

Letter

## Letter

stbrandl@telus.net [stbrandl@telus.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 03, 2015 10:51 AM

**To:** Parks - City of Burnaby

**Attachments:** Community Garden letter to~1.doc (25 KB)

<b>Commission Agenda</b>
Date ..... 2015 June 17
Delegation ..... (a)

---

Good morning,

I would like to submit the attached letter for the Parks Commissions consideration. We have a small delegation that would like to present at the next meeting, which is June 17th at 7 pm. Would this be a possibility? If there is anything that I have missed including in this letter, please advise and I will rectify.

Thanks you for taking the time to read this submission.  
Simone Brandl  
604-839-2583

June 2, 2015

Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission  
c/o Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department  
101 - 4946 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC V5G 4H7

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived in Burnaby for almost 20 years and love my City. One of the things I love about Burnaby is the green space – it is well planned and abundant. I live in a townhouse complex directly behind Montecito Park. This is a little, tucked away park that borders a narrow green belt, Montecito Elementary, my townhouse complex and a number of private homes. I feel a portion of this little park would make a perfect spot for a community garden.

Within 3 blocks of Montecito Park area there are four large townhouse complexes; Montecito Villa, Coronado, Capistrano, Goleta as well as two apartment towers on Halifax. These represent well over 600 families who do not have yard space. It is my intent to ask the City of Burnaby to utilize a small section of Montecito Park for a community garden to serve this area.

We have a number of people who are on board and will be helping as well as participating in this project if it is approved; "Can You Dig It" (non-profit whose mission is to set up inclusive garden spaces in the GVRD), Montecito Elementary School, The Swedish Manor Seniors Home, and six individual community members from Coronado, Goleta and Montecito Villa. All of these neighbors border Montecito Park.

The City of Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy identifies "community engagement" and "food security" as key points. I feel community gardens are a means to engage citizens in their own communities, reduce isolation, and address food security in a manner that is positive and respectful. For three years I was a Community Garden Coordinator and witnessed neighbors sharing their gardening knowledge and coming together with a commonality that generated inclusion for marginalized citizens who may not normally be included in regular social interactions with their neighbors. Gardening is a wonderful catalyst to bring a community together! It is my hope that the Parks Commissions will support this new venture into community connectivity and approve this project. With the support of the local citizens I feel this would be an asset to have in Burnaby and in my neighborhood.

Respectfully yours,

Simone Brandl  
7393 Montecito Drive,  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1R4  
604-839-2583

## BRIEF

### Proposed Community Garden at Montecito Park on Montecito and Duthie

I have lived in Burnaby for almost 20 years and love my City. One of the things I love about Burnaby is the green space – it is well planned and abundant. I live in a townhouse complex directly behind Montecito Park. This is a little, tucked away park that borders a narrow green belt, Montecito Elementary, my townhouse complex and a number of private homes. I feel a portion of this little park would make a perfect spot for a community garden.

Within 3 blocks of Montecito Park area there are four large townhouse complexes; Montecito Villa, Coronado, Capistrano, Goleta as well as the two Montecito Towers apartments on Halifax. These represent well over 600 families who do not have yard space. It is my intent to have a cross section of families/individuals from each of these complexes sharing the garden space, making this a true Montecito area community garden

There are a number of individuals who are on board and will be helping as well as participating in this project if it is approved. 'Can You Dig It' is a non-profit who have created over 38 inclusive garden spaces in the GVRD over the past 6 years. They will help set up the structure of the garden, and work with the community members during start up. Montecito Elementary School will have two garden plots to further educate on sustainable food growing. It is hoped that some of the residents from The Swedish Manor Seniors Home will help mentor the students on the joys of gardening as well as have a few garden spots as well. Six individual community members from Coronado, Goleta and Montecito Villa are also wanting to participate in the community Garden. As a previous Coordinator of a small community garden I am experienced working with community members, creating the template to run a community garden and making it as accessible as possible for all types of individuals.

The space we are looking at is along the north-west corner of the park – it gets plenty of sun and is underutilized by the community as the area is quite wet/muddy most of the time. There is no access to water so I would respectfully ask the City of Burnaby to help make this portion of the garden happen. Brining in a water line would allow the garden to be watered on a regular basis. I would like to install a fence around the area of the garden and have been encouraged by the local TD Bank Manager to apply for a grant under their environmental grants section.

The City of Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy identifies "community engagement" and "food security" as key points. I feel community gardens are a means to engage citizens in their own communities, reduce isolation, and address food security in a manner that is positive and respectful. While a Garden Coordinator I witnessed neighbors sharing their gardening knowledge and coming together with a commonality that generated inclusion for marginalized citizens who may not normally be included in regular social interactions with their neighbors. Gardening is a wonderful catalyst to bring a community together! It is my hope that the Parks Commissions will support this new venture into community connectivity and approve this project. With the support of the local citizens I feel this would be an asset to have in Burnaby and in my neighborhood.

Thank you.