



TOWN OF DISCOVERY BAY

A COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



President – Bob Leete • Vice-President – Kevin Graves • Director – Bill Mayer • Director – Bill Pease • Director – Chris Steele

Memo

To: Mac Kaiser, Recreation Supervisor
From: Rhonda Cardwell, Community Center Recreation Leader
Date: January 26, 2017
Re: Community Garden Project

The Town of Discovery Bay has an existing Community Garden site, complete with 30 - 5ft x 8ft raised beds, constructed near the Fire Station and Tennis Courts at the Community Center. The site, constructed in 2013, is currently not in use and is in need of an overall cleanup of debris and weeds. According to records from 2013, this project did not generate enough interest from local residents to maintain the site. Only 3 residents signed up to lease a raised bed. The annual lease of a 5 ft. x 8 ft. raised bed was \$100 in 2013. This proposal is to revive the Garden, and with the help of interested residents, create a network of gardeners to lease and maintain the site.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Based on the information gathered from surrounding cities and towns, the average lease amount for a garden “plot”, whether raised or in the ground, is between \$25-\$50/year. Most of the sites researched are larger than the sites that will be leased in the Discovery Bay Garden. Because the beds are already in place, with no further construction cost to the Town of Discovery Bay, I propose that the raised beds be leased at an annual cost of \$35/year.

I also propose the drip irrigation system, currently placed in each bed, be capped off for nonuse, and instead, 2-3 hoses be provided for gardeners to use to water their

beds as needed. Upon inspection, the irrigation is not only in poor working condition, but also not desirable, as each bed will have different irrigation needs.

The \$35 annual cost to each lessee could cover the irrigation cost to the Town of Discovery Bay.

The overall cleanup of the site could be accomplished with volunteers and/or registered gardeners interested in a work party day prior to the opening of the garden.

I also propose that 2 or 3 of the raised beds could be weeded and planted to give a demonstration of what a healthy garden bed would look like to residents interested in leasing. This could be accomplished with volunteers.

Gardeners leasing a raised bed would be required to participate in at least 1 volunteer work party day per year to keep the site maintained. This will give the gardeners a feeling of community in the project.

Several surveys have been conducted on group sites to determine interest in reviving the Garden, and it is mentioned in the Winter/Spring 2017 Activities Guide. Approximately 30 people, from the group sites, have responded that they are interested in the project and the Community Center has received 5 phone calls of interest.

Community Gardens Comparison to Surrounding Cities

1/2017

Discovery Bay Community Garden beds 5ft x 8ft – previously rented in 2013 @ \$100/year
Many of the city gardens below lease larger sites @ less cost than Discovery Bay's current size and cost

City/Town	Size of plots/beds	Cost	Comments
Oakley	10ft x 20ft – 200 sq.ft. 20ft x 25ft – 500 sq.ft. Accessible 3ft x10ft – 30 sq.ft.	\$45/year = \$.23 sq. ft. \$60/year = \$.12 sq. ft. \$25/year = \$.83 sq. ft.	Oakley – City donated land for garden use –Oakley Community Gardens, can today be found on a quarter-acre parcel at Creekside Park off of Laurel Road. With its chain-link fencing, parking, access to restrooms and high visibility from the street, the park is a far cry from the undeveloped lot members had been operating out of previously, in an area of town known as the Moura Property on O'Hara Avenue.
Pleasant Hill	4ft x 24ft – 96 sq.ft.	\$60/year = \$.63 sq.ft.	
Livermore	15ft x 15ft – 300 sq.ft.	\$60/year = \$.20 sq.ft.	Park land. The Livermore Area Recreation & Park District (LARPD) offers approx. 1 acre of 70 garden plots ranging in size from 15'x15' to 15'x20' for residents within LARPD's boundaries to rent on an annual basis. There is a small annual rental fee and key deposit to help defray the costs of maintenance and water. <u>Always a waiting list.</u>
Pleasanton	11 sq.ft. 225 sq.ft.	\$55/year = \$5.00 sq.ft. \$110/year = \$.49 sq.ft.	Park land. Currently there are 7 large (approximately 225 square feet) patches available for rent and 2 small (approximately 11 square feet) patches available for rent in the Community Garden, located at Val Vista Community Park. Applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis from Pleasanton Residents only. All gardeners are required to complete a Patch License Agreement and pay an annual non-refundable fee of \$110 for the large patch and \$55 for the small patch.

San Ramon	2ft. x 4ft. – 8 sq. ft. 12ft. x 12ft. – 144 sq.ft.	\$15/year = \$1.88 sq.ft. \$208/year = \$1.45 sq.ft.	2 areas of land use donated by City of San Ramon. <u>First location</u> - 160 Park Place Size – 326,700 Square Feet Total Plots – 54 not raised beds, just allotments of 12'x12' each, 1 size only <u>Second location</u> - ½ to 1 acre area at Senior Center that has multiple sizes of smaller raised beds –this area is not thriving as well and the larger beds rent out the best.
Oakland	Many garden sites throughout city with varying size plots.	\$30/year	City owned properties through Parks and Rec. Department has 16 locations that bring people of all ages and diverse backgrounds together to grow organic vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers. Participants pay an annual fee of \$30 for a garden space. Varying sizes of plots.
Walnut Creek	25ft x 25ft – 625 sq.ft.	\$125/year = \$.20 sq.ft.	City owned park. Part of a 5 acre park with 48 gardening plots with multi-year waiting list.
Berkeley	Many garden sites throughout city	Many are no charge/volunteer only	City of Berkeley and other groups have 11 community gardens (it is difficult to distinguish between city owned and organizations sponsoring garden).
Discovery Bay	5ft. x 8ft. – 40 sq.ft.	\$35/year (proposed) = \$.88 sq.ft. \$100/year (previous) = \$2.50 sq.ft.	30 raised beds currently on land owned by Town of Discovery Bay near Fire Station and Tennis Courts.
Stockton			Does not appear to have a community garden
Dublin			Does not appear to have a community garden

Feedback from other city staff and internet sites:

Most successful:

- Larger spaces/beds are rented out most
- Less regulation from city seems to be favored by gardeners
- More of a volunteer environment has been successful
- Having a designated “champion” of the community garden helps minimize problems between city and gardeners
- Having a calendar with “work party days” on the same day of the month, every month gives gardeners control of their schedule for volunteering to keep the garden clean