

San Mateo County Office of Sustainability Community Garden Partnership Program

The Community Garden Partnership Program is a partnership/collaboration between the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability and local community organizations, businesses and more.

The mission of the program is to help the County and Office of Sustainability to achieve their waste reduction goals by reducing the amount of waste generated and diverting waste away from landfills. By composting green/yard waste, not only are gardeners



limiting the amount of green waste sent to landfills, but they are also educating community members about the importance and benefits of composting, creating valuable soil amendment that can be used in the garden, and creating vibrant supportive communities that serve public, social, ecological, food security and educational goals.

The OOS's main role in this partnership is to provide funding and resource to help start up the gardens, while the partnering organization's focus is to use the funding to build the garden, keep the garden up and running, as well as promoting composting and educating about sustainable gardening.

Benefits:

Improved health and nutrition of the overall community

Health

- **Improved health and nutrition**— Gardening has been shown to contribute to participants' mental and physical health. As a form of relaxation, recreation and physical activity, gardening can have a positive impact on mental and physical well-being. Access to nutritious and fresh produce provides numerous health benefits

Social

- **Food security** – Community gardens can increase the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, provide residents access to locally grown food, helping to reduce the cost of food for families, and increasing community self-sufficiency, all while contributing to local efforts to reduce GHG emissions. -- especially important for low-income populations in areas with limited access to grocery stores and farmers' markets.

Environmental

- **Environmental improvements** – In urban areas, gardens add to community green space, which can reduce stormwater runoff and provides habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.
- **Building Sustainable Communities** – Community gardens promote environmental stewardship, conserve natural resources, and preserve green space. Permeable land can reduce water runoff and alleviate demand on wastewater treatment and stormwater systems.

Community

- **Beautify and revitalize neighborhoods** – This makes the community a more pleasant and relaxing place to live in.

Partnership Requirements

- Community garden must be in San Mateo County
- Community garden must be accessible to the public (exception for schools, youth/senior centers)
- Partnering organization must commit to maintaining the garden by keeping up with the vegetations and compost bins
- Partnering organization must compost the green waste generated from the garden and promote composting to the garden members

The Office of Sustainability can provide

- Funding to build the raised beds or plots
- Workshops & classes partnered with Master Gardeners and Composters
- Compost bins
- Compost signage
- Compost brochures and outdoor brochure holders
- Compost and garden tools
- Storage/tools shed
- Rainwater irrigation system

Visit Our Gardens

- Friendship Park in North Fair Oaks
- Woodrow Wilson School in Daly City
- Phil's Community Garden
- Barrett Community Center in Belmont
- Puente Garden in La Honda
- And more on the way!