

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-183**

Authorizing a "County Digs" Project to Enhance Opportunities for Urban Agricultural in Multnomah County

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Multnomah County seeks to promote opportunities for urban agriculture throughout Multnomah County by providing unused or surplus County property to individuals or organizations for use in growing food or agriculture products.
- b. Multnomah County's local food system has a significant impact on our economy, our health, our social system, and our environment. Urban agriculture is an integral component to a sustainable, healthy, and vibrant local food system.
- c. Urban agriculture is defined as an activity within an urban growth boundary which includes raising, processing, and distributing, a variety of food or other agriculture products, and in turn supplying resources, products, and services for local consumption.
- d. Urban agriculture includes community gardens, community-supported agriculture, farms, farm stands, plant and flower production, small farm and farmer incubator businesses, and others.
- e. Urban agriculture results in fresher, more nutritious food for county residents and reduces the transportation and global climate change impacts of shipping food long distances.
- f. Making Multnomah County-owned land available to residents to grow local food supports self-sufficiency and access to healthy food, and supports the goals of the Portland/Multnomah Global Warming Action Plan.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. To create a "County Digs" Project ("Project") which identifies County-owned property suitable for urban agriculture and makes the property available to the public through property transfer or long-term lease for agriculture purposes.
  - a. The Sustainability Program, Facilities and Property Management, and Tax Title will evaluate the current inventory of County-owned property to determine whether there is property suitable for the Project. If suitable

property is identified, the Sustainability Program will seek Board approval for disposition for use for the Project pursuant to Resolution 04-185.

- b. Tax foreclosed properties shall also be evaluated by the Greenspace Review Committee, and when suitable parcels are identified for agriculture purposes, requested for use for the Project pursuant to MCC § 27.405.
- c. Criteria for suitable "County Digs" property shall include property: (1) that is not in use or designated for sale or other disposition, and (2) that has a water source or is able to secure a water source.
- d. If any property is leased as part of the Project, it shall be managed by the Facilities and Property Management Division.
- e. The Sustainability Program, Facilities and Property Management, and Tax Title will develop guidelines and procedures for administration of the "County Digs" Project.
- f. The Sustainability Program shall present an annual report on the "County Digs" Project to the Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 29th day of November, 2007.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
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Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
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Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Jeff Cogen, Commissioner, District 2 and the Sustainability Program