SUMMARY OF ISSUES
Community Gardens Oregon Solutions Demand Workgroup

Working Definition of Demand:
Community Garden Demand is an overlapping subset of urban agriculture that differs in certain ways from other urban agriculture ideas. It is focused specifically on spaces utilized both for growing food and building community. The demand comes from residents with a desire for an equitable opportunity to access shared land, education, resources, knowledge and information. The overall demand includes a known quantity of people on formal waiting lists, others identified by NGOs or private entities, as well as an additional ‘silent’ demand group that further needs to be identified and engaged through additional outreach activities.

Community Gardens Demand Structure
Determining Demand Through Mapping Resources

Use the data that has been compiled on existing Portland Community Garden Programs, Potential Garden Locations, and opportunities identified through Diggable Cities and other programs.

We will provide additional information related to:

- Private developments with gardens that are meeting demand
- Non-profit gardens that are meeting demand
- Institutional gardens that are meeting demand
- Available land or space with opportunities for new community gardens
- Other related urban agriculture sites
- Additional resources for education, information, and collaboration

It is envisioned that this map will build on many of the existing Community Garden and urban agriculture related resources and continue to grow after the process is completed. It will be a living document, both as an informational resource to be shared, and a working tool for planning and integration into city-wide processes.
Maintaining Quality Through a Collection of Guidelines

One aspect of meeting demand through a variety of means is the need to maintain a high quality of public acceptance and support, long-term maintenance support, financial and organizational infrastructure, and aesthetic and public safety thresholds. The demand group decided to collect these resources from the group – including information from Portland Public Schools, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Growing Gardens, Portland Community Gardens, and a range of other resources.

The other benefit of this approach is that many of the approaches taken by other organizations for meeting demand can be adapted and modeled by other groups to improve services.

Volunteer Garden Project Checklist

1. Garden Idea
2. Project Development Request form to FAM
   " Facilities Project Development Request (PDF) Form [link]
3. Project Screening by FAM
4. Approval for Project Development
5. Design, Bid, Build
   " Site Plan (example: [link])
   " Outline Scope
   " Outline Schedule
   " Proposed Funding Sources
   " Proposed Planting Material
   " Verification of Funding
6. Completed Project
   " Final PPS Inspection

Tips for Starting Faith-Based Community Gardens

A community garden is a shared space gardened collectively by a group of people, or a cluster of individual plots tended by different people within a garden. It is a perfect addition to a faith community, as gardens foster social involvement, opportunities for healthy activity and connection to the land and environment.

They may serve as a place for gatherings, classes, monitoring opportunities and friendships. Community gardens build food security by offering access to fresh produce at little expense, especially for apartment-dwellers who lack land or other essential gardening resources. They can also serve as gardening and nature education venues for children and adults. With proper planning and upkeep, your faith-based community garden may also provide thousands of pounds of nutritious, organically grown food to families in need, as well as habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife.
Summary of Demand Objectives:

- increase the opportunity to grow your own food in the city of Portland;
- provide a place to garden for every Portlander who wants to garden;
- provide opportunities for children and families to connect with the earth;
- ensure availability of gardens that reflects the demographics and populations of the city's neighborhoods (equity);
- provide education and information about opportunities to grow food that is easily and readily available to all populations in the city - increase outreach to specific populations;
- remove or reduce administrative/bureaucratic/regulatory barriers to establishing gardens - high level city support is provided;
- create incentives in the public and private sectors for gardens (fees, taxes, zoning, etc.)
- expand the notion of what is plausible in terms of available types of space to look at as resources for community gardening activities;
- define the relationship between Urban Agriculture, Market Gardens, and Community Gardens in the ultimate "demand" model;
- get people of different backgrounds together;
- start in Portland and create a model that is transferable to other Metro communities.

Group-wide Discussion Points:

- Given the importance of Portland Community Gardens Program in meeting existing demand and the known quantity of this demand, what can be done with Organization and Resources to jumpstart and maintain consistent adequate funding?
- How can these funding opportunities be offered to other organizations that are augmenting the City program by providing differing pathways to meet demand?
- How can the ‘silent’ demand be better identified and integrated into Organization and Resources group activities to ensure inclusivity?
- How can we address equal access to land and resources to all demand groups, even though they represent a variety of backgrounds?
- What barriers are in place for land acquisition and use for community gardens and how can these be addressed in this process?
- What unique opportunities does Portland and the region offer to provide an innovative strategy for meeting demand that can become a model for other places?
- What specific information about demand (i.e. quantities, barriers, issues, resources) do other working groups need moving forward?