



## Agenda Item Summary Report

<b>Meeting Date:</b> June 9, 2025	<b>Submitted by:</b> Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth
<b>Item Title: Community Presentation  </b> Introducing the Bladensburg Community Garden: A Project of ECO City Farms	
<b>Community Presentation  </b> Introducing the Bladensburg Community Garden: A Project of ECO City Farms	
<b>Work Session Item [X]</b> <b>Council Meeting Item [X ]</b>	<b>Documentation Attached:</b> Ordinance No. 01-2026 Budget Document FY 2026
<b>Recommended Action:</b>	
<b>Public Information Item  </b> This is the community information item to announce the grant award and the community process.	
<p><b>Summary:</b> ECO City Farms has been awarded a FY2025 Green Equity Grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to develop a 10,000-square-foot Community Garden and outdoor classroom at <b>5801 Emerson Street</b>, on Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning land in Bladensburg.</p> <p>The site, previously used by ECO for farmers markets and community events, is located adjacent to <b>Port Towns ES, Rogers Heights ES</b>, and across from <b>Elizabeth Seton High School</b>, with <b>Bladensburg High School</b> also nearby. The project aims to improve <b>food access, nutrition education</b>, and <b>community cohesion</b> through hands-on gardening and learning experiences.</p> <p>Key Features Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installation of fencing, water/electric access, a teaching pavilion, picnic tables, and a tool shed</li><li>• Approximately 8–10 large garden plots and 5–6 smaller plots</li><li>• A flexible outdoor learning space for school and community use</li></ul> <p>The project will engage diverse residents, including immigrant populations (notably from Cameroon), and promote intergenerational and cross-cultural exchange. It builds on ECO City Farms' ongoing work and longstanding presence in the Port Towns.</p> <p><b>Timeline Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Spring–Summer 2025:</b> Community engagement and design process</li><li>• <b>Fall 2025–Spring 2026:</b> Garden construction</li><li>• <b>Summer 2026:</b> Garden launch</li></ul> <p>This initiative represents a significant step toward strengthening local food systems and educational partnerships in Bladensburg.</p>	
<b>Budgeted Item:</b> Yes [ ] No [ ] <b>Budgeted Amount:</b> <b>One-Time Cost:</b> <b>Ongoing Cost:</b>	<b>Continued Date:</b>
<b>Council Priority:</b> Yes [ ] No [ ]	<b>Approved Date:</b>