



County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Three
Supervisor Otto Lee

110623

DATE: May 18, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Otto Lee, Supervisor

SUBJECT: Budget Inventory Item 115 – Recreation And Community Services Foundation

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Inventory Item No. 115 to provide a grant to Recreation and Community Services Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 relating to a two-year group gardening pilot program in Milpitas, and refer item for final consideration and approval on June 16, 2022. (Lee)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a one-time cost of \$5,000.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Milpitas Cesar Chavez Community Garden is a beautiful resource for the community, especially seniors. Due to a growing wait list for garden plots, the City would like to create a two-year pilot program to provide more community gardening opportunities and serve as a bridge to full plot tending. Requested funding would support initial garden start-up costs (garden plot creation, soil amendments, seeds for planting) as well as recurring maintenance and supply costs.

The primary goal of the gardening program is to create “hands-in-the-soil” opportunities to those wait list garden enthusiasts while they await their opportunity to have the more highly sought-after individual plots in the garden. This pilot program would seek to create transition and movement within the wait list with the group gardening program being that final “on-deck” preparation prior to being afforded an individual plot opportunity down the road.

Community gardens are healthy community spaces that increase fresh foods and food security.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors through group gardening's experience enhancing their physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, and providing 20 wait list participants gardening accessibility. 90% of the current garden, 38/42 plots, are tended by seniors. The wait list is also a majority seniors. It will greatly enhance Milpitas' opportunity to better serve their Milpitas Community Garden members, especially, and most directly senior adults over the age of 65, who would benefit from a group gardening experience regarding their physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have a positive sustainability implications. Community gardening is a benefit to the physical health of the individuals involved, and it empowers a more active ecological connection in how we use community spaces. Urban agriculture can reduce water runoff and promote sustainable agriculture and recreation.

BACKGROUND

The City of Milpitas Cesar Chavez Community Garden is a successful recreation and urban agriculture space that there are currently 20 residents on a wait list for garden plots. There are currently 42 active garden plots. The popularity of this community garden has prompted the City of Milpitas to find ways to expand programming and utilization of spaces for more residents.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

County staff will contact grantee to execute agreement and distribute funds.