



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Vice Mayor Chappie Jones

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 25, 2022

Approved

Date: May 25, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Community Garden Program Community Coordinator Position

Amount of City Funding Required: \$144,686

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): 76

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The Parks Department currently operates 20 community gardens throughout the City of San Jose with over 1000 active gardeners. Community gardens increase the overall health of the communities they serve by providing improved access to food, improved nutrition, increased physical activity and improved mental health. Community gardens were also seen to promote social health and community cohesion. As many San Jose residents struggle with access to fresh fruits and vegetables and continue to face food insecurity, community gardens have been helpful in alleviating these nutritional gaps. Community gardens help families reduce pandemic-related economic losses by supplementing their diets with nutritious foods. Even with its current inventory of 20 gardens, the program is still unavailable to some of the city’s most vulnerable residents due to transportation and cost limitations. Current staffing levels do not allow for growth in the program. Adding a Community Coordinator position to the program will:

- Identify future garden locations on current PRNS properties in neighborhoods most in need (Lowest HPI Scores)
- Identify and apply for grant funding for community garden build out at newly identified sites.
- Develop and seek funding for scholarship program to increase access to the City’s most vulnerable populations.

- Develop programming at current garden locations including, classes such as sustainable gardening and food preservation as well as an outreach to middle and high schoolers to encourage the next generation of gardeners.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Jon Cicirelli

Department or Organization: Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services

Phone Number:

Email: Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov