



Thursday, March 4, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

The Friends of Mary Cummings Park respectfully submit for your approval the enclosed proposal for a community and children's educational gardening program at Mary Cummings Park. The Mary's Gardens program would be similar to the children's gardening program operated by Boston's Parks department and Boston's School System at the park for many years. The need and demand for this kind of summer program has not diminished since that program was discontinued in 1985.

Mary's Gardens will exclusively use organic farming practices such as mulching and composting. Natural products and organic methods to stem insect pests will be used. The educational program will teach children and adults about these and other environmental benefits of sustainable organic gardening. The Friends envision "...experiential learning opportunities for young and old alike through organic gardening, using appropriate technology and sustainable practices that ... protect our water and air resources." The Friends will also encourage Mary's Gardens participants to donate excess produce to local food pantries.

Our proposal has generated significant support. Nearly half of those participants who have already reserved a plot for this summer are Boston residents. Enclosed are letters of support from Senator Donnelly, Representatives Dwyer and Kaufman, Burlington's Town Moderator, Burlington's Conservation Commission, and many non-profit organizations serving the food needs of individuals and families. Due to the timing of the planting season, we would appreciate a response by March 22, 2010.

Thank you,

Steven Keleti
President
Friends of Mary Cummings Park, Inc.

Robert Truslow
Gardening Committee Chair

cc: Mayor Thomas Menino

101 Middlesex Turnpike, Ste 6 • #343 • Burlington, MA 01803
www.cummingspark.org • info@cummingspark.org

Proposal

“Mary’s Gardens” At Mary Cummings Park

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Executive Summary



Spring 2009 taking root at the old “Woburn Gardens” at Babylon Hill

For many years the Boston Public Schools ran a summer gardening program for school aged children at and around the Babylon Hill field. The program was called “Woburn Gardens”.

The need and demand for this kind of summer program has not diminished since the funding was cut in 1985.

Today there are various non-profit groups in the Metropolitan Boston area which run programs similar to the old program where children are given the opportunity to grow vegetables, learn about sustainable agriculture and their local heritage, while having some fun in the fresh air and in the sun. The non-profit groups that run these programs are always looking for additional locations to expand.

Given the historic use of this site for gardening and educational purposes, a restoration of the children's garden program which could work in conjunction with a community garden program would be a welcome addition to the park.

Seeing fields of growing vegetables would bring the aesthetic value of a traditional New England farm back to a park that was once one of the areas most productive farms.

In recent years there has been some site preparation work at the main Babylon Hill field, which was previously slated for a Town of Burlington baseball field. The topsoil was put into large mounds around the field. This soil can be leveled to restore the field back into productive use. And there are two existing wells nearby that should provide an ample water supply.

Friends of Mary Cummings Park

The Friends of Mary Cummings Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to protect Mary Cummings Park's natural environment for its historical recreational uses.

Vision

We propose to restart a community garden and children's educational gardening program at Mary Cummings Park similar to the one Boston's Public Schools operated from the 1930s through 1991.

Our vision is for the garden programs to provide experiential learning opportunities, for young and old alike, through organic gardening, using appropriate technology and sustainable practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources.

We want to implement a form of "Practical Idealism" to educate a generation of children by having them experience, first-hand, the value of sustainable and diverse food production within a healthy environment for the propagation of native species. Our fundamental educational approach at the gardens is respect; respect for the earth; respect for all people; and respect for how all things are connected. Towards that end, we will seek to attract gardeners and naturalists with broad backgrounds and experience to achieve our goals and establish a sense of environmental community.

In addition to gardening for personal use and pleasure, we hope individuals and groups will also reserve plots specifically to donate produce to people in need of food assistance. We will encourage and assist gardeners to donate excess produce to neighborhood food pantries and other distributors. We will seek alliances with individuals and organizations to develop efficient methods to responsibly produce healthy, natural foods and to enhance responsible awareness of others who may be in need of assistance.

Our hope is that the gardens will become a place of fun, learning, nurture, relaxation, reflection, and an environmentally sustainable activity within the objectives of the Mary Cummings Trust.

Program Overview

The program combines community gardening and children's educational gardening, and will be open to residents of all area communities. The focus of the educational component of the program will be on sound gardening practices, their impact on our environment, and provide an opportunity for youngsters to understand societal needs and the value of their contributions in support those needs. These activities for children will increase awareness of the necessity for land use practices that serve us and sustain natural habitat, thus ensuring a healthy environment for people and our wildlife neighbors.

Organic gardening practices will be established. Chemical pesticides, fertilizers, hormones and other non-organic products will not be allowed. Gardening demonstrations and practices will be taught at the gardens and may occasionally be provided at local nurseries or other locations. Instructors, knowledgeable in one or more areas of organic gardening practices, sustainable agriculture and ecology will provide workshops.

History of Gardening at Mary Cummings Estate

In 1930, the City of Boston agreed to become trustee of the Mary Cummings' trusts (estate and land trusts) that she had bequeathed to the people of Boston to be held "forever open as a public pleasure ground." This 210+ acre open space offers fields, forests, trails, wetlands, and a variety of wildlife habitats.

Shortly thereafter, the Boston Park Commission in conjunction with the Boston Public Schools, and with assistance from Boston's Women's Municipal League, began a children's educational and recreational gardening program that ran through 1985. The school department provided instructors, seeds, equipment and lunch for approximately 400 children from the North and West Ends. The Women's Municipal League provided transportation to the gardens and supplemented the children's lunches with a snack of milk and crackers until 1943. Later the Parks Department would use the Randidge Trust Fund for transportation.

Children and their chaperones were brought to the gardens by bus, in groups of about 125 per day, three days a week. The program operated from the end of June through mid-August. The program ran from 10:00 to 2:00 and included gardening, instruction, games and nature walks. Participants were able to take home the vegetables they grew.

In 1951 Mayor John B. Hynes visited the gardens and became concerned by the lack of sanitation or recreation facilities. The City of Boston built a recreation center to house the garden implements, provide toilets, rainy day shelter, and an indoor recreation space. Mayor Hynes dedicated the building August 29, 1951 with over 500 children plus numerous city officials in attendance.

Also in 1951 Boston's school department entered the children's produce in the Mass Horticultural Society's Children's Show and was awarded a Silver medal for the fourth consecutive year. Mrs. Henry D. Tudor, a Mass Horticultural Society member, was inspired to donate \$350 to purchase milk for the children gardeners.

In 1961 money available to the Boston School System was so limited that only the garden program at Mary Cummings estate could be continued that year and a limited the number of children that could participate. By 1985 when the program ended, the demographics of the city had changed and the underprivileged children participating come largely from East Boston, Dorchester, and Roxbury.

The purpose of the garden program had changed little since 1941 when the National Education Program of the United States reported:

“The Women's Municipal League has, with our cooperation, furnished to the children of our crowded districts the opportunity to be away from the heat of the city and out in the green fields. A pleasant and painless program of nature study upon the broad fields and varied sections of the Cummings estate has led city children upon their first exploration of the world of . . . “

Description of Educational Program

The educational program will serve the needs of children and adults. Below are examples of the types of presentations that will be made.

Children will be shown how mulch restricts weed growth; how compost decays to soil; the role worms play in aerating and producing soil; how rain water run-off gets into our water supply; the relationship between farming practices and water quality; the impact of invasive species on indigenous plants and animals.

Identifying plant and wildlife species currently present in the park; discussions of which are indigenous, which are imported and the impact these imported species can have.

The children will learn why organic methods are better for the planet than chemical pesticides, fertilizers, hormones, terminator seeds and genetically modified seeds.

In order to learn the importance of diversity of plants in relation to the survival of insects that pollinate crops, the children will count the number of plant species within a square foot along the roadside and in a meadow compared to a mowed lawn. They will also learn how the reduction in the number of varieties grown by agribusiness and sold in supermarkets has diminished our nutritional intake.

Demonstration of making “compost tea” organic fertilizer and observing its effectiveness as an insect deterrent when sprayed on plant leaves.

LL Bean sponsored nature walks guided by experienced naturalists to describe native plant and animal species and identification of those that may not be indigenous to the area.

Presentations by local growers and nurseries on fruit and vegetable growing practices (Parlee Farms Tyngsboro, Chip in Farm Bedford, Wilson Farms in Lexington, Heimlich Nurseries in Woburn, Mahoney's Nurseries in Woburn, etc.)

Informal guidance from experienced gardeners on planting, care, and management of garden plots

Comparative experiments of natural (wild) versus cultivation of native species, fertilized versus not fertilized, managed versus natural watering, and comparative value of root versus foliage crops as a function of local conditions.

Garden Location and First Year Plot Layout

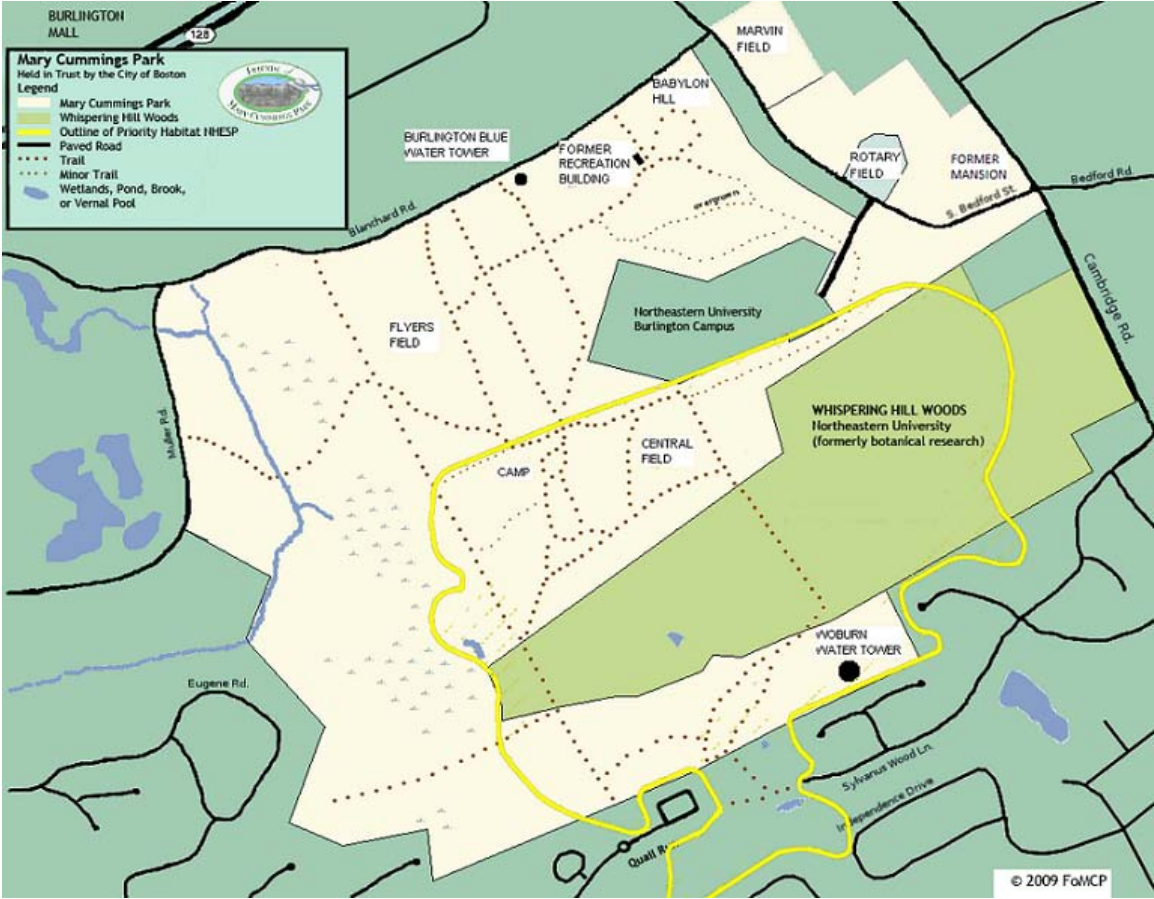
Mary's Gardens are to be located at the site used by Boston Public Schools for the “Woburn Gardens” program, also known as “Cummings Estate Gardens”. The photograph shows Blanchard Road bordering the gardens to the North and Bedford Road to the East. Plot layout are indicated in green.

Approximately twenty plots, sized 20' x 20', are planned for individual and group gardening for the first year. In addition, a bordering of flowerbeds is to run the length of the parking pad on the east and west sides.

Plots for the children's program will be smaller to be manageable. Larger plots will be subdivided to accommodate demonstrations and many hands working at one time.



Garden plots shown in green; flowerbeds border the parking lot.



Mary Cummings Estate; Gardens in northeast corner at Babylon Hill

Summer Schedule

Ground preparation first year:

Upon program approval (desired by March 22, 2010) – Clear and grade initial garden area based on number of reserved plots

Soil tests

Replace or purchase topsoil and initial augmentation of soil based on multiple location soil test results.

Gardeners Meeting: by April 1, 2010

Stake out plots and mark paths

Plow or roto-till.

First planting date: May 15, 2010

Must plant by date: June 15, 2010

Clean up by date: October 31, 2010

Budget

Equipment: Pump, Generator, Tools, Port-O-Potty rental, etc.	\$1000
Soil Preparation	\$2500
Educational	\$1200

The cost of this program will be supported by the participating gardeners, the Friends of Mary Cummings Park and other donors.

Insurance

Proof of insurance is provided with this proposal

Letters of Support

Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly
Representative Jay Kaufman
Representative James Dwyer
Father Robert Kennedy
Phillip A. Gallagher, Burlington Town Moderator
Burlington Conservation Commission
LL Bean
Woburn Council for Social Concern
The Arc of East Middlesex
Phoebe, Inc.
Woburn Residents Environmental Network (WREN)
Winchester Farmers Market
Winchester Community Gardens
Waltham Fields Community Gardens

List of gardeners

The following individuals have each reserved a garden plot for Summer 2010. There is an annual \$20 rental fee for the season. The rental fee is refundable in full if the garden program does not receive permission by the City of Boston for 2010.

The ARC of East Middlesex

This not-profit, multi-program organization provides services to individuals having disabilities in several communities near Mary Cummings Estate. Programs include education, training, career assistance, residential communities and recreational activities.

South Boston Grows – 2 plots
Elgin Stallard East Boston
Stephen O'Leary, East Boston
Peter O'Leary, South Boston
Paul O'Leary, Charlestown
Michael McEwen, South Boston

Sarah Burpee, East Boston
Joe Kebartas, Boston
Dorene Tapseanos, Boston
Leslie Furtado, Boston
Rob Truslow, Woburn
Wanda Zabolotny, Burlington
Chris Warren, Burlington
David Cummings, Woburn
Hannah Wells, Burlington 2 plots
Bud Bing, Winchester
Cub Scout Troop - Gerald Beuchelt,
Burlington
June Mackenzie, Woburn
Seth Wilpan



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1063

SENATOR KENNETH J. DONNELLY
FOURTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
ROOM 416A
TEL: (617) 722-1432
FAX: (617) 722-1004
E-MAIL: Kenneth.Donnelly@state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:
VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS (CHAIR)
EDUCATION (VICE CHAIR)
BONDING, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
AND STATE ASSETS
TELECOMMUNICATION, UTILITIES
AND ENERGY
STATE ADMINISTRATION
AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

February 24, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

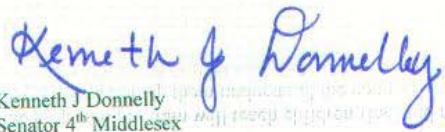
I write to urge you to approve the proposal of the Friends of Mary Cummings Park to restart a community and children's educational gardening program, Mary's Garden. I believe this program is exactly in keeping with the spirit of acceptable use of this land. The program being proposed is similar to one that the Boston Public Schools has sponsored at the park for many years.

The proposed program will teach children firsthand about gardening and how the food we consume is produce. It will help them understand the connection between what we eat, where our food comes from and why we need to protect our earth and its resources.

I understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

I urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,


Kenneth J Donnelly
Senator 4th Middlesex

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

March 1, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

We are writing to you today to show our support for "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park. This proposal will restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

We thank you for your consideration and if there are any questions or concerns you wish to convey, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James J. Dwyer in blue ink.

James J. Dwyer
State Representative
30th Middlesex District
617-722-2014

Handwritten signature of Jay R. Kaufman in blue ink.

Jay R. Kaufman
State Representative
15th Middlesex District
617-722-2320

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

St. Monica/St. Augustine Parish

70 Devine Way
South Boston, MA 02127
617-268-1230

March 3, 2010

Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston
Boston City Hall
Boston, Ma.

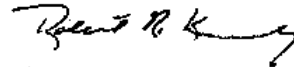
Dear Mayor Menino,

I am writing in support of the effort to establish a gardening program in the Mary Cummings Park this season.

This proposal is not without precedent. A gardening program called the "Woburn Gardens" was sponsored by the Boston School Department under the direction of Peter Ingeneri for many years.

If we build on this past experience, many benefits will result for Boston's families as we face these challenging times.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) Robert R. Kennedy, Pastor



Town of Burlington
29 Center Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Phillip A. Gallagher, Moderator

pgallagher@burlmass.org

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

I am pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

I support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

I understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

I urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Gallagher
Burlington Town Moderator
8 Corcoran Road
Burlington, 01803
781 273 0648
pgallagher@burlmass.org

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Visit the Town Clerk's Web Page at www.burlington.org/clerk



TOWN OF BURLINGTON

29 CENTER STREET
BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01803

TOWN HALL (781) 270-1600 • FAX (781) 270-1608 • E-MAIL: info@burmass.org

February 26, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

The Burlington Conservation Commission is pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

In conjunction with the increased usage of the park for organized sports/recreational use, this land can again be an important resource for the young people of Boston, Woburn and Burlington.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park.

On behalf of the Burlington Conservation Commission,

John B. Keeley
Conservation Administrator

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Robert A. Mercier, Burlington Town Administrator
Burlington Board of Selectmen



March 1, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

Richard Bishop, Outdoor Discovery School Manager L.L. Bean is pleased to support Gardens at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

L.L. Bean is committed to promoting outdoor activities. In order to maintain this long-standing image, L.L.Bean believes that the public should be encouraged to learn, practice and promote a variety of outdoor skills. For over 95 years L.L.Bean has been committed to environmental stewardship. We sell products that enhance our customers' relationships with the outdoors and continually seek to minimize the adverse impacts that producing, marketing and distributing these products may have on the environment. L.L.Bean conducts business in an environmentally responsible manner, using the best environmental practices within our industry. We encourage wise stewardship of natural resources and respect for the environment among all of our stakeholders. Over the years, we at L.L.Bean have always been pleased that our customers share our love for the outdoors. Today, our commitment to the environment is stronger than ever and we encourage our customers to join us in our efforts.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,

Richard Bishop
Outdoor Discovery School Manager
L.L. Bean
6 Wayside Plaza
Burlington, MA 01803
rjbishop@lbean.com

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

An Outdoor Tradition Since 1912





A charitable, community-based agency, responding to the basic needs of people of all ages, providing early education and care, helping individuals develop their potential, creating positive family and community relationships, and fostering respect for diversity.

February 24, 2010

WEB SITE
www.socialconcern.org

Executive Director
Dean A. Solomon
dean@socialconcern.org

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

CHILDREN'S CENTER
FAMILY CHILDCARE SYSTEM
FAMILY SKILL BUILDING
FOOD PANTRY
2 Merrimac Street
Woburn, MA 01801-1606
(781) 935-6495
(781) 935-1923 Fax

The Council of Social Concern is pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

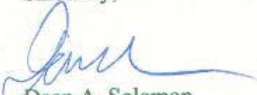
All of our programs serve individuals and families from these communities
**Woburn
Winchester**

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

Some of our programs also serve residents of one or more other communities within Middlesex County

Our Food Pantry provides emergency and supplemental food assistance to those in need who reside in Woburn and Winchester. A community garden at Mary Cummings Park could benefit our clients by providing fresh, nutritious affordable food and by offering them the opportunity to participate in growing this food themselves.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park.

Sincerely,

Dean A. Solomon
Executive Director



CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino



Supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families to live, work and play in our communities since 1954.

March 1, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

20 Gould Street
Reading, MA 01867-2927
Phone: 781.942.4888
Fax: 781.942.0820
Family Center
Fax: 781.439.6437
Email: Info@theamarc.org
Website: www.theamarc.org

Life Choices North Shore
950 Cummings Center
Suite 105X-106X
Beverly, MA 01950
Phone: 978.279.2100
Fax: 978.279.2105

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President

Christine Flaherty
Vice President

Ralph D'Amico
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Lisa Gibbs
Clerk

Sharon Borggaard
Immediate Past President

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Barbara Crystal
Charles Gordon
John Mason
Brian McCoubrey
Judith Osborn
Elena Previte

Terry Kennedy
Executive Director

Dear Director Signori:

The Arc of East Middlesex is pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach adults with developmental and physical disabilities, the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

Our organization focuses on different areas of volunteerism and community based projects in order for our adults to gain different experiences that will enhance their commitment to their community. Our goal is to broaden the view of society as a whole, in relation to our adults, and see them for what they can do, not what they cannot.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our adults to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,

Marci Lundin
Director
Life Choices Metro North
EMARC
20 Gould Street Reading, MA 01867
781-944-5655 X5017
mlundin@theamarc.org

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino



February 25, 2010

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the gardening program at Mary Cummings Park. As a health professional, educator, and urban gardener, I am committed to utilizing green space for food production and as a venue for physical activity. I know that this program would be a benefit to many who would use it.

Garden-based youth programs may help children to increase their fruit and vegetable intake, and try new fruits, vegetables, and other new and unfamiliar foods. Additionally, the incorporation of garden-based youth programs allows for continued learning opportunities in the field of nutrition, environment and agriculture for youth, their families, and their community. Research has also reported that including garden-based youth programs in the public school curricula has a positive effect on participant's academic achievement. With high rates of childhood obesity and diabetes, it is imperative that we start to take advantage of outdoor space that can be used for food production, an outdoor classroom, and a venue for physical activity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Phoebe K. Flemming, RD, LDN

Owner, Phoebe Inc.



www.GoWREN.org

February 25, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Director Signori:

WREN is pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

WREN members support and have been involved with many Gardening and Food programs in the area along with its Environmental work. Things like the Woburn Garden Awards, WREN's Educational Series with classes taught at Heimlich Nurseries and the McCue Gardening Center, the Organic Gardens section of the Woburn Community Gardens, and ongoing support of the WCSC Food Pantry.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,

Geraldine E. Kehoe
President

Rodney W. Flynn
Treasurer

Edward R. Quinn
Clerk

Feligenio S. Medeiros
Director

Woburn Residents' Environmental Network, 6 Thornton St, Woburn, MA 01801
781-526-0810 - WRENmail@yahoo.com

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

2/26/10

Dear Director Signori:

The Winchester Farmers Market is pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

The Winchester Farmers Market is happy to support the Friends of Mary Cummings Park's Mary's Garden. This will provide opportunity for learning self sufficiency skills and get inking for sustainable, local economic practices. Gardening will also obviously provide direct sources healthy, nutritious and tasty additions to participant's diets. These are all tenants of farmers markets.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,



Fred Yen
Market Manager
Winchester Farmers Market
200 Swanton St #732
Winchester, MA 01890
781-721-4560
fredyen@atl.net

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Mary's Gardens

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201

3/1/10

Dear Director Signori:

The Winchester Community Gardens is pleased to support "Mary's Gardens" at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston Public Schools at the park for many years.


We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

The Winchester Community Gardens welcomes the Friends of Mary Cummings Park's proposal to create Mary's Gardens. The amount of land available for community gardens is very limited, as we know in Winchester, having a waiting list over the last few years for our garden plots. Please allow Mary's Garden be an opportunity for more and more people to return to the joys of gardening.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Mary's Gardens at Mary Cummings Park

Sincerely,



Fred Yen
Representative
Winchester Community Gardens
Winchester Recreations Department
263 Main St
Winchester, MA 01890
781-856-0761
fredyen@att.net

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Mary's Gardens

February 24, 2010

Lisa C. Signori
Director of Administration and Finance
1 City Hall Square, Room 608
Boston, MA 02201



Dear Director Signori:

Waltham Fields Community Farm is pleased to support Gardens at Mary Cummings Park, proposed by Friends of Mary Cummings Park, to restart a community and children's educational gardening program similar to one operated by the Boston School District at the park for many years.

Waltham Fields Community Farm (WFCF) is a 501c3 organization promoting local agriculture through education programs for children and adults and through growing and distribution practices that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable. We forge relationships between people, their food supply, and the land from which it grows.

We support the use of organic gardening practices that are ecologically sound and protect our water and air resources. This program will teach children the value of using sustainable, natural, organic soil enhancements in reducing carbon emissions. It will also provide an ongoing demonstration of best practices to follow in order that natural species be afforded the opportunity to flourish in a sustainable manner.

We understand that a number of organizations involved in providing food to those in need have expressed an interest in participating in this program and that of course provides the additional opportunity for our youngsters to understand societal needs and the values making contributions to support those needs.

We urge you to approve the proposal for Gardens at Mary Cummings Park as an activity that is fully consistent with the objectives of the Mary Cummings Trust.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jericho Bjeknell".

Jericho Bjeknell
Education and Outreach Coordinator
Waltham Fields Community Farm
240 Beaver Street
Waltham, MA 02452
781-899-2403
jericho@communityfarms.org

CC: Mayor Thomas M. Menino

WALTHAM FIELDS COMMUNITY FARM, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02452
781-899-2403 • www.communityfarms.org

ACORD™ CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE				DATE (MM/DD/YY) 02/26/2010		
PRODUCER SCIARRATTA & DOUCETTE 11 ELLIS STREET P O BOX 367 NEEDHAM, MA 02492		Serial # 104183		THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW.		
INSURED FRIENDS OF MARY CUMMINGS PARK, INC. 101 MIDDLESEX TPKE, STE 6 BURLINGTON, MA 01803						
				INSURERS AFFORDING COVERAGE		
				NAIC#		
				INSURER A: HARTFORD INSURANCE CO.		
				INSURER B:		
				INSURER C:		
				INSURER D:		
				INSURER E:		
COVERAGES						
THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. AGGREGATE LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.						
INSR LTR	ADDITIONAL NSR#	TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE (MM/DD/YY)	POLICY EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YY)	LIMITS
A		GENERAL LIABILITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO. SECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC	08SBMVX5411	5/1/09	5/1/10	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 300,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 10,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000 PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ 2,000,000
		AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS				COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$
		GARAGE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				AUTO ONLY - EA ACCIDENT \$ OTHER THAN EA ACC \$ AUTO ONLY: AGG \$
		EXCESS/UMBRELLA LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE <input type="checkbox"/> DEDUCTIBLE RETENTION \$				EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ \$ \$ \$
		WORKER'S COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? If yes, describe under SPECIAL PROVISIONS below				<input type="checkbox"/> W/C STATUTORY LIMITS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER EL EACH ACCIDENT \$ EL DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ EL DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$
		OTHER				
DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS/LOCATIONS/VEHICLES/EXCLUSIONS ADDED BY ENDORSEMENT/SPECIAL PROVISIONS						
CERTIFICATE HOLDER				CANCELLATION		
LISA C. SIGNOR DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE 1 CITY HALL SQUARE, ROOM 608 BOSTON, MA 02201				SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, THE ISSUING INSURER WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAIL _____ DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER NAMED TO THE LEFT, BUT FAILURE TO DO SO SHALL IMPOSE NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND UPON THE INSURER, ITS AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES.		
				AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE <i>K. S. Doucette</i>		