

Dear City Council,

My name is Hart LippSmith and I am a Junior at Sequoyah High School in Pasadena. I went to the Sequoyah K-8 for middle school, right next to the 710 stub. Now I'm at the Sequoyah High School and I am quite excited to be in an elective where we're learning about the history of the 710 stub and how it works.

I am writing this letter to recommend that you will put a community garden in the 710 property. The Vision Plan already includes plans for greenspace and trees in the neighborhood under the Resilience and Sustainability section. Both green space and trees are wonderful, but a community garden would meet this goal to an exemplary standard.

In the Resilience and Sustainability section, the Vision Plan emphasizes making a more comfortable environment with our current and anticipated future struggles with climate change. A community garden extends the effort for a healthier planet outside of the new neighborhood. Growing food instead of buying it from a grocery store is a way to be more sustainable. Lowering one's use of large-scale agriculture that harms the environment is a wonderful way to take personal initiative in the face of climate change.

Green space, especially green space that is interactive, is proven to increase mental health and wellbeing. A study through the National Institute of Health encourages the incorporation of "shared spaces which facilitate interaction" (Rogerson and Barton). A community garden is a piece of green infrastructure that encourages social interaction.

Growing and caring for a plant can bring a sense of purpose into someone's life. Harvesting a tomato that took months to grow can generate appreciation for California's large agricultural economy. This could help Pasadena be more connected to California as a whole.

In a study done on community gardening and its impact on stress levels, researchers found that "community gardeners reported higher levels of resilience and optimism than the non-gardening control group" (Koay and Dillon). Wouldn't it be wonderful to build a neighborhood that has resilience and optimism boosters built into its infrastructure?

Before the Eaton fires, the Altadena Community Garden had a 2 year long waitlist to have a plot for a growing season. The garden has been closed since the Eaton fires. By building a community garden in the Pasadena area, this could relieve some of that waitlist and bring growth back into people's lives after the fires.

Please consider adding a community garden into the 710 Stub.

Kindly,
Hart LippSmith

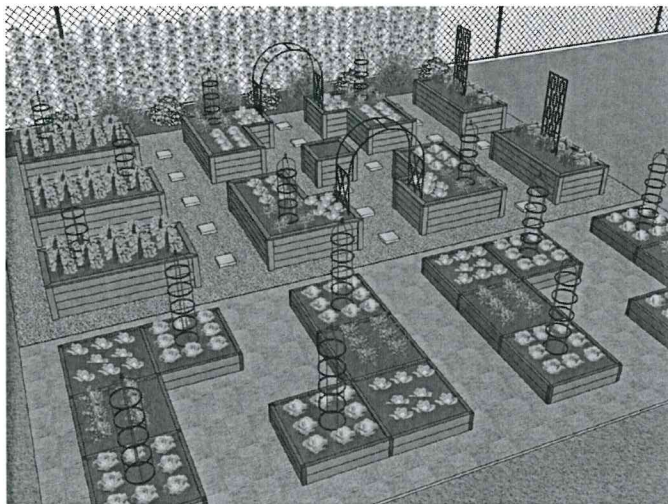
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Altadena Community Garden, 2024.



A community garden in an urban area



Potential Layout of a Community Garden

These are the studies I referenced:

Way Inn Koay & Denise Dillon. "Community Gardening: Stress, Well-Being, and Resilience Potentials." *National Library of Medicine*, 2020.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7558991/>

Jo Barton & Mike Rogerson. "The importance of greenspace for mental health." *National Library of Medicine*, 2017. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5663018/>