



## **Community Gardens Demand Workgroup**

Meeting Notes - December 1, 2009

Attendees: Jason King, Chair; Maren Murphy; Karen Wolfgang; Rodney Bender; Alex Bejarano; Marlys Mock; Stacey Williams; Caitlin Blethen; Jenn Bildersee; Amber Baker; Patricia Brown; Jenny Holmes; Leslie Pohl-Kosbau

The meeting began shortly after 2:30 pm. Jason provided a map and listing of gardens that he and Maren have been working on with information supplied by workgroup members and others. The map includes PPR gardens (including ones that are planned), PPS gardens, church gardens, non-profit gardens, private community gardens, urban farms, and farmers markets. Jason asked everyone to provide updates and corrections by December 15. All agreed that he and Maren had made a great start on the mapping project.

The group discussed what data could/should be reflected on the map in addition to garden location. They agreed that Jason and Maren should map the location of requests to the PPR community garden program that are on the waiting list. Leslie said she would send the list electronically to me and I will provide it to the group. Jason and Maren will also overlay the Equity Atlas Maps.

The group then discussed how best to use the maps to address the goal of meeting demand. Two potential commitments to be reflected in the Oregon Solutions Declaration of Cooperation could be someone to complete a "gap analysis" of areas and populations not being served by gardens (as reflected on the map); and, commitment by an entity (Steve Cohen's office was suggested) to be the "keeper" of the map and ensure the data are updated regularly.

Two other commitments that could be in the Declaration of Cooperation that were mentioned are to provide resources to host the American Community Gardens

national meeting in Portland in 2011 or 2012, and to collaborate on a joint, multi-group, application to USDA for a Community Food Security grant.

The group then reviewed the "demand objectives" they developed at an earlier meeting to identify more specific things that can be done to meet demand. They grouped the objectives in four main categories: locate and secure lands; long-term maintenance and sustainability; equity in distribution and location; education and outreach. The following actions were identified in each category:

#### Locate and secure lands

- reduce or eliminate water costs
- map need/gaps
- promotion by non-profits where there are gaps
- more inter-Bureau cooperation within City
- roof-top gardening incentives (like eco-roofs)
- incentives or requirements for developers to provide garden space like they provide parking spaces
- make connections

#### Long-term maintenance and sustainability

- adopt-a-garden program for businesses and other organizations
- maintenance agreements - if garden isn't kept up, it goes away
- systematic, coordinated training and capacity building
- opportunity to create jobs
- formal agreement among people in garden, e.g. by laws
- link to neighborhood associations or other organizing groups
- bulk purchasing of supplies, e.g. compost

#### Equity in distribution and location

- mapping to identify gaps
- find multi-cultural outreach mechanisms - language needs are: Spanish, Russian, Lao, Vietnamese, Somali, Ethiopian, maybe others
- overlay Equity Atlas maps (being done)
- work with other Portland area school districts - Parkrose, Riverdale, Reynolds, David Douglas, etc.)
- Develop a larger scholarship fund
- Develop a hands on way to find out who is gardening and why (beyond written survey) - Also, who is not gardening and why
- Find providers of supplies (tools, seeds, etc.) and create consistent way to share and/or make available
- More programs like Janus growing and selling starts

## Education and outreach

- Create and support many types of training: technical knowledge, communication and healthy relationships, leadership, community development and organizing, fundraising and capacity building, food cooking/nutrition/pruning, outdoor experience - "garden appreciation", how to start a garden - your own and community
  - Share resources: class lists (what and when), outreach opportunities like Farmers Markets and Fix It Fairs
    - Provide central location
    - Position gardening info in Parks & Rec schedule booklets mailed to every household
    - Make better use of Urban Growth Bounty - coordination, scholarships
      - Go to where people are
      - Use METRO and County Public Health resources for translating - create a bank of translators for use by all in community gardening community

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

**Next Meeting:** No more workgroup meetings schedule. Workgroup chairs meet on January 7 and full Oregon Solutions Team meets January 22.

**Homework assignments: Jason and Maren** to continue to refine maps - **group** provides corrections and updates by December 15. **Leslie** to email waiting list to **Stephanie** for distribution. **Leslie** will contact PSU student who is analyzing a couple of gardens to determine who is gardening and report on what the student has found out (suggest Leslie send an email to Stephanie for distribution to workgroup).