



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Commission

DATE: February 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action on implementing a Community Garden in Cooper City. – **Commissioner Mallozzi**

RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioner Mallozzi requests a discussion and possible action on the implementation of a Community Garden initiative in the easement in Monterra to enhance community engagement, promote sustainability, and utilize available public space efficiently.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

Community Gardens have been a growing trend in urban and suburban municipalities, offering residents a dedicated space to cultivate fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. Some key benefits of implementing a community garden:

1. Environmental benefits include:

- **Enhances Green Spaces:** Converts vacant lots into vibrant, productive landscapes.
- **Promotes Biodiversity:** Supports pollinators like bees and butterflies enriching the local ecosystem.
- **Encourages Sustainable Practices:** Promotes composting, water conservation, and organic farming methods.

2. Community Engagement & Social Interaction – Fosters relationships among residents and creates a sense of belonging.

3. Educational Opportunities – Provide hands-on learning for schools and community groups about gardening and sustainability.

4. Enhanced Neighborhood Aesthetics & Green Spaces – Improves the visual appeal of public areas while increasing green coverage.

5. Mental & Physical Well-Being – Offers a therapeutic and physical activity that reduces stress and overall health.

- 6. Intergenerational Learning & Cultural Exchange** – Allows different age groups and cultural backgrounds to share knowledge and experiences.
- 7. Environmental Benefits** – Helps mitigate urban heat island effects by increasing vegetation and improving air quality.
- 8. Food Security & Self-Sufficiency** – Strengthens access to fresh produce, reducing food insecurity for community members.

ANALYSIS:

The proposed Community Garden will provide residents access to gardening plots, educational workshops, and opportunities to grow their produce.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Pembroke Park Community Garden
2. Pembroke Park Volunteer Release of Liability