SUGGESTED ACTION ITEM LIST FOR GARLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING COMMITTEE

We will all get acquainted at the meeting Thursday Oct 24, 2013 6:30 PM.

Then, before next meeting:

2. Walk around the proposed site at Naaman School Road and East Brand if you haven’t already. Get the feeling in your bones of what we are about to accomplish! It will be fun and wonderful!

3. Visit two or three community gardens in the DFW area. For a list and addresses of these gardens: http://iflizwerequeen.com/2013/10/18/upcoming-fund-raiser-for-garland-community-garden-a-tour-of-other-community-gardens_q_20448.html

PLEASE CHOOSE AND COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (Think about it now and then sign up at the meeting so we don’t duplicate efforts. Also it may work out that members of the planning committee may want to team up on these items. Please try to use local Garland companies/small businesses to get your estimates for the work.)

Note: Items 1 and 2 go together. If you choose one, please choose the other as well.

1. Find out how much it cost to gravel a 556 foot long 16 feet wide road. Please get two or three estimates and ask how long it would take them to complete the job.

2. How much would it cost to build 8, two feet high, wooden frames for raised garden beds. The bed’s dimension would be 8’ x 17’. Also figure out how much soil it would take to fill all 8 beds and price that, including delivery as well. Please get at least two estimates.

3. Rain Barrel and Aquaponic Set Up Research.
Find out how many rain barrels we can fit into a 20’ x 10 ‘ space and get all the details regarding capacity (gallons), cost, etc. Since we will be following the principles and guidelines of permaculture, we want to use recycled containers such
as IBC if possible. A good person to contact for this would be Bob Jordan rjordan@airmail.net. In fact, you could visit his home here in Garland on Arrow Lane and look at the IBC rain barrel he built. Also please get an estimate of how many we would need to supply water for eight, two foot high, 8’ x 17’ raised beds.

Note: New 275 gallon IBCs cost about $499. Used we can get them for $100. However, you should never purchase a used container unless it still has the label on it which most do. The label tells what was carried in it. Some of these carry chemicals but many carry harmless substances such as pickle juice.

In addition to the rain barrel information ask Bob Jordan what he would charge to set up a system in one of our greenhouses when ready—materials and labor.

4. Design a 20 x 20 Outdoors Enclosure for Classroom
Note: The sides can be open. Most likely this will be like a carport roof. Perhaps we can find a recycled one, but one that is nice—at least after a new paint job. Also price 30 chairs suitable for outdoors and a classroom setting. They don’t have to be uncomfortable folding chairs but they do need to be stackable to conserve space. Also price a whiteboard.

5. GREENHOUSE Research
Research the cost for building an 18’ x 30’ greenhouse. Remember recycled materials. Also you might look into building a hoop house this size instead. We may have room for two 18’ x 30’ and/or we might have one 18’ x 60’. Given the space, I think 18’ is as wide as we can go.

6. WEBSITE
We need an Internet presence. We can have Facebook and Twitter, but I still want a website. Of course, before the site is set up, we have to decide what we will call our
group as well as other details regarding how we will be organized. Among other things, this website need to be capable of accepting donations.

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7. FUNDRAISING
We will all have to take part in these efforts. Already several events are tentatively planned. If anyone from the planning committee thinks of better ideas—power to you!

**NOVEMBER PECAN FUND RAISER (our first!)**

We have several native pecan trees (about eight I think) on the proposed property.

*Come help us gather pecans for the new Garland Community Garden*

We can weigh them and give a prize to the person who gathers the most.

*Come Bag pecans for the new Garland Community Garden*

We will bag one pound bags of pecans in their shells. Someone (you) from the planning committee will design the promotional material to go with the pecans.

*Come help us sell pecans for the new Garland Community Garden*

Maybe we will have a Saturday morning door-to-door sale: Buy your pecans locally now for your holiday cooking. Shell them together with your family.

**DECEMBER (OR JANUARY) Bamboo Tea Sale from the Garland Community Garden**

People all over the world drink bamboo tea to improve their health. We have a large bamboo grove on the proposed site. We will form a little sub company and call it “The Garland Bamboo Tea Company”. We will have a promotion with this fundraiser, but the sale of this tea will be an ongoing source of income for our Community Garden. It will be the second produce we sell (pecans being the first).

**SPRING 2014 TOUR OF DFW COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The Garland Community Garden Group (or whatever we call ourselves) will host an annual tour of DFW Community Gardens. I’m hoping that we can coordinate with the leaders of other community gardens on this and share the proceeds. In addition, I would like to create a book with photographs of the gardens. We can sell it on our website. Also for 2015 (an/or perhaps even 2014) we can sell a calendar of these gardens and/or just our garden. Again, I’m hoping for a Garland printing company to publish the book.
8. FIND OUT THE STEPS WE MUST TAKE TO SET UP AS A NONPROFIT
I think we likely need to do this, but perhaps not. That is for the person undertaking this research to determine.

It makes sense to me because it simplifies applying for grants. In addition to our fund-raising we will need to get money from other sources as well. At the moment, I am thinking that while the Garland Community Garden is at the heart of our operations, it might be a good idea to define ourselves a little more broadly.

Here is just an example: The Garland Sustainable Lifestyle Cooperative.

I’m sure someone can come up with a better name.

Our nonprofit would be run like a business with divisions and subdivisions. For example, here are a few divisions we might have:

Garland Community Garden Division – this group is responsible for overseeing the operations of the Garland Community Garden and working with citizens and members of the local city government.

Garland Community Woodland Garden

Garland Found Fruit Company (See http://iflizwerequeen.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/11-Section-9-Found-Fruit-Co-.pdf)

Fundraising Division – this group coordinates the various fund raising events and grant applications.

Education Division – this group would coordinate and find experts to present various classes regarding urban farming and sustainable living.

Affordable Housing Division – This group would be responsible for all the activities associated with the small home. (See #9.)

9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Research this possibility. Find a builder who might be willing to construct a model home such as the one featured below on the Garland Community Garden site.

The need for affordable housing is great in Garland. Effective August 9, 2009 at 12:01 a.m., the Garland Housing Agency stopped accepting applications for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program because the need is too great—many more people need affordable housing than housing is available. Even today over a thousand people are on the existing waiting list. One of the missions of this division of sustainable life styles is that we might have a sample home built on the Garland
Community Garden site. Ideally, a local builder would construct it. These homes are small—between 300 and 600 feet. They are nice and they cost less than $30,000 to build. I would like to feature one such as the model below at our garden site. Perhaps it could create enough interest to warrant the construction of five of these homes on a common green (with a neighborhood garden of course).

![Bodega model](image)

Bodega model – This cozy cottage has a fireplace, a full bath and kitchen (261 sq ft), and also has the option for an add on bedroom (356 sq ft). Designed with cost savings in mind, this green design is proportioned just right. Charming and bright, the simple use of space and building materials keeps construction costs low without sacrificing design. The plans come with an option for a full loft over the great room, kitchen and bathroom, or a 1/2 loft with a cathedral ceiling over the great room. The house is 18’4” tall. **Estimated Material Costs:** $22,500 (261 sq ft) or $29,500 (356 sq ft) [Download](#) the study plans for free.

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10. **RESEARCH WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO CREATE a Woodland Garden in part of the Garland Community Garden.**

There are several areas at the proposed site that would ideal for building a woodland garden. It already has the wonderful canopies of mature pecan trees.

Instead of battling against nature, the woodland garden works in harmony with it. It comes down to selecting the right mixture of species from among approximately 2,100 that can be grown in woodland. Unlike the traditional gardens that we will also have, you don’t have to replant the woodland garden every year. AND there are more perennial vegetables than we realize—at least certainly more than I realized until I researched them back in Feb of this year.

Robert Hart (1 April 1913 – 7 March 2000) was the pioneer of forest gardening in temperate zones. He created a model forest garden from a 0.12 acre (500 m²) orchard on his farm. His intention was to provide a healthy and therapeutic environment for himself and his brother Lacon, who was born with severe learning disabilities.
Hart though soon discovered that maintaining large annual vegetable beds, rearing livestock and taking care of an orchard were tasks beyond his strength. However, he also observed that a small bed of perennial vegetable and herbs he had planted was looking after itself with little or no intervention. Furthermore, these plants provided interesting and unusual additions to the diet, and seemed to promote health and vigor in both body and mind.

Note: I have a book titled: Woodland Gardening. This book is published by Plants for a Future that is a charitable company in England. The PFAF database online now includes information on approximately 7,000 useful plants, another great resource. I’ll loan my book to the person choosing this action item. Remind me at the meeting. Another great book for creating a woodland garden is “Paradise Lot” by (Eric Toensmeir and Jonathan Bates) as well as “Edible Landscaping” by Rosalind Creasy.

The perfect place for a woodland garden on our proposed site is the area near the property border at Kingsbridge extending from the Naaman School Road back about 49 feet deep. It extends back to the roadway that passes in front of the shed area. This area is (See photos below.) If you choose to research creating the woodland garden, go to the site and walk around. You’ll get a better sense of the size and also the shady/sun areas of this part of the site.

These new pecan trees are 12 feet apart. The house shown in the photo is across the street (Naaman School Road). On the other side of the bushes we have the yoga/health clinic. Maybe we could create the world’s largest hammock to span
these two trees. Believe me they would hold up a family of ten. We could charge people five bucks for fifteen minutes in the hammock. LOL
11. MAP OUT THE LARGE AREA FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY SHARED GARDEN PLOTS

I’m not sure how we will decide to allocate these garden plots and/or what size they should be. Perhaps varying among three sizes might be best. Perhaps some of them will be raised beds and some not—many decisions to be made. Whether to charge or not charge for their use, etc. The best way to make these decisions is to talk to the people who have done this before. Again a great list of Community Gardens: [http://iflizwerequeen.com/2013/10/18/upcoming-fund-raiser-for-garland-community-garden-a-tour-of-other-community-gardens_q_20448.html](http://iflizwerequeen.com/2013/10/18/upcoming-fund-raiser-for-garland-community-garden-a-tour-of-other-community-gardens_q_20448.html)

And of course we will have to have rules (Don’t pick your neighbor’s tomatoes, etc.)

However, you have a large area to work with. It is the space in the middle between the two blue lines. The longer red line at the top of this area is 151 feet. Its most narrow point is 64 feet. You will have to go to the site and mark it off yourself. I also have graph paper I can give to people (17 x22 inches with 4x4 quadrillage).
Note: as part of my action assignments, I’ll research the availability of water and power at this site. We might also look into the possibility of getting someone to sponsor us in a few solar experiments.

I think I’ve covered most of the important aspects of the work that we need to initially do, but feel free to bring up anything I may have missed at our meeting on Thursday.

Random thoughts

We can have inspirations like this hanging on the cyclone fence around the shed. We can even have classes where we teach people how to build them.
MORE INSPIRATION FOR YOU

Below is a photo taken by Eric Toensmeir of what Paradise Lot looked like in the beginning and below that photo is another one the Toensmeir took of what it looks like today. Here is the link to the Paradise Lot Blog. You can purchase the story of Paradise Lot.
THE 12 PERMACULTURE DESIGN PRINCIPLES – We will follow as guiding principles for our work.

1. *Observe and interact:* By taking time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation.

2. *Catch and store energy:* By developing systems that collect resources at peak abundance, we can use them in times of need.

3. *Obtain a yield:* Ensure that you are getting truly useful rewards as part of the work that you are doing.

4. *Apply self-regulation and accept feedback:* We need to discourage inappropriate activity to ensure that systems can continue to function well.

5. *Use and value renewable resources and services:* Make the best use of nature's abundance to reduce our consumptive behavior and dependence on non-renewable resources.

6. *Produce no waste:* By valuing and making use of all the resources that are available to us, nothing goes to waste.

7. *Design from patterns to details:* By stepping back, we can observe patterns in nature and society. These can form the backbone of our designs, with the details filled in as we go.

8. *Integrate rather than segregate:* By putting the right things in the right place, relationships develop between those things and they work together to support each other.

9. *Use small and slow solutions:* Small and slow systems are easier to maintain than big ones, making better use of local resources and producing more sustainable outcomes.

10. *Use and value diversity:* Diversity reduces vulnerability to a variety of threats and takes advantage of the unique nature of the environment in which it resides.

11. *Use edges and value the marginal:* The interface between things is where the most interesting events take place. These are often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system.

12. *Creatively use and respond to change:* We can have a positive impact on inevitable change by carefully observing, and then intervening at the right time.