

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

City Manager's Office

To: David L. Corliss, City Manager

From: Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator

CC: Chuck Soules, Public Works, Mark Hecker, Parks & Recreation, Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services, Cynthia Wagner, Assistant City Manager, Toni Wheeler, City Attorney

Date: February 2, 2012

RE: Proposed Common Ground Land License Assignments

Thirteen Common Ground sites were made available to citizens of Lawrence for the purpose of developing urban agriculture and community gardens in the City of Lawrence. The programs goals include: increasing local food production, improving access to healthy foods, and providing community benefits. www.lawrenceks.org/common_ground

Applications were received from 14 community members and organizations. The Douglas County Food Policy Council reviewed applications, scored them, and recommended the following list for participation in the pilot year of the Common Ground Program.

Category:	Location:	Applicant:	Proposed Project:	Community Benefit Plan:
Community Garden	John Taylor Park	Justina Gonzalez	Children's Community Garden.	Partnership with the Ballard Center.
Community Garden	Vacant lots at 1304 and 1315 Penn. St.	Michael Morley (Sustainability Action Network)	Community Garden for neighboring residents.	SAN will provide educational classes and workshops on gardening and food preservation.
Community Orchard	Burroughs Creek (13 th and Garfield)	Skyler Adamson (Lawrence Fruit Tree Project)	Community Orchard and perennial fruit production – open for picking by all community members.	LFTP will host workshops and community work days for residents to learn about perennial fruit production.
Market Farm	8 th and Oak	Johnson County Comm. College Sustainable Ag. Program	A student farm for the Sustainable Ag. Students taking coursework in Lawrence.	Partnership with Community Mercantile Ed. Foundation to supply food to schools in USD 497.

Some of the additional sites originally listed (namely, Riverfront Park and the future County Jail site) were determined to be less-than-ideal for the program's pilot year. These sites will require additional infrastructure and potential approval by the Army Corps of Engineers to be suitable for agriculture. Therefore, applicants for these sites have been encouraged to reapply next year and/or partner with one of this year's licensees for a community garden plot.

We believe that these 4 sites represent parcels that have many of the necessary elements to facilitate a successful growing experience. In the future, we will consider program expansion to additional sites.

The Sustainability Coordinator, in partnership with the Food Policy Council will coordinate the Common Ground Program, and work with the City Attorney's office to establish license agreements between the City and the grower.

The City will work with each applicant to ensure that these pilot year gardens and farms are a successful showcase of utilizing vacant properties for food production. We are also in process of applying to K-State Extension for grant funding to assist growers with access to water, fences, sheds and other infrastructure to support their success.