

**Roseville Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
6:30 P.M.
Roseville City Hall
2660 Civic Center Drive**

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Public Comment Invited**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2014**
- 4. Park Board Continued Discussion**
- 5. Minnesota Project–Muriel Sahlin Arboretum/Community Orchard**
- 6. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Update**
- 7. Staff Report**
- 8. Other**
- 9. Adjournment**

**Roseville Parks and Recreation
“Building Community through People, Parks and Programs”
www.ci.roseville.mn.us**

*Be a part of the picture...get involved with your City...Volunteer!
For more information, call Roseville Parks and Recreation at 651-792-7006
or check our website at www.cityofroseville.com
Volunteering, a Great Way to Get Involved!*

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Lonnie Brokke
Date: February 26, 2014
Re: Notes for Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014

1. Introductions

Commissioners and staff will be introduced.

2. Public Comment Invited

Public participation and public comment is encouraged.

3. Approval of Minutes of the February 6, 2014 Meeting

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of February 6, 2014. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

Requested Commission Action: Approve/amend meeting minutes of February 6, 2014

4. Park Board Continued Discussion

For your reference, enclosed is the previous report from Commissioners Wall and Simbeck.

Additional legal information has recently risen since your last commission meeting discussion. Roseville is a Council-Manager Plan B form of government. Specifically, state law prohibits Plan B Cities (Roseville) from relinquishing final authority over parks and recreation and/or from delegating the performance of any additional duties beyond an advisory capacity. I have included a couple of pages from the League of Minnesota Cities Handbook in your packet that references the Plan B form of government and as it relates to boards and commissions.

Given this information, Roseville is not currently eligible to create a Park Board as previously thought. A change in state legislation would need to occur prior to pursuing. As community representatives, if you feel this is important for Roseville then the next step would be to identify any additional information needed and/or make a recommendation to the City Council.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss, identify areas of additional information needed and/or consider a recommendation to the City Council

5. Minnesota Project – Muriel Sahlin Arboretum/Community Orchard/Fruits of the City

Staff has been approached by a non-profit organization called the Minnesota Project with a proposal to develop a Community Orchard at the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum. The project would include the planting of a variety of apple trees, pear trees and fruit shrubs. Included in your packet is a draft proposal for your review and advice. The proposed location is the existing tree nursery site near the maintenance building. The nursery would continue, with this project complimenting it.

The project is not currently funded but, with staff guidance, the Minnesota Project would search out and apply for grants and outside funding. The project would include fencing around the nursery and orchard area.

The project is consistent with the mission of the Arboretum and would; complement the existing edible gardens, provide education and community involvement (volunteers) and would provide much needed fence protection for the existing tree nursery. The Arboretum committee has reviewed the proposal and is supportive.

Staff will provide a brief overview at your meeting.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss concept and provide advice

6. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Update

Project proposals are being received. By your March 4th meeting date, 6 of the 11 packages will be in and in the process of being evaluated. The other 5 packages will be due on March 18.

Staff will provide you with the most up to date information at your meeting in April with a recommendation expected to the City Council for the initial 6 packages on April 7 and April 14, 2014.

Any additional information on the Renewal Program will be shared at the meeting.

Requested Commission Action: Hear latest information, discuss and provide advice

7. Staff Report

8. Other

9. Adjournment

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2014
ROSEVILLE CITY HALL ~ 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Azer, Diedrick, Gelbach, M. Holt, Stoner, Wall
ABSENT: Boehm, Doneen, D. Holt, and Simbeck notified staff about being unable to attend
STAFF: Anfang, Brokke

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Diedrick acted as Commission Chair this evening with the absence of Commissioner D. Holt.

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 7, 2014 MEETING

Commission Recommendation:

Minutes for the January 7, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. MOORE’S FARRINGTON ESTATES PARK DEDICATION

Brokke reviewed the site and options for the park dedication. The property in discussion is planned for 8 developed home sites. This project will trigger a park dedication of .36 acre in land dedication or \$28,000 in cash payment in lieu of the property. Brokke had mentioned the developer would prefer the cash payment rather than the property dedication, due to decreasing the overall property size by .36 acre will impact the overall development.

Commission Recommendation:

Motion by Azer to recommend that the City Council accept \$28,000 in cash to satisfy park dedication in lieu of land for the Moore’s Farrington Estates development, second by Wall. Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Azer asked about future updates on projects that benefit financially from funds collected through the Park Dedication fees. Commissioner Diedrick also encouraged regular updates on the park dedication fund balance.

- Brokke mentioned that the City recently purchased a property near Langton Lake with Park Dedication fees.

5. PARK & RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM

Brokke updated the Commission on the Renewal Program.

- 11 project packages have recently been released for contractor proposals.
 - First proposals are due February 12 with others staggered through the next 2 weeks.
 - Second set of proposals (Nature Center, Skating Center, bridges & boardwalk, Natural Resource projects and pathways & sidewalks are due March 18.
 - A pre-proposal meeting was held January 28 with over 50 contractors in attendance.
 - Staff are beginning to plan a construction kick-off event for May 3, 2014 at Lexington Park. Save the date.

6. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN DISCUSSION

51 Commissioner Gelbach briefed the Commission on recent work being done to help improve
52 communication efforts.

- 53 • Gelbach and Anfang met with the City Communications Manager, Garry Bowman recently.
54 The three talked about possible mapping efforts and online opportunities.
- 55 • Gelbach talked about developing maps on a variety of levels – large all city maps, to
56 smaller, take-along individual maps.
- 57 • Gelbach also shared a sample of possible communication piece that could be developed for
58 each park renewal project that would include general information along with a QR code that
59 would take interested community members to a web site with more up-to-date information.
- 60 • Gelbach also shared an audience snapshot, a communications tool used to better understand
61 the audience and targeting messages and information to designated audiences.
 - 62 ○ Commissioner Wall inquired into whether this might be a joint project with the new
63 Civic Engagement Commission.
 - 64 ○ Commissioner Diedrick questioned the ability to keep up with updates. Gelbach
65 explained that he envisioned more generalized pieces with updates on separate
66 documents that might be accessed by using the QR code.

68 7. COMMISSION GOALS ANNUAL REVIEW

69 Lee Diedrick provided a status update on the annual Commission goals.

- 70 • Commissioners discussed the need to return to the Council with a recommendation from the
71 Commission on consideration of a Park Board.
 - 72 ○ Commissioners suggested adding the Park Board discussion to the March meeting
73 agenda.

75 8. STAFF REPORT

76 Brokke reported;

- 77 • Central Park Foundation recently received a \$107,000 gift from the Denny Malarkey family.
- 78 • Friends of Lexington Park had raised money in the past for projects in Lexington Park, the
79 group is looking to expand on their fundraising efforts for a project addition as part of the
80 Lexington Park Renewal Program.
- 81 • A Community Orchard at the Arboretum is being considered. The Orchard would include
82 apple and pear trees, with a portion of the harvested fruit being donated to local community
83 organizations. Organizers are looking into different grant opportunities to help support the
84 project.
- 85 • The Parks and Recreation Commission has one opening for the coming year. Community
86 members are encouraged to consider applying.

87
88
89 Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm
90 Respectfully Submitted,
91 Jill Anfang, Assistant Director

Research and Analysis of a Park Board 5-7-13

Background

In the 2010 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan it was suggested that the City of Roseville investigate the potential of a park board or park district. Subsequently, the research and recommendation of the potential formation of a park board was identified in the City Council's 2012 Work Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission have been asked to research the issue and provide a recommendation to the City Council at the joint meeting in June. Commission members assisted City staff in gathering background information, reviewing example park board ordinances, and also attended a meeting with representatives from the City of Maple Grove regarding their Park Board.

History

The Village of Roseville originally established a Recreation Board in August 1958. The powers and duties of the Board included the following:

- Establish recreation policy.
- Conduct and supervise recreation areas, facilities, services and programs.
- Conduct activities and pay for the necessary supervision.
- Establish the qualification, employ and determine the compensation of a Director of Recreation and necessary other employees.
- Coordinate services with other governmental programs.
- Solicit and train volunteers.
- Purchase supplies and equipment.
- Develop and maintain facilities.
- Procure or lease public or private properties, areas or facilities that may be required for programs.

In addition, the Board had the power to create a Citizens Recreation Committee whose role was to advise the Board on the City's recreational needs and interest. The Board was financed by annual appropriation by the Village Council and was required to submit an annual report with a detailed account of its estimated fund requirements for the ensuing year.

The Recreation Board was replaced by the existing Parks and Recreation Commission in the early 60's. The Parks and Recreation Commission is advisory with the following duties and functions, as contained in Chapter 203 of the City Code:

- Make recommendations to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the City Manager and the Roseville City Council on all matters relating to parks and recreation programs, facilities and services.
- Provide a method for citizens' input concerning the city's parks and recreation facilities, programs, needs and concerns.
- Identify areas that may require action and/or change to promote a harmonious, safe, and responsive Parks and Recreation program.

46
47 **Park Board Characteristics**
48

49 As included in the August 16, 2011 letter from the City Attorney, MN Statutes § 412.271, Subd. 6
50 gives the City the power to give an independent board or commission the right to disburse funds
51 without council approval. Currently, only the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority
52 (HRA) has this power. According to MN Statutes § 412.501, the council of any city of more
53 than 1,000 population may by ordinance establish a park board.
54

55 The main powers of a park board, as included in MN Statutes § 412.521, are as follows:

- 56 • Acquire and control land for park purposes.
57 • Employ necessary personnel and fix their compensation.
58 • Construct recreation facilities and make contracts and leases for their construction and
59 operation.
60 • Purchase all necessary materials, supplies, equipment, and services.
61 • Maintain, beautify, and care for park property.
62

63 In order to carry out the powers of the Park Board, the City is required to set up a park fund. The
64 Council may transfer money to the park fund for park purposes. Each budget year the Park
65 Board submits a budget request to the City Council for approval. Most Park Board members are
66 appointed by the Mayor and then they elect a Chairperson; the Board can also set term lengths
67 and limits.
68

69 Communities in Minnesota with Park Boards include Brainerd, Maple Grove, and Rochester.
70 Each has their own structure and powers contained in the local ordinance and can be reviewed in
71 further detail to determine potential options in Roseville.
72

73 **Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board**
74

75 Parks and Recreation Director Brokke and Commissioner Wall had the opportunity to meet with
76 the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Director Terry Just, a former City of Roseville employee,
77 and the Park Board Chair Tim Phenow, prior to attending the March Board meeting. The Parks
78 and Recreation Board manage approximately 1,488 acres of parkland and 998 recreation
79 programs. In addition, the Board manages the Community Center, which includes an indoor and
80 outdoor pool, gym, two ice rinks, teen and senior centers, indoor and outdoor playground, skate
81 park, and meeting and banquet rooms. The Board employs 44 full-time and 423 seasonal
82 employees and had an operating budget of \$5.4M in 2012.
83

84 In addition to touring the Community Center, the powers and duties of the Parks and Recreation
85 staff and Park Board members were discussed as well as a number of specific questions
86 regarding their interaction with the City Council and other City staff. Their current Park Board
87 is well-respected and appreciated among the community members and various user groups that
88 utilize the facilities and should be considered as a model for a potential future Roseville Park
89 Board.
90
91
92

Pros/Cons

As the Commission considers the best fit for Roseville and its residents regarding the formation of a Park Board, a list of potential pros and cons may be helpful in guiding the discussion. The following list is meant to start the discussion and is based on information already provided to the Commission and the visit to Maple Grove:

PRO	CON
Increased transparency	Potential duplication of administrative services
Greater public influence – board has more authority therefore lends to greater influence	No longer an advisory commission
Funding control and responsibility	Added responsibilities of Board members
Increased Citizen engagement	Increased oversight of Department staff
Increased authority over the Department staff	Limited City Council and City Manager oversight/control
Board member increased accountability to the residents	Public perception of implications of additional taxing authority
Increased “ownership” by Board members	Less accountable because not elected
Decisions are less “political”	
Limited City Council and City Manager oversight/control	
Consistent and ongoing emphasis in Parks and Recreation – through good times and bad	
Increased staff efficiencies	

Time Spent

The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board Members currently spend about 1-3 hours a month in meetings and 1-3 hours a month preparation time on average. The Board Chair spends a bit more time depending on what is going on, typically with a once a week phone call and/or meeting just to keep open lines of communication.

Summary of Commission Discussion on April 2, 2013

D. Holt introduced the topic and indicated that this was a topic of interest by the City Council and that it is was important that the Commission provide an analysis and recommendation to the City Council.

Wall indicated that he, Simbeck and staff have been working to compile information. He reviewed draft #1 research and analysis report dated 4/2/13 that included the background, history, Park Board characteristics, a start of a pros and cons list and was included in the packet. He also mentioned that he and staff met with the Director and Board Chair of Maple Grove Parks and Recreation and attended their meeting. His observations were that it appeared to operate in a similar way to Roseville.

Wall suggested that further discussion, analysis and recommendation of what is in the best interests of the City and residents occur in May in preparation for the June 10th joint City Council/Commission meeting.

Wall communicated his impression of the Maple Grove visit as follows:

- They appear to operate similar to Roseville even though they are a Park Board
- Users and stakeholders appear satisfied
- They like the system that they are operating under
- Maple Grove is a very good model
- Appointments are made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council which is similar to Roseville
- The Community Center is very impressive

Staff indicated that procedurally a Park Board is more involved in staffing and budget development with the City Council approving a levy. It would operate similar to the Roseville HRA.

Staff observation was that the Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission is in actuality operating similar to the Maple Grove Park Board with all members being vested and engaged at all levels. With the value placed on Parks and Recreation in the community of Roseville, it does make sense that this type of consistency is important in Roseville.

According to the City Code, the Roseville Commission is advisory only and is probably going beyond their scope of work.

Further discussion included how long Maple Grove has been a Park Board, questions on board members pay and how the City Council is kept informed. Response included that Maple Grove has been a Park Board since inception, board members are not paid but it is believed that Brainerd Park Board Members are paid a stipend of \$25 month and the City Council in Maple Grove is kept informed through a quarterly report provide by the director. Larger items such as land acquisition and certain level of projects are reviewed by the City Council.

Diedrick wondered what the interaction with other City Departments in Maple Grove. Response was that the Director attends Department Head meetings and the need for interdepartmental coordination and cooperation still is important and exists.

Doneen provided his analysis on the primary difference between a Park Board and Commission. Specifically, the day to day operations and project development moves away from the City Council with the responsibility given to the Park Board. A Park Board would be a more focused, separate board relieving the duties from the City Council.

Gelbach questioned that with increased accountability and responsibility, does that then mean increased liability for Board Members.

Azer was complimentary of the existing Commission structure but is interested and would like to learn more.

167
168 D. Holt reiterated that the charge of the commission is to research the topic and provide
169 information to the City Council so they can make a decision.
170
171 Responding to D. Holt, staff indicated that because of the importance Roseville Residents place
172 on their Parks and Recreation system, that at some point, the consideration of a Park Board may
173 be advantageous for Roseville. As guided by the recently updated Master Plan it is suggested
174 that Roseville consider a Park District, which is not currently allowed by State Law. A Park
175 Board seems like it could be a logical step or progression for Roseville.
176
177 The Commission thanked Wall and Simbeck for their work. More discussion will occur at the
178 May meeting.
179
180 **Conclusion**
181
182 Based on the information gathered by the designated Commission members on the topic and
183 discussion at last month's meeting, the demonstrated importance and value placed on parks and
184 recreation by Roseville residents, and the guidance in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the
185 Parks and Recreation Commission feels the Park Board structure has merit and should be
186 furthered evaluated by the City Council to ensure the parks and recreation system is managed in
187 the best interest of the City's residents.

RELEVANT LINKS:

Minn. Stat. § 415.16.

See Handbook, Chapter 8.
See LMC information memo, *City Administration: Clerk, Administrator, Manager*.

Minn. Stat. §§ 412.601-.751.
See Handbook, Chapter 4.

Minn. Stat. § 412.611.

Minn. Stat. § 412.641. See
LMC information memo, *City Administration: Clerk, Administrator, Manager*.

To help ensure the selection of qualified people for these positions, state law allows the council to appoint people who are not residents of the city and prohibits the council from requiring residence as a condition of employment. In the selection of a clerk, for example, many cities have gone outside the city to hire a person with training and experience in city management.

1. Distinct features of Plan A

A five or seven-member council, consisting of a mayor and four or six councilmembers, runs the government.

The council appoints a clerk and a treasurer (or a combined clerk-treasurer) for indefinite terms. The council may remove these employees at any time in accordance with state law and any personnel policy, contract, or ordinance in effect for that city.

The council may appoint independent boards and commissions, such as a utilities commission, and advisory bodies, such as a planning commission.

The council appoints all personnel, including the police chief, attorney, fire chief, and liquor-store manager.

The council has all the administrative and legislative authority and responsibility that councils in Standard Plan cities have.

C. Plan B

Optional Plan B embodies the council-manager plan of government. At present, only 17 statutory cities operate under this plan. About 30 cities in Minnesota have adopted the council-manager form under their home rule charters. Some of these cities previously operated as Plan B statutory cities.

Under Plan B, the elected city council consists of a mayor and four or six councilmembers. All policy and legislative decisions are the responsibility of the council. The council delegates the administrative duties to a city manager. The manager is accountable to the council for the effective administration of city business in accordance with council decisions.

1. City manager

Under Plan B, the council chooses a manager on the basis of training, experience, and administrative qualifications. The manager does not need to be a resident of the city. The council must appoint the first manager as soon as practicable after adopting this plan. The term of office is indefinite so the council may remove the manager at any time. If the manager has been in office for one year or more, however, he or she may demand that the council make written charges and hold a public hearing prior to discharge.

RELEVANT LINKS:

Minn. Stat. § 412.651.

Minn. Stat. § 412.651, subd. 3.
Minn. Stat. § 412.681.
A.G. Op. 469-a-2 (Sept. 20, 1951).

Minn. Stat. § 412.621.

The law does not require specific grounds for dismissal, either before or after the hearing. Pending the hearing, the council may suspend the manager and designate some properly qualified person to perform those duties.

The manager has responsibility for the administration of all city business, and is answerable to the council. The law prohibits the council as a whole or any of the individual councilmembers from interfering with the manager's authority to hire employees. It also prohibits any individual councilmember from attempting to deal with or control any administrative person who is subordinate to the manager. Instead, the council must exert all of its controls through the manager. This provision, however, does not prohibit individual councilmembers from obtaining information pertaining to city business from employees other than the manager.

2. Clerk, treasurer

Plan B provides for a manager, an appointed clerk, an appointed treasurer, and any other officers subordinate to the manager as the council may create by ordinance. The manager also appoints the attorney, but the council must confirm the appointment. In the performance of their duties, the clerk and treasurer are subject to the direction of the manager, but their functions are the same as those of their counterparts in other cities. The only exception to this rule is that the manager, not the clerk, signs written instruments, such as contracts, on behalf of the city. The council may also give additional duties to the clerk and treasurer. Or the council can abolish or combine positions, including these offices, as it deems fit. It may also direct the manager to perform the duties of any of the various offices except that of treasurer.

3. Boards and commissions

Plan B abolishes all independent administrative boards and commissions except for the civil-service commission, if there is one. The council itself, then, must assume the functions of such boards as the library board, park board, and public-utility commission. The council may continue or create commissions for joint operations with other units of government. For example, the council could create a park board that would administer parks under a cooperative program with two or more cities acting together. The council also could establish advisory boards or commissions to study any municipal function or to investigate any subject of interest to the city. As a result, the city may continue to have a planning commission after the adoption of Plan B. If a city abandons Plan B and adopts the Standard Plan or Plan A, the city may again establish independent boards and commissions as authorized by law.

Roseville Community Orchard Proposal

Overview

This proposal includes the planting a broad variety of 44 free standing apple trees, 6 pear trees, 14 – 20 fruiting shrubs, and allotted space for espalier trees while still maintaining pathways for vehicle access. The majority of the proposed orchard is located where the nursery site currently exists.

As discussed, a specific space for a nursery/gravel bed could be maintained. Preference has been given to apples and pears for their fruit shelf life, transportability, and their ability to produce significant yields. If desired, we could explore other tree options as well. This community orchard could provide the Roseville community with thousands of pounds of fruit annually for 30 years.

Fruit Trees

Popular varieties of apples as well as varieties that have beneficial characteristics such as immunities or a resistance to common diseases have been selected. These varieties will not only be lower maintenance and require fewer inputs at this orchard, but will also give homeowners ideas of which varieties to choose for their homes. The section designated for espalier trees is in a highly visible location from the walking path and can be used to provide a “gateway” into the rest of the orchard.

M7 Semi-dwarf rootstocks are recommended. They are commonly available, cold hardy, and do not require staking. They should be spaced 12 – 15 ft. apart. “Treegator” bags are suggested for watering the trees if drip irrigation is not possible. Fruits of the City can provide a soil drainage test and work with the University of Minnesota to conduct a soil test.

Popular Apple varieties: Honey Crisp, Zestar!

Apples Selected for Resistance to Common Diseases: Liberty, Freedom, Redfree, William’s Pride, Keepsake, Honeycrisp, Chestnut Crab, Centennial Crab, and Summercrisp (pear).

Additional Fruit Tree Options: Serviceberry, Mount Royal Plum, Moongold & Sungold Apricot, Mesabi & Northstar Cherry

Fruiting Shrubs

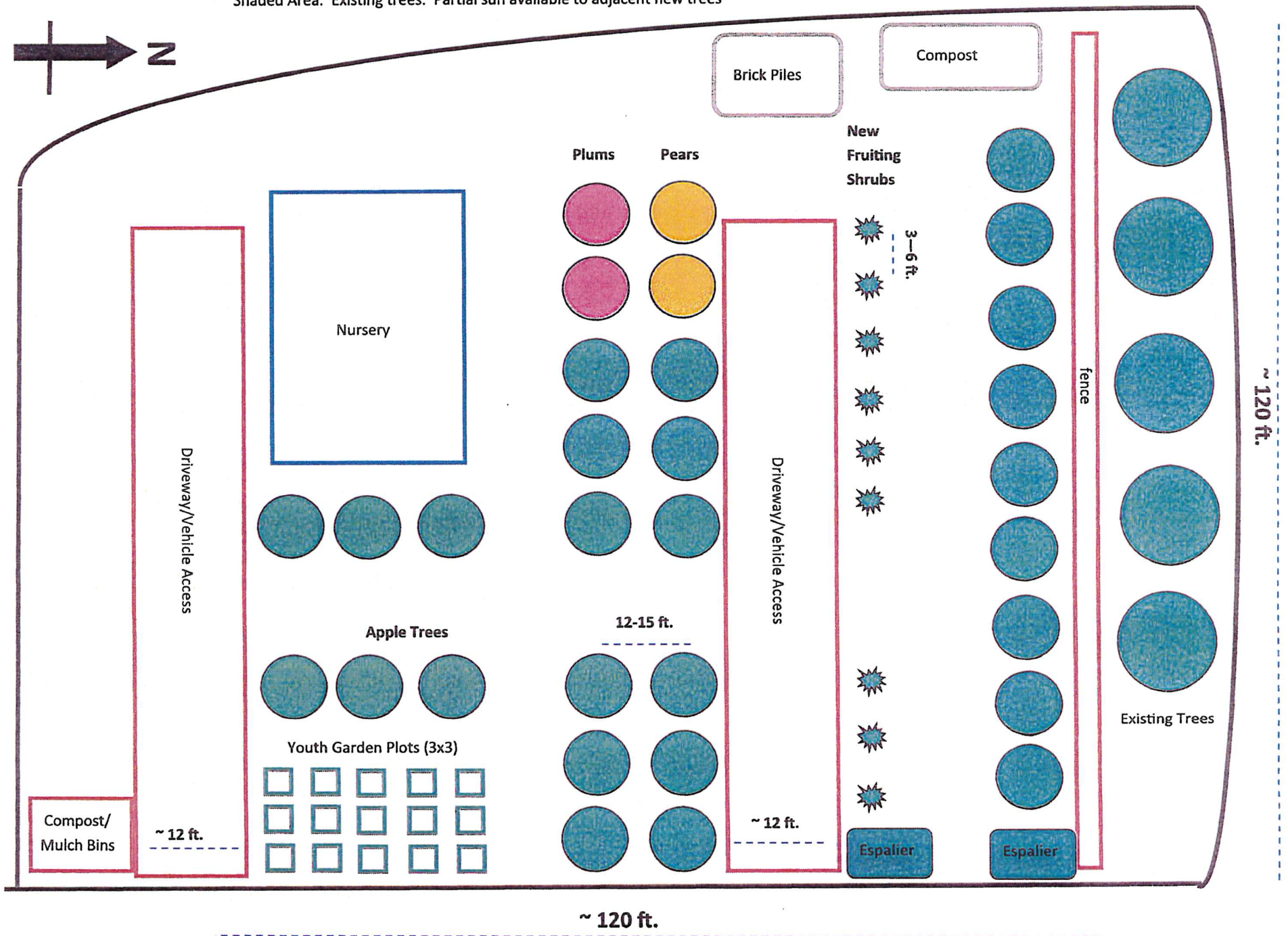
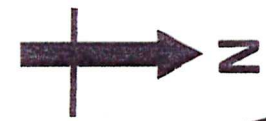
The strip of land adjacent to the wooden fence may be too narrow for fruit trees (it is roughly 8 ft. wide), but would be a great potential site for a variety of fruiting shrubs. Many require 3 – 6 ft. of spacing as well as a second related variety to be nearby for pollination (two different chokeberry, two different currants, etc.). 14 – 20 different shrubs could fit in the space available and provide Roseville residents with many ideas for the home edible landscape.

Suggested Fruiting Shrubs:

Black Chokeberry, Red Chokeberry, Serviceberry (bush variety), Elderberry, Raspberry, Red Lake Currant, Consort Black Currant, Colossal Gooseberry, Welcome Gooseberry, Jostaberry, Kiwi, and Honeberry (2 diff.). Elderberries, Chokeberries, and Serviceberries have no common insect or disease issues.

Many shrub berries are not commonly used for direct consumption and are often processed as jams and jellies. Connecting residents to food preservation classes or other cooking related educational opportunities could be considered if planting a significant number of shrubs is a priority for this site.

Shaded Area. Existing trees. Partial sun available to adjacent new trees





PROJECT BENEFITS

Fruits of the City has had a profound impact on three important groups of people:

- **Those in need** who have an increased access to food and a chance to choose fresh, local fruit at a food shelf.
- **Tree owners** who do not have the capacity to use all their fruit.
- **Volunteers** who enjoy gleaning days while making a positive contribution to their community.

Fruits of the City connects an under-utilized supply with an ever-present demand by strategically linking people, resources, and needs at the grassroots level.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer to pick fruit

Register your fruit tree and donate fruit

Support The Minnesota Project

Contact Fruits of the City
call 651.789.3321

email fruits@mnproject.org

visit our website: fruitsofthecity.org



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THE MINNESOTA PROJECT
1885 University Ave. West, Suite 315
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Fruits@mnproject.org
www.mnproject.org

Selected photos courtesy of Fruits of the City, NRSC, USDA



FRUITS of the CITY

Helping communities grow
and harvest fresh, local fruit for
those in need

the MINNESOTA PROJECT

FRUITSOFTHECITY.ORG



WHAT IS FRUITS OF THE CITY?

There are hundreds of fruit trees growing in backyards and public spaces. Many of these trees produce more fruit than their owners can manage to pick, eat, or preserve. Additionally, unutilized fruit from these trees can be a burden to compost and can attract pests.

Fruits of the City, a program of The Minnesota Project, makes use of this fresh fruit that would have otherwise gone to waste and redistributes it to those in need.

The program matches teams of trained volunteer gleaners with registered fruit trees in private yards and local orchards. Harvested fruit is then donated to over 30 local food shelves.

In the first four years of the program (2009-2012), Fruits of the City has harvested and redistributed over 110,000 pounds of local fruit.



COMMUNITY ORCHARDS

In addition to harvesting from fruit trees around the Twin Cities area, Fruits of the City helps to plant new orchards at schools, churches, corporate campuses, community gardens, and other neighborhood spaces.

The program partners with organizations to help them design and install a permanent edible landscape that can include fruit-bearing trees, bushes, vines, and low-growing plants.

Fruits of the City advises on the varieties of fruits that are appropriate to this climate and location, and offers onsite instruction to help with planting.

Fruits of the City also provides ongoing support along with education and training to keep the plants healthy and productive.

By planting an orchard, we can provide a healthy food source within our community for 20-30 years.



TREE CARE TRAINING

Along with gleanings and planting, Fruits of the City offers a series of ongoing classes for community members. Topics of these classes include:

- Pruning and thinning
- Pest and disease prevention
- Soil health and preparation
- Long-term tree maintenance
- Permaculture design
- Bees and pollination

Starting in 2013, the program also provides a Tree Maintenance Guide to every tree donor in the gleanings program as well as referrals to other useful tree care resources at fruitsofthecity.org

