

October 6, 2014

Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 7100  
Portland, OR 97201

RE: Comprehensive Plan Testimony for Green Thumb (6801 SE 60th Avenue)

The Friends of Portland Community Gardens supports the proposed change the zoning of the 12.8 acre urban agriculture and education site known as "Green Thumb" (6801 SE 60th Avenue) from Low Density Multi-Family Residential with an Alternative Design Density Overlay (R2A) to a designation that best reflects its actual use: Open Space (OS). FPCG has supported the designation and development of the Brentwood Community Gardens, the teaching gardens and the orchard since 1995.

Friends of Portland Community Gardens was founded in 1985 to support and expand community gardening opportunities for all Portland-area residents to grow healthy food and build community through gardening. The 12.8 acre Green Thumb site provides the Brentwood neighbors this opportunity. It also functions as a regional teaching space for PSU students, OSU Master Gardeners, and Portland Public Schools.

Green Thumb was never intended to be "vacant land" It has functioned as a vibrant, well-used garden and orchard since the 1970's, when it was established as a Portland Public School Horticultural Program. The Friends of Green Thumb worked hard to preserve it as a community garden and teaching site in the 1990's, and it serves thousands of children, teens and adults year-round. Portland Parks realized the value of such a programmed space, and purchased most of it to protect this unique asset, as sees to its operation and maintenance.

Further protection of Green Thumb will ensure the continued benefits of food security that community growing, learning and farm business activities at this traditional urban green site will provide for the Brentwood Darlington Neighborhood and the City of Portland. Therefore, Friends of Portland Community Gardens asks you to designate and re-zone 6801 SE 60th from Low Density Multi-Family Residential to Open Space.

Sincerely,

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau  
Co-Chair Friends of Portland Community Gardens

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Co-Chair Friends of Portland Community Gardens

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