

Recommendation- COMMUNITY GARDENS FUNDING

Community Gardens provide important environmental, economic, community and health benefits. Current ecological and food security trends make investments in gardens more relevant and crucial, even with a tight municipal budget.

While the broader community can help to increase gardening initiatives, the Community Gardens Program has a special opportunity to make a large impact. The City of Portland has thirty years of experience properly building, managing and administering community gardens. The City of Portland has the land tenure, knowledge and experience to make community gardens successful in the long term.

The management of the Parks Bureau requires balancing a number of important funding and land needs. However, with 3000 acres of park land and a \$100 million Parks budget, the Community Gardens Program deserves a modest share.

At the end of 2007, the Food Policy Council passed comprehensive Community Gardens Recommendations (Presented February 2008). Since this time, serious economic conditions and a growing waiting list of over 1,300 people present the need for greater action. Numerous sources have called for the support of community gardens including the recent Coalition for Livable Futures Agenda involving over 90 organization and 3000 individuals.

As a part of the larger Oregon Solutions process to increase community gardening, we encourage the City to make long term commitments to grow and improve the municipal program.

Recommendation: Provide ongoing funding for maintenance and moderate expansion. With a goal of 50 new plots per year, the City can provide access for 500 new gardeners by 2020.

The Council encourages the City to set a long term goal of completing of at least **three capital improvements per year**: either by expanding existing gardens or building new community gardens. The Council recommends that the City budget for at least \$100,000-150,000 per year for capital improvements. Developing new community gardens cost \$30,000 to \$50,000 and funds from sources outside the City may also be needed.

Additionally, the Council recommends that **for each capital improvement, \$5,000 be added to the Community Gardens operating budget** for the staffing and general maintenance needed for the management of these capital improvements. The Council recommends that at least one additional support positions within the Community Gardens Program be made a permanent position. Capital improvements should be focused where the greatest need exists: those neighborhoods with no gardens or a limited number of gardens.

Recommendation- COMMUNITY GARDENS WATER SERVICE

Community Gardens provide important environmental, economic, community and health benefits. Current ecological and food security trends make investments in gardens more relevant and crucial, even with a tight municipal budget.

Opportunities exist for community gardens to be developed and managed both by municipal and non-municipal entities.

Recommendation: Reduce the Costs of New Garden Construction

An adequate water supply is critical to the success of community gardening efforts. Water service installation is a significant portion of the total cost to build a community garden. Currently, new gardens construction requires the payment of installation fees as well as system development fees that fund larger infrastructure and community service needs.

Community gardens provide a unique community service, and with reduced water installation fees, more gardens can be constructed for less money.

The Council encourages the Water Bureau and Parks Bureau to work together to reduce water installation fees. **The Council recommends that the City of Portland Community Gardens Program and nonprofit organizations be charged reduced water service installation fees for the creation of new community gardens.** New gardens could either be exempt from system development charges or from construction fees. Waiving system development fees or construction fees can reduce the total cost of installing water by approximately 35-50%.

In order to receive this subsidy, nonprofit organization should demonstrate their ability to effectively manage gardens and should have at least a five year guarantee of land tenure.

Current Costs

Average Installation Fee: \$3,345

<i>Meter Size</i>	<i>System Development Charge</i>	<i>Average Total Cost With Installation</i>
5/8"	\$1,760	\$5,105
3/4"	\$2,640	\$5,985
1"	\$4,401	\$7,746