

MEETING AGENDA

Corvallis Parks & Recreation Department
1310 SW Avery Park Drive - Corvallis, OR 97333

Meeting Description: Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board **Location:** Downtown Fire Station
Date: April 18, 2013 **Time:** 6:30 p.m. 400 NW Harrison Blvd

Members and Staff -	
1. Betty Griffiths, Chair	10. Deb Rose
2. Lynda Wolfenbarger, Vice-Chair	11. Jon Soulé
3. Carolyn Ashton	12. Marc Vomocil
4. Joshua Baur	13. Joel Hirsch, Council Liaison
5. Kevin Bogatin, 509-J District Liaison	14. Karen Emery, Director
6. Nick Castellano	15. Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
7. Tatiana Dierwechter	16. Jude Geist, Parks Operations Supervisor
8. Phillip Hays	17. Steve Deghetto, Assistant Director
9. Ed MacMullan	.
Items To Be Discussed	
1	Call to Order
2	Introductions
3	Approval of Minutes – March 21
4	Visitors' Propositions
5	SAGE Garden Update – Jen Brown, Environmental Center
6	Avery Park Community Garden Relocation Proposal - DeGhetto
7	Contracting Out Parks and Recreation Services – Griffiths/Soule
8.	Levy Renewal Discussion - Griffiths
Pending Items -	
1	Alternative toilets / vault
2	Dogs off leash areas at Willamette Park and Crystal Lake & Dog License Fee
Materials Mailed -	
1	Agenda
2	PNARB Draft Minutes – March 21
3	Director's Highlights
4	Goals
5	FY 12-13 Budget overview

Next PNARB Meeting is May 16, 2013

DRAFT

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION BOARD
MARCH 21, 2013**

Attendance

Lynda Wolfenbarger, Vice-Chair
Deb Rose
Tatiana Dierwechter
Jon Soule
Joshua Baur
Nick Castellano
Carolyn Ashton
Marc Vomocil
Joel Hirsch, City Council Liaison

Staff

Karen Emery, Director
Jude Geist, Operations Supervisor
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Visitors

Absent/Excused

Betty Griffiths, Chair
Kevin Bogatin, 509-J District Liaison
Ed MacMullan
Phil Hays

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
II. Introductions	X		
III. Approval of Minutes- February 21, 2013	X		
IV. Visitors' Propositions	X		
V. South Riverfront/Shawala Point Playground Naming			Motion passed to recommend to the City Council that a playground be incorporated into a Master Plan for the Shawala Point area, to be named "Ronald Naasko Playground".
VI. Heritage Tree Program			Motion passed to recommend the City Council adopt the Heritage Tree Program.
VII. Review & Refine Board Goals			Motion passed to adopt board goals.
VIII. Contracting Out Parks and Recreation Services			Motion passed that a carefully crafted letter be sent to the City Council, City Manager, and Mayor, based on the board's discussion reflected in the meeting minutes; the letter would advocate for Parks and Recreation, recognize all the recent work recovery, and remind the Council how well and efficiently it is run.
IX. Board/Liaison Reports	X		

X. Staff Reports	X		
XI. Adjournment	X		The next Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., April 18, 2013 at the Downtown Fire Station, 400 NW Harrison Blvd.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Lynda Wolfenbarger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- February 21, 2013.

Jon Soule moved and Marc Vomocil seconded to approve the February 21, 2013 minutes as presented; motion passed.

IV. VISITOR PROPOSITIONS. None.

V. SOUTH RIVERFRONT/SHAWALA POINT PLAYGROUND NAMING.

Planner Jackie Rochefort stated that resident Ronald Naasko, Vietnam vet and double amputee, had long been a supporter of children and Riverfront Park. He submitted a CIP request for a playground along the Riverfront several years ago, but it was difficult to build a park there at the time, due to the high cost of a Greenway permit and because the park is so highly designed. As time has gone on, the need for a playground in the area has become clearer, and that the area known as Shawala Point, which includes the off-leash dog park and the skate park, would be ideal for a playground. Though the playground is not yet built, the proposal this evening is to name the future playground as “Ronald Naasko Playground”.

She related that Access Benton County (ABC) requested the naming, saying it would promote fundraising for the playground. While City Council policy on naming public facilities mandates that a facility may not be named after someone until they have passed away at least two years (Naasko died September 15, 2011), it will take at least that long to build the playground. She said there has long been a need for a Master Plan for the area, so it makes sense to apply for a Greenway permit for the entire area, including the playground. Director Karen Emery related that Jim Smith of ABC proposed there could be some sort of tribute in the playground area to people who have advocated for people with disabilities in the area.

Marc Vomocil moved to recommend to the City Council that a playground be incorporated into a Master Plan for the Shawala Point area, to be named “Ronald Naasko Playground”; Jon Soule seconded. Joshua Baur asked why the entire park should not be named for him; Rochefort added a more thorough planning would be needed for that. Emery added that Naasko’s passion was for a *playground* at the riverfront. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM.

Parks Supervisor Jude Geist related that the Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry Commission (CBUF) has helped move forward a Heritage Tree Program. A diverse stakeholder committee started meeting in December, with three public meetings, and a draft plan was developed. The program will be voluntary, with no restrictions on homeowners. It hopes to be countywide, and the County and OSU are currently reviewing whether to adopt it.

The program's purpose is to recognize heritage trees that are significant in size or age; or be related to a historical event, person, or site; and can be on public or private property. They will be listed on a website. He sought a recommendation to Council to adopt it as a program. His understanding is that the County is in process of getting approval by commissioners.

Geist explained that the program was voluntary, noting that other Oregon programs that imposed more restrictions had many fewer participants. It was felt more important to be voluntary and have more participation.

Emery said by providing education to tree owners, they are much more likely to have a higher consideration of protecting a tree. Baur asked if there was any benefit for participation other than advice. Geist said there was discussion about getting arborists to provide advice or services to owners on a voluntary basis; there would be no fiscal impact to the City. Vomocil said the program is a celebration of trees, there is education, there is no fiscal impact, and it is very exciting. Geist said Heritage Tree walks and a brochure were anticipated, and they will be linked to historic homes tours. Baur asked if people registering trees must do so publicly; Geist replied that if they don't want to be visible, then people shouldn't register, though they don't have to provide public access. He envisioned many more trees being nominated than selected the first year.

Deb Rose moved and Joshua Baur seconded to recommend the City Council adopt the Heritage Tree Program; motion passed.

VII. REVIEW AND REFINE BOARD GOALS.

Vomocil said he was unclear on board goals versus staff goals. Baur said the goal setting session facilitator stated it would help for board members to work on goals they felt strongly about.

Tatiana Dierwechter moved to adopt the board goals; Soule seconded; motion passed.

VIII. CONTRACTING OUT PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES.

Director Emery highlighted a letter from the City Manager regarding investigating contracting out specific services currently provided by City employees, including park maintenance. She related that at the March 4, 2013 Council meeting, Councilor Traber had asked that staff also look at adding recreation services listed in the Activity Guide to that list of services. Staff will go through a process of looking at that over the next few months. There is no set deadline, but she intends to make significant progress before work begins on the FY14-15 budget, in November or December 2013.

Dierwechter asked whether there would be an opportunity for community input; Emery said staff would look at an approach over several months and then look at collecting data to give to the Council; Baur expressed concern at citizens only getting a chance to speak up at the end of the process, since at that point, they'd feel it was a done deal, and feel disempowered. Emery said that currently there is visitor proposition at both PNARB and the City Council that people can utilize. Emery said citizens can contact their Councilor and the City Manager to ask questions. There has been an article on it in the G-T.

She stated that the staff charge is to gather data. She said the department has 34 regular staff and about 100 additional hourly-wage (minimum wage) staff. She related that the City Manager stated that Councilor Traber's intent was for staff to look at Recreation programs; find out whether there are roughly equivalent programs in the community, find one or more approaches to deal with outsourcing, determine that gain, and decide whether it makes sense to do. She said the department currently offers about 1,000 recreation programs each year.

Dierwechter said given the board's goal of advocacy and educating the community about P & R services, she needed to know more about the process for providing input to the Council; she suggested the board take action now, framing concerns positively, but show that the community is concerned and paying attention. Dierwechter hoped part of the data could look at outcomes in communities that have privatized parks and Recreation services. Baur expressed concern about privatizing a public good; it should be a public model. He said in industries that have been heavily de-regulated, along with massive cutbacks, there have been safety issues. Liaison Hirsch said it was not too early to talk about concerns and issues. Nick Castellano asked if there were any way to comprehensively and extensively contact stakeholders; Emery said the Council governed Parks and Recreation, it wouldn't be appropriate to promote one direction or another, that staff needs to give objective data. Liaison Hirsch said staff may not campaign. Castellano said the advisory board may act in this regard and he advocated notifying the public. Dierwechter said the new Parks and Recreation Friends Group could also take action.

Soule said that investigating parks maintenance contracting was fairly straightforward, but reviewing all Parks and Rec programs was ridiculous, and it was a poor use of staff time to spend any time exploring that, and recommended the board ask the Council to take it off the table since it would not be a good use of staff time. Liaison Hirsch related that Councilor Traber felt there were competing local organizations that could take the work on; he encouraged the board to take on the argument.

Soule said if the Boys and Girls Club ran the Parks Programs, it would cost way more, and the community would lose control. Emery related that Councilor Traber said there were private providers of recreation in the community, naming KidSpirit, the Boys and Girls Club and Timberhill Athletic as examples.

Dierwechter highlighted the new goal of expanding access and opportunities for underserved youth and families, saying none of those organizations can play the part that Parks does in assuring access to low-income and minority families; they don't have the capacity or ability to do so. Soule said it was very ill considered, and there was simply no way to save any money. He said the department had just gone through an extensive process of looking at which programs can't justify themselves because they lose money and which ones work and were cost effective, using the cost recovery methodology. Castellano asked if the board could make a motion to go on record to the Council that the board opposes the proposal; Dierwechter suggested going forward to start the conversation. Liaison Hirsch said he'd carry the message to the Council and suggested board members attend a Council meeting.

Soule said while he generally supported the City looking for opportunities for cost savings where possible; however, in this case, it will cost a lot of money for staff to take a lot of time and effort to come up with a method, and it was a poor use of staff time. Baur cited Board Goal II, "Implement efficiencies between City, County, and the school district", saying it was a way to save money, such as by sharing equipment; Soule suggested mentioning the goal in a letter to the Council.

Deb Rose asked what other municipalities have privatized; Emery said she didn't know anywhere that completely privatized; in Sherwood, the YMCA was the provider of recreation services. She said Albany has contracted out a significant amount of mowing, garbage collection; staff will discuss pros and cons and efficiencies with Albany. The Department already contracts out the majority of instructor jobs, though not at the Aquatic Center, given the risk aspects. Geist related that contractors paid to mow an area tend to mow even when an area doesn't need mowing, and can mow an area when too wet, causing mud. City Parks staff only mows at appropriate times, and juggle other jobs.

Baur asked if Parks was being given extra resources to do the research work; Emery replied that they were not. Baur asked where other cuts were being made, saying he felt parks were always cut first, even though it's the parks the public most value during tough times. Liaison Hirsch said cuts were being made everywhere. He said the policing levels were the same as 1992, despite population growth and student growth, and said a levy was needed. He said parks and rec advocates needed to do outreach to the public about what needs to happen, or what will happen, and should be started now. He suggested contacting legislators such as Rep. Sara Gelser regarding support for tax compression legislation. He said there was strong support for a levy, noting that the current one will expire soon.

Dierwechter suggested the Friends of Parks and Recreation group convene a planning meeting on the issue, having interested board members attend, and they can bring back ideas to the next board meeting for discussion. Emery told Baur said all city departments have taken significant cuts, including police and fire, and the City Manager believes those police and fire service levels are at a minimum level. She added that the department now delivers services completely differently after implementing the new cost recovery model.

Emery said that savings in contracting would involve finding a vendor to provide the same or similar service less expensively than the City does to pay staff; and City staff would be eliminated. On the Park side, it might involve contracting out with a landscaping company to mow parks as an example; and Parks staff would manage that contract, and there still would be a public park.

Rocheffort stated that it was a very complicated issue, since recreation programs provide hundreds of minimum wage jobs for youth, who learn a skill and are kept busy. Soule said it was a non-starter, since we just went through the process of looking at fees and programs; there are no savings, since programs are largely paid for by participants. Unless you leave fees where they are, and reduce costs incrementally, one program at a time, there are no savings to be had, and the City will simply end up losing services, losing control over them and no longer have a way to ensure access for all. There is no motivation for a private provider to provide access; they seek only to maximize profits. It is an ill-conceived request.

Lynda Wolfenbarger proposed forwarding a motion recommending that the Council disregard the request to research privatizing the recreation program, as well as getting information to the public and stakeholders, saying this was a good opportunity for the board to advocate for the department. Liaison Hirsch asked to be sent the letter via City email, in order to put it on the public record. Wolfenbarger suggested also sending it to individual Councilors.

Vomocil moved that a carefully crafted letter be sent to the City Council, City Manager, and Mayor, based on the board's discussion reflected in the meeting minutes; the letter would advocate for Parks, recognize all the recent work done for cost recovery, and remind the Council how well and efficiently it is run. Baur seconded.

Vomocil concurred with Soule it was a waste of staff time. Soule suggested including that privatizing recreation programs was a poor idea, and that following the cost recovery methodology work, programs are more efficient and cost-effective. In effect, the work that staff are being asked to do has essentially already been done. Rose suggested including Goal II, regarding efficiencies with the school district and the County. Soule volunteered to write the first draft by April 4, and suggested the board approve the letter at its next board meeting, on April 18. Emery noted the Council would get the board minutes before that. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. BOARD/COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS.

Wolfenbarger related there was a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) meeting recently. Emery related that in response to a DEQ mandate regarding wastewater discharge maximum temperatures, the City has been exploring different ways to address the problem. One approach was to construct a water treatment plant in Orleans Natural Area. However, when Public Works shared its proposed project to PNARB, the board voted 5-2 to not support the facility there, primarily due to the park's master plan to restore the site to its woodland state.

Public Works updated the Urban Services Committee (USC) on other areas investigated, including increasing water to Trysting Tree water features, and a north proposal ("The Bean Field") near the Public Works plant. The USC heard public testimony on landscape maintenance in a floodplain, and postponed a decision. There is a lawsuit suing DEQ on the methodology of standards; USC wanted to first see what came out of that (though standards may in fact become *more* stringent). The USC may recruit expert volunteers to help explore the issue. Soule asked how to submit information on expert advice; Emery suggested contacting Councilors Hervey or Hogg.

Soule said that in February, the Osborn Aquatic Center and the Corvallis Aquatic Team hosted a championship swim meet for over 500 11 to 14-year olds over three days. He said it was the only facility in the state set up to host a meet like that. Dierwechter said there was a huge economic benefit to this and other events. Soule related that maps were sent out to participants and coaches showing parking areas in order to reduce potential parking issues. Rochefort related that coaches expressed appreciation for the facility. Hirsch said the Boys and Girls Club cancelled a concurrently scheduled event in order to reduce potential conflicts.

X. STAFF REPORTS.

Rochefort highlighted the initial stakeholder meeting for the Trails Plan for the updated Master Plan. She said it was a very diverse, capable group, which hit all the key issues that must be addressed, including location, policy and standards. There will be another stakeholders meeting and then a community meeting.

She related that working with Benton County, Owens Farm has been placed on the Benton County Historic Registry, thus opening it up for new grant opportunities. An oral historian may interview Mr. Owens to get more information on the site; Mr. Owens is no longer living on the property.

She related Rotary had met its goal of raising \$150,000 to build a new Willamette Park picnic shelter. Bids are opening today for installation of a sewer line and pump station, which will allow restrooms and a sink; quotes for construction of the shelter itself are due in April. It will be a beautiful shelter, a great community asset and a revenue generator. She said play equipment for the Tunison Playground has come in; construction should begin within a month. She is applying for a grant for Arnold Park.

Geist highlighted The Right Trail, a cooperative website with the City, the County, OSU and the Greenbelt Land Trust, along with many other smaller providers. It will be a one-stop website for anyone wanting to hike in the area. Users can enter the kind of walk they want; he noted that many hikers don't care who owns and maintains a trail. It should launch in mid to late April. Dierwechter related the Greenbelt Land Trust was looking for funding for a Spanish equivalent website; Emery said the website was designed to include a Spanish portal.

Geist said volunteers were working with OSU Forestry on habitat restoration and oak release on property adjacent to Chip Ross Park. A volunteer is writing a grant proposal for funding from the Soil and Water Conservation District for a habitat conservation restoration project.

Emery highlighted recent upgrades at the Osborn Aquatic Center, including deep cleaning and installing an ADA door to the natatorium. About \$55,000 has been raised to pay for installing a UV light system in the 50-meter pool to reduce chlorine in the air and water, which would result in significant improvements in health for swimmers and staff; only about \$1,100 remains to be fundraised.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Arnold Park

Director's Highlights

April 2013

Administrative Services

- Submitted a grant to Oregon Recreation and Parks Department to rehabilitate Arnold Park playground
- Submitted grant proposals to the Benton County Foundation for Youth Parks Corps, Youth Volunteer Corps, Youth Recreation Corps.
- Activity Guide was mailed to all households

Parks and Natural Areas Services

- Preparing fields for the upcoming Adult Softball season with over 2,100 registrations
- The gravel parking lot at Pioneer Park has been enhanced with additional rock to better serve park users and parking on OSU Game Day.
- The Heritage Tree Program was recommended for council approval by the HSC committee.
- Parks Operations staff participated in facility repairs to Osborn Aquatic Center during their annual closure.
- Annual Little League volunteer field day is scheduled for April 6th at Crystal Lakes Sports Fields.
- Major Homeless camp cleanup at Orleans and Berg Parks.

Recreation Services

-

Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board

Goals 2013-2015

1. Advocate to prioritize improvements to existing neighborhood, parks trails and natural areas.
2. Implement efficiencies between city, county and school district by 2014.
eg sharing equipment and personnel.
3. Develop a plan to increase funding for Parks and Recreation.
4. Expand public awareness, communication and advocacy for all Parks and Recreation facilities, land and services.
5. Develop or expand community relationships and partnerships to pursue joint goals.
6. Develop and expand access and recreational opportunities, such as outdoor education, for underserved youth and families.
7. Develop a Parks and Recreation District by 2015.



*Difficult conversations are never easy –
A message from City Manager Jim Patterson*

Last month I provided the City Council, Budget Commission, and City staff with written communication about the FY 13-14 budget development. In that memo, I made it clear I was initiating one of many conversation starters associated with the FY 13-14 budget and that we need to “at least explore whether or not services can be provided at a lower cost.” I strongly believe we have an obligation to taxpayers to do so. Since the March 4 memo, I’ve received a wide variety of feedback on the issue of considering privatization ranging from “it is about time the City looked at other options” to “contracting out is often times only brought up during labor negotiations.” One thing I think we can all agree on is these are difficult conversations to have and they are never easy.

It has been my experience that people underestimate their capacity for change. It is hard to stop doing what you’ve grown comfortable doing and how you’ve been doing it. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing. Yet, these difficult conversations should not come as a surprise to any of us. Back in May of 2011, prior to my arrival as City Manager, our City Council said they knew they would have to make hard decisions to bring city expenditures in line with revenues, and they committed to “practice strict fiscal responsibility” with the passage of Local Option Levy 02-74. They acknowledged understanding the problems created when expenses exceed revenue and said they understood that many reasons, not all, for the structural problems in our budget were within Council control, and they would do everything they could to address those issues. To that end, they adopted a specific goal to create a fiscally sustainable budget. Additionally, the Council recognized the goal would only be achieved with a comprehensive approach that would include review of employee compensation policy, fee structures, service restructuring, service reductions, and new revenue opportunities. They concluded in writing they were serious about their responsibility to citizens and that the local option levy was only a partial solution to a longer term problem. That was May 2011.

Two years later, the City Council has reaffirmed their commitment to a financially sustainable budget by again including it as a Council goal for this next two-year term. In doing so, the City Council has made a clear statement that getting “our financial house in order” is still one of the important priorities. This also guarantees as a community we can’t avoid having difficult conversations because we’re afraid of the change it may bring. Most people convince themselves that it is safer to avoid a hard conversation by ignoring the issues and doing nothing, creating distractions or diversions in communication, or simply kicking the can down the road and forgetting about it. The problem with this approach related to the City’s financial condition is that taxpayers expect results and they don’t forget.

In the near future, you’ll hear conversations about the renewal of Levy 02-74, restoration of public safety services and how to fund them, and Council adopting a budget for FY 13-14. For the long term, the City will begin work on gathering information and data to consider new ways of delivering programs and services through privatization at reduced cost while also addressing the issue of unfunded liabilities and our bond rating. Now that some of these conversations have started, it is important that we are a community of people who approach every difficult conversation with an expectation that we can make it work or make it better.

The Corvallis Budget Commission will meet April 23, 2013 at the Downtown Fire Station beginning at 7 pm to hear the Budget Message. The Public Hearing on the budget is April 30, 2013 again at the Downtown Fire Station, beginning at 7 pm. Written testimony can be filed before 5 pm on April 30 at Finance@corvallisoregon.gov. A third meeting will be held if necessary on May 2 at the Downtown Fire Station. I encourage you to attend one or more of the budget meetings.

Enjoy your Spring!

April 8, 2013

Betty Griffiths asked staff for the following data. This is informational only.

The Recreation Division includes all recreation programs for people of all ages, including the senior center and aquatic center. It also includes the salary of the Assistant Director who manages the Recreation Division, but also performs duties for the Department as a whole, including supervising and managing the Administration staff.

As we continue Cost Recovery implementation, we will rely less and less on Property taxes and more on fees and alternative funding such as the Friends group. This is the budget, year-end may be different.

1. The budget for the Recreation Division which includes the senior center, aquatic center and recreation programs for FY 12-13 is as follows:

Expenses:	\$2,749,560
Revenue (fees, grants, etc):	\$1,426,010
Revenue Levy Tax	\$749,150
Revenue Property Tax:	\$608,470

- a. What is the cost of the recreation programs? Birth to adult.

Expenses:	\$837,260
Revenue:	\$393,930
Revenue Property Tax:	\$436,870 (This will be \$54,823 less in FY 14-15 when we move part of the Assistant Director salary to the Administration budget due to his new job of managing the Administration staff)

- b. Cost of Senior Center?

Expenses:	\$503,070
Revenue:	\$217,270
Revenue Levy Tax:	\$320,510

- c. Cost of Pool?

Expenses:	\$1,409,230
Revenue:	\$815,160
Revenue Levy Tax:	\$428,640
Revenue Property Tax:	\$171,600

- d. Other?

None



MEMORANDUM

To: Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board
From: Steve DeGhetto, Assistant Director 
Jen Brown, Corvallis Environmental Center
Date: March 15, 2013
Subject: Relocation of Avery Community Garden

Issue:

Currently the community gardens in Avery Park are located on a flood plain in an isolated area of the park that provides limited gardening access. We propose relocating the Avery Community Garden to a more visible and manageable location within Avery Park. The Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) contracts with Corvallis Parks & Recreation to manage the community garden in Avery Park, as well as the community gardens at Bruce Starker Arts Park. The CEC would work with Corvallis Parks & Recreation to move the garden to a more suitable site.

Background:

The Avery Community Garden provides garden space for city residents. The garden currently serves 12-15 gardeners, mainly residents of south Corvallis which has limited public gardening options. In its current location, the Avery Community Garden is subjected to seasonal flooding, encroachment by aggressive meadow grasses and is a great distance from parking thus limiting accessibility to only those who are physically able. Due to its location on the floodplain, the Avery Community Garden is not accessible for gardening until May or June each year, whereas the Dunawi Creek Community Garden near Bruce Starker Arts Park provides year-round gardening opportunities.

In addition to these physical challenges, the garden faces the social challenges of being in an isolated area of the park and experiences a high amount of pilfering by non-gardeners. This isolated location also creates a heightened sense of insecurity by community gardeners. The goal of the Corvallis Environmental Center and Corvallis Parks & Recreation is to move the garden space to a more visible, accessible location.

Discussion:

Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) staff met with Steve DeGhetto to discuss locations for a new garden that align with amenities, utilities and the overall vision of Avery Park. DeGhetto and CEC surveyed potential locations in Avery Park,

and determined the site east of the Thompson Shelter and west of the Fire Side picnic area and Compost Demonstration site would best match the vision and requirements of the Corvallis Parks & Recreation Master Plan with the needs of a Community Garden.

The site selected will 1) increase the visibility of community gardens as a compatible component of park amenities; 2) utilize the existing water backflow and meter already present near the location; 3) enhance and revitalize the unused compost demonstration site; 4) be ADA accessible (unlike the current site); 5) allow plots to be gardened year-round and increase public use of the park during the off-season. The new site will increase the public's awareness of the work the city is doing to promote community gardens, and will provide a multi-use, family-friendly dimension to this area of Avery Park. The garden will be located near amenities (shelter, play structures, restrooms).

The CEC and Corvallis Parks & Recreation propose the following garden design:

- The garden footprint will be 100ft x 50ft, for a total of 5,000sq ft of garden space.
- The garden will include the following beds: (15) 200 sq ft plots, (10) 100 sq ft plots and (5) ADA accessible raised garden beds.
- The garden will utilize the backflow and meter located nearby at the compost demonstration site
- The garden will continue to follow organic practices thus limiting the use of synthetic chemicals, fertilizers, etc.
- The garden will be open to the public
- The CEC will

In accordance with the protocol in the new Community Garden Master Plan, the CEC will provide the 1/3 cost requirement to reconstruct the garden at the new site. The CEC will contract with a team of National Civilian Community Corps members to move the garden from its current location to the new site. The CEC and the service members will provide the following:

- tilling of new garden space
- creation of new garden beds
- construction of ADA accessible paths in the new garden area
- installation of signage
- revitalization of the current compost demonstration site

Recommendation

The Corvallis Environmental Center and Corvallis Parks & Recreation recommend that the Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board approve the proposal for relocation of Avery Community Garden as presented.



MEMORANDUM

To: Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board (PNARB)
From: Steve DeGhetto, Assistant Director
Date: April 1, 2013
Subject: Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) Community Garden Update

Issue:

To provide information on activities and participation at the Starker Arts Garden for Education (SAGE) and the Dunawi Creek Community Garden for 2012.

Background:

The Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department has been contracted partners with the Corvallis Environmental Center since 2006. The CEC provides community garden services while Parks and Recreation provides long term site maintenance and repair. The daily operation maintenance is provided by CEC thru the use of volunteers and sub-contracts.

Discussion:

The CEC update is intended to illustrate the activities and benefits of community gardens in Corvallis.

The following are highlights from 2012:

- Provided an opportunity for fifteen different school field trips serving 1,180 participants.
- A total of 6,342 pounds of produce donated.
- Provided garden produce to eight (8) hunger relief agencies.
- Engaged 20 community groups as a venue for volunteerism with over 1,250 volunteer hours.
- Provided rental gardens to 94 gardeners at Dunawi Creek Community Garden and 8 gardeners at Avery Park Community Garden.

Recommendation:

Community Garden update is information only and no action is necessary.

Review and Concur:


Karen Emery, Director

Attachments: 2012 SAGE Summary

2012 Starker Arts Garden for Education (SAGE) Summary of Activities

<i>Description</i>	<i>Participant #</i>
General SAGE Volunteers*	500 -
Educational Programs:	1,376
- Elementary School Field Trips	1080
- High School Field Trips	100
- Youth Volunteer Corps	60
- Summer Camp Youth	40
- Farm to Preschool Youth	37
- National Civilian Community Corps / Americorps	10
- Garden Workshop Participants	40
- Sustainable Agriculture Interns	9
Events Total:	760
- Children's Garden Open House	30
- Cooped up in Corvallis Tour	120
- CH2MHill Company Picnic	380
- Supper at SAGE	150
- Giant Pumpkin Party	80
Total Recorded Visitors:	2,363

* This total is for January – September 2012. Additional volunteer forms have yet to be tallied.

Total Number of Volunteer Hours: 1,250

(as of October 1, 2012...does not include volunteer intern hours)

Total Pounds of Produce Donated: 6,342

(as of November 8, 2012)

Total Number of Hunger Relief Agencies Served: 8

Total Number of Schools Engaged: 15

- 3 preschools
- 6 public elementary schools
- 2 private elementary schools
- 2 high schools
- 2 higher education institutions

Total Number Community Groups Engaged: 20

*** These numbers reflect data collected during programming by the Edible Corvallis Initiative. Totals do not include informal visitors to SAGE.***

COMMUNITY GARDEN SUMMARY
2012

Total Gardeners this Season

Dunawi Community Creek Community Garden: 94 gardeners (13 "annual", 81 "perennial")

Avery Community Garden: 8 gardeners

If Corvallis Parks and Recreation began requiring a payment of \$10 per season per gardener for water, would you be willing to pay this amount?

78% would be willing (Is this a possibility for getting Avery moved up and irrigation covered?)

Dunawi Creek Community Garden is an important community resource

93% agree

During the growing season, what percentage of the food you consumed came from your garden plot?

Average: 17%

Median: 10%

Responses varied from 1 - 95%

Where do you live in relation to the garden? (Please pick all that apply!)

Within 1/2 mile	22.0%	13
Within 1/2 - 1 mile	13.6%	8
Within 1 - 2 miles	23.7%	14
Greater than 2 miles	32.2%	19
SE Corvallis	1.7%	1
SW Corvallis	22.0%	13
NE Corvallis	1.7%	1
NW Corvallis	28.8%	17
Outside of Corvallis	8.5%	5



Google earth



AVERY PARK

PROPOSED COMMUNITY GARDEN SITE