



## **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: August 1, 2019

#### Subject

Receive a Presentation on an Update to the Community Gardens Improvement Project

#### Recommended Action

Receive a presentation on an update to the Community Gardens Project.

#### Discussion

The Community Gardens at McClellan Ranch Preserve were closed in October of 2018 because of various safety concerns.

The Community Gardens Improvement project funding was originally approved in the 2018/19 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget but was unfunded in early 2019 as a result of Council Direction to prioritize city hall design. It was funded again in the 2019/2020 CIP budget for 1.5 million dollars.

While the 1.5 million dollars is available for the project, Council's direction was to allocate only 1,200,000 for the McClellan Ranch Garden and \$300,000 for one or more satellite gardens in neighborhood parks. Council also asked that the city promote a sense of volunteerism to reduce the cost of the project.

As a result, a number of changes are being considered to create a high quality community gardens program at McClellan Ranch Preserve that remains within the 1.2 million dollar budget. These changes include:

- Designing the gardens so that all beds are raised, constructed from kits that the gardens or other volunteer groups will install. Raised garden materials being considered are in Cedar or recycled plastic
- Less DG and more mulch used in walkways
- Phased project – Some of the pods not constructed until a later date

- Smaller sized plots to ensure sufficient opportunity for as many gardeners as possible.

Prior to closing, staff had the opportunity to rent up to 59 plots. The current design allows 88 plots.

No action has been take to finalize locations of potential community gardens. Currently, space at Wilson and Creekside Parks are being considered. The list of potential sites will be brought to the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council prior to final selection.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

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