



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: February 4, 2021

#### Subject

Review and Provide Feedback on the New Community Garden Guidelines

#### Recommended Action

Review and provide feedback on the new Community Garden Guidelines.

#### Discussion

The Cupertino Community Garden is a beautiful, safe, and peaceful refuge for Cupertino residents amidst the fast-paced life of Silicon Valley. The program goals are to:

- Create a welcoming, attractive, and secure place where residents can experience the benefits of organic gardening and strengthen community bonds.
- To promote healthy living through access to healthy food, low impact exercise, and social interaction opportunities.
- Provide education to residents about the safe gardening practices necessary in a nature preserve and community parks to prevent damage to the land, groundwater, and natural environment.

The Community Garden is open to all Cupertino residents who wish to apply. Upon re-opening, all current gardeners may select a garden bed. The gardeners on the existing waiting list may choose a garden bed. After the existing waiting list has been exhausted, the City will use a new waiting list with priority given those in high-density housing.

Fees for the community garden include a \$110 annual fee (\$1.31/sq ft) and a \$150 refundable deposit. The yearly fee represents a 40% cost recovery. It is developed based on estimated water use, tools, supplies, administrative fees, and staffing costs.

#### Gardener Responsibilities

1. Follow all Community Garden guidelines, policies procedures, rules, and regulations.
2. Complete the Cupertino Community Gardening 101 class within 30 days of signing their agreement.
3. Attend all mandatory Community Garden Program meetings.

4. Complete all required annual volunteer hours during workdays, public hours, or special projects. Gardeners must also log their volunteer hours through the designated system.
5. Actively tend your crops and maintain your garden bed to the required standards.

#### City Responsibilities

1. Assign garden beds as designated by the Community Garden Program Guidelines.
2. Provide garden bed water, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, compost receptacles, fresh compost, and large community use tools.
3. Perform general maintenance. Notices regarding scheduled work will be posted in the garden whenever possible.

The City of Cupertino participates in the Santa Clara County Healthy Cities Program. The program was founded to recognize the critical role that cities and towns play in promoting residents' and visitors' health. Cities must make a portion of city-owned property available to residents for gardening purposes. fifty percent of all crops grown from these gardens must come from edible plants. cities must waive or discount fees for residents who qualify for food assistance or other assistance programs. These requirements are incorporated into the guidelines.

Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Commision review and provide feedback on the new Community Garden Guidelines.

#### Sustainability Impact

The Community Garden strictly adheres to the principles, concepts, and practices of organic gardening. Products labeled "organic" or "natural" are not allowed unless they are approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program or by the Organics Materials Review Institute (OMRI- <https://www.omri.org>).

Following the Santa Clara County's Healthy Cities criteria, a minimum of 50% of all crops produced must be from edible plants.

#### Fiscal Impact

The community garden will generate between \$10,835 and \$11,110 in annual revenue from the collection of yearly user fees and the number of Santa Clara County Healthy City discount participants. There is no fee associated with the five garden beds designated for the Master Gardener program.

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Prepared by: Jeff Ordway, Recreation Coordinator

Reviewed by: Jenny Koverman, Recreation Supervisor

Approved for Submission by: Joanne Magrini, Parks and Recreation, Director

Attachments:

A – Community Garden Guidelines Draft