

Dear Naperville Gardener,

We hope that this letter finds you nearing the end of a very successful 2008 gardening season. Information on end-of-season items and the Naperville Community Gardeners Award Winners is scheduled to be mailed to all gardeners this week. The purpose of this email is to provide you with an update regarding recent discussions to seek community input on the garden plots area.

On September 8, 2008 the Naperville Park District attempted to email garden plot users with information concerning the Park District Board agenda for September 11, 2008. In addition to the email, several copies of the letter and garden plot FAQ's were also placed at the garden plots in an effort to provide additional communication regarding the agenda items. Unfortunately, the Park District learned that the email system failed to deliver the notice to recipients within our Garden Plot database. For this we apologize. It is our intent to keep you well informed of public input opportunities concerning the garden plots. We are sending this letter to you via email to test the system for future communication to gardeners. The information included in this email will also be provided in the end-of-season mailing.

The purpose of the Park District Board discussion at the September 11, 2008 Board meeting was to consider a recent request received from School District 203, which sought the Park District's assistance in soliciting additional community input related to the potential development and future use of the garden plots area. Based upon the direction received from the meeting, the Park District intends to work collaboratively with School District 203 to engage residents and key stakeholders within the garden plot community. The goal will be to gather thoughts and insights from you and your fellow residents to help us understand how we can improve gardening in Naperville.

It is important to note that no decisions have been made concerning the current Garden Plots site. Initial concepts were presented as part of the Caroline Martin Mitchell study to begin gathering community input regarding these ideas. Any decision to relocate and develop a portion of the garden plots would need the support of the Naperville Community Unit School District 203 Board and Naperville Park District Board of Commissioners. In addition, since the property is owned by the City of Naperville any changes to the current use of the property also would require approval by City Council. Recommendations to these governing bodies would only take place after the completion of an extensive public input process.

On Thursday representatives from the Park District and School District 203 are scheduled to meet to discuss the implementation of a public process that will explore the Garden Plots area in greater detail. There will be a number of forthcoming public input opportunities for gardeners and residents to voice their opinions, and we encourage all with an interest in this topic to be active participants.

We will keep you informed of public input meetings through the use of the email database and mailings, and we look forward to your involvement in future public input opportunities.

Sincerely,

The Naperville Park District