

**Memorandum**  
**City of Lawrence**  
**City Manager's Office**

**To:** David L. Corliss, City Manager  
**From:** Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator  
**CC:** Chuck Soules, Mark Hecker, Cynthia Wagner  
**Date:** April 16, 2012



**RE: Update on Common Ground program garden sites – Spring 2012**

The City's Common Ground program gardens are well underway – busy planting vegetables, renting plots to community members, and engaging Lawrence residents in producing fresh, local food. Here are the highlights:

**Burroughs Creek Community Orchard**

**(830 Garfield):** This community orchard is managed by the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project (LFTP) along the city's Burroughs Creek property maintained by Parks and Rec. This open-to-the-public orchard helps meet the goals of Lawrence Fruit Tree Project (LFTP): to increase the number of perennial food plants and stewards there of, within the city of Lawrence Kansas.

LFTP volunteers have hosted two workdays (with 20-25 volunteers in attendance at each event). The sites has been planted with primary fruit producing plants such as pears, jujube, elderberries, sour cherries, hazelnuts, gooseberries and thornless blackberries.

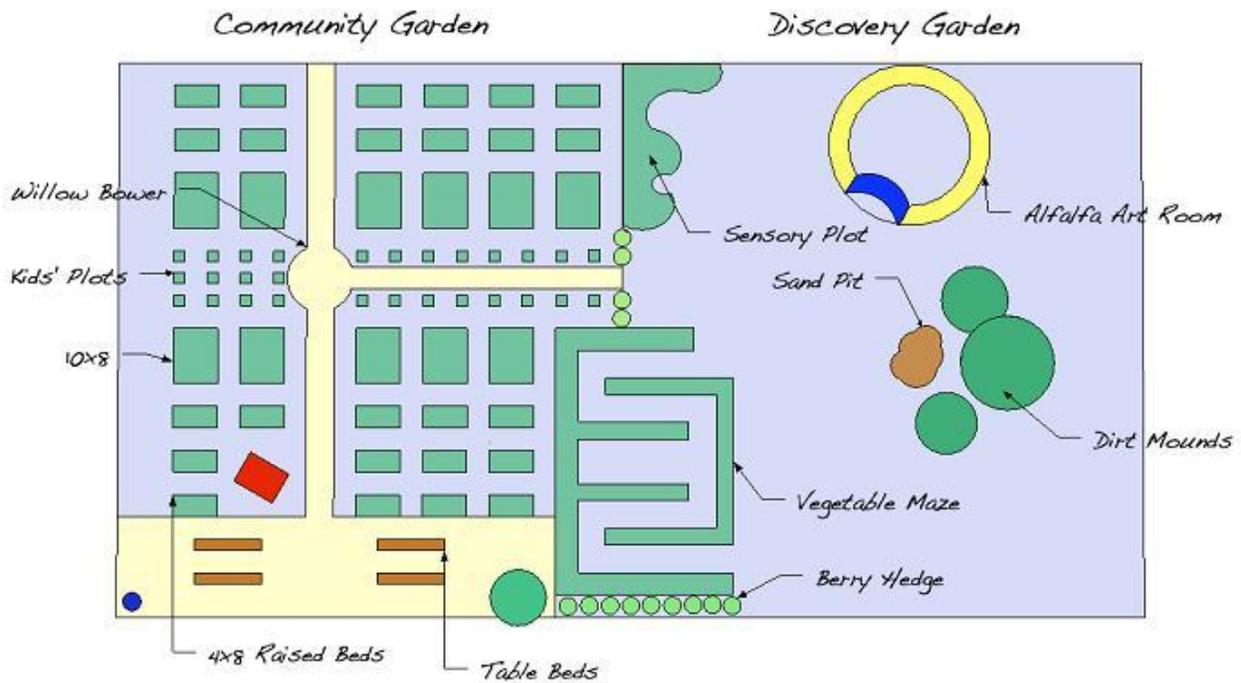
The result will be a cosmetically beautiful, productive and ecologically rich park-like orchard. Ripe fruits will be available for any park goer to consume, and excess fruit will be donated to food pantries.



## Garden Incubator: Community Garden and Children's Discovery Garden (John Taylor Park - 7<sup>th</sup> and Walnut)

Community members in North Lawrence have partnered with the Ballard Center to convert this ½ acre site into a community garden with plots for rent by community members, and a discovery garden for the children at the Ballard Center.

This spring, they've held 4 workdays, engaging 33 volunteers. They have most of their plots rented to community members, and were recently awarded a \$4,750 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. This grant will be utilized to support infrastructure needs (fence, shed) and tools for the gardeners.



## Community Garden – 13<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania

This traditional community garden will be managed by the Sustainability Action Network (SAN). SAN is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works to teach re-localization and sustainability skills to NE Kansas residents.

This community garden is on a vacant city lot in the East Lawrence neighborhood (one of the areas identified by USDA as a "food desert"). Plots for rent have been kept at a modest price to encourage gardeners (regardless of income) to grow their own food in the 10x10 and 20x20 plots available. Classes in seed saving and garden building are already underway for interested gardeners. See photo (above) of last weekend's raised bed gardening workshop.



## Student Farm – 815 Oak St.

This one acre vacant lot will be cooperatively farmed by the Sustainable Agriculture students at Johnson County Community College and the student gardeners at the Community Mercantile Education Foundation. These student farmers will produce crops for sale to USD497 to generate funds for ongoing school garden projects. The remainder of the produce will be donated to Just Food Pantry.

Despite some initial delays in working out the license and insurance details at this site, the JCCC student farm crew were able to get out last week and till the area. They're digging in this week to begin planting!

