

PUBLIC WORKS

~~INFORMATION TECH. & GEN. SERVICES~~

13-0478

MOTION  
Edible Landscapes

In the interest of promoting healthy living in the City of Los Angeles, residents of the City have undertaken several resourceful ways of growing their own food.

Growing edible plants year-round in this sunny region allows households of all incomes to provide themselves with healthy food, and especially benefits those facing poverty (ca. 1.4 million in the City of Los Angeles), who often lack access to fresh, affordable, healthy fruits and vegetables. In many low-income neighborhoods that need gardens the most, nearby community gardens are rare and open space that could be used for gardening is often limited. Use of City parkways and City-owned properties has been one area where more residents are seeking to expand their options to garden and grow edible produce.

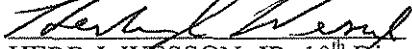
The Bureau of Street Services' Residential Parkway Landscaping Guidelines outlines the types of landscaping allowed with or without a Public Works Permit within parkway areas. There is no similar, uniform set of policies for community gardening that might occur upon City-owned properties. Considering this growing interest in gardening and growing edible produce, it would be useful to review the Residential Parkway Landscaping Guidelines and other policies that might relate to gardening upon City-owned properties to further facilitate efforts to grow edible produce within both street parkways and City-owned properties.


Having access to more land would enhance the opportunity for residents to participate in community gardening, especially in the more densely populated areas of the city. Knowing what surplus, unused land owned by the city that could be used for community gardens would be helpful in determining what options exist. This would include rights-of-way owned by the Department of Water and Power.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering, the Bureau of Street Services, and the Board of Public Works - Office of Community Beautification report back to the Council in 45 days on:

- Ways in which the Residential Parkway Landscaping Guideline can be mended to expand what is allowable, and
- A review of the permitting process for gardening in parkways, with options and recommendations for policies that would allow more residents to participate.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of General Services, Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Water and Power report back in 45 days on available surplus property that could be used in the promotion of community gardens throughout the City of Los Angeles.

Presented by:   
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Seconded by: 

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