

Atlantic City Nursery - Use Plan

Superintendent's Decision – November 2010

On September 9, 2010, the Board of Park Commissioners recommended changing the use of a portion of the Atlantic City Nursery site from plant nursery to urban agriculture and designated other portions of the site for wetland enhancement.

I concur with these Board recommendations. Establishing sites for raising food crops is a fundamental part of the City's goals to promote community agriculture efforts and increase access to locally grown foods throughout the city. The former Atlantic City Nursery site has the potential to begin meeting these needs.

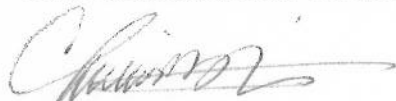
In addition, Seattle Parks and Recreation has listened to the community and heard how important safety and security are to the neighbors surrounding the nursery site –particularly the concerns raised about public access to and through the site. As a result, existing fences will remain between private property and the nursery site.

However, public access to the site will be an important component of the long-term re-use of the nursery site and restoration of the wetlands. The specific details of the site's design and the public access (access points, interface with adjoining park properties, and trail alignments) will be determined through a future public involvement process that will include additional public meetings and review by the Park Board. The project proponents will be required to work closely with the community and the Seattle Police Department to address safety concerns and to comply with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

As Acting Parks Superintendent I fully endorse this important project that will promote community agriculture efforts in the City. I look forward to working with the project proponents and the community to design and develop an urban agriculture program at the Atlantic City Nursery site that will be a model for future projects.

Earlier this year, in announcing 2010 as the Year of Urban Agriculture in Seattle, Mayor Mike McGinn stated, "We are committed to making changes that are better for people and better for the environment. This means making it easier to garden and grow food, to ensure that good food is available in all neighborhoods and to find innovative ways to encourage local and regional food production."

The next steps will be to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a non-profit agency partner to move forward with the site design, and then to redevelop and manage the site in the future. The RFP will be published in the 4th quarter 2010 with hopes of identifying the non-profit partner in early 2011.



Christopher Williams
Acting Superintendent
Seattle Parks and recreation