



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587-3225
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Janice Soloff, AICP, Senior Planner
Desiree Goble, AICP, Planner

Date: April 22, 2009

Subject: **VICTORY GARDEN PROPOSAL AT CITY OWNED PROPERTY AND
REQUEST FOR DONATION**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve a donation of approximately \$400 from the Parks & Community Services Department Human Services budget to provide water and allow temporary use of City property for a "victory garden" to benefit Hopelink.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

We request the City Council's approval to create a "victory garden" on the vacant city owned property known as the Carter property located south of City Hall at 120 Third Avenue. Historically "victory gardens" were common during WWII when people were encouraged to grow their own produce to supplement food rationing and thus, we thought the name "victory garden" is appropriate for the project (see enclosed article). Vegetables and fruits grown from the garden would be donated to Hopelink.

The project would be supported by donations for materials and volunteer labor from City employees and their friends and family. All work would be conducted outside of employee work hours. Flowers from the garden could be sold to defer the cost of materials. Understanding that the City may redevelop the property in the future, the garden will be constructed in a manner that is temporary and easily disassembled.

In exchange for use of the property we commit to cleaning up and maintaining the vegetation on the perimeter of the property such as pruning, removing blackberry vines and repairing the fence (no tree removal).

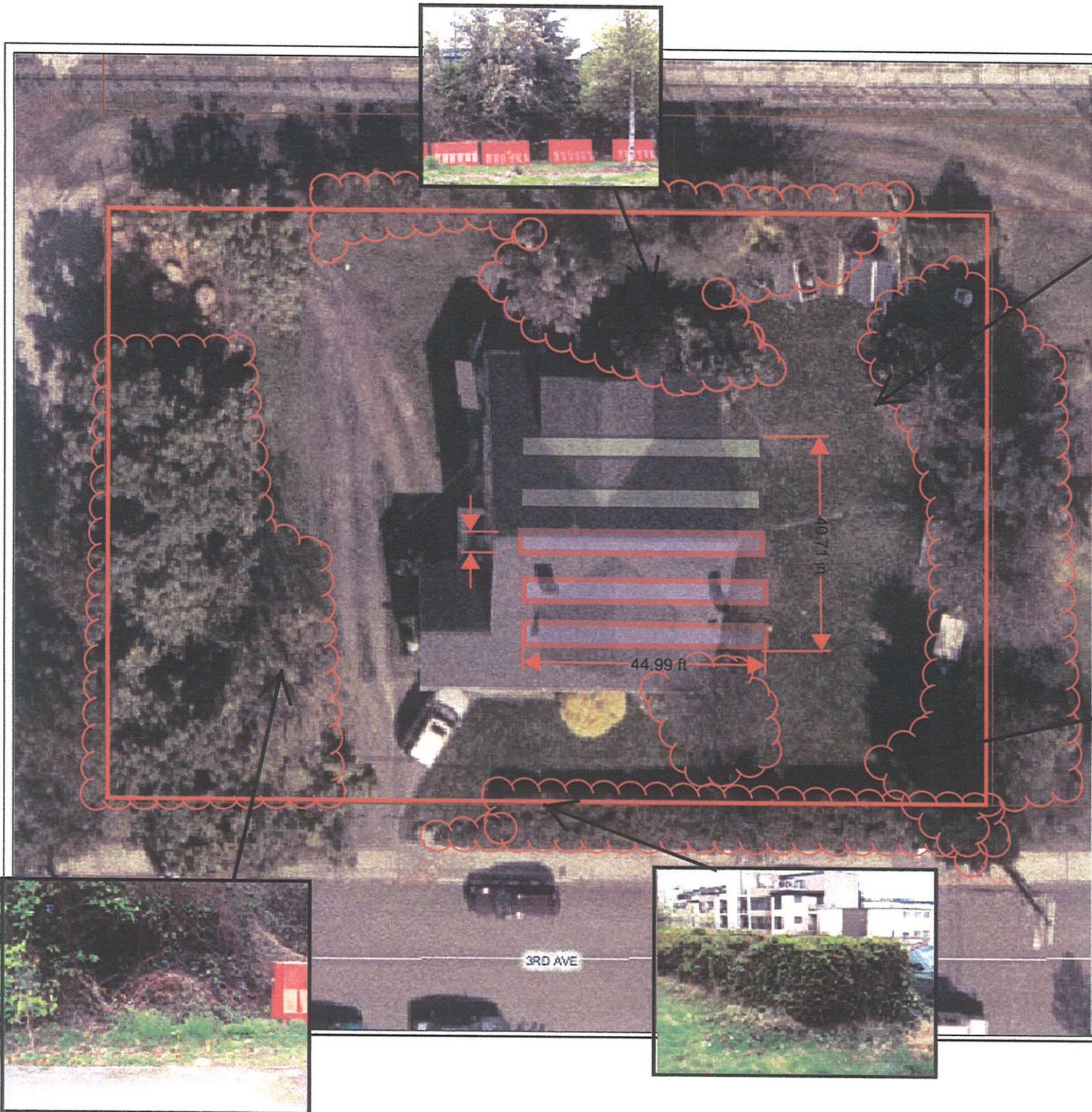
STEPS TO VICTORY

The City Manager's Office has reviewed the proposal for a victory garden. Once approved by Council, work to create the garden would begin as soon as possible in May. Listed below are the necessary steps to proceed with the garden.

1. Site Preparation
 - a. Soil – after the Carter House was demolished, clean fill was delivered to the site to fill the remaining hole. To be certain the garden's soil is suitable, the soil mounds will be created with new topsoil.
 - b. Water service – the water service was removed upon demolition of the house so the limited water service will need to be restored. We will contact Utility Billing to arrange for the irrigation meter. We will also arrange for installation of a yard hydrant.
2. Garden Design
 - a. Enclosed is a preliminary site plan for the garden showing 3-4, 4' x 40' raised beds surrounded by wood chip paths. To speed up the process to meet the 2009 growing season, we propose a soil mound system rather than framed raised beds. If the project is successful framed beds could be added next year if the property remains vacant.
3. Hopelink & Water Donation
 - a. The Parks & Community Services Department said that we would need to coordinate donations through Hopelink directly or provide the produce as part of the city wide food drive, due to launch in August. Carrie Hite suggested that we could sell the flowers at the Friday market at Juanita Beach's "backyard garden booth," which allows individual citizens with gardens to set up at the market and sell their harvest.
 - b. The Parks & Community Services Department has offered to pay for water needed for this effort out of the Human Services budget, estimated at \$200 for the meter and yard hydrant and \$200 for water through the spring/summer months. The Washington Constitution allows donations by the government to aid the poor and infirm. As the water is being donated to grow food for the poor, this is an allowable donation. The City Attorney's Office recommended that the authorization to donate the water come from the City Council as a motion.
4. Volunteer Labor
 - a. Anyone participating at the victory garden will be required to complete a release form (to be created by Human Resources) and an "On-going Volunteer Application" on the City's website: <http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/CMO/Volunteering.htm>.
 - b. At the City Attorney's suggestion we will install a sign informing people that all food harvested will be donated to Hopelink to anticipate inquiries or complaints from the public. We will also state on the sign that the work is being done by City employees on their own time, not City time, for the same reason.

We look forward to your response.

cc: Jennifer Schroder, Director of Parks & Community Services
Jason Filan, Parks Operation Manager
Marilynne Beard, Assistant City Manager
William Evans, Assistant City Attorney
Bill Kenny, Director of Human Resources



-  Proposed Bed
-  Future Bed

Photos are of specific areas of the site identified as needing basic clean-up (removal of ivy, black-berry vines, dead brush and limbs)



Approximate
Scale 1:300
1 in = 25 ft

Produced by the City of Kirkland. (c) 2009, the City of Kirkland, all rights reserved. No warranties of any sort, including but not limited to accuracy, fitness or merchantability, accompany this product.

Proposed Site Plan

Victory Gardens

As part of the war effort, the government rationed foods like sugar, butter, milk, cheese, eggs, coffee, meat and canned goods. Labor and transportation shortages made it hard to harvest and move fruits and vegetables to market. So, the government turned to its citizens and encouraged them to plant "Victory Gardens." They wanted individuals to provide their own fruits and vegetables.

Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call. They planted gardens in backyards, empty lots and even city rooftops. Neighbors pooled their resources, planted different kinds of foods and formed cooperatives, all in the name of patriotism.

Farm families, of course, had been planting gardens and preserving produce for generations. Now, their urban cousins got into the act. All in the name of patriotism.



Urban residents also heeded the call. Buying Victory Garden seeds in New Jersey, c.1943. Newark NJ Public Library.

PLANT A VICTORY GARDEN



A GARDEN WILL MAKE YOUR RATIONS GO FURTHER

Magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Life* printed stories about victory gardens, and women's magazines gave instructions on how to grow and preserve garden produce. Families were encouraged to can their own vegetables to save commercial canned goods for the troops. In 1943, families bought 315,000 pressure cookers (used in the process of canning), compared to 66,000 in 1942. The government and businesses urged people to make gardening a family and community effort.

The result of victory gardening? The US Department of Agriculture estimates that more than 20 million victory gardens were planted. Fruit and vegetables harvested in these home and community plots was estimated to be 9-10 million tons, an amount equal to all commercial production of fresh vegetables. So, the program made a difference.

[Kelly Holthus remembers that it was hard to find fresh produce](#), and it was a way for individuals to do their part on the home front. "It was a great moral thing," he

says. "And for young people like me, it was, you know, I could do my part. I was a part of the effort!" When World War II ended, so did the government promotion of victory gardens. Many people did not plant a garden in the spring of 1946, but agriculture had not yet geared up to full production for grocery stores, so the country experienced some food shortages. Written by Claudia Reinhardt, the [Ganzel Group](#).