

**FW: Stormwater Fees for Community Gardens**

Paul Fugazzotto

**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2016 1:37 PM**To:** WATERINFO**From:** Susan Edens**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 6:06 PM**To:** Gemela McClendon <Gemela.McClendon@Phila.gov>**Cc:** jgreenberg@pennhort.org**Subject:** Stormwater Fees for Community Gardens

Dear Gemela McClendon,

I am writing to you to protest the application of Stormwater Fees to Community Gardens in Philadelphia. Stormwater Fees should not be applied to the open land of Community Gardens - which increase water absorption, decreasing water runoff.

These Gardens also provide homes for pollinators, a place for Philadelphia residents to grow healthy food, and open green space for all, which is a rare commodity.

Our garden and others operate on low budgets, and Fees will only reduce our ability to support low income gardeners, provide produce to the City Harvest Program, add garden improvements such as trees vines and shrubs, and purchase needed tools to keep up with overall garden maintenance.

We have planted street trees in the sidewalk that borders our garden. Those trees for years have been absorbing water in their leaves during rainfall and the tree pits keep water sheet flow on the sidewalk from running into the street and down the drain.

The trees also provide shade which helps reduce heat. We have used gardener dues for the establishment of these trees, and we continue to maintain them in good health.

The garden that I belong to, Warrington Garden, was purchased in part by the hard fundraising work of the Garden members over a long period of time. Please keep Community Gardens viable and allow them to continue to reduce stormwater runoff, provide healthy food and decrease heat by exempting them from unwarranted Stormwater Fees.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Susan Edens

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