Mukilteo passes medical marijuana zoning rules

The City of Mukilteo has approved new zoning regulations for medical marijuana gardens.

The City Council in the community about 15 miles north of Seattle on Monday night decided to allow the collective gardens in light industrial areas, so long as these pot patches are at least 500 feet from things like parks, schools and residential areas. The owners of the gardens would have to submit electrical and floor plans to the City and pay for a $333 annual license.

“We are aware of the need, we are aware of the interest,” Council President Richard Emery said in The Everett Herald. “We are also aware of the concern over how we manage our city. I think we will be better served as a community if we have some kind of rules.”

On July 18 the Seattle City Council passed a new law that establishes a regulatory framework for the growing number of medical marijuana dispensaries in Seattle. The City Council unanimously passed its own ordinance because efforts to address medical marijuana, which is legal in Washington, foundered earlier this year in Olympia. Seattle officials will take up the issue of in-city zoning for the pot shops in the coming weeks.

Evergreen State voters approved legalizing medical marijuana in 1998. Washington is one of 16 states which allows marijuana use for medical purposes, but the federal government does not recognize any medicinal use for cannabis. Gov. Chris Gregoire, citing concerns about possible federal prosecution of state employees, earlier this year vetoed most of a medical marijuana bill that would’ve set up a state regulatory framework for medical cannabis, however she allowed a section permitting collective marijuana grows with up to 45 plants, serving up to 10 patients.