

Memorandum Department of Public Services



TO: Michael Herring, City Administrator
FROM: *MBH* Michael Geisel, Director of Public Services
DATE: October 19, 2015
RE: Community Garden

As you are aware, the Department of Public Services has successfully created and operated a Community Garden at Eberwein Park. Since its initial opening, the community garden has been extremely successful, has been expanded, and there remains an extensive and persistent waiting list of resident gardeners who desire additional community garden plots.

Parks, Recreation and Arts Director – Tom McCarthy has communicated with Mr. Steve Sachs of Sachs Properties, who has long been a friend and supporter of the Chesterfield Parks functions. Sachs Properties has offered to allow use of a currently undeveloped ~~parcel~~ ^{PARCEL} along Chesterfield Parkway West, immediately west of Bishops Post, for use as a Community Garden. It should be clear that use of the Sachs property as a community garden would be subject to termination at Sach’s request, when development opportunities or alternative uses may develop.

Mr. McCarthy has estimated the cost to construct the City’s second community garden at the specified location to be \$30,000. Given the popularity, visibility, and community response, I recommend that City Council authorize the construction of the second community garden as described herein, to be funded by a \$30,000 fund transfer from the Parks Fund – Fund Reserves, above the 40% policy requirement. Finance Director – Craig White has indicated that Parks Fund – fund balance projection as of 12/31/2015 is \$2,384,370, or \$377,735 above the 40% fund reserve policy.

I request that this information be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council. **I recommend that the Committee favorably consider authorizing and directing staff to construct a second community garden with the consent of Sachs Properties, funded by a transfer from the Parks Fund – Fund Reserve in the amount of \$30,000 for this purpose.**

If you have any questions or require additional information, please advise.

✓ MBH
10/19/15

Memorandum

To: Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services,
Public Works and Parks
From: Tom McCarthy
Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts
Date: 9/21/2015
Re: Community Garden Partnership



Mike, after speaking with Steve Sachs, we have a location, for an additional Community Garden. We are looking at the site just north of the Bishop's Post parking lot. A picture is below of the area I am proposing highlighted in North Carolina blue. We would use the parking lot at Bishop's Post which also would drastically reduce the overall cost of putting in the garden. If by chance the property would go under contract, we would be given notice and would have to vacate the property, but Steve feels we would be given plenty of notice of any potential development so we could have the harvest season completed.

I have put together some general budget costs. If we can present this at the next Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council meeting, that would be wonderful. My goal would be to build the garden with thirty-two to forty plots of multiple sizes over the fall/winter months and open for the spring of 2016 planting season. The overall garden size would be seventy-five feet by one hundred feet. We currently have forty-eight people on the waiting list for the Eberwein Community Garden so my best guess is that maybe half of these people would be interested in a plot at the new garden site plus a bunch more that decided not to be on the waiting list because they thought they would never get a spot with so many residents on the list in front of them. Parking would be in the northwest corner of the Bishop's Post lot. The gate to the garden would be put in the northwest corner of the garden to encourage people to park farther away from the preferred restaurant parking spots. As with the first Community Garden, my guess would be once the word gets out about the new Community Garden location, we would get another ground swell of interested residents looking for a garden plot.

Some things we would like to do differently at this new sight are:

1. We would not put in raised beds- we would have planting sections.
2. We would have the option to have single 14 (8' x 4') beds for \$30, 8 (8' x 8') beds for \$45 and 4 (16' x 8') beds for a \$100.
3. We would install a gate lock with a code similar to what we use at the dog park to keep non-garden members out of the garden area. This seems to be needed as we have had to talk to several people stopping by to pick through the garden plots at Eberwein that don't have gardens there.

Price Break Down

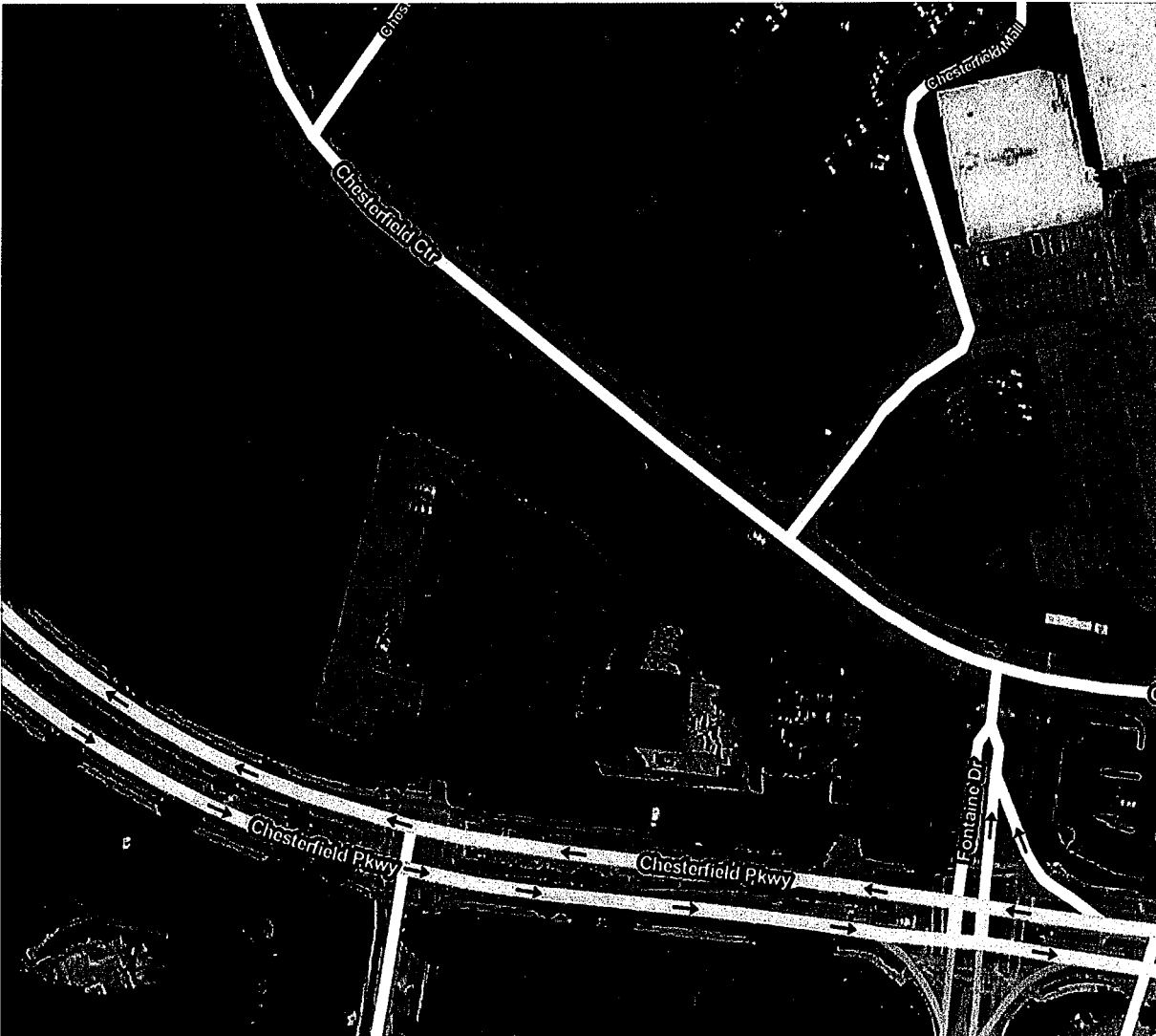
Water tap and hose bib installation for watering	\$ 8,000
Soil mixture for garden	\$ 3,000
Fence (rail fence similar to Eberwein with netted height extension) 250 linear feet	\$12,000
Gate lock	\$ 700
Composting area bins	\$ 200
Harvest shelving	\$ 100
Signage	\$ 1,000
Miscellaneous, garden picnic table, trash cans	\$ 2,000
Contingency 10%	<u>\$ 2,700</u>

Total Garden Improvements

\$29,700

Revenue from garden plots for the first year

\$ 1,180



Finance Director Craig White has updated the Parks Fund -Fund Reserve account and we have \$364,928 above the 40% reserve policy as of Monday, August 1, 2015.

Accordingly, I would like to request that this information be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council, in hopes of a positive recommendation to transfer an amount not to exceed \$29,700 from the Excess Parks Fund- Fund Reserve, above the 40% reserve policy, to provide for the construction funds to build our second Community Garden on the above mentioned property that Mr. Steve Sachs has graciously allowed us to use on an ongoing basis for the next several years or until the land is slated for development.