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To Whom It May Concern:

Edible Forest Gardens is a local non-profit that has organized volunteers to plant more than sixty Edible Forest Gardens of fruit and nut trees, berry bushes and perennial vegetables in private yards, community gardens, schools, businesses, and neighborhood spaces around Olympia in the past eight years.

We toured the nine-acre Scotch broom field on the edge of the LBA Woods to look for opportunities to restore it and turn it into a community garden when it is purchased by the City of Olympia to become a park.

The south-facing aspect favors gardening and the border with Boulevard Road and 41st Way makes it an excellent prospect for neighborhood and community access to the garden. Surrounded by five schools - Olympia High School, Washington Middle School, and Margaret McKenny, Pioneer and Centennial Elementary Schools - and not far from the Olympia High School Garden on Siskiyou Street, it will provide opportunities for teachers to share nature and gardening with students.

The scale of the project invites the cooperation and involvement of urban agriculture groups to join in the design and implementation of the gardens. We look forward to working with many of our community's active urban gardeners, school children and teachers, neighbors and friends.

We have converted other Scotch broom fields to gardens by pulling the Scotch broom with weed wrenches, chipping the Scotch broom and piling the chips. Covered with black plastic, it turns to nitrogen-rich compost in under a year.

We fully support the acquisition by the City of Olympia of LBA Woods as a park and look forward to joining in the creation of the community garden.

Sincerely,

Pat Rasmussen, Coordinator
Edible Forest Gardens

