space in which people live and saturate the environment with interesting actions. Younger or older than you – it is people who can turn your life into real wealth.