

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CLAYTON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-13

A RESOLUTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF FOREST PARK, GEORGIA TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND LEISURE TO APPLY FOR THE FY21 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY GARDEN MINI-GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 FOR EACH APPROVED GARDEN SITE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health with support from the Department of Human Services and the United States Department of Agriculture has available funding for eligible communities to develop Community Gardens through its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) and Obesity Prevention Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the SNAP-ED program is that persons eligible for SNAP will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the dietary guidelines for Americans and the USDA food guideline; and

WHEREAS, DPH's SNAP-ED targets adults ages 18-64 who are below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level and have a higher risk of developing chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the mini-grant will be used to implement the community gardening intervention in census tracts where the target audience resides in or at locations the target audience frequently visits to increase accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables through the development and expansion of community gardens; and

WHEREAS, DPH will award at least 30 such grants in the amount of \$2,500 for each approved garden site, to local community organizations within the 5 SNAP-ED funded public health districts in FY21, which include (1) Clayton, (2) East Metro, (3) North Central-Macon, (4) Southwest (Albany), and (5) West Central (Columbus); and

WHEREAS, priority will be given to applications containing proposed garden locations in the 5 public health districts of which Clayton County is listed as a priority county; and

WHEREAS, community and urban gardens have taken root in small communities and urban cities across the United States of America propelled by issues such as food deserts, sustainability, food insecurity, community health and local food movements (*see Exhibit "A"*); and

WHEREAS, food movements in communities seek to develop and promote political change in food policy; and

WHEREAS, organized community garden efforts have a relationship with the economy, and provide access to nutritious foods produced with less carbon effects, contribute to food security for community residents, support the local economy and provide educational opportunities for urban residents; and

WHEREAS, scholarly research indicate that community gardens are more essential in diverse, low-income neighborhoods, where low-income individuals live in areas that have limited access to healthy food; and

WHEREAS, over 10% of Americans are food insecure and do not have a reliable food source and most food consumed is inadequate and less nutritious; and

WHEREAS, community gardens in recent years have been associated with improving psychological well-being, social connectivity, improved attitudes, and reduced obesity in both adults and children; and

WHEREAS, community gardens provide a place for community engagement, community gathering places, and access to public health education; and

WHEREAS, gardens provide improved multicultural relationships, environmental awareness, and other social benefits that empower participants, and provide access to locally grown food; and

WHEREAS, community gardens can have a positive financial impact on participating gardeners, enabling them to grow their own fresh produce that is less than the retail cost, and in some communities, community/urban gardeners establish markets and sell their produce at local farmers markets or restaurants or share the harvest with local families; and

WHEREAS, such gardens assist in building trust among gardeners and members of diverse racial groups; and

WHEREAS, community and urban gardens assist in beautifying the landscape and enhancing vacant lots.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The Mayor and Council of Forest Park, Georgia hereby authorizes the Department of Recreation and Leisure via the City Manager to apply for the FY21 Georgia Department of Public Health Community Garden Mini-Grant.

Section 2: The Forest Park City Council supports community gardening in Forest Park and authorizes the Department of Recreation and Leisure via the City Manager to do the following:

- a. Work with each Councilmember to identify and map a potential site in his/her Ward. If a garden in each Ward is not feasible, identify city owned property that could be used for a central city garden.
- b. Solicit members from each City Ward that are interested in volunteering to assist in planting and maintaining the garden and publicize the gardening project.
- c. Develop a community gardening plan to include drawing/layout of plant beds, water locations, fencing existing trees and roadways, building materials, and rules for the community garden (i.e. time of use, any fees if necessary that the grant does not pay for, etc.)
- d. Identify partners that will assist in building plant beds, providing knowledge on soil types best suited for optimal growth, donating in-kind services, and to provide educational sessions on what fruits and vegetables thrive in our region each growing season.
- e. Identify a partner(s) knowledgeable in water and irrigation process to maintain soil moisture and pH levels.
- f. Identify a POC (point of contact) to support the community members in establishing/sustaining the garden.
- g. Work with City Departments regarding matters such as zoning, right-of-way, or other concerns that may become relevant during this process.
- h. Establish meetings with interested Ward community members once identified to explain the intent and rules of the gardening project.

Section 3: This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon and after its final passage.

SO RESOLVED, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

CITY OF FOREST PARK

Angelyne Butler, Mayor

Kimberly James, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)

Antoine Dabouze, (Ward 2)

Hector Gutierrez, (Ward 3)

Latresa Akins-Wells, (Ward 4)

Alan Mears, (Ward 5)

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

(THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF FOREST PARK,
GEORGIA)

Approved as to form:

CITY ATTORNEY

Exhibit “A”

Community Gardens in Metro Atlanta

Place	Brief Synopsis or Address location
City of Love Joy	Love City Garden sits on 14 acres of city owned land. A store was built to generate income to sustain the garden.
Park Pride (City of Atlanta)	This nonprofit organization began the first community garden in an Atlanta City Park in 2007. Approximately 22 such gardens now exist in parks throughout the City.
Metro Atlanta Urban Farm	Located in College Park, GA, grows and harvests naturally, certified fresh produce. Volunteerism helps to maintain the garden and educational programs are also held.
City of Union City	Ronald Bridges Park. Community driven project assisted through funding from the ARC CDAP program. Community engagement and charettes were held to decide best site selections.
Poncey-Highland Community Garden	Located on Freedom Parkway in the City of Atlanta
Gilliam’s Community Garden	1286 Oakland Terrace, Atlanta, GA
Peachtree Hills Community Garden	308 Peachtree Hills Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA
Five Points Farm	1 Forsyth St. SW, Atlanta, GA
Grant Park Community Garden-Boulevard	Atlanta, GA
Georgia Tech Community Garden	759 Ferst Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA
West End Community Garden & Nursery	352 University SW, Atlanta, GA
Hapeville Community Garden	Hapeville, GA
Edgewood Community Learning Garden	1503 Hardee St. NE, Atlanta, GA
Ashview Community Garden	1199 Fenwood St. SW, Atlanta, GA

Cities Across America

Place	Brief Synopsis or Address location
Detroit, MI	Urban/Community Gardens sprang up on vacant, neighborhood lots to provide fresh food to neighborhood residents and provide a viable use of the land to otherwise eyesores.
Chicago, IL	Over 600 gardens throughout the city. Created as a result of the same situation in Detroit.
New York, New York	Westside Community Garden (Manhattan) created on a trash-strewn vacant lot. Contains various flowering plants. People visit to sit and relax, sip coffee, and walk. Various festivals are also held at the park.
Los Angeles. CA	LA Community Garden Council partners with 42 community gardens in LA County and offer advice and workshops to more than 125 community gardens throughout LA County. People can rent plots to grow produce, attend educational workshops on gardening, or volunteer at the urban farms and grow and harvest vegetables for local markets.