



243 High Street Room 026
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 291-9571
www.plantgether.org

Agenda

Citizens Advisory Committee
243 High Street Room 026 and by WEBEX
Morgantown WV
May 9th, 2024
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. 2024 April TIP Amendments
4. Downtown Microsimulation Study Update
5. Community Garden Project Update
6. Other Business
7. Meeting Adjournment



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14th, 2024

This meeting was held virtually at <https://morgantownmonongaliampo.my.webex.com/meet/baustin> and in person at 243 High St (Court House), Room 026 in downtown Morgantown.

Members Present:

Christiaan Abildso (Chairman), Matthew Cross, Kelli LaNeve, Chip Wamsley

Others Present: Bill Austin, Jacqueline Peate, Jing Zhang

1. Call to Order

The CAC meeting was held virtually and in person. The phone number and web address to access the teleconference were publicized. With a quorum present, Mr. Abildso called the meeting of the CAC to order at 6:04 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Austin noted that the minutes of the last meeting were included in the agenda package. Mr. Cross mentioned item 5 Mr. Cross asked about the roundabout near Pocahontas Street, needs to be Baldwin. Mr. Cross moved to approve the meeting minutes as edited; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. With no further discussion, the minutes passed unanimously.

3. 2024 March - TIP Amendments and Adjustments

Mr. Austin stated that the TIP Amendments were as follows:

West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WV DOH) has requested the following TIP amendments:

- West Run Road (GO BOND 4): Total cost increase, Federal ID change. Federal ID: STP0671010D. Construction. FY2024. Improve intersection. Federal Funds: \$1,958,674, Total Funds: \$19,586,739
- Morgantown Industrial Park Access Rd: Move the ROW phase to state funded. Federal ID: STBG2023313D. Right-of-way. FY2024. Construct new road and bridge. Federal Funds: \$0, Total Funds: \$2,500,000

Ms. LaNeve moved to recommend the approval of the amendments presented; seconded by Mr. Cross. Mr. Abildso asked if the funds were state funds, and Mr. Austin clarified they were. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mountain Line Transit Authority (MLTA) has requested the following TIP amendments:

- Revenue Rolling Stock Replacement 5339 (for purchase of revenue producing vehicles)

- FY 2024: Adjust federal funding from \$403,808 to \$212,455, Local funding from \$100,952 to \$53,114.
- FY 2025: Adjust federal funding from \$153,000 to \$453,486, Local funding from \$38,250 to \$113,372.
- FY 2026: Adjust federal funding from \$153,000 to \$150,000, Local funding from \$38,250 to \$37,500.
- FY 2027: Adjust federal funding from \$153,000 to \$150,000, Local funding from \$38,250 to \$37,500.

Mr. Cross moved to approve the amendments presented; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. Mr. Austin and Mr. Abildso noticed some minor typos, which will be fixed by staff. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin stated the Administrative Adjustments were as follows:

- Exit 152 NB and SB Ramps (AC PAYBACK). Construction phase. Federal ID: HSIP0119502D. - funding decrease
- Burrough St (AC PAYBACK). Construction phase. Federal ID: STP0592002D. – funding increase
- Rubble Run I-Bean. Engineering phase. Federal ID: STBG0071165D.- funding increase
- Dellslow Arch. Engineering phase. Federal ID: STBG0007341D - moved to 2025 and funding increase
- Smithtown W-Bean ROW. Federal ID: STBG0073098D - funding changes to \$0 for both state and federal funds

The following projects will be removed from the MMMPO TIP Highway Project Table, because their funds have been obligated:

- Smithtown Rd Traffic Signal. Construction phase. Federal ID: HSIP0119502D.
- Smithtown Rd Traffic Signal. Row of Way phase. Federal ID: HSIP0119501D.
- Dunkard Ave Sidewalks Phase V. Construction phase. Federal ID: TAP2018216D.
- US 119 Morgantown Lighting. Construction phase. Federal ID: NHPP0119493D.
- Interstate 68 Overpass. Row of Way phase. Federal ID: NHPP0119513D.
- Greenbag Rd (GO BOND 4). Construction phase. Federal ID: NFA2317022D.

These were informational items and did not require a vote.

4. Draft Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Austin stated the draft UPWP is for the next year. Staff has been working with the City of Morgantown about a feasibility study for a pedestrian bridge across Don Knotts. Staff is also working with MLT for new bus stops and shelters, and doing a new pedestrian safety study. The MMMPO will be wrapping up the Downtown Microsimulation Study. The budget is proposing a 5% cost of living allowance for staff. There will also be funding available for consultants. There is a budget increase for the City and County.

Mr. Cross moved to recommend the UWPW to the Policy Board; seconded by Ms. LaNeve. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 2018-2022 Crash Report

Mr. Zhang introduced the Crash Report for the years 2018-2022, and stated he had implemented the committee's recommendations from last meeting. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of road traffic accidents and their associated trends within our region. By examining the data collected over these five years, staff aims to promote a safer and more informed approach to urban and regional planning, ultimately working toward the goal of reducing accidents and enhancing road safety for all residents and commuters. The report provides a detailed examination of the crash data, including trends and potential contributing factors. The purpose of this crash report is to comprehensively document regional crash trends, crash locations, and crash types, identify areas of concern for planning purposes, as well as propose potential engineering countermeasures aimed at enhancing safety within these identified areas, and raise public awareness regarding frequent crash hotspots, particularly highlighting the prevalent types of crashes occurring in specific locations. There are maps in the appendix providing demographic data.

Mr. Cross asked where the data came from. Mr. Austin stated the data came from DOH and Mr. Zhang reviewed over 10,000 records to create this report.

Mr. Cross moved to approve the 2018-2022 Crash Report; seconded by Mr. Wamsley. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Draft Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Plan

Staff stated that this document provides a comprehensive overview of electric vehicles in the context of Monongalia County, offering insights into crucial aspects of the implementation of this technology. The background section covers essential topics such as EV education, charging infrastructure, strategic location selections, and federal standards. Serving as an informative foundation, this document is a valuable resource for those seeking a holistic understanding of EVs. The analysis segment delves into the current status of EVs and charging ports in Monongalia County, presenting data on existing infrastructure while forecasting future needs. Additionally, it identifies potential locations for new charging ports to meet the rising demand for electric mobility. In a commitment to inclusive planning, the document underscores the incorporation of public input, positioning it as a collaborative resource for ongoing research or project development within the Monongalia County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMMPO). The appendix includes funding opportunities for rural and urban charging stations for MPOs and Localities. This is currently an informational item, and staff is looking for feedback from CAC members.

Mr. Abildso asked for clarification on if 253 public level 2 charging stations were needed, per the report. Mr. Zhang said yes and that analysis was from a Federal Website. There are no current mandates, but this report makes sure the community is organized and prepared. Mr. Abildso said he appreciated the Community Recommendations in the report. Staff will involve the public as this procedure moves along.

Mr. Cross asked if this include solar power chargers, and staff said they are looking into this. This is just a location study, not technology at this point in the process.

7. Community Garden Project Update

Ms. Peate provided an update on the Community Garden Project. She stated the application are currently open. One has been submitted, but it is incomplete. Staff has communicated with WVU, but that led to a dead end as they wanted to use funds for staffing instead of supplies. The deadline has been extended to March 22nd. The Steering Committee members have been selected and are Bill Austin and Andrew Gast-Bray from the MPO, and Rickie Yeager and Katherine Millete from the City of Morgantown. Ms. Peate stated she has run an ad on Facebook for this project, and reached out to the Neighborhood Associations of Morgantown. These gardens do not have to specifically in the City of Morgantown.

Mr. Cross mentioned looking into the city-wide tool shed organization and asked if there has to be a specific number of gardeners. Ms. Peate said no, and directed him to the application on the website. Mr. Abildso asked for the total amount that can be given per applicant, and Mr. Asotin clarified it was maximum \$5000. Ms. LaNeve said she has discussed this program with Ms. Smith, and they will continue to brainstorm possible locations.

8. Other Business

Mr. Abildso expressed concern about cars trying to turn left leaving Enterprise on the Mileground. The view is blocked and it is causing a safety issue. This is one of many concerns about safety on the Mileground.

Mr. Cross mentioned Burrough Street having bad potholes that need to be redone. He also asked when Beechurst will be completed and if it will be resurfaced. Mr. Austin said it will be done in the summer and it will be resurfaced, as resurfacing is part of a typical upgrade.

Mr. Abildso asked about budget issues in the State and if it will disturb the certainty of money for the Industrial Bridge. Mr. Austin stated the money is secured. They are getting ready to do right of way acquisition and the environmental study. Other projects are moving forward as normal.

Mr. Cross asked about the Richwood Road project, and this will be addressed.

Mr. Abildso asked the timeline for 68/79 interchange. Mr. Ausitn suggested to look on the WVDOH's website.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.



Memorandum

Date: April 23, 2024

To: TTAC, CAC, and Policy Board

From: MMMPO Staff

Subject: 2024 May - TIP Administrative Adjustment and Amendment

This memorandum is to document the amendments and administrative adjustments requested to the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for May, 2024.

TIP Amendment

West Virginia Department of Transportation-Division of Highways (WV DOH) has requested the following TIP amendments:

Funding Change

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AUTH AC). FFY 2024. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds reduce from \$57,600,000 to \$20,000,000.

STAR CITY I/C IMPROVEMENT. FFY 2029 Federal ID: NHPP0079156D. Construction Phase. ACTION: Federal funds increase from \$0 to \$59,400,000.

Add New Project

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2025. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2026. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2027. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$10,000,000.

MORGANTOWN INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD (AC PAYBACK). FFY 2029. Federal ID: STBG2024025D. Construction Phase. Federal funds: \$7,600,000.

Administrative adjustments

BROCKWAY AVE. Federal ID: STP0007305D. FYY 2024. Construction Phase. Increase Federal funds from \$800,000 to \$1,680,000; total funds from \$640,000 to \$2,100,000

UNIVERSITY AVE BRIDGE. Federal ID: HWI0119547D. FYY 2024. Construction Phase. ACTION: Total funds from \$500,000 to \$900,000. Federal funds from \$ 400,00 to \$720,000

Memorandum

Date: April 29th, 2024
To: MPO Committees
From: MPO Staff
Subject: Community Garden Steering Committee Participant Selection

This Memorandum is to inform the MPO Committees of the Steering Committee's decisions on where the grant money should be allocated for Community Garden applicants. The Steering Committee members are Bill Austin and Andrew Gast-Bray from the MPO, and Rickie Yeager and Katherine Millete from the City of Morgantown. The deadline for the applications was April 22nd, and the Steering Committee met on April 29th to judge and score the applications submitted. There were four applications submitted. A summary of each proposal is attached to this memo. Below is the criteria and summary of scores.

Criteria:

- Beneficial location to community and surrounding area. (Accessibility) **5**
- All documents submitted thoroughly, complete, and on time. **3**
- Organization's experience with community gardens and other collaborative projects. **5**
- The candidates' understanding of the project's scope. **4**
- Organization's commitment to a sustainable and long-lasting garden. **5**
- Access to water (via MUB or other water source). **5**

Summary of Scores:

- Joanna's Jarden (*Public Consortium- John Whitmore: 349 Grandview Avenue (rear)*)
 - **Average: 16.75**
- Chris White's Community Garden (*Nonprofit Agency- Chris White: 31 Davis Heights Road, Maidsville WV, 26541*)
 - **Average: 23.25**
- Scott's Run Settlement House (*Nonprofit Agency- Devon McDaniel: 750 Fairchance Rd*)
 - **Average: 25.75**
- West Virginia Garden Collaborative (*Nonprofit Agency- Shannon McNicholas: Westover City Park*)
 - **Average: 27**

Results:

Based on the scoring and after consultation with the Policy Board Chairman, the MPO is moving forward with the recommendation of the Steering Committee to fund West Virginia Garden Collaborative and Scott's Run Settlement House. They will be awarded the full amount requested. The Steering Committee came to the consensus to award Chris White's Community Garden on the condition that he provides further documentation of the organization that runs the garden, and provides information about volunteers. Joanna's Jarden was an incomplete application and will not be awarded funds.



Memorandum

Date: April 24, 2024
To: Community Garden Steering Committee
From: MPO Staff
Subject: Community Garden Application Summaries

Steering Committee Members, the four applications received are summarized below. They are listed as submitted.

Joanna's Jarden

Public Consortium

John Whitmore: 349 Grandview Avenue (rear)

Summary:

Joanna's Jarden is a community orchard concept that utilizes fruit trees to provide food options to individuals facing the effects of hunger. The overall concept will be administered by the Joanna's Jarden NGO, an autonomous collective of individuals who volunteer their time in curating the garden and own the subject reality (Deed Book 1562; Page 350). The garden itself will be approximately 5,848 square feet in area. The project will involve approximately 110 trees based into the following batches of eleven trees each. Crops are anticipated by year 3 with full fruit anticipated by year 5. Each tree will be purchased from local sellers (Modern Homestead) at a price estimated to be \$45.57 after tax. This will total \$5,012.70. Private donations have been secured for \$12.70 to allow for a \$5,000 award to enable the project's core completion. After the plantings have been purchased, volunteers will plant each tree on the rear of 349 Grandview Avenue, with access to the orchard provided from the northern right-of-way, Morgantown Avenue. All yields will be open to the public via baskets that will be set along Morgantown Avenue, like a blessings box.

This application is considered incomplete because “Joanna’s Jarden NGO” does not qualify as an autonomous collective qualified for the grant since there is no documentation of more than one member of the group - John Whitmore as the property owner. Staff also has concerns that the proposed concept does not create a “community garden” that provides a suitable mitigation for the loss of gardening space that produces food annually. Planting trees and waiting 3-5 years for the produce which would be distributed by making baskets with fruit in them available to the public by placing them on the side of the road is not a substitute for an active gardening program where the participants utilize or actively distribute fresh produce to those that need it. Also, the criteria looks for, “Organization’s experience with community gardens and other collaborative projects.” No experience or collaboration with other organizations were listed.

They are requesting \$5000.

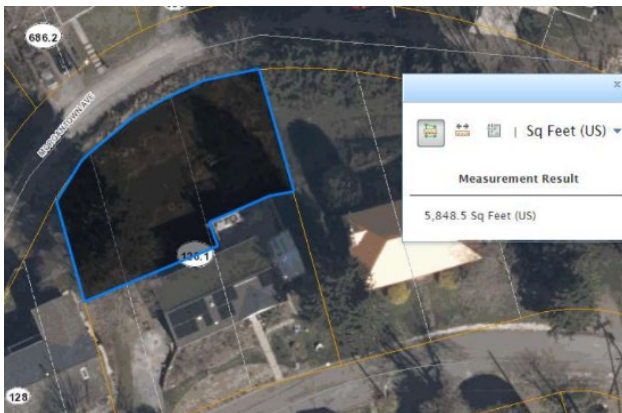
Budget Breakdown:

Item (#)	Cost
110 Trees	\$45.57 each
TOTAL:	\$5012.70

**Private donations have been secured for the surplus.*

Pictures:

Below is the plot for the community garden and picture of the property itself.





Chris White's Community Garden

Nonprofit Agency

Chris White: 31 Davis Heights Road, Maidsville WV, 26541

Summary:

Chris White is a lifelong resident of Morgantown who has been gardening for about 15 years and starting fruit trees from seed for over eight years. He already has a small garden set up, and provides fruits and vegetables, along with chicken eggs to his community. The plot he plans to use for a community garden has already been used as one, making use easier. He plans to build up the four acres into a “food forest” over his lifetime. He plans on donating the land to the West Virginia Land Trust to preserve the property as a community garden in perpetuity. This community garden is not just a two-year commitment to him, but would be an investment in the community that would last the rest of his life and beyond. The property is also just a 15-minute drive from city limits and the Evansdale campus, while also being far enough away from Morgantown’s urban sprawl to eliminate the concern of the community garden being taken away by encroaching development.

If selected, he would immediately get garden beds set up to be ready for planting the community garden this spring. An initial half acre would be offered for community gardening this season, with more space available to be developed as needed. He would use the grant funding to install deer-proof high tensile fencing that is at minimum 8 ft in height for this half acre during the summer of 2024. The funding would also be used to amend the soil with nutrients to ensure a productive season. Volunteers to the garden would be welcome to a share of the chicken & duck eggs and garlic harvest that are already going strong, and future orchard fruits. Beyond that, he would ask the volunteers what they want to grow each season and we would focus on those crops for the majority of what the community garden would grow. He is asking for the full \$5,000 and a budget breakdown is below. Mr. White is a part of many groups such as We Run! Morgantown and Monongahela Valley Green Space Coalition. He is very connected with the community. He has recently secured funding through the NRCS’s Conservation Stewardship Program, and applied for funding through the Monongahela Conservation District to secure additional funding for future garden expansions. If combined with the MMMPO’s Community Garden Grant, these funding sources will greatly accelerate his community garden/orchard/farm goals and create a huge and lasting impact for the people of Monongalia County.

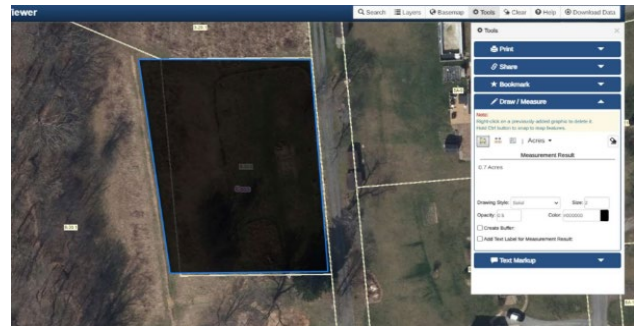
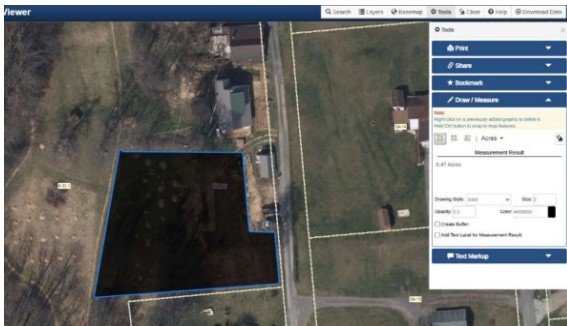
They are requesting \$5000.

Budget:

Item	Cost
8ft+ high tensile wildlife exclusion fencing to cover at least a half-acre of community garden space	\$4000
Soil amendments/organic fertilizers	\$500
Community outreach, advertisements, fliers to post at places like the Scotts Run Settlement House food pantry	\$100
Seeds	\$200
Misc. tools and an additional wheel barrow	\$200
TOTAL:	\$5000

Pictures:

Below are the 2 plots for the community garden and pictures of the property itself.





Scott's Run Settlement House

Nonprofit Agency

Devon McDaniel: 750 Fairchance Rd

Summary:

Scott's Run Settlement House is a non-profit organization that offers various programs to over 15,000 individuals every year. Their primary focus is on addressing food insecurity in the community. To achieve this, they want to establish a community garden that will serve multiple purposes. For years, they have been providing food assistance to low-income families, seniors, and individuals who cannot afford nutritious meals. If awarded money they plan to start the project between April and May. From June to September staff and community members will maintain the garden by watering, weeding, and maintaining the area while also harvesting produce. The produce will be available at their location's free farmer's market.

The community garden will be under the supervision of Janet Watson, the case manager at Scott's Run. Janet has prior experience with gardening. Other staff members, such as Devon McDaniel, the assistant director, will also be involved in planning, implementing, and maintaining the community garden. Additionally, Scott's Run has a full-time maintenance coordinator who will help with the implementation and upkeep of the garden. Having staff oversee the project ensures that the garden will always be taken care of. They will promote the garden to both the community and their clients to obtain additional assistance and to ensure that the community is aware of it. The garden will be open to anyone in the community who wants to help or maintain it. They will also be able to access the produce that is grown. Scott's Run already has experience with fairly distributing set amounts of produce through donations we receive. Therefore, they know the procedures to ensure that everyone receives a fair share. They also partner with County Extension Office, and will continue to partner with them for this project. Scott's Run has a large volunteer program and will list this as an additional volunteer need for church groups, college students, and the community for more help with the project. They will also continue to apply for grants to maintain the community garden.

They are requesting \$5000.

Year One Budget:

Item	Cost
Water and Access Improvements	\$250
Soil	\$500
Garden Tools (Rakes, Shovels, Garden Forks, etc.)	\$500
Hoses	\$100
Lumber	\$1550
Seeds and Starter Plants	\$250
Landscape Fabric	\$250
Fertilizer	\$250
Items for Market (Boxes, Signage, Printing Costs, Paper/Plastic Bags, Misc.)	\$100
TOTAL:	\$3750

Year Two Budget:

Item	Cost
Water Bill	\$100
Soil	\$500
Seeds and Starter Plants	\$250
Fertilizer	\$250
Tool Replacement/Repairs	\$150
TOTAL:	\$1250

Pictures:

Below are pictures of the property itself.





West Virginia Garden Collaborative

Nonprofit Agency

Shannon McNicholas: Westover City Park

Summary:

West Virginia Garden Collaborative hopes to have an operational garden ready for community members to utilize starting in the 2025 growing season. Their budget is below. They have many resources, funding, and partners such as the City of Westover, anonymous donors, Grow Ohio Valley, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, and United Way. They plan to:

- Hire a part time manager within a month of receiving funds.
- Build a fence around the garden's property within the first three months of receiving funding.
- Start collecting applications for gardeners within 6 months of receiving funding.
- Build a water system for the garden within six months of receiving funding.
- Build a set of 5 4'x10' ADA raised garden beds within 9 months of receiving funding.
- Lay ADA pathways connecting the parking lot to ADA beds within 9 months of receiving.
- Select and approve applications for 15 gardeners within 10 months of receiving funding, and plant all fruit trees within 12 months of receiving funding based on tree planting schedules.

Throughout the process of the organization's development, leaders from the organization have been involved in local food initiatives including, but not limited to starting a locally-supplied "mini farmer's market" with the local senior center, building a "free little seed library" and teaching community related seed-saving, composting and fermentation classes. Building a community garden in Mon County would help to address issues of food insecurity and mental illness including substance use disorder. While West Virginia Garden Collaborative is already able to address some of these issues on a small scale and with people who have access to land through educational programming, having the capacity to build a garden would allow us the opportunity to affect change on a larger, community-wide scale and amongst people who are marginalized or do not have access to land.

They are requesting \$4588.51

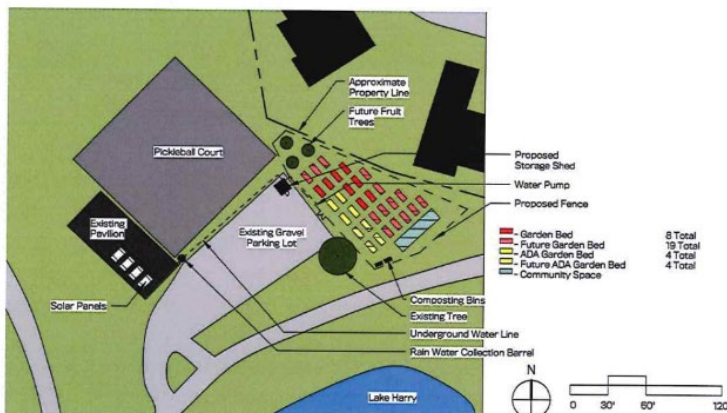
Budget:

Item (#)	Cost
10'x6"x2" Kiln-Dried Fir Planks (60 Total)	\$385.20
8'x6"x2" Kiln-Dried Fir Planks (60 Total)	\$277.20
Concrete Planter Blocks (120 Total)	\$441.60
330 ft Weed Barrier Fabric (6 Total)	\$818.16
Cubic Yard Soil (Including Delivery) (22.5 Cubic Yards)	\$1316.25
Cubic Yards Mushroom Compost (4 Cubic Yards)	\$280
Bales Wheat Straw (6 Total)	\$251.10
Soil and Compost Delivery (1 Total)	\$290
Wood Picnic Table (1 Total)	\$149
Native Fruit Trees (3' - 5' Depending on Variety) (4 Total)	\$380
TOTAL:	\$4588.51

Pictures:

Below is the Site Plan for the community garden and pictures of the property itself.

Project Map and Anticipated Layout:



DATE: 2022.02.19
PROJECT NUMBER: Project Number
OWNER/CLIENT: Owner

A1

SITE PLAN
SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS FOR
WESTOVER COMMUNITY GARDEN
STREET ADDRESS: CITY, STATE, 00000

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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