COMMUNITY GARDENS
IN THURSTON COUNTY:
ASSESSMENT REPORT

September 2014

Prepared by Lesley Wigen, RD, CD
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department
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Community Gardens in Thurston County: Assessment Report 2014
SUMMARY

- As of 2014, there were 13 community gardens in Thurston County. This is an increase from 11 in 2012.
- These 13 community gardens had approximately 378 plots or shares and served 323 households.
- The majority, 85%, of community gardens in the county were located in the urban core (Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater).
- Though not eligible to be considered a community garden, a wide range of other garden types were identified within the county. These included multi-unit housing complex gardens, school-based gardens, senior center gardens, homeowner association gardens and gardens dedicated to producing food for local food banks.

For this assessment: A community garden is a collaborative, shared, open space that is accessible to residents of the local community who are the gardeners.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- The number of community gardens available in Thurston County should be increased in neighborhoods and areas of the county with no or limited access.

- Current community gardens should be supported in tangible, practical ways to allow them to maintain their current capacity and possibly expand.

- Efforts that promote access to vegetables and fruits through other types of gardens should be supported including: school-based gardens, shared multi-unit housing gardens and individual gardens for moderate and low income residents of the county.

As new community gardens are identified, information about them will be available at:

www.thurstoncommunitygardens.org
PURPOSE

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are leading causes of death and disability in Thurston County. These conditions affect the public’s health and quality of life, in addition to requiring care that can be costly for both the individual and 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 the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables each day is one of the best ways to prevent chronic diseases. Improved access to healthful foods such as fruits and vegetables improves the consumption of them, in turn decreasing the risk of chronic disease.

Gardens contribute to the increased access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables. 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.

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

Background

This represents the second assessment of community gardens in Thurston County. The first assessment was completed by the Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department in 2012. The 2012 assessment process was informed by a Community Garden Advisory Committee that included individuals and organizations interested in access to healthy foods in Thurston County.

The purpose of the original 2012 assessment was to identify where community gardens existed, learn more about their characteristics and inform the use of grant funds provided to establish new local gardens. The 2014 assessment was completed to determine what previously existing gardens remained available to the community, identify any newly established community gardens, learn more about their characteristics and identify how many income-based multi-unit rental housing complexes in Thurston County had gardens for residents. The assessment tool used in 2012 was reviewed and used in 2014 with no major changes.
**Garden Inventory**

To identify gardens for inclusion in the assessment, an inventory was developed of locations that potentially met the definition of a community garden. All community gardens from the 2012 assessment were considered and a survey was done of individuals with specialized knowledge of this topic to identify any new potential gardens. All gardens that met the definition of a community garden were assessed in 2014 and are listed below and described in more detail at the end of this document (see Appendixes).

1. Capital Vision Community Garden (Olympia 98506)
2. Evergreen Community Garden (Olympia 98502)
3. Lacey Crossroads Community Garden (Lacey 98503)
4. Olympia Community Garden (Olympia 98501)
5. Rainier Community Garden (Rainier 98576)
6. River Ridge Covenant Church Community Garden (Lacey 98503)
7. Rochester Community Garden (Rochester 98579)
8. The Garden of Weedin’ (Olympia 98501)
9. The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Community Garden (Olympia 98501)
10. St. Mark Community Garden (Lacey 98503)
11. Sunrise Park Community Garden (Olympia 98502)
12. Wendell Berry Community Garden (Olympia 98506)
13. Yauger Park Community Garden (Olympia 98502)
TOPIC CATEGORIES

The community gardens assessment covered a range of topic categories listed below. Information about each garden was gathered through interviews with individuals familiar with the garden and by an in-person visit to the garden itself. Data was collected between April – June 2014.

A. Open to the public  
B. Number of people or households served  
C. Years of existence  
D. What is grown in the gardens  
E. Garden seasonality  
F. Land ownership  
G. In-ground plots vs. raised beds  
H. Production  
I. Membership fees  
J. Garden coordinator  
K. Garden suitability (sun, compost)  
L. Amenities  
M. Organic practices  
N. Challenges and needs  
O. Waiting list and expansion  
P. Zip codes  
Q. Community – near school, bus, parking, fencing, signage  
R. Multi-unit housing gardens

Capital Vision Community Garden
FINDINGS

A. Open to the public

Community gardens are open to residents of a community without restriction, such as a requirement to be a home owner, and can serve a large or small geographic location. Determining whether a garden was open to the public was accomplished by asking “Can anyone in the community have a plot or share in the garden? If no, who can garden here?”

Public Access

- In 2014, 13 community gardens were available and open to the public in Thurston County. In 2012, there were 11 community gardens.

Proximity

- 8% (1 out of 13) of community gardens required gardeners to live within one mile of the garden.
- 15% (2 out of 13) of community gardens used proximity to the garden to prioritize their waiting list for the garden.

![Proximity to Community Garden Used as Eligibility or Waiting List Criteria](image)
B. Number of people or households the garden serves

Determining the number of people or households served was accomplished by asking “How many people/households does the garden serve?”

- In 2014, 323 households were served by a community garden in Thurston County.
  - The average household size in Thurston County is 3, which equates to an estimated 969 persons having access to a community garden.
- There were 378 total plots or shares in community gardens available in 2014, with the majority located in urban areas of Thurston County.

![Community Garden Plot or Shares with Zip Code Location, As of Spring 2014 (N=378)](image-url)
C. Years of existence

Determining the number of years a garden has been available as a community garden was accomplished by asking “How many years has the garden been in existence as a community garden?”

In 2014:

- 15% (2 out of 13) of community gardens were 1 or less years old.
- 38% (5 out of 13) of community gardens were 2-4 years old.
- 46% (6 out of 13) of community gardens were 5 or more years old.

Does not add to total (100%) due to rounding.
D. What is grown in the gardens

Determining what was grown in a garden was accomplished by asking “What do you grow?”

In 2014:

- 100% (13 out of 13) of community gardens grew vegetables.
- 62% (8 out of 13) of community gardens grew fruit.
- 31% (4 out of 13) of community gardens grew herbs.

Yauger Park Community Garden
E. Garden seasonality
Determining the seasonality of a garden was accomplished by asking “Is the garden seasonal or year-round?”

In 2014:
- 46% (6 out of 13) of community gardens were seasonal.
- 54% (7 out of 13) of community gardens were year-round.
  - Some year-round mentioned extending the season through the use of hoops (large hoops or bows made of metal or plastic pipe covered with a layer of heavy greenhouse plastic).

![Community Gardens Open Seasonal or Year-Round]

Wendell Berry Community Garden
F. Land ownership
Determining the garden land ownership was accomplished by asking “Who owns the land?”

In 2014:
- 62% (8 out of 13) of community gardens were on private land (church or private land owner property).
- 38% (5 out of 13) of community gardens were on government land (e.g. city property).

G. In-ground plots vs. raised beds.
Determining whether a garden had raised beds and or in-ground was accomplished by observation. An in-ground plot is a garden planted in the ground. A raised bed is a garden planted in a built structure above the ground.

In 2014:
- 23% (3 out of 13) of community gardens had in-ground plots.
- 46% (6 out of 13) of community gardens had raised bed plots.
- 31% (4 out of 13) of community gardens had both in-ground and raised bed plots.
In-Ground
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Community Garden

Raised Bed
River Ridge Covenant Church Community Garden
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)?”

In 2014:
- 23% (3 out of 13) of community gardens weigh their harvest.
- 77% (10 out of 13) of community gardens do not weigh their harvest.
I. Membership fees

Determining whether a garden has a membership fee was accomplished by asking “Are there conditions for membership? What is the cost of plot per year or cost of membership per year if no individual plots?”

In 2014:
- 77% (10 out of 13) of community gardens charged for use of the garden.
- 23% (3 out of 13) of community gardens had no charge for use of the garden.

![Membership Fee or Other Costs Charged for Use of Garden](chart.png)

J. Garden coordinator

Determining whether a garden had a garden coordinator and if they did, whether that person was paid or unpaid was accomplished by asking “Is there a garden coordinator, or someone who leads/manages the garden? Is this a volunteer position?” A garden coordinator is the person who manages the day-to-day operations of the garden. The garden coordinator typically has knowledge of the garden’s history and has the most up to date information about the garden.

In 2014:
- 100% (13 out of 13) of community gardens had a garden coordinator.
  - 69% (9 out of 13) of community gardens had an unpaid volunteer garden coordinator.
  - 31% (4 out of 13) of community gardens had a paid garden coordinator.
K. Garden suitability (sun, compost)

Determining the garden’s suitability was accomplished by asking “Hours of sun per day (best estimate)? Is composting done on-site?” Composting is defined as a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter (plant and animal) and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land.

Sun Exposure
- In 2014, 100% (13 out of 13) of community gardens had full sun which was defined as 6 or more hours per day.

Composting
- In 2014, 85% (11 out of 13) of community gardens had composting on site with the remaining 15% (2 out of 13) planning to in the future.

St. Mark Community Garden
L. Amenities

Determining whether a garden provided any amenities was accomplished by asking “What amenities are available to gardeners?”

In 2014:
- 92% (12 out of 13) of community gardens provide some tools for gardeners to use.
- 8% (1 out of 13) of community gardens did not provide tools for gardeners to use.

M. Organic practices

Determining whether a garden followed organic practices was accomplished by asking “Is the garden strictly organic?”

In 2014:
- 100% (13 out of 13) of community gardens try to use organic practices.
N. Challenges and needs

Determining the gardens challenges and needs was accomplished by asking “Please list the greatest challenges/limitations to your community garden. What are your needs?”

Challenges

- The most commonly mentioned challenge was maintenance and supervision of the garden. Examples of this included: needing others to help maintain the garden overall and to have others be available at the garden to help other gardeners.
- Water issues were mentioned by several gardens as a concern. Examples of this included: having enough money to cover the cost of the water bill during high use months and setting up an irrigation system.
- Experiencing vandalism was also a concern.
- Finding gardeners was a challenge expressed by some community garden coordinators.

Needs

- The most commonly mentioned need was for volunteers to help beyond maintaining their own garden. Examples of this included: weeding, mowing, communicating with other gardens, helping disabled gardeners and creating outreach material about the garden.
- Equipment and supplies were mentioned by several gardens as a need. Examples of this included: storage sheds, cables with locks to secure equipment, hoop house and seeds.
- More permanent forms of improvements were described as needed by some gardens such as a permanent location, road signage and electricity.

Lacey Crossroads Community Garden
O. Waiting list and expansion

Waiting List
Determining whether a garden had a waiting list was accomplished by asking “Do you have a waiting list?”

- 38% (5 out of 13) of community gardens have a waiting list.
- 62% (8 out of 13) 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?”

- 23% (3 out of 13) of community gardens would like to expand the garden.
- 77% (10 out of 13) of community gardens do not want to or are not ready to expand the garden.

Rainier Community Garden
P. Zip codes (See Appendixes for maps)

Zip code boundaries include both incorporated (e.g. cities/towns) and unincorporated areas (e.g. the county).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thurston County Zip Codes</th>
<th>Number (#) of Community Gardens As of 2014</th>
<th>Number (#) of Community Gardens As of 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13 gardens</strong></td>
<td><strong>11 gardens</strong></td>
</tr>
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Q. Community – near school, bus, parking, fencing, signage

The following are additional pieces of information about the community gardens gathered by observation at each site or determined through mapping

In 2014:

Near schools (K-12) Note: Near indicates within 3/4 of a mile.
- 77% (10 out of 13) of community gardens are near a school.
- 23% (3 out of 13) of community gardens are not near a school.

Near the bus (public transportation) Note: Near indicates within one mile.
- 85% (11 out of 13) of community gardens are near a bus-line.
- 15% (2 out of 13) of community gardens are not near a bus-line.

Nearby Parking Note: street or parking lot with no fee.
- 100% (13 out of 13) of community garden have parking available.

Fence
- 77% (10 out of 13) of community gardens have a fence.
- 23% (3 out of 13) of community gardens do not have a fence.
Signage

- 85% (11 out of 13) of community gardens have a sign that provides the name of the garden or suggests it is a community garden.
- 15% (2 out of 13) of community gardens do not have signage.

Olympia Community Garden

Rochester Community Garden
R. Multi-unit housing gardens

The following information was obtained about income-based multi-unit housing gardens. This type of garden is not considered a community garden and was defined as a collaborative, shared, open space accessible to residents of housing complexes (e.g. senior apartments, subsidized units) available only to renters who are lower income.

In 2014:

- There were 12 income-based multi-unit housing gardens in Thurston County that served 151 households.
- The majority, 83%, of income-based multi-unit housing gardens were located in the urban core (Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater).
- Of the 12 gardens: 83% grew vegetables, 33% fruit and 25% herbs.

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<th>Thurston County Zip Codes</th>
<th>Number (#) of Income-Based Multi-Unit Gardens As of 2014</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12 gardens</td>
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APPENDIX CONTENTS

A. Thurston Community Garden List 2014
B. Garden Location Maps
C. Thurston Community Garden Profiles
D. Assessment Interview Tool
APPENDIX A: Thurston Community Garden Inventory 2014

- Capital Vision Community Garden  
  1775 Yew Avenue NE, Olympia, WA 98506

- Evergreen Community Garden  
  2712 Lewis Rd NW, Olympia, WA 98502

- Lacey Crossroads Community Garden  
  5607 Corporate Center Lane SE, Lacey WA 98503

- Olympia Community Garden  
  1401 13th St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

- Rainier Community Garden  
  308 Second St. West, Rainier, WA 98576

- River Ridge Covenant Church Community Garden  
  7945 Steilacoom Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503

- Rochester Community Garden  
  10140 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579

- The Garden of Weedin'  
  1925 Boulevard Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98501

- The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Community Garden  
  1601 North St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

- St. Mark Community Garden  
  2109 College Street SE, Lacey WA 98503

- Sunrise Park Community Garden  
  505 Bing St. NW, Olympia, WA 98502

- Wendell Berry Community Garden  
  928 Wilson St. NE, Olympia 98506

- Yauger Park Community Garden  
  530 Alta St. SW, Olympia, WA 98502
A community garden is defined as a collaborative, shared, open space that is accessible to residents of the local community who are the gardeners.

Note: One additional community garden in Bucoda was established in September 2014. Due to timing of this assessment, the Bucoda Community Garden data is not included in this report.
Note: One additional community garden in Bucoda was established in September 2014. Due to timing of this assessment, the Bucoda Community Garden data is not included in this report.
A garden at an income-based multi-unit housing complex is defined as a collaborative, shared, open space accessible to residents of housing complexes (e.g. senior apartments, subsidized units) available only to renters who are lower income.
Community Gardens in Thurston County: Assessment Report 2014

THURSTON COUNTY

Number of Community Gardens and Income-Based Multi-Unit Housing Gardens, Thurston County Zip Codes 2014

Presence of Garden
- No Gardens
- 1 Garden
- 2 to 3 Gardens
- 4 or More Gardens

Community Garden
Housing Complex Garden

Data provided by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services
APPENDIX C: Thurston Community Garden Profiles

Current as of September 2014

Bucoda Community Garden

Address: On Main Street next to the historic Odd Fellows Hall

Organization: Bucoda Improvement Club

Age of Garden: Established 2014

Number of Plots: 6

Membership Fee: No (as of 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): No

Near a Bus Line: No

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: No

Contact: Linda 360-278-3218 or lvanell@scattercreek.com

“The Bucoda Community Garden is for the Community by the Community.” – Garden coordinator
Capital Vision Community Garden

Address: 1775 Yew Avenue NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Organization: Capital Vision Christian Church

Age of Garden: 4 years

Number of Plots: 30 (room to expand up to 68 as needed)

Membership Fee: $50 per year (as of 2014)

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

Online Information: https://www.facebook.com/CapitalVision
Evergreen Community Gardens

**Address:** 2712 Lewis Rd NW, Olympia, WA 98502

**Organization:** The Evergreen State College

**Age of Garden:** 32 years

**Number of Plots:** 80

**Membership Fee:** $30 per year (as of 2014)

**Organic Practices Followed:** Yes

**Near a School (K-12):** No

**Near a Bus Line:** Yes

**Parking Available:** Yes

**Fencing Around Garden:** Yes

**Contact:** 360-867-6220 or tesccommunitygardens@gmail.com

**Online Information:** [www.evergreen.edu/organicfarm/communitygarden.htm](http://www.evergreen.edu/organicfarm/communitygarden.htm)

**Note:** There is a Harvest Festival at the Organic Farm (next to the community garden) each October.
Lacey Crossroads Community Garden

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

Organization: Sustainable South Sound

Age of Garden: 6 years

Number of Plots: 16

Membership Fee: $50 per year (as of 2014)

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@nwbrain.com

Online Information: www.sustainablesouthsound.org/programs/local-food-systems-program/lacey-crossroads-community-garden/

“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

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Olympia Community Garden

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

Organization: Sustainable South Sound

Age of Garden: 30 years

Number of Plots: 17

Membership Fee: $40 per year (as of 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes

Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: Jess 360-292-2974 or skirtmuseum@gmail.com
Charles 360-943-9623 or charlesays@gmail.com

Online Information: www.sustainablesouthsound.org/programs/local-food-systems-program/olympia-community-garden/

“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 High School
Age of Garden: 4 years
Purpose: To bring the Rainier community and surrounding areas together and provide educational gardening opportunities for everyone while growing fresh food and impacting local hunger issues.
People Served: For the past four years we have been gardening as a collective group and donating a majority to the Rainier Emergency Food Center, our local food bank. In the last two years, an average of 77% of the produce harvested has been donated to the Rainier food bank which serves 200 families on a weekly basis and 2,100 individuals per month.
The other 23%, has been taken home by our volunteers who come to help during work parties.
We have on average about 7 - 10 community volunteers who come to work parties or events.
Membership Fee: No
Organic Practices Followed: Yes
Near a School (K-12): Yes
Near a Bus Line: No
Parking Available: Yes
Fencing Around Garden: Yes

The Rainier Community Garden is always looking for new participants and support.
This is a great opportunity if you are interested in learning to garden, don't have gardening space of your own, or just want to give back to the community.
it's FREE to participate!

Contacts:
Angie Karnes
Garden Manager
(360) 561-0990
karness@rainier.wednet.edu

Mike Karnes
Resource Developer
(360) 259-6455
karnesm@rainier.wednet.edu

Jeannine Pia
Outreach Coordinator
(360) 528-0523
rainiercommunitygarden@gmail.com

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River Ridge Covenant Church Community Garden

Address: 7945 Steilacoom Rd. SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Organization: River Ridge Covenant Church

Age of Garden: 1 year

Number of Plots: 12

Membership Fee: $20 per year (as of 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes

Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: Bridget Greiff (8am-8pm): 360-456-2672 – bridget@greiff.net
Jenn Miller (8am-8 pm): 410-596-3436 – jnmiller611@hotmail.com
River Ridge Covenant Church office: 360-923-1569
Rochester Community Garden Profile

Address: 10140 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579

Organization: ROOF Community Services

Age of Garden: 5 years

Number of Plots: 22

Membership Fee: $25 per year (as of 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes

Near a Bus Line: No

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: 360-273-6375 or kmcnelly@roofcommunityservices.org
St. Mark Community Garden

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

Organization: St. Mark Lutheran Church

Age of Garden: 4 years

Number of Plots: 38

Membership Fee: No (as of 2014)

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

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

Organization: Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation

Age of Garden: 8 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 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes

Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

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

Online Information: http://olympiawa.gov/community/parks/recreation/Community%20Gardens

“Our community gardens are great spaces for first-time and life-time 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
The Garden of Weedin’

Address: 1925 Boulevard Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Organization: Westminster Presbyterian Church

Age of Garden: 3 years

Number of Plots: 9-18 (9 beds: ½ beds available)

Membership Fee: $50 for a full bed (20’ x 4’) or $25 for half that size. In addition all gardeners must donate 10% of product to Thurston County Food Bank (as of 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): No

Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: Yes

Contact: Carol 360-280-5718 or carol.vannerson@comcast.net

Online Information: https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Garden-of-Weedin/600036013416094
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Community Garden

Address: 1601 North Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Organization: The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Age of Garden: 1 year (Food Bank Garden on site since 2009)

Number of Plots: 6

Membership Fee: No (as of 2014)

Organic Practices Followed: Yes

Near a School (K-12): Yes

Near a Bus Line: Yes

Parking Available: Yes

Fencing Around Garden: No

Contact: Kris 360-357-1486 or Kris350@comcast.net
Wendell Berry Community Garden

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

Organization: Sustainable South Sound

Age of Garden: 6 years

Number of Plots: 15 shares (gardened communally)

Membership Fee: $50 joining fee and $120 per year (as of 2014)

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

Online Information: www.sustainablesouthsound.org/programs/local-food-systems-program/wendell-berry-community-garden/
Yauger Park Community Garden

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

Organization:  Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation

Age of Garden:  4 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 2014)

Organic Practices Followed:  Yes

Near a School (K-12):  Yes

Near a Bus Line:  Yes

Parking Available:  Yes

Fencing Around Garden:  Yes

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

"Our community gardens are great spaces for first-time and life-time 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

Online Information:  http://olympiawa.gov/community/parks/recreation/Community%20Gardens
APPENDIX D: 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. Can anyone in the community have a plot or share in the garden? If no, who can garden here?
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?
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? Are there individual plots? 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?
10. Is there a garden coordinator, or someone who leads/manages the garden? Is this a volunteer position?
11. Hours of sun per day (best estimate)? Is composting done on-site? [Waste being managed to amend soil]
12. What amenities are available to garden users (tools, storage space, electricity, trash disposal, rest rooms, security -- etc.)?
13. Is the garden strictly organic? What weed/pest control measures are used?
14. Please list the greatest challenges/limitations to your community garden. What are your needs?
15. 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?
- Is the garden near a bus-line?
- Is there nearby parking available to gardeners?
- Is there a fence? Is it locked?
- Is there signage? What does it say?