



RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Community Gardens

For the last several years the City has provided open space areas for community gardening. While the number of plots and the number of garden plot locations has been expanded, requests for garden plots continue to exceed the number of plots available. As sites are selected for garden plots, priority is given to flat, underused open areas in neighborhood parks, close to where people live.

Questions / Issues:

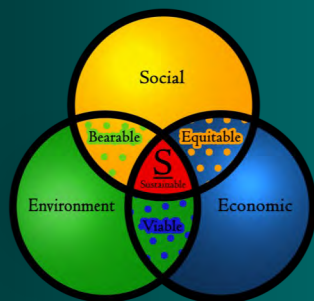
- Who uses the program and why?
- Is this an appropriate use of park property and how do we balance the “private use” of these park areas with the general use of the other park areas?
- Should the program be modified to include a true “community garden” requirement that a certain amount of produce be made available to local food shelves?
- What programmatic changes can be recommended to increase early success?

Deliverables:

- Review the current program and procedures and recommend programmatic changes to improve gardeners’ success and the goal of reducing staff time and resource requirements.
- Review the administration of the program, the location of the plots, and resources available at the various community plots.

Sustainability:

This project provides sustainable economic, social, and environmental impacts because it allows residents to personally produce their food supply, enhances opportunities for social interaction while improving overall public health, and reduces the amount of vehicle miles needed for food shipment. This project is relevant to the City because it fulfills the 2013-2014 City Council’s goals to maintain an engaged, healthy, inviting, prepared, and safe community. This project would also implement the Comprehensive Plan goal to preserve natural resources and opens space within the community and ensure development does not adversely impact ongoing agricultural uses until urban services are available.



Staff/Partners

PROJECT LEAD

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PARTNERS

Univ. of Minnesota Tenants

