

March 28, 2012

To: Parks and Recreation Commissioners  
Eddy So  
Heather Cunningham  
Gary Class  
Alene Pearson

John Bailes  
John Kindle  
Nick Pilch

From: Transition Albany Representatives  
Marge Brostrum  
Ed Fields

Lourdes Gonzaga  
Alexa Hauser *AH*

Re: Fruit and nut orchard along the Ohlone Greenway

We support the installation and maintenance of an organic fruit and nut orchard on the east side of the Ohlone Greenway in Albany in as many places as feasible. Not only would an expanded orchard provide delicious fruit and nuts for Albanians, it would contribute to the beauty and safety of the area. Transition Albany would like to assist in the installation of an expanded orchard and its ongoing maintenance by supporting the City arborist Tony Wolcott in planting, watering, weeding, enriching the soil, protecting, gleaning fruit, distributing fruit, and pruning.

Though we understand there are already 20 fruit trees (apples, plums, persimmons, and citrus trees) planned for installation along the Greenway, we would like this number and variety to expand to include as much fruit and nuts as possible. We believe a healthy orchard would manifest part of the City's localization efforts and contribute to fulfilling elements of the Climate Action Plan. It is a goal of Transition Albany to support Albany's movement toward being a vital, engaged, resilient, and interdependent community. An orchard is a marvelous concrete step in that process.

Working to support the City's maintenance of the area, and under Tony's direction, Transition Albany proposes to serve as a crew to tend the orchard and distribute available produce in ways determined by the City and us. We could, for example, take fruit and nuts to the weekly garden swaps; deliver fruit to the senior center and childcare centers in town; share with local restaurants, the schools, and churches. If appropriate, we could have a fruit and nut stand to benefit the Albany Arts and Green Festival.

We know there are many public interests to accommodate in your planning, and your job to coordinate all of them is a challenging one. However, we hope that you will seriously consider our offer to partner with you to develop and sustain Albany's Organic Orchard as part of the overall plan to make the best use of this precious open space.

Transition Albany contact: Alexa Hauser; 524.6950; [alexahhh@sonic.net](mailto:alexahhh@sonic.net)

Cc: Penelope Leach, Assistant City Manager, and Community Services Director  
Tony Wolcott, Urban Forester