75D-2010

Project Information	
Project Name:	*Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands*
Project Type:	*Development*
Location:	*5513 S. Cloverdale Street, between 55th Avenue S. and Island Drive S.*
Property Owner:	*Seattle Parks and Recreation Department*
Neighborhood:	*Rainier Beach*

Contact Information			
Proposal Organization:	Friends of Atlantic City Nursery		
Contact Person:			
Mailing Address:			
Day/Work Phone:		**Evening/Home Phone:**	
Home E-Mail Address:			
Work E-Mail Address:			

Project Budget	
Requested Amount of Funding:	*$715,000*
Other Project Funding:	*$285,000*
Total Project Budget:	*$1,000,000*

1. Basic Information

a. **Project Location:** Location within an existing park, street address, or other indicator.

b. **Project's Level of Readiness**. Is the project in the idea stage or is there a professionally developed scope of work or a developed plan? Please attach your project's site plan if available.

c. **Project Maintenance**. How does this project address the need for reduced or minimal maintenance and operations costs?

d. **Project Goals.** What is the intent or goal of the project, e.g., a playground, new park or green infrastructure development? How did the idea for the project originate and evolve.

2. Physical Information

a. **Size of site to be developed and/or acquired:** Amount of acreage or square footage of entire project area. If the Opportunity Fund nominated project is part of a larger project, how large is the portion funded by the Opportunity Fund?

b. **Existing Conditions and Level of Development:** Please describe current use and conditions. If site is developed, please describe; for example, are there any existing buildings, paving, structures, play areas.

c. **Adjacent Properties:** Undeveloped; or in process of development; or developed with residences; or with commercial buildings; or other improvements such as structures, paving or grading.

Parks & Green Spaces Levy
2010 Opportunity Fund
Development Project: Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands

1. Basic Information

a. Project Location: Location within an existing park, street address, or other indicator. The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands (RBUFW) project is located at Seattle Parks and Recreation's Atlantic City Nursery facility at 5513 S. Cloverdale Street in the Rainier Beach neighborhood.

b. Project's Level of Readiness. Is the project in the idea stage or is there a professionally developed scope of work or a developed plan? Please attach your project's site plan if available. The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project has a professionally developed scope of work and preliminary site plan, a copy is attached to this application.

The Friends of Atlantic City Nursery envision this major project in three distinct phases and this funding request for $715,000 is intended to cover all three phases as reflected the attached project budget.

Phase 1 Urban Farm Components include rehabilitating the two (2) existing greenhouses for use in intensive food production, converting the three (3) existing shade houses to greenhouses by replacing the screen material with light-permeable materials, preparing the converted shade houses for use in intensive food production, and rehabilitating the existing composting area to allow for greater output.

Phase 1 Wetland Components include constructing a swale and berms system to protect low area of wetland (ditch) and removing non-native growth from internal and exterior perimeters.

Phase 1 General Components include renovating the interior of the works shed for use as on-site office and the design, production and installation of signage at various points, interior and exterior.

Phase 2 Urban Farm Components include purchase and install a variety of fruit trees in allowable area and purchase soil, growing containers and plant starts for five (5) greenhouses.

Phase 2 Wetland Components include a major restoration of wetlands on-site to remove invasive plants and create habitat.

Phase 2 General Components include improving site entrance area to enhance appearance and increase security and creating on-site parking for staff and volunteers on existing pad.

Phase 3 Wetland Components include completion of the major restoration of wetlands on-site to remove invasive plants and create habitat.

Phase 3 General Components include design and installation of covered training area for volunteers on existing pad and completion perimeter enhancements along fence area and adjacent street.

b. Project Maintenance. How does this project address the need for reduced or minimal maintenance and operations costs? The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project addresses the need for reduced or minimal maintenance and operations costs by transferring financial responsibility for the care and protection of Atlantic City Nursery's nine existing buildings and 9 acres of open space and wetlands from the City to a non-profit venture as a collaboration of the Friends of Atlantic City Nursery and Seattle Tilth. Ownership would remain with Seattle Parks and operating costs would be entirely the responsibility of Friends of Atlantic City Nursery.

c. Project Goals. What is the intent or goal of the project, e.g., a playground, new park or green infrastructure development? How did the idea for the project originate and evolve. The intent of the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project is to establish a unique green infrastructure development project transforming a soon-to-be-surplus Parks Department facility into a working organic urban farm and demonstration wetlands restoration site. This project would produce around 20,000 pounds of fresh healthy food annually for families struggling with food security, provide educational opportunities for at-risk and underserved youth in the surrounding community, offer access to and education from a rare in-city natural wetlands environment, improve wetlands habitat for native wildlife, foster much-needed economic development and strengthen community in a predominately low-income neighborhood within the most diverse zip code in the entire nation.

The original idea for the RBUFW project came from a group of nearby neighbors and community activists aware of the Atlantic City Nursery site's closure and its potential to be repurposed in a green and environmentally friendly manner that will enhance the quality of life in the Rainier Beach neighborhood.

The idea has evolved as more community members have joined the effort, bringing new perspectives and experience with urban agriculture and wetlands preservation to the discussion. The public meeting held by Seattle Parks on December 3, 2009 helped to coalesce the budding group as over 80 local residents voiced their for the urban farm and wetlands preservation concepts.

The Friends of Atlantic City Nursery (FACN) was formed to provide a formal structure for this grassroots effort, with a committee structure and officers providing accountability and transparency. To enable fundraising and financial management, the Friends of Atlantic City Nursery entered into a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Seattle Tilth which has a 30-year successful organizational history and expertise in soil management, water management, urban agriculture and recent positive experiences in working with South Seattle communities and low-income populations.

A particularly significant step in the evolution of this project was the February 2010 visit to Seattle of Will Allen, internationally-recognized urban agriculture expert and 2008 McArthur Genius Award recipient. Allen's Growing Power, Inc. was one of the original models for the RBUFW project and his visit, including a half-day seminar, an evening lecture and a visit to the Atlantic City Nursery site all helped to solidify the concept and created an ongoing relationship between FACN and Growing Power, Inc. During his visit to the nursery, Allen expressed that the nursery site was ideal for the type of urban agriculture he practices and advocates for and expressed willingness to partner with FACN and the City of Seattle to further that possibility.

The Friends of Atlantic City Nursery has forged a working collaboration with Creatives4Community (C4C) and their Executive Director Edward Hill, an Urban Planner and community educator. Hill is part of the current cohort being trained by Allen's organization in the methodologies and business practices of this proven model and regularly transmits that information back to FACN.

The business plan for the RBUFW will adapt the Growing Power model to respond to the opportunities and nuances provided by the Seattle context. We will retain the Growing Power emphasis on generating a significant portion of annual income from farm activities including the sale of farm products, fees from classes and workshops, and contracts for training youth and special populations in wetlands restoration and urban agriculture. We plan to build relationships with schools, the food bank, community centers, and childcare center to provide a source of fresh local food for their programs, as well developing a market for food distribution within the Rainier Beach community.

In addition, a formal offer has been made by Will Allen of Growing Power, inc. to make the Rainier Beach Urban Farm a Regional Outreach Training Center (the only such facility west of Denver) for disseminating their urban agriculture techniques and knowledge throughout the local area. Details of how such a regional center could function within the constraints of the nursery site are being developed in coordination with Hill, Allen and the local community.

2. Physical Information

a. Size of site to be developed and/or acquired: Amount of acreage or square footage of entire project area. If the Opportunity Fund nominated project is part of a larger project, how large is the portion funded by the Opportunity Fund?

The Atlantic City Nursery site is an urban treasure chest of open space; a total of almost 10 acres and within that acreage there are several distinct sections (acreage is approximate):

- Two(2) acres of already-restored wetlands at the south end adjacent to Lake Washington
- Two(2) acres of contiguous un-restored wetlands directly north of the restoration area
- One(1) acre of various wetland areas along the north-south axis in the center of the site
- One(1) acre of non-wetland open area adjacent to the existing nursery structures
- Three(3) acres constituting the existing nursery structures and developed open areas

The Opportunity Fund nominated project represents the full area of the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project which has two co-equal components, creating and managing the urban farm and active stewardship of the entire range wetlands areas.

The City's Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) Ordinance (SMC 25.09) regulates development in and near wetlands and streams. The results of the wetland survey completed for Parks by the Department of Planning and Development in March 2010 indicates that significant portions of the site are classified as wetland requiring Class IV buffers. The existing nursery structures are all outside of the wetlands designations although portions do fall within the buffer area.

Within the buffer areas, public projects that produce a public benefit are allowed provided no alternative exists. Further, under Section 29.09.045 Exemptions, the Parks Department has the ability to grant itself an exemption to permit certain activities provided it complies with the ordinance provisions. Honoring the intent of these ordinances is paramount in the RBUFW plan and only compatible uses will be pursued subject to Parks approval.

b. Existing Conditions and Level of Development: Please describe current use and conditions. If site is developed, please describe; for example, are there any existing buildings, paving, structures, play areas. The current use of the Atlantic City Nursery site varies between developed and undeveloped areas as do the conditions within the site's almost 10 acres.

The current use of the developed area of the site is best described as the passive after-phase of 72 years of City use for horticulture production; all of the structures and systems are intact but none are in active use or production.

The current use of the undeveloped area of the site is best described as stasis. The restored wetlands function as a natural system providing runoff filtration and natural habitat in a closed system that requires only minor protection from interference.

The un-restored wetlands areas do not have a current use other than providing passive buffer and some bird habitat, they almost entirely devoid of surface water and native plants and are covered by non-native grass and invasive weeds such as dandelions.

There is a narrow and shallow man-made ditch running along a north-south axis down the center of the site which effectively bisects the entire site and draws water from the Pritchard Beach Wetlands north of the nursery through the site and into the restored wetlands and thus into Lake Washington.

In general the current condition of the entire site is very good with no physical hazards, known contamination, dilapidated structures or refuse. A history of organic and pesticide-free growing practices by Parks contributes to that positive condition.

- The three acres of existing nursery structures and developed open spaces are in good to excellent condition due to the care practiced by Parks during its active phase through fall 2009.
- The combined three acres of un-restored wetlands are covered by field grass with common weeds and have scattered trees and berry bushes.
- The two acres of restored wetlands are in excellent condition and are fenced from the rest of the site providing additional protection of this sensitive area.

Existing structures on the site consist of:

- Two (2) greenhouses fully operational with heating systems. One greenhouse is of recent manufacture and in excellent condition and has electric heat system; the other greenhouse is older, in good condition and has an oil-fueled heating system with an above-ground oil tank.
- Three (3) cold frames also known as shade houses, greenhouse-like structures covered with sunlight deflecting material and all in excellent condition.
- One (1) small single-story building that serves as tool shed, staff break room and restroom facility.
- The area between the single-story building is paved and in good condition.
- There is an internal road system that circles the site area north of the wetlands and divides it into fairly equal quadrants.
- The entire site perimeter is fenced with chain-link fencing in excellent condition and a functioning driveway gate at the northeast corner leading into South Cloverdale Street

c. Adjacent Properties: Undeveloped; or in process of development; or developed with residences; or with commercial buildings; or other improvements such as structures, paving or grading.

The adjacent properties at the Atlantic City Nursery site are:

- On the entire north side; South Cloverdale Street, a two-lane paved road
- On the entire south side, Lake Washington
- On the entire east side, residences facing onto Island Drive South
- On the west side, primarily residences facing onto 55th Avenue South and a small portion of the north tip of Beer Sheva Park

3. Citywide Planning

a. Is this project consistent with an approved City and/or Parks approved plan? Which plans?

The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project is consistent with City plans and effort to address access to healthy food through urban agriculture via the City Council's Local Food Action Initiative, as summarized on the City's website: **"In April of 2008, Seattle City Council adopted Resolution 31019, the Local Food Action Initiative, outlining a series of actions developed to promote local and regional food**

sustainability and security. The goals of the Local Food Action Initiative include improving the local food system through advancing the City of Seattle's interrelated goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development, and emergency preparedness."

The RBUFW project is also consistent with the declaration of the City's Year of Urban Agriculture in February 2010 as noted in the joint declaration of the mayor and City Council that states in part: **"in 2010, the City along with community partners will be advancing a number of initiatives related to urban agriculture including opening a new urban food bank farm, developing additional community gardens through the Parks Levy, and considering new land use codes that support urban agriculture."**

The RBUFW project is also consistent with several areas of Seattle Parks own Strategic Plan Goals:

The strategic plan's Goal One, to **"steward Seattle's parks and open spaces for long-term sustainability"** and the sub-goals calling for **"a wildlife protection policy that explores designating parks as wildlife sanctuaries and minimizes the effects of humans and their activities on wildlife"** and to **"identify areas where native habitat should be improved to protect wildlife and enhance wildlife corridors".** These facets of the Strategic Plan are incorporated into the RBUFW 's wetlands stewardship component.

Also within Parks' Goal One is the sub-goal to **"Develop and maintain partnerships to enhance Seattle's parks and open spaces"** with the stated intent to **"Continue to encourage and support volunteer programs that enhance park land and restoration efforts"** and **"Identify new partnerships that enhance Seattle's parks and open spaces"** and **"Continue to work with and expand Friends of and other grass roots stewardship groups"**, all of which point to the synergy of Friends of Atlantic City Nursery's proposed partnership to foster positive continued use the nursery and wetlands.

b. Does the project address a park, recreation, or open space deficiency (as outlined in Parks 2006 Open Space Gap Analysis, http://www.seattle.gov/parks/publications/gapreport.htm), or an underserved community? The RBUFW site is directly adjacent to the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village. Per the 2006 Open Space Gap Analysis update this area does not have an open space deficiency as defined by the analysis. Population density predictions drove that opinion and with the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan up for review in 2010, that analysis may need revision.

What is clear is that the proposed repurposing of the Atlantic City Nursery site converts significant acreage that today only meets the gap analysis breathing room criteria into space that would meet the higher standard of the usable open space criteria; a net gain of 10 acres above the 3.94 acres called out in the analysis for future development as usable open space. This is a huge increase in usable space for the residents of this low-income urban village area and is accomplished without the displacement of homes or businesses.

c. Is the project in an area experiencing growth, particularly an urban village or urban center? Priority will be given to projects that are within an urban village boundary that is deficient in open space. The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project is located one block east of the Rainier Beach Residential Urban Village. This area is experiencing significant growth, particularly in market-rate, workforce and low-income housing along both South Henderson Street and Rainier Avenue South. Growth in Rainier Beach is unlike elsewhere in Seattle; the growth is in families rather than individual residents. Per the Department of Planning and Development's 2003 Rainier Beach Urban Village case study, "Households in Rainier Beach have a different composition than households in other parts of the city. Family households account for 58% of households in Rainier Beach compared to 44% citywide, and haven't changed much since 1990. The average size of a household in Rainier Beach... at 2.6 persons per household it remains much higher than the citywide average. The percentage of households with children (38%) is much higher than the city's (20%)..."

The Seattle Pro Parks levy recognized the growth, need and opportunity within the Rainier Beach neighborhood when it funded the Mapes Creek 52nd Avenue Walkway in 2004; Mapes Creek is slated to be day-lighted at Beer Sheva Park adjacent to the Atlantic City Nursery site. The same Opportunity Fund made possible the Rainier Beach Public Plaza located a few blocks from the nursery site. Investment in the RBUFW project would continue that commitment to a changing and growing neighborhood.

4. Neighborhood Involvement and Support

a. Is the project a unique opportunity that will be lost if action is not taken now? The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project represents a unique opportunity that will be lost if action is not taken now. Seattle Parks has committed to a decision on the future use of the site by the end of the First Quarter of 2010 and the site's existing greenhouse and shade house structures are at risk of rapid deterioration and damage due to the absence of a regular staff presence and maintenance.

The budget constraints of all City efforts in the current economic situation make the future of the Atlantic City Nursery site particularly urgent; having chosen to cease horticulture operations on-site the rationale for investment in proper care is greatly reduced and difficult to justify. In order to preserve these structures and convert this site into a unique green infrastructure project and open space for the community, action must be taken now to support the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project This unique opportunity could be lost if bold action is not taken now.

Combined with Mayoral and City Council announcements promoting urban agriculture, national funding opportunities around food security and healthy options, as well as local and regional efforts to stabilize and enhance the regional food shed and its related elements (water management, soil health, waste reduction, green employment), this project addresses a diverse and important set of areas critical to the sustainable growth and management of urban green space.

b. Please describe the how the project demonstrates a high degree of neighborhood involvement and support, or demonstrated need. Neighborhood involvement has been at the core of the RBUFW project since its inception. Families living directly adjacent to the nursery first raised the possibility of repurposing the Atlantic City Nursery for an urban farm and have been at the forefront of the community movement to accomplish that outcome ever since.

The public hearing held on December 3, 2009 attracted dozens of Atlantic City Nursery neighbors and their support for repurposing the nursery facility and preserving the restored wetlands was almost unanimous. The Friends of Atlantic City Nursery Steering Committee has five site neighbors out of a total of nine members. The membership of that group includes several other site neighbors

There are many local organizations and community members involved in and/or supporting this project including the Rainier Beach Community Block Watch, Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition, Rainier Valley Food Bank, Sustainable South Seattle, Rainier Rotary, Rainier Beach High School PTSA and SEED. The core individual members who comprise the Friends of Atlantic City Nursery are site neighbors from both sides of the nursery property, community activists and organic gardening and wetlands preservation experts.

This project continues to build neighborhood support as demonstrated through the growing membership of the Friends of Atlantic City Nursery, the positive response to door-to-door recruitment

and education and the turnout of over 50 individuals to a community outreach meeting on March 18, 2010. Friends of Atlantic City Nursery meetings are held at the local library and are open to all.

The need for this project is also clear. Rainier Beach is the most racially and ethnically diverse area of Seattle, people of color make up almost 90 percent of the neighborhood population. This is a true strength of the community and also a source of a set of challenges such as multi-generational poverty, immigrant and refugee cultural adjustment and disproportionate unemployment

Poverty is a constant presence within too much of the Rainier Beach community. The census tracts west of the Atlantic City Nursery are predominately households at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income (US 2000 census). Within six-blocks of the project site are several low-income housing developments including the Lake Washington Apartments (SEED) and South Shore Courts (Seattle Housing Authority). Residents of these sites and much of the surrounding neighborhood have limited income and significant need for healthy food: the Seattle King County Acting Food Policy Council Issue Paper # 4 from May 2008 indicates Rainier Beach as a high food insecurity area with at least 50 food insecure persons per block on average. The urban farm aspect of the RBUFW project will generate healthy food that these families can access and also provide the benefit of the economic development aspects of the project.

c. Creative Design. Does the project demonstrate new and creative methods to meet the community's needs for parks, green spaces and green infrastructure? If so, how? This project has multiple facets that demonstrate new and creative methods that meet the Rainier Beach community's needs for parks, green spaces and green infrastructure. Urban agriculture, which is fast becoming a mandated urban infrastructure component, provides healthy activities for multiple generations, education and training opportunities for local youth and young adults, the opportunity to connect with national food systems programs; and the opportunity to identify and establish replicable best-practices models, placing RBUFW at the front of a growing movement in creating sustainable, healthy communities.

The RBUFW project provides access to almost 10 acres of a previously closed-off Seattle Parks Department Facilities site. The nursery site has been unavailable to anyone except staff for many years. The opening of this site and channeling of this potential through the identified community needs will be realized through a collaborative partnership between Seattle Tilth, Growing Power, C4C, Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition, community stakeholders and FACN.

The RBUFW project will create an active park – one that is used by youth learning to grow food for their communities and restore native wetland environments; by students on field trips and service projects from the two elementary schools and two high schools within three blocks of the site; by adults in the neighborhood who want to take classes about growing their own food or managing storm water in their yards; by immigrants who want to experiment with growing crop varieties from their native countries in the Pacific Northwest climate; and by neighborhood volunteers dedicating time to create and sustain a model urban farm and wetland demonstration site in their neighborhood.

Opening up green spaces and creating new opportunities for interaction with nature and the art and science of growing healthy food is a very creative method to meet the community's need for increased green spaces, opportunities to build community, and opportunities to engage with healthy food. This site will also meet an ecological need by restoring a wetland environment and reducing the community's carbon impact through increased plantings and waste diversion through composting.

Sustainable food systems incorporate non-chemical pre-organics composting, water management and catchment systems and energy efficiency technology and create green employment, career tracks, and

link with local schools and agencies to replicate and educate. The RBUFW project will incorporate all of those aspects, most in the first three phases of activity and the rest in later phases.

d. Sustainable Principles. How does the project contribute to solving major challenges facing our community, such as climate change, the health of our waterways, or growth management? The RBUFW project contributes to resolution of several major challenges facing our community: access to healthy food by low-income residents, the mitigation and management of storm water runoff and conservation, the improvement of urban soil conditions, establishing green employment and career training systems, and preservation of wetlands and the improvement and wildlife habitat including salmon.

The City of Seattle's declaration of 2010 the Year of Urban Agriculture is emblematic of the recognition nationwide of the importance of local healthy food sources. The location of such a source in Seattle's Rainier Beach community would be a dramatic and powerful statement of serious intent to that end.

Producing food in the city is one element of creating a healthy urban food system where all people have access to fresh, locally grown, affordable, and healthy food. Through the operations of the RBUFW, residents will have access to fresh local food through a number of avenues, including through volunteering, through a local farm stand, and through the school food system. Classes and workshops will also provide neighbors with the hands-on skills to increase their own food production at home.

The shoreline area at the southern tip of the Atlantic City Nursery site was restored in part by Sound Transit as mitigation for wetlands lost in development of the LINK Light Rail line and has returned to a natural state in which young salmon can safely feed before venturing out into Lake Washington. A 200' shoreline setback creates a forested buffer area. The RBUFW project is intended in part to protect this area against future encroachment and to utilize it as a model of urban wetland restoration.

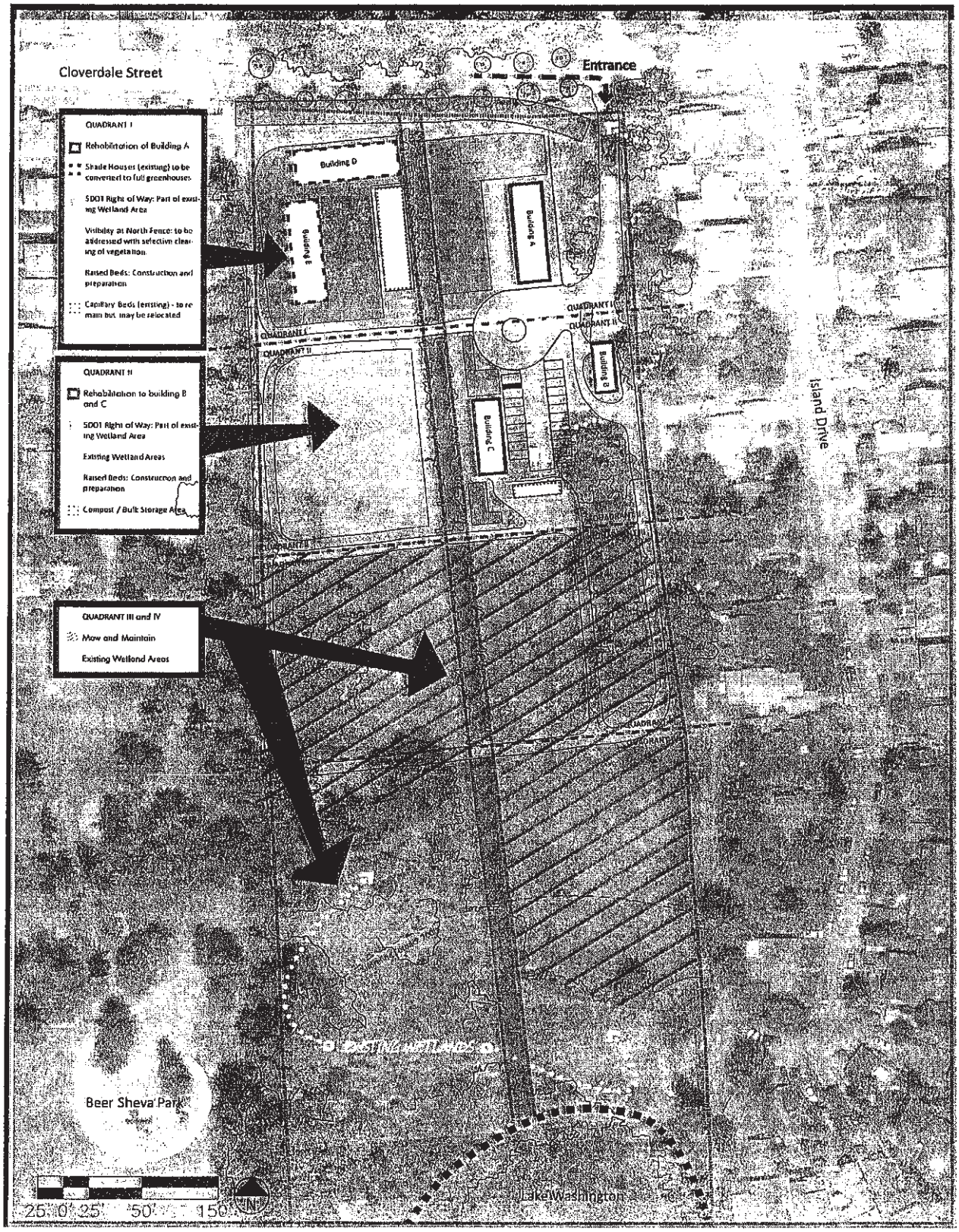
Wetlands restoration will contribute to both climate change mitigation and improvement in the health of our waterways. Wetlands ecosystems are critical habitats that protect salmon, filter water as it makes its way to the lake and provide nesting sites for birds and other native animals. Currently, only the fenced portion on the southern end is restored as a wetland environment. The remainder of the delineated wetlands is currently covered by grass and invasive weeds, which do not provide the ecological benefits of a restored wetland. Through the wetland restoration component of the project, salmon habitat and water filtration will be improved and through increased plantings and soil building, additional carbon will be sequestered, reducing the neighborhood's climate change impacts.

One of the intended uses of the site is to add numerous fruit trees along the internal perimeter and as permitted within the wetlands buffer areas. Increasing the tree canopy increases carbon dioxide (CO2) absorption and helps to mitigate excessive CO2 outputs that are major contributors to global warming.

Summary: The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project has the potential to create a uniquely significant civic asset that promotes urban agriculture and healthy food choices, preserves and restores precious wetlands habitat and provides a center of positive activity for a neighborhood that has the potential to rise far above its current circumstances and reach its inherent potential as a strong, diverse and vibrant community.

The Friends of Atlantic City Nursery and our fiscal sponsor Seattle Tilth are committed to prudent, open, sustainable and successful management of this project on behalf of the Rainier Beach neighborhood, the South Seattle community and the City of Seattle. We are committed to making the Atlantic City Nursery a place of pride for the surrounding neighborhood and all of Seattle.

Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Project Capital Budget			
Projected Sources	**Amount**	**Type**	**Status**
Seattle Parks Opportunity Fund	715,000	Grant - Capital	Applied
TOTAL	**715,000**		
Anticipated Uses - Phase 1			
Shade house conversions - 3	80,000	Urban Farm	
Swale and berm construction	60,000	Wetlands	
Greenhouse renovation -2	50,000	Urban Farm	
Wetland buffer fencing	20,000	Wetlands	
Workshed Interior Renovation	15,000	General	
Perimeter cleanup	15,000	General	
Composting structure	15,000	Urban Farm	
Entrance and Street Signage	10,000	General	
PHASE 1 TOTAL	**265,000**		
Anticipated Uses Phase 2			
Wetlands restoration	155,000	Wetlands	
On-site parking	25,000	General	
Entrance improvements	25,000	General	
Fruit Trees	7,500	Urban Farm	
Plant starts	5,000	Urban Farm	
Soil	5,000	Urban Farm	
Containers	2,500	Urban Farm	
PHASE 2 TOTAL	**225,000**		
Anticipated Uses Phase 3			
Covered Training Space	100,000	General	
Wetlands restoration - Quadrant Two	100,000	Wetlands	
Perimeter Enhancement	25,000	General	
PHASE 3 TOTAL	**225,000**		
PROJECT CAPITAL USES TOTAL	**715,000**		



Atlantic City Nursery: Urban Agriculture Project

Conceptual Site Plan Phase I

VIA ARCHITECTURE

March 31, 2010

BUILDING COMMUNITY

DATE: March 31, 2010

TO: Whom it May Concern
RE: Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Project (RBUFWP)
FR: Gregory Davis, President

Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition (www.rbcoalition.org) is an enthusiastic supporter of the proposal put forward by local residents and organizations regarding the Rainier Beach Urban Wetlands Project. This project would be unique in providing opportunities across multiple action areas that are important to our neighborhood, specifically the economic development, community building and education.

Economic Development

- The year-round production of produce at this site would be of particular benefit to the area's low-income residents. The Rainier Valley has the highest concentration of low-income residents in the city of Seattle. The local food bank serves over 8,000 residents per month and would benefit greatly from a regular source of fresh produce.
- RBUFWP could also provide community members and organizations with year-round gardening opportunities and be a place to offer education and training for youth.

Neighborhood/Community Building

- The RBUFWP site is close to numerous public schools, a community center, and various affordable housing developments and can serve as a neighborhood gathering venue.
- The neighborhood within one mile of the site represents a diverse socio-economic mix and includes residents from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds including recent immigrants whose primary economic skills are agriculture-related. Programs that encourage interaction through this vital urban agriculture site would create immense value for neighborhood, young people and others.

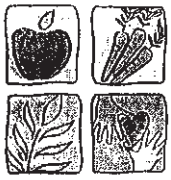
Education

- RBUFWP is close to our education center which consists of four schools that serve neighborhood youth from kindergarten to twelfth grade.
- There is strong interest among Rainier Beach High School faculty, parents and students in developing an integrated science, ecology and neighborhood-focused curriculum project. Young people could be involved in – mapping, helping shape ecological plans and , environmental stewardship, which would integrate across numerous classes.

We look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with supporters of this proposal. We believe that this innovative opportunity is one that will greatly benefit local residents and organizations in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Gregory Davis
Volunteer – President
206.914.1762
rainierbeachneighborhood@hotmail.com



Rainier Valley
Food Bank

1 April 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a statement of enthusiastic support on behalf of Rainier Valley Food Bank in favor of the proposal put forward by local residents and organizations to transform Seattle's Atlantic City Nursery site into Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Project. Repurposing the existing greenhouses, shade houses and possibly other open spaces on site would be unique in providing opportunities for year-round production. A similar use of Seattle Parks and Recreation property, the 4-acre Mara Farm in the South Park area, produces 13,000 pounds of food for community consumption each year.

The year-round production of produce at this site would be of particular benefit to the area's low-income residents. The Rainier Valley has the highest concentration of low-income residents in the City of Seattle. Our food bank now serves about 10,000 residents per month and would benefit greatly from a regular source of fresh produce, just as guests at Providence Regina House food bank in South Park receive tremendous nutritional benefit from the produce at Mara Farm. The site could also provide community members and organizations with year-round gardening opportunities and be a place to offer training, education and hands-on volunteer opportunities for youth.

The Atlantic City Nursery site is close to numerous public schools, a community center, and various affordable housing developments. The surrounding neighborhood has been called "the most diverse zip code in America," and represents a socio-economic mix that includes residents from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and up to 60 spoken languages. Many residents are recent immigrants whose primary skill sets are agricultural. Opportunities for interaction with a vital urban agriculture site would create immense value for people of all ages.

We believe that this innovative opportunity is one that will greatly benefit local residents and organizations and provide year-round access to sustainable, locally-grown fresh food for those residents in need. We ask that you support the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Project as generously as possible, and help this amazing plan come to full fruition.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Osborne, Executive Director
Rainier Valley Food Bank
206/723-4105 sam@rvfb.org