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# Proposal for Community Garden at Shafer Park

Presented by Cassandra Ladino, BEC Chairperson  
on behalf of the BEC Community Garden Subcommittee  
03/14/2022

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# BEC Proposal

- The BEC proposes to construct a community garden in the Fall of 2022
- The inaugural growing season will be Spring 2023

Asking the Mayor and Council for support in moving forward with the proposed community garden as presented today, such that the BEC can pursue grant applications for funding.

# Background

- A priority item on the BEC strategic plan for many years
  - BEC Community Garden Subcommittee are the project champions
  - Frederick News Post Community Garden Manager presented in January
- Unique opportunity - Two grants available this Spring to cover significant infrastructure cost
  - Washington County ARPA designated funds for Community Investment Grant Program (matching funds)
  - AARP Community Challenge
- Additional grant writing support by Kathryn Gratton
- 3 locations proposed to Park Board, 1 location approved
  - Consulted with with the Town Manager and Public Works Superintendent.
  - Investigated option for waterline extension from closest water main

# A Community Garden

A community garden brings together a group of people to garden in the same location to support healthy living and community connections. The BEC will implement the following strategy:

- “Individual plots” model of operation, each participant is assigned their own plot to grow and harvest for themselves.
- Individuals will be charged membership fees to cover annual maintenance and cost of the town supplied water source.
- Garden manager and BEC committee will manage the garden long term
- BEC will advertise for other individuals to participate in upcoming April town newsletter.

# Garden Management

The BEC Community Garden Subcommittee will lead development of:

- Garden Management team and Garden Manager
- Operational bi-laws
- Site (garden plot) lease agreement form



# Ideal Community Garden Location Characteristics

- .5 to 2 acre designated plot to allow expansion over time
- Flat elevation
- Brush and debris free area, few trees around the perimeter is acceptable
- Nearby parking lot and accessible walking path
- Nearby restroom facilities
- Ensured safety in early morning and late evening hours during growing season
- Nearby water source



# Community Garden Infrastructure Requirements

- Tall fencing including locked gate - **Primary Cost (\$21 to \$25k)**
  - 6ft high vinyl coated chain link fence (600 linear ft to enclosed the 0.42 acres), and two gates (each end)
- Water system including pipe and pump
- Mix of plots (size and style, i.e large inground vs small raised beds)
- Amended Soil
- Storage shed with lock for maintenance tools and equipment
- Picnic Table
- Signage



# Proposed Shafer Park Site - Near Boy Scout Building

- High visibility location
- Some annual utilization during events (i.e. car show, christmas celebration)
- Paid for water source, water main at Boy Scout Building
- Already cleared and level area
- Good access with nearby parking lot and paved walking path
- Future park plans
  - Shafer Park Drive future plans, play area, parking lot





## Proposed Shafer Park Site - Near Boy Scout Building (actual 0.42 acres)



# Proposed Garden Design

55% of area is dedicated to accessibility for 50+

Seniors - subsidized access to raised beds, community donated seed bank, and opportunity to start seeds in the greenhouse.

Phased approach based on actual demand

Input from Garden Sub Committee

Layers

Park Benches 6ft	█	...
hanging basket areas along fence 12ft	█	...
32G Trash Can	●	...
10X10 Picnic Table with Umbrella	█	...
Raised Bed Area	█	...
Hydrant and Hookups	█	...
Work Surfaces	█	...
Childrens Plots 6x6	█	...
Large Plots 12x14	█	...
Inner garden boundary	█	...
Shed and Green House	█	...
Garden Plot	█	...

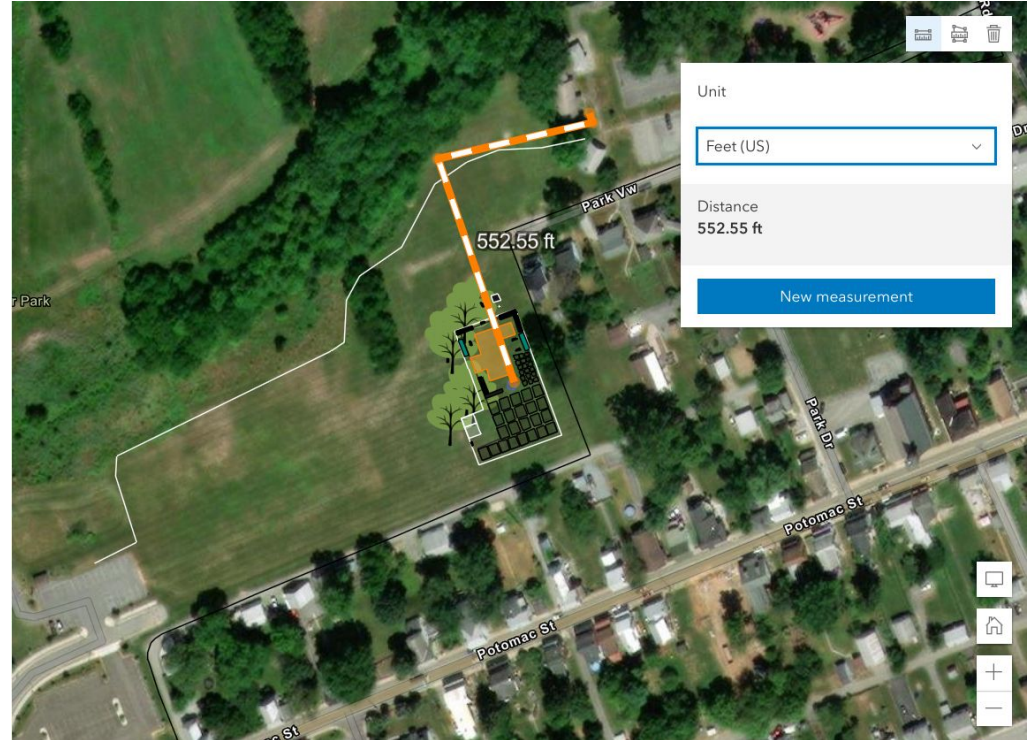
+ Add layer



# Water Pipeline Extension

The waterline extension is not foreseen to require disturbance of any existing park infrastructure such as walking paths.

(conceptual drawing, not an engineering plan)



# American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Organization's 2022 Community Challenge grant.

- BEC application - **request \$25k**
  - 6ft high vinyl coated chain link fence (600 linear ft to enclosed the 0.42 acres), and two gates (each end)
- Typically small grants (75% of grants are \$15k or less)
- 2022 Focus - public spaces, innovative ideas, ages 50+
- Application Due March 22nd
  - Mid-May: All applicants will be notified by email of their status
  - June 29: Public announcement of the selected grantees
  - November 30: All funded projects must be completed
  - December 14: Deadline for after-action reports

# Washington County Community Investment Grant Program

- American Rescue Plan Act funds
- Matching funds opportunity
- More details forthcoming, application submission in May

BEC requested Special Projects **budget of \$12.5k** in anticipation for matching funds opportunity.

- Cover Fence cost if AARP grant is not successful
- Fund other required infrastructure and accessibility features if AARP grant is successful

# Catering to Boonsboro Community Needs

- Necessary to maintain a thriving membership for long term sustainability.
- Median age is 40.1 years old, by 2030 population will be 50+ AARP
- Median income for householders 65+ years is \$25k.
- 6.5% of total population meets Census defined poverty threshold
- 2.8% of total population below the poverty threshold is 45 yrs or older
- 31% of housing are rental units
- 40% of lots are under ¼ acre



# Community Organization Involvement

- Boy Scouts - manual labor
- Eagle Scouts - more challenging innovation projects
- The Lions Club and American Legion - engage a 50+ age group in tasks that are not labor intensive
- Potomac Edison - purchase plants to be distributed for free in Spring
- UMD Master Gardeners - educational seminars





**Questions?**

**Thank you for the opportunity to present this evening**