Community Gardens in Thurston County: Assessment Report

September 2012

Prepared by Lesley Wigen, RD, CD
Chronic Disease Prevention
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .............................................. 2  
Purpose .................................................................. 3  
Major Findings .................................................... 4-5  
Recommendations .................................................. 5  
Definition ................................................................ 6  
Methods .................................................................. 6-8  
Topic Categories .................................................... 9  
Findings ................................................................ 10-20  

Appendixes ................................................................ 21  
A. Thurston County community garden fact sheet .... 22-23  
B. Interview tool .................................................... 24-25  
C. Garden inventory list ........................................ 26-27  
D. Map of community gardens ............................... 28-30  
E. Thurston County community garden profiles .... 31-42  

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department  
412 Lilly Rd. N.E., Olympia, Washington 98506-5132  
PHONE (360) 867-2500  FAX (360) 867-2601  TDD (800) 658-6384  
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health  

Community Gardens in Thurston County: Assessment Report 2012
Acknowledgments

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Purpose

Seventy percent of all deaths in the United States are caused by chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). These conditions affect the public’s health and put a costly burden on our health care system. Fortunately many of these chronic diseases can be prevented. By engaging in healthy behaviors such as healthy eating, physical activity, not using excessive alcohol and abstaining from tobacco one can decrease the risk of developing these chronic diseases significantly. Consuming recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables each day is one of the best ways to prevent chronic disease. The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends that people make half their plate fruits and vegetables w w w. c h o o s e m y p l a t e. g o v. Improved access to healthful foods such as fruits and vegetables improves the consumption of them, in turn decreasing the risk of chronic disease.

Community gardens contribute to the increased access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Some of the many benefits of community gardens include: producing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, preserving green space and creating opportunity for recreation, physical activity, therapy and education (American Community Garden Association).

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services developed an action plan for chronic disease prevention that includes increasing the number of community gardens in low income neighborhoods by five in Thurston County over the next two years in order to increase the access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables. The first phase in the Thurston County community garden project includes this assessment of current community gardens in the county. Prior to this assessment the baseline number of community gardens in Thurston County was unknown. A broader local food systems assessment completed as part of the Thurston County Food Summit (fall 2011) identified the need for an assessment of the status of community gardens in Thurston County. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services was chosen as the lead for this effort. The department has engaged key advisors from the community in this project.

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Community Transformation Grant (CTG) through the Washington State Department of Health in January 2012. This will fund the department’s community garden project until September 2014. The CTG program supports community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. By promoting healthy lifestyles, especially among population groups experiencing the greatest burden of chronic disease, these grants will help improve health, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending.

The Community Transformation Grant to Washington State addresses four strategic directions (w w w. d o h. w a. g o v/c f h/ C T G r a n t/ d e f a u l t. h t m l):

- Active living and **healthy eating**
- Tobacco-free living
- High impact evidence-based clinical and other preventive services, specifically prevention and control of high blood pressure
- Healthy and safe physical environments
Major Findings

✓ There are 11 gardens that meet the definition of community garden. 39 gardens were contacted as part of this assessment, but 28 of these were private, school or other non-community gardens.

✓ These 11 community gardens serve approximately 235 households and offer more gardening space than current gardeners are using (a total of 315 plots or shares were available this year).

✓ More than half (6 out of 11) of the community gardens are located in two areas of the county: NE and NW Olympia (zip codes 98506 and 98502), and these constitute 65% (204/315) of the total plots or shares countywide.

✓ There are 3 community gardens in the zip codes that are the focus of the TCPHSS Community Transformation Grant project, one in the Eastside Neighborhood (Olympia) portion of 98501 serving 15 households and two in 98503 (both near College Street in Lacey) serving 62 households. The total population of these two most populous zip codes of Thurston County is 75,228: 98501 = 38,538 and 98503 = 36,690 (2011 OFM Estimates).

✓ The communities of Rainier and Rochester are the only areas outside of Lacey and Olympia that have community gardens.

✓ Only 2 of the gardens have no cost for participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Garden Plot or Shares with Zip Code Location, As of 2012 (N=315)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yauger Park (98502)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunrise Park (98502)</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark Church (98503)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester (98579)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hale Place (98506)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evergreen (98502)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Vision Church (98506)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia (98501)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendell Berry (98506)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey Crossroads (98503)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainier (98576)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main **barriers** to community gardening identified by the assessment include:

- Lack of funding
- Volunteer labor
- Community gardens on many state owned lands (e.g., Department of Ecology and Capitol Campus) cannot be for employee use to grow their own food
- Lack of scales to weigh harvest

Several **opportunities** for increased community gardening were also indentified:

- One of the Girls and Boys Clubs’ gardens (Tumwater HS site - 98501) may become a community garden in the future
- One of the church-based food bank gardens (The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – North St. in SE Olympia - 98501) may be interested in adding a community garden component to their garden
- There are at least two other community gardens in development – one in Olympia (Olympia Park, Arts & Recreation at Madison Scenic Park - 98501) and Yelm (exact location not known – but probably 98597)

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**Recommendations**

Sites within target zip codes should consider both opportunities and existing gardens and seek to maximize access for low-income residents. To maximize access of low-income residents, focus on neighborhood areas with greater levels (>35%) of free and reduced lunch at the local elementary school or that have multi-unit rental housing in near vicinity, (walking distance or < 0.5 miles).

Address the greatest access gaps in community garden availability within the target zip codes: Tumwater (east of I-5), Southeast Olympia (i.e. south of I-5 to east and south), and eastern Lacey (vicinity of Carpenter and Ruddell).
Definition

A community garden, for the purposes of this assessment, is defined as a collaborative, shared, open space that is accessible to residents of the local community who are the gardeners. These gardeners agree to share in the maintenance (plant, tend, harvest, etc.) and products of the garden, which include healthful and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables.

Methods

Thurston County Community Garden Advisory Committee

The Thurston County Community Garden Advisory Committee was formed by soliciting interest for participation by contacting representatives from the following organizations known to have a vested interest in access to healthy foods in Thurston County:

- Garden-Raised Bounty
- Sustainable South Sound
- Thurston County Food Bank

A representative from each of the above organizations joined the advisory committee. A Thurston County Community Garden fact sheet was created and presented to the Thurston County Community Garden Advisory Committee (See Appendix A).

Thurston County Community Garden Work Group

The Thurston County Community Garden Work Group was formed by contacting the individuals who signed up to work on the community garden action plan created following the 2011 fall Food Summit. 50% (9 out of 18) of the individuals contacted attended at least one of the two meetings (April and September 2012).

Assessment Tool

After a review of online documents and websites related to community gardens (see below), 47 potential interview questions (questions to be asked of the community garden coordinators) were developed and discussed with the Thurston County Community Garden Work Group. The work group stated that there should be a maximum of 15 questions on the interview tool, otherwise the interview would take too long. Members of the work group provided their list of top 10 questions (through email correspondence after the first meeting) and a 14-question interview tool was developed (See Appendix B) to carry out the assessment. The tool was pre-tested with six Thurston County Public Health and Social Services employees who manage their own private gardens. The tool was first piloted at a community garden with the interviewer’s supervisor present.
Interviews were conducted on-site, in-person at the garden locations with the coordinator of each community garden. All interviews were conducted between May to July 2012 by Lesley Wigen, RD (Registered Dietitian), CD (Certified Dietitian) and Public Health Nutritionist, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department. The length of time to conduct an interview was approximately 30 minutes.

Documents reviewed to develop interview tool:

- Community Gardens in Tacoma & Pierce County Assessment Report - August 2010
- Marin County Community Garden Needs Assessment, University of California Cooperative Extension - December 2010
- Garden-Raised Bounty’s (GRuB) Developing a Vision for Your Garden – a guide to starting your own garden
- Public Health Law Center: Community Gardens: Model Resolution Language
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation: How to Start a School Garden Toolkit

Websites reviewed to develop interview tool:

- American Community Gardening Association www.communitygarden.org
- Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB) www.goodgrub.org
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation www.healthiergeneration.org
- Public Health Law Center www.publichealthlawcenter.org

Identifying Community Gardens (Inventory Results)

Before this assessment, internet searches [Google] were conducted using the key phrase “community gardens in Thurston County Washington” to identify gardens that potentially met the community garden definition (above). Word of mouth was also used by asking members of the Thurston County Community Garden Advisory Committee, the Thurston County Community Garden Work Group as well as Thurston County Public Health and Social Services employees. 39 possible community gardens in Thurston County were identified. A list of all gardens inventoried in this assessment is included in this document (See Appendix B).
• Before the assessment was completed several gardens were ruled out as community gardens – those thought to be private gardens were confirmed as private via telephone calls to staff members of the organization thought to have a community garden; some gardens were discovered to be demonstration or educational (for school use only) gardens.

• The final inventory of gardens meeting the community garden definition (above) includes 11 existing and operating gardens in Thurston County.

• There are plans for a community garden to be established in Yelm, but no land was being gardened at the time of this assessment.
Topic Categories

The topic categories included in this assessment are as follows:

A. Open to the public  
B. Number of household or families the garden serves  
C. Garden’s years of existence  
D. What is grown in the gardens  
E. Garden seasonality  
F. Garden land ownership  
G. Garden size. In-ground plots vs. raised beds.  
H. Production  
I. Membership fees  
J. Garden coordinator  
K. Garden suitability (sun, soil, compost, water)  
L. Amenities  
M. Challenges and needs  
N. Organic practices  
O. Waiting list; expansion  
P. Zip codes  
Q. Community – near school, bus, parking, lighting, fencing, wheelchair access
Findings

A. Open to the public
Determining whether a garden was open to the public was accomplished by asking “Is the garden open to the public – can anyone in the community garden a plot or share here?” (See Appendix B).

- 100% (11 out of 11) of community gardens are open to the public
  - 18% (2 out of 11) of the community gardens require residents to live within a mile or less from the garden location
  - 82% (9 out of 11) of community gardens do not require residents to live within a mile or less from the garden location

![Gardeners Required to Live Near Garden, 2012](image)

B. Number of households or families the garden serves
Determining the number of households or families served was accomplished by asking “How many people/households does the garden serve?” (See appendix B).

- Currently 235 households or families are served by community gardens in Thurston County.
- Currently there are 315 plots or shares in community gardens in Thurston County.

(See Appendix C and D)
C. Garden’s years of existence
Determining the garden’s years of existence was accomplished by asking “How many years has the garden been in existence as a community garden?” (See Appendix B).

- 55% (6 out of 11) of community gardens are less than 5 years old
- 27% (3 out of 11) of community gardens are 5-10 years old
- 18% (2 out of 11) of community gardens are over 25 years old

D. What is grown in the gardens?
Determining what was grown in a garden was accomplished by asking “What do you grow?” (See Appendix B).

- 100% of the community gardens grow vegetables
  - There is limited fruit grown in community gardens (mentioned by some garden coordinators) - some berries and a few fruit trees
E. Garden Seasonality
Determining the seasonality of a garden was accomplished by asking “Is the garden seasonal or year-round?” (See Appendix B).

- 82% (9 out of 11) of community gardens are year-round
- 18% (2 out of 9) of community gardens are seasonal

F. Garden land ownership
Determining the garden land ownership was accomplished by asking “Who owns the land?” (See Appendix B).

- 55% (6 out of 11) of community gardens are on private property
  [Example: private land owner, church property]
- 45% (5 out of 11) of community gardens are on government property
  [Example: city property]
G. Garden size. In-ground plots vs. raised beds.
Determining whether a garden had raised beds and or in-ground was accomplished by observation.

- In-ground plot: Garden planted in the ground
- Raised bed: Garden planted in a built structure (square/rectangular wood, feed trough)

- 45% (5 out of 11) of community gardens have in-ground plots
- 55% (6 out of 11) of community gardens have raised bed plots
  - Gardens vary greatly from several raised beds of varying sizes in a small space to in-ground plots up to an acre in size

![In-Ground Plots vs. Raised Beds, 2012](image)
H. Production
Determining the production (weight of the harvest) was accomplished by asking “How many pounds of produce do you get per season (best estimate)” (See Appendix B).

- 9% (1 out of 11) of community gardens weigh their harvest
- 91% (10 out of 11) of community gardens don’t weigh their harvest

I. Membership fees
Determining whether a garden has a membership fee was accomplished by asking “What is the cost of plot per year or cost of membership per year if no individual plots?” (See Appendix B).

- 10 out of 11 community gardens have a membership fee
J. Garden coordinator

Determining whether a garden had a paid or unpaid garden coordinator was accomplished by asking “Is there a garden coordinator, or someone who leads/manages the garden? Is this a volunteer position?” (See Appendix B).

- 64% (7 out of 11) of the garden coordinators are unpaid volunteers
- 36% (4 out of 11) of the garden coordinators are paid for garden coordination

K. Garden suitability (sun, soil, compost, water)

Determining the garden’s suitability was accomplished by asking “How suitable is the garden (sun, soil, water)?” (See Appendix B).

Sun Exposure

Determining the garden’s sun exposure was accomplished by asking “How many hours of sun per day does the garden get (best estimate)?

- 100% (11 out of 11) of community gardens have full sun

Note: A garden coordinator is the person who manages the day-to-day operations of the garden. The garden coordinator has knowledge of the garden’s history and has the most up to date information about the garden.
Composting
Determining whether a garden does composting on-site was accomplished by asking “Is composting done on-site?” (See appendix B). Composting is defined as a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter (plant and animal) and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land.

- 82% (9 out of 11) of community gardens have composting on site. 18% (2 out of 11) of community gardens do not.

L. Amenities
Determining whether a garden provided any amenities was accomplished by asking “What amenities are available to gardeners?” (See Appendix B).

Tools
(Example: wheelbarrows, carts, rakes, hoes, shovels, small garden tools, lawn mower).

- 82% (9 out of 11) of community gardens provide some tools for gardeners
- 18% (2 out of 11) of community gardens do not provide tools for gardeners
M. Challenges and needs

Determining the gardens challenges and needs was accomplished by asking “Please list the greatest challenges/limitations to your community garden and what are your needs” (See Appendix B).

- Finding gardeners and volunteers is a common challenge expressed by the community garden coordinators.
- Improving garden systems and management is desired at some community gardens.
- Community gardens have limited funding - small grants, if any, and there are some donations from local businesses.

N. Organic practices

Determining whether a garden followed organic practices was accomplished by asking “Is the garden strictly organic and what weed/pest control measures are used?” (See Appendix B).

- 100% (11out of 11) of community gardens try to use organic practices
O. Waiting list; expansion

**Waiting List**
Determining whether a garden had a waiting list was accomplished by asking “Do you have a waiting list?” (See Appendix B).

- 36% (4 out of 11) of community gardens have a waiting list
- 64% (7 out of 11) of community gardens do not have a waiting list

**Expansion**
Determining whether the garden coordinator wanted to expand the garden was accomplished by asking “Would you like to expand?” (See Appendix B).

- 55% (6 out of 11) of community gardens would like to expand
- 45% (5 out of 11) of community gardens do not want to expand
The following are additional pieces of information about the community gardens gathered by observation at each site or determined through mapping.

P. Zip codes (See Appendix D for maps)

- One community garden is in the 98501 zip code
- Three community gardens are in the 98502 zip code
- Two community gardens are in the 98503 zip code
- Three community gardens are in the 98506 zip code
- One community garden is in the 98576 zip code
- One community garden is in the 98579 zip code

![Location of Community Gardens by Zip Code, 2012](image)

Q. Community – near school, bus, parking, fencing

Near schools (K-12) Note: Near indicates within 3/4 mile.

- 82% (9 out of 11) of community gardens are near a school
- 18% (2 out of 11) of community gardens are not near a school

![Garden Near a School, 2012](image)
Near the bus (public transportation) Note: Near indicates within one mile.
- 82% (9 out of 11) of community gardens are near a bus-line.
- 18% (2 out of 11) of community gardens are not near a bus-line

Near Bus-Line, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Near bus-line</th>
<th>Not near bus-line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearby Parking
- 100% (11 out of 11) of community gardens have available parking [Street or parking lot; no fee for parking]

Fence
- 73% (8 out of 11) of community gardens have a fence
- 27% (3 out of 11) of community gardens do not have a fence

Fence around Garden, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fence</th>
<th>No fence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Limitations & Considerations
It is possible that this assessment may not include all community gardens in Thurston County. All of the information in this assessment is based on the interviewees’ responses.
Appendix Contents

A. Thurston County community garden fact sheet
B. Interview tool
C. Garden inventory list
D. Map of community gardens
E. Thurston County community garden profiles (current as of September 2012)
Appendix A: Thurston County community garden fact sheet

COMMUNITY GARDENS FACT SHEET

Grant Objective
By September 2014, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) will assist the community in establishing five new garden sites associated with worksites, senior facilities, or childcare centers. These gardens will be located in prioritized, targeted areas of Thurston County, a grant requirement.

Grant Timeline:
Location of five gardens determined: by December 2012
Completion of 2 of the 5 gardens: by December 2013
Completion of remaining 3 of 5 gardens: by September 2014

Summary
A community garden is being defined as a collaborative, shared, open space accessible to a community of people who are the gardeners. These gardeners agree to share in the maintenance (plant, tend, harvest, etc.) and products of the garden, which include healthful and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables. Gardeners may be employees at a worksite or group of worksites, participants in a senior facility, or childcare providers in the prioritized, targeted areas of Thurston County.

About the Community Transformation Grants
The Community Transformation Grants (CTG) program will support community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. By promoting healthy lifestyles, especially among population groups experiencing the greatest burden of chronic disease, these grants will help improve health, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending.

The Community Transformation Grants address four strategic directions:
- Active living and healthy eating
- Tobacco-free living
- High impact evidence-based clinical and other preventive services, specifically prevention and control of high blood pressure
- Healthy and safe physical environments

For more information about this project contact Lesley Wigen, Public Health Nutritionist, 360-867-2515 or wigenL@co.thurston.wa.us

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health
Local Data

- An estimated 147,500 or 77% of Thurston County adults do not consume the recommended amount of fruit or vegetables each day.
  Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2009

- An estimated 32% of Thurston County adults get some, most or all of the food they make at home from their garden or a community garden.
  Source: Healthy Community Environments Survey 2007

What is the Community Garden Advisory Group?

The PHSS Community Garden Advisory Group is composed of Thurston County community members and organizations who are interested in increasing the access to and availability of local fresh fruits and vegetables through the expansion of community gardens. Potential advisory group members will be invited by PHSS based on a shared common interest in the grant objectives. There is no application process.

What are Community Garden Advisory Responsibilities?

The focus of the Community Garden Advisory work is to assist PHSS with:

- Identifying community garden locations
- Establishing partnerships between landowners and garden managers
- Establishing priorities and making connections in the community that promote
  o Successful project completion
  o Sustainability strategies

What are PHSS Responsibilities?

PHSS will provide the following support to the Community Garden Advisory Group

- Assistance with community-wide garden assessment of prioritized, targeted areas of Thurston County
  o Number of current community garden locations
  o Available land for potential community garden sites
- Meeting facilitation
- Nutrition education and outreach

For more information about this project contact Lesley Wigen, Public Health Nutritionist, 360-867-2515 or WigenL@co.thurston.wa.us www.co.thurston.wa.us/health

This publication is supported by the Community Transformation Funding provided to TCP035 by Washington State Department of Health. Its contents do not necessarily represent the official view of DSHS.
Appendix B: Interview tool

The following questions were asked to the community garden coordinator during the in-person interview; see findings section of this report for further detail.

Information gathered from interviews.

1. Is the garden open to the public?
2. How many people/households does the garden serve?
3. How many years has the garden been in existence as a community garden? Site history.
4. What do you grow?
5. Is the garden seasonal or year-round?
6. Who owns the land? Is the property leased?
7. How large is the garden? (Acres or square feet – cultivatable land) Are there individual plots? If so, how many and how large is each? How many people can participate? Is there communal/shared space? If so, what type of space is it? (Shared plots, raised beds, orchards, etc)
8. How many pounds of produce per season (best estimate)? Where does the harvest go? (e.g. individual gardeners, Food Bank, sales... etc.)
9. Are there conditions for membership? (Residence, etc) Cost of plot/year or cost of membership per year if no individual plots? How are plots assigned? (Please list any selection criteria)
10. Is there a garden coordinator, or someone who leads/manages the garden? Is this a volunteer position?
11. How suitable is the garden (sun, soil, water)?
   a. Hours of sun per day (best estimate)?
   b. Soil (where does the soil come from)?
   c. Is the soil tested?
      - Is composting done on-site? [Waste being managed to ammend soil]
   d. What type of irrigation system is in place?
   e. Is there water on site and proximity to garden?
      - Where does the water come from and how is it paid for?
12. What amenities are available to garden users (tools, storage space, electricity, trash disposal, rest rooms, security -- etc.)? Please list sources of funding or resources such as mulch, compost, etc. (dues, grants, fundraising, sponsors). Please list the greatest challenges/limitations to your community garden. What are your needs?
13. Is the garden strictly organic? What weed/pest control measures are used?
14. Future plans for the garden: Would you like to expand? Do you have a waiting list?

Other information gathered.

- What is the garden location/address?
- Who is the contact person (name and contact information)?
- Parcel number, zoning
- Is it near a school?
- Functional or aesthetic structures (benches, tables, etc) – places for gardeners to relax
- Is the garden near a bus-line?
• Is there nearby parking available to gardeners?
• Is there lighting?
• Is there signage? What does it say?
• Is there a fence? Is it locked?
• Is there access for disabled persons (sidewalks etc.)?
Appendix C: Garden inventory list

Community Gardens included in assessment

1. Olympia Community Garden (Sustainable South Sound - SSS) - 1401 13th St. SE Olympia WA 98501
2. Evergreen Community Gardens - 2712 Lewis Rd NW Olympia WA 98502
3. Sunrise Park Community Garden (Olympia Parks) - 505 Bing St. NW Olympia WA 98502
4. Yauger Park Community Garden (Olympia Parks) - 530 Alta St. SW Olympia WA 98502
5. Lacey Crossroads Community Garden (SSS) - 5607 Corporate Center Lane SE Lacey WA 98503
6. St. Mark Lutheran Church Food Bank Garden - 2109 College Street SE Lacey WA 98503
7. Hale Place Community Garden - 1217 Yew Ave. NE Olympia WA 98506
8. Wendell Berry Community Garden (SSS) - 928 Wilson St. NE Olympia 98506
10. Rainier High School Community Garden - 308 Second Street West Rainier WA 98576
11. Rochester Community Garden - 10140 Highway 12 SW Rochester WA 98579

| Community Garden Plot or Shares with Zip Code Location, As of 2012 (N=315) |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Yauger Park (98502)                             | 69               |
| Sunrise Park (98502)                            | 55               |
| St. Mark Church (98503)                         | 46               |
| Rochester (98579)                               | 22               |
| Hale Place (98506)                              | 22               |
| Evergreen (98502)                               | 22               |
| Capital Vision Church (98506)                   | 20               |
| Olympia (98501)                                 | 17               |
| Wendell Berry (98506)                           | 16               |
| Lacey Crossroads (98503)                        | 16               |
| Rainier (98576)                                 | 10               |
Gardens “Ruled Out” (private, not a “community” garden or no community garden at location)

12. Capitol Campus Food Bank Garden (Kiwanis) Olympia 98501
13. The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (co-op w/ Kiwanis; potential community garden) Olympia 98501
14. Tumwater Apartments - (mostly senior residents) Tumwater 98501
15. Tumwater Boys & Girls Club - (potential for community garden) Tumwater 98501
16. Fertile Ground Guesthouse - Olympia 98501
17. Westside Olympia Food Bank Garden - (Kiwanis) Olympia 98502
18. Olympia Coffee Roaster - (Harrison Ave. location) Olympia 98502
19. Woodard Lane Cohousing - Olympia 98502
20. Scammel Ave. NW - Olympia 98502
21. Steamboat Island - Olympia 98502
22. South Westside Olympia Neighborhood Association - Olympia 98502
23. Department of Ecology Food Bank Garden - (co-op w/ Kiwanis) Lacey 98503
24. Lacey Boys and Girls Club - Lacey 98503
25. Panorama City - Lacey 98503
26. Behavioral Health Resources - Lacey 98503
27. Lydia Hawk Elementary School - (informed wanted to become a community garden) Lacey 98503
28. Surrey Lane Apartments - Lacey 98503
29. Goche Food Bank Garden Market Gardens NW LLC - (Kiwanis) Olympia 98506
30. Providence St. Francis House - Olympia 98506
31. The Firs - Olympia 98506
32. Black Lake Grange - Olympia 98512
33. Columbus Park on Black Lake - Olympia 98512
34. Jubilee - Lacey 98516
35. Vista Village Food Bank Garden - (Kiwanis; not operating this year, will be in cover crop) Lacey 98516
36. Earth Friendly Products - Lacey 98516
37. Closed Loop Park - Lacey 98516
38. Tenino - 98589
39. Yelm - 98597 (community garden pending)
Appendix D: Community garden maps
Location of Community Gardens and Total Population by Zip Code, Thurston County

# of Residents
- 1 - 14,999
- 15,000 - 29,999
- 30,000 +

Community Gardens

Data provided by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services
Appendix E: Thurston County community garden profiles

Current as of September 2012

1. Capital Vision Community Garden
2. Evergreen Community Gardens
3. Hale Place Community Garden
4. Lacey Crossroads Community Garden
5. Olympia Community Garden
6. Rainier High School Community Garden
7. Rochester Community Garden
8. St. Mark Lutheran Church Food Bank Garden
9. Sunrise Park Community Garden
10. Wendell Berry Community Garden
11. Yauger Park Community Garden
Capital Vision Community Garden
www.capitalvision.org

Address: 1775 Yew Avenue NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Organization: Capital Vision Christian Church

Age of Garden: 2 years

Number of Plots: 20

Membership Fee: $25 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: David 360-791-8778 or davidwillis88@msn.com
The Evergreen State College Community Garden

Address: 2712 Lewis Rd NW, Olympia, WA 98502

Organization: The Evergreen State College

Age of Garden: 30 years

Number of Plots: 22

Membership Fee: $30 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): No
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: Matthew tesccommunitygardens@gmail.com

Note: There is a Harvest Festival at the Organic Farm (next to the community garden) each October.
Hale Place Community Garden
www.bhna.org

Address: 1217 Yew Ave NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Organization: Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood Association

Age of Garden: 6 years

Number of Plots: 22

Membership Fee: $25 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: No

Contact: Rus 360-705-0862 or rusgey@yahoo.com
Lacey Crossroads Community Garden
www.sustainablesouthsound.org

Address: 5607 Corporate Center Lane SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Organization: Sustainable South Sound

Age of Garden: 4 years

Number of Plots: 16

Membership Fee: $50 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): No
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: No

Contact: Marie mflake@nwrain.com

“I sure enjoy having a lush little oasis of flowers and veggies in the middle of a sea of asphalt, where I see my neighbors and catch up on their lives, get to know the local business owners and make new friends, while digging in the dirt, swapping gardening tips and recipes and munching on sugar snap peas. What a great little community!” – Community gardener
Olympia Community Garden
www.sustainablesouthsound.org

Address: 1401 13th St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Organization: Sustainable South Sound

Age of Garden: 28 years

Number of Plots: 17

Membership Fee: $50 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: Charles charlesays@gmail.com or 360-943-9623

"As community gardeners we seek to work both independently and together to grow food, learn about gardening, and create community within our garden." – Community gardener
Rainier Community Garden
www.facebook.com/rainiercommunitygarden

Address: 308 Second Street West, Rainier, WA 98576

Organization: Rainier School District

Age of Garden: 2 years

Number of Plots: 10 shares (gardened communally)

Membership Fee: No

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: No

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: No

Contact: Angie 360-446-2205 or karnesa@rainier.wednet.edu
Jeannine 360-458-0578 or jeanninepia@gmail.com

Community Gardens in Thurston County: Assessment Report 2012
Rochester Community Garden Profile
www.roofcommunityservices.org

Address: 10140 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579

Organization: ROOF Community Services

Age of Garden: 3 years

Number of Plots: 22

Membership Fee: $25 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: No

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: Kellie 360-273-6375 or kmcnelly@roofcommunityservices.org
St. Mark Lutheran Church Community Garden
www.stmarklacey.org

Address: 2109 College St. SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Organization: St. Mark Lutheran Church

Age of Garden: 10 years

Number of Plots: 46

Membership Fee: No

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: No

Contact: Gail 360-456-3281 or gatofrare@comcast.net
Sunrise Park Community Garden
www.olympiawa.gov/parks

Address: 505 Bing St. NW, Olympia, WA 98502

Organization: Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation

Age of Garden: 6 years

Number of Plots: 55

Membership Fee: $25 per year regular plot; $12 per year ADA plot (smaller); $6.25 per year scholarship (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

“Our community gardens are great spaces for first-time and lifetime gardeners to socialize. We encourage our gardeners to use each other as gardening resources. We want the community gardens to not only be a space to grow produce, but an institution for education in gardening and community involvement.” – Luke Burns

Contact: Luke Burns, Recreation Program Specialist 360-570-5857 or lburns@ci.olympia.wa.us
Wendell Berry Community Garden
www.sustainablesouthsound.org

Address: 928 Wilson St. NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Organization: Sustainable South Sound

Age of Garden: 4 years

Number of Plots: 16 shares (gardened communally)

Membership Fee: $50 joining fee and $135 per year (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Limited – encourage walking or biking

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: TJ urbanagrarian@comcast.net
Yauger Park Community Garden
www.olympiawa.gov/parks

Address: 530 Alta St. SW, Olympia, WA 98502

Organization: Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation

Age of Garden: 2 years

Number of Plots: 69

Membership Fee: $25 per year regular plot; $12 per year ADA plot (smaller); $6.25 per year scholarship (as of 2012)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

“Our community gardens are great spaces for first-time and lifetime gardeners to socialize. We encourage our gardeners to use each other as gardening resources. We want the community gardens to not only be a space to grow produce, but an institution for education in gardening and community involvement.” -- Luke Burns

Contact: Luke Burns, Recreation Program Specialist 360-570-5857 or lburns@ci.olympia.wa.us

Community Gardens in Thurston County: Assessment Report 2012