

Attachment B

Through the generosity of the Town, we, the Carrboro Community Garden Coalition (CCGC) and the Carrboro Family Garden (CFG), have been able to offer the local community a chance to garden organically, promote healthy eating, encourage sustainable living and cultivate community at the MLK Park. Both gardens, despite different governing principles, are currently thriving at MLK.

We understand that planning is proceeding on upgrading the Martin Luther King Park on Hillsborough Rd. and that we should be able to continue or expand our activities there. As part of that planning process, we would like to suggest areas in which we and the town can continue to work together or improve the Gardens and the Park.

Advisory members from both gardens weighed in and came up with this list of suggested improvements. Successful operation of the gardens requires a surprising number of pieces, many of which the Town currently helps with or provides. The list below provides a summary of items along with additional discussion points.

Land allocation - The possibility of increasing the size of the gardens has been raised. We currently cultivate [approximately .78 acres] at MLK. The CCGC has as much land as it can actively manage with the current membership. The CFG would like to expand their side of the garden by 50% to allow for future growth - size of plots and more family plots. We need to find funds for a lumber budget to build the new plots. Also we would like the Town to remove tall trees along the edge of the driveway as one enters the park. This would increase the hours of sun on the garden substantially.

Fencing – need new deer/rabbit proof fence around entire perimeter of the garden. We are cognizant that Town funds are taxpayer derived and in limited supply and attempt to raise all necessary operating funds from grants and from our membership for as many expenses as possible. Clearly, some possible future expenses, such as more attractive, high grade and permanent deer fencing, if required, would constitute a major financing hurdle for the Gardens on their own. Is this something the Town can include in the cost of park design and development?

Water supply – In the interest of conservation and cost minimization, we would like to plan for using collected rainwater runoff from any appropriately located new structures at MLK. This should be part of an improved storage and distribution system for that collected water. Clearly there is a need for some combination of a rainwater collection, storage and distribution system; supply from OWASA; and/or an upgrade to the preexisting well. The CCGC uses the limited capacity of a preexisting well and roof runoff collection to plastic tank storage tanks. The CFG found funds to install a connection to OWASA. This is also the CCG fallback. The ongoing cost of water used in the gardens is a concern (\$300-400 /year for the current base rate and CFG alone). It was agreed that when the park is developed the base water service transfers to the Town's current bill. We would hope to reach an agreement with the Town to minimize the costs to both the Town and the Gardens in achieving this.

Power – availability of main power. We would hope to have electrical main power at the gardens, mainly needed for water pumping, the small well, power tools, and lighting. Usage would be minor.

Secure storage - tool/storage shed of equal or larger size than existing one that can be locked. We currently use the shed/barn on the site to store tools, garden covers, wheelbarrows, seeds, fertilizer, the battery pump, and so forth and to shade several cisterns. We will badly need a similar amount of storage in the upgraded park. Is this something the Town can include in the cost of park design and development?

Shade, seating and tables - North Carolina in the summer is hot. It is important to have either shade trees or a pavilion or similar structure near the Gardens. A covered pavilion would also be used by park visitors and enable potlucks and educational programs. Is this something the Town can include in the cost of park design and development?

Parking – near the gardens and storage. Similar size parking areas and a bike rack near the garden and the storage for general parking, delivery of supplies and harvesting of crops would be very useful. We really liked the idea of having a play area in the field between the shed and the port-a-potty so children will be visible when playing while the adults are working and won't be crossing the parking lot/driveway.

Sanitary facilities - public restrooms nearby, with a possible outdoor sink for washing vegetables. The Town has kindly provided a port-a-potty, which is greatly appreciated and adequate to our needs. The addition of bathrooms with low flow or composting toilets, access to running water for handwashing, and possibly an exterior sink for produce washing, would be extremely welcome.

Waste disposal ('yard', recyclable, and general) - the Town has provided waste and recycling bins and allows us to place garden organic waste at the curb on Hillsborough St. This or a similar arrangement would be greatly appreciated.

Composting – consider a composting demonstration site. The inclusion of a more coordinated and effective compost demonstration site that could be helpful to both gardens, an educational opportunity for the community at large, and an aid to landfill reduction. Muriel Williman with the County is creating such sites and may be a willing partner in such an effort. Can the Town support a demonstration site?

Leaves, wood chips (mulch) – the Town has provided us with leaf deliveries during the fall, which are a major aid in allowing us to amend the soil and deter weeds. Can the Town continue to provide delivery?

Marketing - we continue to seek ways to improve our contacts with the broader community, both to publicize our efforts and to seek new members to participate in the gardens. To the extent appropriate, we would be happy to coordinate these efforts with those of the Town of Carrboro.

Liability insurance - the CFG currently has liability coverage through Orange County Partnership for Young Children, but this coverage is under review. The CCG currently has no coverage. Could the gardens fall under the Town's coverage?

Beekeeping - enclosed area or yard. Could be beneficial to the gardens and neighborhood for pollination and an educational opportunity. **Needs to be reviewed.