

Proposed Educational Community Garden Locations in Tacoma, Washington

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Result #1

Wilson High School

Student Population: 1345



This 3800 ft² parcel of land is located on the corner of N 23rd St & N Villard St. Although overgrown with various plant species, the ground is relatively flat, with few large trees.

Location	Walking Distance
Central Bible Evangelical Free Church	5-10 Minutes
Church in Tacoma	5-10 Minutes
D.A. Gonyea Branch- Boys and Girls Club	5-10 Minutes
Kandle Park and Playfield	5-10 Minutes

Purpose

Urban gardening is an expanding practice in Tacoma, with numerous community gardens already thriving in this highly urbanized city. These gardens give community members the ability to grow fresh, affordable produce, where availability would otherwise be limited. With community gardens located throughout Tacoma, a wide range of individuals are able to do so. However, despite the abundance of community gardens, there is a lack of space that is designed for the youth of Tacoma

Objectives

My goal for this project was to locate vacant parcels of land, throughout Tacoma, that could be used as an educational community garden. Parcels were chosen based on physical and locational information.

Methods

I began my analysis by geocoding a variety of addresses that corresponded to community organizations included YMCA's, daycares, recreation centers, etc. Each geocoded address was then exported to a point and placed on my map. Once all data was downloaded to a temporary folder, I began adding each file to either my file geodatabase or feature dataset; both of which were created before data was collected.

Upon completion of the general extent and level of each downloaded file, I began a network analysis of my data. Within the network analysis, a 1, 5, and 10 minute walking service area was placed around each point of data including schools, parks, and community and recreation centers. I chose this as I would want every student to be able to walk to the garden and thusly promote activeness, which is an added bonus of my project. Furthermore, including the community centers will promote community awareness and involvement.

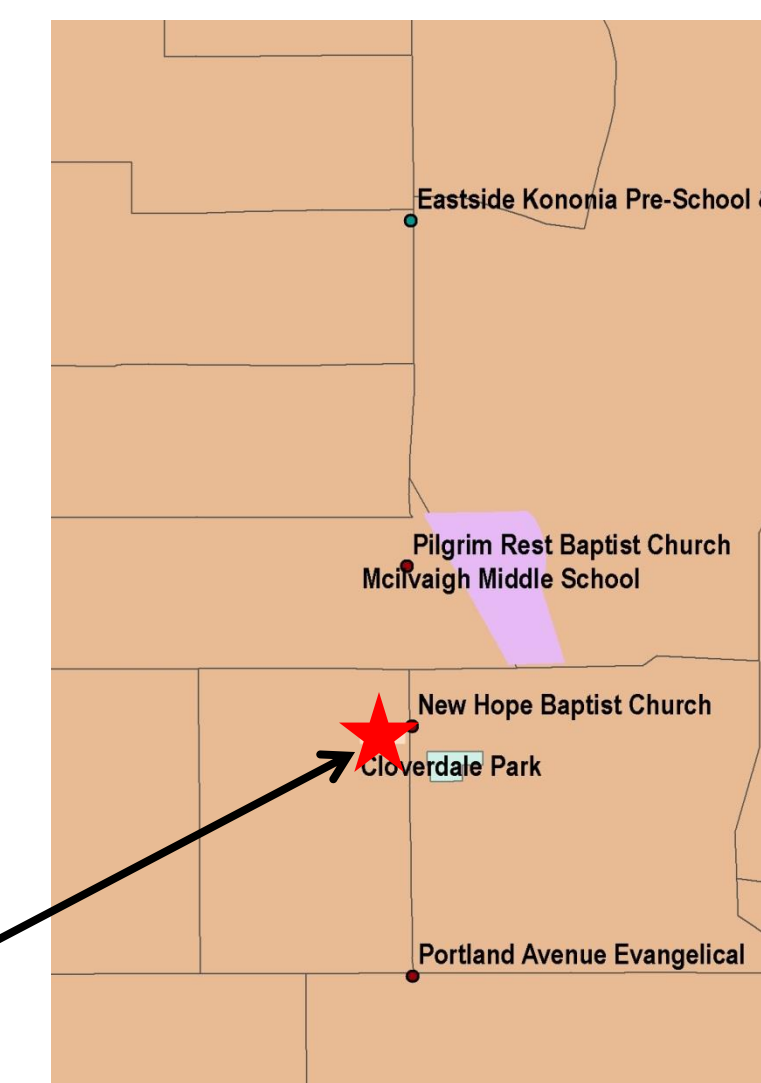
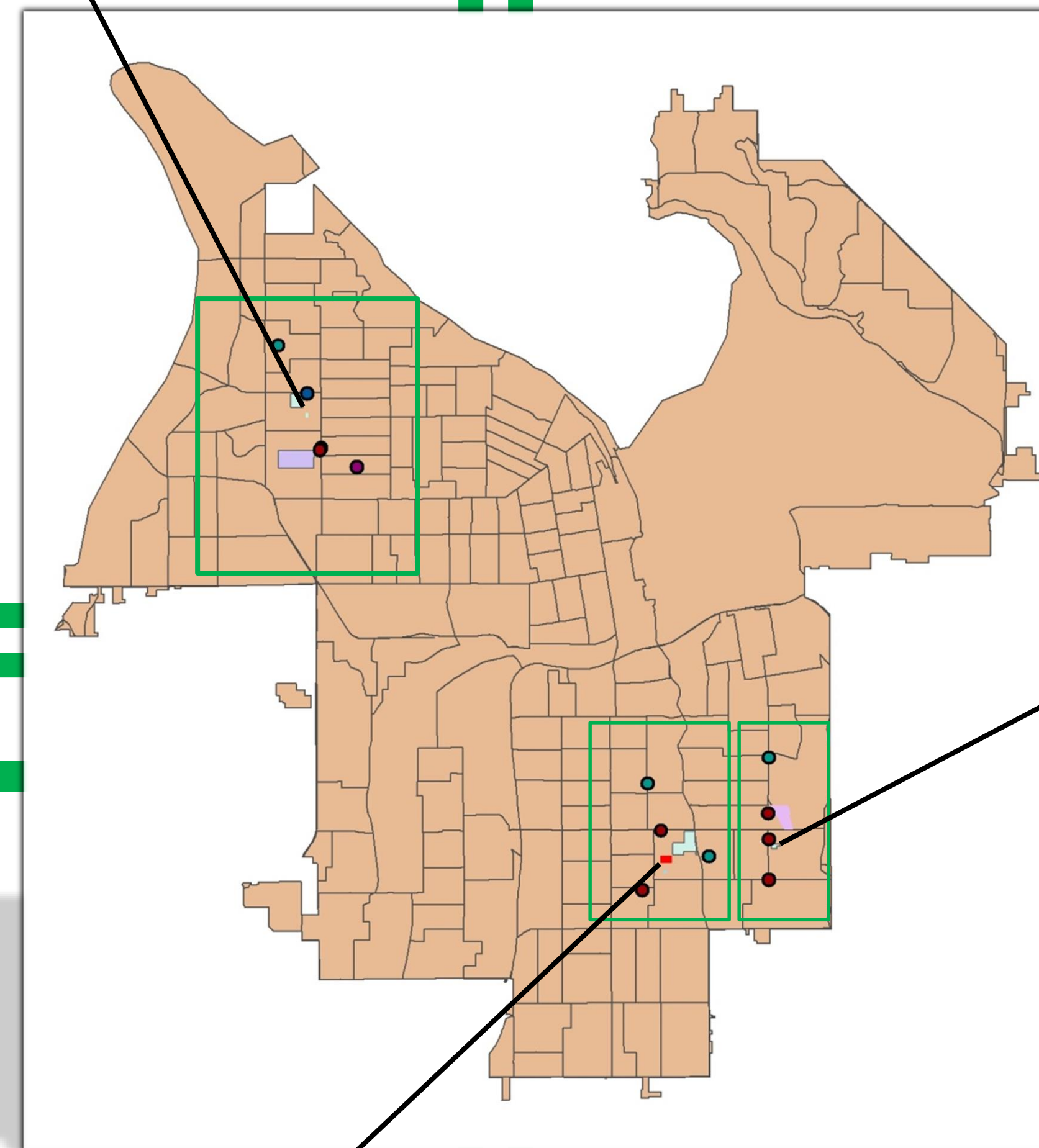
After all service areas were formed, I began determining which parcels of land would service the most entities by narrowing down the vacant parcels that were completely within the service areas of the community centers. The result of this analysis were vacant parcels that would serve the most community centers. I then took these results and conducted the same analysis with park locations, then finally with the schools (each school level was analyzed separately). After I was complete, I began narrowing down the parcels based on size and slope. I continued my analysis by taking those remaining parcels and determining which ones lacked impervious surface. In the end, I had three vacant parcels that could be used for a garden.

Result #3

First Creek Middle School

Student Population: 823

This 4400 ft² parcel of land is located near E Portland Ave & E 59th St. Although overgrown with weeds, this would be a wonderful site for a garden. The ground was flat and open, with easy access from the street.

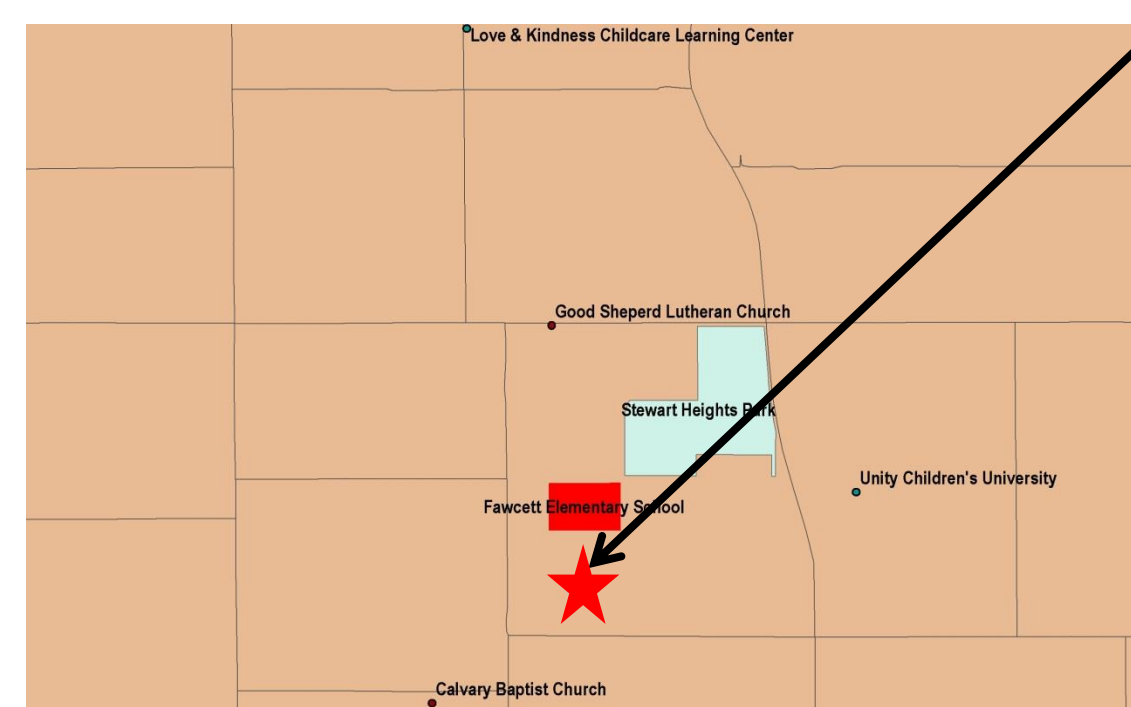


Location	Walking Distance
Eastside Kooia Pre-School and Childcare	5-10 Minutes
Portland Avenue Evangelical Church	5-10 Minutes
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church	5-10 Minutes
New Hope Baptist Church	1-5 Minutes
Cloverdale Park	5-10 Minutes

Result #2

Fawcett Elementary School

Student Population: 427



Location	Walking Distance
Love & Kindness Childcare Center	1-5 Minutes
Unity Children's University Childcare	5-10 Minutes
Calvary Baptist Church	5-10 Minutes
Good Shepard Lutheran Church	5-10 Minutes
Stewart Heights Park	5-10 Minutes

This 2360 ft² parcel of land is located near A St & S 62nd St. This site is by far the most prepared physically for a garden and is completely flat. Located near the road provides easy access as well

Acknowledgements

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Citations

- Desmond D., Grieshop J., Subramaniam A. 2004. Revisiting Garden-Based Learning in Basic Education. International Institute for Educational Planning ISBN: 92-803-1251-0
- Marturano, A. (1999). The Educational Roots of Garden-Based Instruction and Contemporary Gateways to Gardening with Children. Kindergarten Education: Theory, Research and Practice 4(1): 55-70.

Map Information

This map was completed using ArcGIS 10, spring quarter 2012. The projection used was NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_10N.

All photos were taken by myself.