



October 20, 2014

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

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

Dear Planning and Sustainability Commissioners,

On October 6, 2014, the board of Southeast Uplift (SEUL), the coalition that represents the twenty neighborhoods of Southeast Portland, voted in favor of petitioning the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) to re-designate and re-zone 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 Open Space (OS).

The Green Thumb site is a unique 12.8-acre urban agriculture and educational garden facility that is managed by four partners: Oregon State University Extension Service's Community and Urban Horticulture Program, Portland State University's Leadership for Sustainability Education Program, Portland Public Schools, and City of Portland Parks and Recreation. For decades, this site has served as an important learning laboratory for Lane Middle School students, PSU students, OSU Master Gardener volunteers and Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) students, Community Transition School students, S.U.N Program participants, the Portland Fruit Tree Project, community gardeners, a farmer-in-residence, local residents and more. Given the size and the scope of services offered, some community members believe there is no other place like the Green Thumb site in the Portland-metro area.

Regarding the current zoning of the site, SEUL does not want to see orchards, bird and pollinator habitat, community gardens, greenhouses, the fields of a market garden, and other community gathering spaces demolished and turned into several hundred town houses or apartments that we do not have the infrastructure and amenities to support. Rather, in our community's vision of 2035, the Green Thumb site remains a verdant and thriving place where, each year, hundreds of school-aged children, neighborhood

families, university students, and other residents from around the city can access organic produce, build community, enhance their leadership skills, and learn about science, agriculture, and sustainability.

Please re-designate and re-zone the Green Thumb site from Low Density Multi-Family Residential with an Alternative Design Density Overlay (R2A) to Open Space (OS) as part of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McCullough', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert McCullough
President
South East Uplift

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CC:

Mike Abbaté, Director, Portland Parks and Recreation
Marty Stockton, Southeast District Liaison, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Anne Dufay, Executive Director, SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition
Bob Kellet, Neighborhood Planning Program Manager, SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition
Jacob Sherman, Board Chair, Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association