

326 SE 53rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97215-1208

March 8, 2015
Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 7100,
Portland, Oregon 97201

To the Commissioners:

The land at 6801 SE 60th Ave. in Portland is currently zoned as **Low Density Multi-Family Residential with an Alternative Density Overlay (R2A)**. It is my understanding that in the 2035 Comprehensive Plan, the zoning designation will be changed to **Residential 5000(R5)**.

I respectfully request that, instead, you re-designate and re-zone this parcel of land to **Open Space (OS)** as part of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

6801 SE 60th Ave. is the site of several thriving urban farming programs, providing fresh produce for local families and supporting hands-on experience with edible farming. These include the PSU Learning Gardens Lab, the Portland Fruit Tree Project, the Brentwood Neighborhood Community Garden, and the Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden. The PSU program includes beds used by Lane Middle School students, Lane Family Gardens, PSU students, and students in the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) program.

I have participated in one of these programs: the Demonstration Garden created and maintained by volunteers from the Multnomah County Chapter of the Oregon Master Gardeners Association. Since 2008 chapter members have developed unproductive bare land into a highly productive demonstration edibles garden. This garden now yields over 2,000 pounds/year of fresh, organic vegetables, fruits and herbs, which are donated to the Lents Meals on Wheels program and the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods [SUN] program at Kelly School.

Changing the designation to **OS** will allow the Master Gardeners to continue to improve the site and to preserve this source of high quality fresh food to organizations that serve low income people. The requested zoning would also allow the other community organizations who use this site to provide opportunities to grow and harvest food while strengthening community ties.

The food grown at 6801 SE 60th Ave. is a positive, healthy, local community-based answer to the problem of food insecurity in Portland. Designation of this productive, fertile piece of ground as **OS** in the 2035 Comprehensive Plan can only be a winning proposition for the City of Portland and the residents who benefit from it.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I encourage you to come and visit this amazing location. I think you will see why the **OS** designation is the best plan for this space.

Sincerely,



Christina M Gullion
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener