

A'KEY GRANT APPLICATION

PEND OREILLE COUNTY EXTENSION GARDEN/GREENHOUSE PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

PEND OREILLE COUNTY AND ITS MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Pend Oreille County is a relatively small county located in the extreme northeast corner of Washington State. It is bordered on the north by Canada and on the east by Idaho. It has a population of about 13,000. The economy of the county is based on timber and mining. The largest employer in the county is the paper mill. Unemployment and poverty levels are much higher here than the State average. The first Master Gardener training for Pend Oreille County residents was offered in 1996 and the result was a small but dedicated group of 6 certified Master Gardeners. The program has expanded over the years and we currently have 34 certified Master Gardeners providing gardening education throughout the area. In 2014, the Master Gardeners joined the Washington State Master Gardener Foundation. Our main sources of income are gardening classes and a yearly plant sale/raffle which normally bring in between \$1500.00 - \$2000.00 per year. In 2015 we earned netted us \$1552.20 from the plant sale.



HISTORY OF

EXTENSION

FACILITIES

Up until November of 2014, WSU Extension

and WSU/Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners were housed in Newport in the old jail, just south of the old County Courthouse. This cramped and run-down work space was shared with the Weed Board and offered space for the office manager as well as two additional offices. Storage was in the basement and two old jail cells on the second floor. There was really no room for Master Gardeners so all meetings, classes and plant clinics had to be held in other community meeting areas in the

IN THE FOREGROUND, ABANDONED GREENHOUSE ON LEFT AND ABANDONED GARDEN ON RIGHT; IN THE BACKGROUND, BRICK BUILDING THAT NOW HOUSES EXTENSION OFFICES, MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC AND A MEETING/CLASSROOM.

County. Due to expanding programs and the need to hire additional staff, the Extension Office, in November of 2014, moved to its new home, the old Tri-County health building. The new facilities provide much needed space to accommodate the Master Gardeners and include clean dry storage, a plant clinic desk in the main reception area, a meeting/classroom and, eventually after remodeling, a volunteer work room with extra desk and project work space. Also existing at this new facility is an abandoned fenced garden and adjacent greenhouse.

HISTORY OF THE GARDEN/GREENHOUSE

The greenhouse and fenced garden area are located just a few hundred feet across the lawn from the new Extension/Master Gardener facilities. The 24' x 30' greenhouse was originally built with funds from a mental health grant with the goal in mind to provide a place where disabled adults might garden and provide themselves with fresh and nutritious produce. The greenhouse currently has an electric exhaust fan with thermostat, lighting, automatic watering systems and a propane heater. The adjacent garden is 66' x 66' and was developed by the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Department to create a space where jail inmates could work, participate in productive outdoor exercise and grow healthy food to supplement the meals at the jail. It features, wire fencing to protect the garden from deer and twelve raised beds. The soil has been amended in some areas.



Irrigation water is available by hose from a spigot just inside the adjacent greenhouse. Due to funding cutbacks, both the greenhouse and the garden were abandoned 5-6 years ago and are currently growing only weeds. During the summer of 2014, a small part of the garden area was used by a local girl scout to grow produce for the local food bank as meeting part of her requirements for her Gold Service Award. She has now graduated from high school and will no longer be using the garden.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Master Gardeners of Pend Oreille County wish to adopt the abandoned garden and greenhouse and repair and renovate both areas so that they might be used for gardening education and for the benefit of the community. As each aspect of the garden and greenhouse is developed, the Master Gardeners will plan, organize and implement classes and hands-on workshops to involve the community in the improvement procedures. Community members will then be able to take this knowledge and experience and implement the procedures in their own yards.

WHY DO WE WANT TO DO THIS?

By securing this grant the Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners have a unique opportunity to develop a garden and greenhouse in our community where we can teach and demonstrate Washington State University research based gardening procedures and practices. We will be able to educate our community in the complete process of designing and developing the garden/greenhouse from start to finish. It is also perfect timing for the Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners because we will be starting a new Master Gardener Training program in the fall of 2015. We will educate our new trainees with hands on experience as they become certified. These new trainees will also lend manpower hours to our small group as we develop the garden/greenhouse.

The Pend Oreille Master Gardeners envision the garden/greenhouse space to be developed in several ways. Among these are using part of the garden to demonstrate water-wise and fire-wise landscaping techniques, providing opportunities for disabled community members to safely and easily participate in gardening, and providing space and education for members of our community to become involved in growing healthy foods for their families. We also envision developing part of the garden/greenhouse space to propagate and grow plants for the Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Foundation plant sales so that the garden/greenhouse project can be sustained into perpetuity.

The Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners see an opportunity to take an abandoned garden and greenhouse and revive them as educational tools for the community as well as the Master Gardeners. This new garden/greenhouse project has excited the current Master Gardeners and that excitement will be contagious as we engage our new recruits and the community of Pend Oreille County.

IS THERE A PROBLEM THIS PROJECT WILL HELP SOLVE?

Up until this time the Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners have had no garden space of their own to hold gardening classes, workshops and demonstrations. In the past, the Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners have used a small garden belonging to the Create Arts Center to demonstrate Water-wise and low maintenance gardening but it is rather inconveniently located and not visible to the public. This project will deliver plenty of space where Master Gardeners are able to demonstrate outdoor gardening and greenhouse gardening that is adjacent to the Extension Office, extremely visible and readily accessible to all three Newport Schools, the Extension Office



LOOKING NORTH AT ABANDONED GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE WITH QUAIL MANOR (SUBSIDIZED HOUSING FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED ADULTS) IN BACKGROUND.

meeting/classroom and the general public. The project will turn an abandoned garden/greenhouse area and a neighborhood eyesore into a productive and educational asset to the community. There is a lack of suitable volunteer opportunities for the developmentally disabled adults that live in the adjacent Quail Manor. This project will provide educational and structured volunteer opportunities for the developmentally disabled community in Newport. There is currently no place for teaching the garden element of the current adult food \$ense

classes. This project will provide space for an adult Food \$ense garden and the resulting will be used by the POC Food \$ense adult cooking classes that are held at the Extension Office.

There is currently no space for Master Gardeners to propagate and nurture plants for their annual plant sales. Plants are grown at each individual's homes and then transported to the local elementary school on the day of the sale. Set up and clean up for the sales are hurried and stressful having to work around the school's class schedule. This project will provide the POC Master Gardeners the ability to expand their fundraising opportunities so that additional educational programs may be offered to the community. There are also no current areas where the public can go to learn about water-wise gardening, fire-wise landscaping and growing native plants. Local 4-H clubs have no place to garden other than at member's or leader's homes. This garden will provide space for 4-H clubs to garden together.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, INCLUDING TIMELINE, RESPONSIBILITIES AND YOUR ACTION PLAN

Development of the garden and greenhouse will begin in January of 2016. The Master Gardeners will use the garden and greenhouse to teach as we do. Classes, demonstrations and workshops will be scheduled as work is planned and completed. The goal will be to recover and develop the garden areas over a three year period. Classes, demonstrations and workshops will be repeated each year until the garden is completely under control and then continue in the following years using the garden as a demonstration on what was done in the past to develop it.

November/December 2015

Develop MOA with Pend Oreille County pertaining to the use of the garden/greenhouse area

January 2016

Lease propane tank

February 2015

Purchase greenhouse supplies/timers/automatic vents

April 2016

- Begin garden bed preparation
 - Repair fence/gate
 - Design garden
 - Plan/design educational signs
 - Order top soil, geo-textile fabric, other garden supplies
 - Order materials for classes

March 2016 – September 2018

Begin classes and develop the first third of the garden area. The following classes will be repeated for 3 years, each year developing 1/3 of the garden.

Classes may include but will not be limited to:

- Soils, soil testing, bio-char (March)
- Mulching your Garden (March)
- Seed Germination (March)
- Greenhouses and greenhouse management (April)
- Landscape and garden planning and design (April)
- How to Prepare Garden Beds (May)
- Gardening with Youth (May)
- Vertical Gardening and Garden Structures (May)
- Building and maintaining a compost pile (May)
- Building and gardening in raised beds (May)
- Planting early season crops (May)
- How to install drip irrigations systems (June)
- Planning and planting a garden (June)
- Small fruits and berries (June)
- Propagation Techniques (June)
- Native Plants (July)
- Fire-wise landscaping (July)
- Water-wise Gardening (July)
- Harvesting your garden produce (August)
- Cooking Classes with Food \$ense (July-September)

The Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Coordinator and Master Gardeners will organize, implement and teach classes using the adjacent indoor classroom, the greenhouse and the garden to full advantage. The classes will also be used as face-to-face training for Master Gardener Trainees in the years 2016 and 2018. Community volunteers will assist in maintaining the garden and greenhouse plants. There are initial discussions with County Social Services Staff indicate that they are extremely interested in participating with the Master Gardeners to develop and maintain the garden and greenhouse areas. Social Service staff members would be present to organize and supervise the developmentally disabled garden volunteers. Food \$ense staff will teach cooking classes.

WHAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED?

This visible Master Gardener project will generate a lot of community interest and participation. More community members will have access to hands-on opportunities to learn gardening procedures and become excited about gardening in their own yards. Educational delivery from Master Gardeners in Pend Oreille County will increase appreciably. 4-H clubs will have a place to garden. The garden will provide food for adult Food \$ense cooking classes and the surplus will be donated to local food banks. The garden and greenhouse will transform from a local eye sore to a productive garden. Local property values will rise. Neighbors will appreciate the improved aesthetics of the area. Master Gardeners will have additional revenue from plant sales and class fees.

WHAT OUTCOMES ARE YOU SEEKING?

The outcomes resulting from this project will be numerous. We will see a healthier community, nutritionally, financially, mentally and physically. As a result, the community will have a totally sustainable educational garden facility that will easily pay for its maintenance and future programs as well as provide additional funding for the POC Master Gardener Foundation and its projects. The success of this project will attract additional donations and endowments. The Extension garden and greenhouse have already generated great excitement from Master Gardeners and will assist in the retention of Master Gardeners due to their involvement in a truly worthwhile and exciting activities. And, it will develop into a showcase project that can be shared with other Master Gardeners throughout the State.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL?

There will be several ways for us to know if we are successful in this endeavor: we can track how many volunteers (other than Master Gardeners) are involved in different aspects of the garden. We can track how many Master Gardener hours are donated to working in the garden. We can count the number and kinds of classes that are offered in the garden/greenhouse as well as the attendance of the classes. We can track the number of visitors to tours that we offer as well as

differentiate what kinds of tours we offer. We will track our income generated from plant sales, classes, and tours as well as our yearly expenses for maintaining the garden/greenhouse. If we have a net profit and engage members of the community and the POC MGs, we will consider ourselves on our way to being successful.

WHO WILL EVALUATE THE PROJECT?

The project will be evaluated by an evaluation board made up of the Master Gardener Coordinator and the Pend Oreille County Foundation Officers. Evaluation will occur each December during the annual budget meeting. At that time, income and expenses will be determined and the budget for the following year will be set.

IS THERE AN EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE OR IS THIS AN ON-GOING PROJECT?

This is definitely an on-going project. The garden and greenhouse will be maintained and used for demonstrations and classes by the Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners well into the future. With the help of this grant providing start-up funding, future maintenance, utilities and educational programs will then be supported by classes held at the garden and greenhouse and our annual plant sales. The Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Foundation currently has money available in its Demo Garden Account to assist in developing and maintaining the new garden/greenhouse project. Additional fundraising activities may be considered such as native plant sales. We will also seek additional donations, endowments and grant opportunities.

IS THIS A JOINT PROJECT WITH ANOTHER AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION? IF YES, PLEASE IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE EXTENT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT.

- Pend Oreille County is providing the land and utilities for the garden and greenhouse. The first step in this process will be to develop a written MOA outlining the involvement and support from each party.
- WSU Extension Food \$ense Program and CEO, Wendy Drum are involved and supporting this project. They have committed to provide seeds, plant starts, soil amendments and tools for use in their Food \$ense classes.
- Discussions with Pend Oreille County Counseling services are ongoing and it is expected that they will be another partner helping to maintain the garden and greenhouse. They have expressed the interest in providing adult developmentally disabled volunteers, ages 30-60, to assist maintaining the garden and greenhouse plants as well as staff supervision to work with the Master Gardeners during these volunteer sessions.

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PROJECT IN ORDER TO FAIRLY CONSIDER IT FOR FUNDING?

HISTORY OF WSU/PEND OREILLE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER WATER-WISE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT CREATE ART CENTER

The current Pend Oreille County Master Gardener's demonstration garden was established in 1999. An informal agreement was made between the local Master Gardeners and the CREATE Art Center, a family oriented center for the arts. On in-town, residential property owned by CREATE, a 65' x 70' garden was established and maintained by the Master Gardeners. In 2007 a formal legal agreement was signed by WSU and CREATE. That agreement established responsibilities for both parties. CREATE provided use of the land and supplied water. Master Gardener volunteers established the garden as a low-maintenance, water-wise landscape featuring native plants and used the space for teaching about water conservation and landscaping. That approach was successful for several years. After a short lull in enthusiasm for maintaining the garden, two years ago volunteers began revitalizing it, dividing it into small plots which demonstrate a variety of garden styles including growing berries, container plants, shade gardening, a pollinator garden, herbs, etc., as well as native plants and a small water-wise garden. We have encouraged CREATE volunteers to join us in the garden. They are wishing to take a more active role in maintaining the garden, enjoying developing landscape areas which will eventually show off their outdoor art projects and provide places for children to garden and create art. As a result of all of these changes in the original purpose of the garden and the increased participation of CREATE volunteers, we are in the process of ending our 2007 agreement with CREATE. We plan to continue provide consulting and educational services to CREATE but look forward to concentrating our efforts at the new demonstration garden and greenhouse at the new Extension Office facilities.

WHO ARE THE MASTER GARDENERS SUPPORTING AND INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT AND WHEN DID THEY COMPLETE TRAINING?

The following Master Gardeners attended the Master Gardener business meeting of June 27 and all voted to apply for this grant.

Jan Wood	2015
Julie Chavis	2011
Kay Bettencourt	1996
Gretchen Koenig	2003
Rosemary Chandler	2009
Jane Bolz	2015
Suzanne Jacobson	2015
Carolyn Hargrave	2009
Sandy Loskill	2009
Tammie Newman	2009
Phoenix Luby	2003

Based upon the results of a Master Gardener Survey sent out in May of 2015, additional Master Gardeners who were unable to attend this meeting also support this project. The Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners were asked to rank all 21 current Master Gardener activities according to importance. The activities ranked as most important by the 17 Master Gardeners that participated in the survey were #1, providing classes for adults; #2, plant clinic; #3, providing classes for youth; #4, the plant sale; #5 developing and using the abandoned greenhouse next to the Extension Office; # 6, the garden tour and #7, developing and using the abandoned garden next to the Extension Office. The other 14 activities were considered of less importance. This survey shows that Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners definitely support this project.

PROPOSED BUDGET

6/29/2015

Development of Extension Garden/Greenhouse

Location	Expense	2016	2017	2018	
Greenhouse	propane tank rental	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	
	propane tank installation	\$159.00			
	Propane	\$338.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
	Dewitt Pro Weed Barrier	\$75.00			
	Misc. repairs	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
	automatic vent openers	\$150.00			
	gravel, parking barriers		\$150.00		
Garden	24 8" steel posts	\$175.00			
	Hardware (gate/compost bin)	\$30.00			
	Lumber (raised beds/compost bin)	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
	Dewitt Pro Weed Barrier	\$250.00	\$250.00		
	Garden soil	\$400.00	\$400.00		
	Potting soil bales	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
	drip irrigation supplies	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	
	irriation timer	\$80.00			
	signage	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	
	misc repairs/supplies		\$100.00	\$100.00	
		\$2,727.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,220.00	

**Thank you for providing this opportunity to
apply for funding from your organization.**

Please contact us if you have questions
or require additional information.

Dixie Chichester
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Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Mike Jensen at 227 S Garden Avenue, Newport WA 99156, PO Box 5045, 509 447-2402, mike.jensen@wsu.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

