

## SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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ITEM NO: Discussion D 4

DATE: August 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Community Garden

CONTACT PERSON: Mayor Eslick or Laura Koenig, Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

ISSUE:

The issue before the Council is to discuss using the field next to the Cemetery as a Community Garden.

SUMMARY:

The City received a request from Christopher Horton (Attachment A) to consider participating in a Community Garden project. He is willing to find volunteers to prepare and maintain the site and to manage the program. The following is from the e-mail received from Mr. Horton:

After securing the land I will be able to solicit for dedicated volunteers and/or trade professionals. As we talked about earlier it appears that August will be the target month for planting but the prep work could start as soon as possible. Again once I secure the land I will be able to make an announcement to the students and community that we are seeking citizens to participate in the program.

As mentioned previously, the initial plan is already evolving in my mind. I was also thinking that we could make this a more than just a fruits/vegetable garden, maybe even a garden/park which would allow for year round participation.

The City's participation would be allowing the use of the field next to the Cemetery for the Community Garden.

Community Gardens are not a new concept. The following is information from the Municipal Research Center (see Attachment B for additional detail):

According to the [USDA](#), around 15 percent of the world's food is now grown in urban areas. City and suburban agriculture takes the form of backyard, roof-top and balcony gardening, community gardening in vacant lots and parks, roadside urban fringe agriculture and livestock grazing in open space. The focus of this page is to provide background resources for Washington local government policy makers on opportunities to enhance sustainability by encouraging gardening in urban settings.

Community gardens promote healthy communities and provide food security for many low income persons. In an urban setting, community gardens are part of the open space network. The gardens and those who participate in community gardening contribute to the preservation of open space, provide access to it, and create sustainable uses of the space. Community gardens strengthen community bonds, provide food, and create recreational and therapeutic opportunities for a community. They can also promote environmental awareness and provide community education.

MRSC has also listed additional resources for the City to develop a Community Garden, provide for rules and regulations and an application process (Attachment B).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the concept of a Community Garden and direct staff to work with Mr. Horton to present a program to the Council.
2. Do not approve the concept of a Community Garden.

Attachments: A. E-mail from Christopher Horton  
B. Information from MRSC on Community Gardening

**Attachment A**

**From:** Carolyn Eslick [mailto:carolyneslick1@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 12:21 PM  
**To:** Deborah Knight  
**Subject:** FW: Community Garden

Deborah,  
Please forward this email to the Council  
The property that we are thinking about for the Community Garden is the ball field by the cemetery.  
We need council approval...I would like a heads up to them.  
Thanks  
Mayor

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From: Christopher.Horton@co.snohomish.wa.us  
To: carolyneslick1@msn.com  
Date: Wed, 16 Jun 2010 10:34:29 -0700  
Subject: Community Garden

Sorry for the delay, extremely busy fighting crime and the paperwork that goes along with it. After much thought, I believe the first priority needs to be obtaining the land for the project. I am not sure how this process needs to occur so any help would be greatly appreciated.

After securing the land I will be able to solicit for dedicated volunteers and/or trade professionals. As we talked about earlier it appears that August will be the target month for planting but the prep work could start as soon as possible. Again once I secure the land I will be able to make an announcement to the students and community that we are seeking citizens to participate in the program.

As mentioned previously, the initial plan is already evolving in my mind. I was also thinking that we could make this a more than just a fruits/vegetable garden.. maybe even a garden/park which would allow for year round participation.

I'm guessing the next step would be to speak with council members?? Please feel free to share this email with all interested parties and I am more than happy to except any emails regarding this project..

Thanks,

Chris Horton

## FROM MRSC

# Urban Agriculture - Community Gardening

## Contents

- [About Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening](#)
- [Relationship to Food Security and Healthy Communities](#)
- [Community Garden Programs \(Public\)](#)
- [Community Gardens and Youth](#)
- [School Gardens](#)
- [Resources for Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening](#)
- [Organizations](#)
- MRSC Related Pages
  - [Edible Parking Strips](#)
  - [Farmers Markets](#)
  - [Nutrition and Food Security - Healthy Eating](#)

## About Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening

According to the [USDA](#), around 15 percent of the world's food is now grown in urban areas. City and suburban agriculture takes the form of backyard, roof-top and balcony gardening, community gardening in vacant lots and parks, roadside urban fringe agriculture and livestock grazing in open space. The focus of this page is to provide background resources for Washington local government policy makers on opportunities to enhance sustainability by encouraging gardening in urban settings.

Community gardens promote healthy communities and provide food security for many low income persons. In an urban setting, community gardens are part of the open space network. The gardens and those who participate in community gardening contribute to the preservation of open space, provide access to it, and create sustainable uses of the space. Community gardens strengthen community bonds, provide food, and create recreational and therapeutic opportunities for a community. They can also promote environmental awareness and provide community education.

One of the goals to create healthy communities is to improve nutrition in the community as a whole. These strategies are described in the [Washington State Nutrition and Physical Activity Plan \(NPASP\)](#) developed by DOH and its partners. Washington's strategic plan has among its objectives increasing access to health promoting foods. An example is increasing the availability of and access to local community gardens. [Healthy Communities Pilot Projects](#) are testing the effectiveness of the plan strategies in local communities. Moses Lake's Healthy Communities Project includes a community garden.

Public community garden programs are generally administered by the community development or parks department. In Seattle the city-wide community gardening program is under the Department of Neighborhoods. Other gardening programs involve public and private schools and other institutions. Some jurisdictions are changing policies to encourage residents to plant vegetables and other edible foods and allow a limited number of farm animals, such as chickens in the city.

## Relationship to Food Security and Healthy Communities

- [USDA Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit](#) - USDA Economic Research Services
  - [Assessment of Community Food Production Resources](#) (Community Gardens), in [USDA Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit](#) - USDA Economic Research Services
- Discovering the Food System: [A Primer on Community Food Systems: Linking Food, Nutrition and Agriculture](#) (📄 134 KB) - Cornell University
- Local Government Food Security Policies
  - [Acting Food Policy Council Seattle and King County](#) - King County Extension
  - [Community Food Security and the Seattle P-Patch Program](#)
  - [Assessing Your Community's Food Security](#) - Sustainable City San Francisco

## Community Garden Programs (Public)

- Bremerton [Pea Patch: Annual Garden Plots](#)
- Duvall [Pea Patch Community Garden](#)
- Issaquah [Pickering Farm Community Garden](#)
  - [Issaquah Pickering Farm Teaching Garden](#) (📄 99 KB)- 2004 AWC Municipal Achievement Award
  - Pomegranate Center Gathering Place Project - [Pickering Farm Teaching Garden](#)
- Kent [Community Garden Pea Patch Guidelines](#) - Kent Parks & Recreation
- Moses Lake [Community Garden Project](#) Part of the [Healthy Communities Projects](#)
- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods [P-Patch Community Gardens](#)
  - [Seattle Resolution 30194](#) - Five-Year Strategic Plan as guidance for the expansion of Seattle's community gardening program and adopting the policies and procedures necessary for the implementation of the plan, 6-00
- Snoqualmie [Community Pea Patch Program](#) - Includes application form, brochure, and rules
- Spokane [Community Gardens](#)
- Sumner [Community Garden](#) - Includes application and guidelines
- Tacoma Metro Parks [Community Gardens](#)
- Vancouver [Community Gardens](#)
  - Vancouver [News Release 5-14-10](#) (📄 36 KB) - Community Garden Program Kicks Off for the Summer
- Out of State
  - Chicago Park District [Community Gardens](#) - Includes information for creating a new garden
  - New York City Department of Parks and Recreation [Community Gardens](#)
  - Portland, Oregon Parks and Recreation [Community Gardens](#)

- San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department - [Community Garden Program](#)
- Vancouver, B.C. Park Board [Community Gardens](#) - Includes link to the Community Gardens Policy

## Community Gardens and Youth

- [Oakland Based Urban Gardens \(OBUGS\) Engage Youth](#), by Alvina Lin, Smart Growth Online, April 21, 2010
- [Puget Sound School Garden's Collective](#) - Highlights some of our many school gardens in the Puget Sound and offers ideas for curriculum, volunteer opportunities and ideas for starting a school garden program.
- [Seattle Youth Garden Works](#) - Job skills training program for youth - Program suspended 2010 due to financial issues.
- [Youth Gardening](#) - American Horticulture Association

## School Gardens

- [California School Gardening Network](#)
- [Food Sense CHANGE: Cultivating Health And Nutrition through Gardening Education](#) - King County Extension
  - [Cultivating Health And Nutrition through Gardening Education \(CHANGE\)](#) (📎 492 KB), developed by Holly Freishtat and the CHANGE staff, Washington State University Cooperative Extension
- [Puget Sound School Gardens Collective](#)
- [School Gardening](#) - Chicago Botanical Garden
- [School Gardening in the Early 1900s](#) - Michigan State University Library - A research guide to many of the documents from the early twentieth century through World War II that have been digitized (scanned)
- [School Gardens](#) - City Farmer - Nonprofit based in British Columbia

## Resources for Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening

- [Bloom to Grow](#): (📎 1.70 MB) Community gardening provides education, enrichment and eggplants all in one plot, by Marti Ross Bjornson, *Parks and Recreation*, March 2006
- Community Gardening - Brooklyn Botanic Garden - [Publication description](#)
- [Community Garden Start-Up Guide](#) - University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles
- [Cultivating Community Gardens: The Role of Local Government in Creating Healthy, Livable Neighborhoods](#) (📎 190 KB) - California Local Government Commission
- [Denver Urban Gardens](#)
- [Designing Urban Agriculture Opportunities for Southeast False Creek](#) (📎 2.79 MB) (Vancouver, B.C.) - Barrs Planning Group
- Greening Cities, Growing Communities: Learning from Seattle's Urban Community Gardens, Jeffrey Hou, Julie M. Johnson, and Laura J. Lawson, University of Washington Press with Landscape Architecture Foundation, 2009. [Publisher Description](#) - [MRSC Library Loan](#)
- [How Does Your Garden Grow?](#) (📎 2.16 MB), by Gretchen Needham, *Parks and Recreation*, August 2008

- [Local Food Systems](#) - Smart Growth Online, April 21, 2010
- [Organizing Your Community Garden](#) - University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #4300
- Returning to Their Roots - A look at how scalable agriculture can create more sustainable suburban communities, by Jamie Thomas and Colin Drukker, *Urban Land Green*, Spring 2009 - [MRSC Library Loan](#)
- [Seattle P-Patch Garden Links](#)
- [Seattle 2010: The Year of Urban Agriculture](#)
- [SPIN-Farming](#)
- Sustainable Urban Agriculture, by Benjamine Linsley and Ted Caplow, *Urban Land*, Spring 2008 - [MRSC Library Loan](#)
- [Urban Agriculture and Community Food Security in the United States](#): Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe, Prepared by the Urban Agriculture Committee of the Community Food Security Coalition, February, 2002
- [Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening](#) - United States Department of Agriculture, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center
- Zoning for Urban Agriculture by Nina Mukherji and Alfonso Morales, *Zoning Practice*, March 2010 - [MRSC Library Loan](#)

## **Organizations**

- [American Community Gardening Association](#)
- [City Farmer](#), Urban Agricultural Notes - Nonprofit based in British Columbia
- [Community Food Security Coalition](#)