

WSU/Pend Oreille County Extension

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WSU Extension/Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners—Pend Oreille County

Local Master Gardeners Use Award for New Garden

The WSU/Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners are the winners of this year's Ellen A'Key Grant and will use the \$1500 award to help renovate the greenhouse and garden located on County property in Newport off of Circle Drive just west of the WSU/Pend Oreille County Extension offices. The emphasis of this newly planned Demonstration Garden will be on growing food but the garden will also display educational plots pertaining to native plants, water-wise gardening, Fire-wise landscaping and other topics pertinent to our local area. Associated gardening classes, beginning as soon as March, will involve class participants with hands-on experience in all phases of gardening and landscaping: planning, construction, planting, maintenance and harvesting processes. The Master Gardeners also plan to partner with the Extension Food Sense Program to offer garden-to-table cooking classes. Any produce not used for cooking classes will be donated to local food banks.

Renovation will begin in 2016 and will include repairing and/or replacing fencing; installing a proper gate; building additional garden beds, compost bins and vertical gardening structures; amending soil and installing educational signs and displays. "The Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners are very thankful to have this support from the King County Master Gardener Foundation but we will also need a lot of support from our own community", says Dixie Chichester, WSU/Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Program Coordinator and Project Leader. The current development plan calls for renovating the garden over a three year period with the estimated costs for the first year being \$2727.00. The second year will require an estimated \$1920.00 and the final and third phase will cost around \$1220.00. Any community member or business wishing to donate materials, additional funding or volunteer time to the new demonstration garden should contact Dixie at 509 447-6453 or d.chichester@wsu.edu. The Ellen A'Key grant is provided every year by the King County Master Gardener Foundation and is offered with particular consideration given to smaller counties where support dollars might be sparse. As this year's winners, Pend Oreille Master Gardeners will not be eligible to re-apply for the same funding for another 3 years.

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