

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION HISTORY AND ADOPT- OUR- PARK PROPOSAL

TO: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CITY OF FORT BRAGG CALIFORNIA

FROM: FORT BRAGG GARDEN CLUB

When The City Council of the City of Fort Bragg named Fort Bragg as the First BEE CITY USA in California (July, 2016), one obligation of membership was to create a BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN. Under the guidance of City Administrator Scott Schneider, A BEE CITY COMMITTEE was formed specifically to help fulfill the goals set forth by BEE CITY USA. This Committee is comprised of four at-large members and two City Council members, Mike Cimolino and Dave Turner.

It is interesting to note that coincidentally all four at-large members of the BEE CITY COMMITTEE are also members of the Fort Bragg Garden Club. Since the founding of the Garden Club in 1955, Civic Beautification has been part of their Mission Statement. The Fort Bragg Garden Club was the organization that started Bainbridge Park at the Veterans Building at Harrison and Laurel. Over the years, Garden Club members have also been active in Civic Beautification projects at Wiggly Giggly Park, Otis Johnson Park, the CV Starr Center, The Fort Bragg Post Office and Cotton Auditorium .

Decisions made by the BEE CITY COMMITTEE have so far have included the funding of 18 BEE CITY USA signs (by the Rotary Club of Fort Bragg) and plans to plant a BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN on the SW Grounds of the Guest House Museum. In both the 1987 Town Center Master Plan and in the 2013 Guest House Museum Master Plan there was concern stated about lack of access to the grounds of the Guest House Museum. The BEE CITY COMMITTEE concluded that there could not be a BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN planted there without improved access.

In January, 2017 the Fort Bragg City Council named the Grounds at the Museum Guest House Park to help identify the site for the Community and for grant and visitor purposes. Independently, the Fort Bragg Garden Club applied for a grant (\$2000 + \$2000 matching by FBGC)) from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. The goal is to improve the NW entrance to the Park.

The Grant funding request was named the GUEST HOUSE MUSEUM ACCESS PROJECT. The Grant Application states that improved access would invite visitors to visit the Museum, visit historical exhibits in the Park and visit the future BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN. (unknown grant status as of Feb. 27)

In addition, The Fort Bragg Garden Club is suggesting to the Department of Public Works that enhancement to Guest House Park now might be best achieved by an ADOPT- OUR- PARK project.

Other Cities have had great success with versions of ADOPT- OUR- PARK (see Cedar Park Texas <http://www.cedarparktexas.gov/home/showdocument?id=391>) We have permission from Cedar Park to use any part of the documents that structure their program.

Several organizations have expressed willingness to participate by adopting specific areas of the Park to maintain and enhance the existing gardens plus plant new plantings when needed (with Public Works approval).

1. The Noyo Chapter of the Rhododendron Society (mentioned in both Master Plans- Plant a Local Rhododendron Display Garden) —area south of the existing Main Street path .
2. The Fort Bragg Garden Club (plant a Victorian Fernery to celebrate the 125th Birthday of the Guest House in 2017)—area across from the Museum entrance stairs.
3. The Rotary Club of Fort Bragg—area around Pergola south of Town Hall
4. The American Legion—area around the Flag Pole
5. Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society—discussion of planting areas around the perimeter of the Guest House Museum
6. Fort Bragg Lions Club ---
7. Fort Bragg Soroptimist Clubs---
8. Others

If Public Works agrees that this ADOPT- OUR- PARK program can be effective , Fort Bragg, Garden Club members will be happy to work with City Staff to facilitate this project happening as soon as possible. The bookkeeping required to keep track of volunteers participating in the project can be done by Garden Club members.

Fort Bragg Garden Club hereby requests that the Public Works Department of the City of Fort Bragg undertakes developing an ADOPT-OUR-PARK program at GUEST HOUSE PARK.

Thank you, Ruth Sparks (member Fort Bragg Garden Club and Fort Bragg BEE CITY COMMITTEE)