April 24th, 2009
Brown Bag: Community Gardening

Questions that people have about community gardening:
Does the burden fall on the district council to do the work or will the community step up?
How do you get started?
We have land, now what?
Creative ways to find and use limited space
How do you get people involved? How do you keep them involved?
What if the land can only be used temporarily?
Environmental concerns from runoff

Why should neighborhood consider a community garden?
Tool for neighbors to get to know one another
Food productions in hard times
With layoffs, more people have more available time
Tons of gardeners with no yards
People may have an interest in this and we do not know about them
Getting new people involved

How choices about the garden impact who gets involved
Old school Roundup users v. environmental folks
Trying to get neutral and simple to get an idea of what people want
Can be an education tool on healthy foods
People need to see the results to want to be involved
Visible versus functional
Environmental committee laying ground rules and then asking people to buy in
Dues structure can price people out – can do scholarships or sliding fees
Hmong love gardening but for food, not flowers
Find out who you want to reach and ask them what they want
Be aware of language needs

How can you get resources for the garden?
Use of current neighborhood $
Donated supplies
Dues
Grants
Youth based fundraising – art projects, car washes, other organizations
Booth at ice cream socials
Donations from businesses
Cake auction
Plant sales and seed sales
Farmers markets
Chili cook-off using garden veggies
Partnering with businesses
Beer garden