February 6, 1973

Mr. Robert C. Lang
Communications Relations Manager
New Jersey Bell Telephone Company
127 Central Avenue
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Dear Mr. Lang:

The Plainfield Beautification Committee has in mind an idea that I think will be both exciting and basic for spring and summer of 1973. It is a "down to earth" gardening project for children and may be for apartment house based adults.

We have obtained a City lot at West Second Street and Elmwood Place and I am enlisting the help of a few teachers from Stillman, Jefferson and Washington Schools to help guide us; to select the children (we plan to start in a very small way) and to make the experience meaningful.

The lot is roughly 200 x 250 feet. To be prepared it will need:

1. Leveling, loosening, rototilling and raking.
2. Fertilizing. Mr. Peterson, County Agriculture Agent, will test the soil and advise us on this.
3. Water. Maybe a center whirling sprayer would be more efficient than many feet of hose.
4. Staking out the plots - 5 ft. x 5 ft. - paths 3 ft. between - (2 children to a plot). 20 x 20? x 3 ft.
5. Fencing. We have about 125 ft. of cyclone from a housing project. We may get more. This fence is 4 ft. high. I think it should be six feet high at least.

We can't take a chance of the gardens being run through or vandalized. The discouragement would be fatal to the project.

6. A large bin outside the fence for weeds and waste.
7. Tools and toolhouse - baskets, rakes, hoes, shovels, forks, string and stakes to be kept strict account of and to be locked up after each session. I think one set to a plot - not one set for each gardener.

I don't know where the interests of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company would lie in regards to helping with the above, but any help you can
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give us, needless to say would be marvelous,

I am in touch with the children's gardening project at the New York Botanical Gardens which has been most successful for years, particularly in the summer where the children don't have a chance to go away, and with the Cleveland Public School gardening project, another great success, so I would appreciate a "yes" or "no" letter in the near future.

Please call me if I can fill in more details. I will be only too happy to do so.

Very truly yours,

MRS. WEBSTER SANDFORD
Chairman, Beautification Committee
PL-3546
1225 Denmark Rd., Pgh.

This is planting time for spring gardens.

P. S. Mr. Roberts - we are delighted with the idea of old telephone poles for fence posts. They will be great. We thought they should be maybe 40 ft. apart - sunk 3 ft. & come out with a 7 or 8 ft. high fence. If it should be otherwise let me know. What sort of wire fence should we use?
City land cleared for mini-gardens

PLAINFIELD — Work to grade and clear the plot of land at W. Second Street and Liberty Street for children's mini-vegetable gardens was done yesterday.

There will be approximately 130 small gardens for school children each of a different type. The purpose is to provide an experience in growing for the children.

The schools will be asked to participate as a group and individually in planting and tending the gardens.

The project is the latest in the city beautification program chaired by Mrs. Webster Sandford.

Seed companies will provide free seeds for the plantings. The actual planting will be done as soon as the danger of frost passes in approximately two weeks.
Bob Lang and neighborhood children watch as NJB equipment digs holes for telephone poles the Company donated for fence posts.
Selecting the most perfectly-formed marigold, Edward Walsh (right), retired member of Murray Hill's general maintenance staff, joins Pietro Ciampa, retired senior technical aide, and some of their friends who are enjoying the rewards of a summer's work.
You Have So Much to Give -

VOLUNTEER

New Jersey Bell

CHILDREN'S GARDENS
The Plainfield Children's Garden Project needs your help now to insure a bountiful crop.

Adults are needed to work with children in -

PLANNING
PLANTING
WATERING
FERTILIZING
WEEDING
CULTIVATING
HARVESTING
their crops ---

WHO CAN HELP?
Men, women, senior citizens, college kids, other young adults.

HOW MUCH OF YOUR TIME?
As little as one hour a week.

WHERE:
Between Elmwood Pl. and Liberty St. on W. 2nd St.
in Plainfield

WHEN: Now - the project is just beginning.

SIGN UP NOW!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR GARDENS

(Name)

(Work location)

(Tel. No.)

Send by company mail to -

BOB LANG
127 Central Avenue
Westfield, N.J.

or

phone 232-9962