

**CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: December 6, 2011

TO: Burien Planning Commission

FROM: Scott Greenberg, AICP
Community Development Director

SUBJECT: University of Washington Student Presentation

Several months ago, staff was approached by Jill Sterrett, a UW instructor with an offer to work with a group of Community, Environment, and Planning (CEP) Program seniors on a Fall Quarter project. The City and the students jointly agreed to look at the feasibility of community gardens in Burien.

This work is timely as it integrates well with the “food access” element of our Communities Putting Prevention to Work/Healthy Eating Active Living (CPPW/HEAL) Grant. Our team of five students will present the findings of their work to the Planning commission. An executive summary prepared by the students is attached. Their final report will be provided to the Planning Commission when it is complete.

Our student team and their interests are:

Devin Myers – food systems

Molly Thornton – food systems

Garrett Gerlach – community development

Maddie Beeders – communication

Brandon Peitenpol – art & architecture

The class “CEP 460-Planning Corps” is designed to provide the students an opportunity to work as an interdisciplinary team providing professional services for a “client”. Services include research, consultation and analysis, creativity and innovation.

Deliverables are typically in the form of a white paper or report, along with a final presentation. Academic objectives of the Planning Corps include experience in project scoping with clients, project work plan development and management including attention to time budgets, integrating work as a team, and delivering professional quality products.

We are planning to integrate the students’ work into future discussions about policy and regulatory feasibility of community gardens in Burien.

Executive Summary

Supportive Policy Options for the Future of Community Gardens in Burien

A feasibility study by Maddie Beeders, Garrett Gerlach, Devin Myers, Brandon Pietenpol, & Molly Thornton

As part of UW's Community, Environment, & Planning course and in coordination with planners Scott Greenburg & Stephanie Jewett of the City of Burien, we have been tasked with determining the feasibility of additional community gardens in Burien. This topic came to light as part of the CPPW (Communities Putting Prevention to Work) & HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) Grant, in which access to healthy food is of particular concern. This includes the abundance and sale of certain foods over others, and our approach takes the issue of food access closer to the source, discussing the *production* of this healthy food in communities where it is needed.

While one community garden already exists in Burien, its implementation process was faced with very few obstacles due to the fact that it was built on public, city-owned land. What we intend to do is provide the information required in order for the City of Burien to easily accommodate and facilitate future gardens on privately-owned parcels of land. To be clear, we do not intend to directly create a community garden on a pre-designated site. Instead, we wish to make the process as smooth as possible for any other individuals or groups to construct their own.

We have undertaken a primary research method of determining this feasibility, by getting in contact with various entities in the surrounding Seattle area who are already involved with urban agriculture. Additionally, we have consulted secondary sources that provide solutions for legislators and gardeners alike. Depending on location and legislature, differing obstacles tend to cause problems for these entities: whether it be zoning, ownership, physical maintenance, noise restrictions, produce sales, or a number of other issues; and we intend to minimize the difficulty these obstacles pose for the citizens of Burien.

The goal of this report is to provide recommendations for the City of Burien to incorporate policy and zoning changes to facilitate opportunities for community gardens.