

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: Park Board

Agenda Item #: VI.B

From: Ann Kattreh, Parks and Recreation Director

Action

Discussion

Date: 1/8/13

Information

Subject: Yorktown Park Community Garden Committee Volunteers

Action Requested:

Select members to serve on a Yorktown Park Community Garden Committee

Information / Background:

A brief history of recent community garden discussions:

- 2009 – City of Edina assesses public spaces for community gardens, action was tabled at that time
- March 2012 – City Council members expressed a desire to revisit the community garden question on public land
- March to June 2012 – **do.town** community conversations identifies a base of supporters
- July 2012 – City Council encourages community health committee to add community gardens to their work plan
- August 6, 2012 – Mayor Hovland and the Council proclaimed Aug. 11th as Community Garden Day – recognizing ALL a community garden brings to your community
- August 7, 2012 – **do.town** begins letter writing campaign City Council and Community Health Committee – 7 letters generated
- September 2012 – **do.town** administers a petition drive at The Durham – resulting in 47 signatures
- October/November 2012 – Community Health Committee recommends to City Council a pilot community garden at Yorktown Park
- November 2012 – **do.town** meets with the Southdale YMCA to confirm their interest in partnering on a community garden project
- December 2012 – **do.town** hosts a meeting at the Southdale YMCA (see attached meeting notes)

Staff is requesting one or more volunteers to serve on a committee to work on a proposal for a pilot community garden project at Yorktown Park. Volunteers are also being solicited from the Energy and Environment Commission, Edina Health Committee, Edina Garden Council, Southdale YMCA and interested residents and neighbors. The goal of the committee will be to provide a recommendation to the Park Board regarding a pilot community garden project at Yorktown Park. The Committee will determine location, cost, partnership opportunities, and policy recommendations for a proposed garden.

Attachment A: 11-5-12 City Council Item IX.D. Edina Community Health Committee

Attachment B: 12-5-12 Community Garden Conversation Notes

Attachment C: Yorktown Park Aerial View

Attachment A

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR & COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IX.D.

From: Sherry Engelman, Community Health Administrator

Action

Discussion

Information

Date: November 5, 2012

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

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

do.town

BLOOMINGTON EDINA RICHFIELD



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





City of Edina, Minnesota
 CITY COUNCIL
 4801 West 50th 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>MAHJEE T SINGH</u>	<u>APT 1308</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Y. V. Pradeep Lavara</u>	<u>APT 609</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>SHARAD SHANKHDIAR</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	PHONE

There is space for more signatures on the back.

PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE

OWNER'S NAME (PRINTED)

PROPERTY ADDRESS (PRINTED)

K.D.L.A

DIHANASEKARAN KRISHNAN

7201 YORK AVE S. APT 601

A. Saranya

A. Saranya

7201 York Ave S, Apt 1114

Aggile

Tigam Hanuvi Panna

7201 York Ave APT 208

Sainam

ARVITA AWASTHI

7201 Y A APT 906

Pragwal

SRINATH KUMARU (la)

7201 YORK AVE S Apt 909

TRAVIS C. WALKER ↔

Pragwal shakya

7201 York Ave S Apt 606

A. Juv

Travis C. Walker

7201 YORK AVES. #410H

Zahin ch

P. VENKATRAO

7201 YORK AVES.

W. Trish

Zahin ch

7211 York Ave

W. Trish

Kathleen Olson

7201 York #602

SARANAM

N. TRINDAN

7201 YORK 622.

Colton Handland

SARANAM RAMASAMY

7201 YORK AVE APT # 411

Colton Handland

Colton Handland

7201 York ave S apt # 913

TONG JIANG

7201 York Ave S #1671

This petition was circulated by:

do.town

612.746.6723

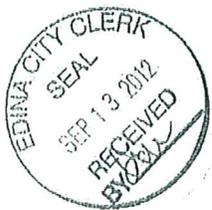
NAME

ADDRESS

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.



APRIL 2008



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





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 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.



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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@q.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	



Attachment B

Community Garden Conversation



12/5/2012 – Southdale YMCA

Attendees: Josh Sprague; Lisa Nelson; John Keprios; Liz Genovese; Liz Klaver; Ann Shields; Ann Kattreh; Sara Johnson; Elizabeth Franklin; Dianne Plunkett Latham; Ellen Jones; Bryan Atchison; Joel Stegner; Matt Doscotch (by phone)

Setting the Stage

- 2009 – City of Edina assesses public spaces for community gardens, action was tabled at that time – (*John Keprios shared his presentation from that time*)
- March 2012 – City Council members expressed a desire to revisit the community garden question on public land
- March to June 2012 – **do.town** community conversations identifies a base of supporters
- July 2012 – City Council encourages community health committee to add community gardens to their work plan
- August 6, 2012 – Mayor Hovland and the Council proclaimed Aug. 11th as Community Garden Day – recognizing ALL a community garden brings to your community.
- August 7, 2012 – **do.town** begins letter writing campaign city council and CHC – 7 letters generated
- September 2012 – **do.town** administers a petition drive at The Durham – resulting in 47 signatures
- October 2012 – Community Health Committee recommends to City Council a pilot community garden at Yorktown Park
- November 2012 – **do.town** meets with the Southdale YMCA to confirm their interest in partnering on a community garden project

Resources for Community Gardens

- People – Committed residents, businesses and/or organization
 - The City of Edina
 - Southdale YMCA
 - The Edina Garden Council
 - Edina Community Health Committee
 - Edina Park Board
 - The Durham
 - Hennepin County Master Gardeners
 - Interested residents
 - VEAP
- Planning – Site selection and plan, garden rules, responsibilities of collaborators
 - Access to water
 - Fencing against wildlife/theft
 - Composting
 - Elevated beds
 - Bathroom Access
 - Standards – rules/regulations
 - Disability access
 - Parking
 - Aesthetics
- Resources – Funding, community assets, resident skills etc.
 - Annual fee
 - Grants
- Engagement – Volunteers, local organizations, neighborhood, benefiting organizations
 - Network of gardens and gardeners
 - Education for all ages
 - Garden council

Benefits of Community Gardening

- Connect the community
 - Youth development
 - Adult education
 - Developing connections between public and private gardeners
 - Shared values around growing
- Provide fresh food to those in need.
 - Supporting community organizations i.e. VEAP
 - Service projects
- Access to healthy and nutritious food.
- Preserve green space in your neighborhood.
 - Creating a destination
- Getting outdoors and active in an accessible, low-impact way

Community Garden Conversation



Next Steps

- Park Board Recommendation
- Working group – convened by a Park Board or a Community Health Committee member
- City Council Approval

Yorktown Park

