



To: Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission
CC: Kristine Butteris
From: Mason Becker, Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator
Date: April 5, 2023
Re: Community Garden at Lincoln Park

Commission Members,

Following a resident inquiry with the mayor's office into the feasibility of the City of Watertown creating a community garden for residents to raise their own produce, the Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator (SIDC) undertook a research planning process to determine the viability of such a project. Community gardens are a recognized way of giving residents access to affordable produce, encouraging agricultural learning, sustainability practices, and outdoor activity. They can also be a way to foster neighborhood and community connections. While many participants will grow food for their own use, some users may choose to donate the produce they cultivate to area food pantries.

After reviewing many parcels and options within the City, the SIDC and the Parks and Recreation Director settled on Lincoln Park as a possible location. We met virtually with a small group of interested residents, who were supportive of the proposal.

A small number of raised beds will be located at the park to start. These will be located along the southwest corner of the park. If successful, the Community Garden could be expanded in the future, and possibly future gardens could be sited at other parks throughout the city.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for initial construction of the raised bed. Residents will be responsible for any additional fundraising for future expansion.

A slide deck with further information is included for you. Thank you for your consideration of this proposed community garden.

Sincerely,

Mason T. Becker
Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator