# Resources and Community Gardens -Completing the Loop

A closer look at community gardens in King County

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## Background

- Community gardens provide environmental and social benefits for municipalities
- Cities have an opportunity to encourage the success of community gardens which would benefit individuals and the community at large
- Right now, community gardens in King County are largely undocumented and misunderstood

# Objective/Questions



### Internship and Methods

- I partnered with King County Wastewater Treatment Division (KC WTD) in their Resource Recovery section to answer questions about community gardens
- The project had 2 phases:
  - Create a GIS map of all the community gardens in King County (Figure 1)
  - Interview community garden coordinators about governance structure, access to resources, and interest in biosolids

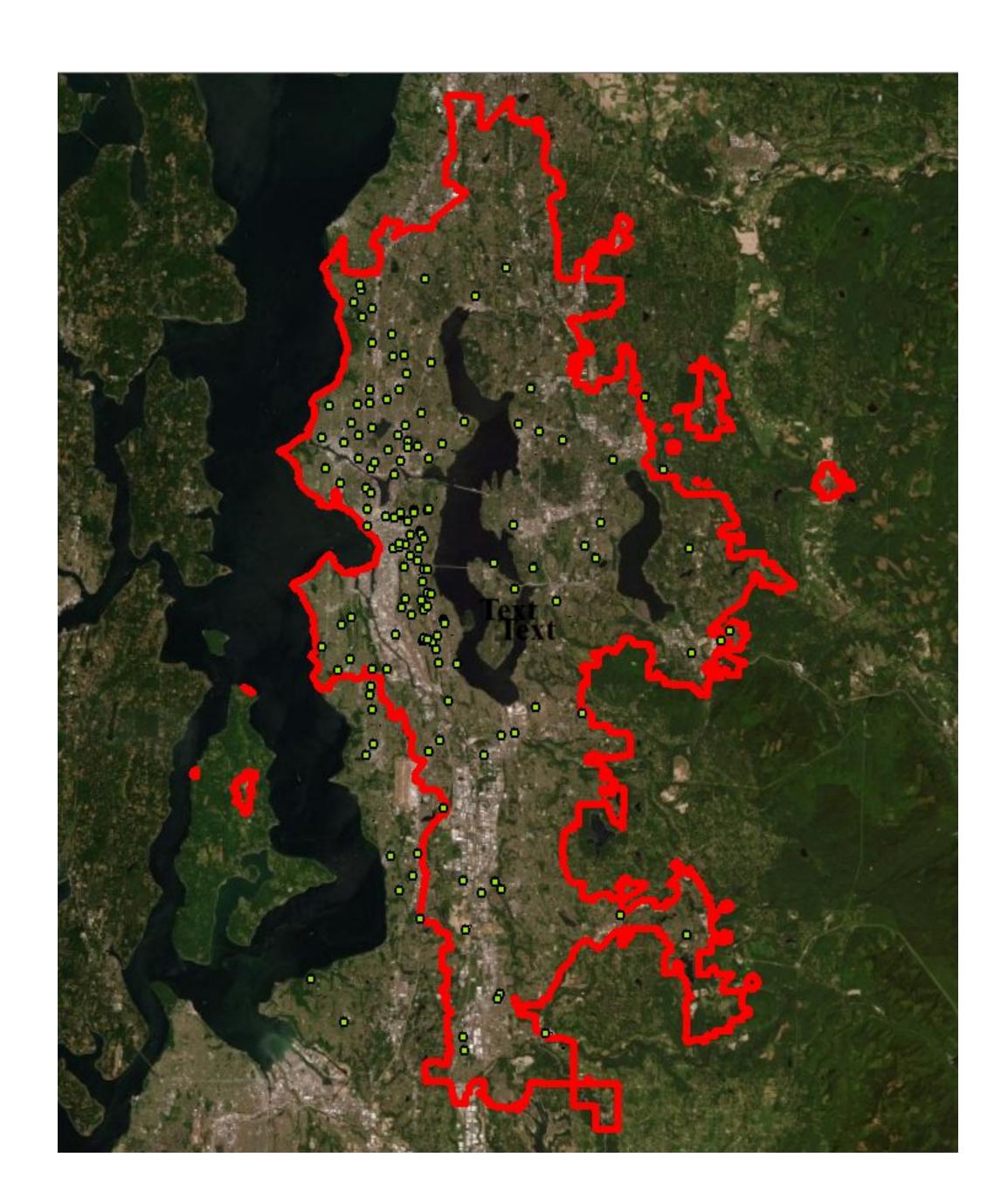


Figure 1: GIS map of all the gardens shown as green dots, within the King County service district, which is denoted in red.

#### Findings

3 factors affect community garden success

- 1. Governance structure
- 2. Resource allocation
- 3. Garden intention
- There are 6 dominant governance structures of gardens in King County: School, Non-Profit, Community, City, Church & P-Patch
- Certain governance structures, like city gardens, didn't have the same resources as others because of lack of time and staff bandwidth to apply to grants or fundraise
- Intention of gardens can increase community involvement and gardener retention



Figure 2: A community garden located in North Seattle

## Significance

- Municipalities can support their community gardens by providing resources like compost, and educational opportunities
- Increasing community gardens in a community, increases social and environmental benefits

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