

# Sustainable Food Center & How to Start a Community Garden



SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER

Sustainable Food Center cultivates a healthy community by strengthening the local food system and improving access to nutritious, affordable food.

December 9, 2008

Community & Youth Gardening



Farm Marketing



Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre™



GROW. SHARE. PREPARE.



**FOOD & NUTRITION**

The Happy Kitchen  
Facilitator Training  
Healthy Habits to Go  
Nutrition and Healthy  
Cooking Programs



**GROW LOCAL**

Spread the Harvest  
Community Garden Sponsorship  
School Garden Support  
Workshops and Technical Assistance



**FARM DIRECT**

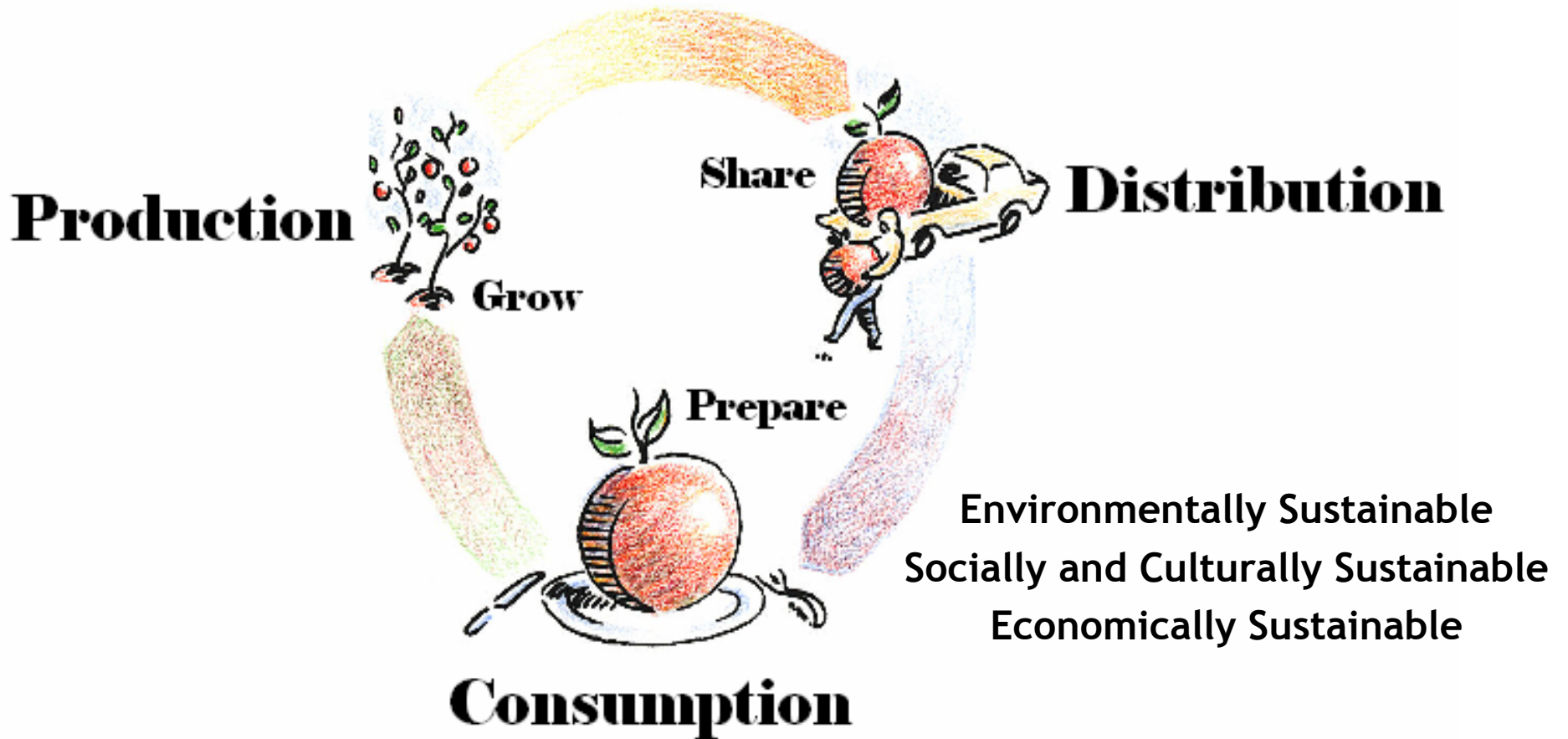
Austin Farmers' Market  
EBT/ATM Initiative,  
WIC FMNP  
Farm-to-Cafeteria

# COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

The ability of a community to provide nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate, accessible food through non-emergency means



# FOOD SYSTEMS





# The Happy Kitchen/*La cocina alegre*

- 6-class series (English & Spanish)
- Free for participants
- Learn how to prepare a new recipe each class
- At the end of each class, participants receive a free bag of groceries containing the items to prepare the featured recipe
- Class series are taught by trained, community facilitators

# Farm Direct Program

- Austin Farmer's Market
  - Downtown Market at Republic Square Park
  - Triangle Market between Lamar, 45<sup>th</sup>, and Guadalupe
  - Farm Stands at WIC Centers

# Grow Local Program

- Spread the Harvest Project
- Classes & Workshops
  - Basic Organic Gardening (English & Spanish)
  - Guest Speaker Workshops
  - Compost & Seed Saving Sessions
- School Garden Mentor Program
- Support for Community Gardens

# COMMUNITY GARDENS



# Will you have a part in Victory?



## "Every Garden a Munition Plant"

Charles Lathrop Pack, Designer  
THIS POSTER, USED IN 1918, AND WITH DIFFERENT SLOGANS IN 1919, WAS POPULAR WHEREVER IT APPEARED AND DID MUCH TO EXTEND THE WAR GARDEN MOVEMENT

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND TO COMMUNITY GARDENS

- During WWI and WWII, the United States government asked its citizens to plant gardens in order to support the war effort.



- In 1943, Americans planted over 20 million Victory Gardens, and the harvest accounted for nearly 1/3 of all the vegetables consumed in the country that year.





- Emphasis was placed on making gardening a family or community effort -- not a drudgery, but a pastime, and a national duty.



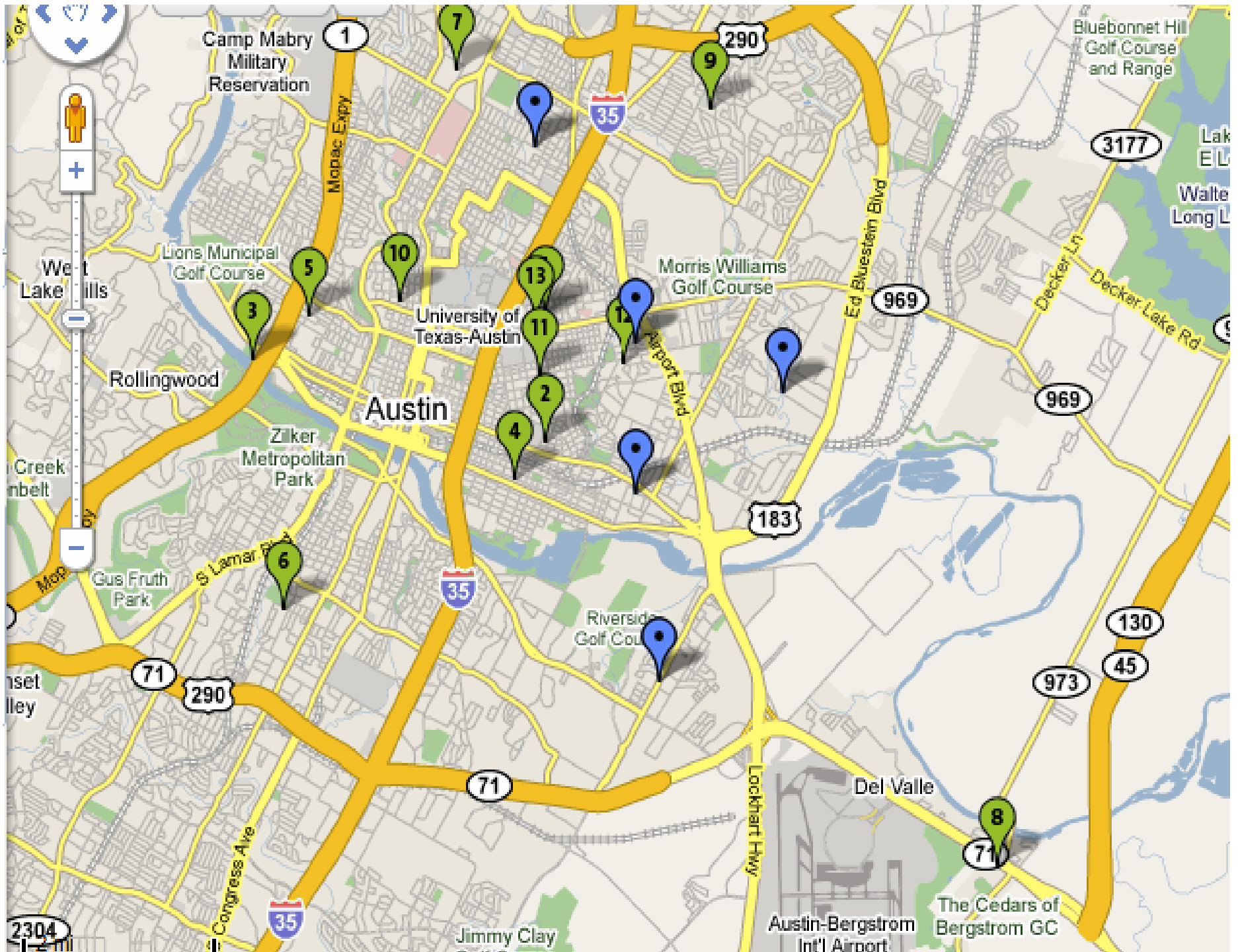
# COMMUNITY GARDENS TODAY





# BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS









# HOW TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN

revive  
the **Victory**  
**Garden**  
think global • grow local

# To start a community garden...

- 1) Get organized
- 2) Identify land
- 3) Locate resources (including funding)



# GET ORGANIZED

- Invite a variety of neighborhood representatives
- Tap into existing organizations (PTAs, churches, neighborhood assoc.s)



# INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

A successful community garden is welcoming and inclusive, and provides benefits to a wide array of community members.



# FORM A PLANNING COMMITTEE

- At least 10 committed people
- Hold a meeting to talk about **goals and purpose** of garden, and short & long term objectives



# IDENTIFY YOUR COMMUNITY'S ASSETS

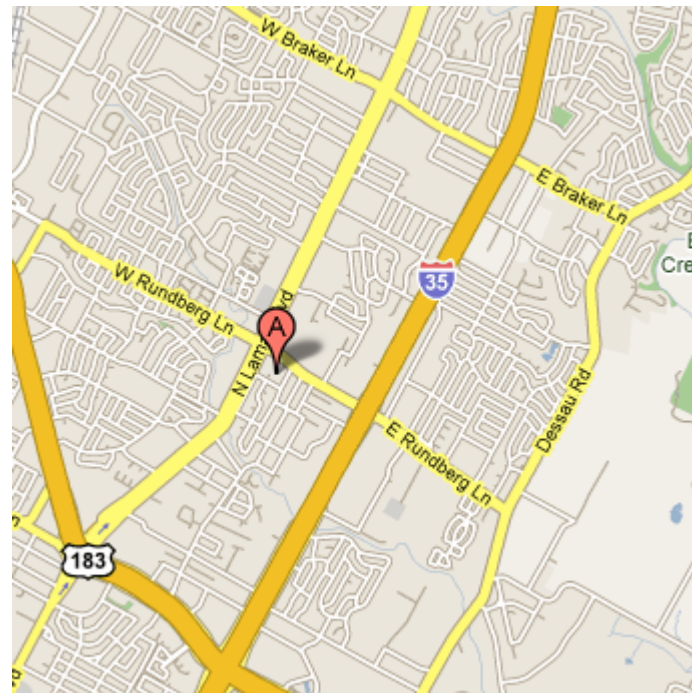


- **Asset Based Community Development:**

“Neighborhood regeneration can be achieved by locating all of the available local assets within a community and connecting them with one another in ways that multiply their effect” (American Community Garden Association, 2001, p. 54).



# Review North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area's Assets



# FIVE CATEGORIES OF ASSETS

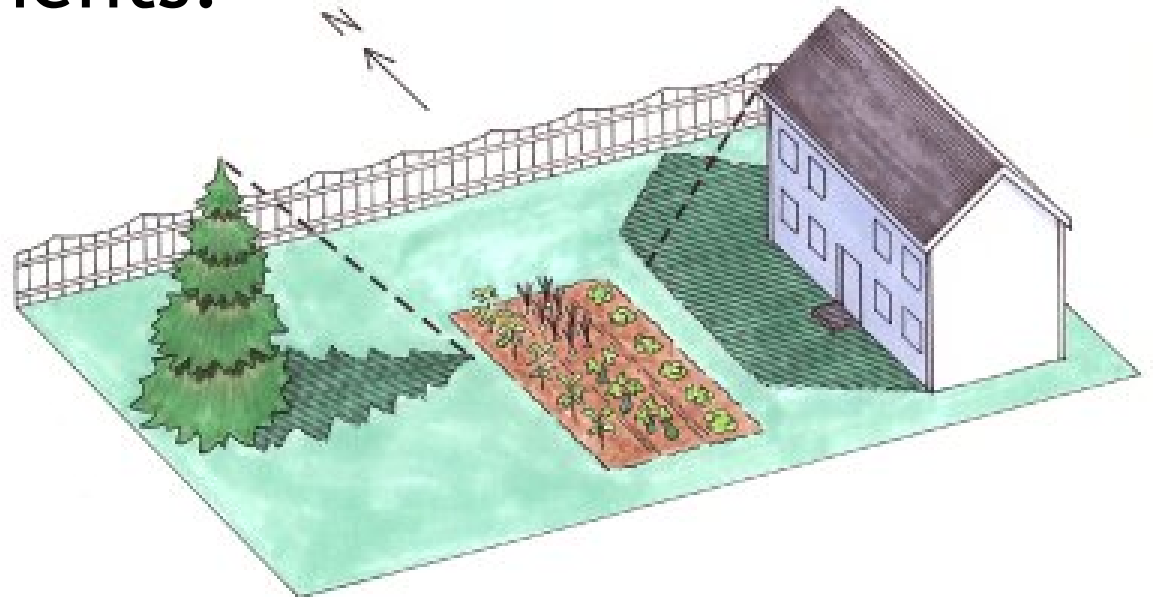
- Individual Gifts
- Associations
- Institutions
- Land and Buildings
- The Local Economy



# WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Site Requirements:

- Sunlight
- Water
- Soil (test?)
- Accessibility
- Visibility



**HOW TO FIND LAND**  
**[www.traviscad.org](http://www.traviscad.org)**

8314 Cross Park Drive

834-9317



# Travis Central Appraisal District

8314 Cross Park Drive - Austin, Texas 78754 \* Phone (512) 834-9317 \* Fax (512) 835-5371



- [TCAD Office](#)
- [Appraisal Roll](#)
- [Tax Rates](#)
- [Forms](#)

- [Tax Calendar](#)
- [Related Links](#)
- [E-Mail](#)
- [Employment](#)

## Local Property Tax Information

**2008 Certified Values now online**  
**New! [Frequently Asked Questions \(pdf\)](#)**

# Travis Central Appraisal District

8314 Cross Park Drive - Austin, Texas 78754 \* Phone (512) 834-9317 \* Fax (512) 835-5371

You may search the entire TCAD database for real estate properties by Account Number, Owner's Name or Property Address

## Search Appraisal Roll

| Real Property   | Business Personal Property  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Property ID</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Owner's Name</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Property Address</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Ref ID 2</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">Property ID</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Owner's Name</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Property Address</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">Ref ID 2</a></li> </ul> |

The capitalization rate which the Travis Central Appraisal District will use in the valuation of properties with a Community Housing Development Organization designation is 8%

This information is intended for reference only and is subject to change. It may not accurately reflect the complete status of the account as actually carried in Travis Central Appraisal District's database and should not be used as a basis of protest or appeal.

The Appraisal District maintains this site for the convenience and use of our taxpayers. It is not intended for the bulk transfer of data. The District will implement such programs and techniques it deems necessary to ensure the broadest availability of the site.

Plat Maps are now available. Search for property and click the Plat Map button on detail page.

Travis County Property Information

Account Number: 189108 Geo No.: 0202071017 Print Version

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Owner Name      | BUBBAS INVESTMENTS                  |
| Mailing Address | PO BOX 785<br>SALADO, TX 76571-0785 |
| Location        | E 2 ST 78702                        |
| Legal           | S2 FT OF L...<br>FT                 |

| Entity Code  | Entity Name    | Tax Rate 2007     |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 0A           |                |                   |
| 01           | Austin ISD     | 1.163000          |
| 02           | City of Austin | 0.403400          |
| 03           | Travis Co      | 0.421600          |
|              |                | 0.069300          |
|              |                | 0.098500          |
| <b>Total</b> |                | <b>2.1558</b>     |
| <b>Taxes</b> |                | <b>\$5,500.65</b> |

- Owner's Name & Contact
- Property size (acres & sqft)
- Land Value
- Land ID & Plat Map

Data up to date as of Aug

Document Images (i

Links to Common Form

Agricultural (1-D-1)

Protest Form

| Property Details |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Deed Date        | 09/12/1991 |
| Deed Volume      | 11529      |

| Value Information |  | 2008 Certified |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Land Value        |  | \$255,156.00   |
| Improvement Value |  | \$0.00         |

# USING CITY LAND

- **Open-ended agreement to use property**
- **Liability Insurance Required**
  - Minimum \$500,000 for city land
  - Price depends on: Acreage, Amount of coverage, Property (tool sheds, irrigation systems, etc.)

**Other fees Include:**



**Texas Printers Insurance**  
**Doreen (800) 293-0434 ext. 122**



# BLACKSHEAR NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN'S STORY



# USING PARK LAND

- 2-3 community gardens per year on park land adjacent to recreation centers, PARD will provide
  - Purchase, installation of fencing, tool shed, irrigation line & spigots
  - Initial tilling of ground
  - Lumber for raised beds
  - Mulch
  - Payment of monthly water bills



# MONTOPOLIS COMMUNITY GARDEN'S STORY



# USING PRIVATE LAND

- Long-term lease agreement of at least 5-10yrs (in writing)
- Growing on church land





# HYDE PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN'S STORY





# WATER

- Water Meters
  - Residential 1” Lines
  - Commercial 1.5” Lines
- Water Bills
  - what to expect



# WHERE TO FIND FUNDING

- Austin Parks Foundation
- Keep Austin Beautiful
- City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department
- Local businesses, church parishes
- Individual donors/sponsors
- SFC will act as fiduciary agent



# What are the most effective ways to raise \$\$\$?

- Face to Face: 50-75% yes rate, effective with donors and some prospects
- Phone: 25-60% yes rate, effective with donors and prospects
- Mail: 1-10% yes rate, less intimate and therefore less effective
- Events: Lots of work, not necessarily cost effective (but often useful for outreach or PR)

( American Community Gardening Association 2001)



# RESOURCES

- SFC
  - Spread the Harvest
  - Support on grants written by gardeners
  - Technical support
- Coalition of Austin Community Gardens
- Master Gardeners
- Garden Clubs
  - Austin Organic Gardener
- Neighborhood Associations
- ACGA



American  
Community  
Gardening  
Association

---

# SFC can provide...

- Technical Support
- Fiduciary Agent for grants
- Spread the Harvest

## GROW LOCAL PROGRAM STAFF

Sari Albornoz, 236-0074 ext. 110

sari@sustainablefoodcenter.org

Emily Neiman, 236-0074 ext. 105

emily@sustainablefoodcenter.org

