

Community Garden Proposal

for the CV Starr Center



*Prepared by the Garden Friendly Community Committee of Fort Bragg
July 27, 2020*



The Garden Friendly Community Initiative Fort Bragg

GFCC President: Matt Drewno
Secretary: Jeremy Pearson
Treasurer: Cornelia Reynolds

Volunteer and Resource Coordinator: Jaime Jensen
Communications: Sydney Grange
Fiscal Sponsor: Noyo Food Forest

Contact: GFCCGardensFortBragg@Gmail.com

The GFC Resolution

On September 9th, 2019 Fort Bragg, California passed the Garden Friendly Community Resolution (Res. No. 4198-2019) honoring Fort Bragg's long history of self sufficiency and the numerous gardens, organizations and programs which help feed people, provide jobs and promote sustainability. The City of Fort Bragg also recognized the role gardens play in the health, nutrition, sustainability and resilience of our community and committed itself towards promoting gardening in our community.

It has been demonstrated that home and community gardens have a positive impact on numerous challenges our society faces. They develop relationships, grow delicious food, beautify neighborhoods, enhance our local ecologies and make our community a more peaceful, beautiful and resilient place to live. Let's come together and create a more peaceful and abundant community for everyone.

Vision

Fort Bragg's Garden Friendly Community Committee envisions a network of home and community gardens creating a strong foundation for a healthy, peaceful and resilient community.

Mission

Mission: To promote local gardening and increase food independence and wellness. We will launch community gardens and encourage home gardening. Through education we will provide support and access to community resources. Throughout the year we will continue to network and offer consulting to support gardeners. As a result our community will become more resilient and be a model for other communities.

What we do

- Facilitate and support the establishment and development of home and community gardens based on a commitment to equal opportunity for all members in our community to access land and resources to provide food for themselves and their families. Community members are encouraged to take responsibility for their plots and their gardens to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all. We provide the following resources:
- Coordination between gardens, gardeners and community members who share an interest in helping Fort Bragg become a Garden Friendly Community.

What we value

We value the contribution of everyone who helps make our community a more peaceful and resilience place to live and offer our support for those who wish to increase the strength of our home and community gardening culture.

Site Proposal for CV Starr Center

Why CV Starr?

CV Starr is an ideal place for a garden because it is already an established, centrally located, accessible, community gathering space. Thousands of regular visitors are already going to CV Starr with the purpose of building healthy lifestyle habits and connecting to the community. Dozens of people in Fort Bragg have already signed on to our GFC Garden Network and are ready to volunteer and/or are awaiting garden plot assignments. Between CV Starr patrons and local neighborhoods there will no doubt be plenty of interest in community garden plots.

The CV Starr Center property is owned by the City of Fort Bragg and operated by Mendocino Coast Parks and Recreation District (MCPRD). The establishment of a community garden at the CV Starr Center aligns with the mission statement of MCPRD as well as the goals set forth by the City of Fort Bragg to protect the environment and move towards sustainability and community resilience.

The plot on the South side of the building is the best place for a garden. The building to the North will provide protection from winter wind, and the low fence to the south and the large open field will allow the garden to have plenty of sun year -around. Fencing is already present on the southern edge of the lot and the western edge.

The plot is currently being offered as a community gathering space. It is mostly lawn with four 12ft x 12ft brick platforms, and five picnic tables. It may be underutilized as a gathering space. A Community Garden will bring this area to life and will serve to strengthen the already strong community of CV Starr patrons.

The CV Starr Center can serve our community as a hub where gardening classes and community garden related events can take place. This will increase interest and membership in the CV Starr Center and will increase what the CV Starr Center offers to the community.

The Garden Friendly Community Committee (GFCC) has developed a number of documents, educational resources and networks to facilitate community gardens. Our goal is to help our community become more resilient and sustainable through home and community gardening. We hope to partner with MCPRD and the City of Fort Bragg to create this community garden. This community garden will enhance the CV Starr Center and be a place that brings people together in celebration of community and sustainability.



Establishing the Community Garden

GFC has created a flexible plan for establishing this community garden quickly, with a master plan that includes an ADA component to make the garden more accessible. This is presented in 3 phases, phase 1 being a stand-alone possibility that is simple and cost-efficient. Already existing fencing, a large lawn-area and water infrastructure make establishing this garden in it's first phase quick and simple. The space is ample for 20 to 30 garden members and planting could begin before the end of the 2020 year to establish a winter crop should City Council and MCPRD decide to move forward.

P1- Phase 1 (Fall 2020)

Phase 1 includes everything needed to get the garden started and to keep it running strong. Basic infrastructure, in-ground garden beds and minimal site disturbance make this step an affordable and efficient place to begin. It includes the following:

- A Greenhouse for propagation
- A lockable toolshed
- Simple deer fencing and 2 lockable gates
- A *Community Garden-Starter Toolkit* (hoses, spades, forks, cultivators and transplanting tools)

P2- Phase 2 (Future potential)

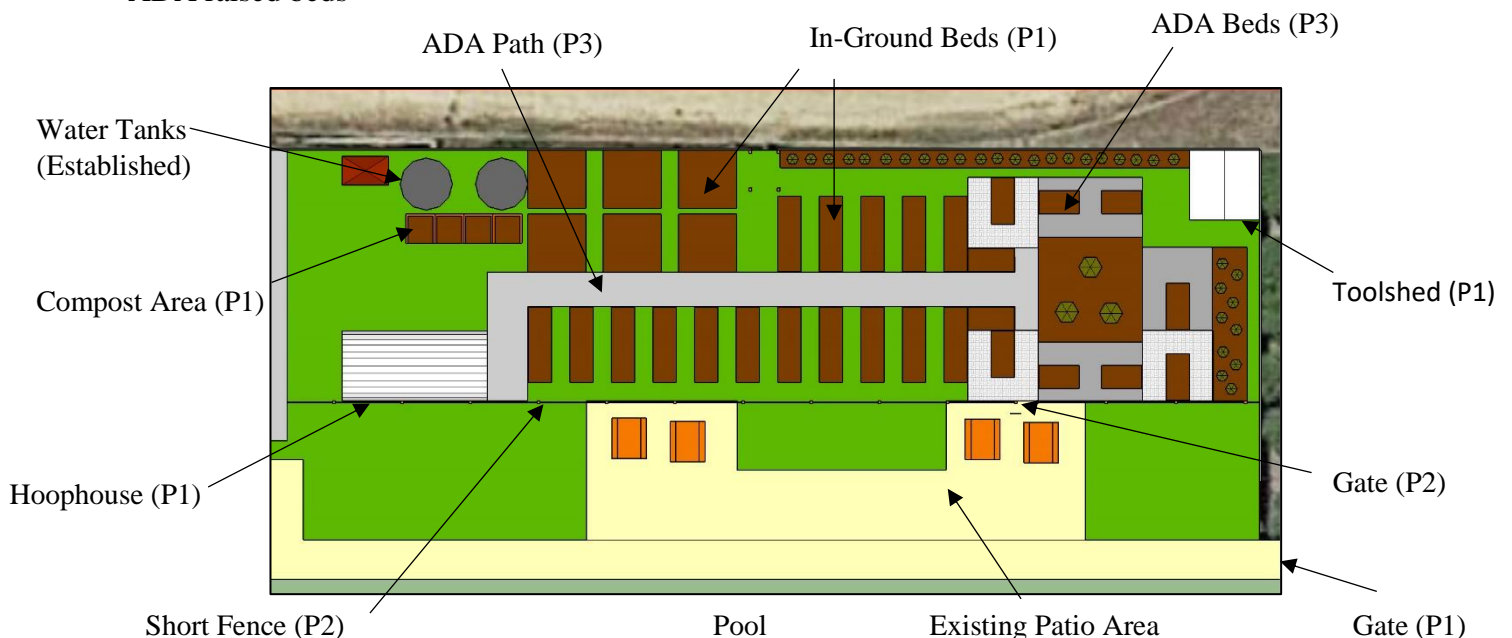
Phase 2 adds a short cedar garden fence to close off the patio area immediately outside of the pool from the garden. This will protect the garden from CV Starr Center guests who might walk into the garden or otherwise disturb community-gardened areas.

- Short fence with a gate

P-3 Phase 3 (Future potential)

There are 4 brick platforms on the west side of the lawn area which can be connected with paths and serve as the foundation for ADA Accessible raised gardening beds. This addition to the garden space will bring diversity and increase the program offerings at CV Starr. The paths could be road base and tamped quarry-dust, connect the toolshed to the hoophouse and to the garden gates and ADA beds. The central space between these brick areas can be planted with perennials and dwarf fruit trees for the community.

- Road base with quarry dust for paths
- ADA raised beds



Management and Maintenance of the Garden

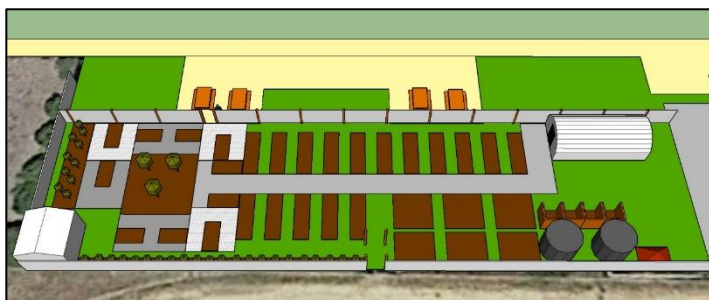
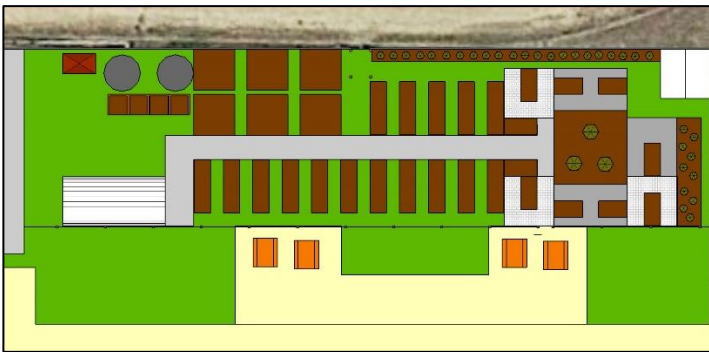
GFCC is committed to supporting the community gardens through technical assistance, conflict resolution, networking, educational resources and community events. We want each garden to be a success and we want all gardens to be connected through the shared vision of making Fort Bragg a Garden Friendly Community.

Along with membership, each gardener will agree to a set amount of volunteer time to maintain communal garden spaces. We have created templates for garden contracts, guidelines and management responsibilities that are adaptable to each garden and will help maintain the gardens as a safe and respectful environment.

These documents are available open source and will be placed on our website upon its completion.

Budget Proposal

The following itemized list in 3 phases also includes the ongoing costs of insurance and water. Many community gardens sponsored by cities across the country have their water and insurance provided for, added in to existing city budgets. If this is a possibility, it would help the community garden project at CV Starr become more sustainable and affordable for the individuals who garden there. Otherwise, these costs would be transferred to the gardeners and may make this project less accessible for lower income individuals who need this project most.



Budget for CV Starr Community Garden	
Budget Item	Cost
Phase 1 (2020-2021)	
Hose 100' (2)	\$175
Plumbing (discussion w/FB)	?
Sod Cutter Rental 2 Days	\$220
Fencing	
Deer Fencing 10'	\$780
Chainlink Gates (2)	\$165
Hoophouse 12'x24'	\$1,500
Toolshed 10x12	\$2,800
Community Garden Tools	\$750
<i>Ongoing: Water</i>	<i>65% FB/ 35% MCPRD?</i>
<i>Ongoing: Insurance</i>	<i>\$500/year</i>
Subtotal Phase 1	\$6,890
Phase 2 (future possibility)	
Short fence and gate (patio area)	\$2,300
Subtotal Phase 2	\$2,300
Phase 3 (future possibility)	
Paths	
Quarry Dust 2,000 sqft	\$2,500
Road Base 2,000 sqft	\$1,800
10 8x4 ADA Raised Beds	\$3,100
Subtotal Phase 3	\$7,400



GFC Committee
Fort Bragg



GFCGardensfortbragg@gmail.com