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## **STAFF REPORT**

**To:** Lemoore City Council **Study Session**  
**From:** Joe Simonson, Parks & Recreation Director **ITEM NO. 3**  
**Date:** March 31, 2009  
**Subject:** Victory Gardens

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### **Discussion:**

Victory Gardens were popular in the United States during World War I and World War II. By 1943 there were 20 million gardens throughout the United States. These gardens reduced the pressure of providing food to the public during war time and were a moral boost to the countrymen waiting for their soldiers to come home. Victory Gardens are making a comeback due to tough economic times. They offer independence from corporate food systems, community involvement, physical activity and they get people closer to the natural environment.

The City of Fresno and the City of Hanford currently have community gardens. Both cities offer citizens 10 by 10 foot plots. Hanford has 30 plots in their location while Fresno has 100. Both cities fence the gardens and give keys to the gardeners. Both cities have drip systems that water the plots. The two cities allow the gardeners to keep their plots for as long as they want. When a plot opens up, they announce it on their website until it is taken over. Both cities have maintenance contracts that the gardeners sign stating that their plots will be weed free and maintained or they will forfeit the site.

Jim Marvin has recently made a request that the City establish a Community Garden. There are several locations on City property that could accommodate this project.

### **Budget Impact:**

Unknown at this time.

### **Recommendation:**

The Lemoore Recreation Department believes that this concept should be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission for assessment and evaluation. The Commission should then forward a written recommendation to the Council.