

August 2007 Update on Proposed Village Community Garden

On June 23, Village residents Art Allen, Linda Darby, June Escara-Wilke, Jan Frank, Larry Joh, and Nan Nelson gathered at the site of the proposed Village Community Garden to begin the preliminary design. The design group marked the garden area and discussed their long-term vision for a permanent garden. The maximum space available at the site (east of Whitewood and south of Norwood) is about 11,000 square feet, so the garden could start smaller with room for potential expansion. The preliminary design concept includes 50 plots with an average size of 100 square feet, water supply, perimeter fence with two gates, triple compost bin, storage shed, bulletin board, entrance sign, two wheel-chair-accessible raised beds, 4' wide main paths, gathering area with two 6' picnic tables, and a perennial/herb garden.

A reliable supply of clean water for irrigation is essential to the success of a community garden. The most desirable water supply would be a tie-in to the City's water main; discussion of this option with the City began on June 15. An alternative would be a water storage tank that could be periodically refilled. Perhaps a tank could be used for a few years while the garden is being established then a permanent connection to the water main with several spigots could be installed if justified. The garden design, cost estimates, and proposal are on hold pending a decision from the City. The Village Board of Directors would need to consider resident input and costs versus benefits before deciding whether to proceed with a community garden.