



City Hall, 215 Sycamore St.  
Muscatine, IA 52761-3840  
(563) 262-4141  
Fax (563) 262-4142

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### MEMORANDUM

Planning,  
Zoning,  
Building Safety,  
Construction Inspection Services,  
Public Health,  
Housing Inspections,  
Code Enforcement

**To:** Mayor and City Council Members

**Cc:** Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator  
Steve Boka, Community Development Director

**From:** Adam Thompson, Planning & Community Development Coordinator

**Date:** February 13, 2014

**Re:** Muscatine Community Gardens: *A Leadership Muscatine Project*

#### INTRODUCTION:

Community gardens around the world have been credited with an array of beneficial outcomes for participants. These include environmental education where participants learn about sustainable urban agriculture, biodiversity and improved waste management. Nevertheless, the most significant and widely reported benefits are associated with individual and community health and well-being. Gardens require physical exertion, provide relief from stress and prompt creativity, participation with nature and a sense of stewardship for the land. Individuals reap direct benefits from the physical activity involved in gardening and having access to fresh, cheap produce on a daily basis.

#### BACKGROUND:

This project stems from the Leadership Muscatine program and is a Blue Zones initiative. We understood early on that connecting with community stakeholders is important to the success of community gardens. We have worked with the Muscatine Iowa State Extension office, Muscatine Master Gardeners and the Muscatine Blue Zones Project. Recently we gained support from the Mulford Church who currently offers limited community gardens. In writing a grant to receive funds from HyVee for community gardens we connected with the local Muscatine HyVee who will support community gardens with educational classes.

Our proposed community garden project will be self-sustaining. Fees from leased plots will go to offset soil preparation, water supply, youth programs and maintenance. We will seek outside funding for expansion and improvements.

Our group has outlined three sites; Taylor Park, Roby-League, and Muscatine Community College with Taylor Park being our preferred site. To continue our activity toward gaining stakeholder support we are holding a community meeting February 18<sup>th</sup> at Franklin School to discuss the proposed community garden use at Taylor Park.

#### BACKUP INFORMATION:

**Power Point Presentation: Muscatine Community Gardens Feb 13**

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**



# Muscatine Community Gardens

*Leadership Muscatine*

# Outline

- Program Features
- Taylor Park Site
- Roby-League Site
- MCC Site
- Garden Features
- Community Support

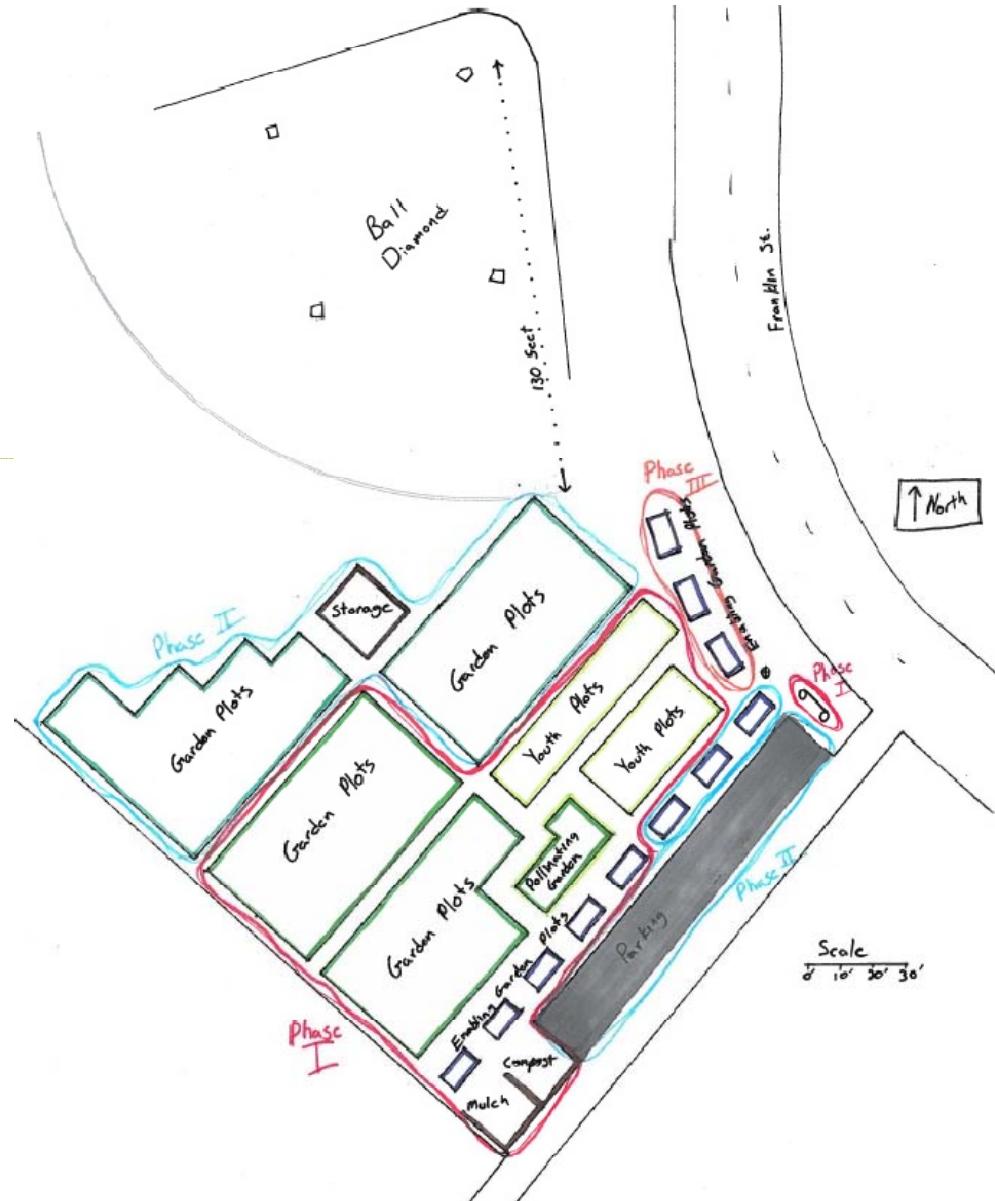
# Program Features

- Self-sustaining
- Fundraising for improvements & expansion
- Community garden committee
- Gardening Classes
- Dietary Classes
- Cooking Classes

# Taylor Park: *Preferred Site*



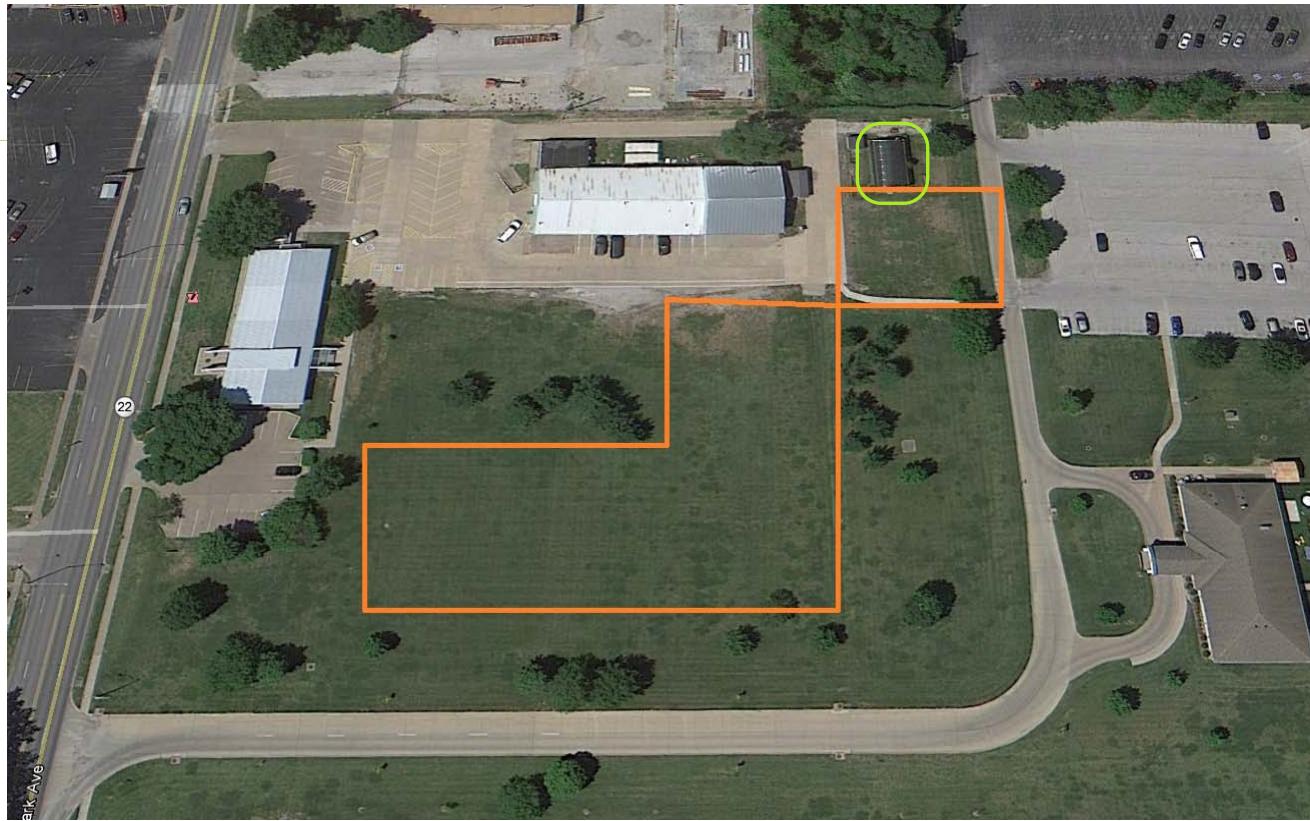
# Taylor Park: *Site Plan*



# Roby-League: *Alternative*



# Muscatine Community College: *Alternative*



# Garden Features

- Enabled Garden Plots
- Youth Garden Plots
- Lease Garden Plots
- Water
- Compost and Mulch
- Basic Tools

# Community Support

- Recreation Commission
- Mulford Church
- Muscatine Iowa State Extension
- Muscatine Master Gardeners
- Local Muscatine Hy-Vee
- Muscatine Blue Zones Project
- Taylor Park Garden Community Meeting:  
February 18th