

**April 11, 2022**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**  
Beth Friend  
bfriend@eastbaytp.org  
(231) 947-8719

## **EAST BAY TOWNSHIP GATHERING PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON COMMUNITY GARDEN AT TOWNSHIP OFFICE, NEAR LIBRARY AND SCHOOLS**

The East Bay Township Parks Commission is considering establishing a community garden at the Township Hall to provide shared space for healthy and sustainable food cultivation and education for East Bay Township residents, kids, and community partners.

“This garden could be a healthy, fun, and educational community hub for people of all ages and abilities in East Bay Township to learn, interact, and grow—pun intended—together,” says Susan LaRose, an East Bay Township Parks Commissioner and Master Gardener who is participating on the subcommittee spearheading the project.

The Parks Commission has assembled a subcommittee of local educators, library, residents, parks commissioners, and food and farming organizations, to lead the garden planning and design process. This group met with and interviewed education stakeholders, including representatives from area schools, library, girl scouts/boy scouts, and homeschool network, to determine the interest and needs of local educators in utilizing the potential community garden.

Overall, interviewees identified learning, eating healthier/locally, and socializing with new friends as the most compelling potential outcomes of the community garden. Chantel Lentz is with the East Bay Branch Library, serves on the Parks Commission subcommittee, and participated in an interview. “We can envision a number of ways the library could support the garden and vice versa,” notes Lentz, “We could host our story walks in the garden, provide a seed library for patrons and gardeners, and create a garden tool lending library. The garden fits in nicely with our mission of connecting community.”

The Parks Commission is now launching a survey to understand the general community’s attitudes and desires regarding the potential community garden. This survey is intended for any person who lives, learns, works, and/or plays in East Bay Township, and is available from April 11—30 at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ebt花园>.

If survey results reflect that a community garden at this location is feasible, the Parks Commission will hire a landscape architect to assemble preliminary garden designs that reflect the needs and values of the East Bay Township community. The Parks Commission will work with community stakeholders to refine these preliminary designs, and will provide final recommendations regarding garden design, funding, maintenance, and governance to the East Bay Township Board by the fall of 2022.

--- End ---