



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: June 9, 2025	Submitted by: Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth
Item Title: Community Presentation Introducing the Bladensburg Community Garden: A Project of ECO City Farms	
Community Presentation Introducing the Bladensburg Community Garden: A Project of ECO City Farms	
Work Session Item [X] Council Meeting Item [X]	Documentation Attached: Ordinance No. 01-2026 Budget Document FY 2026
Recommended Action:	
Public Information Item This is the community information item to announce the grant award and the community process.	
<p>Summary: 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 5801 Emerson Street, 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 Port Towns ES, Rogers Heights ES, and across from Elizabeth Seton High School, with Bladensburg High School also nearby. The project aims to improve food access, nutrition education, and community cohesion through hands-on gardening and learning experiences.</p> <p>Key Features Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of fencing, water/electric access, a teaching pavilion, picnic tables, and a tool shed• Approximately 8–10 large garden plots and 5–6 smaller plots• A flexible outdoor learning space for school and community use <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>Timeline Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring–Summer 2025: Community engagement and design process• Fall 2025–Spring 2026: Garden construction• Summer 2026: Garden launch <p>This initiative represents a significant step toward strengthening local food systems and educational partnerships in Bladensburg.</p>	
Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [] Budgeted Amount: One-Time Cost: Ongoing Cost:	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes [] No []	Approved Date: