

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** MAYOR & COUNCIL

**Agenda Item #:** IX.D.

**From:** Sherry Engelman, Community Health Administrator

**Action**

**Discussion**

**Date:** November 5, 2012

**Information**

**Subject:** Edina Community Health Committee Advisory Communication – Community Garden

## **Action Requested:**

Approve the Edina Community Health Committee recommendation to City fund and launch a pilot community garden program at Yorktown Park through collaboration with the Edina Park Board, the Edina Community Health Committee and the Park & Recreation and Health Department staff.

## **Information / Background:**

The Edina Community Health Committee has reviewed the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) goals, the do.town initiative, and the generated local support for a community garden in the Yorktown Park area. They strongly support the concept of "curriculum guided" community gardens such as the school community gardens, and believe the established Parks & Recreation programming system would provide a valuable educational component to a pilot community garden at Yorktown Park.

## **Attachments (pdf):**

Edina Community Health Committee Advisory Letter – Community Gardens

do.town Petitions Regarding Community Gardens



City of Edina

October 25, 2012

Mayor Hovland and the City Council  
4801 W. 50th St.  
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Hovland and Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Community Health Committee (CHC). In view of the Mayor and the City Council supporting the *do.town* effort, the CHC has been evaluating a number of potential initiatives intended to improve the health and wellbeing of Edina residents. One area that the CHC has examined is community gardens, which has been growing in popularity in the Twin Cities in recent years (several surrounding communities actively support community gardens: Bloomington, Richfield, Chanhassen, St. Louis Park, and Eden Prairie). Based on information from *do.town*, SHIP, and the American Community Gardening Association (<http://www.communitygarden.org>), community gardens can have the following positive impacts on residents:

- Provide residents of multi-unit housing an opportunity to garden and create their own healthy food source;
- Community gardens build community by crossing cultural and socio-economic divides by providing cross-cultural and intergenerational opportunities for neighbors to meet and work together;
- Community gardens combat inactivity, unhealthy eating habits and social isolation, thereby reducing risk of conditions like diabetes and obesity;
- Community gardens provide access to nutritionally rich and culturally appropriate foods that may otherwise may be unavailable to residents;
- Community gardens provide horticultural therapy and exercise, helping to draw people out of their homes and get active.

A key component to a successful community gardens is local resident support for the community garden. The CHC has received several letters of support for the creation of one or more community gardens in Edina. Previously, the Park & Recreation Department evaluated three potential community garden sites: Edina Lake Park, Pamela Park, and Yorktown Park. Based on that prior site identification, the CHC requested that *do.town* evaluate whether local community garden support existed in housing adjacent to Yorktown Park. That effort resulted in Petition to the City Council (attached) with over 40 signatures from residents in the multi-unit building at 7201 York Avenue South (adjacent to Yorktown Park).

Based on the potential positive impact on Edina residents and community support, we recommend that the City fund and launch through the Park & Recreation Department a pilot community garden program. The CHC is recommending a three year pilot program at Yorktown Park. Understanding that the City will consider a number of factors related to implementing our recommendation, we hope the City will dedicate funding and City resources to this pilot program. Should the City Council move forward with our recommendation, the CHC anticipates working, as needed, with the Park & Recreation Department, the Park Board and other Edina Commissions on the appropriate considerations and guidelines for the pilot program.

Sincerely,

Matt Doscotch, Chair  
Edina Community Health Committee



## REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

<b>To:</b> MAYOR AND COUNCIL	<b>Agenda Item</b> <u>Item No. IX. B.</u>
<b>From:</b> Debra Mangen City Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
<b>Date:</b> September 19, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
<b>Subject:</b> Receive Petitions do.town Regarding Community Gardens	

**Recommendation:**

Motion accepting the petitions presented.

**Info/Background:**

The attached petitions were received from do.town regarding community gardens.

Edina City Council,

This petition, circulated by **do.town**, is in support of the City Council considering an Edina community garden at Yorktown Park between York Ave South and 7300 Block in Edina.

The petition was circulated at the Durham apartment complex, 7201 York Avenue South Edina, adjacent to the proposed site. There are 264 units at the complex with residents from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

The signatures collected demonstrate positive support for a public community garden that is accessible to Edina residents who live in apartments and are interested in growing culturally specific foods.

This petition also reinforces letters sent to the City Council early this month supporting a community garden resolution that includes both public and private land in the city.

Community Gardens add value to Edina by empowering residents to become more active in their communities, cultivating cross-cultural and intergenerational volunteers and leaders who come together to preserve open space and create gardens for the benefit of present and future generations.

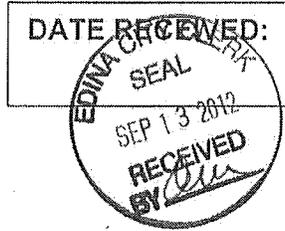
Sincerely,

Katie Meyer  
**do.town**  
612.746.6723  
[katie@do-town.org](mailto:katie@do-town.org)





City of Edina, Minnesota  
 CITY COUNCIL  
 4801 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street • Edina, Minnesota 55424  
 (952) 927-8861 • (952) 927-7645 FAX • (612) 927-5461 TDD



# PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIDEWALK             | <input type="checkbox"/> ALLEY PAVING                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER MAIN   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STORM SEWER          | <input type="checkbox"/> SANITARY SEWER                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> STREET LIGHTING  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CURB AND GUTTER ONLY | <input type="checkbox"/> PERMANENT STREET SURFACING WITH CURB AND GUTTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Community Garden at Yorktown Park</u> |

To the Mayor and City Council:

The persons who have signed this petition ask the City Council to consider the improvements listed above to the locations listed below.

<u>Yorktown Park</u>	between <u>York Ave S</u>	and <u>7300 block</u>
LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENT BY STREET NAME	ADDRESS	ADDRESS
_____	between _____	and _____
LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENT BY STREET NAME	ADDRESS	ADDRESS
_____	between _____	and _____
LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENT BY STREET NAME	ADDRESS	ADDRESS
_____	between _____	and _____
LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENT BY STREET NAME	ADDRESS	ADDRESS

**IMPORTANT NOTE: THE PERSONS WHO HAVE SIGNED THIS PETITION UNDERSTAND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL MAY ASSESS THE COSTS OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS AGAINST THE PROPERTIES BENEFITING FROM THE IMPROVEMENTS IN AMOUNTS DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 429, MINNESOTA STATUTES.**

PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE	OWNER'S NAME (PRINTED)	PROPERTY ADDRESS (PRINTED)
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Raghuraj V</u>	<u>7201 York Ave</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>MAIJEE T SINGH</u>	<u>APT 1308</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Y. Akali Lavara</u>	<u>APT 609</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>SHARAD SHANKHDAR</u>	<u>APT 406</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Daniel DeLa Mora</u>	<u>APT 719</u>

This petition was circulated by:

<u>do.town</u>	<u>612.746.6723</u>
NAME	PHONE
_____	_____
ADDRESS	_____

There is space for more signatures on the back.



PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE

OWNER'S NAME (PRINTED)

PROPERTY ADDRESS (PRINTED)

K. D. L.

DHANASEKARAN KRISHNAN

7201 YORK AVE S, APT. 601

A. Saranya

A. Saranya

7201 York Ave S, Apt 1111

Agpila

Tigyan Kauri P...  
ARVITA AWASTHI

7201 York Ave APT 208  
7201 Y A APT 906

Srinam

SRINATH KANAKALAKA

7201 YORK AVE S Apt 909

Prajwal

Prajwal Shakya

7201 York Ave S Apt 606

TRAVIS C. WALKER

Travis C. Walker

7201 YORK AVES. #410H

I. N.

P. VENKATARAO

7201 YORK AVES.

Zahir

Zahir Ch

7211 York Ave

W. Olson

Mathleen Olson

7201 York #602

N. Trivadi

N. TRIVADI

7201 York 622

Sairam

SAIRAM RAMASAMY

7201 YORK AVE, APT# 411

Colton Handland

Colton Handland

7201 York ave S apt #913

Tong Jiang

TONG JIANG

7201 York Ave S #611

This petition was circulated by:

do.town

NAME

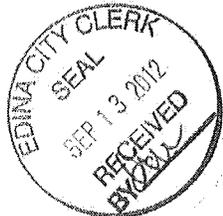
ADDRESS

612.746.6723

PHONE

The Minnesota Data Practices Act requires that we inform you of your rights about the private data we are requesting on this form. Under the law, your telephone number is private data. This petition when submitted will become public information. There is no consequence for refusing to supply this information.

You may attach extra pages with signatures.



Edina City Council,

This petition, circulated by **do.town**, is in support of the City Council considering both a community garden resolution that includes both public and private land, and a pilot Edina community garden at Yorktown Park between York Ave South and 7300 Block in Edina.

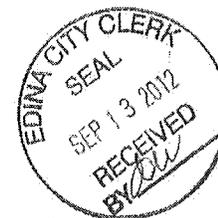
The petition was circulated online to our list of **do.town** community garden supporters in the City of Edina. Our community garden supporters in Edina come from a variety of gardening backgrounds including schoolyard gardeners, master gardeners, Edina Garden Council gardeners and church gardeners. The signatures collected show the range of community garden support that already exists in the city of Edina.

This petition also reinforces letters sent to the City Council early this month supporting a community garden resolution that includes both public and private land in the city.

Community Gardens add value to Edina by empowering residents to become more active in their communities, cultivating cross-cultural and intergenerational volunteers and leaders who come together to preserve open space and create gardens for the benefit of present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Katie Meyer  
**do.town**  
612.746.6723  
[katie@do-town.org](mailto:katie@do-town.org)



# do. town

BLOOMINGTON

EDINA

RICHFIELD

## I support Community Gardens in public spaces in Edina

### Community gardens benefits:

- Empower residents to become more active in their communities, cultivating cross-cultural and intergenerational volunteers and leaders who come together to preserve open space and create gardens for the benefit of present and future generations
- Make a significant contribution to the civic and cultural life of communities and create gathering places that bring people together across boundaries of age and ethnicity.
- Provide access to healthy, culturally specific food for people of all economic backgrounds
- Allow residents to improve nutrition and lower food costs
- Create healthier, more nutrient-rich diets

I support the Edina City Council considering and passing a Community Garden Resolution allowing Edina to promote and encourage gardens on both public and private land.

I also support this petition to the City Council for piloting a community garden at Yorktown Park between York Ave S and the the 7300 Block in Edina.

The signature deadline has been reached for this petition. Thanks for your interest!

Important: The persons who have signed this petition understand that the city council may access the costs of these improvements against the properties benefiting from the improvements in amounts determined by the council as authorized by chapter 429, Minnesota statutes.

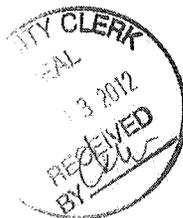


MN

For the health of all



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Date	First Name	Last Name	Email	Street	Zip	State	Comment
9/8/12 11:23 AM	Barbara	LaValleur	barbara.lavalleur@gmail.com	7621 Edinborough Way Unit 2110	55435	MN	There are many people including young families and seniors whose living situation (condos or apartments) prevent them from access to the healthy aspects of working in and reaping the benefits from a home grown garden. There are also the visual benefits from countless passersby who would enjoy walking past the gardens.
9/8/12 11:33 AM	Liz	Genovese	lizgenovese@aol.com	4012 Monterey Avenue	55416	MN	There are no salient reasons not to have Community Gardens. Give this a big PUSH. The Community/micro communities created by working together far outweigh - - the supposed "problems" (if Minneapolis can do it, we surely can. - - - - - I support the Edina City Council considering and passing a Community Garden Resolution allowing Edina to promote and encourage gardens on both public and private land. - - - - - I also support this petition to the City Council for piloting a community garden at Yorktown Park between York Ave S and the the 7300 Block in Edina.
9/8/12 11:59 PM	Kristin	Heelan	kristin@heelan.net	4150 W 44th St	55424	MN	During 2 decades of home gardening, I have enjoyed and developed great relationships with my neighbors, improving my quality of life in areas of exercise, knowledge, mental health, cooperation, creativity, and my understanding of appreciation for the environmental/ecological world I share.
9/9/12 7:59 AM	Liz	Klaver	kennethfrank1154@gmail.com	5701 Grove St	55436	MN	Community gardens are the wave of the future (and rediscovering the past). It is an important community asset and Edina should be part of this movement.
9/9/12 11:06 AM	Sharon	Decker	sdeckpl@g.com	4330 Wooddale	55424	MN	Have been involved in a Community Garden at Concord School in Edina this summer. It has been a great community building and learning experience for our students and their families.
9/9/12 6:02 PM	Cheryl	Holve	cheryl_012@msn.com	4829 W 60th St	55424	MN	I live in a condo and would love to have the opportunity to have a small garden to grow fresh vegetables.
9/9/12 7:03 PM	Carol	Doe	Caroljdoe@comcast.net	7621 Edinborough Way #2204	55435	MN	

