

Proposed by:	Assembly
Finance Review:	09/05/2012
Vote:	4 Aye 3 Nay 0 Absent

**MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 12-15R**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA SUPPORTING THE FOOD GARDEN INITIATIVE AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF BUDGETED FUNDS TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIES FOR THE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF FOOD GARDENS WITHIN THE SKAGWAY BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, \$5,000 has been budgeted in FY13 for the Garden Fund; and

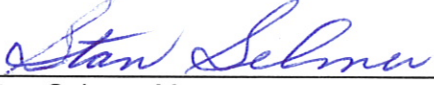
WHEREAS, the Food Garden Initiative proposes to subsidize Skagway residents who start a new garden or maintain an existing garden to grow food; and

WHEREAS, the Food Garden Initiative provides subsidies at the rate of \$0.50 per square foot of garden to qualifying residents for up to 500 square feet per applicant;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Skagway Borough Assembly supports the implementation of the Food Garden Initiative; and

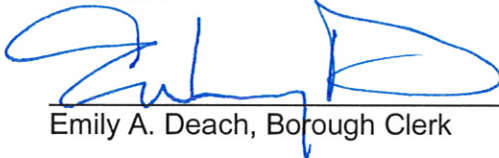
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the Skagway Borough Assembly authorizes the use of FY13 budgeted funds to subsidize the planting and maintenance of food gardens within the Skagway Borough through the Food Garden Initiative.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 6th day of September, 2012.



Stan Selmer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



Kim A. Burnham
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RECEIVED

AUG 14 2012

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY

August 14, 2012

Municipality of Skagway
PO Box 415
Skagway, AK 99840


RE: Revised Skagway Food Garden Initiative Proposal

I am requesting that the Assembly consider adopting the revised version of the Skagway Food Garden Initiative (please see attachments). As per your suggestions, two revisions have been made: I am requesting the funds to support this initiative be drawn from the new Garden Fund in the FY2013 budget and I have also included a provision that would allow residents who don't own land to participate. A Food Garden Initiative would encourage the creation and use of more food gardens in town. Specifically this initiative would provide subsidies at the rate of \$0.50 per square foot of garden to residents (registered voters and their families) who choose to start a new garden or maintain an existing garden to grow food. Similar to the recently adopted Fruit and Nut Tree Planting Initiative, this initiative will help improve the quality of life in Skagway and to reassert the historic title of "Garden City of Alaska." It will also encourage residents to learn food gardening skills, and thereby make fresh produce more locally available.

Since the first version of this Initiative was submitted in Jan 2012, there have been two important developments worth noting that could have significant impacts on the cost of food and shipping it to our state. Currently over half of the US is experiencing extreme drought conditions. The US Department of Agriculture acknowledged on July 25th that the drought will lead to significantly higher food prices in the near future. Furthermore, there is mounting scientific evidence that the drought conditions seen this year could be a trend, rather than once-in-fifty-years occurrence. If this proves to be the case, food prices will likely continue to rise. Additionally the EPA's Environmental Control Area rule may eventually go into effect for Alaska, which projections show would also significantly add to the cost of importing food. I hope the Assembly will take such factors into consideration when making a decision on this Initiative, and choose to support a small step towards helping Skagway become more food independent.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kim Burnham

SKAGWAY FOOD GARDEN INITIATIVE - PROPOSAL

Prepared by Kim Burnham frilosite@gmail.com

Revised Aug 14, 2012

The proposal:

The purpose of this initiative is to improve the QUALITY OF LIFE in Skagway and to REASSERT THE HISTORIC TITLE OF "GARDEN CITY OF ALASKA" by encouraging local food production and strengthening the local food system through the development of food gardens and skilled gardeners.

- **Encouragement will be provided, from the Municipality of Skagway's Garden Fund, in the form a subsidy for the amount of \$0.50 per square foot of maintained vegetable garden, up to 500 square feet per applicant. The subsidy will be granted to qualifying applicants who establish, or allow the establishment of a new food garden, or the maintenance of an existing food garden.**
- **This Initiative could be for a finite amount of time, perhaps 1 or 2 years. After this trial period, the success of the initiative could be evaluated, and depending on the outcome, could be continued, ended permanently, or reestablished every few years to extend the benefits to future residents.**
- **Conditions of eligibility**
 - Applicants must be registered to vote in Skagway, Alaska. Applicants who are under the age of 18 are eligible if their parent or guardian is registered to vote in Skagway, Alaska.
 - Subsidies will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis until the allocated funds are depleted.
 - The application is due no later than May 31st of each year.
 - The garden must be planted no later than June 15th of the year in which the application is received.
 - Gardens must be larger than 20 sq. ft to qualify.
 - Gardens must be primarily productive food gardens; flowers as companion plants are allowed as long as edible crops dominate.
 - Gardens can be either traditional in-ground plots with a definitive edge or in raised beds.
 - Amorphous garden beds are discouraged, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Gardens should be well-tended and reasonably productive at time of inspection(s). Overly weedy, and otherwise poorly kept gardens may not be eligible. Allowances for some unavoidable problems will be made on a case-by-case basis.
 - Container gardens that can be easily relocated are not eligible.
 - Berries and brambles are not eligible.
 - Paths do not count as garden footage.
 - The applicant must give consent on the application to have someone from the Borough or a Borough-appointed volunteer come inspect the garden(s).
 - If applicant is gardening on someone else's land, he/she should be able to provide proof of the landowner's permission to establish or maintain a garden.
 - Organic gardening methods are highly encouraged.
- **As the author of this initiative, I volunteer to:**
 - Aid the Borough of Skagway by accessing, or helping an official access, the eligibility of the applicant's garden(s). These assessments will be completed either by myself or with help from volunteers who have each signed a letter of commitment.
 - Assist in the modification of this initiative, or any other needed service involving this initiative.

Example based on a subsidy of \$0.50/sq. ft:

Inspired by the new food garden initiative Skagway resident, Maynard McAllister decides to make a 15'x15' in-ground garden on his lot. He fills out the required application before the May 31st deadline, starts the garden and tends to it the entire summer of 2012. This would entitle Maynard to a \$112.50 payment from the Garden Fund in 2013.

SKAGWAY FOOD GARDEN INITIATIVE - PROPOSAL

Prepared by Kim Burnham frilosite@gmail.com

Revised Aug 14, 2012

The Skagway Food Garden Initiative could help:

- Reaffirm Skagway's heritage as "Garden City of Alaska," with an emphasis on sustainable food gardening.
- Further market the community as a garden tourism destination (garden tours could be offered, garden conferences, etc.), as well as to tourists interested in communities striving towards sustainability.
- Encourage a greater portion of the community to learn gardening skills, thereby inadvertently preparing residents in advance, should a disruption in our imported food supply¹ ever occur-- i.e. it will increase local resiliency. (¹ Alaska currently imports 98% of its food. --USDA National Agriculture Statistics Services)
- Provide greater access to fresh, more nutritious² produce.
(²even when temperature and humidity are optimal from harvest to supermarket, there is some nutrient loss during the days-long trip. --Is local more Nutritious? It Depends. Harvard Medical School 2010)
- Encourage participants to engage in outdoor activity and exercise.
- Strengthen community relations -- it is not uncommon for gardeners to share info, problem-solve, share seeds, tools, etc.
- Foster the local economy by keeping money normally spent on imported produce, in town. It is likely Skagway Hardware would benefit from increased sales of seeds, gardening supplies, fertilizers, tools, and possibly lumber for the construction of raised beds. Dirty Girls and Pine Country businesses might also benefit from the sale of garden starts, and the establishment of the garden areas for residents who choose to participate.
- Promote greater participation in the farmer's market, skagway organic garden society, garden club, and SEAK State Fair. It could also spur new events such as a local Fall Harvest Festival.
- Increase the amount and selection of local produce or local garden products available at the farmer's market and/or provide a source of locally-grown produce to Skagway restaurants.
- Reduce the amount of garbage produced, as the need for prepackaged foods would decrease.
- Decrease our community's collective carbon footprint:
 - food on average travels approx. 2000 miles to our state.
 - growing your own vegetables can reduce your carbon footprint by 40 lbs. a year
-- The Environmental Equation by Alex Shimo-Barry, 2008

SKAGWAY FOOD GARDEN INITIATIVE

- APPLICATION FORM - DRAFT

Application is due no later than May 31st.
Gardens must be planted no later than June 20th.

The purpose of this initiative is to improve the **QUALITY OF LIFE** in Skagway and to **REASSERT THE HISTORIC TITLE OF "GARDEN CITY OF ALASKA"** by encouraging local food production and strengthening the local food system through the development of food gardens and skilled gardeners.

Encouragement will be provided, from the Municipality of Skagway's Garden Fund, in the form of \$0.50 per square foot of maintained vegetable garden, up to 500 square feet per applicant. The subsidy will be granted to qualifying applicants who establish, or allow the establishment of, a new food garden, or the maintenance of an existing food garden.

Conditions of eligibility

- Applicants must be registered to vote in Skagway, Alaska. Applicants who are under the age of 18 are eligible if a parent or guardian is registered to vote in Skagway, Alaska.
- Subsidies will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis until the allocated funds are depleted.
- The application is due no later than May 31st of each year.
- The garden must be planted no later than June 20th of the year in which the application is received.
- Gardens must be larger than 20 sq. ft to qualify.
- Gardens must be primarily productive food gardens; flowers as companion plants are allowed as long as edible crops dominate.
- Gardens can be either traditional in-ground plots with a definitive edge or in raised beds.
- Gardens should be well-tended and reasonably productive at time of inspection(s). Overly weedy, and otherwise poorly kept gardens may not be eligible. Allowances for some unavoidable problems will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Amorphous garden beds are discouraged, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Berries and brambles are not eligible.
- Paths do not count as garden footage.
- Container gardens that can be easily relocated are not eligible.
- The applicant must give consent on the application to have someone from the Borough or a Borough-appointed volunteer come inspect the garden(s).
- If the applicant is gardening on someone else's property, he/she should be able to provide proof of the landowner's permission to establish or maintain a garden.
- Organic gardening methods are highly encouraged.
- The applicant acknowledges and agrees that application does not guarantee any subsidy. The Municipality of Skagway may refuse any and all applications.
- **The applicant (and owner of property if not the applicant) acknowledges and agrees that in consideration for participation in this Initiative, the applicant, on behalf of themselves and their executors, administrators and personal representatives, does waive, release and forever discharge the Municipality of Skagway, all assembly members, directors, volunteers, managers, agents, consultants, contractors, representatives, attorneys, insurers, and employees from and against any and all liability and all claims, actions, causes of action, costs, expenses, demands of any damage, loss, death or injury to their person or property arising out of or in connection with the application or participation with this Initiative. The applicant (and owner of the property if not the applicant) acknowledges and agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Municipality of Skagway, all assembly members, directors, volunteers, managers, agents, consultants, contractors, representatives, attorneys, insurers, and employees in any action, brought by any person, arising out of any injury or damage, death or other loss claimed to be caused in whole or in part, by the applicant's conduct in the course of participating in this Initiative.**

Evaluation

At some point during the middle of the growing season, a Borough-appointed volunteer will come to inspect the garden detailed in the application. Eligibility will be determined and a subsidy calculated from this inspection.

How to apply

- 1) Come up with a food garden plan for your property. (Best done during the winter.)
- 2) In Spring, begin developing your new garden, or renewing an existing garden site. (If planning to start garden plants from seeds, start early!)
- 3) Fill out this application and submit it to the Borough Clerk before the May 31st application deadline.
- 4) Plant your food garden before June 20th (Mid-late May is best for most crops, though.)
- 5) Expect inspection(s) to determine eligibility sometime during mid-summer. Subsidies will be calculated from this inspection.
- 6) Continue to tend to your garden and enjoy the fall harvest.
- 7) Repeat next year!

SKAGWAY FOOD GARDEN INITIATIVE

- APPLICATION FORM - DRAFT

Application is due no later than May 31st.
Gardens must be planted no later than June 20th.

GARDEN DETAILS

The garden must be primarily a productive food garden. Flowers as companion plants are allowed as long as food crops (vegetables, herbs, fruits, etc.) dominate. Gardens can be either raised beds or traditional in-ground garden, but must have a definitive edge, and be well tended. Because of difficulties in calculating square footage, amorphous shaped garden beds are discouraged, but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Berries and brambles **do not** count. Paths **do not** count as garden footage. Container gardens that can easily be relocated will **not** be eligible.

¹Name of Applicant (must be a registered Skagway, AK voter*): _____

^{1.5}Name of Parent or Guardian* (if under the age of 18): _____

²Physical location of garden: _____ Lot #: _____

³Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____

⁴Email _____

⁵This is a new garden If not a new garden, how many years has it existed? _____

⁶Have you applied for this program before? Yes No What years? _____

⁷What are your garden's dimensions? _____ Total sq. ft? _____

⁸Is the primary gardener also the property owner? Yes No **

**If you answered 'No' on Line 8, you may be requested to provide a note of permission from the owner of the property upon which you are gardening.

⁹Is the primary gardener charged for use of the garden space? Yes No

¹⁰Please sketch your existing or intended garden layout in relation to the rest of the property:

¹¹ Optional: In regards to gardening, do you consider yourself to be:

an absolute beginner beginner intermediate gardener advanced gardener

**SKAGWAY FOOD GARDEN INITIATIVE
- APPLICATION FORM - DRAFT**

Application is due no later than May 31st.
Gardens must be planted no later than June 20th.

I give my consent for someone from the Borough or Borough appointed volunteer, to come inspect, measure, and access my garden that I have described in this application in order to determine my eligibility for this program.

I agree that my qualifications for this program are at the sole discretion of the Borough and I may not seek reevaluation or recompense.

I acknowledge and agree that in consideration for participation in this Initiative, on behalf of myself and my executors, administrators and personal representatives, do **waive, release and forever discharge the Municipality of Skagway**, all assembly members, directors, volunteers, managers, agents, consultants, contractors, representatives, attorneys, insurers, and employees **from and against any and all liability** and all claims, actions, causes of action, costs, expenses, demands of any damage, loss, death or injury to their person or property arising out of or in connection with the application or participation with this Initiative. I **acknowledge and agree to defend, indemnity and hold harmless the Municipality of Skagway**, all assembly members, directors, volunteers, managers, agents, consultants, contractors, representatives, attorneys, insurers, and employees **in any action**, brought by any person, arising out of any injury or damage, death or other loss claimed to be caused in whole or in part, by my participation in this Initiative.

My signature below signifies that I have fully read and understand the above statements.

Signature

Date