Proposal for the Barefoot Garden Hippie Community Garden at Eldon Lyon Park

To: City of Bethany

From: Barefoot Garden Hippie

Date: January 27, 2025

Subject: Cultivating Community and Sustainability: A Proposal for the Barefoot Garden Hippie Community Garden at Eldon Lyon Park

Introduction

Barefoot Garden Hippie proposes the development of a vibrant and expansive community garden at Eldon Lyon Park in Bethany, Oklahoma. This project aims to transform an underutilized area of the park into a thriving hub for sustainable gardening, education, community building, and environmental stewardship. We envision a space where residents can connect with nature, learn valuable skills, grow fresh food, and cultivate a stronger sense of community.

Project Overview

The Barefoot Garden Hippie Community Garden at Eldon Lyon Park will be a dynamic and multifaceted space, offering a wide range of benefits to the Bethany community:

\* Abundant Garden Plots: A large number of individual garden plots will be available for residents to lease and cultivate their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

\* Demonstration Gardens: Showcase a variety of sustainable gardening techniques, including raised beds, vertical gardening, water conservation methods, companion planting, and season extension strategies.

\* Educational Workshops and Classes: Hands-on learning opportunities for community members of all ages, covering topics such as organic gardening, composting, seed saving, pest control, soil health, and more.

\* Two Greenhouse Structures: Extend the growing season and provide space for starting seeds, propagating plants, and cultivating more sensitive crops.

\* Community Gathering Spaces: Designated areas for picnics, relaxation, and community events, fostering a sense of connection and shared purpose.

\* Food Donation Program: A portion of the garden's harvest will be donated to local food banks to address food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits within the community.

\* Community Wellness and Well-being: A dedicated space for small classes focused on well-being practices like yoga, tai chi, qigong, and meditation, led by trained professionals, promoting physical and mental health in a natural setting.

Sustainability at its Core

The Barefoot Garden Hippie Community Garden will be a model of sustainability, demonstrating environmentally responsible practices and inspiring residents to create their own sustainable gardens at home. We will emphasize:

\* Organic Practices: Avoidance of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, promoting healthy soil, clean water, and thriving ecosystems.

\* Water Conservation: Utilizing efficient irrigation techniques, rainwater harvesting systems, and drought-tolerant plants to minimize water usage.

\* Composting: Reducing waste and enriching the soil by composting garden and household organic materials.

\* Biodiversity: Planting a variety of species to attract pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife, creating a balanced and resilient ecosystem.

Empowering Residents to Grow Their Own Food

Beyond the community garden itself, we aim to empower Bethany residents to transform their own yards into productive and sustainable food sources. We will offer:

\* Educational Resources: Workshops, online guides, and demonstrations on how to start and maintain a backyard garden, even in small spaces.

\* Seed and Plant Swaps: Opportunities for residents to exchange seeds, plants, and gardening knowledge.

\* Mentorship Program: Connecting experienced gardeners with those who are new to gardening, providing guidance and support.

Community Partnerships

We are actively building partnerships with local businesses and organizations to support the garden's development and sustainability. We are in conversations with:

\* Westlake Ace Hardware: For potential sponsorship of tools, equipment, and gardening supplies.

\* The Produce Gal: To collaborate on workshops, events, and potentially source produce from the garden for their farmers market.

\* Minick Materials: For potential donation of soil, compost, and other landscaping materials.

\* Eco-X Pest Management: For potential sponsorship of organic pest control solutions and expertise.

Benefits for Bethany

The Barefoot Garden Hippie Community Garden at Eldon Lyon Park will provide numerous benefits for our town, including:

\* Enhanced Quality of Life: Increased access to green space, fresh produce, educational opportunities, and wellness activities.

\* Community Building: Creating a welcoming and inclusive gathering place for residents to connect, learn, and work together.

\* Economic Development: Supporting local businesses and potentially attracting new residents and businesses who value sustainability and community engagement.

\* Environmental Stewardship: Promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness about environmental issues.

\* Beautification: Transforming an underutilized area of Eldon Lyon Park into a vibrant and attractive community asset.

Call to Action

We are requesting the City of Bethany's endorsement and support for the Barefoot Garden Hippie Community Garden at Eldon Lyon Park. We believe that this project aligns with the City's goals of enhancing community spaces, promoting healthy living, and fostering environmental stewardship. Your partnership will be invaluable in helping us secure funding, navigate any regulatory hurdles, and engage the community in this transformative project.

We are confident that this garden will be a source of pride for Bethany and a shining example of how we can create a more sustainable and connected community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen and Sabrina Kumor

Barefoot Garden Hippie

Website: [barefootgardenhippie.com/bcg](http://barefootgardenhippie.com/bcg)