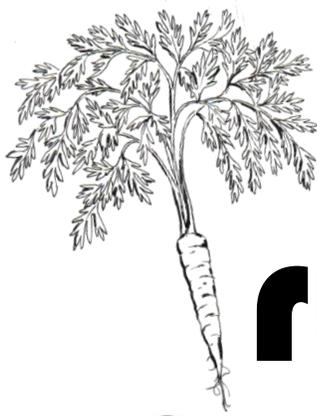


a plan to establish the



**rwin
Creek
Community
Garden**

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Garden Description

The Irwin Creek Community Garden is a project undertaken by the residents of Arbor Glen, Clanton Park and Revolution Park Neighborhoods and assisted by Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department and the UNCC College of Architecture. The garden will provide a safe, fertile site for local residents to produce food. However, it is also desired that the garden become a neighborhood feature that promotes community service, cross-generational interaction, environmental awareness and appreciation for quality, healthy food. These end goals shall be pursued intentionally by designing the garden for accessibility, distributing the plots in a progressive fashion and instituting programs that attract traditional gardeners as well as welcome new gardeners. Strategies for each of these goals is described below.

Accessibility: The Irwin Creek Community Garden is located at the junction of the three neighborhoods, near a greenway and along a bus line. These features are intended to promote accessibility without the use of personal motor vehicles. However, to maintain accessibility for all people, two handicapped parking spaces will be established for limited use. Pathways through the garden will provide ease of access for elderly gardeners and a shaded area with drinking water will be constructed to ensure safe working conditions

Community Service: Garden components will be constructed and maintained largely with volunteer labor. Members are expected to contribute to the upkeep of common areas during twice-yearly workdays.

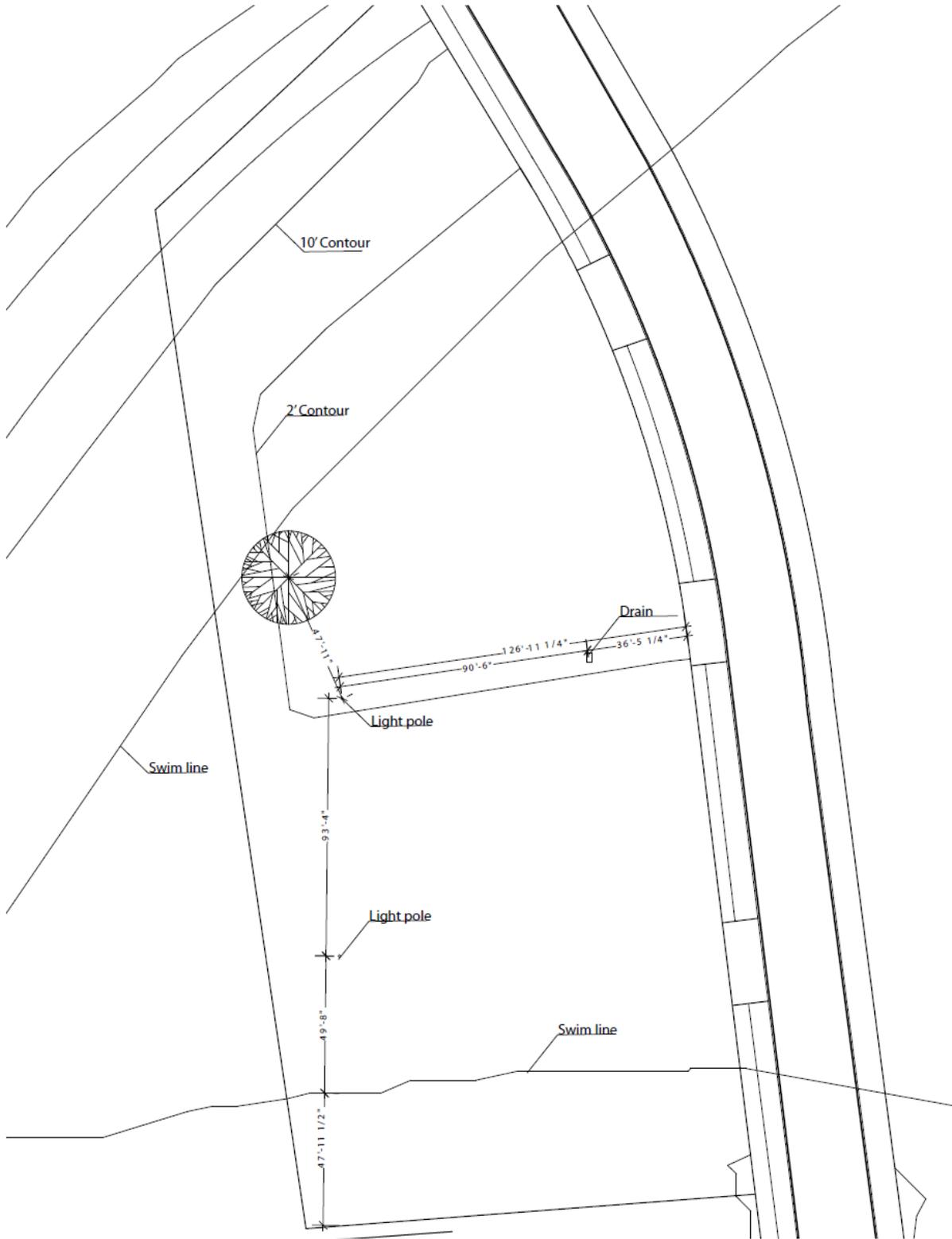
Cross-Generation Interaction: This goal will be encouraged via the following-

- special membership rates for grandparent-grandchild garden teams
- donation of a plot to local elementary schools
- donation of a plot to the Charlotte First Tee's program

Environmental Awareness: Gardening provides an outdoor recreational experience and promotes a keen awareness of soils, insects, climate and plants. By encouraging the participation young gardeners it is hoped that they will develop an understanding and interest in ecology, biology and other disciplines that are important to understanding the environment. The Garden leadership will ensure that all gardening practices are sustainable and will include an educational component to the twice-yearly meetings to describe these practices.

Appreciation of Healthy Food: Take a bite!

Setting & Site Plan



Neighborhood Demographics-Based on the *2008 Quality of Life Report*

- Population-978
- Youth Population-274
- Number of Housing Units-416
- Median Household Income-\$25,064
- Average House Value-\$57,773
- Unemployment Index-High
- Percent of Persons Receiving Food Stamps-28.6%
- Percent of Persons over the Age 64-10.0%
- Youth Opportunity Index-High

The Revolution Park neighborhood has experienced a typical real estate cycle with periods of stability, decline and now, improvement. The concerned residents of the community understand the importance of supporting growth and sustainability by providing amenities the residents can use in their everyday lives.

Revolution Park has a relatively high elderly population. Most have lived here for 20 years or more. The garden is an attempt to provide them with a lower maintenance gardening experience while encouraging communal activity.

The youth in our community are primarily concentrated in an apartment complex located in the center of our community. It is our hope that the garden will be a mechanism to encourage renters to participate in community projects. By providing this type of outreach we also hope to encourage these families to become home owners to further stabilize the neighborhood.

Garden Components

Item	Description	Approximate Value	Strategy
Raised Beds	Raised planting beds to contain soil and demark plots.	\$11,000	Built by volunteers-Grant
Soil	Top soil suitable for planting vegetables	\$1,000	Cash
Hose Bib	Water source tapped into municipal water supply	\$3,500	Mecklenburg County
Fence	Fence to protect vegetable plots from animal damage		Donation
Pathways	Paths between plots and raised beds. Mulched walkways.		Donation
Parking Area	Two gravel spots for use by members who cannot walk to the garden. To be placed near the existing curb cut.		TBD
Irrigation System	Automated watering system to make efficient use of collected rainwater.		TBD
Rest Facility	Shade facility for gardeners to rest. Will improve accessibility for a variety of gardeners.		Donation
Tools and Storage	Lockable room for storage of members' tools or equipment owned by the ICGA.		Donation
Non-vegetable landscaping	Plants started in unused plots and propagated for use around the garden		Donation
Sign	Garden sign visible from roadway		Donation
Water Tanks	Tanks to collect rainwater for vegetable irrigation.		TBD