



Celebrating resilient communities through sustainable community and home gardening



RESOLUTION NO. _____
A RESOLUTION of the Fort Bragg City Council
designating Fort Bragg, California as a Garden Friendly Community.

Whereas, the mission of a Garden Friendly Community is to strengthen communities through sustainable home and community gardening to increase the health of residents, economies and ecologies in an equitable and just manner; and

Whereas, gardens play a major role in providing sustenance for families and are an important component of strong and sustainable food system; and

Whereas, gardens increase the health and happiness of populations through exercise, outdoor activity and consumption of healthy food; and

Whereas, gardens bring communities together through the sharing of food, seeds, flowers and the revitalization of neighborhoods; and

Whereas, a community rich in gardens:

- Significantly localizes food production;
- Creates jobs, increases economic opportunities and enhances ecologies;
- Efficiently provides high quality, organic produce to the community;
- Develops in its citizenry a shared sense of investment in local resources and community;
- Enhances the beauty and increases the desirability of neighborhoods;
- Uses resources wisely, promoting composting, water conservation and sustainable techniques;
- Promotes physical activity and nutrition, placing less burden on the medical system;
- Provides therapeutic and rehabilitation opportunities and reduces stress and incidences of violence in communities.

Whereas, communities with a strong gardening culture are more resilient and food secure during times of prosperity and emergency; and

Whereas, gardens bring numerous additional ecosystem benefits including habitat for rare/endangered species and pollinators, increased soil health, carbon sequestration, water and resource conservation; and

Whereas, Fort Bragg, California should be certified a *Garden Friendly Community* because:

- We have a long history of gardening and self-sufficiency;
- Our community is rich in gardeners, programs for gardening and service-oriented organizations which help to feed people, provide jobs, and promote sustainability;
- The great risk of emergency and natural disasters to our rural community is buffered by a strong, local food system.

Now, therefore, be it that in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that gardens play and what each of us can do to support our resilient community, Fort Bragg, California chooses to support and encourage community and home gardening, resolving as follows:

1. The Fort Bragg [Name of Department] Department is hereby designated as the Garden Friendly Community sponsor.
2. The [Position] of [Name of Department] is designated as the Garden Friendly Community Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the Fort Bragg, California Garden Friendly Community program is assigned to the Garden Friendly Community Committee.
4. The Garden Friendly Community Committee is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or garden opening each year to showcase Fort Bragg's commitment to raising awareness of the important role gardening plays for conserving resources, promoting peace and creating resilience.
 - b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized Garden Friendly Community street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Fort Bragg website which includes, at minimum:
 - a copy of this resolution and links to the national Garden Friendly Community website;
 - contact information for your Garden Friendly Community Liaison and Committee;
 - reports of the Garden Friendly Community activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
 - c. **Access:** Encourage access to green spaces or potential garden spaces:
 - Identify and inventory land that can be enhanced with community gardens.
 - Track (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of gardens created or improved.
 - Provide resources for the community to hold events and workshops to promote gardening.
 - Encourage relationships between individuals, local government, land owners, businesses and non-profits to promote partnerships and resource sharing.
 - d. **Garden Friendly Community Plan:** Create and adopt a plan to implement gardens and encourage sustainable and organic methods.
 - e. **Policy:** Establish, through the city of Fort Bragg, a policy to acknowledge and commit to the Garden Friendly Community designation.
 - f. **Plan Review:** Develop and review the Recommended Action Plan and other relevant documents to engage community feedback on implementation of the plan and practices as they relate to resource conservation, land accessibility, and consider other appropriate measures.