

MEETING DATE: 06/30/08

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of a Los Angeles County Smart Gardening
Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City at
Carlson Park or Veteran's Memorial Park.

ATTACHMENTS

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City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 06/23/08		Item Number: <u>A-1</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: (1) Approval of an Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the Establishment of a Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City; (2) Consideration of Recommendations of Possible Park Locations for the Learning Center; and (3) Designation of a Location for the Learning Center in a Park within Culver City.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Catherine A. Vargas/Public Works Environmental Programs and Operations		Phone Number: (310) 253-6411	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master E-Mail Notification List (06/18/08).			
Department Approval: Damian Skinner for Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director and City Engineer (6/10/08); William La Pointe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (06/11/08).		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (06/18/08)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller (06/18/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (06/18/08)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council: (1) approve an agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the establishment of a Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center (Learning Center) in Culver City; (2) consider recommendations by the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff regarding possible park locations for the Learning Center; and (3) designate a location for the Learning Center in a park within Culver City. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> The Countywide Smart Gardening Program was established in 1994 by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to help meet the Assembly Bill 939 goal of reducing disposal of solid waste in landfills by 50% by the year 2000. The Countywide Smart Gardening Program provides free workshops, participation in regional events and public outreach (Attachment 1). On-site workshops are held at the eleven (11) compost Demonstration Learning Centers located throughout the			

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County to provide hands-on teaching of composting, vermicomposting, grasscycling, and water-wise gardening (Attachment 2). Affordable backyard composting bins made of 100 percent recycled plastic are also available at the centers. This program is funded via the Solid Waste Management Fee collected by the County. The fee is part of the (per ton) tipping fee collected at the landfills.

Culver City expressed an interest in the Smart Gardening Program and was chosen as a potential site primarily because of its Westside location and the support for the project demonstrated by the community and City staff. In addition to the Culver City location, Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) will be adding four (4) additional sites to be located and designed in areas that are lacking this type of facility. The other locations have already confirmed participation. The LACPW is ready to go out to bid for the contractors once Culver City confirms their interest in participating by the offering of a site location. Culver City has until the end of June 2008 to identify a site location on which to design, build, and maintain a Demonstration Learning Center and to enter into an agreement with LACPW.

The Smart Gardening Program would guarantee to host three, 4-hour workshops per year. The facility would be available for community use and for additional educational workshops throughout the rest of the year. In addition, the facility would encourage self-learning opportunities through its informational signage and displays.

DISCUSSION:

Smart Gardening in Culver City

Staff researched and reviewed all park spaces within the City to identify a feasible location. After considering the available spaces in the various parks by category (Regional Park, Community Park, Neighborhood Park and Pocket- or Mini-Park) and geographical location, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department staff recommended consideration of areas within:

- Culver City Park (a Regional Park),
- Veterans Park, Fox Hills and Syd Kronenthal Park (Community Parks),
- and El Marino Park and Culver West Alexander Park (Neighborhood Parks).

Descriptions of these standard park categories are included in Attachment 3, along with aerial maps of the recommended park sites.

Public Works staff considered these park and open space options with the staff of the Los Angeles County Public Works and focused on the following site location criteria:

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- ADA accessibility
- Open to the public during regular park hours
- Visibility while in the park as well as while passing by
- The nature of the surrounding neighborhood (e.g., residential, commercial, school district, etc.)
- Size of the space in the park available for the Center (Demonstration Learning Centers are typically 1600-2500 square feet) in relation to the available space as a whole
- Availability of nearby restrooms
- Other park amenities available in the various parks

Parks and Recreation Commission Actions

At the April 1, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission discussed the Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Program and considered making a recommendation to the City Council that a Demonstration Learning Center be constructed in a park within Culver City. There was Commission consensus that staff's recommendation of Culver City Park as the site for the Learning Center would not be supported by the Commission. However, the Commission supported the Smart Gardening project and requested that staff return with additional suggestions as to the appropriate site for the Learning Center (moved by Commissioner Daly Redholtz; seconded by Commissioner James; passed 3-1-0-1 with Deen dissenting and Shapiro absent). An excerpt of the minutes of the April 1, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are provided as Attachment 4.

At the May 6, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission again discussed the Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Program and considered making a recommendation to the City Council that a Demonstration Learning Center be constructed in a park within Culver City. Staff presented an area within Veterans Memorial Park as a recommended site location, but the Commission did not concur. In addition, the Commission once again emphasized its strong opposition to locating the Learning Center within Culver City Park. The Commission then took action to recommend that the City Council approve an agreement with the Los Angeles County of Public Works to design and build a Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in a park within Culver City and stated that, through community and staff input, the park location for the Learning Center would be recommended to the City Council at a later date (moved by Commissioner Daly Redholtz; seconded by Vice Chair Shapiro; passed unanimously). An excerpt of the draft minutes of the May 6, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting are provided as Attachment 5.

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On May 21, 2008, the PRCS Director, Public Works Environmental Program and Operations staff, and Los Angeles County staff met with the Parks and Recreation Commission's Subcommittee on the Comprehensive Plan (Chair Cooper and Commissioner Daly Redholtz). Los Angeles County representatives provided a detailed presentation on the program. Attendees discussed a timeline for making a recommendation to City Council that would incorporate additional input from the Culver City community.

At the June 3, 2008 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, staff presented the item for further discussion and community input. The Commission took action to adjourn the meeting to June 7, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of hearing additional community comment (moved by Commissioner Daly Redholtz; seconded by Chair Cooper; passed 3-0-0-2 with Deen and James absent).

In noticing the June 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, several steps were taken to promote further community input. The following public outreach was done:

- Postcards mailed to fifty-one (51) Culver City Homeowner's Associations.
- A press release emailed to all local print media. Notice of the meeting was subsequently published in the June 5, 2008 issue of the Culver City News.
- An announcement containing detailed information posted on the City's website in three locations: Culver City Highlights, the PRCS Homepage, and the Environmental page.
- A cable crawler televised during Culver City meetings broadcast on Channel 35 during the week of June 2.
- 1,935 recipients email contacts notified on both June 2 and June 5.
- 400 half-page flyers distributed at various Culver City parks.

The June 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was attended by ten community members, seven City staff members, two Los Angeles County staff and three Commissioners. Two comments by members of the public taken at the podium were in support of the conservation message that the Smart Gardening program offers. Additional comments received by staff via email were read into the minutes. These comments, along with a summary cover page, are provided as Attachment 6.

After receiving all public comment and discussing the matter, the following motion was moved by Commissioner Daly Redholtz, seconded by Commissioner James and passed unanimously (3-0-0-2 with Deen absent and Shapiro excused):

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THAT A) THE COMMISSION ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTS THE SMART GARDENING DEMONSTRATION LEARNING CENTER IN CULVER CITY; B) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AS POSSIBLE PARK LOCATIONS FOR THE PROJECT IN THIS ORDER: 1) VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, 2) CARLSON PARK, AND 3) EL MARINO PARK; AND C) RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE SMART GARDENING CENTER NOT BE PLACED IN CULVER CITY PARK.

An excerpt of the draft minutes of the June 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission is provided as Attachment 7.

Staff Evaluation of the Learning Center Location

Culver City Public Works Department and Parks Division staff met several times to discuss the project and consider various locations for the Smart Gardening Program Learning Center in Culver City based on the aforementioned site location criteria. Each park in the City was considered and assessed as to its suitability for the project from an objective perspective that included park type, park geographical location, upcoming Park and Recreation Master planning activities and review of additional types of amenities in each park and at community locales. LACPW staff participated in several of these discussions and visited Culver City to view specific parks as potential Learning Center sites.

Considering the above information, staff recommends that in addition to the Parks and Recreation Commissions recommendation of (1) Veterans Memorial Park (a Community Park), (2) Carlson Park (a Neighborhood Park), and (3) El Marino Park (a Neighborhood Park), the following Culver City park locations also be considered for the Smart Gardening Learning Center:

- Culver City Park (a Regional Park)
- Syd Kronenthal Park (a Community Park)

The Next Steps in the Process

Currently the County is in the process of procuring a landscape architect to design the new Demonstration Learning Centers. Should the City Council approve building the Demonstration Learning Center at a park within Culver City, Los Angeles County will, in consultation with Culver City staff, develop a conceptual design for the Demonstration Learning Center. Any construction and/or development will be coordinated through the Public Works and Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Departments to achieve the best possible construction timeline for the

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Learning Center. In addition, design plans for the Center will come before the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council for comment.

Should the City Council approve building the Demonstration Learning Center at a park within Culver City, the City Attorney's Office will review/prepare an agreement with Los Angeles County that protects the City's land tenure within that park and clearly delineates both parties' responsibilities with respect to the Center.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Los Angeles County will fund the design, construction and maintenance of the Smart Gardening Center. Culver City's contribution will be providing the space for the Center, providing staff coordination during the design and construction of the Center and for on-going coordination of composting workshops (approximately three workshops per year). Approximately 100 hours of staff time will be required during the design, development and construction stages of this project.

The City will have no maintenance responsibility for the Center. Once the Demonstration Learning Center design is completed, the centers, including any exterior landscaping, are maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Los Angeles County Smart Gardening brochure
2. Current Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center locations
3. Categorization of park types and aerial views of recommended Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center locations
4. Excerpt of the approved minutes of the April 1, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting
5. Excerpt of the draft minutes of the May 6, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting
6. Stakeholder comments received via email and read into the public record at the June 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting (with summary cover sheet)
7. Excerpt of the draft minutes of the June 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting

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MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Approve a Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City at a designated park; and,
2. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and,
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City;

and
4. Consider recommendations by the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff of possible park locations for the Learning Center, including:
 - a) The Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendations (in priority order) of:
 - (1) Veterans Memorial Park,
 - (2) Carlson Park, and
 - (3) El Marino Park,
 - b) and staff's recommendations of Culver City Park and Syd Kronenthal Park;

and
5. Designate a Location for the Learning Center in a Park within Culver City.

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: (1) Approval of a Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City; (2) Consideration of Recommendations of Possible Park Locations for the Learning Center; and, (3) Designate a Location for the Learning Center in a Park within Culver City.

ATTACHMENTS

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Valuable Resources

Do you know that residential yard waste adds up to over 20% of what we send to our landfills in Los Angeles County? Leaves, grass and yard trimmings are valuable resources that we can easily recycle in our own backyards by composting and grass recycling. Also, planting water-wise yards and gardens helps reduce waste and save water.



When you practice these yard waste management techniques, you will conserve water, save money, reduce waste going to our landfills, and help preserve the environment. These simple practices do not take much time, but help you enjoy healthy and beautiful lawns and gardens.

Backyard Composting

Composting is an easy way to recycle yard wastes and keep them from being landfilled. It also helps conserve natural resources and saves you money! Using compost around your yard and garden helps your soil retain water better, improves soil structure and fertility, and helps reduce storm water runoff, keeping local rivers and the ocean cleaner. To learn how to compost, just follow the seven basic steps outlined below, and you'll be making and using compost from your yard wastes in as little as three to six months!

Composting is nature's way of recycling organic material, like leaves, grass clippings and kitchen scraps. Bacteria and other microorganisms, as well as a wide variety of insects, consume these materials producing an earthy smelling, nutrient-rich compost. This can be used around your yard and garden as a soil amendment, mulch, or as part of a homemade potting soil mix for house plants.

Making compost is very simple and can be done using a simple pile or a composting bin. Just follow these seven easy steps:

1. Use a mix of 50% brown material (saw dust, wood chips, dry leaves and plants, shredded paper, etc.) and 50% green material (fresh grass and plant clippings, kitchen scraps as well as livestock manure, etc.). Shred or cut all of these materials into pieces smaller than 1 inch in size (smaller is better) and mix the materials thoroughly, adding water until the mixture is as damp as a wet sponge. Make sure you fill the bin completely.



2. Turn or stir your compost bin or pile every 7 - 10 days, and add more fresh material to keep the bin full. Also, add water again until everything is as damp as a wet sponge.
3. Make sure you let the compost get hot (at least 140° F) between turnings to kill weed seeds and potentially harmful microorganisms. Keep adding new materials (use the same 50/50 mix as above) so that the bin stays full (if using a pile, try to keep it at least 3 feet high.)
4. Your compost is ready to harvest when it's dark brown, crumbly and smells like freshly turned earth (usually 2 - 6 months, depending on how hard you work at it.)
5. Don't compost things like diseased or infected plants, meat or meat by-products (pet food, etc.), dairy products, grease or oils, pet feces or litter, or weeds with obvious seeds (simply remove them before you put them into the composting bin.)
6. To buy a bin, just attend a workshop at one of our permanent Smart Gardening Learning Centers. To find out when the next workshop near you will be, call us toll free at 1(888)CLEAN LA, or visit our website at www.smartgardening.com to check the schedule. Bins are available to all County residents at a discounted price, and you'll learn more about how to use them when you attend the workshop.
7. Most composting problems can be solved easily, as shown below. If you have a problem you can't solve, or questions you need answered, just contact us by e-mail at www.smartgardening.com. We're here to help.

Problem	Solutions			
	Stir the Compost	Add Water	Add Brown Materials	Add Green Materials
Odors	X		X	
Slow Composting	X	X		X
Not Getting Hot	X	X		X
Compost is Dry	X	X		X

Worm Composting

Worm composting is easy, fun and a great way to help the environment while reducing the amount of waste we throw away each day. Worms are nature's composters because they quickly eat your fruit and vegetable scraps and turn them into a rich organic fertilizer. You can use worm castings as part of a potting soil mix for your house plants or around your yard and garden. The liquid (called worm tea) is also an excellent natural fertilizer. To compost using worms, all you need to do is follow a few basic guidelines:



1. You need a sturdy plastic or wooden storage container with a tight fitting lid (remember to punch plenty of holes in the top so the worms can breathe). You can also purchase a complete worm composting kit that includes a bin, bedding material and instructions at a discounted price by attending one of our Smart Gardening workshops. Keep the bin warm, but not hot, and in a shady location out of direct sunlight.
2. You will need at least ½ pound of worms (red wigglers work best) to get started. The worms reproduce quickly, so as you feed them, you'll get more worms.
3. Place shredded newspaper, peat moss or coconut fiber (coir) into the bottom of the bin to act as bedding material. You should also add about a cup of soil (dirt) to provide the grit your worms need to digest their food.
4. You should feed your worms small amounts of food scraps regularly. Add crushed, dried egg shells every 2 - 3 weeks to keep the pH around 7.0. Some feeding guidelines include:

Good Stuff	Things to Avoid
Fruit scraps	Oil, grease & fats
Vegetable scraps	Meat & dairy items
Coffee grounds & tea bags	Citrus rinds
Leaves & plant trimmings	Animal by-products
Shredded paper	Pet feces and litter
Nut shells	Rotting food

5. You can harvest your worm compost in about 4-6 weeks. To harvest your compost, just start feeding the worms at one end of the bin for 7-10 days. The worms will move to the end you're feeding and you can remove the finished compost from the other end without removing too many worms in the process. Don't worry about getting a few worms in with your finished compost, they make a great addition to your yard and garden and help keep your house plants healthy and looking great!

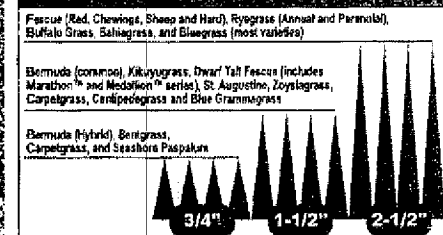
Grass Recycling ATTACHMENT

Grass recycling is a simple and natural approach to lawn care. Clippings are left on the lawn after mowing where they decompose quickly. Grass recycling is easy, quick, helps reduce thatch build-up and helps the environment, all at the same time. To learn how, just follow these suggestions:



1. Use a mulching mower, or convert your older mower by installing a retrofit kit that includes a mulching blade and attachment to block the grass ejection opening.
2. Remove the grass bag and remember to sharpen your blade at least once each year.
3. Never cut more than 1/3 of the height of the grass each time you mow. To properly cut your grass you need to know what kind you have. Then, simply consult the chart below to learn the proper cutting height.

Suggested Mowing Heights for Various Types of Grasses

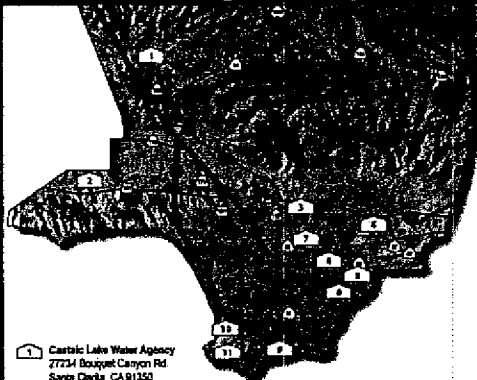


4. Only mow your lawn when the grass is dry so it won't stick together and clog the mower.
5. Your lawn should only need mowed every 10-14 days during the spring and summer, less frequently when your lawn is growing more slowly.
7. You can check if your lawn needs watering by walking across the grass in the early morning. If the grass doesn't bounce back up within 30 seconds, it needs water.
8. Water deeply, but infrequently. Give your soil time to absorb the water by watering in 5-10 minute intervals, then wait 15-30 minutes to let the water soak in, then water again.
9. Your lawn needs less fertilizer when you grass recycle. For more efficient fertilizing, try to use a time-released type, but be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions.
10. Remember, these are just guidelines. They give you a place to start, but monitor your results and adjust your methods as needed to meet your specific needs.

For more information call us at (888)CLEAN LA or visit our website at www.smartgardening.com

To learn more, attend a **FREE**
Smart Gardening Workshop!

County of Los Angeles Smart Gardening Learning Centers



1. Castaic Lake Water Agency
27724 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Sims Center, CA 91350
2. Gates Canyon Park
25551 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Castaic, CA 91302
3. Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(The facility changes on a seasonal basis)
301 N. Buckhorn Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007
4. Dunsmuir Oak Park
22251 Collins Blvd.
Covina, CA 91724
5. Schabert Regional Park
(The facility changes on a seasonal basis)
17250 E. Collins Rd.
Rowland Heights, CA 91744
6. Sonnenberg Park
11415 Rios Hedge Dr.
Whittier, CA 90608
7. Garvey Ranch Park
781 S. Orange Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91753
8. La Mirada Community Gardens
13618 Biele Ave.
La Mirada, CA 90638
9. Shreve Elementary School
710 W. Spring St.
Long Beach, CA 90806
10. Columbia Park
18721 Prairie Ave.
Torrance, CA 90504
11. South Coast Botanic Garden
(The facility changes on a seasonal basis)
26300 Cranborne Blvd.
Palms Verde, Palmdale, CA 93274

Call (888)CLEAN LA to find out when the next
workshop is scheduled, or visit our website at:

www.smartgardening.com



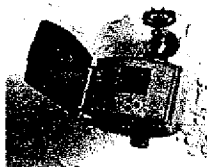
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Environmental Programs Division
Countywide Smart Gardening Program
PO Box 1450
Alhambra, CA 91802

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Water-wise Gardening

Water-wise gardening is a simple landscaping technique that will help conserve water and reduce the need for pruning, while maintaining a beautiful yard and garden. There are nine basic steps to help you plant and maintain a successful water-wise garden.

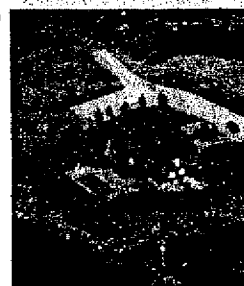
1. Improve your soil by routinely incorporating organic matter, such as your own compost, into your yard or garden. This helps soil retain moisture and improves structure.
2. Use mulch around plants and in bedding areas. Mulch prevents the soil from overheating and drying out. Mulch also helps reduce weeds and slow erosion. Use 2" - 4" underneath plants and shrubs.
3. Carefully plan your garden and try to choose drought-tolerant, low-water use plants that are well-suited to your intended use. For example, don't try to use plants that normally grows to 40' as a hedge. Also, try to use native plants. Most types are naturally drought tolerant and can help you restore a small part of our original ecosystem, right in your own backyard.
4. Group your plants together according to their water needs. This is called hydrozoning and it ensures that every plant gets exactly the right amount of water it needs to grow.
5. Use water-wise grass for lawns. Several types of turf grasses are widely available that have been developed specifically for Southern California that use only 1/3 to 1/2 as much water as other types of lawn grasses.
6. As an alternative to a regular turf grass lawn, you may want to consider using other types of ground cover plants. Turf grasses use a lot of water. Fortunately, there are many alternative ground cover plants that are attractive, require minimal maintenance, produce less waste and will reduce your water use between 1/3 to 1/2.
7. Install a well-planned, efficient irrigation system to save water and still produce healthy, attractive plants. The two most efficient water delivery systems are below-ground sprinklers and drip irrigation. Use a manual or automatic controller to regulate the amount of time you water.
8. Water early in the day to minimize evaporation and don't water when it's windy. Adjust your watering patterns seasonally to meet your plants' actual watering needs.
9. Know what kind of plants you have, and then only give them the amount of water they really need. Avoid over-watering because it not only wastes water, it can actually damage some plants.



Fire-wise Gardening

Los Angeles County is home to some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

Unfortunately, in many areas, fire is a natural part of the ecosystem. To help protect your home, especially in high-risk areas, you need to learn about, and practice, fire-wise gardening.



Fire-wise gardening uses careful planning, choosing fire resistant plants and landscape elements combined with proper maintenance to reduce your fire risk. To practice fire-wise gardening, just start with the steps listed below.

1. Assess your fire risk. Is your home on a hill or in a canyon area? Are you near highly flammable vegetation? What is the fire history in your area?
2. To create a fire-wise landscape, remember that the primary goal is fuel reduction. Evaluate your landscape plan and try to reduce the amount of flammable vegetation, particularly near your home. Be sure to leave a 30' zone around the house to help accommodate fire equipment, if necessary. Any plants in this area should be small, fire-resistant species that are spaced to reduce fire danger to your home.
3. Plan a defensible area. Remove all dry brush, grass and dead leaves from within 100', or 150' if you're on a hill, of your home or other structures. Trees and shrubs should be spaced so that there is at least 10' between them. Keep branches trimmed at least 10' from your roof. For trees or shrubs taller than 18', prune lower branches within 6' of the ground and remove dead leaves, twigs and branches under plants. For trees or shrubs less than 18', prune branches from the lower 1/3 of the plant.
4. Store firewood and other combustible materials well away from your house.
5. Water wisely. While all plants will eventually burn, healthy green plants burn less quickly. Make sure you give your plants the amount of water they need to stay healthy without over-watering which can promote excessive growth.
6. Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain it properly. Store and use flammable liquids carefully, and well away from your home. Dispose of smoking materials carefully. Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.

For more information, visit

www.firewise.org

or call the Los Angeles County Fire Department
Forestry Division at 1(323)890-4330

Smart Gardening Program

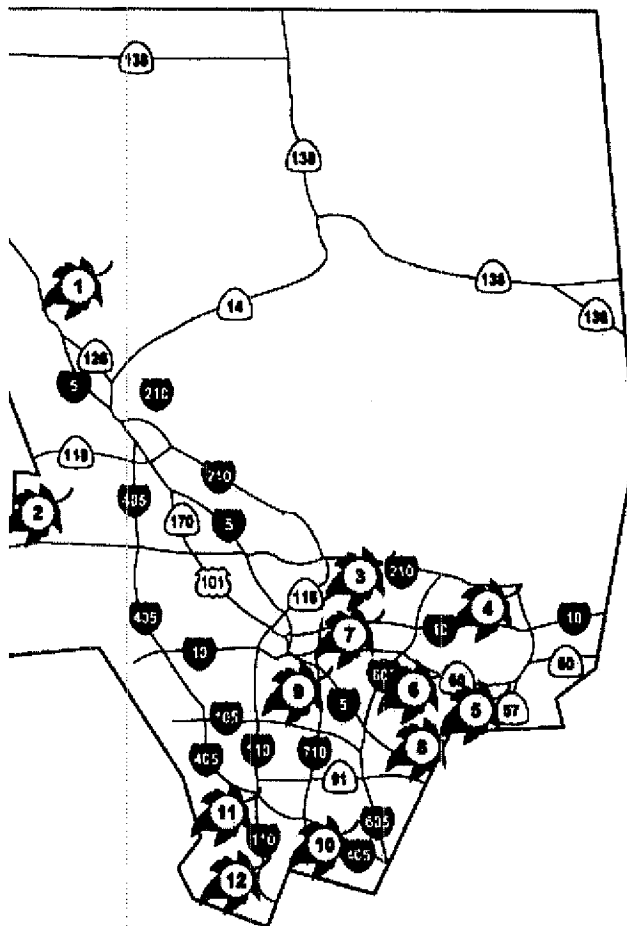
A Simple Guide to
Backyard Composting,
Worm Composting, Grass Recycling
Water-wise Gardening and
Fire-wise Gardening



COUNTYWIDE SMART GARDENING

ATTACHMENT 2

County of Los Angeles Smart Gardening Learning Centers



1 Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

2 Gates Canyon Park
25801 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Calabasas, CA 91302

3 Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007

4 Charter Oak Park
20261 Covina Blvd.
Covina, CA 91724

6 Peter F. Schabarum Regional
Park
17250 E. Colima Rd.
Rowland Heights, CA 91748

8 Sorensen Park
11419 Rose Hedge Dr.
Whittier, CA 90606

7 Garvey Ranch Park
781 S. Orange Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91755

8 La Mirada Community
Gardens
13518 Blola Ave.
La Mirada, CA 90638

9 Huntington Park Center
This Center is now CLOSED!

10 Birney Elementary School
710 W. Spring St.
Long Beach, CA 90806

11 Columbia Park
4045 190th St.
Torrance, CA 90504

12 South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: (1) Approval of a Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City; (2) Consideration of Recommendations of Possible Park Locations for the Learning Center; and, (3) Designate a Location for the Learning Center in a Park within Culver City.

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7. Excerpt of the draft minutes of the June 7, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	34-36

Valuable Resources

Do you know that residential yard waste adds up to over 20% of what we send to our landfills in Los Angeles County? Leaves, grass and yard trimmings are valuable resources that we can easily recycle in our own backyards by composting and grass recycling. Also, planting water-wise yards and gardens helps reduce waste and save water.



When you practice these yard waste management techniques, you will conserve water, save money, reduce waste going to our landfills, and help preserve the environment. These simple practices do not take much time, but help you enjoy healthy and beautiful lawns and gardens.

Backyard Composting

Composting is an easy way to recycle yard wastes and keep them from being landfilled. It also helps conserve natural resources and saves you money! Using compost around your yard and garden helps your soil retain water better, improves soil structure and fertility, and helps reduce storm water runoff, keeping local rivers and the ocean cleaner. To learn how to compost, just follow the seven basic steps outlined below, and you'll be making and using compost from your yard wastes in as little as three to six months!

Composting is nature's way of recycling organic material, like leaves, grass clippings and kitchen scraps. Bacteria and other microorganisms, as well as a wide variety of insects, consume these materials producing an earthy smelling, nutrient-rich compost. This can be used around your yard and garden as a soil amendment, mulch, or as part of a homemade potting soil mix for house plants.

Making compost is very simple and can be done using a simple pile or a composting bin. Just follow these seven easy steps:

1. Use a mix of 50% brown material (saw dust, wood chips, dry leaves and plants, shredded paper, etc.) and 50% green material (fresh grass and plant clippings, kitchen scraps as well as livestock manure, etc.). Shred or cut all of these materials into pieces smaller than 1 inch in size (smaller is better) and mix the materials thoroughly, adding water until the mixture is as damp as a wet sponge. Make sure you fill the bin completely.



2. Turn or stir your compost bin or pile every 7 - 10 days, and add more fresh material to keep the bin full. Also, add water again until everything is as damp as a wet sponge.
3. Make sure you let the compost get hot (at least 140° F) between turnings to kill weed seeds and potentially harmful microorganisms. Keep adding new materials (use the same 50/50 mix as above) so that the bin stays full (if using a pile, try to keep it at least 3 feet high.)
4. Your compost is ready to harvest when it's dark brown, crumbly and smells like freshly turned earth (usually 2 - 6 months, depending on how hard you work at it.)
5. Don't compost things like diseased or infected plants, meat or meat by-products (pet food, etc.), dairy products, grease or oils, pet feces or litter, or weeds with obvious seeds (simply remove them before you put them into the composting bin.)
6. To buy a bin, just attend a workshop at one of our permanent Smart Gardening Learning Centers. To find out when the next workshop near you will be, call us toll free at 1(888)CLEAN LA, or visit our website at www.smartgardening.com to check the schedule. Bins are available to all County residents at a discounted price, and you'll learn more about how to use them when you attend the workshop.
7. Most composting problems can be solved easily, as shown below. If you have a problem you can't solve, or questions you need answered, just contact us by e-mail at www.smartgardening.com. We're here to help.

Problem	Solutions			
	Stir the Compost	Add Water	Add Brown Materials	Add Green Materials
Odors	X		X	
Slow Composting	X	X		X
Not Getting Hot	X	X		X
Compost is Dry	X	X		X

Worm Composting

Worm composting is easy, fun and a great way to help the environment while reducing the amount of waste we throw away each day. Worms are nature's composters because they quickly eat your fruit and vegetable scraps and turn them into a rich organic fertilizer. You can use worm castings as part of a potting soil mix for your house plants or around your yard and garden. The liquid (called worm tea) is also an excellent natural fertilizer. To compost using worms, all you need to do is follow a few basic guidelines:



1. You need a sturdy plastic or wooden storage container with a tight fitting lid (remember to punch plenty of holes in the top so the worms can breathe). You can also purchase a complete worm composting kit that includes a bin, bedding material and instructions at a discounted price by attending one of our Smart Gardening workshops. Keep the bin warm, but not hot, and in a shady location out of direct sunlight.
2. You will need at least 1/2 pound of worms (red wigglers work best) to get started. The worms reproduce quickly, so as you feed them, you'll get more worms.
3. Place shredded newspaper, peat moss or coconut fiber (poir) into the bottom of the bin to act as bedding material. You should also add about a cup of soil (dirt) to provide the grit your worms need to digest their food.
4. You should feed your worms small amounts of food scraps regularly. Add crushed, dried egg shells every 2 - 3 weeks to keep the pH around 7.0. Some feeding guidelines include:

Good Stuff	Things to Avoid
Fruit scraps	Oil, grease & fats
Vegetable scraps	Meat & dairy items
Coffee grounds & tea bags	Citrus rinds
Leaves & plant trimmings	Animal by-products
Shredded paper	Pet feces and litter
Nut shells	Rotting food

5. You can harvest your worm compost in about 4-6 weeks. To harvest your compost, just start feeding the worms at one end of the bin for 7-10 days. The worms will move to the end you're feeding and you can remove the finished compost from the other end without removing too many worms in the process. Don't worry about getting a few worms in your finished compost, they make a great addition to your yard and garden and help keep your house plants healthy and looking great!

Grass Recycling ATTACHMENT

Grass recycling is a simple and natural approach to lawn care. Clippings are left on the lawn after mowing where they decompose quickly. Grass recycling is easy, quick, helps reduce thatch build-up and helps the environment, all at the same time. To learn how, just follow these suggestions:



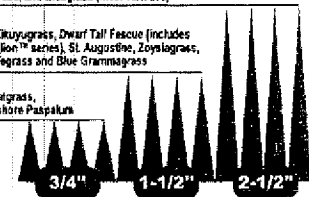
1. Use a mulching mower, or convert your older mower by installing a retrofit kit that includes a mulching blade and attachment to block the grass ejection opening.
2. Remove the grass bag and remember to sharpen your blade at least once each year.
3. Never cut more than 1/3 of the height of the grass each time you mow. To properly cut your grass you need to know what kind you have. Then, simply consult the chart below to learn the proper cutting height.

Suggested Mowing Heights for Various Types of Grasses

Fescue (Red, Chewings, Sheep and Bird), Ryegrass (Annual and Perennial), Buffalo Grass, Bahiagrass, and Bluegrass (most varieties)

Bermuda (common), Kikuyugrass, Dwarf Tall Fescue (includes Marston[®] and Modulation[™] series), St. Augustine, Zoysiagrass, Carpetgrass, Centipedegrass and Blue Graminagrass

Bermuda (hybrid), Bentgrass, Carpetgrass, and Seashore Paspalum

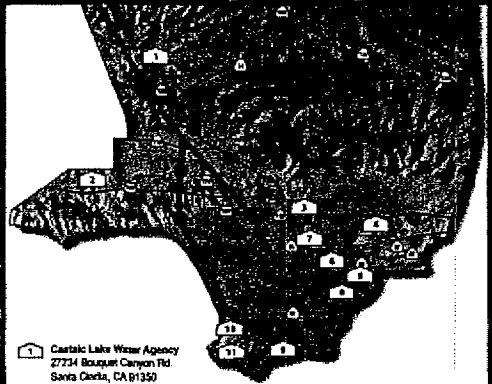


4. Only mow your lawn when the grass is dry so it won't stick together and clog the mower.
5. Your lawn should only need mowed every 10-14 days during the spring and summer, less frequently when your lawn is growing more slowly.
7. You can check if your lawn needs watering by walking across the grass in the early morning. If the grass doesn't bounce back up within 30 seconds, it needs water.
8. Water deeply, but infrequently. Give your soil time to absorb the water by watering in 5-10 minute intervals, then wait 15-30 minutes to let the water soak in, then water again.
9. Your lawn needs less fertilizer when you grass recycle. For more efficient fertilizing, try to use a time-released type, but be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions.
10. Remember, these are just guidelines. They give you a place to start, but monitor your results and adjust your methods as needed to meet your specific needs.

For more information call us at (888)CLEAN LA or visit our website at www.smartgardenina.com

To learn more, attend a FREE Smart Gardening Workshop!

County of Los Angeles Smart Gardening Learning Centers



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Catalic Lake Water Agency
27234 Boulevard Canyon Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91350 | 7. Garvey Ranch Park
781 S. Orange Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91755 |
| 2. Gates Canyon Park
25501 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Calexico, CA 91302 | 8. La Mirada Community Gardens
13518 Bickel Ave.
La Mirada, CA 90638 |
| 3. Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(The facility charges an admission fee)
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007 | 9. Birney Elementary School
710 W. Spring St.
Long Beach, CA 90805 |
| 4. Charter Oak Park
20261 Covina Blvd.
Covina, CA 91724 | 10. Columbia Park
18721 Prairie Ave.
Torrance, CA 90504 |
| 5. Schabert Regional Park
(The facility charges an admission fee)
17250 E. Colima Rd.
Rowland Heights, CA 91744 | 11. South Coast Botanic Garden
(The facility charges an admission fee)
26300 Greenhouse Blvd.
Palms Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 |
| 6. Serrano Park
11419 Rose Hedge Dr.
Whittier, CA 90606 | |

Call (888)CLEAN LA to find out when the next workshop is scheduled, or visit our website at:
www.smartgardening.com



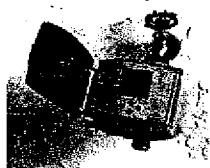
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Environmental Programs Division
Countywide Smart Gardening Program
PO Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802

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Water-wise Gardening

Water-wise gardening is a simple landscaping technique that will help conserve water and reduce the need for pruning, while maintaining a beautiful yard and garden. There are nine basic steps to help you plant and maintain a successful water-wise garden.

1. Improve your soil by routinely incorporating organic matter, such as your own compost, into your yard or garden. This helps soil retain moisture and improves structure.
2. Use mulch around plants and in bedding areas. Mulch prevents the soil from overheating and drying out. Mulch also helps reduce weeds and slow erosion. Use 2" - 4" underneath plants and shrubs.
3. Carefully plan your garden and try to choose drought-tolerant, low-water use plants that are well-suited to your intended use. For example, don't try to use plants that normally grows to 40' as a hedge. Also, try to use native plants. Most types are naturally drought tolerant and can help you restore a small part of our original ecosystem, right in your own backyard.
4. Group your plants together according to their water needs. This is called hydrozoning and it ensures that every plant gets exactly the right amount of water it needs to grow.
5. Use water-wise grass for lawns. Several types of turf grasses are widely available that have been developed specifically for Southern California that use only 1/3 to 1/2 as much water as other types of lawn grasses.
6. As an alternative to a regular turf grass lawn, you may want to consider using other types of ground cover plants. Turf grasses use a lot of water. Fortunately, there are many alternative ground cover plants that are attractive, require minimal maintenance, produce less waste and will reduce your water use between 1/3 to 1/2.
7. Install a well-planned, efficient irrigation system to save water and still produce healthy, attractive plants. The two most efficient water delivery systems are below-ground sprinklers and drip irrigation. Use a manual or automatic controller to regulate the amount of time you water.
8. Water early in the day to minimize evaporation and don't water when it's windy. Adjust your watering patterns seasonally to meet your plants' actual watering needs.
9. Know what kind of plants you have, and then only give them the amount of water they really need. Avoid over-watering because it not only wastes water, it can actually damage some plants.



For more information, visit
www.bewaterwise.com
or call us at 1(888)Clean LA

Fire-wise Gardening

Los Angeles County is home to some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. Unfortunately, in many areas, fire is a natural part of the ecosystem. To help protect your home, especially in high-risk areas, you need to learn about, and practice, fire-wise gardening.



Fire-wise gardening uses careful planning, choosing fire resistant plants and landscape elements combined with proper maintenance to reduce your fire risk. To practice fire-wise gardening, just start with the steps listed below.

1. Assess your fire risk. Is your home on a hill or in a canyon area? Are you near highly flammable vegetation? What is the fire history in your area?
2. To create a fire-wise landscape, remember that the primary goal is fuel reduction. Evaluate your landscape plan and try to reduce the amount of flammable vegetation, particularly near your home. Be sure to leave a 30' zone around the house to help accommodate fire equipment. If necessary, Any plants in this area should be small, fire-resistant species that are spaced to reduce fire danger to your home.
3. Plan a defensible area. Remove all dry brush, grass and dead leaves from within 100', or 150' if you're on a hill, of your home or other structures. Trees and shrubs should be spaced so that there is at least 10' between them. Keep branches trimmed at least 10' from your roof. For trees or shrubs taller than 18', prune lower branches within 6' of the ground and remove dead leaves, twigs and branches under plants. For trees or shrubs less than 18', prune branches from the lower 1/3 of the plant.
4. Store firewood and other combustible materials well away from your house.
5. Water wisely. While all plants will eventually burn, healthy green plants burn less quickly. Make sure you give your plants the amount of water they need to stay healthy without over-watering which can promote excessive growth.
6. Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain it properly. Store and use flammable liquids carefully, and well away from your home. Dispose of smoking materials carefully. Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.

For more information, visit
www.firewise.org

or call the Los Angeles County Fire Department
Forestry Division at 1(323)890-4330

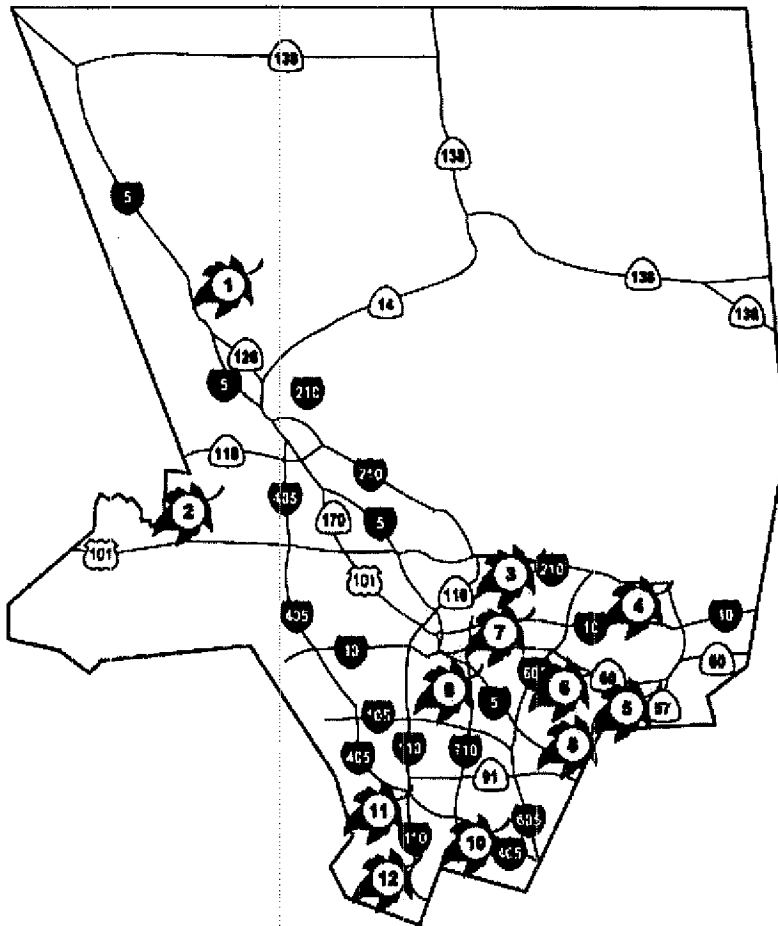
Smart Gardening Program

A Simple Guide to
Backyard Composting,
Worm Composting, Grass Recycling
Water-wise Gardening and
Fire-wise Gardening



ATTACHMENT 2

County of Los Angeles Smart Gardening Learning Centers



1 Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

2 Gates Canyon Park
25801 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Calabasas, CA 91302

3 Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007

4 Charter Oak Park
20261 Covina Blvd.
Covina, CA 91724

5 Peter F. Schabarum Regional
Park
17250 E. Colima Rd.
Rowland Heights, CA 91748

6 Sorensen Park
11419 Rose Hedge Dr.
Whittier, CA 90606

7 Garvey Ranch Park
781 S. Orange Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91755

8 La Mirada Community
Gardens
13518 Biola Ave.
La Mirada, CA 90638

9 Huntington Park Center
This Center is now CLOSED!

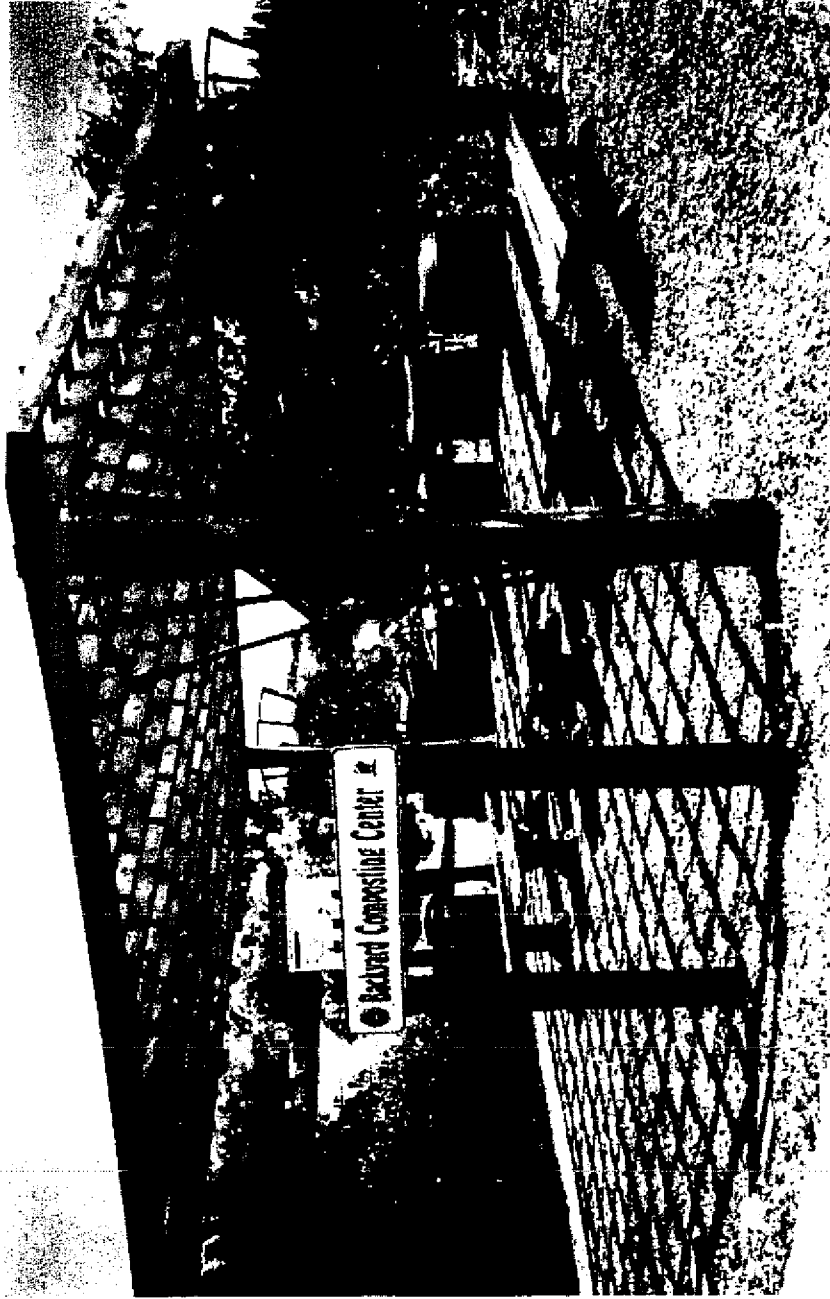
10 Birney Elementary School
710 W. Spring St.
Long Beach, CA 90806

11 Columbia Park
4045 190th St.
Torrance, CA 90504

12 South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274



Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita



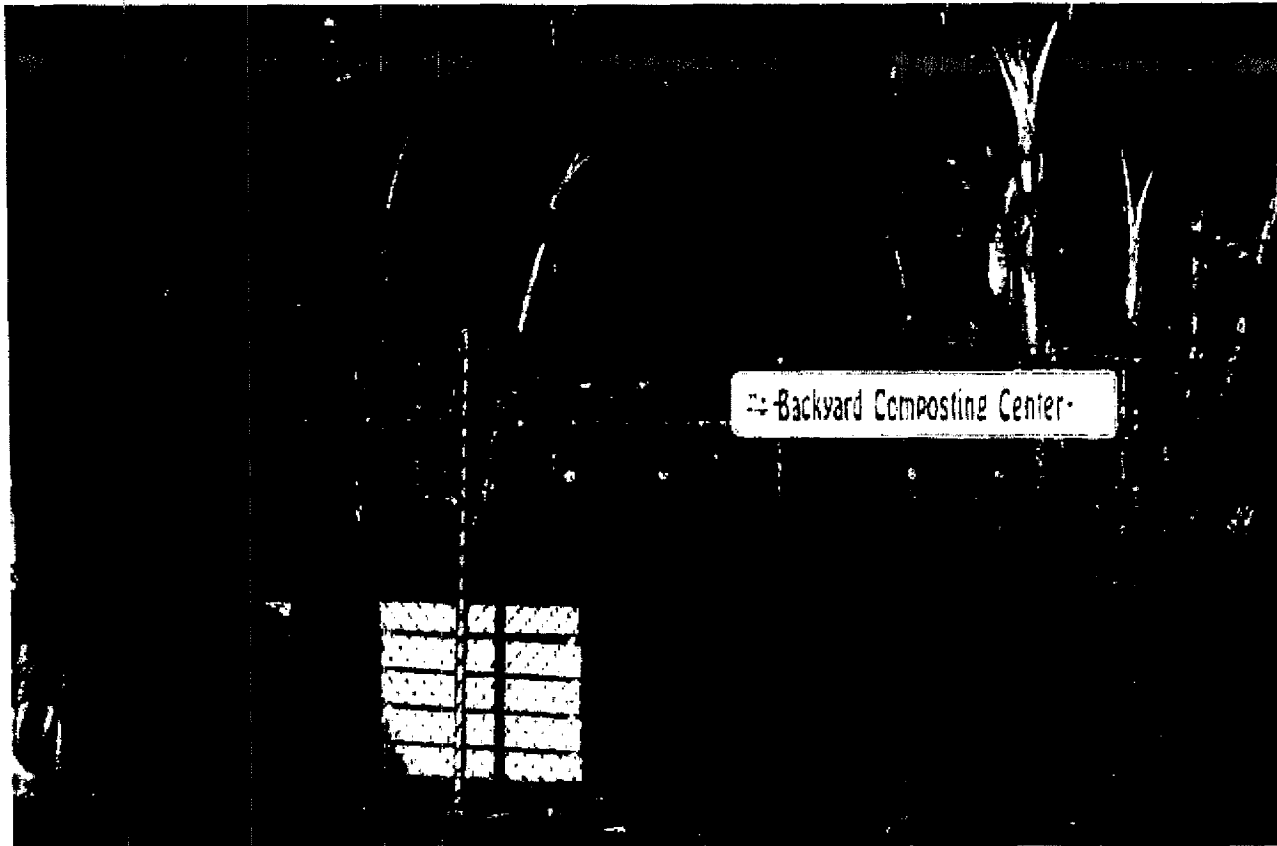
Gates Canyon Park
25801 Thousand Oaks Boulevard
Calabasas



Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia



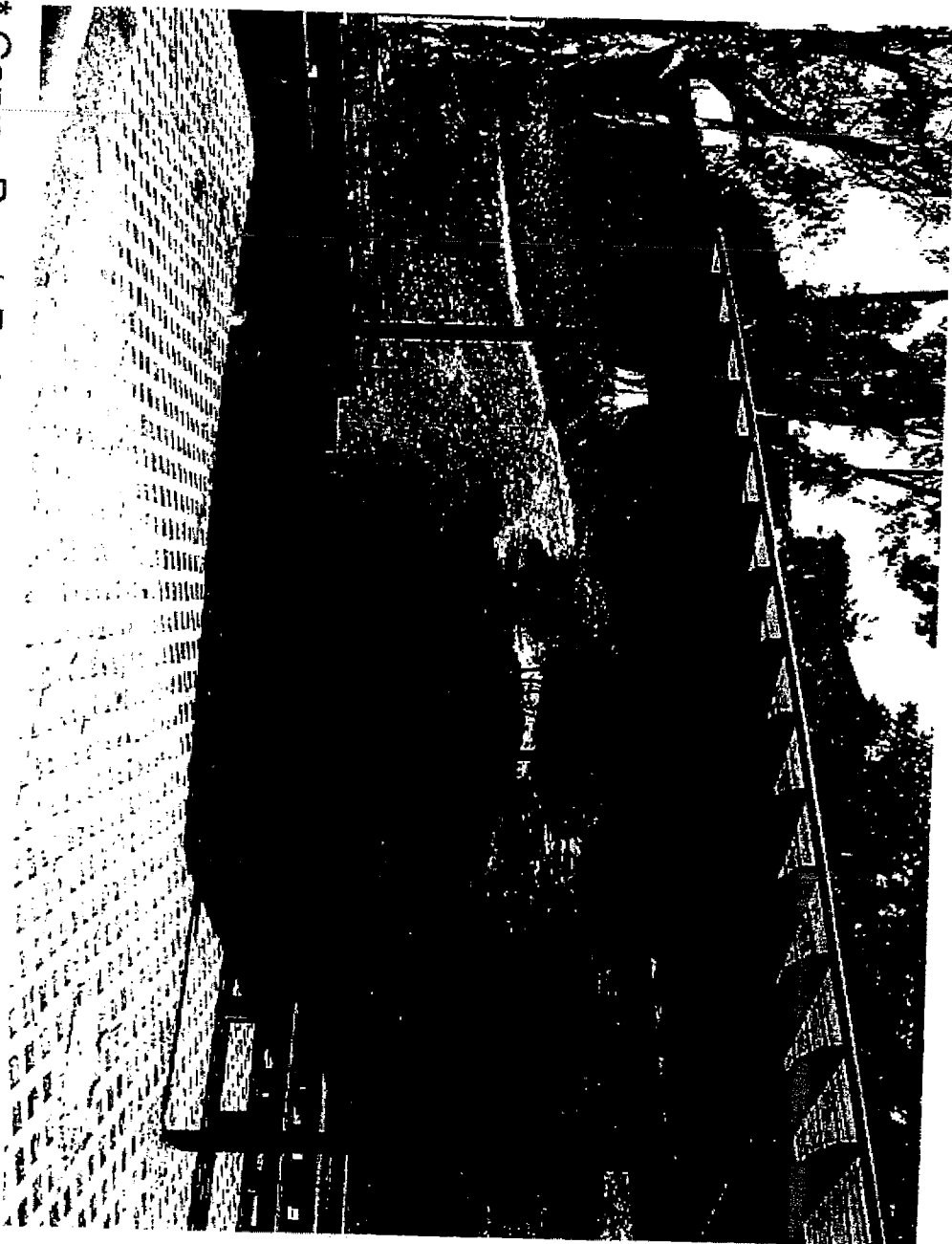
Charter Oak Park
20261 Covina Boulevard
Covina



Peter F. Schabarum Park
17250 E. Colima Road
Rowland Heights



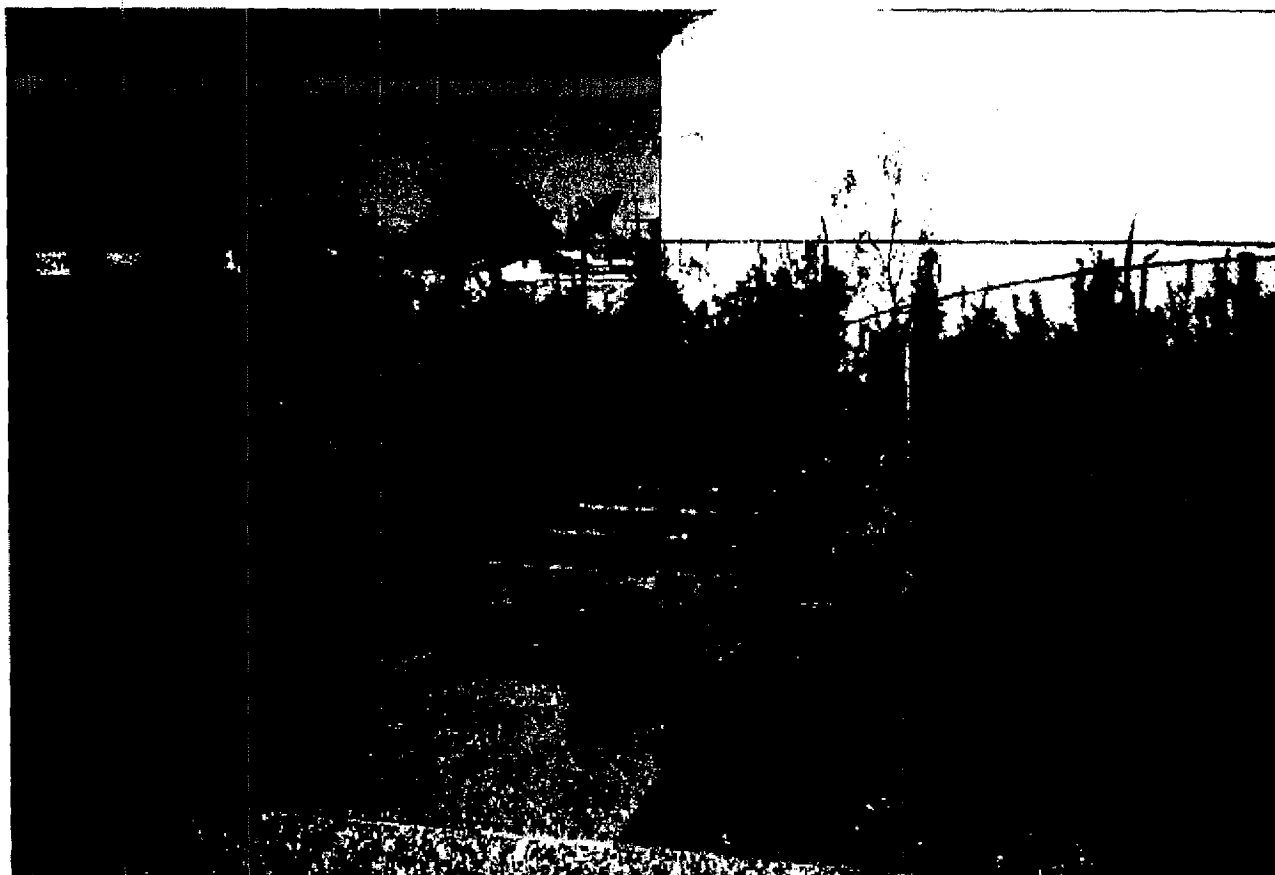
Sorensen Park
11419 Rosehedge Drive
Whittier



* Garvey Ranch Park
781 South Orange Avenue
Monterey Park



La Mirada
13518 Biola Avenue
La Mirada



Huntington Park Facility
Bissell St./Randolph Street
Huntington Park



Birney Elementary School
710 W. Spring Street
Long Beach



Columbia Park
4045 190th Street
Torrance



South Coast Botanic Gardens
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
Palos Verdes Peninsula

ATTACHMENT 3

Culver CITY

Carlson Park Culver City Park El Marino Park Syd Kronenthal Park Veterans Park

Neighborhood Park – Parks that are small in size (typically less than five acres). Facilities are typically limited to a small open area, a children's playground, and a bench or picnic table. Walking distance should not exceed one-quarter mile, and not require crossing of busy streets. Appropriate facilities include: Children's playground facilities, open (preferably grassy) play area, picnic tables or benches. The primary purpose of a park is to offer a small open-space/recreational venue of a more passive or intimate nature, internal to a specific residential developments), whether single-family or multiple-family. These parks are not intended to serve residents city-wide, as would a community park offering more formalized active play areas or sport fields or courts. Instead, due to their small size are intended to be more liberally sprinkled throughout the community and serve residents within or adjacent to a planned residential development. Shade is important, as well as easy visibility from residences or other uses across adjoining streets to assure a more secure environment. Parks should provide a strong emphasis on quiet, passive use, such as picnic and sitting areas, and should therefore be easily accessible by foot or bicycle. Examples of neighborhood parks in Culver City may include Blanco Park, Culver West Alexander Park and El Marino Park.

Community Park - A combination playground and park with fairly intensive development that affords non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. These parks can range from five to fifteen acres and should be geographically centered to serve a radius of one-half mile or 6,000 population. At least 50% of the site should be flat and usable, and provide space for both active and passive uses. Appropriate facilities include: Unstructured open play areas for softball, soccer, youth baseball, Frisbee, etc., children's playground with seating available nearby, unstructured open play area for pick-up games, paved games court, picnic shelter, restrooms, areas for skateboards, parking to support the use of the facilities. Examples of community parks in Culver City may include Fox Hills Park, Syd Kronenthal Park and Veterans Park.

Regional Park - A regional park is a larger park providing active and structured recreation activities for youth and adults. Generally it is designed for organized activities and sports, although natural areas may be provided depending on the suitability of the site. Parks typically serve a much larger area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks. The size can be anything greater than 15 acres, the recommended service radius for a park of this type is 15-20 minutes travel time. Parks are intended to be used for active recreation activities and are often highly developed and programmed. Facilities may be designed for sports and organized activities, but individual and family activities are also encouraged. Appropriate facilities include: Formal ballfields-softball, baseball, soccer, etc.; outdoor basketball, volleyball courts; tennis courts; open free play area; restrooms; picnic facilities (including shelters); trail/pathway systems; space for special outdoor events; children's playground (if needed to serve the neighborhood); areas for skateboards, roller blades; parking sufficient to support the activities programmed on the site. Culver City Park is considered a regional park.

City of
Culver CITY
Carlson
Park

Carlson Park
2.454 acres

BRADDOCK DR

MENTONE AV

LE BOURGET AV

PARK AV

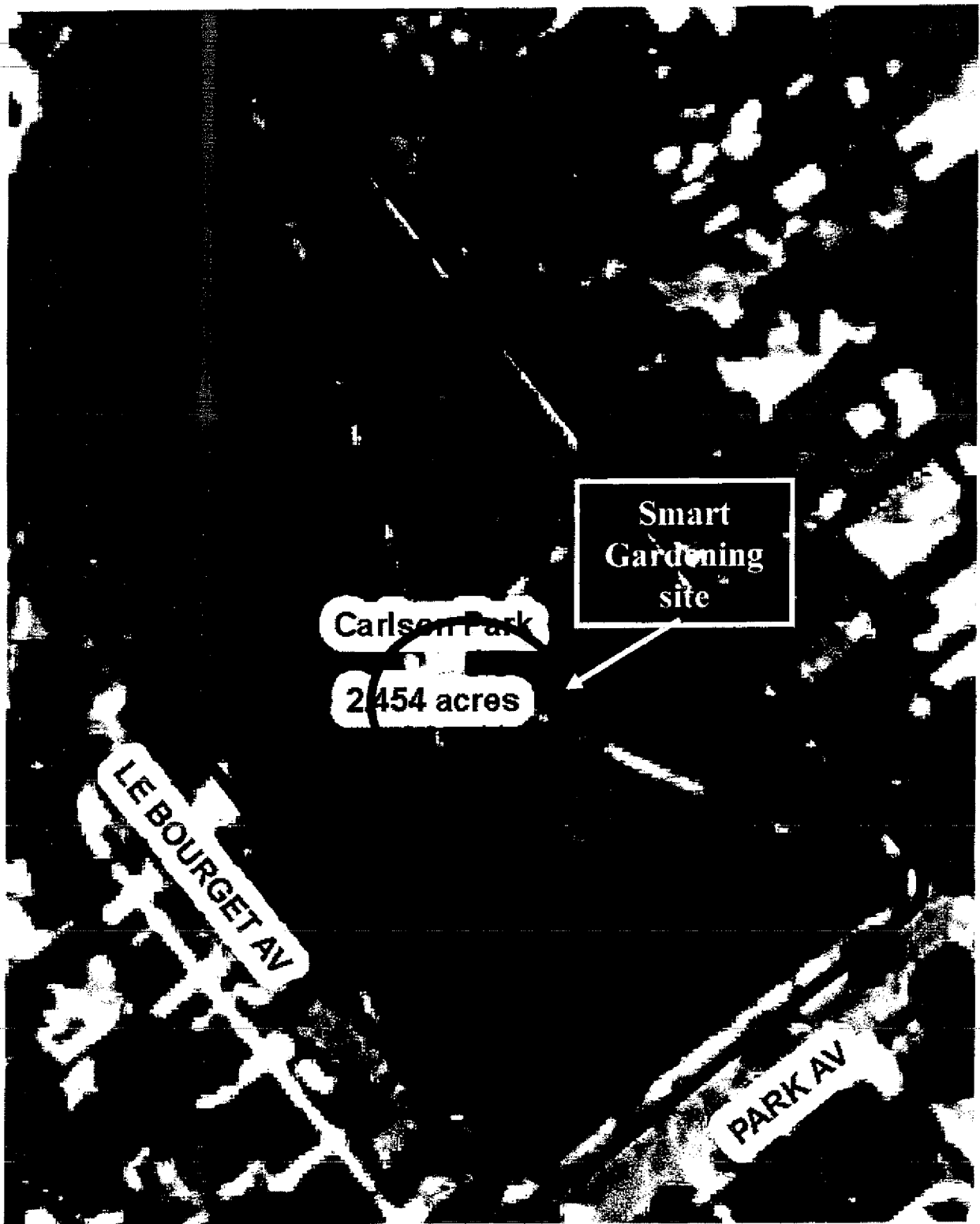
VINTON AV

JASMINE AV

ARRAGUT DR



City of Culver, Indiana
1997



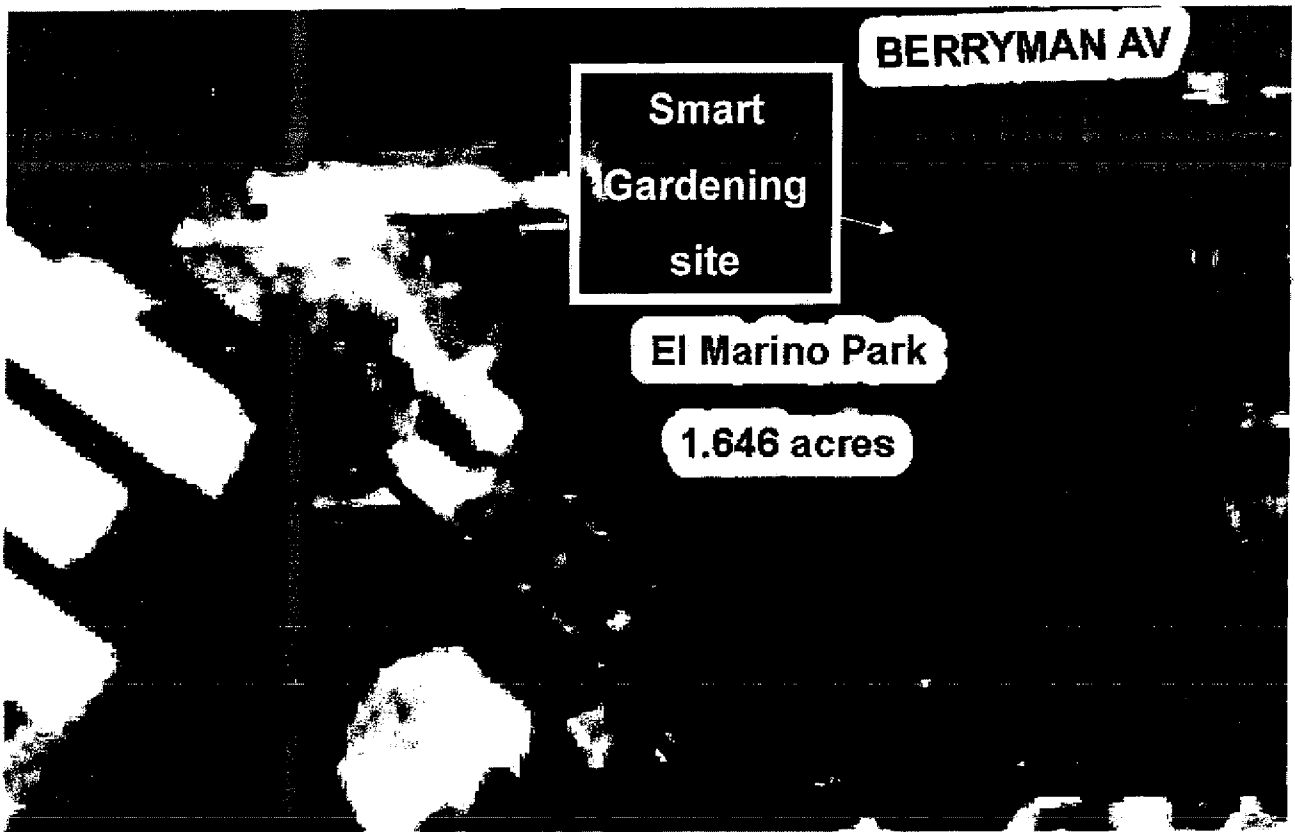
City of
Culver City
Culver City Park
Bill Botts Field

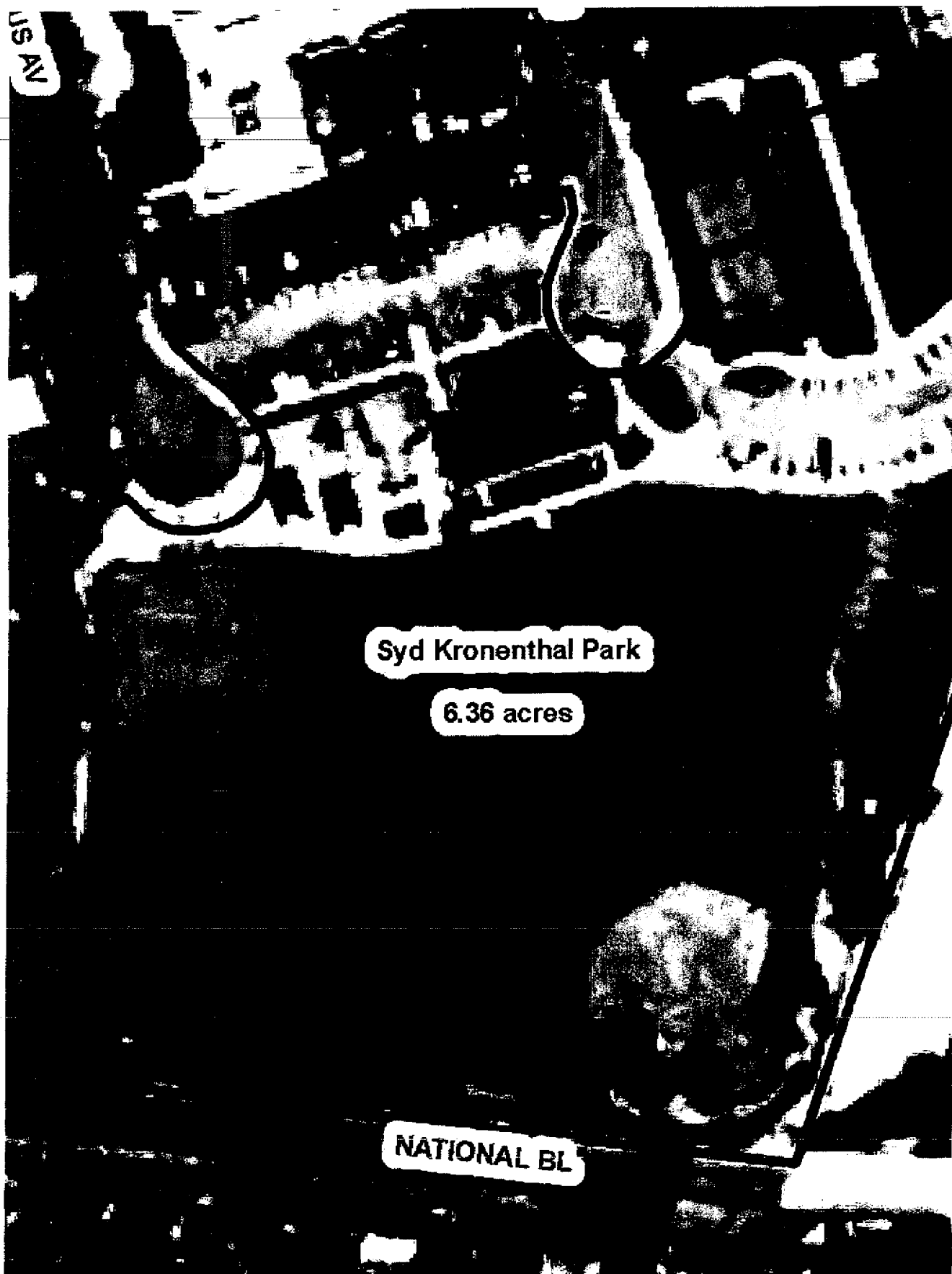


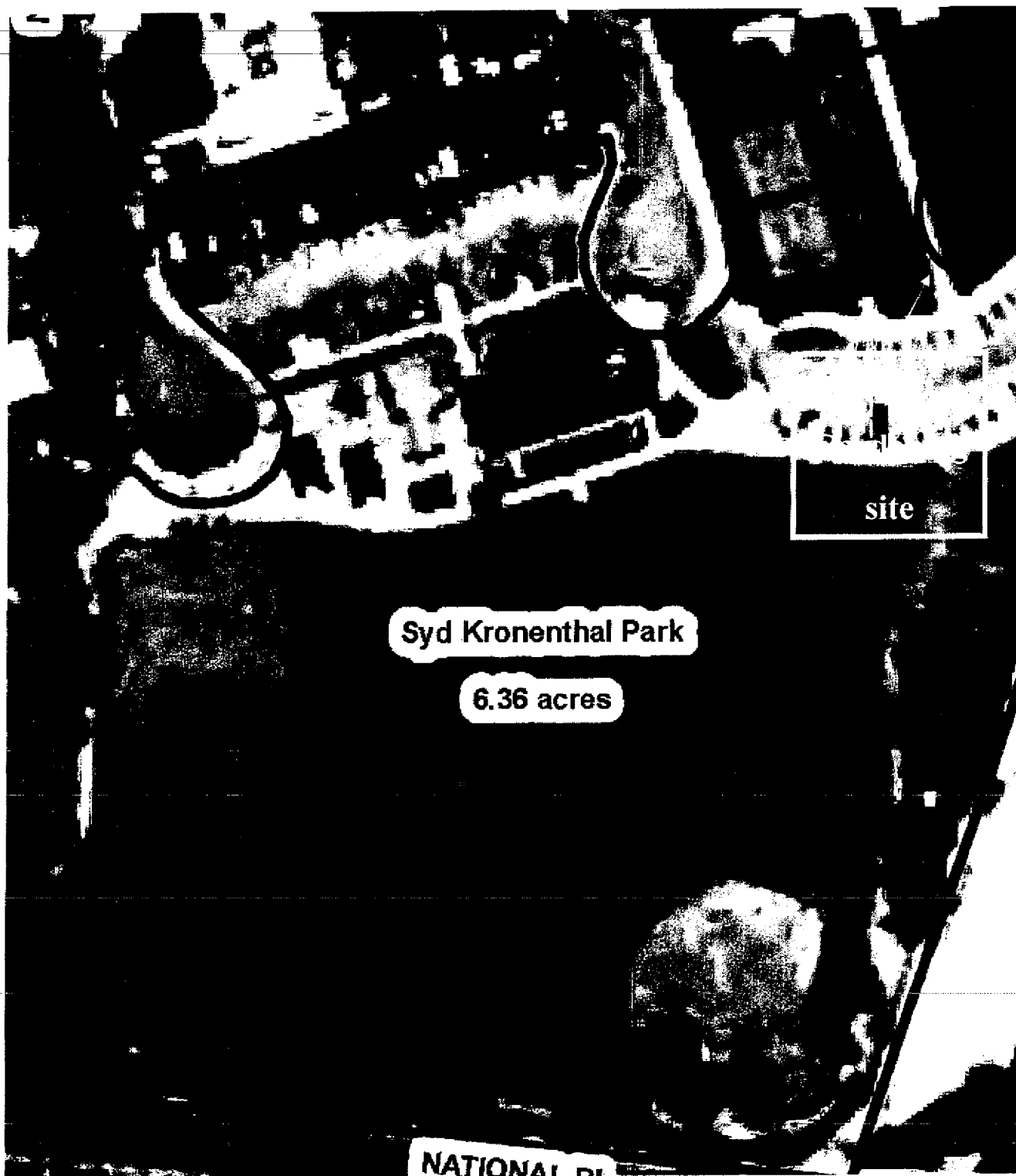


City of
Culver City
El Marino
Park









site

Syd Kronenthal Park

6.36 acres

NATIONAL DI

City of
Culver City
Veterans
Park

CULVER BL

Veterans Park
11.241 acres

OVERLAND AV

KEYSTONE AV

BARMAN AV

COOMBS AV

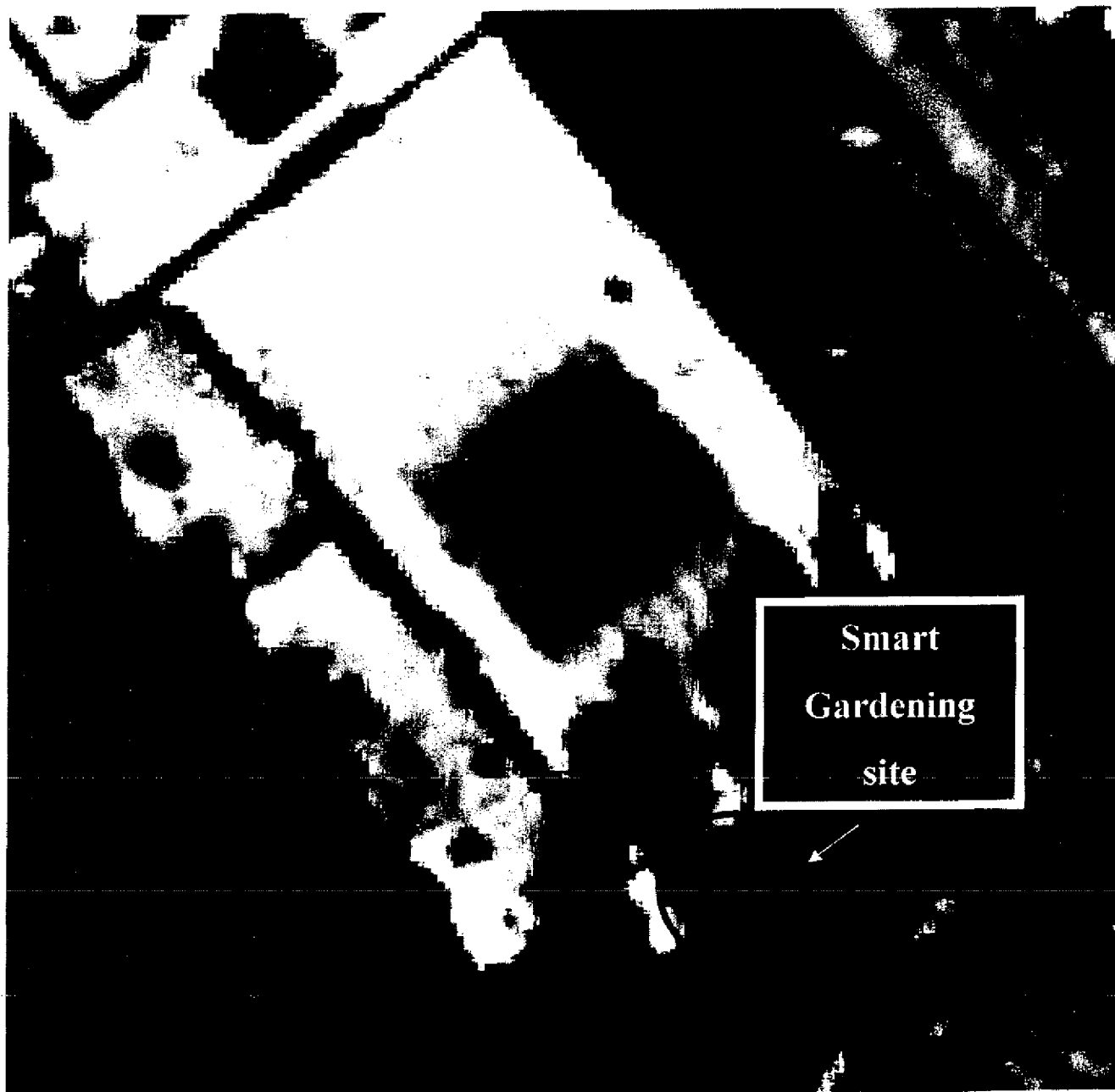
LINDBLADE ST

WAGNER ST

RADDOCK DR



25



ATTACHMENT 4

EXCERPT OF THE MINUTES OF THE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE April 1, 2008
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 7:05 P.M.
CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

CHAIR JEFFERY COOPER

Call to Order

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jeffery Cooper at 7:05 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, City Hall

oOo

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Jeffery Cooper
Commissioner Vicki Daly Redholtz
Commissioner Charles A. Deen
Commissioner Jeanette James

Members Excused: Vice Chair Anita Shapiro

oOo

oOo

Item A-3

Consideration of a Recommendation to City Council regarding the design and construction of a Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center at Culver City Park.

Staff Report:

Cathi Vargas provided a report on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Centers and the possible addition of such a Center at Culver City Park.

Discussion:

Commissioner Deen spoke about how valuable the space at Culver City Park is, adding that he thought this would be out of place there and suggested looking for another site that does not take up park land.

Commissioner Daly Redholtz emphasized the lack of parking at Culver City Park, as well as a Smart Gardening Center being out of context with the rest of the park. Commissioner Daly Redholtz said that she supports the Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center but would like staff to come back with recommendations for a site other than Culver City Park.

Commission James concurred that this seems like a very worthy project but Culver City Park is not the best location and that she would prefer to see it somewhere where it could be readily utilized.

Chair Cooper also emphasized his admiration for the educational and environmental aspects of the program but reiterated that Culver City Park has so many activities and features already and would prefer to explore having this program at another site.

Public Comment:

Staff read into record an email submitted by Jim Lamm, supporting the addition of the Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center at Culver City Park.

MOTION THAT THE COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE SMART GARDENING DEMONSTRATION LEARNING CENTER PROJECT AND REQUESTS STAFF TO RETURN AT THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WITH AN ALTERNATE SITE TO CULVER CITY PARK.

Discussion:

Commissioner Deen expressed his thoughts that the City Parks are a valuable resource to the community with limited space and should not house a County program that could readily be located on other non-park space.

M/S: Daly Redholtz/James Ayes: Cooper Nays: Deen

Motion passes 3 - 1.

o0o

These minutes are not official until approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

ATTACHMENT 5

EXCERPT OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE May 6, 2008
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 7:05 P.M.
CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

CHAIR JEFFERY COOPER

Call to Order

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jeffery Cooper at 7:05 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, City Hall

o0o

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Jeffery Cooper
Vice-Chair Anita Shapiro
Commissioner Vicki Daly Redholtz
Commissioner Charles A. Deen
Commissioner Jeanette James

o0o

Item A-3

Consideration of a Recommendation to City Council regarding the design and construction of a Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in a Park within Culver City.

Staff Report:

Cathi Vargas provided a report on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Centers, suggesting a site at Veteran's Park and asking for the support of the Commission to the Learning Center in general, if a site cannot be agreed upon immediately.

Discussion:

Commissioner Daly Redholtz thanked staff for the complete report and supported the site location at Veteran's Park.

Commissioner Shapiro offered full support for the project but expressed concern that Veteran's Park is already widely used and would rather see it located at one of Culver City's passive parks.

Commission Deen offered his agreement with using a passive park site, adding that he would like to involve the public and earn the support of the neighbors.

Chair Cooper, while also offering support for the program, expressed concern about putting the Learning Center at Veteran's Park while the Master Plan is still in progress.

Discussion also included the Commission's strong opposition to the recommendation to locate the Demonstration Learning Center at Culver City Park.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO DESIGN AND BUILD A SMART GARDENING DEMONSTRATION LEARNING CENTER IN A PARK WITHIN CULVER CITY; THROUGH COMMUNITY AND STAFF INPUT, THE LOCATION WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL AT A LATER DATE.

M/S: Daly Redholtz/Shapiro Ayes: All

o0o

ATTACHMENT 6

06-16-08_Public Comment Tracking - Smart Gardening via Email:
June 2 – June 6, 2008

FACILITY NAME	Only Choice	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	TALLY
Blanco Park		1			1
Carlson Park			1		1
Culver City Park / Bill Botts Field	1		2		3
Culver West Alexander Park					0
El Marino Park					0
Fox Hills Park	1			1	2
Lindberg Park		1			1
Syd Kronenthal Park	1	1		1	3
Tellefson Park					0
Veterans Park	1	4	3		8
OTHER	1-Any park near a school 1-Culver- Slauson Park 1-Any wheelchair accessible park		1-Near Ballona Creek		4

**06-16-08_Public Comment Tracking - Smart Gardening via Email:
June 2 – June 6, 2008**

Thu 6/5/2008 4:53 PM - Stephen Fry, Culver City

Hello:

I'm interested in your Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center. This is a great idea. I think a lot of Seniors would be interested in it, and if it were located in an area on the north end of Vets park it would be convenient to Seniors and also to parking for others. How about setting aside an area isolated from the playground, like on the side of the restrooms.

Another appropriate facility might be near the La Ballona Creek area next to the City Works off Jefferson Blvd. Just a couple of thoughts.

Wed 6/4/2008 1:36 PM - Laura Stuart, Howard Hughes Center, Los Angeles

1. Vets Park
2. Carlson Park (which is under utilized)

Tue 6/3/2008 10:43 PM - Karen Torimaru, Culver City

I would like to see the Smart Gardening location at Veterans Park because there is the most parking at that location and it is flat.

My second choice would be Culver City Park - Bill Botts Field. My concern there is between soccer and baseball it is often difficult to find parking. Additionally the hills could be a detriment to purchasing things like a compost bin if they are sold at the classes.

My third choice would be Kronenthal Park. My main concern is that it is very small. Parking there is pretty good considering the size of the park.

Tue 6/3/2008 8:27 PM - BONNIE WACKER

I'm very enthusiastic about your idea to invest in this Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City! What a great educational opportunity for our school children. It would be great if we have space for it at Lindberg park or Vets Park because that way it can be used by the 3 schools Farragut Elementary, Culver Middle School and Culver High School as a learning center for field trips.

Tue 6/3/2008 6:46 PM - Ken Browning, Culver City

TWIC:

It would seem to me that there would be 2-3 obvious choices of location for this educational Smart demo garden, some of which I have maintained here and in Boston, MA.

The first would be somewhere near Veterans Building, another near Bill Botts field or the Skate Park, the third that I can think of right off the bat, would be the park up on Green Valley, where all those upscale apartment dwellers could learn heaps while they save up to buy a house!

**06-16-08_Public Comment Tracking - Smart Gardening via Email:
June 2 – June 6, 2008**

Tue 6/3/2008 4:14 PM - Araceli Perez

Hello

It's great that CC will have a SMART GARDENING DEMONSTRATION LEARNING CENTER !!!!! I won't be able to attend the June 7th discussion, but I'd like to comment:

It'd be great to include vegetables and fruit trees in the demonstration garden, so people can see how easy it is to grow their own food in a small space. This garden could provide some snacks for events and would generate "green material" (as opposed to dry "brown material") for a demonstration compost bin... if there will be compost bins for people to take home, I assume there will a demonstration compost bin...

It'd be also amazing if you include some California native plants. Even better if a lesson can be given on how native plants save water, need less labor, produce less waste and host more wildlife (i.e. birds) than the traditional style front yard. (Have you visited the garden/garden demonstration behind Santa Monica College, at 1718 and 1724 Pearl St? check <http://www.smgov.net/epd/news/GardenGarden.htm> and http://www.smgov.net/epd/residents/Water/pdf/GG_Project_Description2006.pdf)

About location... I don't know if Culver-Slauson Park is big enough, and it's right next to the freeway, which might not be so appealing for a "green" spot, but this might be actually the best reason to put it there, to make it a nicer spot to visit. It'd be visible from the freeway and it'd have the creek behind, which would make it a great wildlife spot, since there are already lots of birds hanging out by the creek and they could use some green spaces close by...)

It sounds like a really exiting project!

Tue 6/3/2008 11:11 AM - Arthur Hoyle, Director of Development, Park Century School

Hi --

I'm writing on behalf of Park Century School, 3939 Landmark Street, CC. We would prefer that the gardening site be located at Syd Kronenthal Park so that our students could have convenient access to its programs. Our second choice would be Veterans Park.

Tue 6/3/2008 10:26 AM - Phyllis Davis

Because I am handicapped of course I think the most ideal park/garden learning center would had paths that were wheelchair and walker accessible. Some stores offer motorized wheelchairs for the elderly to get around, could something like that be offered as well, say for a small fee?

I would also suggest classes that teach people how to grow vegetables and plants native to Southern California on their patios and balconies or any small space. A course on what plants attract butterflies and beneficial insects, and birds, and how to deal with pests, squirrels, etc., safely, organically. Will there be anything discussion on roof gardens? Finally, water conservation.

**06-16-08_Public Comment Tracking - Smart Gardening via Email:
June 2 – June 6, 2008**

Tue 6/3/2008 9:52 AM - Karen Gibbs, Culver City

My recommendation is Fox Hills Park. The area needs community activities!

Tue 6/3/2008 9:47 AM - John Derevlany, Culver City

My vote for the Smart Garden location would either be Blanco (first choice) and then Veterans (2nd).

I feel the types of uses and activities planned for this Smart Garden should be in one of the more "public" or easily accessible parks. We have lots of wonderful parks here, but some are a little too tucked into neighborhoods for this project (such as Culver West, El Marino, Fox Hills, and Syd Kronenthal). I lived here for several years before I even realized these parks existed.

Culver City Park has some great spaces, but I don't know anyone who can actually walk to that park. It's also so big that I'm afraid the learning center could get lost. Again, this park requires someone to "hunt down" the Learning Center.

Both Blanco and Veterans are on main streets and offer drive-by potential. I feel the Smart Garden should be something that attracts attention and brings people in, rather than being yet another great Culver City facility that you have to track down. That's why I would put it in the most public of the public parks.

I put Blanco first because I think it could use an additional "attraction." Veterans park already has lots of activities, the plunge, teen center, vets auditorium, etc.

Thanks,

Tue 6/3/2008 9:31 AM - Judith Monkkonen, Culver City

It seems obvious to me that the only choice is the Botts, upper area park. All the others are so busy and fully used that to take any space from them would be a bad idea. Please use the Botts park.

Tue 6/3/2008 9:14 AM - Linda Messner, Culver City

I would like to see this center placed at the Syd Kronenthal Park. It would be convenient since the Metro line will also be in that area.

Mon 6/2/2008 6:30 PM - Jody Reichel

I'm very glad to hear that Culver City will soon be home to a county Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center. I hope that you will put it in one of the parks nearest on or more of our schools. It could be a great educational tool. Thank you.

ATTACHMENT 7

These minutes are not official until approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

EXCERPT OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE

ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE June 7, 2008
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 9:00 AM
CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

CHAIR JEFFREY COOPER

Call to Order

DRAFT

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jeffery Cooper at 9:05 a.m. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, City Hall

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Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Jeffrey Cooper
Commissioner Vicki Daly Redholtz
Commissioner Jeanette James

Members Absent: Commissioner Charles A. Deen

Members Excused: Vice-Chair Anita Shapiro

Staff Present: William LaPointe, Director, PRCS
Patricia Mooney, Senior Management Analyst, PRCS
Brianna Frazier, Senior Management Analyst, PRCS
Cathi Vargas, Environmental Coordinator, Public Works
Damian Skinner, Sanitation Manager, Public Works
Eugene Paulish, Administrative Secretary, PRCS

Also Present: Christine Frias, County of Los Angeles, Dept. of Public Works
Iwen Tseng, County of Los Angeles, Dept. of Public Works

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Damian Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda.

None.

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Consideration of a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Possible Park Locations for a Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Center in Culver City.

Public Comment:

Carole Gustin, resident at Raintree, expressed her enthusiasm for the Smart Gardening program and added that it would be a great benefit to have meetings/lessons at Raintree, which is home to many residents who could use information on composting and container gardening.

Lynn Bassone, resident of Lakeside Village Condominiums, also voiced her strong support of the Smart Gardening Program, adding that she would like to see her condo association become more conscious of the best methods of landscaping, water use, and composting.

Patti Mooney and Brianna Frazier, of PRCS Administration, read into record 13 emails received, all in support of the Smart Gardening Project in Culver City. Patti Mooney provided a chart detailing the preferred parks as indicated in the received emails. (Attached for City Council's consideration.)

Staff Report:

Cathi Vargas provided a brief report on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' Smart Gardening Demonstration Learning Centers. Christine Frias, along with Iwen Tseng, both of the County of Los Angeles, presented a PowerPoint demonstration detailing the program, highlighting examples of its existence in other parts of Los Angeles County and outlining the desire and criteria for having this project in Culver City.

Discussion:

Commissioner James asked County staff about methods to keep pests out of the Smart Gardening areas; she also inquired about the anti-graffiti properties of the materials used in creating the Smart Gardening area.

Commissioner Daly Redholtz reported that she had made 2 separate complete visits to all the Culver City parks within the last few weeks and asked staff why Tellefson Park was excluded from the list of possible sites.

Chair Cooper pointed out that, as mentioned in several of the emails read into record, we have an educational opportunity that goes beyond the region and community, that we have the educational opportunity with our schools to teach young people about these techniques at an early age and get them involved early on.

MOTION THAT A) THE COMMISSION ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTS THE SMART GARDENING DEMONSTRATION LEARNING CENTER IN CULVER CITY; B) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PARK LOCATIONS IN THIS ORDER: 1) VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, 2) CARLSON PARK, AND 3) EL MARINO PARK; AND C) RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE SMART GARDENING CENTER NOT BE PLACED IN CULVER CITY PARK.

M/S: Daly Redholtz/James Ayes: All
Passes unanimously.

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M/S: Daly Redholtz/James Ayes: All
Passes unanimously.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION OF IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEM AT A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will be considering the following item at
their meeting of:

June 30, 2008

Time 7:00 pm

**The City Council will consider the construction of a
smart gardening demonstration learning center at either
Carlson Park or Veterans' Memorial Park.**

Location:

Mike Balkman Council Chambers
9770 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232

For more information contact:

Catherine Vargas
Environmental Coordinator
310-253-6411

-Or-

Damian Skinner
Environmental Programs & Operations Manager
310-253-6421

City Council/Agency meetings can be viewed live on Channel 35 by most Comcast subscribers. Meetings are also broadcast on the City's Radio Station AM 1690.