



### **SEED Garden Coordinator Officially Hired**

At the end of September, the contract paperwork was finalized between Milwaukee County Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC) and UW-Extension, officially bringing Ryan Schone on board as the (part-time) SEED Community Garden Coordinator and allowing infrastructure work to begin at the initial targeted garden sites. Ryan will be coordinating the overall establishment of the 6-8 new community gardens across Milwaukee County in the next year – from the physical components of soil remediation to the community development components of neighborhood support and leadership.

The UW-Extension Urban Agriculture Program currently manages 10 community gardens in the County. The new SEED Initiative gardens/ micro-farms will be incorporated into this program in order to utilize essential garden rental infrastructure such as the gardener contact database used to inform gardeners of their plot location, and garden implements needed for preparing the soil for planting.

### **Four Initial Garden Sites Determined**

DPRC and UW-Extension chose four (4) initial sites for creating community gardens with some ground preparation initiated in November, and the remainder resuming in the early spring of 2016. Two of the sites were the first to break ground in November -- Kohl Park on Milwaukee's north side (8300 County Line Rd) and Forest Hill (2000 E Forest Hill Ave) in Oak Creek. These two sites require the most infrastructure work including the flattening slopes, adding roads, and remediating the soil with compost to ensure that healthy produce can be grown.

The other two new garden sites identified are both on Milwaukee's north side – Moody Park at 2195 W Auer Rd and Timmerman near 93<sup>rd</sup> and Appleton Ave. The north side of Milwaukee has been especially targeted because it possesses the most food insecure neighborhoods, or 'food deserts', in Milwaukee County. These are areas with few full-service grocery stores and lower access to transportation. For example, within a one mile radius of Moody Park: the population consists of over 28,000 people, of which 32% do not own a vehicle and live more than a ½ mile from a grocery store. Over 55% of households in this area generate less than \$25,000 in annual income (*The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), Policy Map*).

### **Garden Site Targeted for Cupertino Park**

Several residents from the Bay View neighborhood reached out to the SEED Coordinator for help establishing a community garden at Cupertino Park. In December, three residents along with the SEED coordinator conducted neighborhood canvassing, reaching dozens of households in the neighborhood surrounding Cupertino Park assessing the level of interest, support and opposition to the establishment of a community garden. At least (11) residents expressed strong interest in renting a garden plot and (15) others voiced their support for a garden to be created at the site with no direct opposition voiced. A community forum for the garden is being held January 19<sup>th</sup> 6PM at the South Shore Pavilion. After this meeting a site design and maintenance plan can be created for moving forward.

### **Garden Organizing at Clarke Square Park**

The Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative reached out to the SEED coordinator with interest in establishing a small community garden at Clarke Square Park. After an initial meeting, the SEED coordinator will be hosting another meeting with a larger group of interested residents and community leaders to establish a planning group for further evaluating the feasibility of a garden at the site, and assessing the overall level of neighborhood support.

### **Garden Organizing at Sherman Park**

Management and volunteers from the Sherman Park Boys and Girls Club have identified a need for a small community garden next to the club for conducting gardening and healthy eating programming with the students. In early December coordination efforts began between UW-Extension, Groundwork Milwaukee and the Boys and Girls Club to further explore the feasibility of establishing a garden at the site for the 2016 season as a part of the SEED initiative. Groundwork Milwaukee expressed strong interest in holding its Young Farmers training program at the site, working with students from the Boys and Girls Club. The next meeting and site visit is being held January 13<sup>th</sup> with DPRC staff in attendance.

### **Garden Site Targeted for West Allis**

The city of West Allis is being targeted for a new garden site with resident demand high from Rainbow Park Community Garden which filled up all plots in the first year of its establishment in 2014. The SEED community garden coordinator is working with West Allis Dept of Health to select a site best suited for interested residents to access, along with Parks and Rec to ensure the site meets required infrastructure needs like water access and site security. LaFollete Park is one candidate for this new garden.

### **New Plow and Volunteer Coordinator**

In November UW-Extension acquired a new plow capable of turning the soil at larger SEED garden locations such as Kohl Park, Forest Hill, and Timmerman. Some plowing began in November before the ground became saturated and frozen, and the remainder will resume in the springtime after the ground is thawed and dry enough.

A portion of the SEED funds have been designated to hire a garden assistant with the primary tasks of recruiting new volunteers to both establish the gardens in the spring and hold leadership roles to ensure the long-term success of the new garden sites. This new position will also help acquire necessary donations for infrastructure not fully covered in the SEED grant funds, such as rainwater capture and attractive fencing. Recruitment for this position will begin in February.

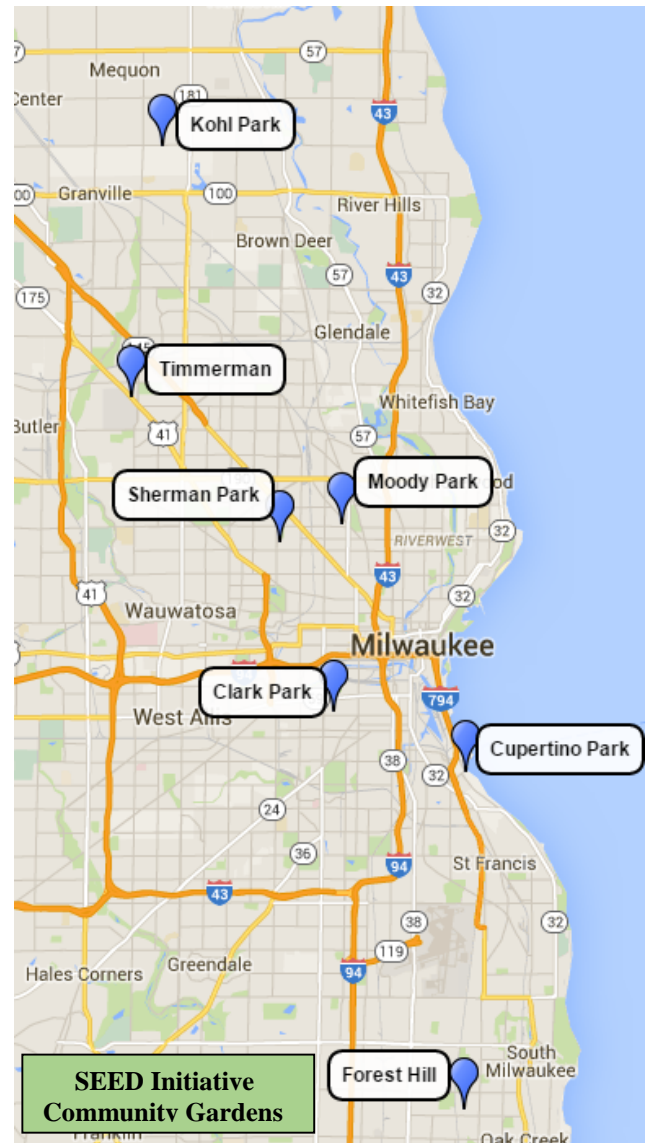
### **Relevant Demographic Data for SEED Community Garden Neighborhoods**

#### **North Side:**

**Kohl Park** (8300 W County Line Rd)

Within a 1 mile radius of Kohl Park:

- 5,306 people live within 1 mile
- 45% earn less than \$25,000 a year
- 65% African American
- 22% do not own a vehicle and live more than 1 mile from a grocery store
- 8% have immigrated from other countries



**Moody Park** (2195 W Auer Ave)

Within a 1 mile radius of Moody Park:

- 28,362 people live within 1 mile
- 93% African American
- 4% Hispanic
- 55% earn less than \$25,000 a year
- 32% do not own a vehicle and live more than 1 mile from a grocery store

**Sherman Park** (3000 N Sherman Blvd)

Within a 1 mile radius:

- 39,701 people live within 1 mile
- 41% earn less than \$25,000 a year
- 81% African American
- 3% Hispanic
- 32% under the age of 18

**Timmerman** (93<sup>rd</sup> and Appleton Ave)

Within a 2 mile radius:

- 62,453 people live within 2 miles
- 57% African American
- 7% Asian
- 4% two or more races
- 32% earn less than \$25,000 a year

**South Side:**

**Clarke Square** (23<sup>rd</sup> and W. Mineral St)

Within a 1 mile radius:

- 39,326 people live within 1 mile
- 70% Hispanic
- 10% African American
- 3% Asian
- 49% earn less than \$25,000 a year

**Cupertino Park** (2000 E Iron St)

Within a 1 mile radius:

- 8,893 people live within 1 mile
- 8% Hispanic
- 2% African American
- 2% Asian
- 16% earn less than \$25,000 a year

**Forest Hill** (2000 E Forest Hill Ave)

Within a 1 mile radius:

- 5,291 people live within 1 mile
- 20% earn less than \$25,000 a year

