

LONG ISLAND VICTORY GARDEN TASK FORCE



REPORT TO THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

OCTOBER 12, 2010

RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK

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Just in time for Spring of 2009, the seed of the Victory Garden was planted in my head by the students of Ms. Jessie Brunza's fourth grade class in Cordello Avenue Elementary School in Central Islip. Given the challenge of coming up with suggestions for Suffolk County legislation, these "legislators for a day" came up with *Suffolk County should help children to afford healthy food*. I was deeply touched by the classroom discussions during the development of this legislation that afternoon. I was so moved that I invited the class to come to the Legislature to present their ideas. With the help of the school administration and their legislator, Ricardo Montano, the students presented their case to the Legislature on May 12, 2009.



Photo: Deputy Presiding Officer Vivian Vilorio-Fisher hopes to sprout an interest in gardening by presenting Tomato plant seedlings to students on a follow-up visit to Ms. Brunza's class.

The impact that these students had on legislators is demonstrated by the introduction of three resolutions. The one discussed herein, establishing a Victory Garden Task Force (533.09); a resolution introduced by Legislator Romaine directing the Division of Real Property to identify county properties appropriate for gardens (546.09); and a resolution introduced by Legislator Horsley directing the Department

of Social Services to include an informative insert with food stamps to let clients know that food stamps may be used for seeds and seedlings (554.09).

The ultimate goals, then, of this Task Force are to help the people of Suffolk County learn to grow and gain access to foods that will help them lead healthier lives. We explored issues of proximity as well as affordability to families' ability to provide fresh, nutritious foods for their tables.

We have used the term "Victory Garden" because of the significant role Victory Gardens have played during difficult times in our nation's history. These gardens helped to make families self-sufficient, provided food for the hungry, reduced dependence on much needed fuel, and united the people toward a common goal. To have a Victory Garden was to be a part of an important patriotic movement.

We are currently in the most challenging economic period that we have seen in almost a century. Folks need to be brought together in a positive goal: neighbor helping neighbor and learning together.

I am grateful to the members of the Victory Gardens Task Force for their dedication and expertise. I also wish to thank Susan Wilk (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Iman Marghoob (State University of New York at Stony Brook, Department of Family

Medicine), and Erin Thoresen (Sustainable Long Island) who participated in many of our meetings and provided great insight during our deliberations. We would also like to thank the many community members who attended our public hearings. Their experience and vision helped the Task Force to develop a clearer understanding of our mission.



Photo: "Frequent watering of the Victory Garden is necessary during the early stages of growth," according to the caption in this 1943 photo from Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York

Vivian Vilorina-Fisher, Chair
Deputy Presiding Officer
Legislator, Fifth District

The Victory Garden Task Force Members

Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher (Chair)

Chair, Environment, Planning and Acquisitions Committee of Suffolk County Legislature

Joseph Gergela

Executive Director, Long Island Farm Bureau

Thomas Lyon

Suffolk County School Districts Appointee

Volunteer Coordinator, Heifer International on Long Island

Caroline Kiang

Master Gardener Program Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Pamela Greene, Director, Division of Real Property

Appointed by Commissioner of Suffolk County Department of Energy and Environment

Richard Meyer,

Appointed by Commissioner of Suffolk County Department of Health Services

Jane Corrarino,

Appointed by Commissioner of Suffolk County Department of Health Services

Actions taken in compliance with Resolution 533.09:

- I. The task force was formed according to Resolution 533.09, appointments were made by officials and members were duly sworn in by Clerk of the Legislature
- II. The task force met approximately once a month and minutes were taken. There was a quorum at every meeting.
- III. Four public hearings were held in different locations throughout the County. These locations were: Riverhead Legislative Auditorium at 3pm on March 3, 2010, the Brentwood Public Library at 7 pm on March 10, 2010, Brookhaven Town Hall at 10 am on March 24, 2010 and the Little Theater located on the campus of SUNY Farmingdale at 3pm on March 31, 2010. All public hearings were published, according to County law, in the official newspapers of the county, as well as Legislator Vilorio-Fisher's e newsletter.
- IV. Task Force members researched materials pertaining to various types of gardens, consulted experts by phone and email, and invited speakers to meetings.
- V. Task Force members worked on the preparation of a report individually and collectively.

The report which follows provides information on the location of existing Community and School Gardens, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), and farms in Suffolk County. What is a community garden or CSA? The terms and concepts expressed in this report are defined in a glossary found in Appendix II. The locations of the various agricultural sites may be found in an annotated map in Appendix III. There is also information on appropriate County properties that may be used by local community groups for community gardens. This information is a result of Resolution # 546 and is found in Appendices IV and V. The county properties are identified by their tax map numbers in Appendix IV, as stipulated in Resolution 546.09. Since it might be difficult for interested parties to locate properties in this manner, the Department of Planning has prepared a corresponding map (Appendix V) to help locate the sites.

This report also contains guides and resources to help establish a number of different types of gardens.

Finally, the Task Force took a broad view and developed a plan to establish a Food Policy Council.

We sincerely hope that the information found on these pages and the Suffolk County web site will help the Suffolk County community to address the complex and important issue of food access and healthy eating. This is the beginning of a conversation, the sprouting of a movement that will grow organically through meetings, social networking, and other cross pollination.

I. Increasing the Development of Victory Gardens in Suffolk County

“All gardeners know better than other gardeners.” - Chinese Proverb

The task force has learned that there are many groups in Suffolk County who are working on providing nutritious food sources for people who live here. The Victory Garden of past generations has now evolved into many different opportunities for natural, sustainable and accessible nutrition:

Community Supported Agriculture; Community Farms; Community Gardens; and School Gardens. Suffolk County’s agricultural heritage has also provided us with a legacy of family farms.

At our public hearings, one of the many lessons shared by the public to the Victory Garden Task Force members is that there is no better resource for gardeners than other gardeners.



Photo: USDA - It is shovels up for the young people from the non-profit Jubilee Housing organization's after school youth services program and a young USDA volunteer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) People's Garden.

The knowledge that has been gained by the many individuals working the various active community gardens in the county is a unique resource that we believe should be tapped by all of those currently engaged in gardens or contemplating beginning a garden. To that end, we list and highlight the names and locations of the current active gardens in the County in Appendix VI. Additionally, the County has created a Facebook page and will be launching interactive maps for residents interested in all aspects of gardening, while the Food Policy Council will ensure that decision makers are also involved. Just as individual plants benefit

from cross pollination, we believe that all gardens can become stronger and heartier through the cross pollination of gardening knowledge.



Photo: Student volunteers show off the “fruits (and vegetables) of their labor” at Hobbs Farm in Centereach.

own time in planting these seeds of knowledge in the fertile soils of schools, places of worship, or any other community oriented activity. Ms. Kiang has provided a list of Community Gardens and CSAs for inclusion in this report. It is also available on the map that appears in Appendix III.

This task force is including a link to a handbook entitled “The Community Garden Toolkit” <http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0906.pdf> to help would-be gardeners

get started. As we researched this exciting topic we discovered an abundance of resources for the community and school gardener. We shared information about the Victory Garden Initiative (<http://victorygardeninitiative.com>), the Green Thumb Challenge, the USDA sponsored People’s Gardens (<http://www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden>), and model school and community gardens with school districts across Suffolk County. In turn, schools and community groups attended the four Public Hearings



Photo by Natalie Maynor

held by this Task Force and shared the success of their efforts: including the Seedlings Projects at the Springs School and Hobbs Farm in Centereach, Sofia’s Garden in Amityville

and Terryville Elementary School in Port Jefferson Station. Details of these presentations may be found in Appendices VIII, IX, X and XI, *Public Hearings I, II, III and IV, respectively.*

II. Identifying Potential Locations for Community Victory Gardens

Pamela Greene, director of the Department of Real Estate and a member of the victory Garden Task Force reported having completed the directive of Resolution # 546 *To Evaluate County Properties for Community Garden Purposes.* This report, which includes a list of appropriate County properties listed by Tax Map numbers, may be found in Appendix IV. The Task Force requested that Thomas Isles, Director of the Department of Planning, identify those properties on a map in order to help the interested individuals or groups find these locations. These maps may be found in Appendix V. Additionally, community groups interested in establishing a community garden can get information from local town and village municipalities, school districts, places of worship and businesses.

III. Establish a Plan to Distribute Produce Grown on Publicly Owned Property

The Task Force has determined that the distribution of produce grown on publicly owned property is beyond the purview of this group, given that the determination of how food will be distributed would need legal interpretations and would be an ongoing task. The Victory Garden Task Force does not have the legal authority to make these determinations, nor does it have a mandate to continue to function beyond the issuance of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force recommends that there be ongoing networking and continued dialogue that will facilitate the development and growth of community gardening. We anticipate participation from the community in adding gardens, farms, farmers markets and other sustainable food access points to our maps. We hope to *grow* participation through the Task Force initiated Facebook page, the Food Policy Council and the interactive component to Suffolk County hosted maps.

Rather than abandon the concerns that will arise with the potential development of community Gardens and the need to provide continued direction and resources, the Task Force has recommended the formation of a Food Policy Council that will serve as an advisory council to the Suffolk County Legislature. Task Force Chairwoman, Deputy Presiding Officer Vivian Vilorio-Fisher will be introducing legislation to create a Suffolk County Food Policy Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 533 -2009, ESTABLISHING A LONG ISLAND VICTORY GARDEN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Victory Gardens have aided millions of people across the United States during some of the most difficult times in American history; and

WHEREAS, with information provided by government agencies, Victory Gardens flourished during World War I, with an estimated 5 million Victory Gardens across the country; and

WHEREAS, Victory Gardens produced half of all fresh vegetables consumed by Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County, as well as the rest of our state and nation, is suffering through the most difficult economic recession since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, developing a network of local Victory Gardens will allow Suffolk County residents to make a positive impact during these difficult times, aiding those in our communities who are hit hardest; and

WHEREAS, Victory Gardens can help County residents by providing healthy, fresh produce at a fraction of the cost of purchasing such items at a grocery store; and

WHEREAS, the time is right to follow the example of previous generations of Americans and re-establish Victory Gardens; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that a special Long Island Victory Garden Task Force is hereby created to study and analyze information on increasing the development of Victory Gardens on Long Island; identify potential locations for community Victory Gardens; establish a plan to distribute produce grown on publicly owned property and develop a program to encourage the creation and maintenance of Victory Gardens, including the development of written materials that will be distributed to Suffolk County schools and community organizations in order to educate residents on establishing their own gardens; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall consist of the following six (6) members:

- 1.) the Chairman of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee or his or her designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the Task Force;
- 2.) the Suffolk County Commissioner of Health Services or his or her designee;
- 3.) the Suffolk County Commissioner of Environment and Energy or his or her designee;
- 4.) a representative from the Long Island Farm Bureau;
- 5.) a representative from the Cornell Cooperative Extension; and

6.) a representative of Suffolk County's School Districts;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened by the chairman of the Task Force, for the purpose of organization and the appointment of a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the members of said Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Task Force. Written notice of the time and place of such special meeting shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that four (4) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may submit requests to the County Executive and/or the County Legislature for approval for the provision of secretarial services, travel expenses, or retention of consultants to assist the Task Force with such endeavors, said total expenditures not to exceed Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) per fiscal year, which services shall be subject to Legislative approval; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that clerical services involving the month-to-month operation of this Task Force, as well as supplies and postage as necessary, will be provided by the staff of the County Department of Environment and Energy; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to hold at least four (4) public hearings throughout the County of Suffolk to assemble the data and information necessary to complete the valuation, study, and report required with all

reasonable efforts to be made to ascertain the views, wishes, and opinions of the residents of Suffolk County; and be it further

13th RESOLVED, that said Task Force shall issue a written report, after a comprehensive study and analysis of the economic and environmental impact of encouraging local Victory Gardens, locations for community Victory Gardens, and the level of interest in developing and maintaining Victory Gardens in Suffolk County; and be it further

14th RESOLVED, that this special Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than one hundred eighty (180) days subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

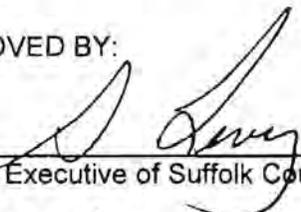
15th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of December 31, 2009 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

16th RESOLVED, that this study shall not be performed by any outside consultant or consulting firm unless explicit approval and authorization for such consultant or consulting firm is granted pursuant to a duly enacted resolution of the County Legislature; and be it further

17th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 23, 2009

APPROVED BY:



County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: 7-6-09

SUFFOLK COUNTY
County Legislature
RIVERHEAD, NY



This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 23, 2009 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Laube".

Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res. 1547

Res. No. 533

June 23, 2009

Motion:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloria-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Co-Sponsors:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloria-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Second:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloria-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE					
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN					
3	Kate M. BROWNING					
4	Brian BEEDENBENDER					
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO					
7	Jack EDDINGTON					
9	Ricardo MONTANO					
10	Cameron ALDEN					
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA					
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.					
13	Lynne C. NOWICK					
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY					
15	DuWayne GREGORY					
16	Steven H. STERN					
17	Lou D'AMARO					
18	Jon COOPER					
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.					
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.					
	Totals	18				

MOTION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approve
___	Table: _____
___	Send To Committee
___	Table Subject To Call
___	Lay On The Table
___	Discharge
___	Take Out of Order
___	Reconsider
___	Waive Rule _____
___	Override Veto
___	Close
___	Recess
APPROVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FAILED _____
No Motion _____	No Second _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED
___ NOT ADOPTED

Tim Laube

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call _____ Voice Vote

**RESOLUTION NO. 546 -2009, TO EVALUATE COUNTY
PROPERTIES FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk owns diverse properties, from small unbuildable lots to large preserved properties, acquired through Open Space Preservation Programs or by tax default; and

WHEREAS, many of these smaller vacant properties are abandoned and could be utilized as "community gardens", which could be maintained and beautified through license agreements with volunteer organizations; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities, including the City of New York, have instituted "community garden" programs with local volunteer organizations planting and maintaining gardens of flowers or vegetables at no cost to the municipality; and

WHEREAS, engaging the services of volunteer organizations to beautify and enhance County owned properties would alleviate the need for the County workforce to maintain these parcels; and

WHEREAS, the first step toward establishing a "community garden" program is to inventory County properties and determine the number and location of properties that may be available for this program; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy, Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management, is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed, to compile a list of properties presently owned by the County of Suffolk and to rate the properties for potential use in a "community garden" program; such list shall include properties that are not currently being used for another County purpose such as drainage, parks, nature preserve, roads, parking, or in the alternative, are not buildable and are located in areas of Suffolk County where the census reflects that the mean income of residents is less than eighty percent (80%) of the mean County income; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to issue a request for proposals to identify a vendor to manage a "community garden" program on behalf of the County; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management shall issue a written status report to this Legislature within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this resolution detailing the status of their efforts to establish a "community garden" program in accordance with the provisions of this resolution; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on

Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 23, 2009

EFFECTIVE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-15(F) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER,
RETURNED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE UNSIGNED JULY 8, 2009

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steve Levy
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 7, 2009

Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay and
Members of the Suffolk County Legislature
William H. Rogers Legislative Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, New York 11787

**RE: RESOLUTION 546 -2009; TO EVALUATE COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR
COMMUNITY GARDEN PURPOSES**

Dear Presiding Officer Lindsay and Members of the Legislature:

I am returning herein **Resolution No. 546 -2009; TO EVALUATE COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN PURPOSES** neither signed nor vetoed.

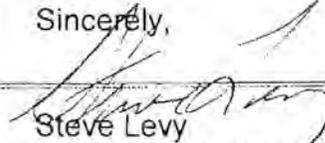
While community garden programs enhance a neighborhood and provide enjoyment and benefit to residents who take part in the development and maintenance of the gardens, I have strong reservations about the County's liability for any accidents that occur on County properties which would become more actively used and visited if converted into a community garden.

Furthermore, the resolution directs the Division of Real Property Acquisition and Management to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a vendor to manage a countywide community garden program, and for the Division to rate county-owned properties suitable for such a purpose. I believe these steps are premature, in that we have not yet fully gauged the public's interest in such a program.

Unlike urban areas, where community gardens most often flourish, most Suffolk County residents have the ability and the property to grow beautiful flower and vegetable gardens in their own yards. A drive through almost any residential neighborhood will attest to the hard work and care of many Suffolk homeowners who enjoy gardening.

Questions also remain as to how County government could enforce who gets to reap the rewards of the hard work some may put into cultivating the garden. How could we prevent those not having put in their support to simply pass by and pick fruit or vegetables?

Sincerely,



Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

cc: All Suffolk County Legislators
Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature
Christine Malafi, Esq., Suffolk County Attorney
Lynne A. Bizzarro, Esq., Chief Deputy County Attorney
Christopher Kent, Chief Deputy County Executive
Frederick B. Pollert, Deputy County Executive for Finance and Management
Jeffrey W. Szabo, Deputy County Executive and Chief of Staff
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Connie Corso, Budget Director
Dan Aug, Director of Communications
Mark Smith, Deputy Director of Communications

SUFFOLK COUNTY
County Legislature
RIVERHEAD, NY



This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 23, 2009 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Laube".

Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res. 1473 Res. No. 546

June 23, 2009

Motion:
 Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Co-Sponsors:
 Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Second:
 Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE					
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN					
3	Kate M. BROWNING					
4	Brian BEEDENBENDER				/	
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO					
7	Jack EDDINGTON					
9	Ricardo MONTANO					
10	Cameron ALDEN					
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA					
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.					
13	Lynne C. NOWICK					
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY					
15	DuWayne GREGORY					
16	Steven H. STERN				/	
17	Lou D'AMARO					
18	Jon COOPER					
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.					
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.					
	Totals	16	1	2		

MOTION

Approve

Table: _____

Send To Committee _____

Table Subject To Call _____

Lay On The Table _____

Discharge _____

Take Out of Order _____

Reconsider _____

Waive Rule _____

Override Veto _____

Close _____

Recess _____

APPROVED FAILED _____

No Motion _____ No Second _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED

ADOPTED

NOT ADOPTED _____

Tim Laube

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call _____ Voice Vote

**RESOLUTION NO. 554 -2009, ESTABLISHING A GROW
GREEN – SAVE GREEN INITIATIVE BY PROMOTING
“RECESSION GARDENS” IN CLIENT BENEFIT
APPLICATIONS**

WHEREAS, due to the economic downturn, an increased number of Suffolk County residents are applying for, and receiving, federal and state supplemental nutritional assistance (“food stamps”) to ease the strain on their food budgets; and

WHEREAS, recipients of food stamps should be informed of ways to stretch the assistance they receive to maximize its effectiveness and encourage healthy food choices; and

WHEREAS, past generations of Americans have grown their own produce during difficult economic times, providing healthy foods for their families at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase these items at a store; and

WHEREAS, growing fruits and vegetables at home is economical, with an average return of twenty five dollars (\$25) of produce for every one dollar (\$) invested in seeds and fertilizer; and

WHEREAS, many food stamps recipients are unaware that their monthly food stamp allocation can be used to purchase seeds and plants that produce food for consumption, which would help their food budgets go further; and

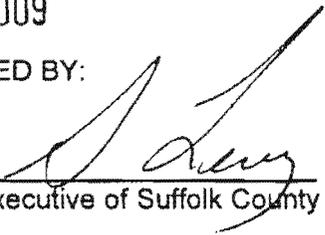
WHEREAS, Suffolk County seeks to encourage all its residents, particularly those suffering during this difficult time, to establish healthy and cost-effective ways to stretch their food budgets; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Social Services is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to work with the Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy to develop and distribute a cover letter with all food stamps applications stating that food stamp allocations may be used to purchase seeds and plants that produce food for consumption; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: JUN 23 2009

APPROVED BY:



County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: 7-6-09

SUFFOLK COUNTY
County Legislature
RIVERHEAD, NY



This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 23, 2009 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Laube".

Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res. 1471 Res. No. 354

June 23, 2009

Motion:
 Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Co-Sponsors:
 Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Second:
 Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE					
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN					
3	Kate M. BROWNING					
4	Brian BEEDENBENDER					
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO					
7	Jack EDDINGTON					
9	Ricardo MONTANO					
10	Cameron ALDEN					
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA					
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.					
13	Lynne C. NOWICK					
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY					
15	DuWayne GREGORY				/	
16	Steven H. STERN				/	
17	Lou D'AMARO					
18	Jon COOPER					
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.					
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.					
Totals		16	-		2-	

MOTION

Approve
 ___ Table: _____
 ___ Send To Committee
 ___ Table Subject To Call
 ___ Lay On The Table
 ___ Discharge
 ___ Take Out of Order
 ___ Reconsider
 ___ Waive Rule ___
 ___ Override Veto
 ___ Close
 ___ Recess

APPROVED FAILED ___
 No Motion ___ No Second ___

RESOLUTION DECLARED

ADOPTED
 ___ NOT ADOPTED

Tim Laube

 Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call ___ Voice Vote

**RESOLUTION NO. 654-2010, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO.
533-2009, ESTABLISHING A LONG ISLAND VICTORY
GARDEN TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 533-2009 established a Long Island Victory Garden Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force was created to study and analyze information on increasing the development of Victory Gardens on Long Island; identify potential locations for community Victory Gardens; establish a plan to distribute produce grown on publicly owned property and develop a program to encourage the creation and maintenance of Victory Gardens, including the development of written materials that will be distributed to Suffolk County schools and community organizations in order to educate residents on establishing their own gardens; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requires additional time to complete their report; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the 14th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 533-2009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14th RESOLVED, that this special Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than [one hundred eighty (180) days subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution] December 31, 2010 for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the 15th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 533-2009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of [~~December 31, 2009~~] December 31, 2010 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of Resolution No. 533-2009 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

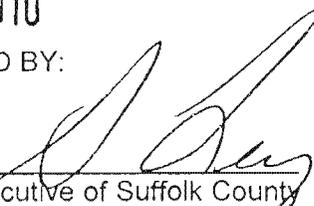
4th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the

NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

[] Brackets denote deletion of existing language
___ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: **JUN 22 2010**

APPROVED BY:



County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: 7-1-10

SUFFOLK COUNTY
County Legislature
RIVERHEAD, NY



This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 22, 2010 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Laube".

Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res. 1624

Res. No. 654

June 22, 2010

Motion:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Viloria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Co-Sponsors:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Viloria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Second:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Losquadro
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Viloria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE					
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN					
3	Kate M. BROWNING					
4	Thomas MURATORE					
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO					
7	Jack EDDINGTON					
9	Ricardo MONTANO					
10	Thomas CILMI					
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA					
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.					
13	Lynne C. NOWICK					
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY					
15	DuWayne GREGORY					
16	Steven H. STERN					
17	Lou D'AMARO					
18	Jon COOPER					
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.					
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.					
	Totals	17				

MOTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve
Table: _____
Send To Committee _____
Table Subject To Call _____
Lay On The Table _____
Discharge _____
Take Out of Order _____
Reconsider _____
Waive Rule _____
Override Veto _____
Close _____
Recess _____
APPROVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAILED _____
No Motion _____ No Second _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED
NOT ADOPTED

Tim Laube

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call _____ Voice Vote

VICTORY GARDEN TASK FORCE

GLOSSARY OF RELATED TERMS, CONCEPTS, AND GROUPS

The renewed interest in gardening and growing local food is part of an evolving movement nationally and worldwide. This very diverse and diffuse movement is addressing key issues as significant as sustainability, health, pollution, equity and democracy.

The terminology and concepts that help define this movement are evolving as well. The glossary below is intended to help clarify and give some background and context to some of these terms.

Community Garden/ Neighborhood Garden --A grouping of garden spaces where individuals and families grow produce on one or more plots, mainly for their own consumption. The “landlord” may be a municipality, a church, a business, or private group like a garden club. Resources such as tools, water, and knowledge are usually shared.

Victory Garden / war garden— Historically Victory Gardens were developed to support the nation in times of crisis- to produce food for local consumption when resources and manpower were diverted to wartime service. Governments gave strong support to these patriotic efforts, and they were extremely valuable in aiding the war effort. Today the term usually refers to local gardening as a means of achieving victory over hunger, poor nutrition, and environmental problems.

School Gardens--- Many schools are returning hands-on gardening to the school curriculum by building and maintaining their own gardens. Lessons in almost all curriculum areas are being addressed in positive ways that meet and exceed state standards.

CSA-Community Supported Agriculture—CSA’s are generally small farms that sell annual “shares” to customers who pay “up front” and are given portions of the farm’s harvest on a regular basis throughout the growing season. This enables the farmer to have cash for planting in the spring and a predictable market for his products. Shareholders can often volunteer to work on the farm, and may pick up their weekly allotment at a offsite location.

Composting --Teaching people how to compost is an integral part of any garden program. Compost demonstrates a key element in the food cycle, reveals valuable lessons in the life of soil and its inhabitants, and provides the opportunity to educate about the recycling of organic waste.

Farm to School Movement/ Farm to Cafeteria - Since 2004, a national Farm to School program has been authorized as part of the Child Nutrition Act. Partnerships between school districts, child nutrition advocates, and local farmers and farm bureaus are bringing fresher, healthier local produce to school cafeterias.

Farm Stand/ Farmers’ Market—Farm stands are owned and operated by individual farm at their own roadside. Most of the items sold are grown there. Farmer’s markets bring together various producers of fresh produce and “added-value” products and usually operate for a limited number of days and hours.

Food Sovereignty/ Food Equity/ Food Justice—These terms all deal with the relationship of access to healthy, affordable food as a right of all citizens in a democracy. Food

justice implies also that all producers and workers in the food system deserve decent living and working conditions, and a fair wage.

Food access/ Food deserts There is often a scarcity of healthy food sources in poor and marginalized communities. Convenience food, and fast food are usually readily available in the neighborhood, but supermarkets and less expensive, healthy food and produce are not.

Organic farming/ organic food/ certified organic Organic farming is a systemic approach that incorporates best practices to make the farm organism as efficient, sustainable, and healthy as possible. We tend to think of organic food as chemical-free, but lack of chemicals is not the only criteria for certification. Federal regulations for organic certification are different than certification from NOFA (National Organic Farmers Association) and somewhat controversial.

Local food movement/ locavore Local food may or may not be organic. But it is often preferred because it has not travelled from hundreds (or thousands) of miles away. Locavores seek to eat as “close to home” as possible.

Slow Food a recent term and movement in reaction to fast food. It involves slowing down the processes of producing, preparing and eating food so that there is more appreciation and sensitivity about the quality of food and the eating experience.

Permaculture Permaculture is sustainable land use design based on ecological and biological principles. Permaculture aims to create stable, productive systems that provide for human needs, and can include food producing perennial plants in a low maintenance setting. In some locations this may be preferable to a traditional seasonal garden.

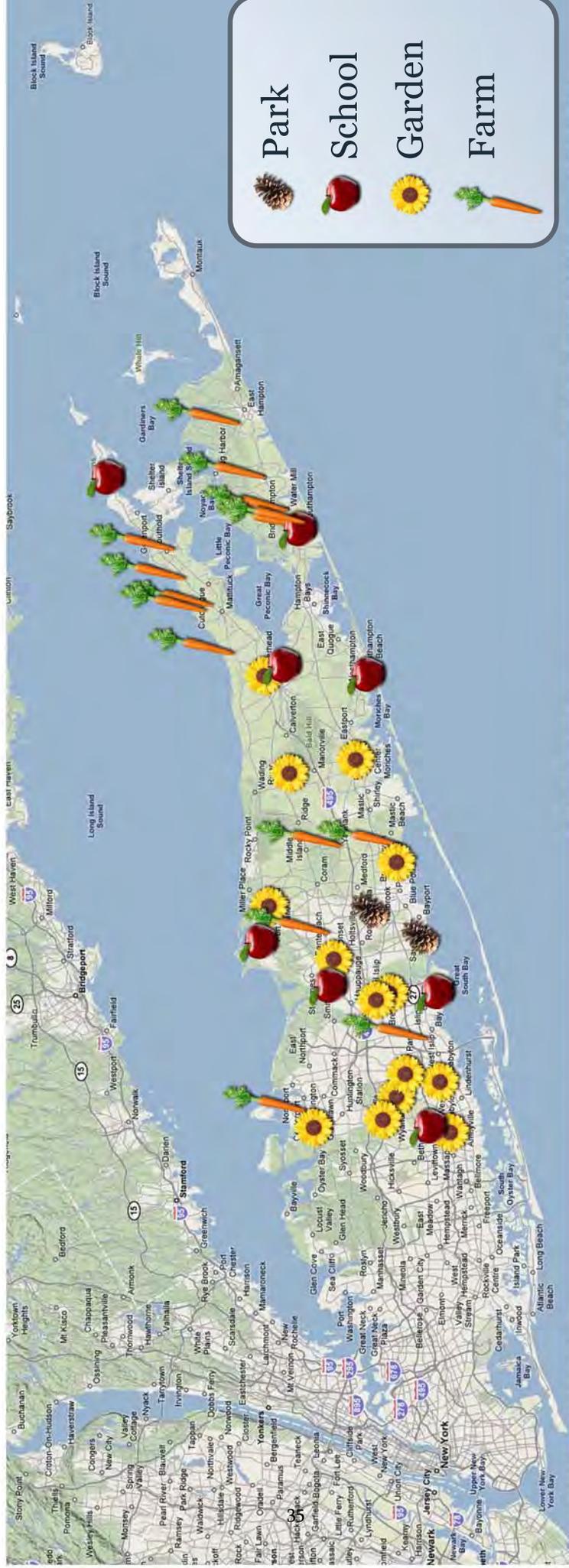
Outdoor Education/Sensory Education A national movement that encourages children and youth to spend more time outdoors and develop an appreciation for the natural world. Proponents are strong supporters of local gardening programs.

Plant a Row for the Hungry This program is sponsored by the Garden Writers of America. They encourage all gardeners to share their produce with the needy and provide locations to drop off produce

Open space/ farmland preservation A movement largely pioneered on Long Island where local governments purchase valuable and vulnerable land for the public good. Open space preservation maintains the space in its natural state, while farmland preservation allows farm owners to maintain ownership and use of farmland with the understanding that the land may never be “developed” for other uses. Open space may, under certain circumstances, be available for gardening.

Cornell Cooperative Extension / Master Gardener Program/ Ag in the Classroom Cornell University is the federally designated “land grant college” for New York State, and is charged with providing free, research-based information on agriculture and gardening to all citizens through county Cooperative Extension offices. In Suffolk CCE also maintains an intensive master gardener training program where graduates agree to do volunteer community service and share their knowledge with others. They are also part of the free NY State Ag in the Classroom program.

CSA COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY GARDENS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY



Park
🌲

School
🍏

Garden
🌻

Farm
🥕

COMMUNITY GARDENS:

- Bounty Harvest
- C.I. Civic Council
- Community Garden
- Charnews Farm
- The Community Farm
- The Comsewogue Youth
- Club Community Garden
- Edith Salzer Organic Garden
- Great Shepherd
- Hallockville
- Hobbs Farm
- Holtsville Ecology Site
- Holy Cross Church
- Huntington Community Garden
- Ketchum Inn Community Garden
- Meadowcroft
- Mount Sinai Heritage Trust
- Presbyterian Church
- Seedsower Farm
- St. Joseph's Church
- Town of Babylon

CSA GARDENS:

- Biophilia Organic Farm
- EEOC Farm, LTD.
- The Farm at St. Peter's
- Garden of Eve
- Golden Earthworm
- Great Shepherd
- Green Thumb
- Hamlet Organic Garden
- Quail Hill
- Sophia Garden & Learning Center
- Sang Lee Farms, Inc.
- Yaphank Farm

COMPANY COMMUNITY GARDENS:

- Brookhaven National Lab
- East Islip School District
- Estee Lauder
- Farmingdale High School
- Oysterpond Elementary School
- Roanoke Elementary School
- Setauket Elementary School
- Peace Garden at Great Hollow Middle School
- Shepherd's Gate
- The Springs Seedling Project
- The Starflower Experience
- Tuckahoe Common School District
- West Hampton Beach School District

WORKSHEET FOR RESOLUTION #546-2009

Total Properties Per District	Legislative District	In Low-Income* Census Tract	UNIQUE ID	DSBL	pdcc	pdcc_descr	Improved	Acquired Date	Acreeage	Paper_str
1	1	Yes	2047	0200 75800 0300 014000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	4/17/1984	0.120	N
	3	Yes	2057	0200 82300 0800 067000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	9/2/2004	0.090	N
	3	Yes	2059	0200 82400 0900 033000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	9/2/2004	0.090	N
	3	Yes	2060	0200 85400 0100 024000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	7/12/2001	0.230	N
	3	Yes	2068	0200 95900 0400 012000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	3/24/1998	0.170	N
	3	Yes	2070	0200 95900 0400 039000	1311	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/8/1998	0.230	N
	3	Yes	2071	0200 95900 0500 018000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	8/11/1994	0.060	N
	3	Yes	2072	0200 95900 0600 022000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	5/18/1994	0.110	N
	3	Yes	2073	0200 95900 0700 059000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/18/1994	0.170	N
	3	Yes	2074	0200 96000 0200 007000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/17/1984	0.034	N
37	3	Yes	2075	0200 96000 0200 054000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/3/1991	0.110	N
	3	Yes	2085	0200 97380 0100 022000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/17/1984	0.070	N
	3	Yes	2086	0200 97380 0100 035000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	10/19/1999	0.060	N
	3	Yes	2087	0200 97380 0100 038000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	9/14/1998	0.030	N
	3	Yes	2088	0200 97380 0400 018000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/17/1984	0.050	N
	3	Yes	2089	0200 97380 0400 019000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/15/1985	0.050	N
	3	Yes	2090	0200 97380 0700 004000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/2/1983	0.110	N
	3	Yes	2091	0200 97380 0800 002000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/15/1985	0.110	N
	3	Yes	2092	0200 97380 0800 032000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	6/15/1992	0.060	N
	3	Yes	2093	0200 97380 0900 029000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/2/1983	0.110	N
	3	Yes	2094	0200 97380 0900 036000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/2/1983	0.060	N
	3	Yes	2095	0200 97380 1000 028000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/21/1982	0.050	N

WORKSHEET FOR RESOLUTION #546-2009

Total Properties Per District	Legislative District	In Low-Income* Census Tract	UNIQUE ID	DSBL	pdcc	pdcc_descr	Improved	Acquired Date	Acreeage	Paper_str
	3	Yes	2096	0200 97390 0100 007000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	n	9/2/2004	0.110	N
	3	Yes	2097	0200 97390 0100 031000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/17/1984	0.200	N
	3	Yes	2099	0200 97390 0200 047000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	6/15/1992	0.060	N
	3	Yes	2100	0200 97390 0300 007000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/17/1984	0.060	N
	3	Yes	2108	0200 97590 0100 027000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	5/15/1985	0.110	N
27	3	Yes	2126	0200 98460 0100 017000	311	RESIDENTIAL VACANT LAND	N	9/4/2007	0.090	
	4	Yes	2021	0200 36900 0600 001004	3325	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS AS PER PLANNING DEPT	N	10/25/1993	0.120	
	4	Yes	2027	0200 44700 0200 039000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	9/14/1998	0.050	N
	4	Yes	2029	0200 48600 0100 014000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	2/17/1978	0.040	N
4	4	Yes	2045	0200 72600 0100 007001	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	12/31/1974	0.080	N
31	6	Yes	2003	0200 07700 0700 055000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	9/14/1998	0.090	N
	7	Yes	2066	0200 95800 0300 004000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	4/10/1986	0.210	N
	7	Yes	2079	0200 97370 0400 064000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	8/6/1997	0.060	N
	7	Yes	2080	0200 97370 0500 010000	2311	SALEABLE TO MUNICIPALITY PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	8/18/2006	0.110	N
	7	Yes	2083	0200 97370 0500 063000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	10/19/1999	0.040	N
	7	Yes	2084	0200 97370 0600 038000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	2/13/2001	0.050	N
	7	Yes	2102	0200 97580 0500 025000	1310	COUNTY EXECUTIVE PURPOSES - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	6/15/1992	0.110	
	7	Yes	2105	0200 97580 0500 047000	2310	SALEABLE TO MUNICIPALITY PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	8/6/1997	0.060	N
8	7	Yes	2107	0200 97580 0500 053000	2310	SALEABLE TO MUNICIPALITY PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VACANT LAND)	N	8/11/1994	0.180	N
	9	Yes	5010	0500 05100 0400 050000	311	RESIDENTIAL VACANT LAND	N	7/13/2007	0.130	N
	9	Yes	5014	0500 07900 0200 074000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	3/29/1982	0.040	N
	9	Yes	5020	0500 12000 0200 020000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	1/29/2001	0.140	N

WORKSHEET FOR RESOLUTION #546-2009

Total Properties Per District	Legislative District	In Low-Income* Census Tract	UNIQUE ID	DSBL	pdcd	pdcd_descr	Improved	Acquired Date	Acreege	Paper_str
	9	Yes	5022	0500 16200 0100 133000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	7/28/1998	0.070	
	9	Yes	5025	0500 18300 0100 010000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	1/4/2000	0.100	N
6	9	Yes	5026	0500 18500 0100 093001	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	12/9/2003	0.040	N
	10	Yes	5044	0500 29500 0200 087000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	6/7/2001	0.120	N
2	10	Yes	5050	0500 31700 0100 082000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	8/5/1996	0.060	N
	11	Yes	5033	0500 22300 0200 026000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	3/19/1987	0.043	N
	11	Yes	5049	0500 31500 0100 043000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	7/22/1998	0.120	N
	11	Yes	5057	0500 34000 0100 009000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	3/19/1987	0.060	N
4	11	Yes	5058	0500 34000 0100 019000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	6/23/1999	0.100	N
1	14	Yes	1070	0103 00700 0200 012000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	6/9/2005	0.030	N
39	15	Yes	1006	0100 04000 0100 011000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	8/13/1999	0.110	N
	15	Yes	1007	0100 04000 0100 018000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	6/11/1998	0.110	N
	15	Yes	1010	0100 05400 0200 017000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	6/28/2006	0.110	N
	15	Yes	1011	0100 05500 0100 081000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	7/17/1997	0.030	N
	15	Yes	1012	0100 05600 0100 024000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	6/9/2005	0.060	N
	15	Yes	1017	0100 05800 0100 044000	311	RESIDENTIAL VACANT LAND	N	6/28/2006	0.090	N
	15	Yes	1018	0100 05800 0400 030000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	7/13/2001	0.050	
	15	Yes	1020	0100 05800 0600 057000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	4/16/1998	0.300	N
	15	Yes	1024	0100 08000 0200 090005	340	INDUSTRIAL VACANT LAND	N	7/13/2001	0.040	N
	15	Yes	1027	0100 08300 0100 040000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	7/11/2003	0.090	N
	15	Yes	1028	0100 08300 0100 161000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	7/17/1997	0.090	N
	15	Yes	1035	0100 10200 0300 051001	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	7/17/1997	0.110	

WORKSHEET FOR RESOLUTION #546-2009

Total Properties Per District	Legislative District	In Low-Income* Census Tract	UNIQUE ID	DSBL	pdcc	pdcc_descr	Improved	Acquired Date	Acreage	Paper_str
	15	Yes	1037	0100 10300 0100 081000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	11/2/2000	0.060	N
	15	Yes	1039	0100 12400 0200 032000	310	RESIDENTIAL	N	7/11/2003	0.110	N
	15	Yes	1040	0100 12400 0300 043000	330	COMMERCIAL VACANT LAND	N	9/4/1987	0.110	
	15	Yes	1049	0100 17000 0200 012000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	11/2/2000	0.040	N
	15	Yes	1050	0100 17000 0200 043000	3300	SALEABLE TO ADJ. OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT. VACANT LAND	N	6/28/2006	0.080	N
	15	Yes	1051	0100 17000 0200 143000	311	RESIDENTIAL VACANT LAND	N	7/12/2007	0.050	
	15	Yes	1052	0100 17000 0200 144000	311	RESIDENTIAL VACANT LAND		7/16/2004	0.050	N
	15	Yes	1054	0100 17200 0300 006000	3311	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	7/16/2004	0.060	N
	15	Yes	1055	0100 17400 0200 090001	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	6/5/1996	0.030	N
	15	Yes	1060	0100 20000 0200 076000	3310	SALEABLE TO ADJACENT OWNER W/COVENANTS PER PLANNING DEPT - RESIDENTIAL (VAC-LD)	N	2/19/1988	0.110	
23	15	Yes	1062	0100 20500 0300 112000	311	RESIDENTIAL VACANT LAND	N	6/9/2005	0.050	N
77										
		*2000 census tract with income below 80% of Suffolk County per capita income								

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

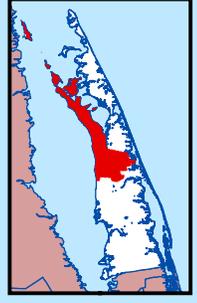
Suffolk County, New York

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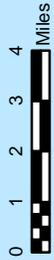
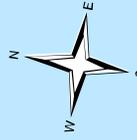
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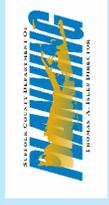
Legend

-  Community Gardens
-  Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management



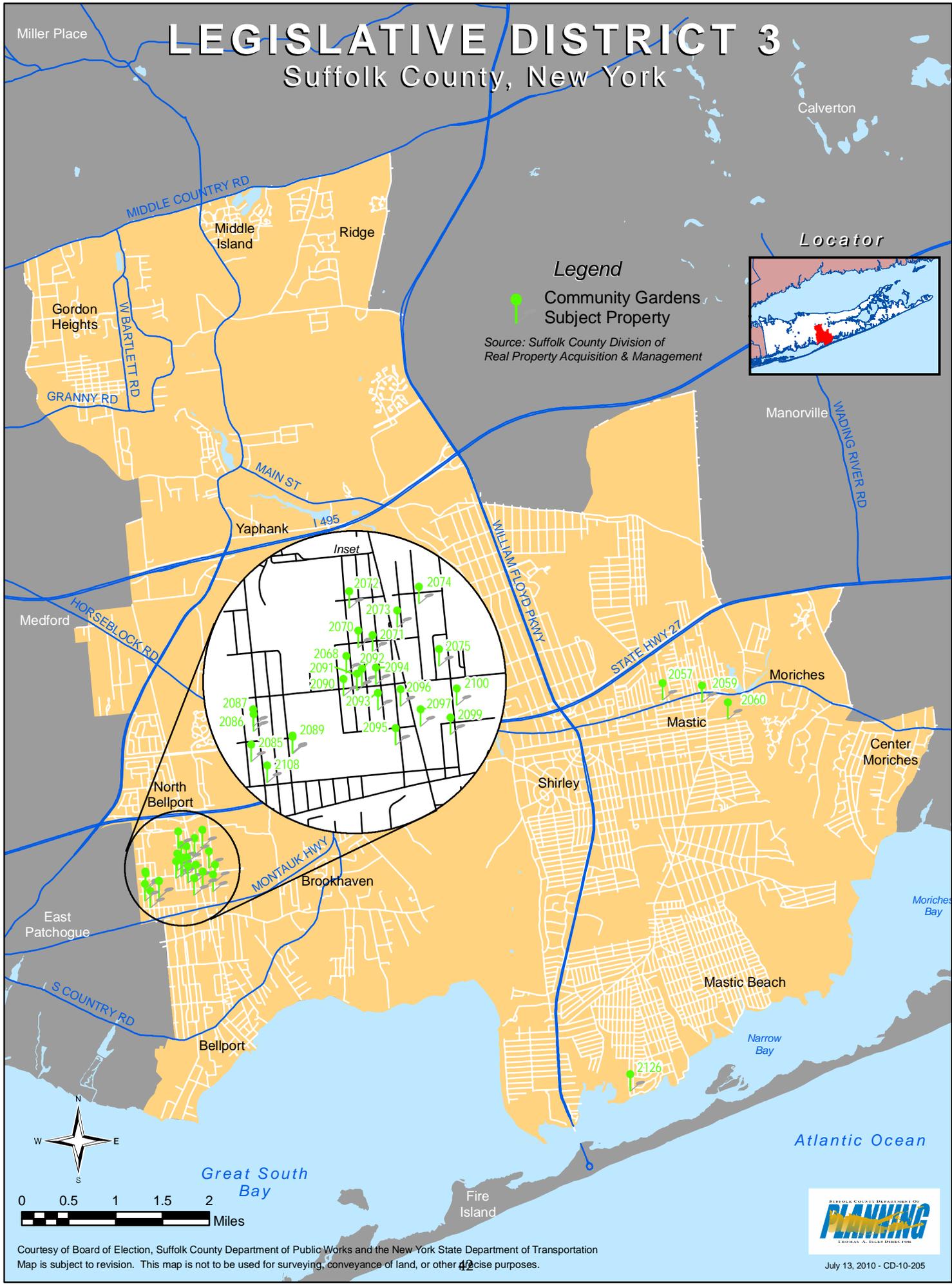
Courtesy of Board of Election, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation. Map is subject to revision. This map is not to be used for surveying, conveyance of land, or other precise purposes.



July 16, 2010 - CD-10-205

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3

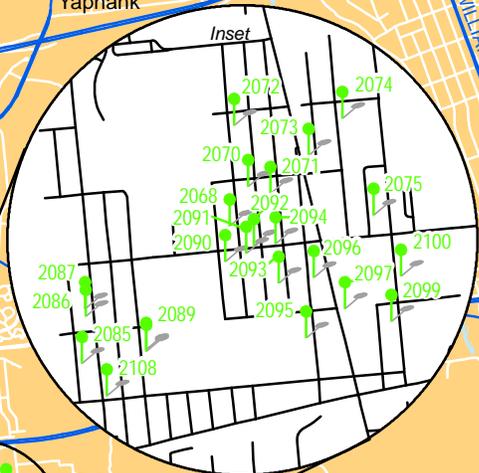
Suffolk County, New York



Legend

Community Gardens Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management



Courtesy of Board of Election, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation
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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

Suffolk County, New York

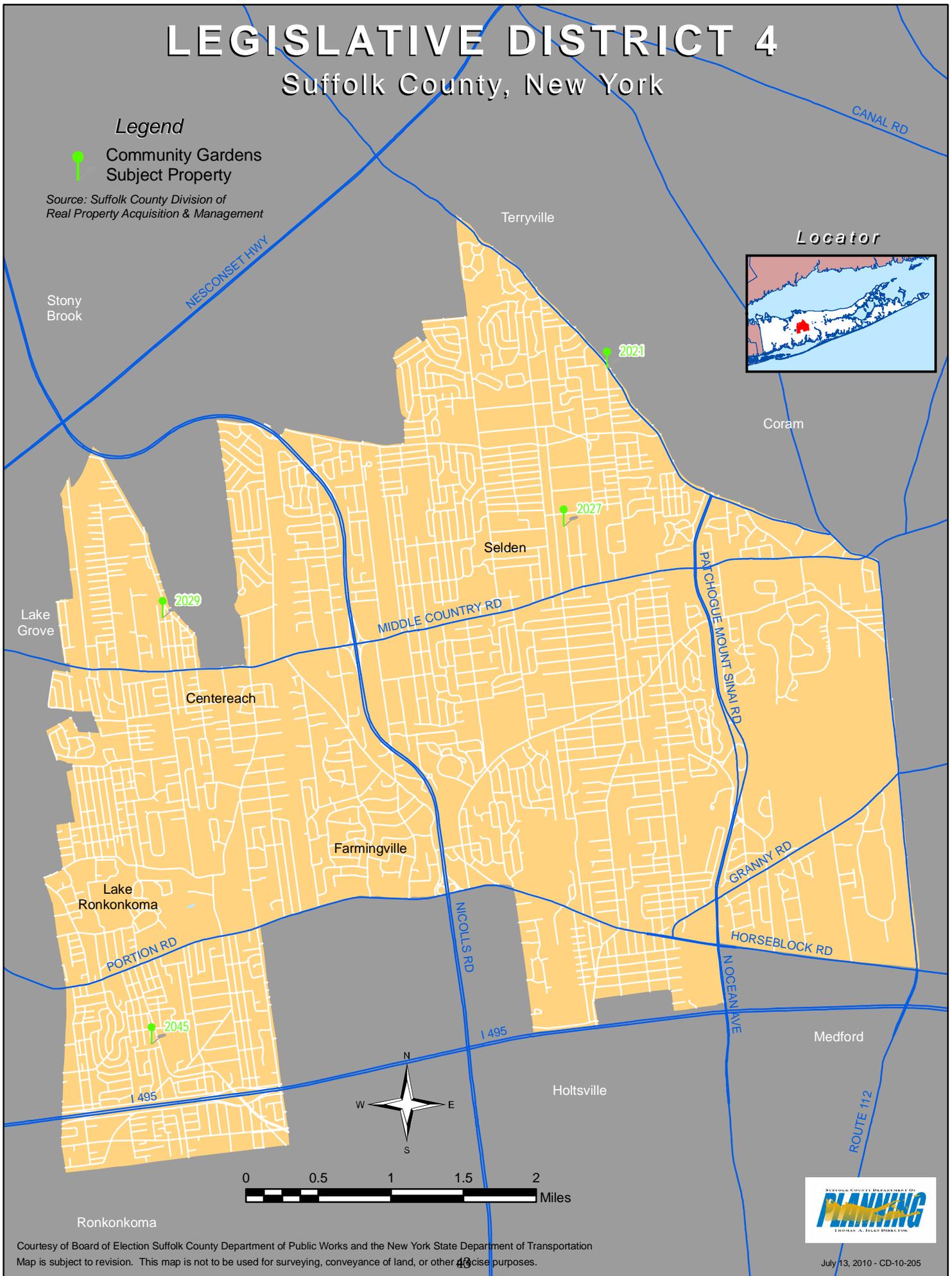
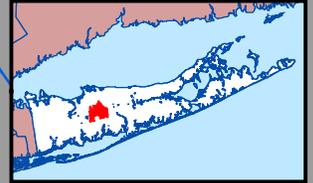
Legend



Community Gardens
Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of
Real Property Acquisition & Management

Locator



Courtesy of Board of Election Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation
Map is subject to revision. This map is not to be used for surveying, conveyance of land, or other precise purposes.

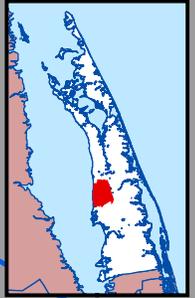
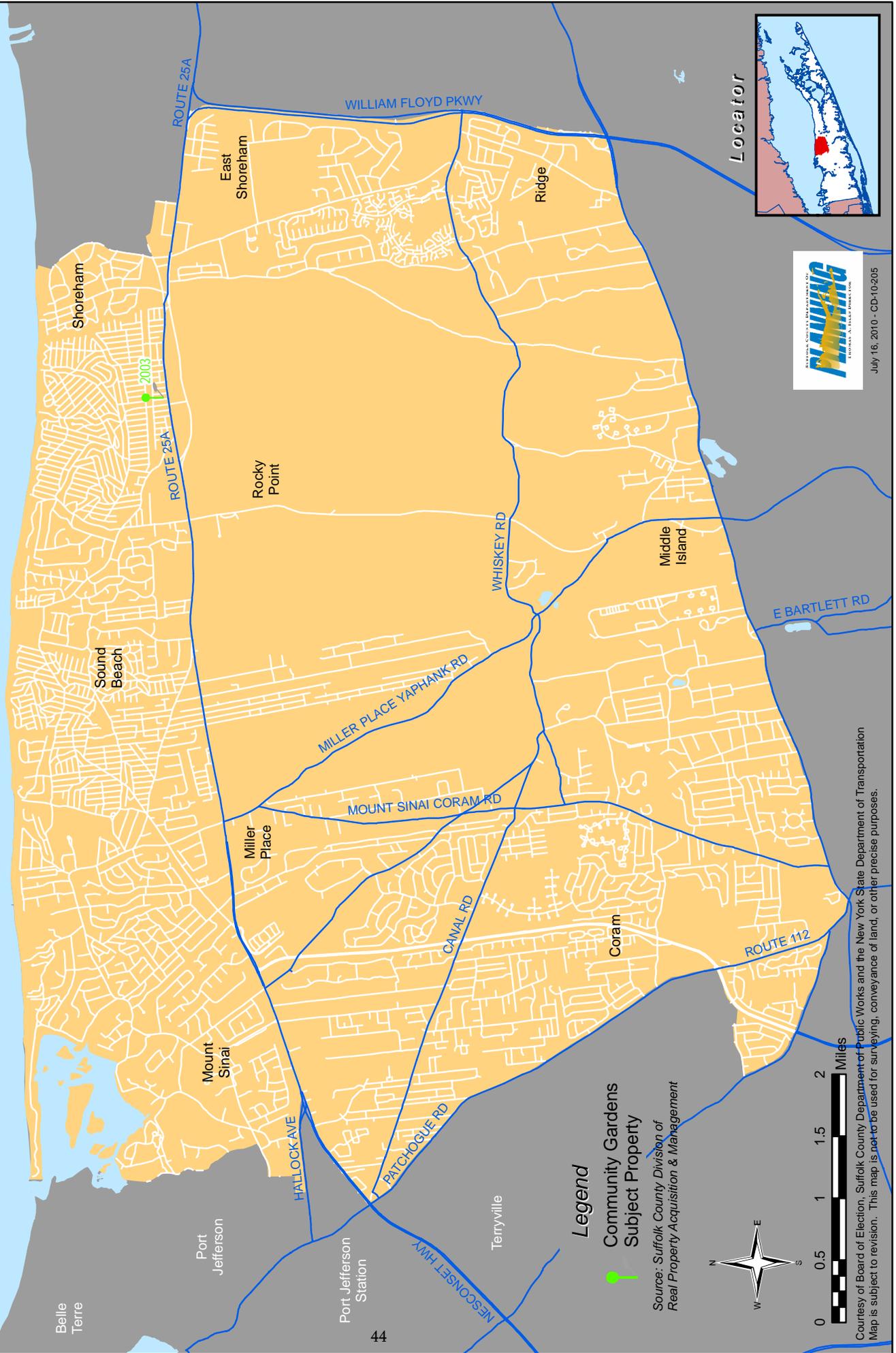


July 13, 2010 - CD-10-205

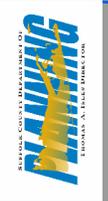
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 6

Suffolk County, New York

Long Island Sound



Locator



July 16, 2010 - CD-10-205

Legend

-  Community Gardens
-  Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management



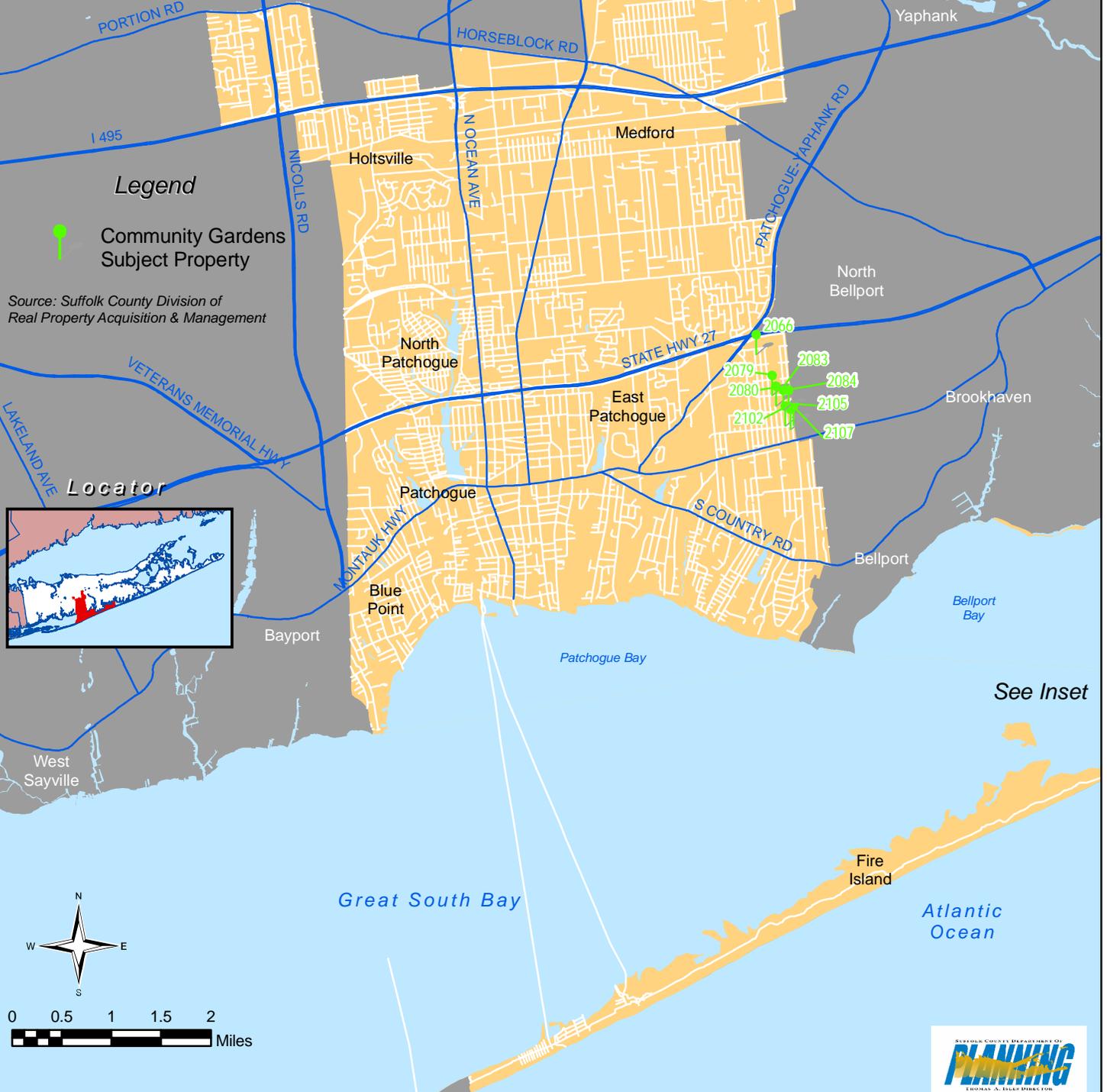
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Courtesy of Board of Election, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation. Map is subject to revision. This map is not to be used for surveying, conveyance of land, or other precise purposes.

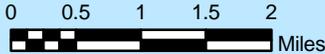
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7

Suffolk County, New York

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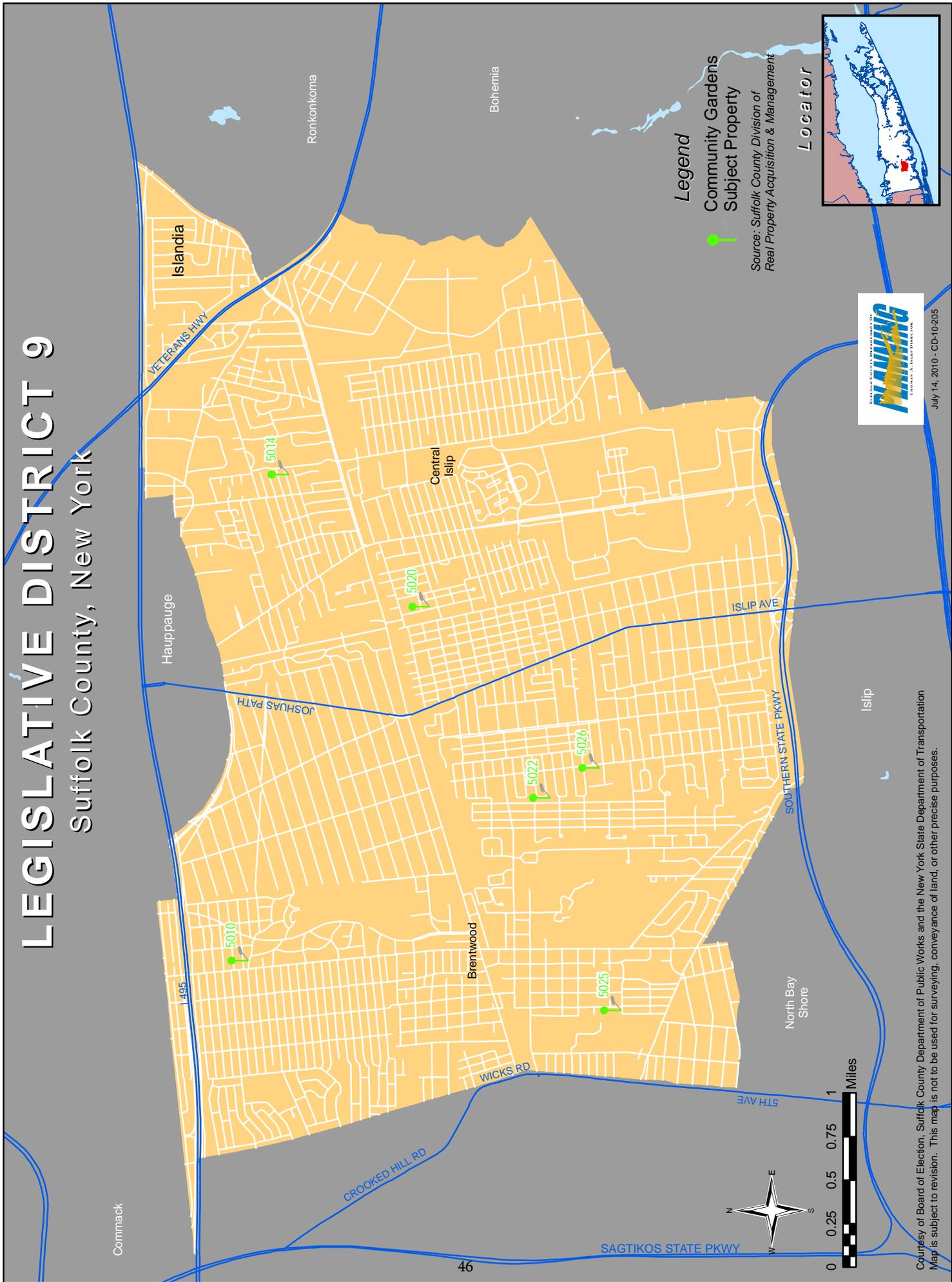


Courtesy of Board of Election, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation
Map is subject to revision. This map is not to be used for surveying, conveyance of land, or other precise purposes.



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 9

Suffolk County, New York



Commaack

Hauppauge

Islandia

Ronkonkoma

Bohemia

Central Islip

Brentwood

North Bay Shore

Islip

VETERANS HWY

JOSHUA'S PATH

CROOKED HILL RD

WICKS RD

SAGTIKOS STATE PKWY

STH AVE

ISLIP AVE

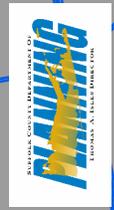
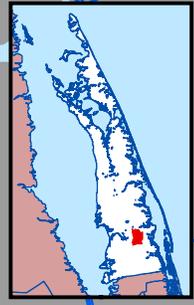
SOUTHERN STATE PKWY

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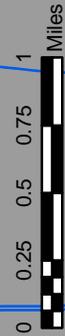
Community Gardens Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management

Locator



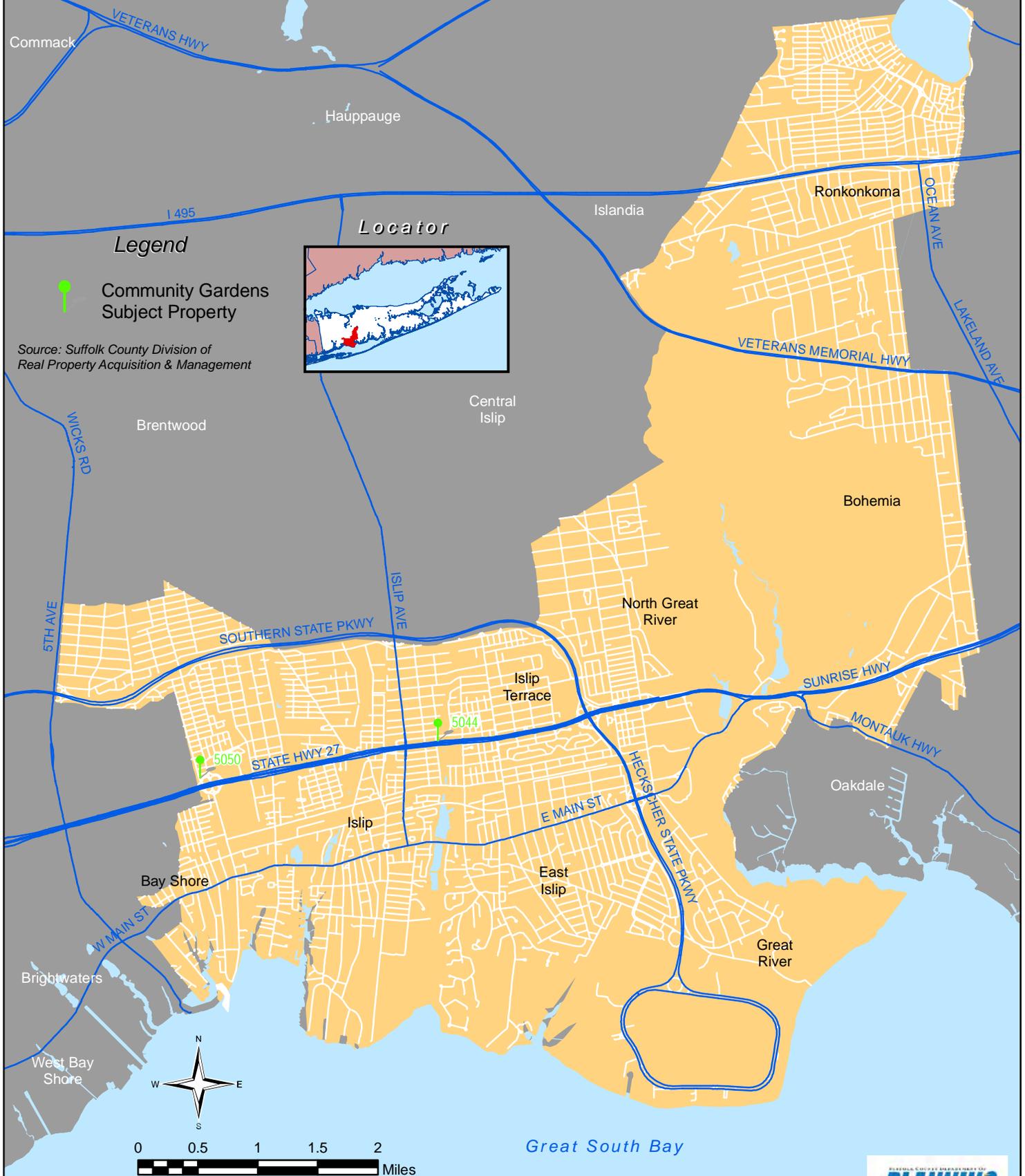
July 14, 2010 - CD-10-205



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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10

Suffolk County, New York



Legend



Community Gardens
Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of
Real Property Acquisition & Management

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 11

Suffolk County, New York

1495

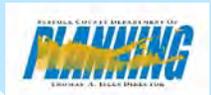
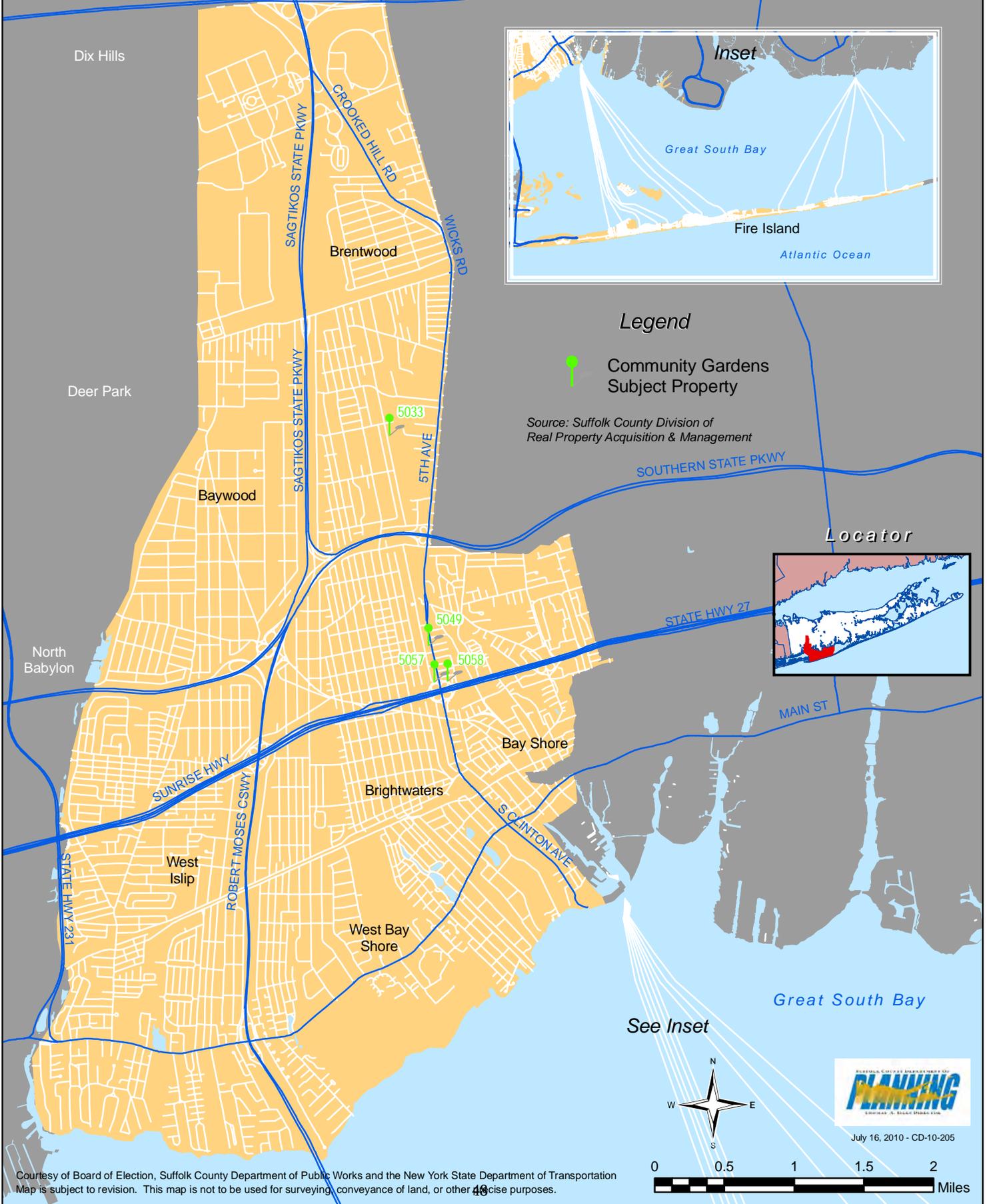
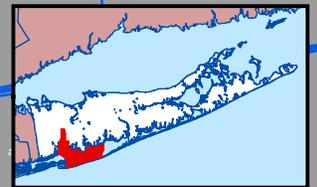


Legend

-  Community Gardens Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management

Locator



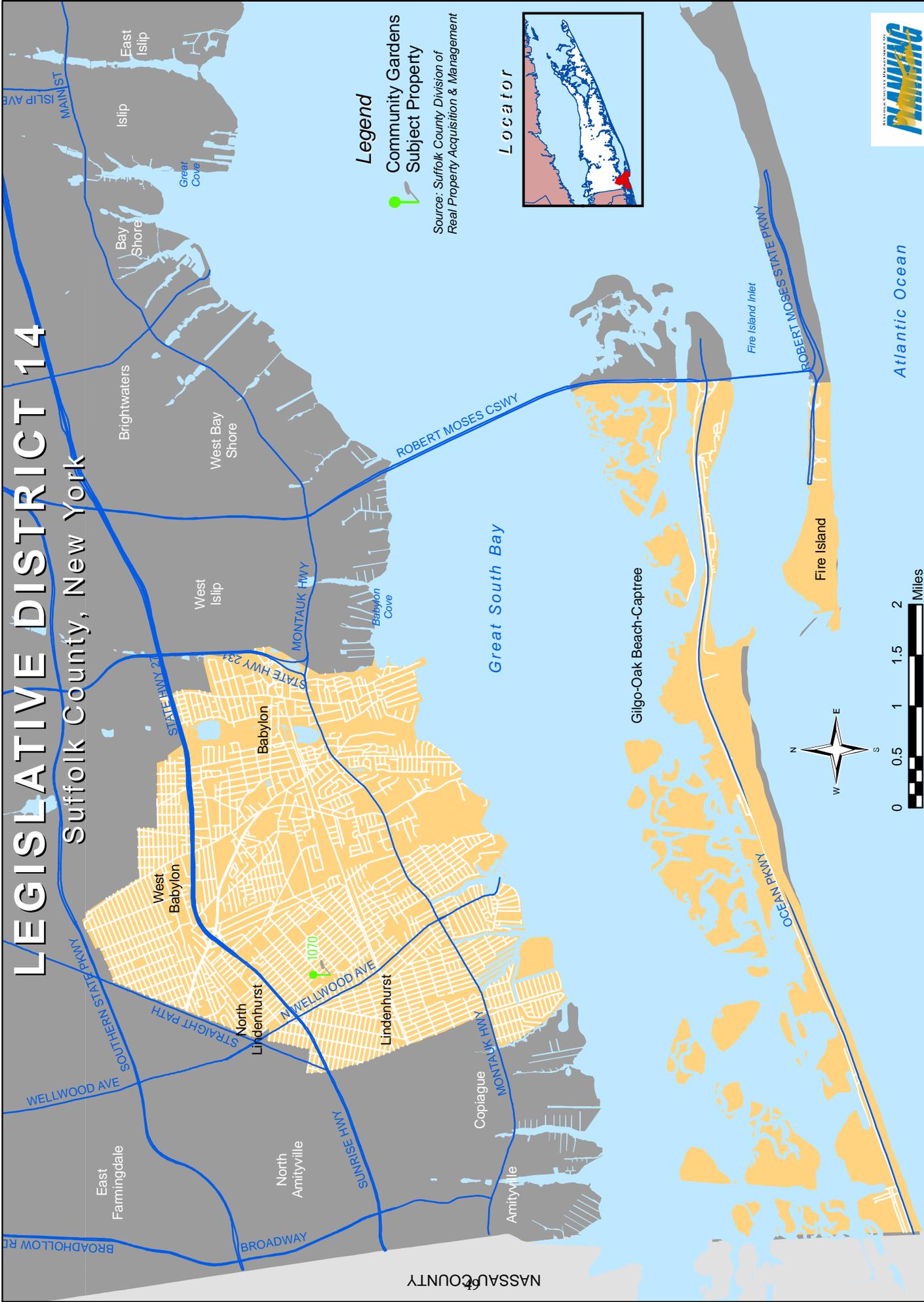
July 16, 2010 - CD-10-205



Courtesy of Board of Election, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation
Map is subject to revision. This map is not to be used for surveying, conveyance of land, or other precise purposes.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 14

Suffolk County, New York

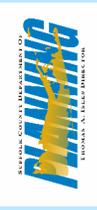
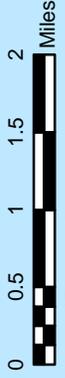


Legend

- Community Gardens
- Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management

Locator



Courtesy of Board of Election, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the New York State Department of Transportation
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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 15

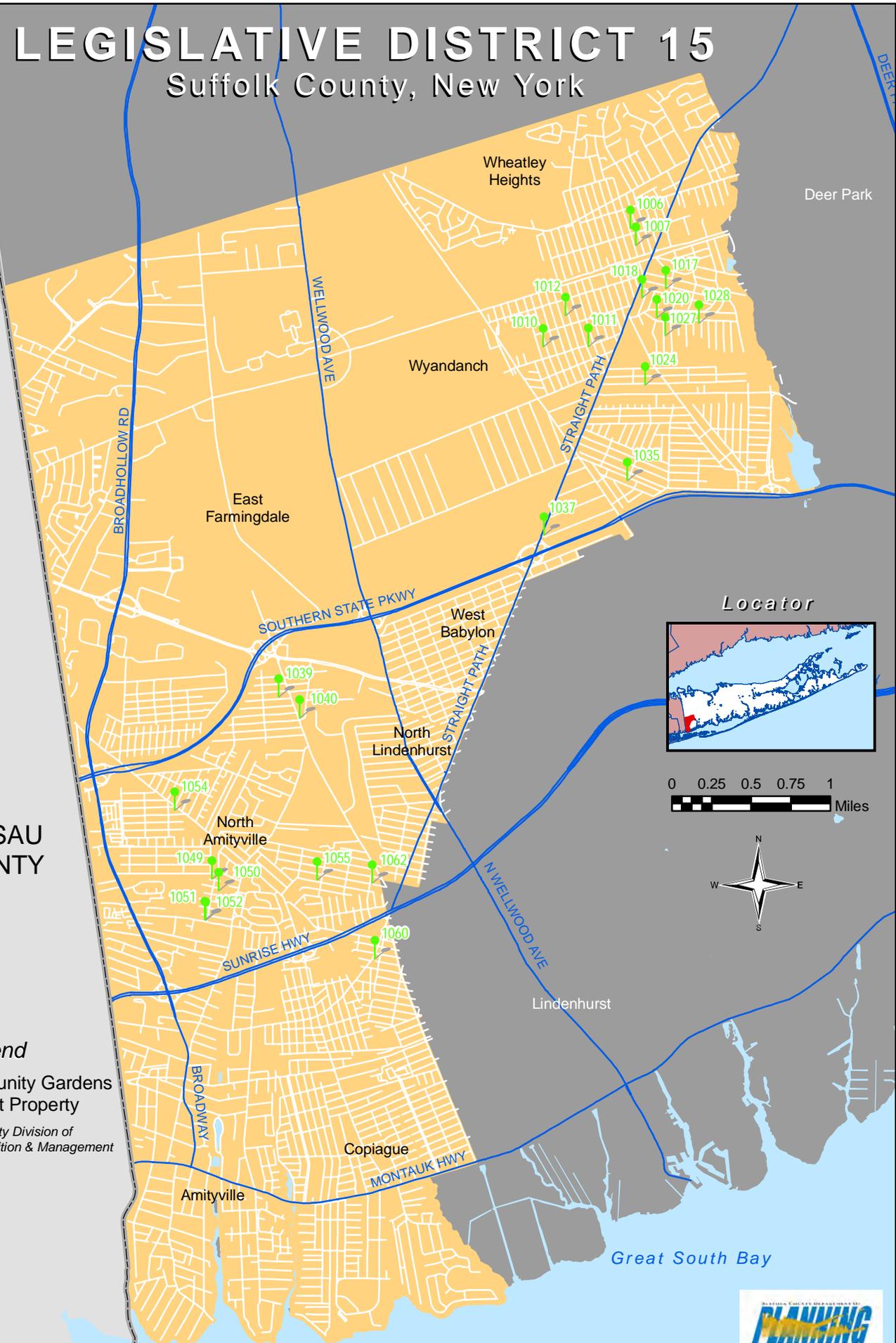
Suffolk County, New York

NASSAU COUNTY

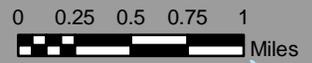
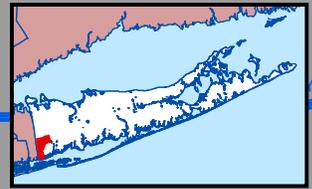
Legend

-  Community Gardens Subject Property

Source: Suffolk County Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management



Locator



CSA - Community Supported Agriculture and Community Gardens in Suffolk County

CSA Gardens:

Biophilia Organic Farm

211 Manor Lane, Jamesport, NY 11947

The Farm at St. Peter's

500 South Country Road (Montauk Highway), Bay Shore, NY 11706

Garden of Eve

4588 Sound Avenue, Riverhead NY 11901

<http://stpetersfarm.tripod.com>

Garden of Eve

2 Purdy Avenue, Bayport/Sayville, NY 11705

Golden Earthworm

Peconic Bay Blvd., Aquebogue, NY 11931

Great Shepherd

Main Road, Bridgehampton

Joseph Lane

Green Thumb

Montauk Highway, NY, Water Mill

Hamlet Organic Garden – HOG Farm

319 Beaver Dam Road, NY Brookhaven, NY 11719

Quail Hill

Scott Chaskey

660 Old Stone Highway, Amagansett, NY 11930

631.267.8493, schaskey@peconiclandtrust.org

Sophia Garden & Learning Center

555 Albany Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701

Sister Jeanne Clark, 631-842-6000, ext. 307

Sung Lee Farms, Inc

25180 County Road 48, Southold

Fred Lee – 631.734.7001

www.popsustainability.org

Community Gardens:

Bounty Harvest

Southampton
Joseph Lane

Central Islip Civic Council Community Garden, Greenhouse & Market Garden

68 Wheeler Road, Central Islip, NY 11722

Charnews Farm

Youngs Avenue, Southold
Denise Markut
Dmarkut@peconiclandtrust.org
631.734.5630

The Community Farm

5745 Alvahs Lane, Cutchogue, NY 11935

The Comsewogue Youth Club Community Garden

Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

EECO Farm, Ltd. (East End Community Organic Farm)

55 Long Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937
An Agricultural Educational Organization Supporting Sustainable Farming
Director: Peter Garnham

Edith Salzer Organic Garden

(Town of Babylon)
Deer Park, NY

Franklin Melville Park

Setauket

Gateway Community Garden

The Long Island Community Agriculture Network
Huntington Station, NY
Lisa Mitten – 631-266-1926

Hallockville

Sound Avenue, Riverhead
Herb Strobel

Hobbs Farm

178 Oxhead Road, Centereach
Elizabeth Takakjian

hobbsfarmfriends@aol.com; 631.751.4140

Holtsville Ecology Site, Town of Brookhaven

249 Buckley Road, Holtsville
April Perry, 631.758.9664

Huntington Community Garden

Dunlop and Greenlawn Roads

Ketchum Inn Community Garden

Montauk Highway, East Moriches, NY

Meadowcroft (Suffolk County Park & Historic Site)

Contact person: Julie Geyer, '07
631-507-0595

Mount Sinai Heritage Trust

633 Mt. Sinai Coram Road, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766

New Suffolk

Foot of Main Street
631.566.0806, newsuffolkwaterfront.org

Seedsower Farm

420 Harrison Drive, Centerport, NY 11721

Wyandanch

20 N. 14th St. (through Town of Babylon)
631.957.7430

Wyandanch FRESH Community Roots Garden

(FRESH - Farming for Renewal, Environmental Sustainability and Health)

Company Community Gardens

Estee Lauder Community Garden

Pinelawn Road, Melville

Church Gardens:

Presbyterian Church

Caroline Avenue, Setauket

St. Joseph's Church

East Patchogue

School Gardens

Oysterponds Elementary School

Orient

Peace Garden at Great Hollow Middle School

Smithtown

Roanoke Elementary School

Riverhead

Southampton High School

Southampton

Setauket Elementary School

Setauket

Takahoe School (K-12)

Matthew Doris

Southampton

Gardening Resources Websites:

American Community Gardening Association

www.communitygarden.org

Cornell University Gardening Resources

www.gardening.cornell.edu

www.gardening.cornell.edu/community.html

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Suffolk County

www.ccesuffolk.org

Cornell Waste Management Institute

www.cwmi.css.edu/resources.htm#av

www.compost.css.cornell.edu/

Community Roots Projects – New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) grant program

SBUCommunity-RootsProj@gamil.com

The Edible Schoolyard website

www.edibleschoolyard.org

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

www.bbg.org

Queens Botanic Garden

<http://www.queensbotanical.org/>

Gardens for All/The National Association for Gardening

180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401
802-863-1308

The Spring Seedling Project (Project Most)

East Hampton, NY 11937

The Starflower Experience

<http://www.starflowerexperiences.org>

The USDA's People's Garden Program

http://www.pubinfo.usda.gov/garden/Map_View.cfm

References:

Soil Testing:

Cornell Cooperative Extension Soil Testing Lab (Soil pH only)

423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100, Riverhead, NY 11901

Agro-One Services (Dairy One Inc)

730 Warren Road, Ithaca, NY 14853

Chemical Consulting of Babylon

41 East Main St., Babylon, NY 11702

Compost:

[Beaver Dam Compost Facility \(Town of Brookhaven\)](#)

[East Hampton Recycling Center](#)

[Town of Islip MacArthur Composting Facility](#)

[Town of Southampton Recycling Program](#)

[Long Island Compost](#)

Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension Educational Programs:

- Long Island Agricultural Forum
- Suffolk County Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program
- Junior Master Gardener curriculum
- Spring Gardening School
- Fall Gardening Symposium

- Insect & Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratories – Riverhead, Oakdale

Horticulture Leaflets on-line:

**(downloadable from Cornell Cooperative Extension - Suffolk County website:
www.ccesuffolk.org)**

Organic gardening /Compost/Mulch fact Sheets

- Natural Enemies: Nature's Pest Control
- A Guide to Nutrient Value of Organic Materials
- Companion Planting
- Choosing A compost System
- Insect Traps and Barriers
- Types and types of Mulch in the Landscape
- Home Composting

Vegetable Gardening Fact Sheets

- Fertilizing Home Flower/Vegetable Gardens
- Growing Potatoes in the Home Garden
- Growing Vegetables in Containers
- How to Save Vegetable Seeds
- Growing Tomatoes on Long Island
- Oriental Vegetables for Fall Harvest
- Selected List of Home Garden Vegetable Varieties - 2010
- Special Salads From Your Garden
- The Out-of- the-Ordinary Vegetables
- Three Less Common Vegetables
- Using Average Frost Dates to Start Vegetable Seeds
- Using Home-Grown Herbs with Your Vegetables
- Vegetable Harvest and Storage
- Vegetable Planting Times – guidelines for Long Island

Vegetables Diseases Fact Sheets

- Blossom-End Rot
- Early Blight and Septoria Leaf Spot of Tomato
- Fusarium and Verticillium Wilts of Tomato
- Minimizing Vegetable Diseases
- Trouble Shooting in the Home Vegetable Garden

Vegetable Insects Fact Sheets

- Aphids
- Cabbage Maggot
- Colorado potato Beetle
- Cutworms
- Imported Cabbageworm
- Managing Insect Pests in the Home Vegetable Garden
- Mexican Bean Beetles

- Onion Maggot
- Spinach Leafminer
- Squash Vine Borer
- Whiteflies

General Gardening Information Fact Sheets

- Coldframes and Hotbeds
- Liming Acid Soils
- Starting Seeds Indoors
- Trickle Irrigation for Home Gardens

SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

AE



HUNTINGTON FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: ELM ST. PARKING LOT, MAIN ST., (RT. 25A)

SEASON: JULY THROUGH MID NOVEMBER

HOURS: SUNDAY, 7 AM TO 12 NOON

NORTHPORT FARMERS MARKET

LOCATION: EMAIL FOR INFORMATION

SEASON: STARTING JUNE

HOURS: EMAIL FOR INFORMATION

EMAIL: CHAMBER@NORTHPORTNY.COM

ISLIP FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: TOWN HALL LOT ON MONTAUK HWY/RT. 27A

SEASON: JULY THROUGH MID NOVEMBER

HOURS: SATURDAY, 7 AM TO 12 NOON

SAYVILLE FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: RAILROAD STATION, SOUTH OF THE TRACKS.

SEASON: JUNE - NOVEMBER 20TH

HOURS: EVERY SATURDAY 8:00AM-2:30PM

J. KINGS FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: 700 FURROWS ROAD, HOLTSVILLE

SEASON:

HOURS:

PORT JEFFERSON FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: PARKING LOT NEXT TO FERRY, RT. 25A

SEASON: JULY THROUGH OCTOBER

HOURS: THURSDAY, 11 AM TO 4 PM

PATCHOGUE FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: 7-11 LOT, MONTAUK HWY W OF RT. 112

SEASON: JULY THROUGH MID NOVEMBER

HOURS: FRIDAY, 8 AM TO 1 PM

BELLPORT FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: N. BELLPORT, MONTAUK & MICHIGAN AVE

SEASON: JULY 11 - OCTOBER 31

HOURS: EVERY SUNDAY 11AM-4PM

MONTAUK FARMERS MARKET

LOCATION: INLET REST & GIN BEACH MARKET LOT - END OF EAST LAKE DRIVE, MONTAUK

SEASON: JULY 10,17,24,31 AUGUST 7,14,21,28

HOURS: 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

RIVERHEAD FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: LOT BEHIND OLD SWEZEY'S BLDG, RIVERHEAD

SEASON: JULY THROUGH MID NOVEMBER

HOURS: THURSDAY, 11 AM TO 4 PM

WESTHAMPTON BEACH FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: 85 MILL ROAD NEXT TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEASON: MID JUNE THROUGH MID NOVEMBER

HOURS: SATURDAY, 9 AM - 1 PM

SAG HARBOR FARMERS' MARKET

[DIRECTIONS & MAP](#)

LOCATION: BREAKWATER YACHT CLUB LOT, BAY & BURKE STS.

SEASON: JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER

HOURS: SATURDAYS, 9 AM TO 12 PM

EAST HAMPTON FARMERS MARKET

[DIRECTIONS AND MAP](#)

LOCATION: NICK & TONI'S LOT, NORTH MAIN ST.

SEASON: LATE JUNE TO OCTOBER

HOURS: WEDNESDAY, 9 AM TO 1 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

On the

VICTORY GARDEN TASK FORCE

Verbatim Transcript

A Public Hearing of the Victory Garden Task Force was held at the Maxine S. Postal Legislative Auditorium, County Center, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York, on March 3, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher - Chairperson
Tom Lyon
Caroline Kiang
Pamela Greene
Richard Meyer
Joe Gergela
Jane Corrarino
Susan Wilk

ALSO PRESENT:

Ginny Suhr, Aide to Legislator Vilorio-Fisher
Dale Moyer, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herb Strobel
Jane Foster
Bryan Roesch
Michael W. Martin
Bryan Futerman

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Reporter

**[AFTER THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, THE HEARING WAS CALLED TO ORDER
AT 3:05 P.M.]**

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. This is the first Public Hearing of the Victory Garden Task Force. We've decided to have our first meeting in Riverhead, because we thought people who know about gardening and farming would be here, but I think they're exhausted from last night. So we have a couple of people in the audience, but they're not going to be speaking, so what -- we will wait for I think 15 minutes, and if nobody comes within 15 or 20 minutes, then we adjourn the Public Hearing. But what we could do is that the members of the Task Force can just speak among ourselves about what we've learned and where we're going and maybe just kind of have our own dialogue with one another. Okay? So we will wait a few minutes, and if the people who are in the audience would like to ask us any questions about what we're doing and what the Task Force is, we'd be happy to answer that. Okay?

MR. STROBEL:

Can we ask now?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Can you come up to the table here? You're the public, this is your meeting. And can you please state your name?

MR. STROBEL:

Good afternoon. My name is Herb Strobel, S-T-R-O-B-E-L, and I am at Hallockville Museum Farm up in Sound Avenue here in Riverhead, as well as a farmer in Center Moriches.

And, first of all, I'd like to applaud the Legislature, as well as Legislature Viloria-Fisher, for pushing forward this initiative. I think it's long overdue. It has tremendous potential in terms of benefiting the residents of Suffolk County, both from a health standpoint, as well as from a cultural and even an economic standpoint, so I do appreciate the efforts of the Legislature in that regard.

I guess what I'd ask is, because I don't know a lot about the Joint Task Force, I guess I'd like to know what your exact charges are, and then, as well, what your goals are or what you see as your goals.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I'm going to start us off, and anybody who is up here is -- you know, feel free to jump in, because we can give you a copy of the legislation, which spells it out, but I could tell you a little bit about the genesis of this.

I went to visit a classroom -- okay. I was going to ask you to hand it to Mr. Strobel, but we'll make a copy of it for you, Mr. Strobel. A child in a fourth grade class told me that if she could be a Legislator, she would make legislation wherein the County could help people afford food that's healthy. And as I looked around for what the County could do, one of the things that we thought of was raising food and helping people learn how to raise their own food. And Mr. Lyon and I were just talking about how we've moved farther and farther away from an agrarian culture and so many people are afraid to garden, don't know where to begin. And so we want to have outreach, education, networking of all of the different groups that are already doing something like this, and encouraging groups to begin their community gardens. So I don't -- I'm not reading from the legislation, but that was -- that's the Legislative intent. Would anyone like to come in and expand on that? Okay. So that's what we are trying to do.

MR. STROBEL:

If I may, I'll just put a little plug-in for Hallockville. We do have, as far as I'm concerned, the only -- at this point at least, the only community garden on the North Fork. We started about three years ago or so with two plots, a very modest number, obviously, expanded that out to 18 last year, and this year we have 30 plots. So there is obvious interest in the community, and so, again, we'd

certainly like to see that replicated across Suffolk County. I know there are a few community gardens scattered across the County here and there. They wax and wane, but, certainly, I think the sort of efforts that you folks are doing will bring more visibility to the issue and to the sorts of projects in a very positive way. So I do thank you again for these efforts.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And how do you work the garden, the plots? Do people adopt plots, or do school children come? How does it work at Hallockville?

MR. STROBEL:

At Hallockville, as I said, we have 30 individual plots that community members rent --

*(*Timer Sounded*)*

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Sorry.

MR. STROBEL:

That's okay. That they essentially, if you will, lease those 400 square foot plots for a growing season, and they are then responsible for growing whatever they want to grow on those 400 square feet. But beyond the obvious benefit of growing your own food, what I find very positive about that particular project is the fact that people naturally want to engage with one another in sharing their frustrations, their successes and whatnot in growing the food. And it really is a very synergistic way of growing your own food and engaging others in that process. So that's the way we handle it.

We don't have any -- we've got some rules and regulations I -- rules and regulations that I'd be happy to share with you folks, and people generally abide by those. And so that's basically the way that we administer the garden plot program up at Hallockville.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's interesting, because that's the first question I was going to ask was about rules and regulations, because that's what we're seeing in the models that we've been looking at. But what you said before that we smiled at one another, because what we've also read is that an important piece of this is the community aspect, people sharing with one another and helping one another.

MR. STROBEL:

And something that I'd add to that would be it's very beneficial and very encouraging to see the intergenerational interactions that go on in the community garden. You've got, you know, kids in there running around, you know, with their grandparents, any -- you know, ranging literally from infants all the way up to 80-year-olds. So that is a very positive aspect I think, too, from a social perspective.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Jane? Anybody can speak.

MS. CORRARINO:

Mr. Strobel, is the networking informal, you know, I just go down to tend my plot and I'm talking to my neighboring plot tender, or do you have any kind of garden club where people will find out, oh, in two weeks you should put in your sweet peas, or how does that work?

MR. STROBEL:

One and both. I mean, certainly, folks can come by any time they want and do the solitary gardening that some individuals are interested in doing. At other times, we do have scheduled -- they call them coketails. In other words, around 6:30 in the evening, about every three weeks or so, a number of the gardeners get together for, you know, light refreshments and a picnic, or whatnot, to kind of just shoot the breeze and just to interact with each other. And, basically, that's

one of the nice things about the way we have things set up. There's no strict rigid format, you can do whatever you want and feel comfortable doing. Most people actually do enjoy occasionally, a couple, every three weeks, getting together with other gardeners and talking about gardening, or talking about anything else. So, in that -- in that sense, there is that sort of networking going on.

MS. CORRARINO:

And do you have a volunteer leading the cocktails? That's very nice, by the way?

MR. STROBEL:

Yeah. I can't take credit for that. One of your board members, one of the Hallockville Board members, Jim Romansky, has taken this under his wing and basically shepherds that process along.

MS. CORRARINO:

And how do most people hear about it?

MR. STROBEL:

Word of mouth, and then we also do press releases in the early spring, actually just going out this week, and it's basically word of mouth.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Tom.

MR. LYON:

Just a comment, Herb.

MS. CORRARINO:

You have to push the button.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Keep your finger on it.

MR. LYON:

Oh. Yeah, just a comment, Herb. I think one of the things we're looking for -- I'm from an educational background and we're trying to get schools and stuff to do it. It seems that almost everybody we talk to about promoting gardening, there's some kind of constraint. It may be very small, or maybe we don't have shade, you know, we have too much shade, or we don't have insurance, whatever, but if you have any experience with particular obstacles that you overcame successfully and could advise people, I think -- I hope we're going to be able to, you know, make a list of those kinds of things. That's really what victory gardens did in World War II, they created garden boards and just gave out advice and help for people, and addressed issues that might -- you know, might be the one sticking point to prevent people from doing something.

MR. STROBEL:

Well, in response to that, Tom, I guess I'd say, first of all, that each potential site has its own possibilities and potential limitations, and so I don't think you could necessarily say that any one thing is at the top of the list for any particular site. That being said, I mean, the Task Force here is very fortunate to have a horticultural professional like Ms. Kiang on it, and, certainly, the -- there are other experts at Cornell Cooperative who could help and evaluate a potential site. And I think I -- I think I -- I think it's important to point out that not every site that a particular community member or community group who might be interested in might -- it might not turn out to be the most -- best site for that particular community for a variety of reasons.

The other thing that I think is important to point out, and I hate bringing it up, but there is -- there are certain legalities in terms of liability issues and whatnot. And so to the extent that whatever group initiates and promotes the community garden is thinking about, you know, hold harmless agreements and things like that, I think that's important to consider as well. Because as much as

you'd like to think that people are doing this with the best intentions in mind, you do have to worry about those sorts of things, especially, obviously, if you're considering using County-owned properties, as I think you are in some respects.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Joe? You have to keep your finger on the button.

MR. GERGELA:

Hey, Herb. There we go. As far as, you know, what you do from Hallockville to, you know, get the garden started, do you guys actually do the field work and stuff, do you do it?

MR. STROBEL:

That's a good question. Initially, we did to -- because we were dealing with basically sod, and so we did the initial plowing and the initial field prep. But since the gardens have been established, what happens, and this goes back to the question that was raised before about how is this organized, the community garden organizer, if you will, Jim Romansky, he organizes a spring ground prep where folks bring their own rototillers in some cases, in some cases we get rototillers -- rototiller use donated for the morning and they prepare the ground that way. So, basically, once the plots are established, you know, the next year it pretty much takes care of itself in terms of no it heavy equipment is needed.

MR. GERGELA:

What about materials like fertilizer and things like that? You mentioned your rules and regs and all that. Are people prohibited from using chemicals? Is it strictly organic?

MR. STROBEL:

I wouldn't call it strictly organic, and we certainly don't use the big "O" word because it is not certified. However, in our rules and regs we do have a sentence or two in there talking about we prohibit the use of synthetic chemicals and fertilizers, and things like that. To be honest with you, that is not strictly enforced. But, that being said, it is more or less self-policing, because we have a small enough group of people who are looking out for each other and that hasn't been an issue. We provide -- as you know, we have some animals up at Hallockville, so we're able to provide some compost. We also get compost donations from some other organizations as well, as well as donation of materials such as fencing and things like that, that has really helped out the garden.

MR. GERGELA:

Thanks, Herb, I appreciate that. I'm just trying to find out a little bit more about, you know, what you guys put up front and get it started. We've been talking about it for a couple of years now as far as -- you know, I'm glad that Vivian did this because it really is time.

One of the things that we wanted to do, too, is to get these started in underserved communities. Sustainable Long Island is also working with me on forming farmers markets with community groups kind of hosting them, and then, hopefully, utilize high school or college kids to get the -- get some markets going, too.

MR. STROBEL:

I think that's a great point, Joe. And then I'd add to that as well, especially, and not only, but I think to a certain degree, highlighting it in the underserved communities is another piece of this puzzle, and at least in my mind would be providing those sorts of individuals and families with some training or some expertise in terms of how -- what to actually do with the vegetables they grow, because, unfortunately, as probably a lot of the folks around the horseshoe here already know, there's a certain lack of understanding of people of under a certain age, let's put it that way, in terms of how to actually utilize fresh vegetables and fruits. And so to the extent that some nutritional, some dietetic, some food preparation expertise can be lent to the folks who participate in some of these community gardens, I think that would enhance and benefit those folks as well as the effectiveness of the program moving forward.

MR. GERGELA:

Absolutely. And one more point on that, and something I -- Dale is here, but something I want to collaborate with him on is maybe trying to get some retired farmers in communities to maybe help out and teach some of the people about how to garden and, you know, most of the people don't even know how to plant a seed.

MR. STROBEL:

I think that would be a great idea.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you so much. It's really terrific that you're -- oh, I pressed the wrong -- mine stays on because I'm the Chair, so, if I press the button, I turn it off. Thank you for being here. You've given us a lot of information. You're going to hang around a little while, right?

MR. STROBEL:

A little while.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Just in case we need to pick your brain a little bit more.

MR. STROBEL:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MR. STROBEL:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I saw a few other people come in. Would you like to come up and speak? We need you to fill out a card. Come up and talk to us. We are here to learn.

MR. ROESCH:

Me, too.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Good. Symbiosis is a wonderful thing.

MR. ROESCH:

Yeah. It's a great idea. I just heard about it recently. Yeah. I want to be involved with gardening things and encouraging people to garden and gardening myself. So I just wanted to find out what was going on here and find out how I could help in any way. I have quite a lot of experience in gardening. I've been doing it since I was a kid, you know, and I've worked on different farms and things. And I'm presently employed at a CSA, Community Supported Agriculture, in Brookhaven Hamlet. So, yeah, I wanted to do something around here. I'm glad to see this is happening, and I'm glad to do whatever I can to help.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Can you state your name again? I'm sorry.

MR. ROESCH:

Oh, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I might have missed it.

MR. ROESCH:

I didn't say what it was.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ROESCH:

It's Bryan Roesch, R-O-E-S-C-H, if you're typing that down.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Roesch, how do you see the relationship between CSAs and community gardens?

MR. ROESCH:

Well, the CSAs, the members can participate some, you know. They can -- at least in ours, they can work off part of their share, you know, only a certain amount. They can volunteer if they'd like, you know, but whereas at the community garden, I think the members do more of the work themselves, you know. We have a few farmers and workers that grow most of the food, do most of the work.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Anybody else have a question for Mr. Roesch? Okay.

MR. GERGELA:

You're in -- I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Joe.

MR. GERGELA:

You're in the Brookhaven area, Brookhaven Hamlet?

MR. ROESCH:

Yes, yes, yeah, down on Beaver Dam Road. It's called the Hamlet Organic Gardens. It's been going for about --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, the HOG, yeah.

MR. ROESCH:

Yeah, the HOG, yeah, about 15 years now.

MR. GERGELA:

Is there additional land available in your area?

MR. ROESCH:

There is. We're adding five acres this year. We had it fenced, and it will be under cultivation this year. And there is other land available. The Post-Morrow Foundation has been letting us use some of their land. They preserve land so it can't be built and we're working in coordination with them. So there is land available, yeah.

MR. GERGELA:

Well, that would be a good spot for people not too far from the Bellport area. Maybe Tom Williams, who is retired from Cornell Extension, he's involved with Post-Morrow. Maybe that's something that we could talk to Tom about.

MR. ROESCH:

Tom is, yeah, also a member of the HOG. There is a community garden in North Bellport at Saint Joseph's Church, which is coming along pretty well. A lady by the name of Betty Gundlach is in charge of that pretty much, and, yeah, it's growing. There's a number of people and they have a nice area. It's not fenced in or anything, I don't know if that's ever going to be a problem, but it is growing and there's an opportunity there for people in that area.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Ginny, is she still there? Is that the parish that we --

MS. SUHR:

No. We had spoken with -- actually, maybe. It may be Saint Joseph's in Patchogue?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, Saint Joseph's in Patchogue?

MR. ROESCH:

Is it East Patchogue, maybe it would be?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right, yeah.

MR. ROESCH:

Okay. Yeah, okay, right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Is she still there? I thought she was leaving.

MS. SUHR:

No, it was the priest who was leaving.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, the priest was leaving. Okay.

MR. ROESCH:

Yes. Yeah, he did, yeah. Father -- I forget -- I never met him, but he was from Cornell, I believe, right? He had studied at Cornell, but, yeah.

MS. CORRARINO:

You know, that's an interesting idea to use a church as a community anchor for a garden, you know, because I was just thinking, as Mr. Strobel was speaking, as you were speaking, that you really need to have some organization in, or organizations in the community that are interested in doing something for the community, right? You know, he was talking about the board member who's taken this on. So, you know, churches and other community organizations, those are probably the ones that we need to reach to be able to have an anchor -- anchors across the County.

MS. SUHR:

We were concerned about --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Take the mic, because Lucia's going to want to hear you.

MS. SUHR:

We were concerned about when you had a school garden, that during the summer you don't have the students there to do it. Basically, or theoretically, churches are year-round, so it would make --

you know, perhaps they could even take over the running of a school garden during this summer using the children from the church to work on it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

All those kids at bible school, right?

MS. SUHR:

Get them down there.

MR. LYON:

Yeah, Bryan, I wanted to ask you about work with young people there. Do you have field trips coming in at all or any school groups, things like that; any internships with high school or college age kids?

MR. ROESCH:

There are -- we have two interns each year. We have been having them. We do have kindergartens come in sometimes, and Eileen Heatley brought her class from Quogue in a couple of times and they really enjoyed it. She made a little film about it. And other than that, I mean, we're open to it, you know. We -- if people wanted to do it, it could be arranged. But so far, just the one kindergarten -- well two different kindergarten classes have come. But it could be older people, you know, it could be older students, too. I mean, it could be arranged, you know, we're open to it.

MR. LYON:

Are most CSAs pretty open to that kind of stuff?

MR. ROESCH:

I think they would be. There are five or six around, you know. There's one in Jamesport and one in Riverhead here. I think they'd be amenable to having people learn more about farming and gardening.

MR. LYON:

I'm just wondering if there's any particular problems you might see that, you know, might prevent them, that -- I don't know, that the County could help out with, or anything like that, prevent trips or --

MR. ROESCH:

I don't know. Farmers are pretty busy in the summer, you know, but could give somebody to kind of guide them around, I guess, and take the time to do it, and usually happy to, you know, show the farm and what's going on there.

MR. LYON:

Yeah. Maybe some of your members who might be teachers or something, or retirees, could take on that role. That could be interesting. I'm hearing from a lot of schools that just -- from your area west that there's no farms around, there's no place to take the kids. They have a very limited window of three hours or three-and-a-half hours where they can go on the field trips, so they're not going to Yaphank to the County Farm as much, and they're not going out east where the farms are. So I'm just, you know, wondering if, you know, that's certainly -- my sister is in Patchogue-Medford School District and the only field trip they take now is -- in the elementary schools is to supermarkets. And that's not too far from you guys, so I hope we can work something out about that.

MR. ROESCH:

There is something in Bethpage. There's -- at the Restoration Village, they have, I think, an acre plot which they're doing. I'm not sure if it's a CSA, but they're doing it organically and has some -- I think they're definitely open to having people come in and see what's going on.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I live right near Benner's Farm in Setauket and this weekend, although the weather wasn't that cooperative, it was very busy because it was the mapling, you know, so the sap was being cooked down and the maple syrup is out there. And people are fascinated by that, it's always very crowded. We don't have enough places for people to go, so that's a really good idea to get people out there.

MR. ROESCH:

I've heard of that place and I've never been there. I know it's great, they have a lot of activities, and music, and gatherings and things, and I'd definitely like to get up there some time. Sounds like a good --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

May Day is a lot of fun there.

MR. ROESCH:

Uh-huh, good. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And they're not even communists. A little joke.

MS. CORRARINO:

Vivian.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Go ahead.

MS. CORRARINO:

I won't say what I was going to stay. Perhaps -- it just made me think about engaging students. Perhaps, rather than try and get students to go on field trips, because that may not be possible, involve Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. They're always looking for activities, and badges to earn, and things for the kids to do. At the other end of the spectrum, I was thinking perhaps involving RSVP and OLLI at the University, the Older Learning -- Older Learners.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And the senior citizen centers.

MS. CORRARINO:

Yes. Oh, that's a good idea. That's a good idea.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

They have a lot of people. Thank you so much for coming.

MR. ROESCH:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

By the way, I've seen some of the interns man a booth over at Wolfstock at Stony Brook University to talk about the HOG and other CSAs. Some of the kids come back and talk about what it is to work at a farm. Did you want to add something?

MR. STROBEL:

Yeah. I'd just like to follow up real quick on --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Just say your name again because of the record.

MR. STROBEL:

Sure, not a problem. Herb Strobel, Hallockville Museum Farm. I'd just like to follow up very quickly on a couple of points that Mr. Roesch raised, which I think are important. And I'm speaking from the perspective of someone at Hallockville who's seen school trip attendance decrease over the last number of years for a variety of reasons, you know. And this Task Force here is not -- certainly not going to perhaps have a direct influence on school budgets and transportation budgets and whatnot, as well as State learning curriculum, which apparently over the last few years has really motivated teachers to keep their students in the classroom, as opposed to getting out and experience the real world to a certain degree. But what I can offer is simply an example I think that really touched me when I first got to Hallockville a few years back.

We had a school visit from -- I believe it was the Tuckahoe School District in the North -- South Fork here, and what we had the kids do is we dug up a row of potatoes, and Joe can relate to this certainly directly from his past experiences. We dug up a row of potatoes and those kids -- these were first and second graders. They absolutely went crazy in terms of picking up potatoes. They didn't -- you know, half of them didn't know where potatoes came from, and they really enjoyed themselves. And it's wonderful for them to enjoy themselves, that's certainly an important aspect of the visit, but just as, if not more importantly, is the fact that that's -- I would argue that's an experience that they'll take away and remember for many, many, many years. And, as we all know, different children and different people have different learning styles, and that's one type of learning style that reaches out and touches especially the younger folks.

And so to the extent that this particular group can network, influence and prod school districts to engage places like Hallockville, places like HOG farm, places like Hobbs Farm in Centereach that Tom is so importantly involved with, I think that's very important. That's not to minimize some of the suggestions that you've just made in the last couple of minutes regarding senior groups and things like that, but in terms of affecting the school districts and influencing some of the decisions they make and how they administer their curriculum, I think that's very important to keep in mind. And this is -- again that's one place perhaps that this particular -- that this particular group here can have some input on. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thanks. And, unfortunately, economics have a lot to do with field trips. Jane Foster.

MS. FOSTER:

I want to thank you for doing this. Fortunately, I get the Master Gardener newsletter that Caroline sends out, and I saw this and immediately said, "Oh, I've got to go to this." I have to thank her for -- I took the Master Gardener course in 2008, and ever since that time, I have been looking for vegetables, so -- and she said why? But I -- and, again, thank you for doing this.

Let me explain. Hallockville. After I finished, you had to do -- give some community service. I was still into vegetables, so I went to Hallockville, but it was more of a historical garden in the small section, different from what he's talking about, so I did that for a year. This whole past summer, from May through November, I went 45 miles away to Bay Shore, because that's the one place I could find, whereby I had the experience of a CSA at Saint Peter's, where I spent about 90 hours there working on the farm, learning how to do it, and just for the pure enjoyment, because unlike -- you bring out the idea that the kids are thrilled by picking potatoes. Well, I was using my pitchfork quite a lot and doing the potatoes. So, again, adults can have a great deal of fun, too. But, besides that -- so that was my main experience. But I've also had quite a bit of insight because I volunteer at two other places. I volunteer at Yaphank Farm, and there is the herbs and also some other -- one other garden. But what I find interesting is you have all the kids go by and have their tours, and everybody is saying, "Oh, what beautiful flowers." There's no conception of herbs. And I'm thinking, that's it, I say, "Oh, they're herbs," but it's sort of like, yes, the education about the herbs.

I also notice that -- I've done this for the last two years -- they had young people doing a very large farm garden there, but after the first little while, the whole thing went into disarray, and I felt, well,

there must be a better way related to this. And I know this year they did it someplace else, but I'm not too sure where on the farm, I never saw them.

The other thing is, the other place I volunteer at is Long Island Horticulture and Research Center. And, you know, Meg McGrath says to me, "Oh, I hear that in Shoreham they're going to have some empty space. What about some kind of a garden for the community?" I said, "Oh, that" -- "If you have any ideas or anything gets developed, let me know." But there's a lot of desire. Right now, how I'm managing it with these -- oh, with these things, but I just signed up for a CSA at Saint Peter's. So there's a lot of people who are interested.

I want to say you have been bringing up education. When I was at Saint Peter's, which has changed the -- the person who was in charge there has now left and they have a new group, but what's interesting is they have the students from the school at Saint Peter's come every week with a structured activity. And, you know, you can read the newsletter and you say right now, very soon they're going to be in the hoop house. Caroline can give you a great deal of information about all these others. At Yaphank they have a garden and the children's garden, and how do they get people? But they've told me, you know, they've had not as much success getting the Boy Scouts out and all these to do that.

The other thing is, you know, I read with great interest Hobbs Farm, and I went to there before I went to Saint Peter's to see if I could find it. Unfortunately, I couldn't, but that was my problem. I also lived in Connecticut and in other states and what I noticed is that in Connecticut, I remember in Uniondale they had a whole -- acres that were for -- that people could get shares by having -- by putting in their bids very early. It didn't -- you know, it wasn't charged. But, as my friends say who had those, there was problems with irrigation, there was problems with mulch. It was in a low field, so if they had flooding, you had problems there.

So I just wanted to commend you, because I don't think it's any -- every age is very interested in this. And I think this was -- this is and was a great farming community and it should be continued, and, yes, getting the people interested. And I see a great difference between CSAs and these victory gardens. To me, CSAs is you put in your money and you maybe give some -- now, this is an opinion, please, people might tear this down, but you give in your money and then you get your crops. But, again, what about the wastage from all the crops that are not used that I see around?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Wow. Don't go away, we may have some questions, because you have a lot of experience.

MS. FOSTER:

No, I wouldn't say that. As I say, I started as a --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

A varied experience.

MS. FOSTER:

Varied and for the last two years.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's terrific.

MR. GERGELA:

Excuse me. Some of the farmers do a lot of gleaning.

MS. FOSTER:

Leaning?

MR. GERGELA:

Gleaning it's called. When they're done with their harvest, they allow groups to come in and clean up what's left in the field. Years ago, when I was a potato farmer, at the end of the year, we would have some people come in, poor people, and they'd go out and pick up what was left behind. So we do have, you know, quite a bit of generosity in the farm community, most people may not be aware of.

The other thing is that Long Island farmers last year donated 500,000 pounds of food to Long Island Cares, and we work very closely with them. So part of this -- you know, what we're talking about here is to get the victory gardens going, try to also get farmers markets where people don't have access to fresh fruit and vegetables, you know, down west. So it is a -- it is a goal of this group is to try and spread the word and try to help communities.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Somebody else wanted to say something?

MR. LYON:

Well, wait. I might comment --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Give her directions to Hobbs Farm.

MR. LYON:

I might comment on the wastage, because I'm one of the Co-Directors at Hobbs Farm, two miles south of Stony Brook University, right off Nicolls Road. I'll talk to you later. We'd love to have you over there. And we do --

MS. FOSTER:

I read your newsletter with interest, and I know two of the Master Gardeners in 2008 --

MR. LYON:

Oh, Elizabeth, sure, yeah.

MS. FOSTER:

-- who were so involved.

MR. LYON:

Yeah. And that's definitely an issue. I mean, we really want to see this -- you know, agrarians think cyclicly, and cycles mean everything doesn't -- nothing goes to waste. And a large part of the Task Force is also talking with Long Island Cares and Jean Kelly from Interfaith Nutrition Network, and, you know, their ideas on how do we facilitate moving of produce and stuff so it doesn't get wasted. That's another real issue that we want to continue to address.

Personally, my experience with working with young people is they're "McDonalized" already kind of, and they're not crazy about going out, most of them, in going out and growing food for the sake of growing food. But if you can motivate them to grow food for the hungry people on Long Island, because they know there are a lot of them, there's a difference. We've had a lot of kids that are ready to go and go out and help and work for that goal. They're not necessarily ready to go out and stop eating, you know, McMuffins, or whatever you call them, Big Macs, and start eating vegetables, but down the road that could happen as well. So it's also, you know, use of our resources, our children, and our volunteers as well. Thanks.

MS. FOSTER:

I think you have a lot of altruism around.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Jane, I just have a question for you. You mentioned that when you were working at Saint Peter's in

Bay Shore, there were kids who came. Now, were they from the public school, were they a 4-H group? Who were the kids and how were they getting there?

MS. FOSTER:

The person in charge then welcomed anyone. She, you know, welcomed any groups, but it was mainly Saint Peter's. It's their land and I'm thinking -- and it's a matter of they had a systematic program whereby once a week the students in the -- during the school year --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, in the parochial school at Saint Peter's school itself?

MS. FOSTER:

In the -- yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I see.

MS. FOSTER:

At the school itself, right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I see. Okay. I didn't realize they had their own school. Is there another question at all? Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. FOSTER:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Bryan Futerman. And I'm not turning the timer on because we don't have that many people.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thanks for coming down. Make sure your mic is on. Please press the button. You have to keep your finger on it.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Thank you. My name is Brian Futerman. I just heard about this meeting today. Thank you very much for taking the time to focus on this issue.

I am a parent in the Springs School District of East Hampton, and I'd like to tell you about a project we have going in our school where we created a greenhouse space as a learning environment for the children. I'm also involved as a leader of the Slow Food East End organization, which is affiliated with Slow Food International and Slow Food USA, and we focus on good, clean and fair food system. And I'd like to applaud your group as a Task Force for trying to reinforce the community food system, which would be victory gardens particularly.

Our program is an after school program which is linked to the school through the science program. We just constructed the greenhouse this year and we're looking to create our outdoor gardening space for the children. I'm also involved with the Hayground School, which has a -- it's a private school in Bridgehampton which has a self-sustainable garden concept and they bring that into their school lunch program as well. They're completely, I should say, self-sufficient in that area. They don't have any food service program, per se, but they do it all in-house. The Springs School is also trying to create a food service program, currently does not have a cafeteria, and does not comply with a lot of the requirements of schools that do have food service programs. And we're trying to

create that type of a program within our school, and it's deeply needed, I feel, to have a lunch program in the school, but that's kind of a different topic, but related as well. I feel getting children involved is very important, and I think you should continue in that direction, whereas the lessons learned within these gardens are taken as a hands-on type of learning, which is very suitable for a lot of the children.

I can continue on a lot of different topics, but I really, you know, just wanted to support you on that and offer the resources of Slow Food and what we're doing out in Springs, as well as other schools, which are trying to create these greenhouse and garden concepts within the schools. I also encourage the CSAs. We have Quail Hill Farm, which we have partnered with, which is in Amagansett, as part of the -- I think they are a CSA, and a lot of the farmers have been very receptive and willing to offer their expertise on our program.

I'm also a restaurateur, so I buy a lot from the local farms, and I really feel that's really important in terms of sustaining the East End of Long Island. The Peconic Land Trust has been saving this land and I think we need to teach people how to farm it, so I think these programs are really important in that way.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I thought Springs was part of the East Hampton School District. How big a district is Springs?

MR. FUTERMAN:

Springs is approximately 600-plus students and it's a sending district. We pay a tuition to the East Hampton School District for our High School students. The Springs School is an independent union-free school district, and it is pre-K through eighth grade.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I see.

MR. FUTERMAN:

It is a very diverse community, and the tax implications of this arrangement are onerous, I feel, for the Springs community. I live there and it's a very difficult situation, and apart from that, that's an issue. I feel the County should look into the situation as far as its school lunch programs in the Springs School and within the East End. We have quite a few groups that are forming to try and create these edible school yards --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MR. FUTERMAN:

-- is basically the concept, and that's what we're trying to do in Springs.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Now, are you associated at all, or do you have any connection with the -- isn't there a community garden in East Hampton?

MS. KIANG:

EECO Farm.

MR. FUTERMAN:

There is EECO Farm in East Hampton, and quite a few of their members are members in Slow Food. And that is a community organic garden, which is -- I think plots are purchased or used by different individuals to grow their own gardens. And they do a lot of work within the community. They donate quite a bit of produce, they have their own farm stand, and they're very supportive of other gardening programs. They've offered quite a bit of advice to us as well.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So you have an association with them as well as Quail Run?

MR. FUTERMAN:

Yes. Slow Food acts as kind of a liaison for a lot of these types of groups, and we want to act as a resource for creating an educational environment, and we are open to anybody who wants to join as members, and we basically promote the educational aspects. There's a lot of different -- advocacy access issues, as well as preserving historical food ways and promoting diversity.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Any other questions?

MR. LYON:

Hi, Bryan. I'm sorry, just one.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Everybody.

MR. LYON:

I guess there's just one, because I've been talking to Mary Morgan quite a bit, your partner there, and she said a number to me that maybe you know. I can't recall it, but she talked about the mailing list for East End Slow Food. Do you have any idea how big that is? I know it's quite large.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Our mailing list is over a thousand, for sure.

MR. LYON:

So there's obviously a lot of interest.

MR. FUTERMAN:

I'm actually a new leader for the group, but it's probably around twelve hundred, something that like that.

MR. LYON:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

So, Bryan, when we're having our next public meeting, if we let you know, will you shoot out an E-mail to that group?

MR. FUTERMAN:

I will. The E-mail came through the group to me today.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, it did.

MR. FUTERMAN:

So they were --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

So the group did have it.

MR. FUTERMAN:

But I got an E-mail about it, so that why I'm here.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. We just want to make sure everybody who has input and can help us know what's going on out there, you know, gets in touch with us.

MR. MEYER:

Bryan, you mentioned you were getting ready to look at going from the greenhouse to the actual garden. In looking at that, have you explored the issue of sustaining the garden when school is not in session?

MR. FUTERMAN:

Yeah. One of the internal funding -- we're trying to create a program that is sustainable, and financing is a huge component of that. We've been doing a lot of fundraisers throughout the year and whatnot, and to have a concept through the summer is we're looking at creating a small camp environment. We're partners with Project Most, which is an after-school program. And they're a 501(C)3, so we've been able to partner with them in terms of fundraising in creating this sustainable concept, and they've already had that linkage with the school because they're functioning there. So they kind of treated the Spring Seedlings as if we were an art -- an artist or a photographer, somebody else coming and giving these after-school classes, and we were able to set up at the school. So the idea would be to set up a camp for the children within the community. And perhaps 25 students, two-week sessions, just to go through the summer to immerse them in growing and maintaining the gardens, weeding, harvesting, and this way the gardens are going when the students arrive in September as well, as well as community members. We have a lot of volunteers within the community that are checking the greenhouse at night, making sure it's properly maintained during vacation times, things like that.

MR. MEYER:

Thank you.

MS. KIANG:

Hi, Brian.

MR. FUTERMAN:

How are you, Caroline? It's nice to see you.

MS. KIANG:

Good to see you. My question -- you answered my question. I have to hold it? Okay. It's about the Project Most, and I was very impressed. I went to a meeting a year ago, it was about a year ago. Bryan asked me to go to the meeting, and I realized that the Project Most is an after-school program, they are working with you, right? And there's a lot of parent support of the whole project. And I was very impressed at how much fund-raising they did. And I told -- I have you listed on this here. I just tried to put a list together of other gardens. I've been telling the Task Force that there's a lot going on already on Long Island. Of course, we want to move forward and get a lot more done. We want to see how we can work together and get more, you know, going on. So I tried to put a list together and I have you listed. It's on the back page, the Springs Seedling Project, and Project Most is the organization. Yeah, you have --

MR. FUTERMAN:

I have some information.

MR. KIANG:

Right, right.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Our latest --

MS. KIANG:

I just heard from one of your parents, the project's still going on. In fact, you just had your fund-raiser, fund-raising event last Sunday, right.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Yes, we had --

MS. KIANG:

The Soup Bowl.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Yes.

MS. KIANG:

The Empty Bowl.

MR. FUTERMAN:

We had a fund-raiser called "Empty Bowls" and that was on Sunday, and it was very well attended.

MS. KIANG:

Right. You and other chefs from restaurants, you bring soup there and people buy soup, and they raised quite a bit of money, right? Why I was so impressed is that parents support -- I mean, the community -- I mean, we're always talking about there's no money, the funding is a big problem, and I was very impressed how much money they can put together. You actually had what, two or three greenhouses built last year in schools, different schools?

MR. FUTERMAN:

We built our greenhouse. There's a greenhouse at the Sag Harbor School. There will be a greenhouse and there is a garden at the Bridgehampton School. They received a grant from KeySpan, several thousand dollars. Slow Food has given donations. They're a nonprofit organization as well, committed to these things, and they've given donations to the Hayground School to build their greenhouse and they've donated to the Spring Seedlings and the Bridgehampton School as well. And I think we're looking at Mattituck for another greenhouse as well.

The community support and putting these resources together is really a key to accomplishing these things and partnering with the right people. We're really fortunate to have that linkage with an existing group, which is an affordable after-school group within Springs and East Hampton. So I do have some more information about our program, and there are others out there.

MS. KIANG:

Yeah. There's another one I have on this list as well, it's called the Star Flower experiences. I don't know if anyone knew about it. The only connection I had with them, they need -- it's also after-school programs, and they are doing an after-school program in Wyandanch and bring one of the Master Gardeners to do worm composting with the kids. And I was so amazed that the kids, I mean, they are really -- it's -- I think it's second grade, maybe second grade or even younger. After 5 o'clock they're still full of energy, and they pay attention to the whole entire worm composting thing. They really touch the worms. Everybody takes one home, a bottle home to learn how to raise that. And, apparently, there's this -- I think it's a maybe everyday program as well. And I don't know if there's any other organization like this on Long Island, I'm sure we just don't know about it yet. The Task Force probably should explore more to find out who they are.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Well, they always seem to reach out to you, Caroline.

MS. KIANG:

I know. Well, I still don't --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

You've trained so many of them.

MS. KIANG:

Yeah. And, see, actually, these two pages, mostly the contact. I got this. People ask me, you know, to get help from Extension or from Master Gardeners, and already I know I missed three or four just by sitting here today, so I'll keep revising this. I'm going to send Ginny -- I'll E-mail her the list. I'll revise it when I get home and then send it to you. Thanks, Bryan. It's good to see you. Good luck to your program.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Thank you, Caroline.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much, Mr. Futeran.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And was there anybody else who had a question? Did I miss anyone? No. Thanks again.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Can I submit this for your information?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, yes. Thank you.

MR. FUTERMAN:

Thank you.

MS. CORRARINO:

Vivian?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MS. CORRARINO:

I just had a thought. It seems to me that there's a lot going on out there and there's no central coordinating clearinghouse --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

MS. CORRARINO:

-- body. And the thought that popped into my mind was to perhaps make an effort to work with the Middle Country Library to see that all this is catalogued in their community --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Community resource database.

MS. CORRARINO:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, that's a good idea.

MS. CORRARINO:

Yeah. Because, you know, Caroline's thinking about things as she's sits here, and instead of revising her database, to have something that's central for the whole County.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sure they'd welcome it, too, at Middle Country.

MS. CORRARINO:

Yeah, I bet they would.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Michael Masen. I'm not certain if I'm reading your name correctly. Michael? Michael, I'm sorry.

MR. MARTIN:

Michael Martin.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Martin. Oh, sorry.

MR. MARTIN:

M-A-R-T-I-N, yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

If you could just press the button when -- Thank you.

MR. MARTIN:

And hold the button?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MR. MARTIN:

I'm listening to you --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry, she's trying to --

MR. MARTIN:

There we go.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

There you go.

MR. MARTIN:

I don't mean to be offensive, but you guys are way behind.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I think we know that.

MR. MARTIN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We know there's a lot going on.

MR. MARTIN:

Okay. Let me bring you up to speed real quick. There are three volumes that you should have on your desk every single day. The first one is called *Eating for Beauty*. It has nothing to do with external beauty, it has to do with the internal parts of your body. I do not know the author's name. The second book you should have on your desk is *The Food Doctor* by two M.D.'s out of England. And the third book you should have is by a man by the name of Donnie Yantz, and it's titled *Herbs, Healing and Cancer*. The man is not only an M.D., but he is also a priest. He has developed a system of health that includes adaptogens and alternatives. You should read that book, it's very important. These books should be in every library and every school and mandatory reading.

I am an accountant, I work for landscapers. If you own the property, if the County owns the property, or anybody else owns the property, under New York State law, you cannot put fertilizer with pesticides on the property. That is a New York State law, and I'm surprised that none of you knew that. It shouldn't be an issue that when you have community gardens that people would put pesticides on the property. Now, as a potato farmer, I don't know where you had your potato farm, but there is a thing called temic that was sold by Dow Chemical. It doesn't go away. It infected a lot of land in Bridgehampton.

One of the things you have to concentrate on is elimination of pesticides. You have to educate people that all of the fruits and vegetables coming out of Chile have DDT in them. It's a product that the United States Government has allowed Dow Chemical -- or actually DuPont. I'm sorry. DuPont is the owner of DDT. They are allowed to sell that to every South American country, and South American countries are supplying us with a lot of vegetables and fruits in the wintertime.

There is a relationship between gardening and work. Gardening is very frustrating. I don't have to tell you that I got one tomato on 15 plants this year. Bryan behind me, his entire population of tomato plants was infected by the blight. I was lucky, I didn't get blight, but I got no tomatoes. I would -- if you're going to talk to kids about doing farming, it's frustrating. You're not going to always win. Bryan picks off potato bug -- potato bug larva off potato plants, he picks them by hand. They do not use pesticides on potato bugs. These are the things you have to work on.

I studied Chemistry at Syracuse University College of Forestry for two years; I left. There were no jobs in Chemistry. I am also a History major. I got a 98 on the New York State Regents, so it's not like I don't know farming, from the historical perspective, I know it, but what we're doing today is poisoning our people. There are a lot of books, and a lot of people have been doing organic farming for a long time. There are places in Virginia and Pennsylvania. There's Rodale Press. And for me to listen to people here today who have an interest in this and taking care of their citizens, and that's what I think you're trying to do, and maybe increasing their nutrition to a higher level than it is now, doesn't include convenience foods. There's a struggle right now to resupply the vending machines in school districts. And I just want you to know that if you're going to do this, you have to make sure that people do not use pesticides on the property that you either manage, control. And you probably want to send directives to any community gardens that they are not to use anything other than organic fertilizers, and maybe compost from either Brookhaven Town, or Islip Town, or Smithtown, who's ever making compost. But when you attend Cornell, they tell you make your own compost, because that's why you -- you know what's in it, because you don't know what other people are putting in their compost.

I don't know how else to address your issues, other than the fact that it seems to me that you're really far behind.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That was just the timer.

MR. MARTIN:

That's all right. How else can I help you?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No, thank you. That was fine. Anybody have any questions? Thank you for coming down.

MR. MARTIN:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Is there anyone else who has come in after the green cards have been collected and would like to speak? Okay. Is there any other comment from the Task Force? Well, I thank everybody for coming down and sharing your information with us. And just as a point of information, it's a County law that pesticides can't be used on County property. Yes?

MS. GREENE:

You want to announce the other meetings?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Sure. I'll leave that to Ginny to announce the other meetings, okay? Ginny, if you could just announce the dates of the other meetings. Thank you, Pam.

MS. SUHR:

That would be next Wednesday.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Make sure your mic's on, Ginny.

MS. SUHR:

Brentwood Public Library, Wednesday, March 10th, 7 to 9 p.m. Brookhaven Town Hall, Wednesday, March 24th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MS. CORRARINO:

A.m.?

MS. SUHR:

A.m., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MS. CORRARINO:

I thought you were keeping us out until midnight.

MS. SUHR:

You know --

(*Laughter*)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay?

MS. SUHR:

Yeah, I'm thinking there's one more, but no.

MR. LYON:

Farmingdale.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes, Farmingdale College.

MS. SUHR:

That's right. That's right at the College, and why don't --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Because that wasn't on your first list. We had to get their approval. They were the hardest one to get a hold of.

MS. SUHR:

I think it's the following Wednesday.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't have anything.

MR. LYON:

It's in the afternoon.

MS. SUHR:

I believe that one is 3 to 5, also.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We also have the E-mail on that one with the dates. Just disseminate the information. Thank you. And the minutes -- sorry, Lucia, I forgot I had turned this off. The minutes will eventually be on the web on the Suffolk County website. So anybody who wants to go back and look at what was -- what we talked about today, if you forgot some of the names, some of you who were trying to rapidly take notes throughout the meeting, you don't have to worry about that, because Lucia's doing that for us. Thank you very much.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom Lyon. Meeting adjourned.

[THE HEARING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:02 P.M.]

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ORIGINAL

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
VICTORY GARDENS TASK FORCE

Public Hearing
Brentwood Library
32 2nd Avenue
Brentwood, New York

March 10, 2010
7:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

LEGISLATOR VIVIAN VILORIA-FISHER

ALSO PRESENT:

RICHARD MEYER
TOM LYON
PAMELA GREENE
CAROLINE KIANG

REPORTED BY:

THERESA PAPE, Court Reporter/Notary Public

1 Victory Gardens Task Force 3/10/10 2

2 (WHEREUPON, this public hearing
3 convened at 7:00 p.m. Off-the-record
4 discussions ensued, after which the
5 following transpired:)

6 (Time noted: 7:14 p.m.)

7 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Welcome
8 to tonight's public hearing providing
9 information to the Victory Gardens Task
10 Force.

11 (WHEREUPON, there was an
12 interruption in the proceeding, after
13 which the following transpired:)

14 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Sister,
15 would you like to hold the mike and
16 introduce yourself and talk to us a
17 little bit. And you can sit down while
18 you do it.

19 SISTER CLARK: Okay.

20 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: You can
21 just grab the mike and sit down with it,
22 because we don't have such a huge crowd
23 here.

24 SISTER CLARK: I thought everybody
25 would be here.

2 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: You
3 know what? So did we, but people can
4 wander in --

5 SISTER CLARK: Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- in a
7 little while.

8 SISTER CLARK: I'm Jeanne Clark,
9 and I founded Homecoming, which is a
10 not-for-profit organization in -- well,
11 it was around 1993. And one of the
12 projects -- Homecoming's purpose was to
13 bring people home to Long Island with a
14 new mind. Understanding that the Island
15 is also the water and the land and the
16 roads, and that -- the community that
17 sometimes leave us out. And one of the
18 projects we picked immediately and began
19 was Sofia Gardens, which is at the
20 mother house of the Dominican Sisters.
21 So we're given that land to use. And we
22 began the -- we -- the first year, we
23 just experimented to see what we can do,
24 and then we began, and our garden is
25 15 years old now.

2 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Wow.

3 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

4 And we are CSA, which means we have
5 to have shareholders --

6 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Right.

7 SISTER CLARK: And -- and so people
8 come to pick up their -- we're certified
9 organic. And folks come to pick up
10 their vegetables either every other week
11 or every week, depending on how much
12 they want.

13 We're -- we're now on three acres
14 of land, and we cultivate about -- just
15 about an acre and a half of that. But
16 an acre and a half, you know, you'd be
17 amazed at the amount of food that we can
18 grow.

19 I don't know what other things
20 that you'd like to know, but --

21 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Do any
22 of the members have questions?

23 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

24 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Do you
25 have any questions, Rich?

1 Victory Gardens Task Force 3/10/10 5

2 MR. MEYER: No, not at this point.

3 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Okay.

4 I -- I do.

5 So you're -- you're strictly a CSA,
6 so it's not the kind of community garden
7 where people have a little piece of it?

8 SISTER CLARK: No.

9 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Who
10 does the work on the garden?

11 SISTER CLARK: We hire a farmer.

12 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Oh --

13 MR. MEYER: Oh.

14 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- you
15 hire a farmer. Okay.

16 You put out an ad for that? How --
17 how does one find a farmer?

18 (Laughter)

19 SISTER CLARK: Well, on the
20 internet, actually.

21 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Okay.

22 MR. MEYER: On the internet.

23 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Very
24 good.

25 SISTER CLARK: There are lots of

2 sites. And there are lots of young
3 farmers that can come in.

4 It is amazing that a lot of
5 families here were land based and are
6 farmers, and not where the farmers are
7 coming from. But they're young people
8 who have no land --

9 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: No?

10 SISTER CLARK: -- and they don't
11 come from farm families. It's -- it's
12 very interesting, the phenomenon.

13 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: But do
14 they come to you with the expertise that
15 they need?

16 SISTER CLARK: Well, that's the
17 problem.

18 Our first farmer was an older man
19 who had a great deal of experience, not
20 in farming, but in gardening, and did a
21 tremendous job. He was with us for I
22 think two and a half years.

23 But each -- each farmer -- and then
24 we had some farmers -- young farmers
25 who -- who -- he had interned with a

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real good farmer. But then we've had a couple of young people who thought they knew how to farm, but didn't. And -- or they needed more experience, and when we offered advise, they weren't so good at listening.

So there's all kinds of situations that you can have. I think if you have housing, you could, in fact -- I think the important thing is to find a farmer who has had good experience with an in- -- interning with a good farmer so that they do know and they have the skill.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: What were you going to say about housing?

SISTER CLARK: We do not have housing, but -- and -- so that was a -- a drawback for us. Because most young people -- and often, they want to come to a rural area either. So if you're in a -- if you're right in the heart of suburbia, it's not that enticing to some people either. But that's exactly where

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we would set it up.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Now, is the farm financially self-sustaining?

SISTER CLARK: We are self-sustaining with one big fundraiser a year. And --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: What is that?

SISTER CLARK: What is the fundraiser?

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: The fundraiser.

SISTER CLARK: Oh, we did -- well, we've done different things through the years. Sometimes we have musical events, concerts. And for the past about five years, we've been doing kind of like a dinner dance; very family-friendly with children and music, dancing. And we usually have kind of -- you know, an auction where people are -- things that have been donated to us, people come put chances on. Things like that.

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LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: What are your crops?

SISTER CLARK: We have -- we have over 25 different varieties of vegetables throughout our farm --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: So you're using that one and a half acres?

SISTER CLARK: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

And, of course, with organics, the more diverse it is, the better it is.

MR. LYON: I wanted to know about the certified organic part, and especially the certified part. I know a little bit about it, but if you could elaborate and -- and -- maybe the pros and cons and the difficulty. I know, obviously, that doesn't happen the first year.

SISTER CLARK: No.

MR. LYON: It takes a while.

SISTER CLARK: There are pros and cons, and we had thoughts about it. There are many organic farmers who do not want to be certified now. If

2 they're -- if they're very small, I
3 mean -- well, there -- there -- there's
4 lots -- lots of complications with it.
5 It's -- the reason that we are
6 certified -- that we choose to be
7 certified each year is because we
8 usually do have farmers who don't have
9 too much experience, and we want to be
10 sure that they have these standards to
11 go by. But other -- other certified
12 farmers are choosing to -- to adopt --
13 well, I don't know if you've heard about
14 the farmers pledge, which is a NOFA --

15 MR. LYON: Yes. Yeah, I'm --
16 I'm -- I've been aware of it.

17 SISTER CLARK: -- a possibility
18 also.

19 MR. LYON: Sure.

20 SISTER CLARK: Which is really more
21 than certified, in a sense. But you
22 don't -- but it -- you don't need all
23 that paperwork on -- you know.

24 MR. LYON: Now, this is the
25 government certification you're talking

2 about; is that right?

3 SISTER CLARK: Yes.

4 MR. LYON: And how do you get that;
5 by inspection or --

6 SISTER CLARK: Yes. It's -- you're
7 inspected every year, and it's very
8 clear criteria of what you need to be
9 doing.

10 MR. LYON: And by who? Is it a --

11 SISTER CLARK: Well, it's USCA, but
12 it's -- but NOFA -- a certifier through
13 NOFA comes to certify you.

14 THE REPORTER: Are you saying
15 "NOVA" or "NOFA"?

16 SISTER CLARK: NOFA, N-O-F-A.

17 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

18 SISTER CLARK: North Atlantic
19 Farmer Association.

20 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: We
21 don't all know this.

22 SISTER CLARK: Okay.

23 MR. LYON: Yeah, it's Northeast --
24 Northeast --

25 SISTER CLARK: Northeast --

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MR. LYON: -- Organic --

SISTER CLARK: -- Organic --

MR. LYON: -- Farming --

SISTER CLARK: -- Farming --

MR. LYON: -- Association.

SISTER CLARK: -- Association.

MR. LYON: Yeah. And there's a
NOFA-New York chapter as well.

SISTER CLARK: Yeah.

Once you know what the
certification process is, it's fairly
easy to follow. But it's very
stringent. You know, you -- you need to
keep track of every single thing that
goes into the soil; you have -- you have
a certain amount of organic seeds; and
you have to prove that if you couldn't
get them, that you tried three different
places to get them. Things like that.

I remember one year we tried three
places, one of our first years, because
our farmer didn't realize that one of
the posts that he put up was -- was not
cedar, it was treated wood. So --

2

MR. LYON: Uh-huh.

3

SISTER CLARK: -- you know,

4

questions like that.

5

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: How did

6

you do with the tomato blight last

7

summer?

8

SISTER CLARK: We were one of the

9

ones who had lots of tomatoes.

10

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Oh.

11

SISTER CLARK: Because -- I -- I'm

12

not sure. You know, I know that a lot

13

of people had difficulties, but -- we

14

got -- we got the late blight, which

15

came later but was not that bad. You

16

know, we were real careful about if

17

anything looked suspicious at all, we

18

would take it out immediately, we'd

19

clean it, and try to keep it.

20

MR. LYON: If it's okay, for the

21

record, just -- just a couple of details

22

about numbers of families and how much

23

they pay per share, if you could.

24

SISTER CLARK: Sure. Our share --

25

we just raised our price this year by

2 \$25, and our share this year -- this
3 coming up season will be \$375 for the
4 season for a half share. And what we
5 use -- what we define as a half share is
6 a person who comes every other week to
7 pick up. And a full share is 750. What
8 some of our families do is, two families
9 buy a full share and -- because they
10 want to come every week, and they share.

11 MR. LYON: And your season runs
12 from?

13 SISTER CLARK: Our season is -- is
14 usually the beginning of June to
15 October. Sometimes a little bit into
16 November, depending on the sea- -- you
17 know, the weather.

18 MR. LYON: Right.

19 And the number of families?

20 SISTER CLARK: I -- because I'm not
21 the person now who -- who oversees the
22 whole garden, I think -- I think last
23 year we had something like 111 families.
24 And usually, we always have a waiting
25 list, too.

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MR. LYON: And you're -- you're --
One of our goals is really to get
more growing going, and this probably is
not as complex as you're doing.
Obviously, maybe down the road, but --

SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

MR. LYON: -- some intermediate
steps. Obviously, with the -- you know,
with schools or churches that have some
land in order to get started. And I'd
be interested in your comments about,
should people start out and try to eat
organic, and then how -- how do they --
that certification, is there a limited
size for that or -- you know, if someone
has 100 by 150 garden, would they need
certification or -- or apply for that
or --

SISTER CLARK: Well, if you're
going to call the food organic, you
would need to be certified. You can't
call it organic if it's not certified.

And as far as the question about
whether you should go -- eat organic or

1
2 not, I'm -- I'm pretty passionate about
3 organic, so I -- I think it's really
4 important to eat organic food. That's
5 my opinion. I -- I think putting all
6 these chemicals in our food, that's --
7 that's one of the reasons we began
8 Sophia Garden. Because it affects the
9 water systems, it affects the wildlife,
10 and it certainly goes into our blood.
11 So for the future of children and
12 health, I'm pretty clear that -- that
13 organic would be -- if it's possible, to
14 be the best call.

15 And I don't think -- some people --
16 I know I've read statistically, but some
17 people think that organic does not
18 produce as much food as the other, but
19 I -- I don't think that's true.

20 MR. LYON: I guess the other
21 question had to do with just the labor
22 and -- like what percentage of the
23 actual harvesting --

24 SISTER CLARK: Well --

25 MR. LYON: -- in the fields is --

2 is done by the farmer --

3 SISTER CLARK: Okay.

4 MR. LYON: -- themselves --

5 SISTER CLARK: Yeah. Another
6 requirement --

7 MR. LYON: -- versus volunteers --

8 SISTER CLARK: -- we have is that
9 each member -- it's 15 hours of work for
10 the season, which isn't really very much
11 for the whole season, but when you have
12 that many members, you know. So we have
13 people coming to help. We also have
14 interns -- we have a paid intern.

15 MR. LYON: And how does that work;
16 from the school or from --

17 SISTER CLARK: Yes. That is --
18 that intern is returning to us. She's
19 studying in Vermont in -- in college,
20 and interns in the summer, yeah.

21 MR. LYON: Great.

22 And the other question we're
23 concerned over is the concerns of
24 education and, you know, getting in --
25 the message out to young people in

2 elementary schools and things like that.

3 Do you have farm centers? Do you
4 know what I'm saying?

5 SISTER CLARK: Well, we have a --
6 see, that's what Homecoming is. It's --
7 it's -- because Sophia Garden is just a
8 private farm center, one of them, the
9 other is our learning center. So we
10 have a learning center, and we do a lot
11 of programs with children. But we teach
12 children all about composting, and the
13 transfer of soils, and we really educate
14 them about how they are apart of the web
15 of life.

16 Because that was the other purpose
17 of Sophia Garden. It wasn't just to
18 grow vegetables, although that's pretty
19 important, but it was to connect people
20 back into the land because they're so
21 disconnected. And -- so it has that
22 purpose also.

23 When -- when people came to
24 volunteer, we used to kid that, well,
25 you know, people are paying a lot of

2 money now to go to places -- I mean, I
3 used to say Jack Lalanne, but that's
4 probably old -- old now --

5 (Laughter)

6 SISTER CLARK: -- but we said, you
7 can come here for nothing. You know,
8 and -- or people are spending a lot of
9 time on therapists and -- you know, and
10 that's necessary for some people -- but
11 if you get out and you're working with
12 the land and -- there's a mental health
13 aspect to it, too.

14 So all of those things are
15 connected to people, and I think that's
16 a very important piece. That's why I
17 wanted to -- I came tonight, because I
18 thought, oh, wow, to -- to be -- to
19 get -- to -- because I -- I haven't
20 heard about this -- I just heard about
21 it last week. But to get people -- to
22 get more food growing on Long Island, I
23 mean, especially because we don't
24 realize how important the land is and
25 it's just disappearing before our eyes.

1 That's what we teach the children.
2
3 We have a regimen where we ask them to
4 search how long do they think it takes
5 the earth to grow -- to make an inch of
6 topsoil. And they kind of guess, well,
7 weeks and months and -- in this region
8 of -- of the world, it takes 500 years.
9 And then I told them, when I saw all
10 those bulldozers out there every day, I
11 weep, because I know the earth has
12 worked so long to do this. And so to
13 get that kind of aura in -- in
14 children's minds is about six or less.
15 Because it -- it is our future. It's
16 our life, and we're treating it as if we
17 can get food with- -- without it.

18 So -- so all of those -- all those
19 things are important; you know, the
20 education --

21 MR. LYON: Now, the property is
22 owned by the Catholic Church; is that
23 correct?

24 SISTER CLARK: It's the Dominican
25 Sisters.

2 MR. LYON: All right.

3 SISTER CLARK: We've been --

4 That's another thing, we've --

5 we've been there since -- since 1876 --

6 MR. LYON: Uh-huh.

7 SISTER CLARK: -- on this land.

8 MR. LYON: Is this technically

9 owned by the diocese or private --

10 SISTER CLARK: No.

11 MR. LYON: Oh, it is --

12 SISTER CLARK: It's owned by the

13 sisters. Uh-huh.

14 MR. LYON: Okay. Are you aware of

15 any other Catholic Churches that are

16 doing anything similar on the Island?

17 SISTER CLARK: On the Island, I

18 know -- Newsday did a big story on

19 Sophia Garden. I forgot what year it

20 was, and I got a call the next day from

21 a woman at -- in Bay -- in Bay --

22 Bay Shore, I think it was at --

23 MS. KIANG: St. Peters?

24 SISTER CLARK: -- St. Peters by --

25 MR. MEYER: St. Peters.

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2 MS. KIANG: St. Peters.

3 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: The
4 farm at St. Peters.

5 SISTER CLARK: Yeah.

6 MS. KIANG: Jennifer Campbell?

7 SISTER CLARK: Yes. She said she
8 wanted to do -- to do that also.

9 But they -- she said they wanted --
10 they want to sell the farm to their
11 immediate (inaudible), and I told her,
12 we had to do it, and I guess they have
13 to do it like at Sophia Garden. But
14 they've been -- they've been there for
15 quite a while now.

16 MS. KIANG: Ten years, yeah.

17 SISTER CLARK: Ten years.

18 But there are lots --

19 MS. KIANG: I'm sorry.

20 SISTER CLARK: -- across the
21 country -- there are lots of religious
22 orders of sisters who are about --
23 get -- having their lands be set aside
24 for this purpose. Some people even make
25 lands trusts to do it.

2 MS. KIANG: Uh-huh.

3 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

4 Caroline, did you have a question?

5 MS. KIANG: No. No, I don't
6 have --

7 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Oh,
8 okay.

9 MS. KIANG: Sorry, I can't -- I
10 just want to make sure that --

11 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: I
12 thought I heard you starting to say
13 something.

14 Sister, part of the impetus for my
15 putting this task force together is that
16 we have a great need, there are many
17 people who are hungry, and many of the
18 folks who -- who need our help with
19 nutrition are not making the right
20 healthy choices. And so -- you know,
21 the obesity issue, the hunger issue,
22 diabetes, those are all tied together --

23 SISTER CLARK: Right.

24 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- and
25 those are all a piece of why I -- I

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wanted this to move forward.

Now, how could you envision making that accessibility in that education and hands-on approach more affordable to people, because we're trying to have community gardens where people have little plots of land where they can -- that they can work for their own families, or community gardens --

Tom worked for Avon and Hobbs Farm up in Centereach where the producers all stone neighbors. So it's all sweat equity, it's -- the farmers -- it's all volunteers, and, you know, I was just curious if you have any ideas going in that direction.

SISTER CLARK: Right. It's something very -- very close to my heart. And -- because I've -- I've ministered with many people who don't have resources. And when -- when we began the garden, I knew that this would be only for people who would be able to afford it. Because they were trying to

1
2 change the face of agriculture, to put a
3 new economy under agriculture. Because
4 most of -- foods is government
5 subsidized, and that's why it's cheap.
6 But when you're growing it, you're not
7 subsidizing it, and that's why it really
8 costs.

9 So -- and so I knew that we
10 couldn't include -- well, the one thing
11 we did, it's a very meager gesture, but
12 we have in our brochure for any of our
13 members, if they would like to pay a
14 little bit more -- and we would be able
15 to offer this to families without the
16 resources, and usually, we are able
17 to -- we usually have about three
18 families who are members of the garden.
19 Nobody knows who's who, but they -- they
20 are -- they're just all members. And
21 then they can participate also in the
22 community life.

23 And we're trying -- we're -- we're
24 thinking -- I know there was a gentleman
25 who came to us with an idea of trying to

1
2 do a habitat for humanity, where you
3 have people volunteer, you know, to
4 build houses or a laborer to do the --
5 to volunteer and to use that model. So
6 we -- we're in duologue with him,
7 because we know, too, that we -- we
8 would like to open more -- more people
9 without resources.

10 I guess the other thing would be,
11 if you have the land, it -- it -- it
12 would take a lot of organizing, because
13 I know that communities --

14 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: We know
15 that.

16 SISTER CLARK: Yep. Because when
17 you open plots to the community, and
18 the -- still the folks aren't taking
19 care of it, or your next door neighbor
20 doesn't take care of it, you know, all
21 those questions -- so I'm not real- --
22 you know, I don't have answers. But I
23 think for people to be able to -- even
24 for -- if there could be a way that
25 people -- more and more people can be

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2 taught how to grow their own foods,
3 and --

4 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: And
5 that's part of our goal.

6 SISTER CLARK: Oh.

7 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: That's
8 part of the goal of this, is to have
9 that educational piece --

10 SISTER CLARK: Right.

11 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:
12 -- where we're putting together a kind
13 of curriculum --

14 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

15 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- to
16 bring to the schools.

17 We're not putting it together
18 ourselves. There are lots of resources
19 for this, because this is a very hot
20 topic right now.

21 SISTER CLARK: Yeah.

22 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: So I
23 think we're right there calling us to
24 where there's a lot of information now
25 on --

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SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:

-- every time I go online, I'm reading more and more examples of --

SISTER CLARK: You probably heard about Alice Walker who creates the whole thing in high school --

I would say it -- I would encourage you, if you're doing this, to really find -- work with this and find what -- because we have to find ways. We have to find ways how to -- of doing this. And if you -- you know, if you have the land -- we know we have -- if you -- if you have the land, and I don't know if you have a parcel of land or --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: We're trying to figure that out.

SISTER CLARK: Okay. If you -- if you do, and we know we have the people who -- I mean, I was just at the hunger conference last week, and the statistics of people without food, and -- and those people who are getting food also in food

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pantries and stuff, it's -- it's mostly processed food and canned food. So -- you know, I know it's food, but they have to have food.

So to be able to do this is such a challenging thing and a necessary thing. So if you have the land and we know we have the people -- so the things we don't have would be -- no, maybe we do have, people who have knowledge of farming and --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Well, one of the members of our task force is Joe Gragella --

SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- of the Farm Bureau.

SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: So he's a very good connection as far as people with knowledge of farming. And, of course, we have Caroline Kiang who came in just a few minutes ago. You may know Caroline. And she is the Master

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2 Gardening teacher, so she is "the
3 person."

4 SISTER CLARK: Oh, well -- well,
5 wonderful.

6 Well, really --

7 MS. KIANG: Yeah, actually --

8 Yeah. We're going to have spring
9 gardening school held out -- I'll leave
10 you some --

11 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

12 MS. KIANG: -- registration
13 forms -- yeah -- teaching people about
14 gardening.

15 SISTER CLARK: Yeah.

16 MS. KIANG: Yeah, so you can come.

17 SISTER CLARK: Yeah, we have --

18 MS. KIANG: We'll be at the --

19 SISTER CLARK: -- we've had many --
20 many folks from the -- from Master
21 Gardener. We had a farmer once who
22 wrote a Master -- started out as a
23 master gardener.

24 MS. KIANG: Yeah.

25 SISTER CLARK: So -- so --

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Okay. So then, you have that --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: So we're heading in the right direction.

SISTER CLARK: Yeah. And then you need equipment.

You know, because I belong to a religious community and the sisters had -- the first year, they seeded -- you know, so we -- we didn't have -- we had the land and we didn't have -- we had some seed money, and then last year they -- they -- we asked for a tractor, and we got the tractor also from the sisters. So we've been fortunate in that sense. And you don't know -- and depending on the land, you know, you may not need a tractor -- you know, depending on how much land.

And you need somebody to oversee.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Yes.

SISTER CLARK: So I -- but it seems like you're on the right track and you have many of the components. So probably, I think that I would suggest

2 that you use one place as a model and
3 get -- get it working well before you
4 can do other things at once.

5 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Well,
6 thank you very much.

7 MR. LYON: I just want to take this
8 time, and -- and if you could address
9 the --

10 Sister, I wanted to mention two
11 conversations that I had with two people
12 that wanted to come, and I don't -- I'm
13 not sure they were able to come to one
14 of the hearings, but one of them is --
15 is Jeanne Kelly from the --

16 SISTER CLARK: Oh, and I know
17 Jeanne very well because I used to work
18 for --

19 MR. LYON: Jeanne's wonderful and
20 is very, very supportive of --

21 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

22 MR. LYON: -- everything we're
23 doing, but she had a caution, and I'd --
24 I'd be interested in your take on this.

25 She said that the vast majority of

1
2 the clients she's working with are
3 resource poor, even emotional in many
4 ways, and -- and to -- to ask them to do
5 like a garden of their own -- and if
6 they would poss- -- possibly not succeed
7 and -- and have no success with it,
8 that -- that could be rather
9 devastating.

10 SISTER CLARK: Right.

11 MR. LYON: And we want to make sure
12 there's a way to ensure success, and I
13 don't know if you would -- felt the same
14 in that direction.

15 And then the second -- no, not
16 the second, it's just strictly to have
17 it in the record, and that's Debra Wolf
18 who's an administrator in the Middle
19 Country School District in -- a long
20 time, and she's started to (inaudible)
21 with the children in different places as
22 all. And she said there's an issue with
23 elementary teachers, and those teachers
24 who might want a garden but they're also
25 afraid, they don't want to fail and they

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don't have any experience. And we need to find a way to encourage them and --

SISTER CLARK: Right.

MR. LYON: I just want to get that in the record, and also, just maybe you had some comments --

SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

MR. LYON: -- regarding that.

SISTER CLARK: Well, I think it's very good advice, yeah, because folks without resources are usually in survival mode. You know, they're just trying to survive. And so -- and I think both -- both appointed to the fact that, perhaps -- perhaps, one of the key things would be the educational piece of -- of having people who really know how to garden, you know. So either teach other people, or using the model of having people -- I don't know if retired people would know how to garden with -- with -- and then the -- given to these other folks --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: That's

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2 the model at Hobbs. It's not retired
3 people, but it's volunteer people.

4 At Hobbs Farm, that's the model.
5 They volunteer and then the food is
6 given away.

7 SISTER CLARK: Yeah. And I knew at
8 Huntington, I think --

9 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:
10 Huntington --

11 SISTER CLARK: Frolic Farm --

12 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- has
13 a --

14 MS. KIANG: Yeah, the community
15 garden.

16 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:
17 -- Huntington Community Garden.

18 SISTER CLARK: Frolic -- yes, and
19 Frolic Farm, I think, farms --

20 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Frolic
21 Farm.

22 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

23 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Pamela
24 Greene had to leave, but she said she --
25 she just wanted to ask you, what is the

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first step when you're starting something like this?

Okay. You have the land, go -- go beyond that one.

SISTER CLARK: Well, the farmer is the key person. If you're going to go the route of, you know, community farms, you -- you know, there is -- we've pointed out the difference between a CSA, which is what Sophia Garden is, and a community farm, which is a different -- a community garden where people have different plots in their garden.

MR. MEYER: Right.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Right.

SISTER CLARK: But if -- if you look -- if you go the route of hiring a farmer, that's the key person. So I don't know -- but that -- that would mean that you'd need resources to do that. And is that the way your model -- I don't know that that's the way your model would really work well, because

2 you're thinking of putting these gardens
3 in many different places. You're not
4 going to be hire- -- unless you had one
5 farmer, you know.

6 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: You
7 know, I don't want to give the
8 impression that we are physically going
9 to be doing those gardens. I wanted to
10 get this a little further along so that
11 you could see what --

12 Part of what we're trying to do is
13 see what's out there already.

14 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

15 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:
16 Perhaps, help create a network of what's
17 out there so people can learn from one
18 another, because we already have some
19 good models.

20 SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

21 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: You're
22 a good model of a CSA. There are others
23 and -- you know, there's one in
24 Brookhaven Hamlet, I believe, and
25 there's -- they're all over.

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SISTER CLARK: Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: And there are also models of community gardens.

SISTER CLARK: Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: So I appreciate that you're here because you're giving us your experience.

SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: When we were in Riverhead, we had a couple who came from Hallockville who told -- and that's more of a community garden.

SISTER CLARK: Uh-huh.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: So we're seeing the different models, and what we want to do is take what's already out there, because we think it's rezoned with the resources to go out there and do it, but there might be a parish where they have a piece of property at the church where they want to start this, and so we can lead people to other churches that have done that

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already, or you might have a school,
even --

I saw in a list that you had that
there's a -- a community garden at
Estee Lauder on Pinelawn. So I guess
some corporate entities that have large
pieces of land set aside it, and then --

So I don't want you to think that
we are going to roll up our sleeves and
start gardening.

SISTER CLARK: Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Does
anybody here think we're going to do
that, because --

MS. KIANG: Some of us.

(Laughter)

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Okay.
Tom, did you have any other
questions?

MR. LYON: No.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: We've
really picked sister's brain tonight.

MR. MEYER: Yes. Yes.

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Thank

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you so much --

SISTER CLARK: Yeah. Well --

LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: -- for coming.

SISTER CLARK: -- I think this -- the suggestion I would add then, if -- if different institutions had land, and it's a wonderful idea if they could do it, what they would need would be a person -- because they -- they would need somebody to come in to help them to know -- learn how to garden --

MR. MEYER: Uh-huh.

SISTER CLARK: -- learn how to do it.

MR. MEYER: Right.

SISTER CLARK: Because they might have the greatest will in the world, but as you say, if you don't have the -- the person. And so just knowing what those needs are, the land, the -- the gardener or the person who's going to teach other people how to garden; those are the key things.

2 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: Some of
3 us grow weeds very, very well. I've
4 never been able to feed my family much
5 on what I -- I have in my garden. But
6 we've enjoyed it, lots of tomatoes and
7 basil.

8 SISTER CLARK: Come -- come and
9 visit us.

10 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER: I'd
11 love to.

12 MS. KIANG: Yes.

13 MR. LYON: Your address for us.

14 SISTER CLARK: It's 555 Albany
15 Avenue in Amityville.

16 LEGISLATOR VILORIA-FISHER:
17 Actually, you're on the list that
18 Caroline had put together and --

19 MS. KIANG: Yeah. I'd like to
20 visit your place. I -- I have been -- I
21 don't know who sends me that -- from
22 time to time --

23 I'm Caroline Kiang with the Cornell
24 Cooperative Extension, and the
25 coordinator for Master Gardner, which is

PUBLIC HEARING

On the

VICTORY GARDEN TASK FORCE

A Public Hearing of the Victory Garden Task Force was held at the Brookhaven Town Hall, One Independence Hill, Farmingville, New York on March 24, 2010 at 10:00 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairwoman
Tom Lyon
Caroline Kiang
Pamela Greene
Richard Meyer
Joe Gergela
Jane Corrarino
Susan Wilk (Not Present)**

Also Present:

**Seth Squicciarino, Aide to Legislator Vilorio-Fisher
Mike Haynes
Beth Reichert
Elizabeth Gundlach
Elizabeth Takakjian
Iman Morghoob
Paul Tenyenhuis
Nicole Spinelli
Thomas Williams
Joanne Massino
Vincent Cirasole
Sharon Frost
A. Grasso
And all other interested parties**

MINUTES TAKEN BY and TRANSCRIBED BY:

**Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer
Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide
Debbie Coleman**

THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:17 AM

(*SOME PARTS ARE INAUDIBLE AND/OR IN NARRATIVE FORM AND NOT VERBATIM BECAUSE OF POOR ACOUSTICS IN AUDITORIUM*)

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Good morning everyone and welcome to the public hearing for the Victory Garden Task Force. Thank you very, very much for coming out here and sharing your ideas with us.

Our first speaker today is Mike Haynes. Mike, you're coming from Long Island Cares. Come on up. And we generally like to -- I don't have my stop watch with me but we ask people to talk about 5 minutes so we can give other speakers an opportunity on speak.

MR. HAYNES:

Hello everyone. I'm Mike Haynes from Long Island Cares. This is my first time doing something like this. Last week I spoke with Tom and where I feel Long Island Cares can fit on this is that if the Victory Gardens take off and become a viable option in Suffolk County, Long Island Cares is a network over 550 community partners which include food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes, low income day-care centers that we work with, we supply them with food. And if by some chance the Victory Gardens wanted to help the vulnerable population of Suffolk County, we would facilitate that. We can help the food that these people grow, get the people that need it.

As you guys are well aware from the Hunger Study, there's 283,000 hungry Long Islanders right now, 110,000 which are children. And anything we can do that will help feed the hungry people on Long Island and especially the children and senior citizens, we're going to -- we're going to try our best to just help you guys get the food to those people that need it. That's basically all I have to say.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Mike. I think that's very important information. Just for the record, can you tell us who published the Hunger Study?

MR. HAYNES:

The Hunger Study was -- it's through Feeding America, but it's composed based of research that Island Harvest and Long Island Cares did. And there was a policy group Feeding America contracted out called Mathematica.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Can you say that again.

MR. HAYNES:

Mathematica.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Mathematica.

MR. HAYNES:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I guess it's about numbers. Anybody have a question?

MS. CORRARINO:

I have a question. I know there are two arms to Long Island Cares. One is a food bank and one deals with more social justice and teaching people **(inaudible)**. I was wondering if you can talk to us a little bit about this and seeing if there's any opportunities within the structure to, you know --

MR. HAYNES:

Well, Long Island Cares traditionally when it developed was a food warehouse that's supplied food pantries and soup kitchens with the food that they needed. But it's also -- it's grown in time to include vocational programs, educational programs, advocacy which is my part of the company. And it's constantly growing. Just yesterday we were out, we have been mobile, mobile outreach resource enterprise, which is our MORE van. Yesterday was the first day we took it out. We took it to Legislator Denenberg's in Nassau County and we helped approximately 12 to 15 families get food. And we also set them up with food stamps, with their eligibility and helped them start applying.

We also have a mobile pantry where if people call us and say they're hungry and say they need food. We'll just bring it to their house. And if -- there is a stigma attached to the issue of hunger. We've also met them in places that, you know, may be around the block, maybe in a parking lot. But, you know, we have the mobile pantry, we have the Mobile Outreach Resource Enterprise which is simply Long Island Cares on Wheels. It's an office inside that van. It's a great thing. We help people apply for food stamps. We help -- we carry hundreds and hundreds of pounds of food in the van -- in the Mobile van. A little less in the Resource Enterprise van, but, still, we're helping people -- no longer is it if you are hungry, that if you can't get to us, then, you know, you have a problem. We'll go anywhere and bring the food to you.

We have Hunger 101, which is where our community outreach coordinator goes in the local schools, high schools, middle schools and just gives a seminar about proper nutrition and stresses the importance of food groups and, you know, what to eat, what not to eat. It also just lets people know how -- Long Island as you all are well aware is a very -- very diverse. And I know when I was away in college, people hear Long Island and they almost treat you like you like you're from Orange County. But Long Island isn't just simply affluent areas. Long Island has some areas that are really hurting as we're all well aware. And, you know, that's part of our education.

We also have people come in here, come in, they have vocational opportunities in the warehouse where they can get board certifications where they can learn inventory. But we also have people -- we just have job skills programs. We have people working on computers. We have people learning how to type. We have staff helping people beef up their resumes, beef up their cover letters. It's really -- its mission is growing because, you know, unemployment's the primary driver of hunger so we're trying to help people get employed, stay employed and also we're helping get people food that need the food.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Tom? Tom Lyon.

MR. LYON:

Yes. Just a quick question. I know we talked a little bit about your graduate degree and you were wrote a paper on service learning. And part of this in addition to providing food we obviously hoped to educate students, just I don't know if you'd like to speak to how that -- you know, that role with gardening and more increasing gardens on Long Island and how that basically might fit in.

MR. HAYNES:

Well, I think that be would something that would kind of be determined over time. But I can definitely see where -- I mean through the Victory Gardens programs, educational issues arise in health, nutrition, the environment, ecology. So there's a lot of great opportunities to tie service learning into this, especially if you're working with teenage kids. I think honestly the possibilities for service learning with this to me almost seem endless because there's just so much you can build off of. Like you were saying that your family member had a -- they had a field trip to a supermarket. I mean if you had a field trip to a victory garden, you could talk -- I mean you could even talk about

the nitrogen cycle. You could talk about water, you could talk about irrigation, you could talk about Long Island history because Long Island's history is, you know, up until what, 50 or 60 years ago from, you know, basically here out was all farms, right? So I think the possibilities for service learning and educational opportunities within the victory gardens is endless.

MR. LYON:

Welcome back to Long Island. Glad you have to you back.

MR. HAYNES:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any other questions from the task force. Thank you again for being here.

MR. HAYNES:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We'll be in touch.

MR. HAYNES:

Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Beth Reichert from Habitat For Humanity. Beth, welcome to Victory Garden.

MS. REICHERT:

Hi, good morning. My name is Beth Reichert. I'm here representing Habitat for Humanity, Suffolk. I wasn't expecting to speak but I was here more so to gather information about victory gardens, but I did want to go on the record saying that Habitat is very interested in getting our homeowners involved, especially a concern that most of our houses are built in the Town of Brookhaven, Shirley, Mastic, Mastic Beach, North Bellport, East Patchogue, in Rocky Point so we think it would be a wonderful opportunity for our homeowners to complete their community service requirements. And personally I'm just very excited to learn more as an individual. I'd love to see more gardening, and, you know, more initiatives in that area so thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for being here, Beth. Any questions? Yes.

MS. CORRARINO:

How many houses a year do you rehab and what are the community service requirements there?

MS. REICHERT:

Rehab or build?

MS. CORRARINO:

Both.

MS. REICHERT:

We average about twelve to fifteen a year. Again, most of those homes are in the Town of Brookhaven. Most are in East Patchogue, North Bellport area. And then our community service requirement at this time, we require six community service days and it's usually a full day about six to seven hours each day.

MS. CORRARINO:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Since we have number of people here who are interested in victory gardens, after our last card we'll explain a little bit about what our goals are and what we are doing and what we are looking at so everybody knows where we're headed. Okay. Thank you. One more question.

MS. CORRARINO:

Sorry. But my brain is going this morning.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's okay.

MS. CORRARINO:

Are there other Habitat Humanity chapters across the country that are involved in this type of initiative that you know of?

MS. REICHERT:

Well, there are many --

MS. CORRARINO:

I think it would be a wonderful marriage --

MS. REICHERT:

There are many affiliates around the country that do require community service. I know that when I was in New Orleans, I was working with Habitat for Humanity. And there was an opportunity for the volunteers to go and work, I guess, you could say it was a community garden. We weren't planting but we were clearing land. It was just a very desolate piece of land that we were asked to help remove, whatever, and that's just one example but, you know.

MS. CORRARINO:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you again.

MS. REICHERT:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Our next speaker is Elizabeth Gundlach. And Elizabeth is from St. Joseph the Worker. We talked about your article and used your name in vain.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Well, I came to the --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, you're a good model.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Elizabeth, if you would like to speak, we have yellow cards up here. I just saw you come in. I thought you might want to fill one out. Go ahead.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Well, I came to the garden last year because, I guess, Tony {Fazillo}, he's big in the neighborhood, he wanted to beautify -- he wants to build up -- make the community a lot nicer. And it just came about we went to one of his fundraisers. And my husband -- he mentioned something about gardens, and my husband said well, if you want to talk about gardens, talk to Beth.

So I came up with a plan for another area actually in the community. And it didn't work out with that, but he said why don't you talk to Father Tom who was rejuvenating the garden at St. Joseph's two years before that. So I came with my plan and he liked it and so we started it again. Because this garden dates back to the '70's when {Neal Prandagreten} started it with a number of people who were interested. And they worked it like a farm area, small farm because the plot is about a three acre plot that the church owns next to the their parking lot. And just a small part of it was farmed. But it ebbed and flowed throughout the years depending on how many people were interested and they'd come and go. And so Father Tom started just -- he's landscaper. Before he became a priest he was a landscaper and this is his passion so --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Lucky you.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yes. But he left. He left in September.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I know. We called him to pick his brain. He was leaving.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yeah. It was a real loss to us. But anyway, he started just clearing the area and mowing it, mowing the outer perimeter. And then people started coming in, were attracted to it and they started gardening with him. And then -- but every year they had to redo the whole thing. A lot of us are, you know, not 20 anymore. And it's hard to keep it going if it's just -- if it goes to weeds every year.

So my plan was to build raised beds and make it so that it doesn't have to be mowed so much. My husband and another man are, you know, the lawnmowers and it's a little bit of a burden for them. What my idea is so that it kind of self maintains itself, which I use a lot of mulch and we have the raised beds. So that -- actually the Town of Brookhaven gave us the cardboard from the {MERF} so we put down cardboard on top of the weeds and then we covered that with woodchips that are donated by local tree guys that just dump wood chips there. So that's my goal is to be kind of self sustained. So it doesn't have to be weeded and people constantly working it.

But what we do is we have about 23 raised beds so far. And there are people that put their names to the raised beds and they grow whatever they want to grow as long as -- we ask them to grow with organic methods in mind. And some people grow for the food pantry at St. Joseph's but most of us grow for our own needs. What my -- I want it to be pretty as well as functional because I think that's what's going to draw people in, you know, with flowers. And flowers are also good. They attract beneficial insects and pollinators so we want certain kinds of weeds to continue to grow. But after this section for the raised individual beds, I have another section that I'm working on a labyrinth that I'm planning on putting all kinds of perennial edibles in there. And I got a grant from the Greater Bellport Community -- it's a grant. It's another group in Bellport. They gave us a grant to build raised beds and this labyrinth and buy perennial edibles like berries and -- there are certain other -- perennial onions, and different things like that. So we have plans for that. That's about all.

And getting back to what Beth said about Habitat for Humanity, and people having their own houses and encouraging people to have their own gardens, that's really where I came from originally, that I would like to see more edible landscapes in peoples' yards, their front yards; doesn't have to be -- they don't have to be just bushes and impatiens. Edible plants and berry plants can be interplanted with perennial flowers. And it could be very beautiful. It doesn't have to be lawn and bushes. So

that's one thing that I would really like to see more of.

And I keep working on a design for my own yard and I haven't really nailed it down yet, how it could be beautiful and use -- we also have a couple of rental houses in North Bellport. And I would love for people to rip up their lawns and make an example of one house where this could be done and it could be really beautiful, but I haven't nailed down the design yet and I'm not so sure if the tenants would go along with it and maintain it, because I can't maintain all these gardens myself.

I guess that's about it. The one thing I want to mention Liz from Connie Kepert's office asked me to mention that there's a garden on the property of the Town Hall. There's about five raised beds already planted there.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Right here?

MS. GUNDLACH:

Right here. And she just had a baby so she can't continue managing it so she would like me -- she wanted me to just mention it that it needs a manager.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

How large is it?

MS. GUNDLACH:

It's only five raised beds. I don't know where it is or what it looks like but she said -- she's been doing it for a couple of years, I think.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry that Caroline Kiang isn't here. She's the Director of Master Gardeners. And could probably, you know, she probably would invite you to join her Master Gardener Program for the questions that you have regarding how to work out your landscaping, etcetera. But there are also graduates of the program who pledge, I believe, it's 120 hours of community service. And that would be a place to go to see if we can get someone to help manage the town hall property.

I did have a couple of questions for you, which is -- first of all I did want to tell you something that one of the goals that you have is one of the goals of this task force which is to encourage folks to have their own gardens on their own property and maybe to have this part of our report in our final document, come up with some kind of "how to" for people who are doing their own gardens just to get -- regarding where to go for information.

I wanted to ask you about a couple of things, when you said there was a fundraiser, what kind of fundraiser was it and what was that for?

MS. GUNDLACH:

It wasn't a fundraiser. I asked for a grant.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

No, no, no. You said you went to a fundraiser.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Oh, that was in the very beginning. That was {Tony Fazillo} had a civic association. He's the president.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I thought it was a fundraiser for the St. Joseph's Worker.

MS. GUNDLACH:

No, no, no.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, I understand. Now you said you had a plan and you have raised gardens. Is this a community garden, is it individuals have one of those raised garden, one of those raised areas, is that how you have it divided?

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yeah. We had a workday and we just -- I asked for materials and people suddenly showed up like old fences and branches we used, just to delineate four by ten plots.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And those plots are worked by individual families.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yes. Or Girl Scouts, you know, or people from the parish who want to grow for the pantry. Whoever.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It's open to grow for their on use also.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And one of the other items that we'll be including in our report is, there's been a wonderful piece of information called Community Garden Tool Kit. It's put out by the University of Missouri Extension. And in fact I've been in touch with them to ask if we can use that materials. And they really give you step by step set instructions to people setting up community gardens, how to set up the rules for your garden, how to just organize it. So that will be part of our report as well. That's a very good resource to look at the --

MS. GUNDLACH:

And that's online.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's online, yes. But we will have it attached to our report. And our report will be online so you can have all those links.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Okay, good.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That you have permission to use their work as part of our report. Because there's no reason why we shouldn't. Any questions?

MS. CORRARINO:

Two things, Betty. One is the Cooperative Extension just decided they have a spring gardening school, you might be interested in going to their website. I happen to sign up already, landscape design edible flowers so just that's a suggestion.

A gentleman came last time and spoke from with {Halfil} and Community Garden North Fork. And he talked about how some of community boards was very interested in this and that was what was driving it. And besides having garden plot, they had like a weekly kind of gardening club. I'm wondering if you have any thoughts about some of the successful components like that of keeping a

garden going, keeping people engaged in the process.

MS. GUNDLACH:

It's their interest. I've only started last year. And last year it was like, you know, what do we do? What do we do? We were kind of just like doing. We didn't really have a master plan or a big idea. We had, you know, a sketch that I was going with. And then everyday we just, well, we'll do this, we'll do this. We kind of just did it because of our love of gardening. And then it attracted other people who are also lovers of gardening. They just want to be out and get their hands dirty. I have this one woman who she's in her seventies, and she's so disappointed because her back is bothering her. She just can't be -- she was moving the dirt last year and she suffered all winter with her back. So now we have a couple raised beds that are waist high and she's going to be working in them, you know, so she doesn't have to bend down. But that's one thing, I think, is really valuable to have.

But, no, we don't -- we're making our kind of rules and plans and adjusting as we go. As far as keeping people, I think it's their interest. I call and I e-mail people and, you know, you need a central person, I think, though, too, to keep the whole thing going and pulling people in. And we're really sorry we lost Father Tom because he went out to the community, he knocked on doors, he brought zucchini with him and handed it out to neighbors. He was wonderful.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

He was a real minister.

MS. GUNDLACH:

He was.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MS. GUNDLACH:

You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Richard Meyer?

MR. MEYER:

Thanks. I think you probably just answered the question. You mention that you had people used organic methods.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yes.

MR. MEYER:

Do you have any formal set of rules you're asking people to sign onto before they adopt one of the raised beds?

MS. GUNDLACH:

No. We talked about making a sign with rules.

MR. MEYER:

Okay.

MS. GUNDLACH:

And that's something that we have to, you now, we're going to redo the sign that's there. It's about 25-years-old. So we have to redo the sign anyway. And we're going to add a rules list. And that's one of them, please don't use any, you know, pesticide, chemical fertilizer or anything into the

garden. And if you have -- if you have trouble with anything, ask somebody and, you know, there's other methods.

MR. MEYER:

Thank you. Just one follow-up. You mentioned 23 beds. I think you said they were four foot by ten foot?

MS. GUNDLACH:

Yes.

MR. MEYER:

From what I understand. And you mentioned you started with the garden last so this may be premature. Do you sense the demand exceeded the number of beds? One of the gardeners, one of the groups that we talked with at the previous meeting, they had actually had a waiting list. And I was wondering your sense of that or the fact you didn't have all the beds up.

MS. GUNDLACH:

We didn't have all 23 going last year. And as the summer went on and people dropped off material, it just, you know, my husband just put beds together. And then we had a couple of people that had to do community service hours so they came and they, you know, situated these beds that were already built. And they had to move dirt, move it around to make it even. And like four of the beds I don't think -- four or five of the beds probably weren't even used last year but I'm expecting more people to be interested this year.

MR. MEYER:

Thank you.

MS. GUNDLACH:

You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Are there any questions for Betty? Okay, thank you so much.

MS. GUNDLACH:

Oh, you're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Elizabeth?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

What kind of irrigation do you have?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You have to come up because we have a stenographer.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

I have a question for you about your irrigation. Do you have irrigation? And if so, what kind? And how do you pay for the water?

MS. GUNDLACH:

We have a hose and a man.

(LAUGHTER)

MS. GUNDLACH:

We have a man that likes to come. I don't know whether he goes to mass everyday or -- he's

always at the garden first thing in the morning and he waters everybody's plots, whether they need it or not. I keep telling him, you know, it doesn't really need to be done everyday but he likes -- that's what he likes to do. And Father Tom assured me that that gives him a reason to come everyday so let him do it. So, that's all we have.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MS. GUNDLACH:

You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Tell us about your program.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Okay, well, I had the good fortune in 2008 to become a Master Gardener through Cornell Cooperative Extension. And in giving back my 125 hours, I chose to give them to Hobbs Community Farm, which I had been slightly involved with my church the prior year but I --

MS. FLESHER:

Can you switch your seat to next to me? There's an echo in this room and it's hard for me to hear. Thank you so much.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Sure.

It was originated by a few local people to the farm who live in the neighborhood and it was donated to a church by the farmer who passed away. And a lot of stuff went on but eventually it came to be a farm that's being farmed. And the intent of the farm is to raise food for food kitchens and food pantries in Suffolk County. And last year we raised 12,000 pounds of vegetables. And it's all volunteer. Anything we have is -- we have it because it was donated. We try and fundraise and I think that's an important fact depending on how big you want to be. And some of the events are more successful than others. We tried spring festivals, fall festivals and garage sales. And garage sales seem to be the best for, you know, garnering income.

One of the things we were lacking that we were able to get this year from a grant through -- Nicole? Well, Tom can tell you this. We got an irrigation grant and we were able to put in a well and have drip irrigation for five acres this year, which is phenomenal because we have seven acres that we can farm. Last year we farmed about two acres with donated irrigation. That covered about one of the acres. And Annie, who's our lead go getter and farmer for the most of the project, insisted on planting out beyond our irrigation. And it was just incredibly time consuming and difficult and somewhat unsuccessful to try and hand water all that acreage. So I would say irrigation is really paramount for anybody who wants to set up a garden.

And as I said we do everything from donations so, you know, paying for the water can be an issue. This year I had the good fortune also to apply for another grant through Stony Brook University, which was partially funded. And through that grant -- I could have applied for irrigation, but since we had it approved for this other one, I used the money towards physical things that we needed, like a shed and soil enhancements, and tools. And I would have budgeted some of the money for -- for like -- I don't know the right term, like marketing. You know, all of the fliers I have to make and everything I have to print was not allowed to be in the budget. So I'm bearing that expense.

And reaching out to the public is an important part of the whole thing so we're doing it through the school systems in town because part of this grant, the limitation is that you service the community in which the area is established. So we're going to have -- the grant requires 20 beds. We're probably going to have 24 five by 20 beds. And the families will plant and harvest for their own

benefit. It's geared toward low income families. And the study -- actually it's not a study, it's an evaluation to assess how these families benefit from fresh vegetables and the experience of gardening.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sorry, Elizabeth, can you pull the mike a little closer to you. I'm looking at the stenographer and she looks like she's having a problem. There is an echo in here. I'm a little confused. You said you have 20 beds --

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

The beds are five by 20 feet. That's what we decided to go with. With three foot paths in them because another gardener in the project said that was the most efficient use of space, you get the most square foot of farming to your area. And we're reaching out to families within the Centereach School District. The goal of the program is to reach low income families so I have an application. And we're requesting -- we're trying to model it after a CSA, which is Community Supported Agriculture, in which people pay a fee for the produce that they get for the season. And since this is a grant and all the produce or the plants that they're going to grow are being provided by Quail Hill Farm out in Amagansett, which is an organic CSA, he's donating all the planting materials for them. The -- I don't know if you're familiar with CSA, usually they're between 500 and 900 a season for the produce that you get.

We're asking for between 20 and \$75 for a family depending upon their income scale. And that cost is to offset the cost of water for the summer and also to provide us with funds for next seasons so that we can buy plant materials for like families. Because they're not going to be given to us forever. So it's an exciting venture, you know. I think it'll be successful.

Last year I established a garden area for the local schoolchildren to come at the farm. And the fourth graders come as junior farmers. And they're given a ten by ten plot that they design and they plant sometimes successfully, sometimes not but I think that's part of the learning curve. And you never saw happier kids, you know, in the garden. And one of -- I caught -- you know, I can't always hear all the good things, but I caught one little boy telling another one, *whoever knew hard work could be so much fun*.

(LAUGHTER)

I mean, they had a blast, you know. And, you know, it's a little -- it's a little difficult when you have these groups come when you're a volunteer organization as fledgling as we are because I didn't really have enough adult supervision. You know, the teachers would come, we'd ask for aides. And you work with what you get. But the kids loved it. And this past fall, two of the classes were able to come back as fifth grader classes just for the day to see what they had done. And they are just thrilled. The other two classes the teachers didn't want to take them. But it was a wonderful thing.

So, you know, I have that going on which is an interesting thing and that kind of is an education area for the general public. The Roots Garden, which will have those 24 plots for low income families is specifically for those families. Those families will harvest everything and have that themselves. Everything else that is harvested on the farm is donated to the soup kitchens and food pantries with the exception of the very little that we put out to the farm stand to help us cover our expenses. I don't know what else I could tell you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Elizabeth, thank you for the great work that you're doing. It's a great model. If families that are going to be part of the CSA model, (inaudible) could their payment be food stamps?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

I don't know. We don't as an organization have the capacity to cash them in so I would say no. One woman who --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't know what it would take to be an --

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Yeah, I mean we are a not-for-profit, but I don't know that parameter.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You know what? Maybe Long Island Cares -- maybe Mike Haynes might be able to answer that question from Long Island Cares. I don't know. But it's just something that I'm throwing out there.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

One woman who did sign up for it with her family was concerned about the cost. And her price point was \$40, so I said to her, well, I said -- she actually -- she offered up. She goes, well, can I pay \$20 this month and \$20 later in the summer. And I'm like, absolutely. But --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry, we have an answer right here on our Task Force, Joe Gergela.

MR. GERGELA: (NARRATIVE FORM)

There is a program. It's called the WIC Program, Women, Infants and Children Program. And the farmers that participate in farmers markets are eligible to take those coupons; however, probably not food stamps.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

But that is a program where low income families would have that.

MR. GERGELA:

Correct.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It's just another way to help those and maybe tie in different programs.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Well, you know, and I'm trying to evolve a set of rules and things because I like things very structured, you know, so I'd like the tools to be put back since they're, you know, on loan to these people. But it is kind of difficult, you know, the scale of our operation there's a lot of different people in and out of farms and stuff so I'm hoping because we are only twenty families, that it'll be a good model and we will be able to keep it very structured.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any other questions? Okay. Well, thank you very much.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And when is your shed coming?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Actually they were going to come between nine and ten this morning so now it's kind of open ended. I'll have to sit at the farm all day, but you know, that's how it goes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I did impose upon Elizabeth and asked her if she could please come here because she has a lot to share and some important models. And she postponed waiting for her shed until later today. Tom, you have a question?

MR. LYON:

Well, I would ask Iman to step forward because Iman is the administrator of a grant that Elizabeth probably has a little more details about it.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Iman Marghoob. I don't want to repeat what Ms. Takakjian mentioned so if there's anything that I can fill in, I'd be happy to.

MR. LYON:

Maybe just talk about grants.

MS. MARGHOOB:

So initially, just backing up --

MS. FLESHER:

Use the mike.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Backing up, this was a grant that was applied for by the University -- Stony Brook University through the Family Medicine Department. And it was a grant that was awarded by the New State Department of Health. {Joseph Conglascone} was the person who actually applied for the grant and was the Director of this program. And I'm the Community Gardens Coordinator for this Roots Community Gardens Project. It's a five year grant. And the goal of the grant is to establish ten community gardens over the next five years in low income neighborhoods in Suffolk County. And the purpose of the grant is through the State Health Department is to help improve the nutrition of low income families that don't normally have access to organic vegetable gardens. These gardens will be maintained and managed organically. We will have support from an organic farmer out in Amagansett and he's being subcontracted to help train the gardeners, the garden liaisons; I should say. And he'll be providing organic seed and seedlings. And throughout the growing season he'll also be assisting us in any which way, you know, as far as training is concerned.

This year we did award four gardens in Suffolk County. One of them is Hobbs. The other are Wyandanch Fresh, which is in the Wyandanch Youth Center in Babylon, one is in Tuckahoe School District. The third, it's called the Quick Circle Outreach Garden in the Town of Huntington property. Is there a fourth?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

What was in the Town of Huntington?

MS. MARGHOOB:

It's on a school property. It's on a school district property in Tuckahoe school.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

No, Huntington.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Oh, I'm sorry; Huntington. It's on the existing community garden -- an existing community garden. And what they've done is they've given us -- they've given is Quick Circle Outreach Garden through

LI (Ken) is the organization that applied. And a lot of the specific space for this project to be -- to service low income families.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, that's great. So it's very geographically dispersed.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Yeah, it is. It's Suffolk County throughout.

START NARRATIVE FORM

MR. LYON:

Iman, if I'm not mistaken, does this have something to do with diabetes education?

MS. MARGHOOB:

Say it again, please.

MR. LYON:

Something to do with diabetes education.

MS. MARGHOOB:

What is that?

MR. LYON:

The grants, doesn't it say something about the motivation?

END NARRATIVE FORM

MS. MARGHOOB:

No, it has nothing to do with the diabetes education. It's more to do with nutrition improvement to see if families who actually had access to organic produce actually improve their nutrition and increase their physical activity. So our role then is to actually serving -- we'll be serving the gardeners throughout this process and seeing, you know, how many actual hours of physical activity are they, you know, have been put in towards the gardening specifically, how many cups of vegetables specifically we'll be consuming as a result of this garden. And then we'll be seeing, yes, has this helped them improve their consumption of fresh fruits, fruits and vegetables. And many in these communities don't have access to, for example, Wyandanch has one supermarket in the entire area. I live in Mt. Sinai. I can get to about seven supermarkets within a couple of minutes. And oftentimes these supermarkets do have -- my supermarkets have access to organic vegetables. The people in Wyandanch, I'm sure, organic vegetables are out of reach for them.

As far as affordability this will be something that will be, you know, will be labor consuming, it'll be time consuming but I think the rewards will be tremendous for them. And we intend on doing food demos, nutrition classes. We want to make it more of a community based organization and give people a sense of true community ownership of their food in these gardens.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

If I could say, I think, what Tom was referring was, there's a Miss Wilks through Cornell who's applying for a grant to research the diabetes.

MR. LYON:

Susan Post?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

She's been here at the Task Force. And we were talking about that grant.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Susan came to several of our meetings.

Well, this sounds like a good partnership.

MS. MARGHOOB:

We also, I want to mention, had a partnership with another -- Long Island Compost who's also going to be donating tons and tons of compost to these gardens so that's going to be a big plus because you can't start a garden --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's great. Joan mentioned that at our very first Task Force.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Isn't that where you made the connection?

MS. MARGHOOB:

That's where we made the connection, yes. I have a meeting with them the first time today. So you can't start a garden without good soil. So compost is definitely part of it.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

And soil testing. Cornell has testing programs.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any other questions? It's good to see you again.

MS. MARGHOOB:

My pleasure.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It's very good to see you again. Elizabeth, thank you for coming down and postponing waiting for your shed. Sorry about that. But it's important information. And we have spoken about Hobbs Farm quite a bit.

I just have a couple of more questions just to get it straight. You work how much of the garden? How much of the farm is --

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

I oversee the neighborhood garden area, which is the part that's kind of open to the public to come and enjoy and view and help with labor. The other back fields are what we consider all the production area. And all that exclusively is given to the food kitchens and food pantries. And Annie supervises that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And who works that?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Ann Pellegrino. And she's actually going to be recognized by the Town of Brookhaven Woman in History for her -- as a -- - tomorrow night as a volunteer.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Now did Annie farm or does she have a farmer that works with her?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

She networks we a lot of people and we've have made a lot of progress in the last two years.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Who does the physical work?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Ann does a lot of the physical work. And she gets a 100 volunteers to come from all different walks of life. We have home school children who volunteer, we have handicapped young adults who volunteer through like YAI in Commack free. And I know she made some other connection. We have church groups that come. We have Girl Scouts, we have Boy Scouts. We have a lot of volunteers.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm just trying to get it straight in my head because the difference between the neighborhood garden and her large garden, you both use volunteers.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Yes. The difference is the neighborhood garden is set up more like something you might have a piece of in your backyard with grass between the paths and things like that. The fields are farmed like a farm field, you know --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Grow crops --

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

We use tractors. Within the neighborhood garden we use only hand tools. And that's it. You know, maybe initially when we started we used a rotter tiller but we don't anymore.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And how large is that garden?

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Well, she has up to like six acres to use.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Because I know Hobbs Farm isn't that big.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Well, in total it's an 11 acre piece of property. And seven of the acres can be farmed.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

But I remember that's why we couldn't buy it in Farmland Preservation in the County because it was too small; it didn't qualify as the size farm that we usually require development rights on. So Brookhaven did it.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Right. That was done. And that was a big benefit to us moving forward.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Of course, it was a great start. Well, thank you so much.

MR. LYON: (NARRATIVE FORM - INAUDIBLE)

Two comments. We've gotten a lot of support from Hobbs Farm, John {Markers} from Suffolk County manager, very, very supportive. And because Caroline's not here, we should mention that Elizabeth, major award for her from the --

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Cornell.

MR. LYON:

Master Garden Program this year.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And that's what started it.

MS. TAKAKJIAN:

Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

There's a couple of people in the audience who I know have a lot of information like Paul Tenyenhuis. Paul, could you come please just talk to us for a couple of minutes. Because I know -- with Nicole, would you mind? Because I know that the District has been involved in food policy issues.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

I didn't want to talk.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You didn't want to talk? When you speak, say your name because we need to make sure we have your name right on the record.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Okay. All right. Good morning, I am Paul Tenyenuis. I'm the District Manager for Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District. And of course a couple of you are on the board.

We offer services to all the homeowners and municipalities, homeowner groups throughout the County for soils information, for irrigation information or design depending on, you know, not for homeowner design but for farming. We do soil erosion and sediment control, drainage issues, pretty much anything that's dealing with the soils. And I know that we're working directly with Hobbs Farm on an irrigation design right now. Nicole's been working on that. I suppose that if other community groups wanted to put in irrigation systems, then we could help them out.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. That's really an important resource for people to know. Because I know that part of this stewardship program also involves helping people learn good irrigation techniques so they're not wasting water. And that's a critical piece of that.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Right.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Because so much what of they put in the soil can be washed --

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Correct, yeah. But these are going to be organic farms with no chemical fertilizers so it may not be an issue for that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. Anybody have any question for Paul now that I made him come up here and reluctantly spoke? But that was an important piece of information.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Good.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Nicole, can you tell us a little about your relationship with Hobbs?

MS. SPINELLI:

Sure. My name's Nicole Spinelli. I'm with Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation. I've been about working with Hobbs Farm in order to secure grant funding for their irrigation. And they recently received funding through the USDA farm bill under the AMA Program. And the way that they qualified for that is because they do sell some items local product. A typical community garden wouldn't be eligible for that program because it is for farming operations. So they have been approved for that. And I am working on a design for that farm. And they're going to be irrigating with drip irrigation.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

So you work with CSA?

MS. SPINELLI:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any quick questions?

MS. SPINELLI:

I just wanted to add I thought another way that we could be involved with this project is perhaps during the site selection process. I'm not sure what the actual process is, you know, there's an inventory of possible lots that could be used as gardens. We could help like prioritize the sites by looking at the soils, looking at, you know, if there's any drainage issues, things like that, you know and identify --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, since you offered, last week at CEQ there was a presentation by our historical sites director, Richard Martin. And he was speaking about Deepwells Farm in St. James. And how part of the property there is going to be converted to farming. And so, of course, I made the link with this group and looking at that as a wonderful spot for a community garden because it's a large piece of property. There are three churches within walking distance. And I thought it would be a good place. So I think that would be a good place. It's County property. And it's already been in agricultural use in the past, in historical use for that piece of property. And there was questions about drainage, etcetera, so it would be very, very helpful to link on that.

MS. SPINELLI:

Yeah, we would be happy to look at links.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Right.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And Pam Greene, who's our Director of Real Estate, actually, I believe, has been trying to link sites. And so I think it'll be very good that this is a very good link.

MS. GREENE:

The Division has been asked to identify properties that the County owns that would be appropriate for community gardens. There are a number of parameters including income guidelines. But it'd be wonderful to have a resource such as yours and thank you for volunteering your service.

MS. SPINELLI:

Sure. You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Tom.

MR. LYON:

Yeah, if I could just state for the record, (inaudible) extremely professional and has just been a pleasure to work with all you guys.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

This is Soil and Water. Joe and I are both -- Directors?

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Correct, Directors.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We just go to the meetings but we never use our titles.

(LAUGHTER)

MR. TENYENHUIS:

No.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

But the Soil and Water District consists of Paul, of course, is our main man. But our directors are myself and Dan Losquadro, are the two Legislators who serve and Joe Gergela, who's a farmer and we have representatives from the USDA and --

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Bob Gordon. George Fraes is the Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

He's the Chair.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

And Phil Schmidt is the farmer on the board. Other people that come to the meetings are Becky Weisman from Ag Stewardship.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Can you hold the mike a little closer to you? You have a soft voice.

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Oh, thank you.

(LAUGHTER)

MR. TENYENHUIS:

Did you hear I said Becky Weisman from Ag Stewardship comes. Allen Connel with USDA NRCS, Liz Rolden, also with USDA NRCS. Am I missing anybody? I don't think so.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

There is a lot of good work that is done by the Soil and Water District. And thank you very much for educating me on one more thing that you do. Thank you for coming to our meetings and talking about the big farm in our community. So this is really great. I love the tie in. Thank you.

MS. SPINELLI:

You're welcome.

(CAROLINE KIANG SITTING IN AUDIENCE)

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Caroline, come on up. We need you up here. We've been talking about you. We need you up here. This is our great Master Gardener, instructor and the person who inspired so many master gardeners for us in the County. Caroline Kiang.

Tom, would you mind coming up because I know that you have can offer your experience. And there's some questions that you'd like to ask us. Thanks for being here, Tom.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, you're welcome. Thanks for holding -- I hadn't thought I would speak, but I can. I'm Tom Williams from the Post Morrow Foundation in Brookhaven and formerly of Cooperative Extension.

A couple of things, one is and I don't know whether you know the Bellport Gardening Club is instituting a program in the Village of Bellport to encourage as many and everyone to have what I guess they're calling cottage gardens. Last year they initiated a program to get people to develop flower gardens in their front yards. And I think they're expanding it to vegetable gardens. You might want to contact them. {Davis Kurvinsky} who is a Master Gardener, is leading that project. It's an interesting idea.

I live next door to a Community Supported Agriculture the Hamlet Organic Garden. And there's a lot of public involvement there. And they've sold to other areas. So that's a piece. The Post Morrow Foundation does let them use about six acres of our property for farming. So we're glad to do that.

I'm also a board member of the Peconic Land Trust. And of course Quail Hill is one of our operations and Scott Chaskey who's donating the material to the Hobbs Farm; has been a terrific leader in this. And I don't know whether you've reached out to him to get -- to get their testimony. It might be of interest. And I'm not sure what else -- it's a wonderful project. I am also assuming you may be hooking up with the Leave No Child Indoors effort through WIC, The Early Years Institute. I would think they might be a resource for you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I've spoken with Donna and -- **(INAUDIBLE)**

MR. WILLIAMS:

Great. And of course Jim Goldman in Huntington with Friends of Huntington Farms might be another resource. He works in the Probation Department.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Are they involved with Froehlich Farms?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yeah, Froehlich Farm, yeah. So there's another big site. There's a lot of property there I know they previously farmed.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Tom, can you describe what cottage farm gardens are? I don't know what that is.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Well, I think it's traditionally that really out front of your kitchen, you know, a kitchen garden, in front of your house you have a very small plot and you grow herbs there, things you can just jump out your front door and get some --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I have a cottage garden. I had sage all winter even under the snow I was pulling it out.

MR. WILLIAMS:

It's a nice idea. And I think it's a small way for people to get involved in this knowing that they can grow things like that right outside their doors. A lovely idea.

And I know the Garden Club, the Bellport Garden Club, was recognizing people who created this cottage gardens in front of their homes.

Another thought I had was I know when I worked in the Youth Bureau for the Town of Brookhaven, we did work with the Suffolk County Infirmary and we created raised gardens for people in wheelchairs who had difficulty with access. And that was very successful. They had a lot of interest. It allowed people to garden from a wheelchair so they didn't have to try to bend over. It gave them a sense of purpose and they could also encourage growing food. And that was a very nice project. We got kids to build these raised gardens and the people in the infirmary used them. It was --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I think Betty mentioned doing that with some of the older members of her group?

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And I know at Hobbs also built the raised gardens for handicapped access. Right?

MS. CORRARINO:

A few of them, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's a great idea. I was wonder if there would be an area -- that could be done at John J. Foley?

MS. CORRARINO:

Sure, there is.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Joe Gergela has a question.

MR. GERGELA:

Tom, it's good to see you.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Hi, Joe.

MR. GERGELA:

Just a question for you at Post Morrow because that's a tremendously big piece of property. Do you have surplus land for a community garden if it was interested in your area?

MR. WILLIAMS:

In Brookhaven?

MR. GERGELA:

Yeah, at Post Morrow?

MR. WILLIAMS:

At Post Morrow? We might be able to.

MR. GERGELA:

I was just curious.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yeah, it's possible. Of course we have Bob Nolan's farm which is a working farm. But we might have some property, yes.

MR. GERGELA:

How far away is North Bellport to you?

MR. WILLIAMS:

It's very close. I know that operation, I knew {Yopin} He created it. He also created a labyrinth there, which was kind of a meditation area.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Now where is that? I couldn't hear you.

MR. WILLIAMS:

That's where {Megan Dunlap} is working at St. Joseph The Worker.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER: (NARRATIVE FORM)

Okay. And wasn't it the Bellport Garden Club that gave the Worker a grant, someone started to mention a MT grant, it was somebody from Bellport?

MR. WILLIAMS:

I didn't think it was the Garden Club. Oh, it was the old {Cakers} money, yeah the {Cakers} School Benefit money, that's what that was, yeah. We also use that for, I don't know whether you're encouraging shellfish gardens in this effort of yours, but we have a couple of people in Bellport that are growing oysters along the shore. And I know that it's a Cornell program, a SPAT Program.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

The SPAT Program. We have a number of people in my district who are doing that as well.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Right. So that you might want to look at that as part of the community gardens effort. Because there's a lot of interest in that, I think.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't think we thought of that. That's a great idea. See, I asked you to come up because that's an important part of our program. Many of the people in my district are doing that and growing their oysters. And I've tasted them. They are good.

MR. WILLIAMS:

They are good.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, one of the things you just reminded me of is something that Iman said when she was here regarding access to healthy food. You know, there's been a lot written about that recently. And usually they are speaking about urban communities. And I don't think that there's enough awareness of how much this occurs and how often it occurs in suburbia where there are neighborhoods that don't have the access to healthy food, and sometimes any kind of food. You have one supermarket in a large area. Iman talked about in Wyandanch. And there are deserts all over where there is no access to healthy food. That's part of our impetus in trying to get this going.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Absolutely. It's a great effort. I really applaud you for doing this.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Tom. Any other questions or comments? We have to ask you to come back up because we need you to speak into the mike. Thank you.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Iman Marghoob again. I just forgot to mention that the Town Community Gardens that we'd like to establish over the next four years, by 2014, we only have four this year so we are looking over the next course -- you know, the next four years, we are really looking for new additional gardens that qualify. So this is a great networking farm. I forgot to mention something very important. So, I am soliciting somebody in Brentwood next week to look at their garden. But we don't have anybody lined up for the next six gardens that will be awarding grants for the next --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Is that Sandra Gill?

MS. MARGHOOB:

It's Anna Torez.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Because I just spoke to Sandra Gill in Brentwood about their community garden -- it may be --

MS. MARGHOOB:

Sandra Gill is working with Anna. Anna is with Shepard Academy and it's a daycare center from what I understand, she has an existing garden. And that definitely qualifies because it can be an existing or a non-existing. We can work with both.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's what's you're doing.

MS. CORRARINO:

The County got a grant that they're working with Sandra.

MS. MARGHOOB:

Sandra Gill.

MS. CORRARINO:

Has developed a garden at the Center.

MS. MARGHOOB:

At Shepards Gate.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Tom.

MR. WILLIAMS:

You're welcome.

MS. CORRARINO:

They're working on getting equipment and a shed.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And there's something critically important about that because when I spoke with Sandra, it happened to be when I was at the Central Islip High School with many of the residents from both Central Islip and Brentwood were there. It was a very difficult meeting regarding prime, interest prime, and the parents who live there had lost children. And Sandra and I met that night and then we spoke again at the Latino Teachers Association Breakfast. And we see the garden not only as an oasis there but get kids out and have them -- introduce them to healthy food and show them what hard work can produce, and creating another activity for kids who feel that they belong to something and get their community connection.

MS. MARGHOOB:

That's been shown over and over again in different communities in the City where, you know, Bryant Park was a good example where it was, you know, drug infested park. And as soon as they, you know, did some landscape design and brought, you know, the plants back in, crime went down, the property value went up and now everybody flocks, you know, year round to Bryant Park in the city. And different gardens in the Bronx as well. And it's known, you know, just saying -- repeating what you were saying. It's definitely a positive influence. Anyone can reach me at the Family Medicine Department at Stony Brook.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Is there anybody else who would like to address the Task Force, please come on up. Please just identify yourself for the record and fill out a card.

MS. MASSIMO:

Hi, my name is Joanne Massimo. And I'm working for Suffolk County United Veterans. We have a shelter in Yaphank and we also have some houses in the North Bellport area. So we're a member of the Greater Bellport Coalition that has -- one of the projects is the community garden. But another one of the projects that I'm involved in is Youth Market. So there's not a supermarket close by in the North Bellport area. And there's low income people. So this market is going to be opening July 11th and we're looking to, you know, get food stamps to be accepted there. We got approved by the New York State Department of Agriculture. And we didn't meet with the farmers yet, but we're interested in, you know, selling produce. I think that it could be, you know, donated produce or --

MR. GERGELA:

My professional capacity as the Executive Director of Long Island Farm Bureau. I represent all the farmers. So if you contact me at Long Island Farm Bureau -- I just put a list together of farmers that are willing to sell produce to community farmers markets and working with Sustainable Long Island. And we are going to be doing two community farmers markets. And one of the reasons that community groups are going to be doing more farmers markets is there's not enough farmers to go around --

MS. MASSIMO:

Right.

MR. GERGELA:

-- and have the time to actually be vendors at farmers markets. So I have a list of farmers that are willing to sell to community groups.

MS. MASSIMO:

Oh, great. We are working with Sustainable Long Island. We have a meeting tomorrow with them. And that's what -- that's great. That's going to be fun. It's going to be good for the community.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We had Jeffrey (inaudible) from Sustainable. He came to our first meeting Task Force.

MS. MASSIMO:

Oh, so we might be interested in -- that lady that said grant money would be available for the community garden. That would be great.

(LAUGHTER)

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I just have a question for you. Can you please tell me what kind of criteria there was for you to reach the level where you could become a vendor where you would be able to use food stamps.

MS. MASSIMO:

Well, Erin from Sustainable Long Island did the work. And I think it was just a matter of filling out an application before a deadline, which I think was like March 15th, to get it in a book that advertises all the farmers markets that accept these things. And we're going to get a little machine. And I think you can somehow change your food stamp coupons for tokens that the farmers can get and pay with those.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

So now we know that at farmer markets will accept food stamps. Okay, so I think that's really important information especially when we're reaching out to those underserved communities, that people can have that capability. Now let me just ask you very briefly, because then you really have a very structured set up there. Is there somebody who is a full-time worker or --

MS. MASSIMO:

Yeah. Well, we're learning about it as we go. But it's going to be on Sundays from 11 to 4. And we do have to hire a market manager. They recommend that to hire a market manager. And we're going to use the kids from the summer jobs program to run it so the farmers don't have to be there. And we're going to actually -- we've met with the youth market in New York City that's running some of them. The kids will get a tour of other markets and learn about nutrition and tasting the vegetables, even learning what vegetables are what. You know, sometimes you go to a farm you don't know -- I belong to -- where you buy a share in the farm. And sometimes we get things and I didn't even know what it was. So, you know, they'll teach the kids what they are and let them taste it and we'll look into cooking demonstrations and menus, you know, recipes, and all that. But we have some AmeriCorps kids that are going to help us market it with the schools and the communities and advertise in newspapers, reach out to community groups, senior groups and try to get, you know, customers because that's the -- hopefully it'll grow after a while. We'll start off with maybe one or two farms and hopefully it'll expand.

And actually there's no supermarket in the area. And somebody did buy property to open up a market so he is interested in even letting us have it right next to his market because he said that it will bring customers to his market; somebody'll come to the farmers market and then buy other things at his market. So it's a win/win for the community.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, that's great. So you're doing so many different things because you're also giving kids jobs.

MS. MASSIANO:

Right.

MR. GERGELA:

So this is the project that you're involved with Sustainable Long Island.

MS. MASSINO:

Right. Roosevelt.

MR. GERGELA:

I don't know if this is the forum for this but I met with Sustainable Long Island. I gave an idea about developing the community markets because of the demand that we're having for farmers markets. And particularly your project and there's another one, we're meeting on Friday with you guys.

MS. MASSIAO:

Right. Oh, good.

MR. GERGELA:

I think it's a really good project.

MS. MASSINO:

Yeah, it is. It's a lot of fun and it brings good food to the community. It's great. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you so much. Tom.

MR. LYON:

Just one other thing. Erin Thoresen's name been mentioned a couple of times she's taking the lead for Sustainable Long Island. That's interesting history, but to Sustainable Long Island has planners determine that they should establish a food equity task force based on all of these issues. And I think that's a major, major issue. And actually I'm inclined to take the lead in that. So I have joined that task force also. That's all of Nassau and Suffolk. And they are in -- they're in Bethpage so -- I think that concept of food equity is really central to what we're trying to do here. Everybody should have access to -- not just quantities but quality of food.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Tom, I think that the food equity concept is one of things that we were talking about under the broader conversation of food. What we were speaking about yesterday on our conference call with {Mark Winny} which is the Food Policy Councils. Food Policy Councils not only talk about access but food equity in terms of growing food, the food growers, the food providers, the retailers and the consumers. So it's a very holistic view of food. And I was talking about this earlier with Joe how these policy councils are made up of government officials, retailers, community advocates, farmers, and just a wide variety of stakeholders. And when you think about it and you listen to people speak about different points of view, we're all stakeholders in food. So I think with what we're seeing the First Lady doing that, with food and health, obesity and, you know, the Last Kid left outdoors, you know, all of these issues come together when you're talking about food equity and food policy. I think Long Island Cares when Mr. Haynes talked about all the different aspects that Long Island Cares is involved in, you really get a sense of how broad the policies are regarding food can travel. And thanks, Tom, for pointing out that food equity issue.

Okay. Thank you very much and good luck with that.

MS. MASSINO:

Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You're welcome. Is there anyone else who would like to address the Task Force? Sir, come on up. You don't know how happy we are to see you. At our last public hearing we had one speaker -- one attendee. She was wonderful and it was worth it for us to go out and go down to Brentwood to the Brentwood Library because she really -- she was very inspirational and she talked to us about their garden, how she was --

Can you please tell us your name.

MR. CIRASOLE:

My name is Vincent Cirasole. I'm a market gardener in Copiague. I have -- in my backyard I have a garden, an organic vegetable garden. As gardens go, it's fairly large. It's 120 feet by 50 feet. And I sell vegetables from my garden.

I came here this morning for a couple of reasons. Number one, I'm very, very interested in this activity and in establishing community gardens and urban gardens. So I wanted to participate in some way.

Secondly, I have a few ideas that I might offer to you as suggestions. I don't really know where to go with them, but all of us thinking together, maybe we'll come up with some sensible new programs.

For instance, I've heard you talk a little bit about establishing community gardens on Suffolk County owned property. And that's something I've been thinking about. The White House has a garden and so do the state houses in Vermont and Oregon. And why can't our town halls have a garden? They're public buildings and public property and could be a center for some sort of community involvement. Same thing with the schools. All of the schools have a lot of land and something could be done there either incorporated into the curriculum or as a voluntary after school club activity.

And some other things. I came across something which I want to give to you. There's a grant being put out by the USDA. You may even be aware of it. It's a grant for the establishment -- giving funds for the establishment of farmers markets. Now with a little creative thinking, maybe we can establish some sort of a link between these community gardens that we're trying to establish and farmers markets that we also can establish which would be funded. This is a USDA program. Grants ranging from \$2000 to \$100,000 with no matching funds required. So I'm going to give you the literature and the information about that. And hope that you'll be able to utilize it.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Can you repeat your last name for the record?

MR. CIRASOLE:

My name is Cirasole; Vincent Cirasole. C-i-r-a-s-o-l-e.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Cirasole, you know we do have, again, our Director of Real Estate Division who actually is identifying properties -- County properties throughout Suffolk County. And I don't know -- because I don't know the Copiague area very well, but I would defer to our Director of Real Estate. I don't know what we have in that area, but maybe it would be interesting for us to explore that and see if we have someone, a willing and experienced gardener who might be interested in looking at something there.

DIRECTOR GREENE:

The Division is compiling a list right now of available County owned properties. And we are looking for input from the community to let us know which would be appropriate to then work for not-for-profits. The legislation required that not-for-profits be brought forward just to be given the chance for an RFP to then create gardens on those lots. So any input that the division can receive from interested parties on the appropriateness of the viability of these pieces of property would be

helpful. So again we're still in the stage of compiling those properties at this time.

MR. CIRASOLE:

And are you suggesting that I may be able to give you some suggestions about available properties around my area in Copiague?

DIRECTOR GREENE:

We're looking for an inventory right now. So once that inventory is streamed down to meet the primary legislation, we will then be making it available and looking for input on whether they would be the qualities that would sustain the gardeners.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Well you have my contact information here and I'll be happy to cooperate with you in any way that I could.

DIRECTOR GREENE:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You also mention towns and school properties. You know, I'm trying to remember if -- wasn't there something on Babylon -- in Babylon Town, Caroline, the list that you gave us of existing community gardens? Did you have something on town halls?

MS. KIANG: (NARRATIVE FORM)

Not town hall. The Town of Babylon (inaudible), she was a master gardener in the class of 1978. And she's a retired school teacher from Brooklyn. Then she moved to Deer Park. Her dream is to have -- she actually has a farm in each town. And she started with the Deer Park, the organic garden. It's off Park Avenue, having moved twice. The first time it started was right behind a European American Bank in an industrial area in Deer Park. And I think she stayed there for a year or two and she was asked to move. The Town of Babylon took over. And they gave her an acre of land not far away from there. The garden is run by the Town of Babylon. And that's the very first organic community garden established -- well, not the very first one but first run by a master garden. There's another one in Huntington also. That's run by the Town of Huntington. That's a very big one. It's very well established. And overtime some of these gardens have evolved. And actually I think in Central Islip, I think at City Council they have an market garden. They have vegetables. They grow vegetables and also tree fruits there. And I don't know, one of the master gardeners who's been working there for a long time now I believe that town took it over. And I don't know how he's doing (inaudible) right now but the Town is doing that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

So your town was one of the models, Babylon Town.

MR. CIRASOLE:

I'd be very interested in seeing this farm that Caroline is describing. I'll pay it a visit. I'll pay a visit.

MS. KIANG:

I'll give it to you.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Okay, fine.

MS. KIANG:

We've talked about it.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, are you a master gardener?

MR. CIRASOLE:

Yes. I graduated the master gardener program a number of years ago.

MS. KIANG:

He helped with the Spring Garden school.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. All right. Very busy man. Thank you coming up and talking with us to.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And we'll share the information. Did you want to tell us something else?

MR. CIRASOLE:

I wanted to ask you something. When you use the term community gardens, are you thinking along the lines of the EcoFarm where individuals or individual families from the Town have a piece of land which they share, each person, with a small plot that's sort of their own private garden?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's one of the models.

MR. CIRASOLE:

There are 20 or 30 of these on -- that's what you mean by a community garden?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's one of the models that we're talking about. There are a few different type of models. But in strictest terms that's basically what a community garden, where individuals, families have plots on a piece of property. And they work out, you know, an organization and a set of rules that they work under. But we also have the model of Hobbs Farm where you have volunteers working and the produce goes to food pantries. There are several different types of models and in our final report we'll be including all of the different types of models.

MR. CIRASOLE:

That's very interesting.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And how to start organizing them.

MR. CIRASOLE:

I'm particularly attracted to that model that I saw in co-farming. I think it does a lot. Great potential for community building.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Absolutely. It's great. And that's what I want to see happening in Brentwood with what we were just talking about, try to develop that.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Would you please send me some information about the task force? Do you have a list of members and --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes. We will be putting a lot of the information including the minutes of our public hearings on the website, the County website because it's an official task force. There is a graduate student who has promised to come and do a whole Facebook page on us. Hasn't shown up yet. So as soon as we get her to come into my office -- actually she can't work in my office because we can't do social networking on the County computers but we'll find a place for her to work and have a Facebook page so what we can do with these is interactive conversations with people and spread the word. There are many, many organizations that are overlapping one another. We're finding -- you know, we have this slow food movement, we have the community gardens, you know, all of the different models, the Sustainable Long Island, what they're doing. We can just go on and on with all the groups. We're trying to work in the same direction. What we're trying to do is pull that information together so that people can access it. So we will have you on our list and we'll be in touch with you.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Good. Like Scott Chaskey whose name came up here before, I'm also on the board of NOFA New York. Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York. And if there's anything that our group can do to contribute to this in a more formal fashion, I'd be happy to get involved in that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. Thanks for being here.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any other questions?

MS. KIANG: (NARRATIVE FORM)

Yeah, I just have some comments about the community garden we're talking about. Community gardens usually means like a {layman} garden in England, is people, they go to these -- to the garden, they each own a piece of a small plot and they garden themselves. And there's CSA gardens, community supported gardens, community supported agriculture project. And that's like Scott Chaskey's in, yeah. And EcoFarms, actually started as a community garden but now they have transitioned. They're going to become a CSA garden. And Peter Garden, another master gardener, he's still the farm manager. And I guess, you know, for instance Peters, the farm is Peters, it's a CSA garden.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Yes, it is.

MS. KIANG:

The one in Babylon, Deer Park that is a community garden, people go there and garden themselves. And Town supported one I believe. That's Town of Babylon and community garden in Huntington is strictly community gardens people, garden for themselves.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Okay. Well, thank you very much for hearing me. And please keep up the good work.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. Is there anyone else who would like to address the Task Force? Come on up.

MS. FROST:

My name is Sharon Frost. And I just wanted to let you know about a project I got involved with about 17 years ago, pre-district. My kids were in elementary school. And I helped start a garden club, dig it and --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Dig it?

MS. FROST:

Yes. And we grew on the school property a garden for the hungry. And the kids -- this is elementary school. The kids donated the produce to the food pantry. It was very easy to get started. You just need one crazy PTA mother like I was and a teacher. And we had maybe 40, 50 kids in that club. Met once -- not very often in the wintertime obviously but continued on through the summer -- in the summer rec program that they have at the school. And we had quite a sizeable crop. So I just thought I'd mention that. That's about it.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I think the key is that there was a summer rec program. And there's where we get a lot of interest in schools. And you know you can get very enthusiastic kids and you get your crops started. But then there's no one there in the summer.

MS. FROST:

Right, exactly.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Then there's irrigation problems with the school.

MS. FROST:

Well, what we did was the summer rec program went through July. So August was an issue. But, you now, there's all these little cute timer gadgets you can get and sprinklers and hookups to an irrigation system if you have a few batteries. So that's how it worked out for us.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thanks for sharing that. And what about now, is still going on?

MS. FROST:

Yes, it's still going on.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, you have a legacy?

MS. FROST:

I know, I know, I just ran into one of the teachers in town. I live in Westhampton Beach School District. And, you know, she cursed me out for starting this thing and leaving it with them.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Anybody who's here who has a community garden, can you just let us know exactly where it is because as you can see I have a map of Suffolk County and I've tried to put little map tacks on it wherever people have come to speak with us and told us about their gardens. So, Sharon, I'm going to stick one up there. Okay?

MS. FROST:

Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

To tell us exactly where you are.

MS. FROST:

Sure.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And I'm planning on creating a much bigger map because we're going to have so many tacks that we won't be able to do it on that little map.

MS. FROST:

Thank you.

MR. LYON:

Just a follow up because I'm supposed to be the education representative. And this is the person who couldn't appear, I didn't even ask her, but her name's Alice Waters, as most of you know, she is the one that's usually accredited for the White House Garden and pushing the Obamas to do that. And this is her book. And this is called the Edible Schoolyard. I was just showing Joe. It's interesting that in the front of this, there's two pages of pictures from school yards in New York City with big factory chimneys in the background in the early 1900's. And one is on 35th and 36th Streets. But I think the point of the Edible Schoolyard movement, just to summarize it and get it into the record, they have principles. Only six. It won't take long. But the principles of edible education. And I think this is, again, what's drawing a lot of us here.

The first one food is an academic subject. Second, schools provide lunch for every child. Does not happen all the time, right. Third, school supports farms, partnership. Fourth, children learn by doing. Fifth, beauty is a language. And we all know the beauty in partners. Not to editorialize, but I think those should be in the record as an part of we're doing here. Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Tom. Thank you, Sharon.

Is there anyone else who would like to address us, share ideas? Thank you so much for coming. What's really, really a very important part of what the Task Force does is to listen to people in the community and tell us what they're doing. And the resolution that created this Task Force is on the Suffolk County website.

And just to share very briefly with you, the genesis of this was is a visit that I made to my niece's fourth grade class in Central Islip. And when I visit the classrooms, I ask kids to be legislators for a day. And I ask the teacher to have them come up with laws that they would like to see passed in Suffolk county.

When I arrived at this class, there was seven laws that they had on the board. And as we discussed them, we came down to two laws that they liked to see passed. One was to make their parks safer. And it's sadly ironic but three weeks after that was when a young boy was shot in the eye at Timberline Park in Brentwood, which is one of the parks that is close to me.

And the second one was how can the County help us to buy healthier food. And this little girl said to me, she said my mom wanted to buy the a big container of plain yogurt, the one that was organic but it was almost \$5 and we didn't have it.

So I invited that class to come to the Legislature to speak. And they presented their idea for this Suffolk County law. And I have to say that small voices can have a very big impact. Legislator Romaine introduced the legislation which directed our Division of Real Estate to look for properties where people could grow and have a community garden. Legislator Horsley introduced legislation that directed the Department of Social Services to inform people that food stamps can be used to buy seedlings and seeds to grow their own food. And I introduced my Victory Garden Task Force because there are children who want to be able to get healthy food and can't. So that's the primary motivation on this Task Force, is to bring good food to our kids.

So I really want you to know how important what you shared with us is today for all the kids in Suffolk County because this will be part of the County record. Thanks again.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:56 AM

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY

VICTORY GARDEN TASK FORCE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

A public hearing of the Victory Garden Task Force of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Little Theater at Farmingdale State University, Farmingdale, New York, on March 31, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher - Chairperson
Richard Myer
Tom Lyon
Susan Wilk
Carolyn Kiang

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Sylvia King-Cohen - Newsday
Maria J. Maier - Southampton High School
Ann Rathkopf - Slow Food Huntington
Lawrence Foglia - Long Island Agriculture Network
Lisa Mitten - Long Island Community Agriculture Network
Regina Dlugokencky - Long Island Community Agriculture Network
Faith Groody - Vanderbilt Volunteer Gardeners
Vincent Cirasole
Terry Daniels
Linda Lieberman
Carolyn Hannan
Regina Montemurro
Pat Montemurro

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:26 P.M.*)

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Ann Rathkopf. Hi. Can you just stand right here and talk to us?

MS. RATHKOPF:

In order to keep it brief and to the point and not ramble, my name is Ann Rathkopf, coleader of Slow Food Huntington, a chapter of Slow Food USA, a nonprofit organization with approximately 25,000 members nationwide. Slow food strived for good, clean and fair food for those who eat as well as those who produce it. Our local chapter includes about 100 active members. We support our local farms, our green markets, improved food in our school cafeterias and sustainable food ways.

Slow Food Huntington supports Suffolk County's initiative to provide residents with lots of land to grow their own vegetables. We know that community gardens not only produce local food resulting in better nutrition and healthier people, but they also steward environmental awareness, they preserve open space and contribute to a positive sense of place. Community gardens are where young and old, new and seasoned, experimental and traditional gardeners work, meet and exchange knowledge, ideas and recipes. It's an important part of the food system that fosters self-reliance.

For these reasons, we urge Suffolk County to maximize its investments in establishing and supporting victory gardens, not only for present and future gardeners, but for the community at large. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. By the way, Ann just outlined a lot of the reasons why I put this task force together, which is we want to provide food, healthy food, for folks, we want to support environmental education, and there's nothing more educational than a kid getting his or her hands in the dirt and then seeing the product. Thank you. Thank you very much, Ann.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It's hard for people to hear Ann, okay. And we don't have a mike. So if you could kind of face a little at an angle so that the audience can hear you as well. Okay. Thank you. Lawrence Foglia.

MR. FOGLIA:

I want to thank you for putting this task force together and seriously addressing the need that we're looking into here. My name is Larry Foglia, I represent the Peconic Land Trust and the Nassau Land Trust as well as a new organization called, we call it LICAN or Long Island Community Agriculture Network.

This organization -- you have a lot of the stuff from other meetings in terms of the benefits of community gardens where people are not going to address that, access to food, kids seeing where their food comes from, nutrition and awareness of nutrition way down on the list. But what I want to address here is how a group of dedicated and interested and diverse people in the community representing larger organizations like Unitarian Fellowship, St. Hugh Church, other civic organizations and just interested people put together in one year, less than a year now, Long Island Community Agricultural Network doing that as a template for what can take place in different parts of Long Island. Our goal is to establish community gardens on private or town-owned property where people with incomes below --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Don't forget county-owned properties too.

MR. FOGLIA:

We'll get to that one, it's right here. To have access to land and access to food. Some of them

depend on community pantries for food, which are suffering themselves with access to food. I myself am an environmental educator. I work with the land trust and farmland preservation. I've also been a farmer for 40 years. In the '50s, I remember coming here when this was an Ag School and getting licked in the face by a cow. This University has come a long way. I'm not sure the right way, but it's come a long way.

Long Island CAN is days away from develop -- signing the license agreements with the Town of Huntington where we decided to set up our initial community gardens on land that's established as a community garden, but not necessarily managed appropriately and on another parcel of land, which will become, years hence, a park time, but for the time being, it can be a community garden. And it's right in the middle of the poorest section of the Town of Huntington. We were welcomed in by the town, we set up license agreements, we are umbrellaed under a not-for-profit that has our mission as part of their mission. And this thing has just taken off. We are recipients of a grant, sub grant from a grant that Stony Brook University received from the Department of Health. So we are -- what are they called?

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Community roots grant.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

The other was Hobbs Farm.

MR. LYON:

There's one out east.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sorry to interrupt.

MR. FOGLIA:

That's okay. Any questions, just interrupt. So this is really taking off. And we've developed a partnership with the town, and the town is eager for this to take place. They see the value of it. This is a national movement. The same as reconnecting children with nature, we're reconnecting people with the sources of their food and we're allowing them to take part in the production of their food. And it fits in with Sustainable Long Island's Food Equity Project. This whole thing is kind of coming together. And just as you said, we're not reinventing the wheel, it exists in other parts of the country and other parts of the world.

What I would like to add are two concepts that I would encourage the County much as the Green Thumb Program --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

The Green Thumb Challenge? Yes. I've been trying to get that in schools.

MR. FOGLIA:

The Green Thumb Program in the city which is staffed by New York City employees that are running or assisting over 600 community gardens. So I would encourage Suffolk County to do the same thing; to set up some office either partnering with an organization like Long Island CAN that is trying to do the same thing from the grassroots level or taking staff that you already have and dedicating it to this kind of a facility.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We don't have a lot of staff. That was a little inside joke. Sorry.

MR. FOGLIA:

So to seriously look into making this a true priority and following through on the research that you

garner from the meetings. I have copies of a full statement that I will give you and I have a history of Long Island CAN that is attached to it.

The other thing I want to address is the Peconic Land Trust is the oldest land trust in the country. It has been preserving farmland for 25 years. It sets the mark for the rest of the country. Suffolk County with the quarter percent tax has preserves a tremendous amount of land, sometimes very large tracks of land or rainwater reclamation and groundwater resources.

Organic farming is a compatible use of some of these pieces of land that have been preserved. I would encourage the County to reexamine existing license agreements on those pieces of property to see how they are managed now and how they could be managed. Case in point, this is a 1997 Suffolk County Planning Department Master Plan for Froehlich Farm Preserve in the Town of Huntington. It was a big deal. CEQ is still complaining about having spent all that money, but we still have 200 acres preserved. Since 1997, it has done almost nothing other than go into succession. There's a small project there run by a group of people.

But there's a national movement to get young people back on farms. You have 200 acres. I used to pick pumpkins for Charlie Hendrickson who farmed it for Froehlich. I know what this looked like when it was a full-tilled farm, and that was in the '70s. I've had Christina Grace New York Ag and Markets down there to take a look at this and other parcels in Nassau County and Suffolk County. And it's like -- there's 200 acres of land there. It takes a lot of community gardens to come up with 200 acres of arable land. And part of this was previously community gardens and was slated to be community gardens.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That was the Legislative intent, you're right.

MR. FOGLIA:

And it's just back in succession. The kicker is you have a grammar school on one side of it and you have a junior high school on the other side. And it's just an example of a piece of land owned by the County now that could be reclaimed as farmland, and the administration of it could be done by the town, and organization like us contracted through the town, a non-for-profit, a license agreement with an organization that will do with the piece of property what the County intend to be done on that piece of property when it was referred.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Just a question on that. Part of it is community gardens, isn't it? Isn't part of it --

MR. FOGLIA:

There are no community gardens on there. There is an organization that has the license agreements -- two organizations that have license agreements; the Audubon and -- which would probably give up their license agreement, because they're having difficulty with their own funding, I think they're merging with another one; and the Friends of Huntington Farmland. And the Friends of Huntington Farmland are managing about five acres. There's several people, you know, involved in that. They try to do the best they can. They're all in their 70s and 80s. It's somewhat of a closed group. They are -- we're dealing with 200 acres here. Their five acres, even if they expanded it to 15, would not be impacted if we did something with 100 or 150 acres. And some of it could be left in perimeter nature preserve. But it's really going to eventually become just a sight for invasive species probably. It is usable as farmland.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Any questions? I know I have a few, but does anybody else? Could you just tell me more about LICAN, because you mentioned UU was part of that? Was there a Veatch Grant on that?

MR. FOGLIA:

We're applying for grants. Here is my statement -- well, written by my executive director who is a prolific reporter. And the second half of that is a history of Long Island CAN. And I joined it as representing, you know, a local interested person, but also I represent the Peconic Land Trust on that.

With the Nassau Land Trust, I am working with three farms in Nassau County. One that the Nassau Land Trust will take over in Malverne, Grossman's Farm. You might have seen that in the newspaper. We will manage that as an educational farm. And I'm working with two private landowners who want to hire farmers or have -- lease to farmers who will farm on their land for which they can eventually get a tax deduction. But they're also very interested in integrating with the local school system in farm to school programs.

Do you know about the centric stone barns in Tarrytown?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MR. FOGLIA:

It's a former Rockefeller Estate.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MR. FOGLIA:

Right. So there are conferences there in farm education, conferences there for young farmers. I was up there with some of the other people from LICAN, there were 300 young farmers there looking for land.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, stone barns came up when I had my Nitrogen Reduction Task Force and how to -- best practices.

MR. FOGLIA:

It exists to disseminate information, provide workshops and conferences to encourage people to garden and farm from backyards to significant scale.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much, Mr. Foglia. Oh, I'm sorry, there is a question.

MR. LYON:

As far as Long Island CAN for funding right now, just in general, what kind of sources are you getting?

MR. FOGLIA:

We have the Stony Brook grant.

MS. MITTEN:

I'm Lisa Mitten, I'm one of the founding members of LICAN as well with Larry. I'm the Director of Development, so I'm working on fundraising for that organization. We are in the process of approaching a number of different foundations on Long Island to apply for funding other than the Stony Brook. We haven't officially applied for any yet. We're just waiting to network with them know about the process.

I guess our main concern this coming year is just realizing how many efforts it takes to establish

community gardens; all the planning, recruiting gardeners, dealing with the town or county, figuring out what you are signing with the license agreement. Right now, we're all volunteers doing that. And we have many people who are working very, very hard on that. I guess our hope with funding is to strengthen our reorganizational capacity to be able to someone do this as their job or have multiple people do it as their job.

MR. FOGLIA:

If I can address more of that in other way. One thing we just got a grant from Students for 60000 that are supporting us. And we just finished actually literally two days ago a plan for a large section of an existing community garden, it was an outreach garden. So we are taking over what's now the Cliff Soergel Memorial Outreach Garden. And we are going to revamp it and make about 100 different -- it's about 50 plots with 100 beds in it, each plot gets two beds, so people could get half of that. Once that plan is in place and we do our takeoff on that plan to see what it's going to cost, this project is supported by the Park Improvement Section of the Town of Huntington's Open Space Farm Fund. So we will approach them for -- I'm looking at probably 30 or \$40,000 over, you know, the next two years to actually put this in place. And eventually, from what they tell us, they want us to take over the management with funding of this larger community garden. This is a 15 acre community garden. This is 400 plots.

MS. KIANG:

It used to be the largest one in the country. This one is also in the Town of Huntington, right?

MR. FOGLIA:

It belongs to the Town of Huntington.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

What is the irrigation like at Froehlich? Is there an existing irrigation system, because that's usually a pretty big investment when you're looking at irrigation?

MR. FOGLIA:

Well, yes and no. I'm dealing with that on farms in Nassau County, overhead irrigation where you have to pump with a lot of pressure. That is issue if you're dealing with smaller farms and community gardens and you did trickle irrigation. Charlie came off the hydrants. A lot of farmers will come off hydrants because water in the South Huntington/Dix Hills area is actually still fairly inexpensive. I use city water on my farm, and I do 10 acres and I do overhead water. And my bill is, you know, \$150 for the season. It's not an expense in that way. And if you increase the organic matter in the soil and you mulch, you don't want to over water, because it can cause you more disease problems than you would ask for.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. Any other questions? Lisa. Go ahead, Lisa.

MS. MITTEN:

So I'm one of the founding members of LICAN. I'm working on those two gardens we're starting in the Town of Huntington. I just want to tell a little story about that process. We applied for a grant through Stony Brook. We applied on behalf of LICAN. And I also applied on behalf of my Yoga Center, the Inner Spirit Yoga Center in East Northport.

So we put together that application. We had a whole entire plan. We had 50 people signed up, we were already to go and do it. We didn't get the grant. However, we did all the work ahead; all the budgeting, all the recruiting, and our organization had enough strength and enough initiative and enough energy toward this project to actually do it on our own on private land with our own funding. So grant can help make things happen beyond the people that you just give grants to.

Just a couple of other comments. Across the country, there's lots of energy in this area. And

many different communities, especially planning departments, they're actually -- in partnership with private developers, they're developing suburban communities that are surrounded by a farm or surrounded by a community garden. So as Suffolk County continues to develop one potential for community gardens and agricultural projects is to have community gardens within suburban development that people can walk to. So they are actually community centers as opposed to just doing in your own backyard.

From my experience of starting LICAN and also the yoga center's community garden, I just want to stress how much access to equipment we need in order to prepare the soil. It's a big thing to overcome. We were able to use the support of local landscapers for part of our community to do it for free, but that's just one definitely challenge to making it happen. I think it would be really -- for, like, this movement to grow, it would really be helpful to have a list of all different properties Suffolk County that the County is willing to use as community gardens.

From my experience in Nassau County -- I also work with Larry Grossman Farm project. And, like, Nassau County right now is putting out RFPs to allow people to do things on land. As much advanced notice for that as possible is really helpful. For example, Nassau County originally sent notice for the East Meadow Farm, about, like, a one-acre property. And one of the opportunities for that is for it to be a community garden. However, we don't have enough time to gear up to apply for that. So a lot of advanced planning is really helpful for organizations and community groups like us to really get on board and to get our ducks in order.

And finally, just, like, how complicated it is finding all the sourcing material; just trying to figure out how to start community gardens on Long Island, how to make them -- like, how to strengthen them. Like, a lot of people in our group are very passionate about organic gardening. And we're trying to figure out well, what are the sources of organic materials on Long Island, where can you go to get good compost at a good price; how well are our municipalities preparing their mulch that they're giving out for free; what is the quality of their compost; what is the input that, has pesticides been on it.

And so, for example, in the Town of Huntington, I know it's a town thing, not a County thing, I don't know if the County does -- collects waste material and gives it back to the communities. But the Town of Huntington and Smithtown does not have a composting project. And they have a big mulching operation, but I don't know if that mulch is good. But there needs to be better coordination and communication between users and the agencies that are producing these things so we know they're good and so you guys know that we want good quality products. So I think that's all I have for now.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's a really good question. Nobody had brought that up before. I don't know the answer to it.

MS. MITTEN:

To which one?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

To the compost and what quality of mulching is done by the different municipalities, composting. I know that Joe Gergela, who is a member of our task force, you know, from the Farm Bureau, has said that he knows someone who is donating some compost to some East End community gardens. But you can't rely on one source. We need to know systematically what each municipality is doing and the quality of what their providing. And that's something that I don't think we've talked about before.

MS. KIANG:

But we do have -- I mean, most of the town have composting facilities. Like, I know Islip Town and the Town of Brookhaven --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

But we don't know the quality.

MS. KIANG:

-- and Southold Town. Some of the -- some of the towns, they do have a list. You know, like, they -- like what constitutes, you know, the compost. And I don't know if everybody has mulch, probably do. The one Joe Gergela mentioned, that was Long Island Composting, that's a private vendor.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

But just for the committee, what we should do as part of the information that we give is which towns provide compost, because I think Ms. Mitten just said that Smithtown doesn't have a composting program.

MS. MITTEN:

They have -- they just have a mulch. They have like a thicker mulch and this finer mulch.

MS. KIANG:

Town of Brookhaven has it.

MS. MITTEN:

And I've heard -- I'm wondering what's going into that mulch. I know there are a lot of horse farms on Long Island, is the manure going in there? In some ways that's a good thing, but what happens -- what if there is still seed that hasn't been completely -- that isn't dead; how is the it turned. Other people can comment at greater length on the quality of the compost and the mulch. And also, I don't know, is the mulch good? Do I want to put it on my garden? It is going to --

MS. KING-COHEN:

The mulching from Smithtown is kind of a side dressing. So you would ask, "Is it high-quality mulch?" But it's good if you just want to keep something from growing. No, it's not certified organic.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I just have to regarding ground rules, because otherwise you're going to make our stenographer go crazy, please don't answer from the audience without identifying yourself, because it makes it very hard for our stenographer to try to keep track of who is speaking. I don't want to shut anybody up, you're all welcome to speak, but I don't want to make her job harder. Okay. Well, are there any other questions for Ms. Mitten.

MS. KIANG:

I just want to give you a couple of answers. There are organic gardening information or farming information. You can go to our website -- I'm from Cornell Cooperative Extension, and our new website is cccsuffolk.org. And we just put the link to this. This information is from Cornell University. So if you want immediate information.

MS. MITTEN:

What kind of information.

MS. KIANG:

How to do organic farming. That's what you're asking for, right? And also, we are -- Cornell Cooperative Extension is offering a Spring Gardening school. We've been doing this for the past 28 years. One of our Extension educators, she's offering organic gardening session. We have three dates; April 10th, it will be at the Academy of St. Joseph in Brentwood; April 17th, it will be at Bellport High School; April 24th, it's going to be at Riverhead Middle School. They are -- you know,

I know other places probably offer the classes too.

MS. MITTEN:

I guess one of the important things that people invest time in just figuring out we need quality materials to put into our community garden and how we can get the best quality materials for our community gardens and for Long Island's gardens that's even free, because municipalities are giving this away.

MS. KIANG:

And another thing we try to do encourage gardens to do home composting. You don't really need to get compost from someone else.

MS. MITTEN:

Well, the problem with that, I mean, I'm starting a 3000 square foot garden, year one. This is very clay soil. What am I going to do in year one? I need to get -- I need to get some sort of organic matter in there. We're just starting, so we haven't been doing this for years, we don't have a huge monster pile. It's a barrier to entry. We have two people with their hands up. I think there was one more question, though, for Ms. Mitten from Mr. Lyon. Did you have a question?

MR. LYON:

No. I was kind of just pointing out that Larry had some comments about composting.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Regina Dlugokencky.

MS. DLUGOKENCKY:

My name is Regina Dlogokencky, I'm a member of the Long Island Community Agricultural Member, not a founding member, but very involved in the grant writing process for Stony Brook, as well as I'll be involved in the education portion whereby we're going to teach gardeners, young and old, new and old, how to garden, just the basics. And hopefully also, part of that plan, I think in conjunction with (inaudible) to teach people what to do with those vegetables once they actually grow them successfully.

I also own my own small business, it's called Seedsower Farm. I have many, many, many -- too many years to really stand here and tell you about -- of gardening experience. I started gardening when I was eight years old. I have a great passion for it, I have a great passion of teaching people how to garden. I'm involved in Long Island CAN because I want people to learn how to grow their own food and to know where food is coming from and to take pride in having grown that successfully.

I do have a couple of comments I'd like to make to the committee. First and foremost, there is a major lack of land available. I know you have marked on here all the different CSAs and community gardens that are on Long Island.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, not all. We're working toward it.

MS. DLOGOKENCHY:

I'm not sure what your source was on that.

MS. KIANG:

A lot of it was from me.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

I see one Centerport. It could be me actually. I'm very small. I'm up there, I'm a minuscule little

thing. I'm lucky enough to farm on some very kind people's property.

MS. KIANG:

That was is in Huntington.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

Okay. I'm not sure. Anyway, one of the things I wanted to get back about -- while we're on the subject of compost, this is something that I've heard about over the years. Apparently, Suffolk County Farm had at one point had some kind of system put in place for composting, and that kind of fell by the wayside. Now, anybody that knows anything about the (inaudible) knows that on the olden farms of the United States before the Green movement, before pesticides and oil-based pesticides and fertilizers were create as a result of surplus of war materials, people used to -- it was a closed loop in a farm. Animal manure was spread on the field, it added organic matter, it added nitrogen, and it was a closed system.

Now, I realize with water issues on Long Island, that may not be an option. But we have Suffolk County Farm where there are animals producing manure. I understand there was at one time, if there's not still, a facility there or some kind of infrastructure in place where compost was going to be made. Now, I think if you're starting victory gardens, which I still like the definition of, and community gardens, it would be great to have that as a resource to the County residents, a free resource if possible. And also, just utilizing this waste in a real practical way making it as compliant with Northeast Organic Farming Association standards of organic compost and making it available to people who want to garden.

In addition, I think there should definitely be home composting, no question. But as Lisa said, if you're just starting off, it's very hard to find a good clean source of compost on Long Island. But I think that -- that just came to mind because I thought about Suffolk County and I thought about the fact that there is this animal population up there, I don't know what's happening with the waste up there at the moment. We have a groundwater issue here on Long Island that we want to keep clean, so maybe there's something you can follow up with on that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, we spent a lot of money on keeping that clean too there on the farm as well, to make sure that the runoff isn't contaminating the water.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

If a composting system could be put in place, that would be a beautiful marriage of two issues. As far as land goes, I have looked at the license agreement between Friends of Huntington Farmland and Suffolk County on Froehlich Farm Preserve and specifically on section number -- the section Part Six, Management Information, "parcel two is specifically stated as being a parcel that should be given consideration to community allotment gardens for demonstration and educational purposes."

Now, I understand that there's a small -- people up at Froehlich Farm who are managing that property, a very small part of it. I have yet to see as an individual, as anybody on the street, any information about any educational programs going on. So I know that they do stuff, and I think it's a commendable task they've taken on to grow food and to donate it to the hungry and to the needy. But I have a very strong belief that people should have the right to grow their own vegetables and to be self-sustainable in that.

So I don't know if this is something that should be investigated to some degree to see if it's possible to start a victory garden, a community garden, I'm not sure what the difference is, in Froehlich Farm sooner rather than later, because as Mr. Foglia just said, that farm is just going to succession. It's just overgrowing and it's just that much more of a process to get it back in shape for production.

Ninety-seven acres, parcel number two. I don't know what parcel they're presently on, but 97

acres is an incredible amount of land to be utilizing -- not to be utilizing I should say. And if it could possible be considered as possibly a task force -- a victory garden location for the task force or perhaps I know -- I know Suffolk County also has something about community gardens, which is why I'm a little confused about what the different is. Maybe somebody could clarify that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We don't need to make that fine a point on it, okay, because we're using the term "victory garden," because the term has an evocative name to fulfil a need at a time of need, and that's why I chose it as leading the resolution. The genesis of the resolution was what I discovered to be a real need out there, which was defined by a fourth grade class that poor kids can't access healthy food. And we wanted to fulfill that need. And I saw gardens as a way of fulfilling that need. And I agree with you, I think it's very important to have community gardens that raise or gardens that raise crops and distribute them to soup kitchen. But I think it would be much more meaningful to have families, and this is where the grant you got from Stony Brook and Hobbs farm and -- - which is the third one? I keep forgetting.

MS. KIANG:

Tuckahoe.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It's out East. So to have children and their families raise their own food, I think, gives the family that sense of self-esteem of having worked on it and then enjoying the fruits of their labor. Anybody who has had a garden knows the tremendous satisfaction of that. And there's a lot of pride in having to ask for food. There's a lot of pridefulness involved in that. But I believe if you have a plot of land that you're allowed to work and you're working for the food, it's a different thing. And I have to give a lot of the credit for making my concept become the reality of the resolution to my friend Tom Lyon who came with me with the victory garden concept, you know, a modern day victory garden. So as I said, the term victory garden, we're not using in any technical term.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

Okay. I was just confused.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It's just so important to invoke that sense of people working during a time of need.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

I am in total agreement with you. And I can attest as a kid from Brooklyn, eight years old, parents stuck corn in my hand and said, "Plant that," and I was like you've got to be kidding. And I've been gardening ever since. So I totally agree with you. I am very, very happy that this is happening. I'm in total support, and anything I can do to proceed forward and make it a success, I'm happy to do.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, we have your name and we have your number.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I will just tell you a quick story, Regina. When my oldest daughter was about four years old, I was making and she had a play date over, her friend Dana who lived next door was at our house. And I was washing potatoes and Dana said, "Why are you washing rocks?" And I said, "These aren't rocks, they're potatoes." And she said, "No, they're not, those aren't potatoes." So I said -- I called up her mom and I said -- I asked her if she could stay to eat with us. And she watched while I peeled them and cut them and boiled them and mashed them. And when I spoke with her mom I said, "You know, Dana thought the potatoes were rocks." I said, "How do you make potatoes?" Well, she either made Ore Ida in the oven when they wanted fried potatoes or she -- this was 1970 -- '78 -- or she would use the flakes to make mashed potatoes. The child had never seen a

potato. I don't think we are as bad now as people were in the '70s. I mean, I think we have progressed a little bit.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

I think that may be true.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And, you know, I've always kept that -- so I would invite them over when I picked the sour cherries from our cherry tree. And the whole family, including the mother said, "Oh, my God, you're making this pie, you're rolling the crust." She just -- you know, pies were something you got at a bakery. And they were just magically produced at a factory. You know, we had this kind of antiseptic thing about food, that it was made in this clean sanitary factory. And you should have seen this family at your house popping each little tiny sour cherry, you know, pitting them and helping me make the pie. I'll tell you, that family taught me a lot and it's always stayed with me. So we want to get back to people discovering food.

MS. DLOGOKENCKY:

And I'm in total agreement with you. Thank you so much for taking this project on, because I think this is really needed, it's just coming so timely. You know, we all know Michelle Obama instituted that garden. It made me cry when I read that article, because it's just the most fabulous thing. Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Linda Lieberman. Hi, Linda.

MS. LIEBERMAN:

Hi. Nice to be here. I was actually here just really to take in information. I'm presently taking the master gardeners course with Carolyn right now. And we are interested in the movement on Long Island. Lisa and I would love to put together a resource book where we can get resources. I was working with a school garden, and I pretty much had to guarantee my first born to get some horse manure in there. It was a pretty daunting project, you know putting them in garbage bags, putting them in the trunk and loading them over.

But I also wanted to maybe mention a couple of other organizations that you might be interested in also following up. There is an organization called Healthy Planet, and they've been doing healthy school lunch programs for a really long time, so you know, they might want to get in to have a word about this; Health and Welfare Council of Long Island has a Hunger Task Force Committee Meeting that meets once a month. That's another. I'm sorry, I don't have all the contact information.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I know Gwen.

MS. LIEBERMAN:

I think they also have a conference coming up April 24th I believe. And to address the question about compost, there is fellow called Jeff Frank at Nature Lyceum, he used to work at Long Island Compost. So he might be a good resource about finding out if you're getting good compost or, you know, how it's produced, what is the best way, who do you -- you know, who practices what practice in making compost. And that pretty much it.

You know what? Another thing comes to mind also. I was wondering if you would you consider different -- different models even to approach this problem of hunger as far as maybe even having a greenhouse of starter plants that you could give out to schools and maybe senior citizen complexes that might be able to maybe just do container gardening. You know, it would only supplement their food source, of course, it wouldn't be the whole thing. But maybe getting people to even donate a

portion of their backyards. So people may already do a garden or maybe people would give permission.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I think that there's a group that does that, Grow a Row for Hunger, I think. I don't have it exactly right. What's it called, Tom.

MR. LYON:

Plant a Row for Hunger.

MS. KIANG:

That's a (inaudible). They just encourage their members to take on the project in the communities. And recently they -- one of the seed companies, Territorial, they -- if you order seeds from them, like more than, I don't know, \$25, they give you free package of carrot seeds. They want people to plant a million of carrots this year. And I gave (inaudible) last week.

Actually, you are talking about giving out free plants, you know, (inaudible) for people. I would say maybe 15-20 years ago, Master Gardener Program had done that. But we got the funding from the County Executive's Office then. I personally start the tomato plant. And then we give out -- I had master gardener volunteers give it at out at the senior centers throughout the -- throughout the County. So now I don't have that kind of money in the budget anymore. And I don't even have a budget to train master gardeners. I used to get \$25 per head to train master gardeners. Now master gardener volunteers have to pay to be trained and they do volunteer work.

That's how we developed that map over maybe 30 years now. Different master gardeners got involved with the community gardens County-wide, and that's how we started this map. Some others, some CSA gardens we have in there. Another thing I thought, maybe we should encourage too is, like, large corporations that, you know, they might have land available.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

There's Estee Lauder. Estee Lauder has a garden.

MS. KIANG:

I know Estee Lauder is one.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah. We have looked at different models.

MS. KIANG:

That is for the employees. Their gardens are associated with a church. You know, all these different places I thought that we should look, you know, just encourage more people to grow food themselves. It's a healthy lifestyle and also, you know, eat proper food at the time.

MS. LIEBERMAN:

And I'd like to say that Long Island CAN, Regina and Larry are terrific teachers. They're great educators for organic farming.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's great. And we are trying to look at different models.

MS. KIANG:

I just want you to comment if you don't mind about Starflower.

MS. LIEBERMAN:

Oh, Starflower Experiences?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You're working with them.

MS. KIANG:

You do a lot of --

MS. LIEBERMAN:

That was actually for the school gardening that I referred to before.

MS. KIANG:

I just don't know how active they are now.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Linda, there's another question for you.

MR. LYON:

Linda, just for you and for the record, I know some folks in Brooklyn, there's Stacy Murphy of BK Farmyards is doing exactly what you said. This is only about the third year now for her, but she is matching up people who want to farm or have a small garden with people with land in their backyards in Brooklyn. So she is probably gone through, you know, some of the legal or the ethical issues.

MS. LIEBERMAN:

What is the name of the organization?

MR. LYON:

It's BK Farmyards, I believe, dot org. And her name is Stacy Murphy. You can Google it.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Linda. Terry. Terry Daniels.

MR. DANIELS:

Hi. My name is Terry Daniels. I'm just a citizen who -- I used to be a landscape gardener for ten years about 12 years ago. And just was doing a little research online about community gardens, victory gardens, and I found about this hearing. I just want to encourage the work you are doing, because I think it's great. I also think Victory Garden is a great name. It is evocative. And I was starting to research this, the idea that America could produce 40% of it's food in victory gardens so the war effort could divert energies elsewhere is amazing. That's very inspiring I think.

So my interest in community gardens is really just a beginning stage. I have two-thirds of an acre. I grow my own garden. It's just a little small patch. And I think, you know, the idea of matching myself up with other people in a community garden is more of a social experience than my isolated experience gardening. So when you're flagging in the middle of the summer, you know, you have someone to weed with you. So my research about community garden, I think that's a synergy that's very important. And also beginning gardeners getting the experience with someone who knows and the idea of people who are experienced gardeners teaching those who don't.

A couple of thoughts. I came out today more as an information gather for myself just to network. I think Long Island CAN is amazing. But I think, you know, an idea of maybe rental space -- I run a construction surveying company in Smithtown and created cells in Brookhaven. And I'm just thinking about this today, the idea of diverting some of that waste, which is very costly -- I'm sure the town has numbers on what that waste costs -- and the idea of diverting it to composting would

be an amazing, amazing idea.

So I just think, you know, this is a great initiative and sign me up and let me know. I'm very curious afterwards to find out about maybe -- you're creating a map now, but how we can use the space; I mean, this lot that I have next door, would it be feasible for me to make it a community garden. What sort of -- I'm sure there's homeowners that might have plots like this and there might be concerns about insurance and starting to invite the community in, you know, what sort of liability would we have to do such a thing.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You know what, Terry? I think we're seeing this as a beginning, because my initial vision for our report would be to identify the community gardens that are out there and the types, give some kind of a manual on how to start a community garden, create something that would be available to different schools, because as an educator, I always look from an educational point of view. And there is another piece of legislation that overlaps mine that was introduced by another Legislator which was to identify County properties that could be used for community gardens as was suggested. And one of the members of our committee is Pam Greene who is our Director of the Real Estate Division of Planning.

But as we talk to people, this becomes -- and as we read and research, it's becoming a bigger and bigger concept. And I think it's going to take on a life of its own. After our work as a task force is completed, I want to have a standing council that will continue the conversation, because this is organic, no pun intended. And we're finding that every time we discover something, we -- every hearing we've learned something new, every hearing we've learned about another organization and the way they can interact. And the need continues to grow.

And when you talk about production of food being diverted because of the war effort, I think nowadays the production of food is being diverted for industrial farming; farms that are growing corn that's not used to feed people, but to create -- well, byproducts that feed people, you know, corn syrup and corn that's used for other uses. And of course, food that's used for fuel. So, you know, I think you are really in the right direction. And it helps us see -- I think our goal keeps changing a little bit or getting big, doesn't it?

MR. DANIELS:

Well, the interesting thing is, I mean, you're really going smaller to have a backyard garden or community garden, but you solve -- I believe there's potential for this to solve a lot of issues. You know, I've heard that the average food that hits your plate travels 1500 miles. We saw fuel prices go up, spike up, and I believe they are headed there again when the economy returns. And the idea of those industrial farms in this nation, how long term are those, how sustainable are those. You know, the idea of nutrition for kids -- I mean, it's a great story about the potato -- getting kids who are now linked up online all the time out into nature, reconnecting to the earth to grow food and that magic of seeing something grow. So the nutrition and the health of getting kids out -- all of us, not just kids, but all of us away from TV and growing our food again. There's no commercials involved.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any questions for Terry?

MR. LYON:

Terry, I'm just wondering, where's your property?

MR. DANIELS:

Aquebogue. And there's actually --

MS. KIANG:

Where in Aquebogue?

MR. DANIELS:

60 Peconic Bay Boulevard. Not too far from the Meeting House Creek Restaurant. There's a series of CSAs --

MS. KIANG:

We're neighbors.

MR. DANIELS:

So I've got a nice plot.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You've traveled a long way to come here.

MS. KIANG:

There's -- Golden Earthworm. There are two people who have worked with them before from Riverhead. They're going to start a community garden in Riverhead.

MR. DANIELS:

Excellent. I visited that CSA to ask them. Another thing that struck me was in the news a couple of weeks ago about soup kitchens and the funding cuts. I mean, the economic crisis, the funding cuts were so -- the reason why I started searching was I thought, "can you get people that are being served by soup kitchen to garden and help grow their own food. Started the inquiry with the guys over at Earthworm and just continue the search.

MS. KIANG:

Go to that planning meeting April 6th at Riverhead Library.

MR. DANIELS:

Very good.

MS. KIANG:

I'll see you there.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Terry. Our next speaker is Faith Groody. Are you a master gardener?

MS. GROODY:

Yes. I'm really happy to see Carolyn here, because she was next on our list to go for all our questions. But I'm -- with Joan, we do our gardening up at the Vanderbilt in Huntington. And at this point, we are -- we were just -- at one point, we were just flowers that we were growing, planting new gardens, and then we decided we would like to get another portion of the Vanderbilt back to the way it was originally; growing their own produce for their own use. So we had started that last year, and it was a very successful garden. Our crops were great except for tomatoes.

It just was a wonderful experience. And we wanted the food used by someone, so we began to look for outlets to give the food to. And we did find Huntington Station was very, you know, happy to receive our produce. But at this point, we want to expand it all. And we contacted the Board Chairman and his wife, and they came and they gave us a lot of information including the -- that this meeting was going to be available for us. We're still considering what we want to do, but we're going to certainly continue to garden and enlarge it. And we have been doing it organically and will continue to do that. We also grow flowers just for edification.

And I am also involved as is Joan with -- the Commack School District has property, the Marion Carll

Farm, which you probably -- maybe have heard of. And the Commack Civic Association had decided that they would like to make a community garden on that property, which has not been used at all in many years. So we're on that committee. I'm looking for information on starting that. And any information that would help us to make it productive so that we can give the food away or perhaps it's just a community garden with the people taking the land and farming it and then using it for produce themselves. It will be a teaching thing for the students of the Commack School District. And the board is considering it. They have asked us to come before their Executive Committee, and hopefully, you know, we will be -- it will be very positive. And we're prepared to do all of those things at this point.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's great. That's wonderful. What is your agreement with the Vanderbilt? Do you have a contract or a license agreement?

MS. GROODY:

No. We are strictly volunteers.

MS. KIANG:

Volunteers. In 2000 -- let me see -- the Year 2000, I guess or 2001, the Director then of Vanderbilt --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Was it still Lance Mallamo?

MS. KIANG:

Yes. He invite master gardener class to visit the garden -- to visit the Vanderbilt Museum and we took on the project. And a group of master gardener volunteers, now they still meet there every Monday for all these years, and they try to restore the gardens out there, they do decoration. The holiday, the courtyard was beautiful.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. You do a great job.

MS. KIANG:

And then expand the garden. Now they got moved to the Normandy House, the mansion, across the street.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

On the other side of the street.

MS. KIANG:

Yes. And they -- last year, they started the vegetable garden. And also, they're going to expand to the fruit trees.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, the vegetable garden is on the Normandy House side of the property?

MS. KIANG:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I see.

MS. GROODY:

They also cleared a lot land there. They're taking down a lot of the overgrowth that's there. And that will help us to continue, you know, building the garden.

MS. KIANG:

This is Vanderbilt master gardener group. I have another group.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And the reason I ask that is because earlier, our first speaker, Mr. Foglia, had mentioned, you know, license agreements, etcetera, but this sounds like you have a nice informal agreement that's gone on for many years. And I was thinking, you know the Vanderbilt has a number of educational programs. And it would -- I think it would be great for them to incorporate, you know, maybe the kids at least seeing the work you are doing with the vegetable gardens.

MS. GROODY:

We have that suggested that too. Money is a very big problem. It takes a lot of their time. At this point, it's in supply. So I hopefully will get around it, you know, the way we have been doing. They have supported everything that we have done so far. We would be interested in getting the mulch as well, because that's a big part of the garden there.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Any questions? Carolyn, did you have any other questions?

MS. KIANG:

No. Another place is Meadow Croft in Sayville, and they have been doing same thing, gardening project. They gave the produce to the needy in the community. And that's like -- that was one of Roosevelt's old play house. And they had a tradition then; they used to have their kitchen garden. But they used to bring the -- you know, the produce to the community. Meadow Croft now is a County-owned -- yeah. And they keep the tradition. In addition, they give tours of the buildings. But they always have that vegetable garden. And I think master gardener volunteers have been going there since early '90s.

MS. GROODY:

We do it bring it down to the Town of Huntington by Huntington Station.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's great. Thank you, Faith.

MS. KIANG:

Their first year was very successful.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We need to talk, Carolyn, because Deep Wells is going to try to set up a garden, Deep Wells in St. James. We could use some master gardeners there. I was going to speak about it at an Eagle Court of honor that I'm going to this weekend. Vincent, you are back. Vincent Cirasole.

MR. CIRASOLE:

Just can't stay away.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, you're a wealth of information.

MR. CIRASOLE:

My name is Vincent Cirasole, C-i-r-a-s-o-l-e. I have a 6000 square food market garden in Copiague. I grow a mixed variety of vegetables organically, and I sell the vegetables. My basic purpose for coming here this afternoon was to volunteer to help to set up community gardens. I

don't exactly know how to do that other than I have a concept of doing it in my own town in a small way. But I'm looking to the task force to be a resource for me to help with that, and it is, because I learned about Long Island CAN, and that seems to be an already-established vehicle. So that's a big help. But that's what I came here for.

While I was here, I heard a lot of -- a lot of ideas thrown out, and I have a little bit of information that I will contribute for whatever it's worth. As far as the town composting and mulching operations are concerned, that's a pretty complicated situation in terms of getting clean compost from them. Those operations are done by the Highway Department or the Sanitation Department, and their focus is on cleaning up the debris in the town. And that's their responsibility, that's what they're charged with doing. And that's their vision of the task.

They pick up anything that's at the curb. And if it's at the curb, it's conceivably contaminated by oil washing down from the roadway. It's probably contaminated by pesticides that the people who live in the houses have used on their lawns and so forth and put out for them. So in my opinion, those -- those town composts would not qualify to lease as organic standard. It's a real shame, because their free, and it would be really nice.

In my garden, I don't use them at all for that reason. I don't think they are clean. But they're not intended to be clean right from the origin. So that's one complicated factor. Vivian spoke about -- about people who need wholesome foods and nutritious food, and it's particularly children. And I would offer the idea that that might be my point of view, it certainly is my point of view, and it might be Vivian's point of view, but I suspect that that's not the point of view of these people and these children. They've been educated by the TV, and they think McDonald's is food. If someone doesn't know the difference between a rock and a potato, do you think that person is interested in getting in wholesome nutritious food? They need to be educated about wholesome nutritious food. So I think that's going to be one problem when you try to encourage or motivate people to get involved in projects that are important to us. Don't be too surprised if you find that they don't give a damn about it.

Also related to that, if you grow your own food, you automatically create a problem because that food has to be cooked. Now, when I was a boy, the girls used to learn how to cook from their mothers. And when they grew up, they knew what to do with food and they prepared meals in their kitchen and the family ate. But that's not the way our society functions now. Now the girls are taught economic skills and they're taught to go out and work for money. And a lot of times people are just run ragged, their schedule is too full. And the idea of cooking food the way food used to be cooked when I was growing up, that's a difficult selling today. And that's exactly what's contained when we're selling fresh food to people, fresh vegetables to people. So that I think is another problem that is inherent in what we're trying to do. And we're going to have to grapple with that.

As far as clean compost, really clean, there is a company that I'm familiar with. I don't think this is a practical idea unless it can be organized in some way. There is a company that's certified organic, and it called Vermont Compost Company, and they're located in Vermont. Now, to get compost from Vermont down to Long Island, it's just not a practical situation. But I don't know of any other certified organic compost available. I think two compost operations here on Long Island, Briermere is one that's Long Island compost, I forget -- I forget the other one. But I think neither one is certified organic.

So once again, you don't really know what you are getting when you're buying compost from them. I somehow have a little bit more confidence in the product that they're putting out than the product that the towns are gathering up just because it begins with a different orientation; their purpose is different, their purpose is to make compost, not to clean up the town. So I think their product might be a little better, but it really does not technically meet the standard of organic compost. I want to thank everyone for all that you are teaching me, that's why I came here.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Vince. By the way, my idea started with a child, a 4th Grader who said she wanted to have healthy food.

MR. CIRASOLE:

That's wonderful.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sylvia King-Cohen.

MS. KING-COHEN:

Thank you very much. First off, I just wanted to mention to the people here that I'm from Newsday. I'll be happy to pass out cards afterwards. I'm doing a story, trying to list CSAs -- I'm sorry, community gardens. I just did one on CSAs so people would the CSAa that are out there, what's available to you. We're trying to do the same thing with community gardens so people in the community can know where these are, what you have to do to be eligible, what's it's going to provide, etcetera. So that's just one of the reasons I got invited here. So if anybody wants to talk to me afterward, I will stay.

But in listening to all, some of you may not appreciate the comment I'm going to make. But, you know, when I look out here, I don't see a lot of people of color. And people of color actually do know how to plant things, we've got a big community of Hispanics who work in landscaping. If they had the land, they would do it. But you really have to make it accessible to them. I don't care who's there when I go. I actually have a very big yard so I can plant my own stuff, but people like to see people who look like them. If they don't see people who look like them, they're going to keep walking down the street because they may not feel comfortable or may not realize that it's accessible to them. That's why I want to do the story so people know (inaudible) some people don't know. But I would just really love to see, if you're at a community garden, drag one of your Black friends out with you, take one of the Hispanic people so that people who walk by go, "I'll ask him, he's Black, I feel okay asking that guy." There are still a lot of people out there who don't always feel comfortable who think that "this is something y'all are doing and y'all are not letting me in."

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually, our first public hearing was in Brentwood. And it was because my suggestion came from a little Hispanic girl, so I wanted to start in her neighborhood. Unfortunately, we only had one person come to our public hearing. So our outreach has to be, I think, more vocal or more enticing to bring in people in the underserved communities, because we're also trying to address the whole concept of food deserts, which someone who came to testify at one of our hearings said that in Wyandanch there's one supermarket within, I forget what the perimeter was that she mentioned. But that's a food desert. People don't have choice and people don't have access.

And those are definitely issues that are part of what we see as our charge and why we're identifying the locations for folks. The is -- the Health Department is work in a community garden at the Sisters of St. Joseph's property, again, in Brentwood. The effort is there. We're working with a community -- what is Sandra Gill's title? She's a community health aide -- not health aide.

MR. MYER:

Community outreach worker.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Community outreach worker. She's -- actually another task force that I have. But she also is working on the garden and she's helping with outreach. So we are trying to make that effort. By the way, I am Hispanic. So we have a couple here.

MS. KING-COHEN:

This is the thing that I'm noticing, because -- okay. I grew in Oklahoma. I grew up on a ranch. I grew up composting, all that stuff, because we were taught this is all the land you get. We still raise chickens, hogs, goats, everything. And it's all pastured. But there are a lot of people who if you go the churches and say, "Hey, this is available, come out here and get this before all the plots are gone." You will have people who will do it, because you have old people who actually know how to garden who will happily partner with someone younger and say, "Come on, I'll teach you how to cook it," because I cook for a lot of people and I bring a lot of things that people were not aware of that they even liked. But I cook it for them because this is what I grew up doing.

You know what? If you work really hard and you don't have a lot of money and you're working two jobs, you are barely able to sit home with the kids and read and help them with their homework. So it's not that you don't want to garden, it's that you have to find the time. And if you fear that it cost money and you don't have any money, you don't know that the community garden is free. You don't know that you can probably find somebody there who will give you some of their plants or some of their seeds. If you think that you would have that much money, you're not going to buy a package of carrots, you're just not going to buy some carrots. You know, we talked about the fast food. Unfortunately, that food is cheaper than good food. If you only have so much money and you have five to feed, you're going to get feed them what you can. So I know I'm kind of preaching, but --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

By the way, you can get seeds and seedlings with food stamps. If you want to put that in your article, that's an important piece of information.

MS. KING-COHEN:

I absolutely will do that. I think that's great. I will say that afterward I'll be happy to pass my card on, because we really want this to be a story that's going to tell people early on these plots are available, get them before they're gone.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. I'll call you back up after I get to the other cards, okay, because I have a couple of people waiting to speak. Did you have a question? Come back up, Sylvia.

MR. LYON:

For Sylvia, just for your information, because I'm working at Hobbs Farm which was the last African American on Long Island, I'm aware that there's a Black Farmers Conference in Brooklyn April 10th. It's a morning conference just 9 to 12. I wrote some stuff on a card here, I'll give it to you. But, you know, there's a huge movement in New York City as well. Hopefully, we can tie into that as well.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Also, Tom and I were trying to tie into the Central America workers who are working and do know a lot about farming, they farmed where they came from. We've been talking about trying to get this going for a long time.

MS. KING-COHEN:

People do want to eat things that they are familiar with.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Anybody else? Thank you, Sylvia. Regina and Peter Montemurro.

MS. MONTEMURRO:

We're residents of Melville. And we just came up with the idea that we wanted to do a garden on our property. We have less than three-quarters of an acre. Our property was landscaped and our neighbors cut down their trees, so we have plenty of sun. That just happened to us. I thought it

would be an interesting thing to start a garden and have our family do it.

My brother-in-law suggested we blog it. We live in the Rolling Woods section. And so I was interested in gathering information on starting the garden and what would be involved if we asked our neighbors to help or participate or get involved with us. I did think about the people up near the train station who are from South America who must have been involved with farming possibly and might be available to help us as well.

I have always enjoyed having a garden nearby and had actually even thought of putting ads in the paper like the Village Voice, you know, "if you are interested in coming out and doing something on our property, you know, come help us." But my history is that I grew up Holliswood in Queens, a bedroom community. But the gentleman -- a retired gentleman across the street had a small farm in his backyard, just grapes for his own wine, strawberries, one apple tree, corn, vegetables. And he would come over with the vegetables and give them to my mother. My mother would cook up whatever meat she was cooking and his vegetables and bring back a plate to him. So he helped us and we helped him as well. And I thought that was a cool thing.

And so really the reason why I wanted to start it also was for spirituality reasons for our family. We have three kids, one new grandchild, and we thought that it would be cool. Yes, my daughter would love to have McDonalds rather than a strawberry. And I just thought if she was able to pick something -- the only thing we have done on our property is raspberries. And I was very proud to hand them the baskets and say, "Bring them into me whether you eat them or not." She didn't, but my son did and enjoyed them very much.

MR. MONTEMURRO:

We're actually here because my sister told us about the meeting, Maria Maier, she's a nutritionist and a gardener, long time gardener. So our little personal thoughts about gardening are kind of connected to larger thoughts about, you know, what's happening on Long Island, what resources we might be able to tap into. So we figured we'd come and listen and, you know, share a little bit. I think, you know, there's a bigger picture beyond just growing a few vegetables to eat. I grew up always with a garden. We had a garden as a family when I was growing up. And that's sort of a little personal life, you know, growing your own food. But there's a bigger picture I think about just what's happening to our food supply. You know, educating ourselves about what's healthy, what's not.

There's a lot going on I think legally about food that we've heard that is concerning us. You know, there's genetically modified foods, there's legislation to radiate all the food, there's legislation to control how food is produced. And food is sort of out of our control. And even if you avoid McDonalds, you don't know what you are getting even at the supermarket. And that's concerns us. So on one level we want to take control of what we're eating. You know, and we want to give our kids a chance to do that too.

MS. MONTEMURRO:

We also have concerns about the property that we're growing our garden on. You know, it was landscaped; what is in our soil. We are thinking of possibly taking up a small tennis court and what's involved with --

MR. MONTEMURRO:

There's some asphalt in the backyard. And if we demo it, can we grow on it or should we scrap two feet of soil up before we try to grow on it? So we don't really know a lot about our own property.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, we have someone right here who knows a lot about it.

MR. MONTEMURRO:

Great. We're interested. And, you know, we appreciate the fact that there are meetings like this going on and that people are concerned about it and that there are resources available to us. Carolyn, you want to tell them what they can do to find out about their soil?

MS. KIANG:

I'll tell you later. It's going to be pretty involved.

MR. MONTEMURRO:

Yeah. I'm sure there's testing we can do and stuff like that.

MS. KIANG:

That kind of test can be expensive and might not be necessary.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, there are different levels of testing, right, Carolyn? I mean you can bring a soil sample to Cornell.

MS. KIANG:

That kind of test is just to see if your soil pH is the right level for you to grow the crops. Another would be if you need lime or not. You can go to the website.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And even some local garden center do the testing as well.

MS. KIANG:

If you want to look for certain things in the soil, then you have to go to the private lab, and it's pretty extensive test. Again, you know, it might not be even necessary unless you know the history. But it is very helpful if you know the history of your land.

MR. MONTEMURRO:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for coming. We love your generosity. Maria Maier.

MS. MAIER:

Hi, I'm Maria Maier. First, I'd like to say that I'm a student of nutrition at the Dietetic Technician Program at Suffolk Community College and I'll graduate in May. I want to just emphasize how important I think composting is because the health of the soil is what determines the health of the plants. If you don't have healthy soil and you use chemical fertilizers, you set yourself up to need to use, you know, pesticides and herbicides. I'm probably not telling you anything you don't already know.

One of things I learned this semester at school is that the Hilton Corporation composts all their wet garbage. And one of hotels in the chain takes 15 tons of compostable wet garbage, turns it into one ton of compost that they sell to the local golf courses and horticulturists. So that's something to, like, consider I think. I don't know, maybe.

And I'm also familiar with Jeff Frank at the Nature Lyceum. There's an organic gardening class, a two day class. And he stayed on with Long Island Compost. So it may not be organic, but it may be the best thing we have. And then the other thing is that Tuckahoe has received some grants. It's in Southampton. But Southampton High School is having, April 15th, a groundbreaking, because they're putting in a garden there for the high school kids. And they're looking to find out about grant money for them. So I was wondering if you know, I could get information about that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

About grant money? We're not doing grant money. We're describing how people are getting grants from other people, but the County is trying to make up a \$200 million shortfall. But we can tell you resources.

MS. MAIER:

I understand that. And I just want to emphasize that Jeff Frank is a good resource for organic gardening.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And where is he?

MS. MAIER:

He is in Westhampton. Actually, you know, what? When I took his class, it was Westhampton. I don't think it's Westhampton anymore, but it is still out on the East End. And his school is called the Nature Lyceum if you want to Google it. But I think he has moved from Westhampton. And then how big does a garden have to be to get grant money? Does it have to be a certain size? Does anybody know?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't know.

MR. LYON:

I can answer with one specific thing. There's something called the Green Education Foundation, it's a national organization. They have issued something called the Green Thumb Challenge, and their goal is to have 10,000 new gardens across the United States this year. They're headquartered in Massachusetts, but I know they've partnered with Lowes and a couple of other organizations. They do have some grant money available, small quantities, but that's just one. I think you are going to have to just do a lot of searching. But that's one that I think everybody here should register your garden with them with them. Greeneducationfoundation.org, I'm pretty sure it's org.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You know what we might do, anybody who is affiliated with a school here, because they're for schools, the Green Thumb Challenge, maybe we'll just forward the information to you, okay. I have that in my office. I think everybody give us their e-mail on these cards.

MS. MAIER:

So it's the Green Education Foundation and it's the Green Thumb Challenge.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Specifically for schools.

MS. MAIER:

Right. And this is Southampton High School, because Tuckahoe is like a K-8.

MS. KIANG:

Try National Gardening Association. I think the deadline is April 15th, you might still have time. They give out grants to schools.

MS. MAIER:

I actually just wanted to mention that I'm taking the Spring Gardening Classes. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Carolyn Hannan.

MS. HANNAN:

Hi, everybody. I am a gardener and have been a gardener since as long as I can remember. And I'm listening to all of this, and I agree there is a very great need to a great extent. There is a very great need for far greater publicity and notification that these community gardens exist as well as they need to be enlarged.

Now, there's a second point. Maybe we can somehow make this part of the school curriculum, not just for the Special Ed kids as is the case at Washington School in Huntington, but for all the elementary school kids. And these days with our busy moving kids (sic) that live in Huntington Station to Huntington Bay and Huntington Bay to kinds to Huntington Station and every school having at least five to ten acres of land which they do not use all of it, some of it's playground, some of it's playing fields, but there are portions of it that could definitely be made into maybe -- I mean 40, 50 ten by ten plots for community gardens.

And that, at least for the people that live there, would be able to get to them, there would no need to travel. If you wanted to stop on your way home, it would just be a hop, skip and a jump away. One of the things when you say it's in these different areas, you've got to get from where you are to there. And for many people, that's very difficult. If they can't -- there's no time. There's an hour to garden, but it can take 40 minutes to get there. You know, that's a problem.

The other thing I'd like to see happen, I know there's a food bank in Huntington Station and there's one in East Northport. I have not been to either place. But if we could have -- I know the Family Service League on Park Avenue has it; a good size garden and a large size parking lot in the back. There is no reason why you have to plant marigolds when you could plant a tomato plant in a cage and a pepper plant in a cage, and people would learn from this. Plus, as the harvest came, when they came in for whatever you were giving them, "This is what we got in today's harvest, help yourself," type of thing.

And you don't have to have a large piece of land to do this.

On a piece of land that's an average of 100 square feet or less, you can grow an awful lot of tomatoes, an awful lot of green beans. I get less results with peppers. And certainly lots of lettuce and radishes and things like that, and some usual things like collard greens -- unusual for me. I was growing swiss chard and I was doing it at the Estee Lauder garden. And one day I picked all that was left before a heavy frost, and one of the men from the building who was in the Finance Department came out and he saw me with this, "Oh, you've got collard greens. I said, "No, it's swiss chard." I never grew collard greens, I don't know what they taste like.

But I did learn about some sort of -- it looks like a plant like (inaudible), but you use the leaves and you make kind of like grape leaves, you wrap things in them. They're from the Orient or something. You know, I learned about other things from the other people in this garden who were the -- the R&D Department is such an international group. You choose a country, they must have a couple of people who work there. So you got to learn about a lot of different vegetables you didn't know about.

But I'd also like to see if we got people coming to the food bank for food, hey, gee, you know, if some of you could spend ten minutes, we really need to have those weeds cut down next to the tomato plant or whatever. Get them involved. Don't make it strictly a handout. Get them -- an ownership. So that's the two things I had to say about it. I would like to have seen a lot more people here, I'd like to have seen a lot more publicity. I mean, if it hadn't been for the master gardener program, I wouldn't even know you were having this. And I do read the papers. I'm not online much, but you know.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, we put out a press release, it's up to the papers to put it in or not. You know, we try. It's up to them. Carolyn, I just have a question. How did you get involved in the Estee Lauder Program.

MS. HANNAN:

I work there. When they started, I said, oh, good, it's another piece of land.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's great. By the way, last year I grew turnips and we couldn't even them enough. We did so great with this little package of turnips. But sometimes you try a new vegetable and it's just not something that your family is that nuts about. We gave a lot of turnips away.

MS. KIANG:

When did they start that community garden? I was there two or three years ago.

MS. HANNAN:

I think it was like 2000, 1999. They've been doing this for several years.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Thank you. Regina Dlugokencky.

MS. DLUGOKENCKY:

I just wanted to reply to some of the things I heard here. First, I'd really like if Suffolk County itself had something on the website about all of these gardens that I heard about for the first time today. About three years ago, I was looking to see what community gardens were in Suffolk County and all of these different initiatives that are starting obviously are new, but I couldn't find any. And actually that wind up landing me in a farmers job, which has now gotten me where I am today, which is a whole story.

But oddly enough, the only garden I could find was the one in Huntington Station -- Huntington on Dunlop Road and Greenlawn Road, which I am a member of. And I have to say, we have a variety of people there, a diversity of people there. We all help each other. We feel very comfortable asking each other questions. But I totally agree. I think Larry is going to speak so some of the outreach initiatives that Long Island CAN will be taking on or will be making to different people in the community.

One of greatest things about in a community garden is the community. You get people who will give you so much help and advice, you always leave with vegetables that you never grew. It's a constant bartering of information of vegetable or help, and it's just an incredible experience. And one of the things that I love about it is that it is diverse and that all kinds of people come together and shed stereotypes and work together and learn about a person as opposed to what they think a person is about. So that is one of the unsung things about a community garden.

I wholly endorse it being as diverse as possible. And I think at the garden, you have a good range of people there of all ages, all shapes and sizes, and it's really wonderful. People give you advice whether you want it or not. It's really an awesome environment. And I actually garden next to a woman who is 93 years old. And she may just come and water, but for her, it's a social environment. And it keeps her going and she pulls a few weeds. I think it's keeping her alive and I think it's really wonderful. But I just wanted to point that out to Sylvia.

As far as Regina and Pete, your land could be remediated just by growing the vegetables. I don't know the technical term, but there are certain greens you can grow that will actually pull lead out of the ground. It's bioremediation. You can go online, type that in, and you will find out that you can grow things and actually pull the toxic things out of your ground.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Chemical Consulting of Babylon.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

I wanted to also mention, I heard somebody, maybe it was Maria, talk about restaurant waste and how it's being used. Did you say the Hilton? Well, we have a lot of restaurants on Long Island as you all know. Huntington itself is full of restaurant. So if there's a way I'm sure they're throwing out tons of food, if there would be a way to kind of -- that's clean. We don't know what is in those leaves, that's why I never use leaves unless I know who had them on their property and I get from them directly. But that's an option. All that food is pretty clean.

I think that's basically it. There was something I want to say about the Green Education foundation, the Green Thumb Challenge, but I'm not sure if I know what that was. Thank you, again. I really appreciate it. This is a huge thing. It's great for everybody, all Long Islanders.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I feel like we want to keep having these public hearings. People are so great.

MS. DLUGOKENCHY:

Would you consider having more?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

The legislation called for four public hearings. I would have to amend the legislation and extend our period of getting the work done. So I'd have to talk about it with the task force and what they see going forward. But I would like to send something out to the people who have come to our public hearings when we introduce our report to the Legislature so that everybody can come to the auditorium at the Legislature; in Hauppauge or at Riverhead, wherever we're meeting that particular time. We have your e-mail addresses and we will let you know. We're trying to create a larger list of people who have already shown an interest so that you could spread the word. Because that's how we really relied on Carolyn and Tom, they both have long lists with all of the work that they do. Richard Myer from our Health Department had some of the techies in Health do a really neat one that will be going on the website. Sylvia, come on up again.

MS. KING-COHEN:

I'm just curious about one thing. You mentioned the thing about -- can they put community gardens and food banks -- obviously, people know where it is, they do have a way of getting there?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, I would think that they can, they're privately owned, you know, by the not-for-profit.

MS. HANNAN:

That would be nice.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And some of the churches that have food pantries also have community gardens. I think that's what St. Joseph The Worker has, isn't it? Down on Patchogue. Sophia Gardens is a CSA. I don't know if there's soup kitchen associated with the mother house there in Amityville.

MS. KING-COHEN:

They do a lot of community outreach.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

They do do a lot of community outreach. But I don't know if there's any prohibition, but that depends on the individual not-for-profit.

Are you done, Sylvia? Okay. We have two minutes left. Lawrence, you got the first word, you will get the last word.

MR. FOGLIA:

Two minutes, that's tough. I believe everyone is entitled to my opinion. Let's see, addressing the people of color situation, that's a specific task of Long Island CAN. We want -- we are addressing that directly, we are setting up -- we have a whole community that's just doing outreach to get people of color into the existing community gardens and create community gardens in their neighborhoods.

And going along with this, we're trying to get the bus company to realize that a lot of these people don't have cars. And we have a community garden that has potentially a couple of hundred open spaces, we need -- it takes two buses in Huntington to get a mile and half because of the way the routes are. So we're bringing this up as factor too. And again, this is a model for the issues that have to be addressed in other communities.

The Town of Babylon received a grant to develop a community garden. And I work in the Wheatley Heights at the Usdan Center, and I noticed in looking at Google Maps that behind them the Post Office in Wheatley Heights has a huge track of land, which is literally right in the middle of Wyandanch, there's no trees on it, there's no park development. With a little research, I found out that it's a very far in the future Pinelawn Cemetery addition. It behooves Suffolk County to encourage a partnership between federally-owned land and towns -- town-owned land or towns that have needs and policies to see -- I mean, there's no reason why if that's not going to be used for a hundred years as a cemetery that it couldn't become community gardens for one of the neediest towns on Long Island. But it's going to take somebody with a cattle prod for a while to get the Federal Government to go along with that. The administration in place, might be very much in favor of that. So we need to invite Ms. Obama down to Wyandanch.

The Hispanic community, one project that we have in mind should we get the ability to farm in Froehlich or other large tracks of land through New York State Ag and Markets there is a program that has legal immigrants who have been trained in other countries to be farmers, who cannot get jobs like that here that will fund them. So it's a source of funding for us but it's also a source of integrating our community and using those people who have been trained as farmers to train local Hispanic people.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm forgetting the name of the program, because I have looked at it. Tom, do you remember the name of that program.

MR. LYON:

There's a program headquartered in New York City, New Immigrant Farmer Initiative, is that the one?

MR. FOGLIA:

Yes. I think it's Christina Grace, again, from New York Ag and Markets and Urban Gardening Program that turned me on to that. So I mean, that another long-range plan. So Suffolk County facilitating access to land, County-owned land, Federal land. Also, remnant farms. (Inaudible) is one example of a town that's in the denser part of Western Suffolk County that has remnant farms. I work with the Farmland Committee -- Suffolk County Farmland Committee, and I put my own farm up for sale of development rights. I didn't even make the list, and I've been a farm forever, because of their criteria. It's very much shunted towards Eastern Suffolk County. It makes it very difficult for Western Suffolk County to take remnant farms -- it's like a last-ditched effort. And now, it's a down market, it's the time to do it.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

What part of the criteria did you not make?

MR. FOGLIA:

Well, you have to be surrounded by other preserved or preservable properties, that's the high point; the quality of your soil, which is not necessarily a factor; the size of the land; and the big one is the cost of the acreage. So the further west you go, the higher the price. One of Legislators from Lloyd Neck has a factor on there; if you're farmland is within an area of above a certain density, but that's not really enough to push a remnant farm over the line.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

So it's not getting through the committee.

MR. FOGLIA:

No. No. We have one 13 acre farm in Greenlawn, which is horrible soil, through the committee, only because Howard Johnson on the committee knew the father of the farmer and they were all buddies, and they put it up there as a historic farm because it dates back to very early Colonial Times and a charter from the King of England.

Let's see. Okay. I'm going to give you very quick -- and stop me if you know this -- history of the municipal composting on Long Island and how it intergrades with the needs of people here, because I was on the Grass Task Force. As a result of going to the New English Environmental Conference for years in the '90's realizing that Long Island is in the dark ages compared to other parts of the country and the world are doing to solve environmental problems, a number of us came back, through a grant from EPA, we started the Grass Task Force, which initially was to help communities tell their population not to pick up grass clippings. In the '50's of before that people didn't pick up their grass, and they burned leaves. So you had to stop burning leaves, towns had to provide the service to pick them up, fertilizer companies sold liquid fertilizer and high-nitrogen fertilizer so the grass grew quickly.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We are running out of time.

MR. FOGLIA:

Thank you for listening.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you so much. Well, thank you, everybody, for coming. You gave us a treasurer trove of information. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you an being in touch. Thanks a lot.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY

Links & Resources

Community Gardening

Educational Groups:

Green Thumb Challenge

www.greeneducationfoundation.org

The Seedlings Project (Springs School District)

www.projectmost.com/SeedlingsFlyer.pdf

Governmental:

United States Department of Agriculture's People's Garden Project

www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden

<http://twitter.com/peoplesgarden>

Not-for-Profits

American Community Gardening Association

www.communitygarden.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

www.ccesuffolk.org

City Farmer

www.cityfarmer.info

Long Island Community Agriculture Network

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Long-Island-Community-Agriculture-Network-Gateway-Community-Gardens/151672081511195>

Northeast Organic Farmers Association

www.nofa.org

Peconic Land Trust

www.peconiclandtrust.org

Slow Food USA

www.slowfoodusa.org

Stony Brook Community Roots Project

www.facebook.com/pages/Stony-Brook-Community-Roots-Project/122889107722888

SBUcommunity-rootsproj@gmail.com

University of Missouri Extension's *Community Gardening Toolkit*

www.extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0906.pdf

Gardens and Farms

Hobbs Farm

www.hobbsfarm.info

hobbsfarmfriends@aol.com

Health and Obesity Prevention

CDC *Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the United States*

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm

Diabetes Resource Coalition of Long Island

www.longislanddiabetes.org

The Healthy Corner Stores Network

www.healthycornerstores.org

John Hopkins University's Healthy Stores Project

www.healthystores.org

The Leadership for Healthy Communities *Action Strategies Toolkit*

www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org/actionstrategies.

National Association of Counties (NACO)

www.healthycounties.org

www.naco.org

National Conference of State Legislatures

www.ncsl.org/programs/health/publichealth/foodaccess/index.htm

www.ncsl.org/programs/environ/healthycommunity/healthycommunitydb.htm

www.ncsl.org/programs/health/kellogghealthoverview.htm

National Farm-to-School Program

www.farmentoschool.org

National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN)

www.nplanonline.org

PolicyLink and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation *Grocery Store Attraction Strategies: A Resource Guide*

www.policylink.org

Public Health Law & Policy

www.phlpnet.org/healthy-planning/products/getting-to-grocery

Food Policy

New York State Council on Food Policy

www.nyscfp.org

Oakland Food Policy Council

www.oaklandfood.org

North American Food Policy Council

www.foodsecurity.org/FPC/

mark@foodsecurity.org

Public Health Law and Policy *Establishing Land Use Protections for Farmers' Markets*

www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/37866/farmersmarketpolicies1.pdf

Food Security

Community Food Security Coalition

www.foodsecurity.org

The Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

www.detroitblackfoodsecurity.org

World Hunger Year

www.whyhunger.org

Books

Louv, Richard (2005). *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*
Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books.

Pollan, Michael (2009). *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual*
New York, NY: Penguin.

Pollan, Michael (2008). *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*
New York, NY: Penguin.

