

# **McCall in *Delicious* Motion**

**Advancing the City's Urban Agriculture Goals**



**Report produced for the City of McCall by Casey O'Leary, Graduate Student at the McCall Outdoor Science School.**



**City of McCall**

## Table of Contents

About this report .....	4
Introduction .....	6
Part 1: Background and Methods .....	7
Historic and Current Food Systems in McCall .....	7
Literature Review.....	9
Community Input .....	13
Part II: Comprehensive Plan Project Results and Next Steps .....	14
LU Project 16: Inventory city-owned land & explore community garden feasibility.....	14
LU Project 14: Identify appropriate areas for conservation.....	22
LU Project 18: Expand farmer’s market opportunities.....	25
LU Project 15: Explore partnerships for greenhouse development.....	27
LU Project 17: Review city development code .....	28
Part III: Recommendations and Next Steps .....	30
5 Steps: An Overarching Framework for Forward Motion .....	30
5 Big Ideas to Support Agriculture In McCall .....	33
Community gardens feed residents at River Front and Gold Glove Parks.....	33
City and County Landowners and Non-Profits Join Forces to Conserve Agricultural Land in Perpetuity.....	34
Collaborative Hydroponic Greenhouses Reclaim the Old City Dump .....	36
Community Compost Turns Waste into a Rich Soil Amendment at River Front Park .....	39
Resilience Coordinator Moves Important Projects Forward.....	40
Resources.....	41
Grants for urban agriculture and community food systems .....	41
Community Interviews .....	43
Appendices .....	44
Appendix A: Sample Community Garden Agreement .....	44
Appendix B: Draft Urban Agriculture Comprehensive Plan Language .....	55
Appendix C: Site assessment notes .....	56
Appendix D: Additional recommendations for city planners .....	58
References .....	59
References.....	59
Image Credits.....	63



## About this report

The report documents the progress made through an urban agriculture and community food systems internship in collaboration between the University of Idaho McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) at the Community and Economic Development department at the City of McCall. Former mayor Jackie Aymon secured grant funds through Blue Cross of Idaho to hire MOSS interns in the summer of 2020 to pursue a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the city, and this internship, addressing a piece of that overall goal, was folded into that larger effort.

The scope of this internship included convening stakeholders, assessing current city assets to support urban agriculture and community food systems, and advancing identified priority projects outlined in the city of McCall's most recent comprehensive plan (McCall in Motion, 2018).

Several questions guided the work:

1. What work has already been done in the arena of community food systems and urban agriculture?
2. What are the unique characteristics of this place and how can these characteristics be leveraged to build a robust community food system here?
3. What existing city assets can be employed to aid in the development of a robust community food system?
4. What are the advised next steps to advance the building of a robust community food system upon completion of this internship project?

The comprehensive plan projects pursued as a part of this internship include:

- **LU Project 14:** Work with the Payette Land Trust to identify appropriate areas for conservation
- **LU Project 15:** Explore partnerships for greenhouse development
- **LU Project 16:** Review city-owned land inventories and assess their suitability for urban agriculture. Explore the feasibility of community gardens in public spaces.
- **LU Project 17:** Review city development code to better accommodate agricultural uses and support food production and distribution
- **LU Project 18:** Expand farmer's market opportunities

The deliverables for the project are included in this report. They include an assessment of city-owned parcels for their agricultural suitability, a review of city development code with recommendations on amendments to better support agriculture, recommendations on how best to pursue community gardens on city-owned land, and community visioning documents that focus on building a robust regional food system. The final visioning document takes the form of this report, specifically the Big Ideas section that highlights some of the most exciting potential collaborations to consider pursuing moving forward. Two presentations will also be made to the McCall City Council as a part of this project.



The author acknowledges that this report was created within the original treaty boundary of the Nimi'ipuu (Nez Perce tribe) and that any considerations or actions regarding land use on ancestral tribal lands should be done in consultation with the tribe. Special thanks to the dozens of community members who advised this project with passion and wisdom. Also, thanks to Blue Cross of Idaho for funding this project, and to former mayor Jackie Aymon for partnering with the McCall Outdoor Science School to bring it to life.





## Introduction

The City of McCall completed its most recent comprehensive plan, entitled *McCall in Motion*, in 2018. Among other important goals and visions laid out in the document are ambitious projects and goals related to strengthening the city’s urban agriculture and community food systems. Through the comprehensive planning process, McCall residents have asked for greater access to locally-grown food and spaces to garden. This internship seeks to advance several of the urban agriculture and community food systems-related projects outlined in the plan. It also takes a wider view of the importance of planning *for* agriculture, rather than simply planning around it. The American Planning Association acknowledges that while food is a basic necessity, it has consistently been ignored as a focus of regional planning while the other essentials—air, water, and shelter—have not (APA, 2017).

Community food systems provide many benefits for a community. They promote entrepreneurship and create jobs (O’Hara, 2011) and increase community resilience in times of disaster (Paci-Green and Berardi, 2015, Duncan et al., 2018). Community gardens as a piece of a regional food system enhance ecological stewardship among community members (Colding and Barthel, 2013), increase consumption of fruits and vegetables (Litt et al., 2011), improve participant health (Zick et al.,

2013) and strengthen the social fabric and democratic engagement of the community (Levkoe, 2006, Glover et al., 2005, Holland, 2004).

Further, agriculture more broadly can have impacts on human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. While agriculture can be a contributor to climate change, when done well, regenerative agriculture can also help to combat it by pulling carbon out of the air and tying it up in the soil, a process known as carbon sequestration (Lin et al., 2013). Thus, addressing agriculture is an important part of the city of McCall’s overall Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Cities are well-poised to enact policies that can support the development of community food systems (Duncan et al., 2018, Robert and Mullinix, 2018). The city of McCall is taking a proactive and committed approach to increasing its urban agriculture and community food systems infrastructure in order to better serve and nourish its residents in the present and adapt to a changing climate in the future. The projects outlined in the comprehensive plan constitute a series of practical next steps in the pursuit of this larger goal. The scope of work detailed in this internship project will assist with the implementation of these next steps, and upon completion provide recommendations for subsequent action.



## Part 1: Background and Methods

### Historic and Current Food Systems in McCall

Situated in a largely-forested high-mountain area in central Idaho, McCall is known better for its timber legacy and current reputation as a tourist destination boasting ample outdoor recreational opportunities than it is for its agriculture.

And yet, its culinary history is more complex. Situated on ancestral Nimi'ipuu (Nez Perce) tribal lands, the McCall area is a part of the original 1855 treaty between the Nimi'ipuu and United States governments, which protected the tribe's rights to continue to hunt, fish, and gather from the rich wild foods of this area. Though the discovery of gold a few years later prompted the US government to force the tribe into a second treaty that placed the McCall area outside of its reservation boundaries, it protected the tribe's rights to hunt, gather, and fish in the "usual and accustomed areas" (Nez Perce website), which includes what is now McCall.



This brings an interesting conundrum. The fact that anadromous fish such as salmon can no longer return to Payette Lake because of downstream dams that block their passage violates the treaty of 1863 by failing to protect the tribe's right to fish in the usual and accustomed areas. And given the topography and climate of McCall proper, with its short growing season and heavily-forested

landscape that make agricultural production difficult, any discussion about food systems in McCall specifically should consider wild foods, including salmon. As a part of a student survey conducted by this report's author about community food systems as a part of this project, 45% of respondents said they saw policies that support the return of the salmon to Payette Lake as a priority (McCall Urban Gardening Survey, June 2020).

That said, no city expects to be able to feed itself entirely from lands within its jurisdiction, and that needn't be a goal for McCall. Instead, it can be useful to look at the regional food system as one would a watershed, using defining geographical features like mountain ranges and water bodies to help define an area's ideal foodshed. In our area, the West Central



Mountains Food Coalition sees our foodshed as encompassing the West Central Mountains more broadly. Thus, any effort toward building a robust community food system should make connections between the municipalities and unincorporated areas surrounding these West Central Mountains communities.

Particularly in Long Valley south of town, there exists a modest history of agricultural production, including the production of oats, hay, cattle, chickens, goats, sheep, pigs, and even lettuce, peas, and seed potatoes for export (Long Valley Bioregional Atlas, 2008). However, the diversity of crops produced has steadily dropped. In 2017, Valley County had 188 farms that produced over \$10 million in market value of crops. Almost all this revenue (91%) came from livestock, mostly cattle. And of these farms, only 11% sell direct to customers (USDA Agriculture Census, 2017). That means that the agricultural products produced on 89% of farms leave this valley to feed consumers outside it.

Meanwhile, the 3,400 full-time residents and tens of thousands of annual visitors are all eating several meals a day, and nearly all of that food—over \$20 million worth annually, according to a leakage analysis conducted by the West Central Mountains Economic Development Council—is being imported from somewhere else (Andrew Mentzer, personal communication, June 4, 2020). There is ample opportunity for growth in regional distribution and consumption, as well as to diversify production.



Long Valley boasts several intrepid farmers who are attempting to grow and sell a diversity of healthy food locally, including a variety of produce, garden starts, seed potatoes, and unique and well-adapted meats like yak, deer, elk, and bison. The McCall Farmer's market has operated twice a week during the summer months for the past 29 years, connecting local folks with fresh food grown in and around the region. And several local restaurants purchase food from local farmers as well. The bones of a regional food system exist. By pursuing the big ideas highlighted in this study, the city of McCall can help to put some more meat on them.





## Literature Review

A robust regional food system increases community resilience in times of disaster both by increasing a community's overall food supply and by mobilizing food resources in the immediate short-term after a dramatic disturbance, to buy time until larger-scale distribution channels can rebuild themselves (Paci-Green et al., 2015, Duncan et al., 2018). The current COVID-19 pandemic is straining the world's food systems, and to address it, communities are turning to strategies for developing food system resilience that have gained attention through an attempt to adapt to another pressing, potentially system-wide disruption—climate change (Worstell, 2020). After the immediacy of the current crisis passes, climate change will continue to have impacts on the world's food production, processing, and distribution systems. But sustainable agriculture plays an important role in land management and can potentially reduce the negative impacts of climate change on societies and ecosystems (IPCC, 2019).



Addressing agriculture as a part of a larger Climate Action Plan (CAP), such as the one the city of McCall is currently creating to guide its climate adaptation and mitigation strategies is sensible given its potential to both contribute to or help combat climate change, depending on the methods used (Lin et al., 2013). Fortunately for McCall, land held in perennial pasture like much of the agricultural land in Long Valley can be a substantial carbon sink when

it is well-managed (Salvador et al., 2017). Additionally, the use of compost can increase the carbon sequestering capacity of soils (Tautges et al., 2019), which offers a dual incentive for the city to address a portion of its waste stream challenges while building soils which can feed residents as well as sequester larger amounts of carbon through the implementation of a community composting program.



The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy defines a community food system as one in which all the components of a food system—food production, processing, distribution, and consumption—are integrated in sustainable ways to enhance the economic, environmental, social, and nutritional health of a community that is rooted in a particular place (Garrett and Feenstra, nd). Community food systems provide many additional benefits for a community beyond crisis management. Regional food production, processing, and distribution can bring increased entrepreneurship and economic prosperity to a community (Cascella, 2019, O’Hara, 2011). Specific strategies such as food hubs, farmer’s markets, community gardens, CSAs (community supported agriculture), you-pick operations and roadside stands can invigorate the local economy and increase employment and community wealth (O’Kane, 2012, Cascella, 2019).





J. McEntee proposed a conceptual framework to discuss two parallel local food systems, referring to them as traditional localism and contemporary localism (McEntee, 2011). Traditional localism is associated with home gardening and community gardens, where people can obtain affordable, healthy food. Contemporary localism is the sector of the local food system manifested through farmer's markets, CSAs (community supported agriculture) and other direct farm-to-consumer sales. Research suggests a local food system is most successful when these two sub-sectors intersect and overlap (O'Kane, 2012).



With regard to traditional localism, as a community, McCall is not well-poised to house a large number of home gardens, given the forested nature of the community. Therefore, community gardens are an important component of the traditional localism node of the local food system, as they can provide residents with suitable land on which to garden. Indeed, increasing access to community gardens is one of the identified goals in the city's comprehensive plan (McCall In Motion, 2018).

Community gardens offer benefits to participants and to the community as a whole. Certain benefits, such as increased consumption of fruits and vegetables (Litt et al., 2011) and better health among participants (Zick et al., 2013) are a logical outcome of providing people a space to grow their own fresh food. But perhaps more

surprising are the additional benefits of community gardens. They have been shown to enhance ecological stewardship and increase scientific literacy among community members (Colding and Barthel, 2013, Tidball and Krasny, 2009). Moreover, they can strengthen the social fabric and democratic engagement of the community (Levkoe, 2006, Glover et al., 2005, Holland, 2004, Tidball and Krasny, 2009). Additionally, community gardens can increase property values (Voicu and Been, 2008).



Through the contemporary localism arm of a community food system, urban agriculture can provide many similar benefits to the community as community gardening, including an increased connection to nature, increased health and exercise, and increased connection to community, which can lead to increased civic participation (Colding and Barthel, 2013, Nogeire-Mcrae et al., 2018). Preserving working farmland in and adjacent to urban areas can also provide valuable ecosystem services like nitrogen fixation, water filtration, and carbon fixation, and help to manage the municipal waste stream (Brinkley, 2012).

Cities are well-poised to enact policies that can support the development of community food systems in both the traditional and contemporary localism frameworks (Duncan et al., 2018, Thibert, 2012, Robert and Mullinix, 2018). A study published in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* shows that municipalities have a strong role to play in urban agriculture—for better or worse. Through incorporating urban agriculture into city land use and other planning processes, cities can move from



“municipal hindered agriculture” to “municipal enabled agriculture” (Thibert, 2012, p. 355). The vast majority of community gardens in the U.S. are an unstable land use, often serving as a placeholder, an interim land use on properties awaiting construction (Colding and Barthel, 2013). Not surprisingly, community residents are more likely to invest in gardens or urban farms with longer leases (Colding, 2011b). K. Schmeltzkopf found that lot lease duration correlates closely with increased infrastructure, permanence, and appearance of community gardens (1996). Thus, cities taking a proactive approach to allotting permanent spaces for community gardens enjoy more attractive, functional, and engaging community gardens.

There is a close correlation between community gardening or urban agriculture projects and the availability of vacant lots in cities (Schukoske, 2000). Shrinking cities like Detroit, Michigan, boast a large number of urban agriculture enterprises and community gardens, due in part to their high volume of vacant land (Bonifiglio, 2009). But for high-demand cities like McCall, land is expensive and difficult for many people to access (Kortright and Wakefield, 2011), which makes the City of McCall’s commitment to exploring its current assets and amending its city codes to support agriculture in the city limits particularly valuable.



## Community Input

A substantial portion of this internship project focused on connecting and engaging with stakeholders about the past, present, and future of McCall's regional foodshed. The intern spent over 40 hours in one-on-one or small group conversations with various regional food system stakeholders including local farmers, chefs, farmer's market board members, school and community garden coordinators, environmental educators, extension agents, county commissioners, land trust and conservation district staff, economic development organizations, independent grocery stores, food banks, community health coordinators, and food system advocates, among others. The purpose of these interviews was to cast a wide net to increase understanding and connection between various players in the creation of a robust food system and look for opportunities for collaboration between the city and the food system more broadly. A full list of stakeholders interviewed for this project can be found in the resources section of this document.

Additionally, the intern worked with the city to send out a brief survey asking community members specifically about their desires for a community garden and whether there were any city codes hindering their agricultural pursuits. 42 community members responded to the survey, which was shared on the city's social media pages and on their website and was live for one week. The results of the survey are included in relevant locations throughout this document.





## Part II: Comprehensive Plan Project Results and Next Steps

This section of the report highlights the work done on advancing the specific projects relating to urban agriculture and community food systems outlined in the comprehensive plan. While some of the projects have been technically completed through this internship, all of them are merely next steps in creating a robust regional food system and should be viewed as a part of a larger, sustained effort toward that end. Thus, in addition to presenting the results of the proposed projects, each section contains a series of next steps which provide a road map for subsequent action.

### LU Project 16: Inventory city-owned land & explore community garden feasibility

#### Part 1: Review city-owned land inventories and assess their suitability for agriculture.

The intern inventoried over 70 city-owned parcels and omitted all dedicated rights-of-way, parcels explicitly prohibiting agricultural use (for example, parcels dedicated to wetlands conservation or whose restrictions dictate they maintain a “natural look”), the Ruby Street parcels with affordable homes on them, the McCall Fire Department and McCall Golf Course grounds, public parking lots, the cemetery and airport grounds, the water treatment and wastewater treatment plants, public beaches, and any individual parcel less than 0.2 acres. Also omitted from the study were parcels with high real estate value that the city can sell to generate income for more affordable housing projects.

The remaining lands were assessed for their agricultural suitability. Assessment criteria included their size, topography, aspect, access to water, drainage, current vegetative cover, and other characteristics. Identified potential agricultural sites are detailed here, broken into three categories—potential community garden sites, potential urban agriculture sites, and the broader category, potential community food systems sites.



## Potential Community Garden Sites

Two city-owned parcels have potential specifically to house community gardens, where community members can sign up for individual small plots to garden for a year at a time. They have ample under-utilized ground and sun exposure, and are located in or near the city center. Additionally, there is a county-owned site which currently houses a small community garden which could potentially be expanded.



### Site 1: Gold Glove Park

#### *Pros:*

- Already hooked to city water; irrigation modifications would be relatively simple.
- In an underutilized area of the park, away from lots of public attention
- Bathrooms and potable water on site at the park
- Conveniently located in town, near condos

#### *Cons:*

- Site doesn't drain well, so site prep would need to include bringing in new materials to build it up
- Awkward long, skinny layout may detract from the community feel
- Limited space does not allow for expansion



### Site 2: River Front Park

#### *Pros:*

- Potential irrigation water right from Payette River would save money over city water
- Flat, level site in desperate need of renovation
- Plenty of room for expansion
- Incredible synergy with a community compost program potentially located at the park
- Out of the public eye
- Easy road access to and from site

#### *Cons:*

- Potential site isn't owned by the city—the landowner would need to be approached with a plea to donate it to the city for a tax write off
- Currently lacks amenities (potable water, restrooms, etc). More infrastructure investment would be needed.



### Site 3: Behind the Valley County/McCall Police Department offices

*Pros:*

- Desirable location near low-income housing and Heartland Hunger Coalition food bank
- Some infrastructure already in place

*Cons:*

- Not owned by the city. Would require collaboration with the county.
- Very small space makes bulk material delivery, composting, etc, difficult and provides limited space for food production.

- Location lacks aesthetic beauty, behind the building, next to an air conditioning unit.

## Potential Urban Agriculture Sites

Only one city-owned parcel that isn't currently dedicated to another use was identified as large enough, level enough, and with enough sun exposure to accommodate an urban agriculture operation.



### Site 1: The old city dump on Colorado Street

*Pros:*

- \* Ideal cleared, amply-sized, flat, level site with good sun exposure
- \* In-town location
- \* Could be a great spot for a collaborative greenhouse project, with greenhouses that serve individual agricultural entrepreneurs, community gardeners, underserved populations, etc. (see Big Idea #3 for more details).

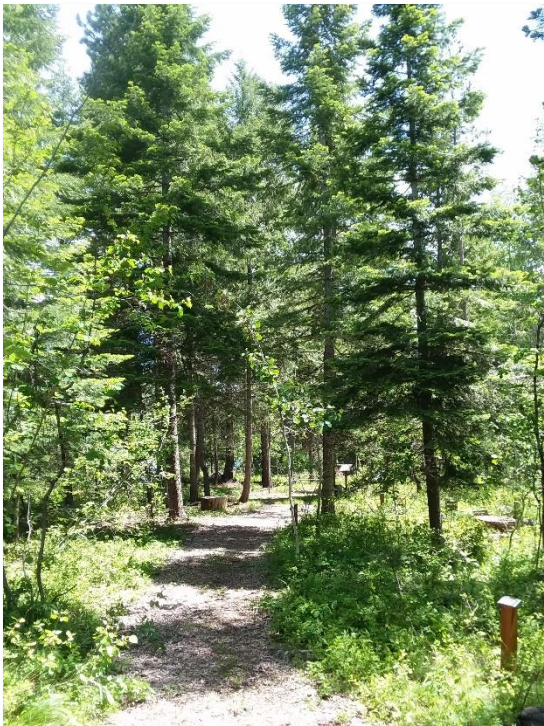
*Cons:*

- \* Brownfield site—contaminated soil. Growing would need to happen above-ground and/or remediation would need to occur.
- \* Needs water
- \* Covered in quackgrass—not ideal for cropping.



## Potential Community Food Systems Sites

These parcels fall under the broad umbrella of community food systems. They are valuable for out-of-the-box thinking about our food system more broadly, encompassing not only agriculture but the substantial contributions wild foods have made and continue to make to inhabitants' diets. This category also includes the four local schools and highlights potential collaborations between students and the greater community, and a possible location for recycling the organic waste generated by the city into rich compost which can be used by local residents to build long-term soil fertility.



### Site 1: Lake Forest Park on Thompson Street: Ethnobotanical Garden

#### *Pros:*

- \* Park currently has interpretive signage about wild plants, including some ethnobotanical uses
- \* Could be easily and simply upgraded to include more focus on the ethnobotany of the wild plants of this area, with more plants, better signage, and a formal acknowledgement of the ethnobotanical history of this area, including Nimi'ipuu and other tribal cultural resources and contributions.
- \* Signage was initially installed through a partnership between the City of McCall and the University of Idaho's McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS). Additional collaboration between the city and MOSS could enhance this project.

#### *Cons:*

- \* Signage talks about Native Americans in the past tense.
- \* This park is poorly advertised/highlighted in outreach efforts by the city and by MOSS.

**Ethnobotany:** The study of a region's plants and their practical uses through the traditional knowledge of a local culture and people.



**Site 2: Central Idaho Historical Museum: Traditional Community Foodways Display Gardens**

*Pros:*

- ✓ On the national register of historic places. There is an opportunity to highlight some of the historic community foodways of the area on the grounds around the museum.
- ✓ Parks and rec department offices are relocating to this property, providing them with easy access for establishing and maintaining new plantings.

*Cons:*

- Stormwater filtration agreements with St. Luke’s hospital and snow storage could create difficulty changing the landscape from turfgrass in some areas.
- Management of the grounds is subject to the provisions of the Historic Preservation Act, which could prohibit some uses.



**Sites 3-6: Barbara Morgan Elementary School, Payette Lakes Middle School, McCall/Donnelly High School, Heartland High School: School Gardens**

*Pros:*

- These school campuses comprise some of the largest open and level lands in the city, making conversations about their best uses valuable on a community-wide level.
- Ample opportunities exist to engage students in learning about food, health, nutrition, and community resilience through agriculture. Creative collaborations between

departments can build bridges across academic disciplines and provide innovative and effective project-based learning experiences for students. They can also forge partnerships between schools and community partners, enhancing learning and community service opportunities for students (Sobel, 1996, Johnson et al, 2005).

- A school-community garden partnership is currently underway at McCall/Donnelly High School and is experiencing a high level of community engagement and support.

*Cons:*

- There are many common challenges of incorporating gardens into schools, including the seasonal timing of the academic calendar (students are out of school in the summer while the garden is growing), lack of resources for garden staff and infrastructure, and a lack of administrative support for school garden projects. So many of them get off the ground through the efforts of a dedicated teacher or staff member but fizzle out when that individual retires, gets burnt out, or moves on. This

is not to say that school garden projects can't be wildly successful. It simply means that care has to be taken to address some of the common pitfalls of school gardens and secure adequate resources for them to provide long-term student and community benefit.



**Site 7: The McCall Public Library:  
Community Engagement and Education**

*Pros:*

- ✓ The library is dedicated to creating learning opportunities of all types for community members.
- ✓ They have a garden as a part of the current library building, where they offer classes and other opportunities for library patrons to learn about gardening. They also have a selection of high mountain gardening books available at the library.

*Cons:*

- The library bond didn't go through in the May 2020 election, so their expanded gardens are presently on hold.



**Site 8: Community Compost at River Front Park**

*Pros:*

- ✓ Accessible site where city parks and rec and local residents can drop off yard and kitchen waste and pick up finished compost for personal and municipal use
- ✓ Equipment on site to turn and load compost
- ✓ Rotating compost piles around the property revitalizes degraded soil and increases soil fertility ahead of landscaping, community garden creation, and other site

improvements

- ✓ Closes the loop for residents by reducing their landfill waste and keeping valuable nutrients circulating within the community, while increasing the carbon sequestration potential of local soils

*Cons:*

- Program oversight, while minimal, would still be needed.
- Potential bear or critter attractant—fresh in-process piles may need fencing.

## Part 2: Explore the feasibility of community gardens on city-owned land

To explore the feasibility of community gardens in public spaces, interviews were conducted with past and current community gardeners and garden coordinators as well as parks department staff and other stakeholders. A survey also went out through the city's social media accounts to gather more information about what residents need and want with regard to community gardens.



The community advisors interviewed specifically for their guidance on developing successful community gardens on city-owned land in McCall include:

**Kurt Wolf**, City of McCall Parks and Recreation department  
**Melissa Hamilton**, Valley County Extension who has implemented multiple community garden projects

**Judy Anderson**, co-founder, McCall/Donnelly High School garden and long-time community activist

**Mary Hart**, community gardener and LOT grant applicant for the proposed Brown's Park community garden

**Durena Farr**, Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Skip Clapp**, Valley County and site host for community garden at county offices next to the police station

**Linda Klind**, Heartland Hunger Coalition

**Liz Jones**, Donnelly Farmer's Market manager and St. Luke's Community Health Coordinator  
**Melissa Coriell**, MDHS teacher and current MDHS community-school garden coordinator

**Appendix A**, the Sample Community Garden Agreement, synthesizes many of the organizational details for running a successful community garden in McCall that were recommended by the community advisors interviewed for this project. It takes into account the needs and concerns of parks department staff, experienced community garden coordinators, and surveyed potential community garden members. It also provides guidance in installing effective irrigation and outlining contract agreements. Following the protocols laid out in this agreement will help to ensure the success of community garden participants.



### Recommended next steps for establishing community gardens in McCall:

1. **Hire a community garden coordinator.** Every single person interviewed said this was the biggest obstacle to long-term success. This position could potentially be combined with other city positions as a part-time or full-time position.
2. **Attempt to secure the land between River Front Park and the RV park from the private landowner.** This would be a win-win for the city and the landowner, who currently cannot develop this property without an easement, and a fantastic spot for a long-term community garden.
3. **Develop a site plan and budget for a community garden at Gold Glove Park and/or River Front Park.** The design should be simple. Lay out 5x10' and 10x10' plots, with 3' wide pathways between and around them. Minimize the common areas in the original design, with opportunities to expand the garden as members become more involved and invested. Budget to incorporate a few wheelchair-accessible raised beds near the entrance (Valley County has some behind the police station they are willing to donate), as well as deer fence, a small garden shed, irrigation to individual plots, an above-ground hose connection, trash collection, garden sign, and a small common area with a bulletin board. The budget should also include initial site preparation, including soil testing and amendments, garden plot creation, and pathway mulching, as well as a budget for annual water costs and ongoing maintenance.
4. **Seek funding for the creation of the community garden.** A list of potential grant funding sources for community gardens is included in the "resources" section of this document.
5. **Sign a minimum 5-year lease with the city** that contractually outlines the city's commitment to house the community garden and provide water for it.
6. **Get to work!** Build the garden, start accepting members, and get growing!
7. **Solicit a community garden liaison to serve on the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee** to help guide future relations and expansions of community gardens.

#### *Dig Deeper:*

Appendix A: Sample Community Garden Agreement.  
Appendix C: A list of assessed city-owned parcels, with additional notes.

## LU Project 14: Identify appropriate areas for conservation

To pursue this comprehensive plan project, the intern spoke with Craig Utter at the Payette Land Trust (PLT) as well as with other stakeholders to better understand the state of agricultural land in the city limits and the area of impact. The reality that quickly emerged from these conversations is that this is a project which will require collaboration between more stakeholders than just the city and the PLT. Further, this collaboration is necessary and urgent.



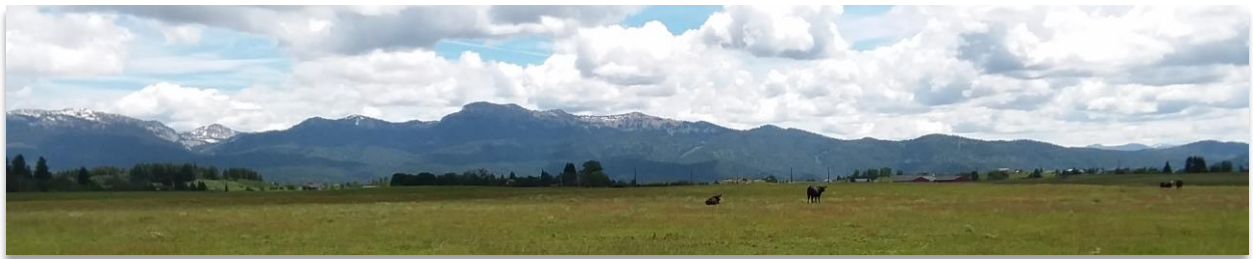
Like much of Idaho, McCall and the surrounding areas are experiencing rapid development. If the city wants to work toward building a more robust and resilient regional food system, it must swiftly prioritize the conservation of agricultural land. Much of the remaining agricultural land in the city limits, the area of impact, and the county surrounding it, is currently being subdivided and sold for development, particularly the areas south of town, as subdivision for houses is rapidly occurring between the city and Lake Fork. Even during the course of this 6-week internship, a 450-acre parcel that had initially been identified as strategically important for urban agriculture due to its proximity to town and potential connectivity to the Activity Barn was subdivided into 20-acre parcels. This conversion is part of a larger picture

of aging farmers retiring or passing away and younger generations choosing not to come back to the farm.

The urgency here cannot be overstated. As of June 4, 155 development permits had come through Valley County's permitting offices so far in 2020, and of those, around 50% are for very large homes (County Commissioner Sherry Maupin, personal communication, June 4, 2020).

“Houses are the last crop planted on the land.”

-Craig Utter, Payette Land Trust



Agricultural land is low-hanging fruit for development. It has already been cleared and usually leveled, and some amount of infrastructure has already been put into it (water, roads, etc). And while on the surface it can seem like developing agricultural land into low-density residential (LDR) properties is better than high-density development in terms of preserving the agricultural aesthetic of an area, in reality the conversion from agricultural land to low-density residential makes it far more likely to be further developed in the future. Nationally, according to the American

Farmland Trust, agricultural land that is developed into LDR is 23 times more likely become urbanized than other agricultural land (Freedgood et al., 2020). In Idaho, that number is much higher. Agricultural land in LDR zoning in 2001 was a whopping 122 times more likely to be urbanized by 2016. In short, if we want to preserve agricultural land long into the future, we have to lock it down as agricultural land in perpetuity. This will



require a coordinated effort between private landowners, the Payette Land Trust, the city, and the county.

Conserving agricultural land can achieve the interlocking goals of multiple regional entities in addition to merely guaranteeing the land where agriculture can continue to take place. Partnerships can be leveraged between entities to achieve their goals. The Payette River Scenic Byway has as a goal to protect viewsheds (Payette River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, 2014). The City of McCall shares this goal, wanting to protect viewsheds as well as preserve a distinct visual boundary between the south end of the city and the rural county that borders it. The city wants to see a distinction between Lake Fork and McCall instead of watching it turn into one big, sprawling suburb (McCall in Motion, 2018). Valley County wants to preserve historic and working lands (Valley County Comprehensive Plan 2018). The Payette Land Trust sees conservation of certain parcels as crucial for animal habitat. For example, the area around the airport provides important sandhill crane habitat. All these entities have common interests. Partnerships can be leveraged, but the city must make a committed effort to convene these partners around the work of preserving agricultural land if it is going to happen.

Of course, it is not enough to merely conserve agricultural land to ensure a viable food system. In the same way we recognize wildlife corridors as important, we must prioritize agricultural corridors as well. The American Planning Association asserts that it is time to start planning *for* agriculture rather than merely planning around it (APA, 2007). Developing strategic partnerships to plan for the long-term agricultural future of Valley county is necessary, and it begins with actively pursuing the long-term protection of agriculture corridors. When neighboring parcels are subdivided, it becomes more difficult for the remaining farms to hold on as they lose shared equipment, support networks, and common values they once shared with their neighbors.

The demand for local food will only increase as the population increases. But all those new people who need to eat will also need to live somewhere. Thus, locking down agricultural land into long-term conservation is the first necessary step in ensuring a viable and robust regional food system in the future. The potential for Valley County to lose a large portion of its agricultural land, and to lose the agricultural corridors that make agriculture viable, is very real in the very near future, and urgent action is needed to prevent this from happening.

“The markets  
come twenty  
years after the  
land is gone.”

-Craig Utter, Payette Land Trust

See Big Idea #2 for recommended next steps to address this crucial topic.







## LU Project 18: Expand farmer's market opportunities

The intern spoke with McCall Farmer's Market management, board members, and vendors to explore ways to support and expand farmer's market opportunities. It is important to note that farmer's markets are only one potential market for connecting local producers with customers.

### Challenges facing the McCall Farmer's Market

#### Immediate challenges:

- COVID. Not enough staff/volunteers or ability to adequately police market customers to ensure safe social distancing/mask wearing. So many tourists come from other places with higher case loads and McCall is a vulnerable community. Additionally, several vendors are in high risk populations for COVID. The market simply cannot ensure safety and therefore they do not want to put vendors and customers at risk. They are pursuing other options for connecting customers with their vendors' food aside from an in person market for the 2020 season.
- Lack of communication channels. The market currently doesn't have a website or a newsletter or email list. They lack dedicated staff time and technical expertise to engage in outreach/communication with the public for this unusual 2020 season, to help vendors connect with customers and vice versa.

#### Longer-term challenges:

- The land they currently operate on could potentially be developed into the Ponderosa Center (or potentially something else at some point if that falls through). They do not have long-term security on this land. Thus, the market lacks a permanent home.
- The vendor population is aging and young farmers are not coming up to replace them. At the same time, some prospective vendors have expressed frustration that they cannot secure a space in the farmer's market.





### **Relationship between the City of McCall and the McCall Farmer's Market**

- The farmer's market has a fraught relationship with the city, due to a long history of confusion on both sides over how much the city can govern what the market does and doesn't do. In addition to explicit city codes, at times there have been city employees who have believed they have jurisdiction to dictate certain things about market operations that are actually not in their jurisdiction. This has put the market management in a situation of having to advocate for itself as an independent entity at the city level, and has increased tension between the city and the market.
- Turnover in city staff has caused institutional knowledge about previous agreements between the city and the market to disappear and puts the market management in a perpetual state of unease over what a potential changeover in staff might look like for them.
- The farmer's market is confident in the value it brings to the community, through increased community engagement and connection, community support, and tourism appeal, and as an incubator for new small businesses to get their start, expand, and advance beyond the market into the community at large. They do not believe the city adequately recognizes the value they bring to the community, nor do they believe the city is listening to their concerns.

### **Considerations moving forward for the McCall Farmer's Market and the City of McCall**

The city of McCall designed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street renovation to support events like a farmer's market, with space to back trucks in, electrical outlets in the sidewalk, and other amenities. The city manager can also choose to waive the fees associated with the market if it is deemed a public benefit. Given that the current market location is at risk of development with the potential Ponderosa Center proposed at the site, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street offers a potential new downtown location for a farmer's market. The McCall Farmer's Market is currently considering relocating, so discussions between the city and the market to consider 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in their relocation plans are timely and prudent.

Moscow, Idaho, boasts a wildly successful farmer's market that is managed by a collaboration between city staff and a farmer's market commission comprised of market vendors, community residents, and other representatives. Perhaps given the need of the market to hire a market manager and the small and very part-time nature of the market there is a potential for collaboration between the city and the existing McCall Farmer's Market to ensure its long-term viability and success, but trust would need to be rebuilt.

There is no prohibition on who can start or run a farmer's market in McCall. If there are prospective vendors who are not able to secure a space at the McCall Farmer's Market, in addition to having options to sell at other regional markets interested parties could pursue the creation of an additional farmer's market (or other agricultural vendor enterprise) to meet their sales needs.



### LU Project 15: Explore partnerships for greenhouse development

In a survey conducted by the intern to engage community members in thinking about their food system needs, 32 people expressed an interest in having a spot in a community greenhouse, similar to a community garden plot.

Several potential partners surfaced to make this dream a reality, including the Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Valley County Extension, who both have leads on grants that could help fund such an endeavor.

See Big Idea #3 for details about one exciting potential collaboration that could bring greenhouses to McCall and reclaim the old city dump site at the same time!





## LU Project 17: Review city development code

With the goal of planning *for* agriculture rather than planning *around* it, the city of McCall can take proactive steps to strengthen its support for urban agriculture in its planning documents, including its city codes. This project reviewed the codes amended and ordinances passed by other cities who are taking a proactive approach to supporting robust urban agriculture. Suggestions for improving McCall’s city code to better support urban agriculture are included here.

The Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review published a Note that examines the impact of municipal zoning regulations on urban agriculture, and suggests ways that a municipality looking to encourage urban agriculture can use zoning regulations to responsibly promote its practice (Voigt, 2011). Broadly, many cities that have actively updated their codes to encourage urban agriculture follow these three steps:

1. Include language specific to urban agriculture in the comprehensive plan.
2. Create urban agriculture as a use category, and then allow it as a primary or secondary use in all zoning districts.
3. Amend the zoning code to allow urban agriculture to operate as a home occupation, and explicitly permit either the off- or onsite sale of goods produced by the farm and outside employees with reasonable restrictions.



Additionally, particularly valuable public agricultural sites such as community gardens can be further protected with “urban garden district” zoning. This would inhibit their conversion to non-agricultural uses by requiring a re-zoning process that would open the conversion up to public debate.



In completing a review of the McCall City code and comparing it with the codes of cities who are actively attempting to support urban agriculture, several specific codes could be amended.

Current McCall City Code (MCC)	Recommended Amendment
3.6.02 Agriculture is not a permitted use in civic (CV) zoning districts, but small livestock is. This would technically make agricultural production on city-owned land a non-permitted use.	Explicitly allow agriculture as a permitted use in civic zoning district, or in all zoning districts.
3.3.02 Agriculture is not a permitted use in R4, R8, and R16 zoning districts, and requires a conditional use permit in R1 districts.	Allow agriculture as a permitted use in all zoning districts.
3.3.02 Occupants in R8 and R16 zoning districts are required to apply for administrative approval to keep small livestock. Administrative approval is also needed for large farm animals in R1, RE, and RR zoning districts.	Remove the requirement to apply for administrative approval for allowed uses such as keeping certain permitted numbers of livestock.
3.8.07 Small farm animals including ducks, chickens, and rabbits, are limited to six per parcel, regardless of parcel size.	Allow greater numbers of small livestock in R1, RE, and RR zoning districts, at least 25 small livestock animals per acre.
3.8.07 Allows only 6 small livestock animals, regardless of age.	Allow greater numbers of small livestock up to 4 months old to replace aging animals. (for example, 12 total chickens, if 6 are under 4 months old).
3.8.07 Prohibits butchering of small livestock outdoors.	Remove this restriction.
3.8.10 Limits fence height to 6 feet.	Allow areas devoted to urban agriculture to have adequate 8-foot-tall deer fencing to protect from deer.

***Dig deeper:***

View the urban agriculture ordinance passed in Boise, Idaho, in 2011 here:  
<http://pdsonline.cityofboise.org/pdsonline/Documents.aspx?id=201206131114225010>

For draft language to incorporate urban agriculture into the next Comprehensive Plan, see Appendix B.



## Part III: Recommendations and Next Steps

### 5 Steps: An Overarching Framework for Forward Motion

Five general concepts can organize priorities and guide McCall to develop a robust regional foodshed moving forward.

#### 1. Conserve agricultural land



This is the most crucial and urgent step toward securing even the possibility of a local food system into the future. Valley County has a crystal ball, if it chooses to use it. A 2017 study by Boise State University shows that Ada County has lost over half of its farmland to development in the last half-century and is slated to lose another half—100,000 more acres—by 2100, if current development trends continue. (Sprague et al., 2017). Looking at Salt Lake City and Denver and their sprawling get-away communities shows where Boise and the

surrounding areas such as McCall will be in the coming decades.

It is imperative to address the conundrum facing so many aging farmers—what do I do with my farmland if my kids don't want to come back to farm it? Programs that support farmers in retiring from farming without having to subdivide their land and sell it to developers to pay for their retirement are vital. When taking an appropriately long view of growth and development, it becomes important first to address how farmers can financially afford to leave their land in agriculture and still retire, regardless of whether their own kids immediately want to farm. What's crucial is to preserve working agricultural lands so that when *somebody's* kids want to farm, the land will be there.

**“Many farmers are land rich and cash poor.”**

-Shirley Florence, Long Valley Rancher



Big idea #2 offers some potential collaborations to advance this effort in Valley County.

## 2. Build agricultural capacity

Many agricultural assets have been lost in the transition to the increasingly-fragile globalized supply chain that now feeds us. Among these are small- and mid-scale production and processing equipment, agricultural skills and wisdom, markets for regionally-produced food, and agrarian camaraderie. There is much to rebuild, but with a commitment to preserving agricultural land comes a secure place for farmers to re-establish this important industry and the community that can support it.



## 3. Engage the community

Learning to grow, cook, and eat healthy fresh food is incredibly satisfying. As agricultural endeavors flourish in McCall, so will the opportunities to engage community members in participating in the local food system. Schools offer a myriad of inspiring collaborations, but adults are craving more connection with their food as well. In our McCall Urban Gardening Survey, 70% of respondents expressed interest in more classes on how to grow and prepare fresh food.

“Food is the rare moral arena in which the ethical choice is generally the one more likely to make you groan with pleasure.”  
-Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*



#### 4. Increase markets for locally-grown goods



Everyone from home cooks to large institutions can commit to sourcing more of the food on their tables from local producers. As our regional agricultural capacity increases and we have larger quantities and diversity of fresh foods being grown locally, numerous creative entrepreneurial opportunities will emerge. From co-op grocery stores specializing in regional products to farm-to-table restaurants to contracts with institutional buyers like the St. Luke's cafeteria and local schools, expanding production also expands the economic benefits of local

food production in the West Central Mountains. And customers are ready—in our McCall Urban Gardening survey, 72% of respondents expressed interest in shopping at a store that sells local food.

Local food systems create jobs and increase the amount of money that circulates through the local economy.

-Union of Concerned Scientists (O'Hara, 2011)

#### 5. Expand affordable housing options

The need for affordable housing is well understood and is identified explicitly in the comprehensive plan. Still, it is important to mention it here as well, given that the nature of urban farming is that farmers are not likely to live on the land they farm, and they are also unlikely to be able to afford an expensive home. Having affordable options for housing not too





far away from community garden and small farm sites is crucial to those lands being well cared for.

## 5 Big Ideas to Support Agriculture In McCall

### Idea #1

#### Community gardens feed residents at River Front and Gold Glove Parks

Two community gardens take root at neighborhood parks, providing residents with space to garden and connect with each other around the cultivation of healthy food. But these community gardens do more than just provide space for growing vegetables and flowers. They increase the pool of community wisdom about how to successfully grow food in this harsh climate and create intergenerational spaces for learning and connection. And through the cultivation of community gardens, participants become more actively engaged in the overall well-being of the community, creating ripple effects which extend far beyond the borders of the garden.



See LU Project 16 for specific recommendations on how to move forward with implementing this big idea.

Synergistic opportunities:

- Skipp Clap at Valley County Department of Corrections would like to see a mentorship program that links at-risk youth with community mentors through gardening. A



community garden can support his vision and provide meaningful connection for both youth and garden mentors. He also has raised boxes that can be donated.

- The Parks and Recreation Department is on board with the creation of community gardens on city park land, and can help with their installation and maintenance.



## Idea #2

### City and County Landowners and Non-Profits Join Forces to Conserve Agricultural Land in Perpetuity

The loss of agricultural land in Long Valley is a real and imminent threat, and it cannot be solved in silos. Collaboration between Valley county and the city governments contained within it, as well as the Payette Land Trust, and passionate landowners and community members who care

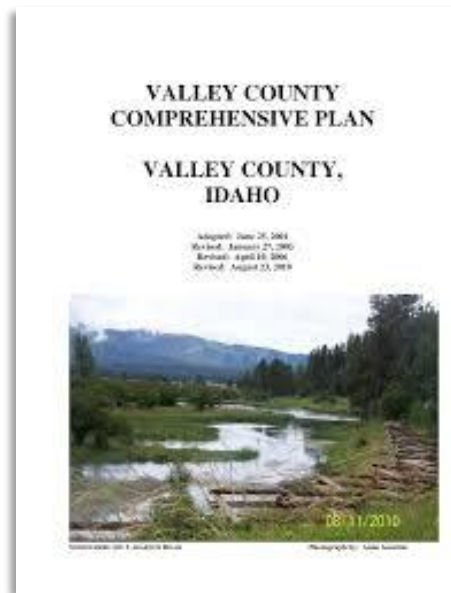
about the future of agricultural lands is crucial and urgent. The city can and should commit to investing time and resources to develop robust partnerships to pursue common goals related to agricultural land, because when it's gone, it's gone forever. And it's going fast.

Synergistic opportunities:

- There is a potential to explore offsetting city greenhouse gas emissions and support the preservation of working agricultural lands through carbon offsets paid to agricultural land owners, as a part of the city's Climate Action Plan.



- The Payette River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (2014) seeks to preserve viewsheds along the byway, many of which are enhanced by agriculture in Long Valley. They have already formed a partnership with the Payette Land Trust to explore the preservation of agricultural lands in Long Valley.
- The city of McCall and Valley County are working together on a joint lake management plan, which is setting the framework for how the two entities can work together on future joint planning efforts.



**In Idaho, land in low-density residential zoning in 2001 was 122 times more likely to be urbanized by 2016 than agricultural land.**

-American Farmland Trust

- In its

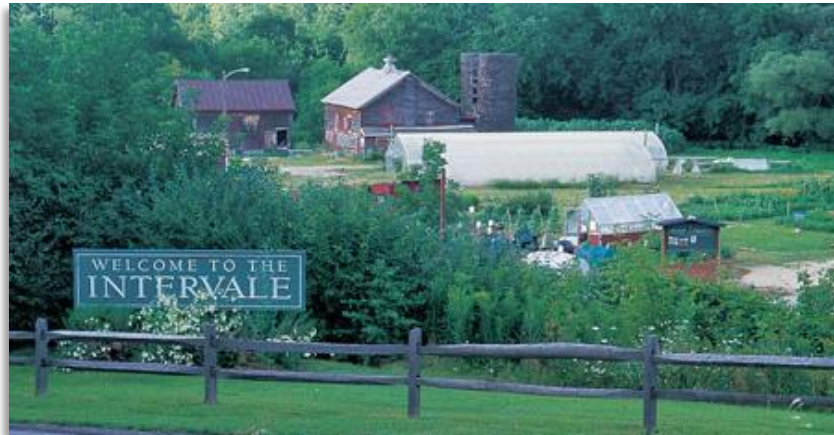
comprehensive plan (2018), Valley County seeks to maintain the importance of agriculture on the region’s economy and protect the best agricultural land for agricultural use, as well as to preserve the rural character and agriculturally-inspired viewsheds of the region.

- Many farmers and ranchers are aging and facing the question of what to do with their lands, especially if their children have moved away from the farm. These folks are often “land rich but cash poor,” which means that innovative solutions need to be pursued to allow them to get development prices for their retirement or children’s inheritance while still keeping their land in agriculture. This can be done through partnerships with land trusts and even third-party buyers with means, who can afford to purchase

agricultural property and put a conservation easement on it in order to benefit from a tax write-off. The Payette Land Trust is an excellent partner in this work. Bringing farmers who are nearing retirement to the table to best discuss how to meet their needs while sparing their land from development is important.



- When an ideal section of agricultural land is put into a conservation easement, the Intervale Center, an organization in Burlington, Vermont that is dedicated to transforming the food system could provide inspiration for how it could be best stewarded by a community collaboration. The Intervale Center combines an



agricultural incubator farm to train new farmers, a food hub, a conservation program which runs a native plant nursery for restoration work, bicycle and cross-country ski trails accessible to the public, and research partnerships with area universities. All of these components would find willing and excited partners here in McCall.

***Dig Deeper:***

Check out The Intervale Center for inspiration on what possible collaborations on community-stewarded land could look like! [www.intervale.org](http://www.intervale.org)

### Idea #3

#### Collaborative Hydroponic Greenhouses Reclaim the Old City Dump



Aside from the fact that it was at one point a landfill, the old city dump site on Colorado street is ideal for urban agriculture. It's 4.5 acres of flat, cleared, sunny high ground, right in the middle of town. All over the country, innovative programs have reclaimed former landfill sites by turning them into productive urban gardens through gardening above, not in, the contaminated soil. A series of well-built hydroponic greenhouses could solve all sorts of interlocking challenges related to viable agricultural endeavors in McCall. Greenhouses could extend the short growing season and supply fresh, locally-grown produce to residents, provide greenhouse space for community members to grow their own plants, and offer educational and employment opportunities for a wide range of people.

#### Synergistic opportunities:

- Durena Farr with the Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District and Melissa Hamilton with the University of Idaho Extension both have leads on several grants that could be used to build greenhouses (see grants section of this report for more details). They are willing partners in helping to put together successful grant applications.
- There also exist ample grant opportunities to remediate brownfield sites, and this innovative project holds promise for funding. Tina Elayer, the Brownfields Program Specialist through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, can help with these grants.



#### Hydroponic Greenhouse synergistic opportunities, cont.

- [Vertical Harvest Jackson Hole](#) is an innovative greenhouse partnership with Cultivate Ability, which works to employ people with different abilities in growing healthy food



for their community. They could serve as a potential model for a portion of this project. Horticulture Therapist Sarah Thompson is interested in working on a project of this type, potentially in partnership with Toby's Place, which could provide employment and horticulture therapy services with their target population.

- Rupert's at Hotel McCall has stated that the restaurant's demand for locally-grown produce cannot currently be supplied by local markets, particularly in the shoulder seasons. This project has the potential to supply local consumers with local food as well as a really great story about that food.
- Heartland High School recently approved a program which will allow students to work on jobs or internships during the school day. This project would be an excellent opportunity to employ local youth in constructing and maintaining greenhouses and growing healthy food. This site is conveniently located between all the local schools and could provide educational opportunities for students at other schools as well.
- Durena Farr has worked with Dr. Timothy Prather at the University of Idaho to assess the brownfield site at Kelly's Whitewater Park and she believes he would be interested in engaging with students to work on soil remediation on this project as well.



#### Idea #4



## Community Compost Turns Waste into a Rich Soil Amendment at River Front Park

Kurt Wolf has an innovative plan for recycling McCall City Parks and Recreation waste. The parks department generates literally tons of grass clippings, wood chips, and other debris each year, all of which could be turned into rich compost that the city and the community at large could put to use, retaining valuable and easily-lost nutrients in local soils. The soil at River Front Park is poor, due to decades of extractive and polluting activities there. But a DEQ site assessment conducted in 2004 showed that there were not unacceptable risks to reusing the site as a park. Really, it just needs richer soil to support plantings. Kurt believes it would be relatively simple to address a stated community need—better recycling and composting options—and build soil fertility at the same time by setting up a rotating community compost pile at River Front Park. The pile can be built, turned, and moved across the site, fertilizing the soil ahead of landscaping and other renovation activities that will take place there. This project can address the city’s Climate Action Plan goals by both reducing the city’s waste stream and increasing the carbon sequestration potential of area soils.

### Synergistic opportunities:

- Maura Goldstein has just launched Soil Cycles, a bicycle-powered compost pick-up service. This or another service that collects household organic matter from residents can further reduce landfill waste and add valuable nutrients to local soils.
- The city already has equipment on site that could be utilized to turn and move the piles.
- Compost can serve a future community garden at the site.



## Idea #5



## Resilience Coordinator Moves Important Projects Forward

The number one comment heard throughout this internship is that, in order to be successful, these projects need a dedicated coordinator. It is not enough to generate great ideas—someone has to show up reliably to put them into action. So many excellent projects in McCall have been started by a well-intentioned, passionate volunteer and have fizzled out when that person retires, moves, or gets burnt out. Committing to the long-term success of sustainability initiatives by investing in a coordinator will guarantee these crucial projects take root in ways that ensure their success for the long haul.



### Synergistic opportunities:

- The coordinator can also help to move the city forward on creating its Climate Action Plan in addition to doing food systems work.
- Many of our neighboring cities and counties have a sustainability coordinator position, including Blaine County and the city of Moscow. They can serve as a model for how this position could be structured.
- Some have started as AmeriCorps positions that have moved to full-time, city-funded positions after their value to the community is proven. In our region, [the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute](#) can help the city connect with an Americorps placement if this is of interest.





## Resources

### Grants for urban agriculture and community food systems

**Grant opportunities forwarded by Melissa Hamilton, U of I Extension:**

American Community Garden Association [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)

America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) with funding from the USDA <https://www.investinginfood.com/>

USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grants (UAIP)  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=USDA-NRCS-NHQ-UAIP-20-NOFO0001013>

USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project grants (CCFWR)  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=326961>

**Grant Opportunities forwarded by Liz Jones, St. Luke's McCall and the Donnelly Farmer's Market:**

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation (They had encouraged Liz Jones to apply for funds for a community garden in the \$25-50K range). [www.iwcfboise.org](http://www.iwcfboise.org)

**Grant Opportunities forwarded by Tina Elayer, Idaho DEQ:**

Quadratec Cares - [Energize the Environment Grant Program](#): Supports trail building or restoration projects, park beautification events, litter prevention initiatives, earth study missions, sustainable land management activities, community environmental educational projects, youth educational engagement events.

Clif Bar Family Foundation - [Small Grants](#): General support grants and/or funding for specific projects in one or more of five focus areas: promoting Earth's beauty and bounty; creating robust, healthy food systems; increasing opportunities for outdoor activity; reducing environmental health hazards; and building stronger communities.



[JPMorgan Chase & Co. AdvancingCities Challenge](#) is accepting applications for funds “to support creative, collaborative and sustainable solutions that address cross-cutting challenges to help more people benefit from a growing economy.”

[Steele-Reese Foundation Idaho and Montana Grant](#): Supports projects in the following areas that affect people in rural areas (not immediately adjacent to urban areas) in Idaho: education, health, human/social services, the arts and humanities, and land, water, wildlife, and historic conservation/ preservation. Eligible organizations include those in rural areas.

[Blue Cross of Idaho - Employee Community Giving Fund](#): Projects should focus on innovative solutions that are transformational, catalytic, sustainable, and collaborative. Funding focuses on three topics: childhood obesity prevention, senior health, and women's and children's health.

[Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life - Direct Effect Grants](#) - Wide range of projects and activities that will clearly impact individuals living with paralysis and their families. Examples of eligible projects include inclusive accessible playgrounds, sports wheelchairs, Paralympic sports training, accessible gardening, and installation of a hydraulic lift in a pool at a community fitness center, accessible transportation, and mindfulness training programs. May qualify as match for adjacent pathway projects.

[Idaho Community Foundation - Regional Grant Program](#): Grants to enrich quality of life through conservation, environment, health, public projects, recreation. Grants will be made in the following diverse program areas: arts and culture, conservation/environment, education, emergency services, health, libraries, public projects, recreation, and social services. Government entities, nonprofits, and public schools are eligible. Awards range from \$250-\$5,000.

[The Whittenberger Foundation Grants](#): Priority is given to innovative and enriching projects which significantly improve the quality of life for children and young people. Areas of interest are education, arts and culture, health, social welfare, recreation, and the environment. Public institutions and nonprofits are eligible to apply. Grants typically range from \$5,000-\$20,000.

[Local Foods, Local Places](#) aims to support projects that do all of the following: 1) Create livable, walkable, economically vibrant main streets and mixed-use neighborhoods. 2) Boost economic opportunities for local farmers and main street businesses. 3) Improve access to healthy, local food, especially among disadvantaged populations. The program will provide selected communities [planning assistance](#) that centers around a two-day community workshop.



## Community Interviews

The following community members were interviewed in the compilation of this document. This list does not include city of McCall Community and Economic Development staff.

Anderson, Judy. *Founder, MDHS School Garden.*  
Babcock, Bjornen. *Hobbit Hill Farm.*  
Clapp, Skip. *Valley County Director of Court Services and community garden host.*  
Cohn, Teresa. *McCall Outdoor Science School and fiber arts enthusiast.*  
Coleman, Holly. *West Central Mountains Food Coalition.*  
Coriell, Melissa. *McCall/Donnelly High School teacher and school garden coordinator.*  
Didisse, Karin. *Huckleberry Garden Health Food Store.*  
Dixon, Gail. *Council School Garden.*  
Elayer, Tina. *Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.*  
Goldstein, Maura. *Community gardener and Soil Cycles organizer.*  
Eitel, Karla. *McCall Outdoor Science School.*  
Farr, Durena. *Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District.*  
Florence, Shirley. *Long Valley rancher and Farm Bureau representative.*  
Hamilton, Melissa. *Valley County Extension and West Central Mountains Food Coalition.*  
Hart, Mary. *Community gardener and LOT grant applicant.*  
Herrick, Cynda. *Valley County Planner.*  
Jedry, Cheyenne. *Heartland High School Science Teacher.*  
Jones, Liz. *St. Luke's McCall and Donnelly Farmer's Market.*  
Kelley, Patsy. *High Country Gardens and McCall Farmer's Market.*  
Klind, Linda. *Heartland Hunger Coalition.*  
Kucy, Gary. *Rupert's at Hotel McCall*  
Lojek, Meg. *McCall Public Library.*  
Maupin, Sherry. *Valley County Commissioner.*  
Marion and Phil, *Heartland Meadows Farm Store.*  
Marshall, Suzie. *McCall Farmer's Market*  
Mentzer, Andrew. *West Central Mountains Economic Development Council.*  
Orient, Samantha. *The Timber Garden.*  
Rider, Ken. *Brundage Resort and the Activity Barn.*  
Stegner, Charles and Mary. *Stegner Farms.*  
Thompson, Sarah. *Horticulturist and Horticulture Therapist.*  
Utter, Craig. *Payette Land Trust.*  
Wolf, Kurt. *City of McCall Parks and Recreation Department.*  
Wolfenden, Mark. *McCall Outdoor Science School.*



## Appendices

### Appendix A: Sample Community Garden Agreement

City of McCall Sample Community Garden Agreement

This agreement covers...

#### **The McCall Community Garden will provide the following:**

- ✓ A garden plot to grow food and/or flowers for use by plot holders
- ✓ Access to water for irrigation, with drip lines for individual plot users
- ✓ Deer fencing around the community garden
- ✓ A compost pile for garden waste
- ✓ UV-resistant plastic sheets to cover plots when not in use
- ✓ Plenty of new friends

#### Optional extras:

- ✓ Educational opportunities to assist beginning gardeners
- ✓ Common areas (benches, picnic table, rain shelter)
- ✓ Garden shed for tools
- ✓ Tools (rakes, shovels, etc)
- ✓ Drip lines
- ✓ Social opportunities for gardeners
- ✓ A bulletin board for gardeners to share resources
- ✓ A scale to weigh produce and harvest notebook to record harvests

#### Part I: Plot lease agreement and payments

- Fees and plots
- Start of season
- Unclaimed or neglected plots
- End of season
- Gardener meetings/commitments

#### Part 2: Gardening Rules

- One's plot
- Adjacent paths and borders
- Other garden plots
- General garden site
- Watering

- Soil amendments and remediation
- Compost and trash
- Property, tools, and equipment
- Garden gates and deer fence
- Gardeners, family, guests, and pets

Part 3: Warnings and penalties

Part 4: Gardener's signature and liability waiver

## Part 1: Lease Agreements and Plot Payments

### Fees and plots

#### FEES AND SECURING A PLOT

Gardeners can officially garden at the McCall Community Garden after reading and signing this agreement and paying your fee.

Fees are \$25 for a small plot (5x10') or \$50 for large plot (10'x10').

Fees must be paid by April 15th of the gardening year.

**Opening day:** the first Saturday in May

**Closing day:** the last Saturday in October

The garden is open from 7:00 am dawn to 8:00 pm dusk, seven days a week.

#### CHOOSING A PLOT

Plots are assigned on a first come/first serve basis. Preference will be given to those members living within ½ mile from the garden. After the first year, gardeners who have previously gardened at the site will be given preference to keep the plot they have. Garden plots are assigned to one person or family only and are not transferable. Others may garden at your site, but the responsibility for payment of fees, cleanup and other duties at the site will be the responsibility of the individual whose name is assigned to the plot. You can request specific plots, but please remember that since it is a first-come, first served program, you may not get your first choice. Reserving more than one garden plot is permissible only if all gardeners who are wanting a plot have already been assigned one. A waiting list will be maintained for applicants for whom no plot was available.

Gardeners will be notified of their plot number via email as they sign up and pay their garden fees. Additional information will be given at the Opening Day work party, which will be held on the first Saturday in May.

All communication coming from the garden coordinator will take place via email, unless a plot holder does not have email access. In that case, alternative communication arrangements will need to be made at the time of application.

It is the responsibility of the garden plot holder to meet all agreed-upon deadlines.

## **Start of Season**

### **“PLANT BY” RULES**

You can begin working in your plot on opening day (the first Saturday in May). If the kind of plants you are growing cannot be planted until later, weed your plot as needed before then. The garden will also provide a handful of UV-resistant plastic sheets the correct size to cover small and large plots if you need to leave your plot fallow at some point during the season. Gardeners are responsible for securing this plastic using ample weights so it doesn't blow into neighboring plots.

You are responsible for your plot's maintenance for the entire season. Keep it free of weeds and harvested through October. The planting deadline is June 15th. Plots that are unplanted by the planting deadline are assumed abandoned and will be forfeited without a refund. Plots not planted will be reassigned.

### **PLOT MAINTENANCE EXPECTATIONS**

Gardeners must maintain plots (including adjacent aisles) throughout the growing season. Gardeners who do not maintain their plots will not be eligible for a plot in the following year. Maintaining includes: planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting.

Gardeners will keep weeds down and maintain the areas immediately surrounding their plot. Each gardener is expected to spend at least 1 hour per week working on his/her plot and the surrounding area. Please contact your garden coordinator if you will be moving, taking an extended vacation, or otherwise will be unable to maintain your plot throughout the summer. Or if, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain their plot. If you have a substitute gardener, inform the coordinator. Any plot abandoned for more than 1 month, without having given prior notice (i.e. of vacation, sickness, etc.) to the garden coordinator, will be forfeited. At that time, it will be re-assigned or tilled in and any produce will be donated to charity.

## **Unclaimed or Neglected Plots**

Fees for plots for returning plot holders are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have not paid your annual fee by this date, your plot will be given to a new gardener on the waiting list. Plots not tended by their plot holders by June 15th will be assigned to new gardeners on the waiting list. Abandoned plots will be reassigned to current gardeners mid-season if necessary, and become available to new gardeners the following year.

## **End of Season**

Plots must be cleared and cleaned at the end of the growing season, the last Saturday in October. Renters who do not clean plots will lose first right of refusal for the plot the following year. Cleaned up means your plot is put to bed for the winter, either cleaned out entirely, or planted with a cover crop or other crops for overwintering. All dead plants and weeds should be removed. The official closing day for the garden is the last Saturday in October.

## **Gardener Meetings**

Community Gardeners understand that this is a community garden and in order for it to succeed, gardener support is needed to maintain the site, keep on top of equipment, make signs, deal with wildlife, obtain donated transplants, help keep site picked up from debris and sweep/clean alleys, etc. Gardeners are encouraged to work together as a group on communal aspects of the garden and are encouraged to share gardening information among new and experienced gardeners in McCall.

There are two mandatory meetings for plot holders to attend annually—the Opening and Closing Days of the season. Opening day is the first Saturday in May and Closing Day is the last Saturday in October. Plan to attend both of these meetings and work parties to get valuable information, connect with fellow gardeners, and tend to the communal spaces in the garden.

Additionally, informal but fun weeding parties will be held each Tuesday evening from 5-7pm throughout the growing season. While not mandatory, these staffed events serve to increase the community connections in the garden and provide valuable and needed structure to the garden's operations. For gardeners with differing physical abilities, Tuesday evening parties will provide opportunities to contribute to the garden in other ways besides weeding, like making signs or facilitating a workshop.

Each gardener agrees to support MCG by doing their fair share of common work to help make this community garden successful. Examples of volunteer activities: weeding common areas, turning the compost pile each week, seasonal garden cleanup effort, monitoring the water system, etc. Considerations will be given for special skills, physical and mental capabilities, and age. Youth participation is encouraged with adult guidance. Gardeners will accept shared responsibility for maintenance of the common areas, furnishings, and equipment, including fencing, trees, compost bins, and tool shed.

The bulletin board is for garden sharing only. Soliciting is not allowed. It is a place to share resources and gardening tips. Any suggestions for feedback or questions should be directed to the garden coordinator.

## **Part 2: Gardening Rules**

The rules and regulations are in place so the McCall Community Garden can grow, provide a healthy community atmosphere, and function as a pleasant place to garden. All gardeners are expected to take an active role in administering the gardens. If garden rules are ignored, you will be required to forfeit the plot. As outlined below, these are the conditions under which immediate plot forfeiture will occur:

- Bringing alcohol and illegal substances into the garden
- Plot is not maintained for one month
- Without garden staff approval, transferring or subletting of a plot
- Violation warning is ignored or violation is repeated
- Act in a threatening or abusive manner to other gardeners.

## One's Plot

### ORGANIC

Gardeners must agree to garden organically. This means synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides, herbicides & rodenticides that are not approved for use on certified organic farms may not be applied. The garden encourages the use of compost, barriers and hand weeding or hoeing to manage weeds and pests. Gardeners agree to check with garden coordinator before applying any fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides & rodenticides, even if labeled "organic". Do not use synthetic chemical fertilizers like miracle-Gro. If you are not sure if something is allowed, please check with another gardener or the garden coordinator.

### WEEDS AND DISEASE (see also "Compost and Trash")

Gardeners agree to keep the garden & garden edges free of weeds, diseased plants, insect-infested plants and overripe vegetables. As a community garden, please respect the surroundings and tend to your plot and help keep the area free of litter and weeds. Diseased and infected plants must be removed from the garden and disposed of properly. Weeds that have not gone to seed should be hauled to the compost site. Weeds that have gone to seed should not be placed in the compost, but put in the trash. Keep your garden neatly weeded on a regular basis. Weeds may not become taller than 8 inches. Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors and other gardeners, and are the leading cause of plot forfeiture.

### LARGE/WOODY PLANTS OR STRUCTURES

Do not plant trees or shrubs. Be respectful of your neighbor gardeners when planning your plot. Tall crops (such as sunflowers and corn), structures, etc, should be planted to not shade another gardener's plot. Perennial or potentially invasive plants such as raspberries or mint must be planted in containers. Locations like the periphery and the edges of the garden will also be discussed at the annual meeting All gardeners understand that it is their responsibility to maintain plants within the limits of their plot.

### STRUCTURES



No altering the dimensions of the plot or of the surrounding area. The gardener supplies the materials and labor for non-permanent structures. Simple trellis structures are permitted if they do not shade other gardens or block irrigation if using a shared bed. DO NOT use poured concrete for anchoring. Neither solid walls nor solid roofs are permitted. Row covers are permitted. Please anchor them to prevent blowing away, and store them when not in use. Cold frames are permitted if they are no larger than the plot dimensions in width and length, with a maximum height of 30 inches. Covers are to be made of sturdy plastic, not glass.

### MAKING GOOD PLANT CHOICES

Gardeners may grow a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Choosing from among the wide range of plants for the garden is challenging and fun! The guidelines below will help you make good choices for gardening in a community garden plot program. Talk to your gardening neighbors to share ideas for good plant choices for success. Herbaceous vines are permitted. Seek your neighbor's permission to grow them on a common fence. No plants on the Idaho Invasive Species List <http://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/terrestrial-plants> may be grown. Many of these are weeds in areas surrounding the garden plots. Please control them as much as you can. Some desirable plants can be weedy, such as raspberries, blackberries, mints, morning glories, and fennel. Please keep these plants one foot or more away from plot boundaries. Grow plants like mint in pots to contain them. Take the plants with you when you leave the garden plot program. Gardeners may plant a fall crop or cover crop after the summer season.

### WEIGHING GARDEN HARVESTS

Gardeners are encouraged to get into the habit of weighing their harvests from the garden using the on-site scale and recording their harvest data in the attached notebook. It can help us prove the value of the garden for future funding and expansion opportunities.

### **Adjacent Paths & Borders**

Gardening activity and plant growth must be restricted to the gardener's plot. Please prevent vegetation from attacking walkways and adjacent plots. You are responsible for maintaining half of the path next to your plot. Paths must be kept clear of weeds, rocks, garden plants and other obstacles. This includes plants overhanging from your plot. Both the access and perimeter paths must be free of garden materials and debris so as not to create a hazard or to impede their maintenance. Please be considerate of plot aisles, which are needed for hose and water movement. The assigned garden lots have been established with access paths between them to provide access for all gardeners. Access paths should not be restricted in any way. When planting near paths, leave adequate space for plant growth so as not to encroach into or overhang the paths.

### **Other Garden Plots**

Pick only the plants you are growing, or have permission from the grower to pick. Stay out of other people's plots unless specifically invited. No gardener can give permission to anyone to

go into anyone else's plot for any reason only the gardener who that plot is assigned to can do that. Gardeners will not plant, weed, water or harvest from any other member's plot. While you may view the success of other gardeners, refrain from stepping off the access paths and into other garden lots. Gardeners have their own methods of planting, which may be damaged in the process.

## **General Garden Site**

In general, gardeners will not make any permanent changes to the garden, such as adding watering systems other than in their beds or drastically changing the fence. Gardeners agree to get approval from garden committee to plant trees, shrubs or bushes (non-herbaceous plant material that does not die to the ground every winter). Any approved trees, shrubs or bushes, or other approved plant material become property of the garden. Electric fences are not permitted in the garden. No digging for worms anywhere in the garden. Glass containers are prohibited from the gardens. In addition, containers, bags, etc., of any kind should be secured so as not to blow around and/or detract from the orderliness of the gardens. Such items are best removed when they are no longer needed.

## **Watering**

Gardeners need to be diligent and mindful of water usage. Gardens will be managed for best practices in water conservation. Water will be available between official garden Opening and Closing days. It is up to each gardener to choose how to irrigate his/her plot. Each plot is supplied by its own spigots. All spigots are on a timer that will come on for 10 minutes every day. Each plot also has its own valve on/off control so gardeners can choose not to water their plot during designated watering times.

Additionally, there is a hose on a separate hydrant available for gardener use. That hydrant must be shut off after use. Please refrain from watering your garden with an open-ended hose. The use of a hose nozzle will conserve water and maintain sufficient water pressure for other gardeners. Additionally, if a watering ban is in effect, please comply with regulations. No overnight watering. Water hoses must not cross other plots and must be attended at all times. Water sprinklers are not permitted in the garden.

Each gardener is responsible for the installation of the irrigation equipment as well as its take down at the end of the season. There are drip lines supplied for gardeners to use. The irrigation system will be blown out at the end of the season, and if gardeners want the same plot the next year, we would suggest leaving the individual irrigation systems for the next year.

Irrigation is provided and programmed. Never access the irrigation control panel unless there is an irrigation emergency. Report emergencies to garden coordinator. Gardeners must also report all leaks. Extra water use (above and beyond the garden's scheduled timed watering) is limited to 5 minutes per plot per day. Please help avoid water loss in the aisles and be considerate of other waiting gardeners.

## **Soil Amendments and Remediation**

Don't bring in sand or gravel. These materials are difficult or impossible to remove later.

### **MULCH**

Using mulch in your garden plot has many benefits. As organic mulches break down, they add valuable nutrients to your soil. You will need less fertilizer. They also help conserve water. Organic mulches, such as compost, leaves, straw are highly recommended to conserve water and add nutrients to the soil. Non-biodegradable mulches, such as stone, carpet and artificial turf, are prohibited. Porous weed blocker covers are permitted, but need to be secured to the ground to prevent them from blowing away. The city Parks and Recreation department will deliver bark mulch from city street trees for use as mulch on pathways.

### **COMPOST**

Composting plant materials is an excellent way to reduce trash and conserve nutrients. There will be a designated area to compost all plant materials within the garden and special instructions will be shared with all gardeners. As a reminder, do not compost cooked food scraps (such as meat, oils, or fat), as this attracts animals. Avoid fresh manure which may contain weed seeds, smells bad, and may have sanitary issues that could affect neighboring plots. Composted manure is permitted.

## **Compost and Trash**

Gardeners will sort all waste from their plot and adjoining paths into compost, recyclables, and trash. Compost can be processed at the site; recyclables and large quantities of trash must be taken off-site. Gardeners will place diseased and insect-infested plants in plastic bags and remove them from the site. There will be a small trash receptacle provided by the city Parks and Rec department for small trash items. Gardeners will haul larger items for trash pickup offsite themselves. Please do not utilize the trash cans provided in the park. Compost material should be put in the compost area and not left in a heap that someone else will have to clean up. Gardeners are expected to put weeds on compost pile if they have not gone to seed.

## **Property, Tools, and Equipment**

Take care of tools. When you are finished with your work, hang the tools in the shed and coil up hoses. Help keep the shed building safe by keeping it free of clutter. Help clean up seemingly random piles and bags of materials around the garden. Gardeners will agree that the garden tools kept in the shed are for everyone to use and will therefore clean and return them promptly after using them. Gardeners will not remove equipment from garden. No power equipment should need to be used around the garden by anyone other than city Parks Department staff, but if its use becomes necessary, it may only be operated by those over 16

who own or lease the equipment. All use of power equipment should be discussed with the garden coordinator prior to use and should be used at your own risk. Return all commonly owned tools to the shed and store them securely. No personal power tools may be left in the shed.

## **Garden Gates and Deer Fence**

The garden gates should remain closed at all times. Deer in McCall are hungry plant-eaters and are very socialized to people. They will not hesitate to enter the garden through an open gate, even if people are present in the garden.

A deer fence will be installed by the McCall City Parks Department. Please report any breaks in the deer fence to the community garden coordinator immediately upon noticing them, and provide a temporary repair if possible until parks department staff can fix the break.

## **Gardeners, Family, and Pets**

### **GARDENERS**

Be considerate of the garden's neighbors. Whenever possible gardeners are encouraged to walk, bike or to take the transit system to the garden so as to lessen the impact of additional vehicles in the neighborhood. Gardeners will respect the privacy of the garden's neighbors and do their best to preserve their quality of life. Gardeners will not ask neighbors to provide use of telephones (excepting emergencies) or restrooms. Gardeners are reminded to use good personal safety practices when visiting the garden. Keep the garden attractive for neighboring residents and safe for all. Place bags and other objects in a neat and orderly way in your plot, and keep them within your plot boundaries.

In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration. No stealing (harvesting from others' plots without authorization), verbal or physical harassment is allowed. Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the garden. Gardeners are expected to communicate with neighboring gardeners to work out borders, weed issues and size of plant issues

### **RADIOS**

Should you wish to listen to the radio, please use headphones so as not to disturb the tranquility at the garden. Growing or using illegal substances including marijuana in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of plot fee. Smoking, chewing tobacco, and open flames are not allowed in the garden.

Gardening workshops will be held periodically throughout the year, however, it is the gardener's responsibility to research proper gardening techniques. The essence of community gardening is trial and error and sharing of knowledge. Numerous high mountain gardening books are available at the McCall Public Library, and the U of I Extension offers a wealth of information.

## CHILDREN

Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and fully supervised by an adult. Parents are encouraged to bring children to the garden and introduce them to the wonders of gardening. Please monitor their behavior and whereabouts at all times. Teach young children to stay on paths and that climbing of trees or fence is not allowed. Children should not be allowed to wander unattended in the garden. Parents are responsible for the welfare of their children in the garden.

## PET ANIMALS

Should you wish to bring your best friend to the garden, please remember that city ordinances apply to this garden. Leashes and “pick-up” is required at all times. Under no circumstances should dogs be permitted into the gardening area proper because of potential disease from dog feces. Dogs should be secured outside of the garden gates and special attention should be given to barking as to not disrupt the neighbors and fellow gardeners. Service dogs are permitted.

Keep the garden coordinator advised of your current address, email, and telephone number. Notify the Steering Committee of any change of address or telephone by voice mail/text\_\_\_\_\_ or by email @\_\_\_\_\_.

## Part 3: Warnings and penalties

The consequences:

If you fail to follow any of the above guidelines, the garden coordinator will contact you by phone and email and give you one week to correct the problem (excepting violations which are cause for immediate termination as stated above). If you do not respond, your plot will be considered abandoned. Plantings will be removed from abandoned plots and the gardener will not be eligible to return the following year. All gardeners are required to keep their plots as disease- and weed-free as possible. If a garden is not maintained, a warning will be given. If conditions do not improve, the garden will be forfeited. Complaints, policies, and mediations are the responsibility of the community garden coordinator, who has the final say.

## Part 4: Gardener’s Signature and liability waiver

I will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner. I understand and willingly accept the inherent risks in gardening. I understand that use and misuse of gardening tools may result in injury. I am aware that soil and food-borne diseases, though rare, may be contracted through gardening or consuming undercooked food. I understand that, as a participant in the McCall Community Garden, I am a guest and that my privileges may be revoked in the event that I fail to comply with the terms of this Agreement.

The following procedure will be initiated in the event of failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement:

- If a violation occurs, the coordinator will contact you via phone and email and issue a warning. If no response or correction has been made within one week of these warnings, the garden coordinator will issue a second written notice of impending termination.
- If no response or correction has been made within seven days of the written notice of impending termination, the garden coordinator will issue a final written notification indicating that gardening privileges and the plot have been forfeited.

I understand, acknowledge and agree that I am solely responsible for my actions and conduct, and the actions and conduct of my guests, while in the McCall Community Garden and that neither the City of McCall or the McCall Parks & Recreation Department entities nor any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, lessors, affiliated companies or foundations have any liability to me or my guests for losses, damages, or costs incurred as a result of participation in, or entry onto the premises of, the McCall Community Garden and I waive and release the aforementioned parties from any claims that I may have, whether based on tort, contract or otherwise, resulting there from.

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for participation in the McCall Community Garden.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: New gardener / Renewing gardener

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

List others who will be working with you on your plot:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to reserve a: \_\_\_\_\_ full plot (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ half bed (\$25)

Plot assigned \_\_\_\_\_



## Appendix B: Draft Urban Agriculture Comprehensive Plan Language

Excerpted from *Pigs in the Backyard or the Barnyard*: (Voigt, 2011) and edited for the City of McCall.

### Model Comprehensive Plan Language to Protect and Expand Urban Agriculture

**Background:** Because the City of McCall recognizes urban agriculture as a desirable activity that creates a more livable community, we state the following goals and objectives:

**Goal:** Encourage the use of urban agriculture in McCall as a means of increasing access to healthy, local, and affordable foods, encouraging the productive use of vacant land, and opening up more agriculture-based business opportunities.

- Objective: Encourage appropriate agricultural uses of urban land.
- Policies/Actions:
  - Adopt zoning regulations that clearly define urban agriculture to include the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, nuts, and like products, as well as raising farm animals.
  - Adopt zoning regulations that discourage health and nuisance hazards sometimes associated with agricultural activities, which may include setback requirements, yard size requirements, complaint procedures, or permitting procedures.
  - Appoint a government employee in an appropriate agency who can serve as the point person on urban agricultural questions for residents.
  
- Objective: Promote more widespread use of urban agriculture.
- Policies/Actions:
  - Identify additional zoning districts that would be appropriate in which to allow urban agriculture.
  - Expand community gardening opportunities.
  
- Objective: Encourage residents to use urban agriculture as a tool for economic development.
- Policies/Actions:
  - Adopt zoning regulations that allow urban agriculture as a home occupation in appropriate districts.
  - Allow the on-site and off-site sale of products from urban agriculture where appropriate.



## Appendix C: Site assessment notes

In order to assess city-owned parcels for their utility for agriculture, the intern inventoried over 70 city-owned parcels and omitted all dedicated rights-of-way, parcels explicitly prohibiting agricultural use (for example, parcels dedicated to wetlands conservation or whose restrictions dictate they maintain a “natural look”), the Ruby Street parcels with affordable homes on them, the McCall Fire Department and McCall Golf Course grounds, public parking lots, the cemetery and airport grounds, the water treatment and wastewater treatment plants, public beaches, and any individual parcel less than 0.2 acres. Also omitted from the study were parcels with high real estate value that the city can sell to generate income for more affordable housing projects.

The remaining lands were assessed for their agricultural suitability. Assessment criteria included their size, topography, aspect, access to water, drainage, current vegetative cover, and other characteristics. In order to assess city-owned lands for agriculture, the intern used the planning map to identify city-owned parcels, and then omitted

The agricultural potential of the remaining parcels is summarized here. See the LU Project 16 section for more detail about sites identified as useful for agriculture.

Site Name	Parcel # / Address	Agricultural Potential?	Notes
Karen St. park	RPM05080020330	no	Potential garden site is too close to neighbors in a currently natural-looking park area. It would likely cause arguments.
The Reserves on Payette River	RPM063700000B0	no	
South edge of Chad loop and Morgan Drive	RPM00000176930	no	Dedicated open space with no parking or structures allowed.
Deinhard NE side by bridge	RPM00000172345	no	3 acres but weird shape without ample access. Current use is open space or ROW
River Front Park	RPM00000179005	yes	
Veteran's Park	RPM0171003010A	no	Too small
Legacy Park	RPM00000094957	no	No available space





Brown's Park	RPM0000092931	no	Community gardeners tried to secure a LOT grant to build a community garden here, but homeowners fought it and LOT committee denied the application
Rotary Park	RPM001300H003A	no	Almost all beach
City Hall	RPM0000096764	no	While small-scale gardens could be incorporated into the master plan for redeveloping that area, it isn't really useful for agriculture.
Central Idaho Historical Museum	RPM0000087500	yes	Could utilize its listing on the Natural Register of Historic Places to highlight historic agricultural and/or community food systems practices
Art Roberts Park	RPM0173001009A	no	No available space
Fairway Park		yes	Potential community garden space at the back, in the triangle behind the softball fields.
1614 Davis Ave.	RPM0000091100	yes	Owned by MURA. Best use is affordable housing but could potentially be good for agriculture or community gardens.
1203 Roosevelt Ave.	RPM0172015024A	no	not ample space for agriculture
Public Works offices behind May	RPM0000098130	no	Used entirely by Public Works
406 Sampson Trail Old City Dump	RPM000009CTY1	yes	Cleared, level ground ideal for agriculture. Brownfield site, so building greenhouses above ground could be an innovative way to reclaim the space
Payette Lakes Middle School / Barbara Morgan Elementary	RPM00000154000	yes	Could be wonderful for school gardens.
McCall-Donnelly High School / Heartland High School	RPM0109002000A	yes	Could be wonderful for school gardens.
1145 Heaven's Gate	RPM00000107255	no	
Lake Forest Park	RPM01370000000	yes	Useful for community food systems, as an interpretive garden highlighting wild foods.



## Appendix D: Additional recommendations for city planners

*The following suggestions are excerpted from the American Planning Association’s Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning. They seem particularly relevant for McCall to consider as it moves toward prioritizing healthy alongside the other essentials of a healthy community—air, water, and shelter.*

- Undertake periodic assessments of community/regional food issues, including broad community participation, and develop recommendations for actions.
- Partner with appropriate public agency and private stakeholder groups to develop appropriate plans to build sufficient local and regional food reserves for emergencies, including related communications, logistics, and transportation infrastructure, and to restore food system integrity and operation after the emergency. Coordinate with other agencies in the implementation of public outreach and education campaigns to inform the community about food related emergency preparedness.
- Support the creation of marketing networks to bring together farmers, processors, and purchasers of locally grown and produced foods.
- Provide data and mapping support to community and regional food assessments, including the incidence of food insecurity and location of diverse food assets.
- Develop plans and redevelopment proposals for food insecure areas with sites and incentives for community gardens, entrepreneurial urban agriculture projects, farmers markets, neighborhood grocery stores, and food assistance programs.
- Food-related enterprises are among the most common type of small business development and a way for many households to supplement income and achieve economic stability. Assemble in partnership with other public agencies and community-based organizations, economic development programs and incentives for food-related enterprise development, job creation, and workforce development.
- Assist and support locally based efforts by Native American and other ethnic minority communities, to identify and document community and ecological assets and cultural traditions that are tied to food production, preparation, and consumption (e.g. salmon runs, wild rice and nut-gathering, agricultural fairs, and ethnic and cultural festivals).
- Support planning that builds on and celebrates the diverse cultural, agricultural, and dietary traditions present in the region.



## References

### References

American Planning Association (2007). Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning. <https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm>

Bonfiglio, Olga. (2009). Delicious in Detroit: the city is plowing resources into its extensive stretches of vacant land. *Planning*, 75(8).

Brinkley, C. (2012). Evaluating the Benefits of Peri-Urban Agriculture. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 27(3), 259-269.

Casella, Cesare. (2019). Food System Solutions to Address Food Security and Local Economic Development: The Case of Food Hubs in the Northeastern United States. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 9(1), 1-2.

Colding, J., and Barthel, S. (2013). The potential of 'Urban Green Commons' in the resilience building of cities. *Ecological Economics*, 86(C), 156-166.

Colding, J. (2011). Creating incentives for increased public engagement in ecosystem management through urban commons. *Adapting Institutions: Meeting the Challenge of Global Environmental Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Duncan, Sally, Christy Anderson Brekken, Sue Lurie, Rob Fiegenger, Seth Sherry and Chyi-lyi (Kathleen) Liang. (2018). Can Regional Food Networks and Entrepreneurial Strategies Enhance Food System Resilience? *Choices: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*, 33(2), 1-10.

Freedgood, Julia, Hunter, M., Dempsey, J., Sorensen, A. (2020). *Farms Under Threat: The State of the States*. Washington, D.C: American Farmland Trust.

Garrett, Steven, and Feenstra, Gail.

[https://www.iatp.org/sites/default/files/Growing\\_a\\_Community\\_Food\\_System.htm](https://www.iatp.org/sites/default/files/Growing_a_Community_Food_System.htm)

Glover, Troy D., Shinew, Kimberly J., and Parry, Diana C. (2005). Association, Sociability, and Civic Culture: The Democratic Effect of Community Gardening. *Leisure Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 27(1), 75-92.



Holland, Leigh. (2004). Diversity and connections in community gardens: a contribution to local sustainability. *The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, 9(3), 285-305.

IPCC, 2019: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems* [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.- O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)]. In press.

Johnson, J., & Strange, M. (2005). Why Rural Matters 2005: The Facts About Rural Education in the 50 States. Institute of Education Studies. *Rural School and Community Trust*. Washington, D.C. ED497988

Kortright, R., & Wakefield, S. (2011). Edible backyards: a qualitative study of household food growing and its contributions to food security. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 28(1), 39-53.

Levkoe, C.Z. (2006). Learning Democracy Through Food Justice Movements. *Agriculture and Human Values* 23, 89-98.

Lin, Brenda B., Macfadyen, Sarina, Renwick, Anna R., Cunningham, Saul A., Schellhorn, Nancy A. (2013). Maximizing the Environmental Benefits of Carbon Farming through Ecosystem Service Delivery. *BioScience*, 63(10), 793-803.

Litt, Jill S., Soobader, Mah-J., Turbin, Mark S., Hale, James W., Buchenau, Michael, & Marshall, Julie A. (2011). The influence of social involvement, neighborhood aesthetics, and community garden participation on fruit and vegetable consumption. *The American Journal of Public Health*, 101(8).

Long Valley Community Bioregional Atlas. (2008). University of Idaho Bioregional Planning and Community Design Program.

McCall In Motion Comprehensive Plan.

<https://evogov.s3.amazonaws.com/141/media/115606.pdf>

McEntee, J. (2011). Contemporary and traditional localism: a conceptualisation of rural local food. *Local Environ*, 15, 785-803.



Nogueira-Mcrae, T., Ryan, E. P., Jablonski, B. B. R., Carolan, M., Arathi, H. S., Brown, C. S., ... Schipanski, M. E. (2018). The Role of Urban Agriculture in a Secure, Healthy, and Sustainable Food System. *Bioscience*, 68(10), 748-759.

O'Hara, J. (2011). *Market Forces: CREATING JOBS THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS* (pp. 16-22, Rep.). Union of Concerned Scientists.

O'Kane, G. (2012). What is the real cost of our food? Implications for the environment, society and public health nutrition. *Public Health Nutrition*, 15(2), 268-276.

Overcoming Barriers to Increasing Fruit and vegetable Consumption. (2000). *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 100(4).

Payette River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. (2014).  
[http://payetteriverscenicbyway.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Update\\_PayetteRiverByway-CMP-Final.pdf](http://payetteriverscenicbyway.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Update_PayetteRiverByway-CMP-Final.pdf)

Paci-Green, R., & Berardi, G. (2015). Do global food systems have an Achilles heel? The potential for regional food systems to support resilience in regional disasters. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, 5(4), 685-698.

Robert, Naomi, and Mullinix, Kent. (2018). Municipal Policy Enabling Regional Food Systems in British Columbia, Canada: Assessing Focal Areas and Gaps. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(B), 115-132.

Salvador, S., Corazzin, Romanzin, & Bovolenta. (2017). Greenhouse gas balance of mountain dairy farms as affected by grassland carbon sequestration. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 196, 644-650.

Schmeltzkopf, K. (1996). Urban community gardens as a contested space. *Geographical Review*, 85, 369-381.

Schukoske, J.E. (2000). Community development through gardening: State and local policies transforming urban open space. *Legislation and Public Policy*, 3, 351-392.

Sobel, David. (1996). *Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education*. Great Barrington, MA: The Orion Society.

Sprague, Christian, Fragkias, Michail, Narducci, Jenna, Brandt, Jodi, and Benner, Shawn G. (2017). *Raster Data for Projecting Urban Expansion in the Treasure Valley (Idaho) to Year*



2100 Under Different Scenarios of Population Growth and Housing Density [Data set]. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.18122/B20693>

Tautges, N. E., Chiartas, J. L., Gaudin, A. C. M., O'Geen, A. T., Herrera, I., & Scow, K. M. (2019). Deep soil inventories reveal that impacts of cover crops and compost on soil carbon sequestration differ in surface and subsurface soils. *Global Change Biology*, 25(11), 3753-3766.

Thibert, J. (2012). Making Local Planning Work for Urban Agriculture in the North American Context: A View from the Ground. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 32(3), 349-357.

Tidball, Keith G. and Krasny, Marianne E. (2009). Community Gardens as Contexts for Science, Stewardship, and Civic Action Learning. *Cities and the Environment*, 2(1), 8-18.

United States Department of Agriculture (2017). Agriculture Census. Accessed online 6/18/2020.

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/daho/cp16085.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/daho/cp16085.pdf)

Valley County Comprehensive Plan (2018). <http://www.co.valley.id.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Compilation-online-2.pdf>

Voicu, I., & Been, V. (2008). The Effect of Community Gardens on Neighboring Property Values. *Real Estate Economics*, 36(2), 241-283.

Voight, Kate A. (2011). Pigs in the Backyard or the Barnyard: Removing Zoning Impediments to Urban Agriculture. *Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review*, 38(2), 537-566.

Worstell, James. (2020). Ecological Resilience of Food Systems in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 9(3).

Zick, Cathleen D., Smith, Ken R., Kowaleski-Jones, Lori, Uno, Claire, & Merrill, Brittany J. (2013). Harvesting more than vegetables: the potential weight control benefits of community gardening. *The American Journal of Public Health*, 103(6).



## Image Credits

All images included in this report are courtesy of Casey O’Leary, aside from the following:

Front cover carrot image: Creative commons: <https://mocah.org/5410504-carrot-vegetable-root-leaf-orange-rainbow-carot-root-vegetable-root-veggy-farming-farm-grow-green-red-white-food-healthy-harvest-detail-creative-commons-images.html> ID - 5410504

Page 6: Sockeye Salmon image: US Department of the Fish and Wildlife: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=915>

Page 9: Food system graphic: US Department of Agriculture: <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2017/10/11/five-reasons-why-you-should-celebrate-farm-school-month>

Page 31: Stegner Farms image courtesy of Mary Stegner

Page 33: Valley County Comprehensive Plan image: Valley County website: [www.co.valley.id.us](http://www.co.valley.id.us)

Page 34: The Intervale image: From the Gardeners Supply blog: <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/intervale/5446.html>

Page 35: Greenhouses from above Creative Commons: File:Westland kassen.jpg

Page 36: Hydroponic Lettuce Creative Commons: File:Starr-150326-1657-Lactuca sativa-several varieties-Hydroponics Greenhouse Sand Island-Midway Atoll (25174396501).jpg