

Fact sheet about the Mountair Park Community Farm

- Mountair Park is a 9.7 acre neighborhood park. It was built for the neighborhood's enjoyment by the Mountair Park District in the late 1950s or early 1960s prior to the City's incorporation. The City of Lakewood is working with the Two Creeks neighborhood to develop a new vision for the park.
- The new vision includes using one acre of Mountair Park to develop a community farm. The farm site is currently bisected by a basketball court. The area to the east of the court will be used for food production and will be developed as the first phase of the project. The area west of the court could be used for community gardens, educational programs, gathering spaces and small terraced teaching gardens in a future second phase of the project.
- The community farm concept grew from ideas and comments provided by Two Creeks neighborhood residents during the 20 minute Neighborhood project. The 20 minute neighborhood strategy involves creating and enhancing neighborhoods where residents have safe, convenient access by walking or bicycling within 20 minutes to many of the places and services they use daily, using the Sheridan Station on the W Line as a hub. In addition to improving the sidewalk and bicycle network in the neighborhood, the project's primary goals include increasing access to healthy food for people living near the Sheridan Station, an area designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a "food desert" because of a critical lack of access to food partners and locations for fresh food production, packaging and sales.
- To help reach the goal of providing better access to healthy food for residents near the Sheridan Station, the City of Lakewood submitted a letter of interest to Sprout City Farms in October 2013 in response to a request for proposals to enter into an urban farming partnership with Sprout City Farms.
- Lakewood's interest in an urban farm is rooted in the city's history of being an agricultural community and the desire to promote urban agriculture and develop healthier individuals and families. The farm will promote access to healthy food, ecological stewardship and community pride as well as provide opportunities for education, participation and awareness for Lakewood residents.
- Sprout City Farms (<http://sproutcityfarms.org>) will operate the one-acre farm, using the Community Supported Agriculture concept, which is an alternative, locally based economic model of agriculture and food distribution. CSA members, or subscribers, pay at the onset of the growing season for a share of the anticipated harvest.
- The growth and development of educational activities, donation programs and social events will be guided by the Community Advisory Group. This group will be formed of local residents, individuals from partner agencies such as Molholm Elementary School, 11th Avenue Head Start, Metro West Housing Solutions and others.

- Initial construction costs to the City of Lakewood are projected to fall between \$11,200 and \$14,000. Funding has been allocated out of the Department of Community Resources Conservation Trust funds.
- Ongoing costs to the City associated with this partnership include water and electrical utilities, one port-o-let and trash pickup. Those costs are projected to fall between \$2,122 and \$2,436 per year.