

City Council Proposal Addendum
Community Food Campus at Mautino Park

Interfaith Food Ministry and Sierra Harvest are submitting companion proposals for a joint project known as the *Community Food Campus at Mautino Park*.

This project will transform Areas 1,2, and 3 of Mautino Park as outlined in each proposal and result in a shared campus that features various aspects of a sustainable food system in Western Nevada County:

- IFM Community Composting Facility
- IFM Food Forest
- Sierra Harvest Food Love Farm

Specific aspects of this joint project and planning proposal are collaborative and thus budgeted expenses will be shared by both organizations. Both organizations will operate these activities based on a signed MOU outlining lead agency, deliverables, and budget. Those aspects include:

- Community & Partner Engagement
- Planning & Design

Shared activities include:

- Community Surveys
- Community & Partner Listening Sessions
- Marketing & Outreach
- Planning Meetings
- RFP Process
- Implementation Phase Plan & Proposal

Interfaith Food Ministry and Sierra Harvest have a long history of partnership supporting food access for Western Nevada County community members and are excited to take that collaborative spirit into this joint project for the benefit of all stakeholders. We would like to thank the City of Grass Valley for their vision around Mautino Park and inviting us to be stewards of this important community asset. Please join us in supporting the vision for a Community Food Campus at Mautino Park.

Funding Request for a Community Farm and Composting Pilot Grass Valley Planning Proposal May 2024



Introduction: For thirty five years, Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM), has been feeding people and working to reduce food insecurity in Nevada County. In 2023 IFM assisted 11,000 unique individuals in accessing nutritious food through its drive-through food distributions. 25% of IFM clients are ages 17 and under, 45% are adults 18-54, and 30% are seniors 55+. IFM has prioritized distributing the most nutritious food with dignity, including local and IFM grown produce, and offering clients choice in the food they receive.

In IFM's search for more effective strategies to reduce food insecurity and increase access to fresh, local food, Interfaith Food Ministry and Sierra Harvest participated in a six-month human-centered design training with the Center for Care Innovations in 2022. This training surfaced a co-created, collaborative proposal for a community farm. The results highlighted broad interest in a community space that provided social support, food access, workforce development opportunities, education, and opportunities to give back among those who relied on food assistance programs.

Since 2022 IFM has been investing in satellite gardens to grow the freshest food for its clients. This approach has: increased the quality and quantity of fresh food distributed at IFM; engaged and mobilized new volunteers; reduced costs for fresh produce purchasing; and has increased our local resilience. With two years of successfully piloting this model at smaller sites, there is a clear opportunity to expand IFM's regenerative food production and community benefit through a community farm.

Additionally, as a result of SB 1383, action is needed to address food waste. Large areas of Mautino Park are currently underutilized and could be transformed into a thriving community hub for composting, food production, job training, education, and community resiliency. The IFM team and board have spent several months researching, planning, and working towards this vision - already investing over \$5,000 this year. IFM is prepared, has a solid plan, and is ready to begin this project in July, 2024 upon the receipt of city funds. This proposal lays out the vision, plan, and budget for the planning phase to occur over the next year.

Funding Request

IFM is requesting \$30,000 for the research and planning process required to make this project a success. The proposal describes what activities and outcomes will be accomplished during this planning phase. The attached budget shows exactly where time will be spent and by whom.

Community Farm/Composting Pilot Purpose

Increase food security and access to fresh foods for local residents

Create a beautiful and safe space for community recreation, educational classes related to diet and nutrition, and gatherings to cultivate social cohesion and connection

Create a resilient farm model that features edible plants, water conservation, soil building, community composting, and ecological diversity to support environmental health

Build community skills that support economic resiliency and human health

Generate revenue to support program longevity including selling value added products, produce, and providing composting services to support SB 1383 food recycling mandates

Include community voices by continuing human-centered design listening sessions, surveys, and interviews to ensure community needs, concerns, and ideas are considered

Reclaim the ecological integrity of the land for current and future generations

Community Farm/Composting Pilot Outcomes

A thriving, centrally located community farm with a communal fruit orchard, herbs and perennial crops, to feed the community

A gathering area and community hub for inclusive events, field trips, presentations, and classes

Revitalized land for community benefit, with toxic soil remediated and vacant land made useful

City and community values amplified through signage and relevant events

Revenue for Interfaith Food Ministry to support ongoing work to feed the community

Increased collaboration between local government, non-profit, schools, and service organizations to meet the needs of the community

Increased health, wellness, happiness, and community connection

Workforce development opportunities for Grass Valley residents needing employment

Grass Valley regional model developed to learn from, expand, and inspire others

Planning Process 2024-2025

The thoughtful and thorough planning process outlined below is necessary for IFM to establish the foundation for a successful program. This plan reflects skills and tools learned in the 2022 [Catalyst “human-centered design” training](#), a deep desire for this farm to be designed for and with community, and for the impact to have stability and longevity. The front-end community engagement, financial planning, and investment in necessary systems for the program will alleviate program strain, and support IFM, funders, partners, and the community in having greater clarity, buy-in, and ease upon program launch. The IFM team has invested six months of planning this year, and has the knowledge, network, and capacity to accomplish this planning process with the funding requested.

Community Engagement

- Develop human-centered design “how might we” questions and process
- Develop survey to identify community input, assets, and ideas
- With city support, contact grass valley citizens within 1 mile of Mautino Park with surveys and invitations to be involved in the planning process.
- Promote and host at least two listening sessions for neighbors and grass valley citizens
- Promote and host at least two listening sessions with community partners to share vision and receive input on how the space can be an inclusive space to support and meet their organizational needs
- Connect with BIPOC community leaders to inform a design that prioritizes justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (Ex. Tracy Pepper and Grandmommy’s Garden)
- Connect with current users of the park to share vision, gain buy-in, and receive input to inform a harmonious flow and design
- Identify and coordinate volunteers to assist with current and future outreach and efforts
- Establish relationships with 5-10 local restaurants to procure organic waste
- Develop a project database to leverage at project launch (partners, volunteers, etc)
- Investigate, identify, and structure a communication platform to use for coordinating partners, volunteers, events, and stakeholders connected to the project

Analogous Models Research

- Identify and research 15-25 analogous models in community farming and composting, and create database of models to explore - dimensions of their offerings, financial model, impact, challenges, keys to success
- Thoroughly research and prioritize a compost model plan that avoids smell and rodents
- Interview 5-10 models
- 3-5 potential site visits within the region
- Track and record all findings and best practices

Analysis & Design

- Review, analyze, and summarize insights from community, analogous models, and partners to inform program design, operations, and priorities

- Develop community vision statement and branding for the farm that reflects purpose and values

Design Plan & Budget

- Outreach and site visits with 3-5 landscape architects to get quotes for materials and labor
- Hire and collaborate with a landscape architect to develop a plan that incorporates community informed design
- Estimate realistic revenue sources for years one and two (informed by analogous models)
- Develop a budget for installation (fencing, plants, irrigation, soil, pathways, signage, earthworks)
- Develop budget for ongoing infrastructure (equipment, labor, inputs)

Funding Plan

- Research and document available city and county funds, government grants, private foundations, and local donations
- Make contact with potential donors to share the vision and build relationships
- Identify and invite a local business to contribute financially for farm naming rights
- Develop social enterprise revenue model for farm and composting system
- Design a crowd-funding campaign to announce the project and gain new sources of support

Educational Plan

- Based on community and partner input - identify priority education areas
- Identify teachers and topics
- Establish educational calendar of events
- Develop key signage to elevate educational benefit to the community
- Design or purchase a curriculum for educational opportunities in composting and gardening
- Develop protocol/agreements for educational events and shared use of space
- Establish outreach plan - how/where events will be shared - including buy-in from partners
- Investigate how the program could involve workforce development training

Operational Plan

- Develop a cohesive program plan - identify budget, SMART goals, timeline, and roles, informed by the planning and research above
- Develop volunteer and employee job descriptions as needed
- Develop metrics and system for tracking program outcomes towards desired goals (food produced, educational program participation, volunteer engagement, workforce development)
- Present report and implementation proposal to the City of Grass Valley

Timeline

Jan - July 2024 - IFM funded project development (approximately \$5,000)

May-June 2024 - City Council presentations and approval of planning funds

July 2024 - June 2025 - Research and planning phase begins

May 2025 - Deliver report with summarized findings to city based on planning phase research including: operational plan, budget, SMART goals, analogous model analysis, funding plan.

- Deliver proposal to city with request for infrastructure/implementation funds

July 2025 - June 2026 - Infrastructure development and pilot implementation

Current and Potential Partners and Resources

Community - IFM clients and the broader community have expressed interest in being involved in a community garden as a way to learn, receive food, and build social cohesion. In a 2021 IFM survey that reached 273 clients, the top services requested by clients were for a community garden (41%) and cooking and nutrition classes (40%). Through the community outreach process IFM will engage the community for ideas, feedback, and buy-in which will likely lead to some community volunteers and potentially donors.

Sierra Harvest - IFM has a strong relationship and history of successful partnerships with Sierra Harvest including IFM receiving food from the Gleaning Program and Sierra Harvest connecting IFM with local food producers and farmers in order to purchase their food. Their vision to share Mautino Park would be a wonderful way to activate the space to its fullest potential for education and food production. Throughout the planning phase IFM will collaborate closely with Sierra Harvest. Collaborating to plan and execute community outreach and listening sessions is an obvious area where working together could maximize impact. After building the relationship with their new team and having more clarity on their vision and timeline we envision the development of an MOU to clarify roles, responsibilities, agreements, and usage of the space.

Service Organizations - IFM has relationships with local Rotary clubs and the United Way - both of which are potential sources of volunteer support. Dee Mautino Park is named after DeVere "Dee" Mautino, local Rotarian and first female mayor of Grass Valley.

Rough and Ready Grange - IFM has been in conversations with the Grange around developing solutions to address food waste and SB 1383, as well as interest in composting opportunities, collaboration, and potential grants.

Schools - Similar to the Food Love Farm model, IFM will collaborate with schools to secure grants to pay for educational field trips at the farm where kids could learn about composting, soil, nutrition, gardening, and more. Schools could also be composting clients.

Sierra College - College students are a likely source for internships or volunteering to help both on the farm and perhaps with grant research and community outreach. Sierra College could also be a composting client.

Workforce Development - IFM is already working with 211 Connecting Point and has provided job training on site to several youth and CalWORKs participants. This is part of our vision moving forward to engage underserved populations, and move towards providing jobs and training that support economic

mobility. Pride Industries, TK Momentum, and the Alliance for Workforce Development are all potential partners.

Master Gardeners - Nevada County has many garden educators who are required to provide community education. IFM will develop these relationships to both receive garden guidance and to weave them into the educational offerings.

BIPOC Organizations - IFM will engage with organizations that serve and support the BIPOC community to gain insights around creating an inclusive, safe, and equitable space.

Local Businesses - IFM will engage local businesses as sponsors, for pro-bono services, and/or as potential clients for the composting social enterprise.

Farmers & Ranchers - IFM will engage the agricultural community as the farm will need animal bioproduct, manure, and IFM will eventually have high quality compost to sell.

Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital - The hospital is aiming to expand its garden-based nutrition education for its patients. The IFM farm could offer these classes.

County of Nevada - Nevada County Health and Wellness and Community Development Agency have both expressed interest in collaborating around a local garden/education project.

Budget

Since IFM began its work in 1987, its primary engine has been the incredible generosity of volunteers. To this day, IFM remains highly motivated to engage, activate, and uplift this spirit of volunteerism and resourcefulness in order to meet community needs. IFM has trained, managed, and coordinated over 400 volunteers - this year they have contributed over 6,000 hours of time. IFM designed this preliminary planning process budget weaving in our intentions to be both resourceful, and to ensure a strong foundation for the future of the project. Every part of the planning process assumes volunteer involvement. The IFM team has already invested over \$5000 into this project over the past year.

Research and community engagement are an essential part of building this strong foundation. This part of the process ensures that IFM is well informed of other models (successes, failures, revenue models, etc), and is designing a program that has community and partner interests, ideas, and concerns in mind. Our services, impact, and experience will be longer lasting and have the broadest community benefit when we take the time to build authentic relationships, collaborate, and find areas of alignment with others who share similar goals. Volunteers will help with some of this process but ultimately it's critical that IFM leadership, based on their knowledge and experience, take the lead on some of these critical conversations and relationships.

IFM sees the city of Grass Valley as a key partner bringing this vision to life. With this in mind, IFM has been as transparent and detailed as possible in our proposed planning budget to show how and where funds will be used and which staff will be responsible for each stage of the project. IFM is open to feedback and adapting this budget with city feedback and support. Technical assistance in any of the

areas outlined, (grants, funding, outreach for example) would add value and potentially reduce costs. IFM's limited staff is currently at capacity with its current efforts. Shifting some energy and hours towards this project is highly desired and possible, yet it will require additional resources. IFM welcomes questions and a conversation about the proposed budget with the goal of finding alignment and a clear way forward in partnership with Grass Valley.

Planning Stage Subtotals		
Pre-planning (IFM funded)		\$4,981
Community Engagement		\$6,588
Analogous Models Research		\$5,912
Analysis & Design		\$1,908
Design Plan & Budget		\$4,406
Funding Plan		\$4,096
Educational Plan		\$3,342
Operational Plan		\$4,322
	Total Project Cost	\$35,555

*While bringing a variety of benefits to the project, intentional and strategic collaborative work requires more time. IFM's initial proposed budget to the city did not include funds allocated for partner coordination/alignment with Sierra Harvest. Thus, the budget will be adjusted as IFM and SH clarify project roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for leveraging each organizations skills/resources for greatest efficiency and project benefit.

Total Request for Planning Stage: \$30,000

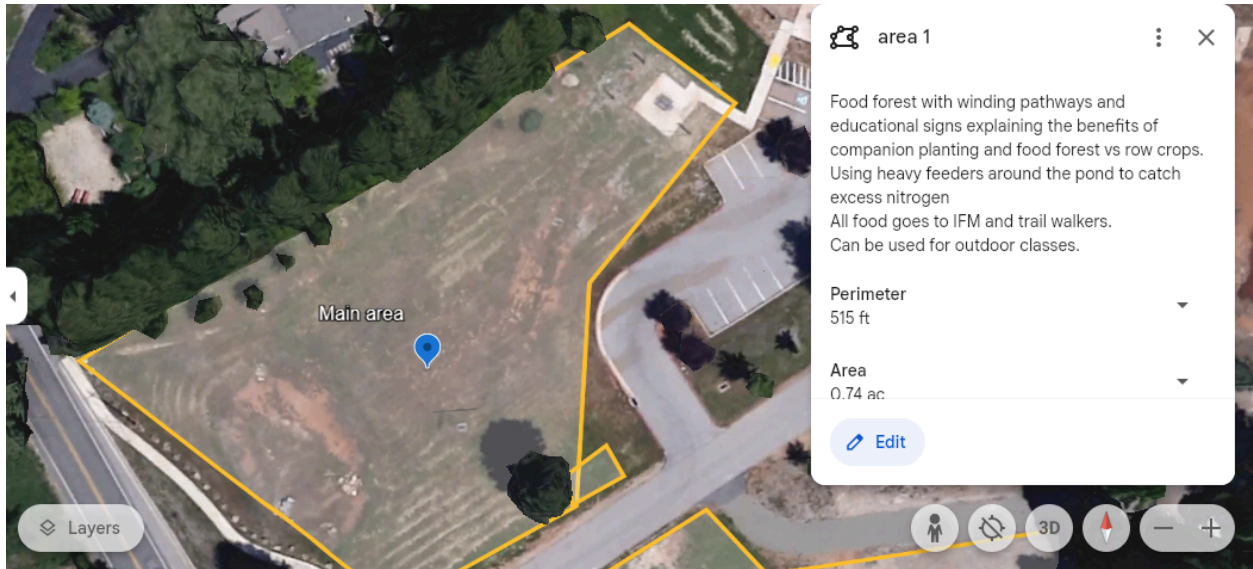
Thank you for your consideration and for your partnership in this vision!

Mautino Park Maps

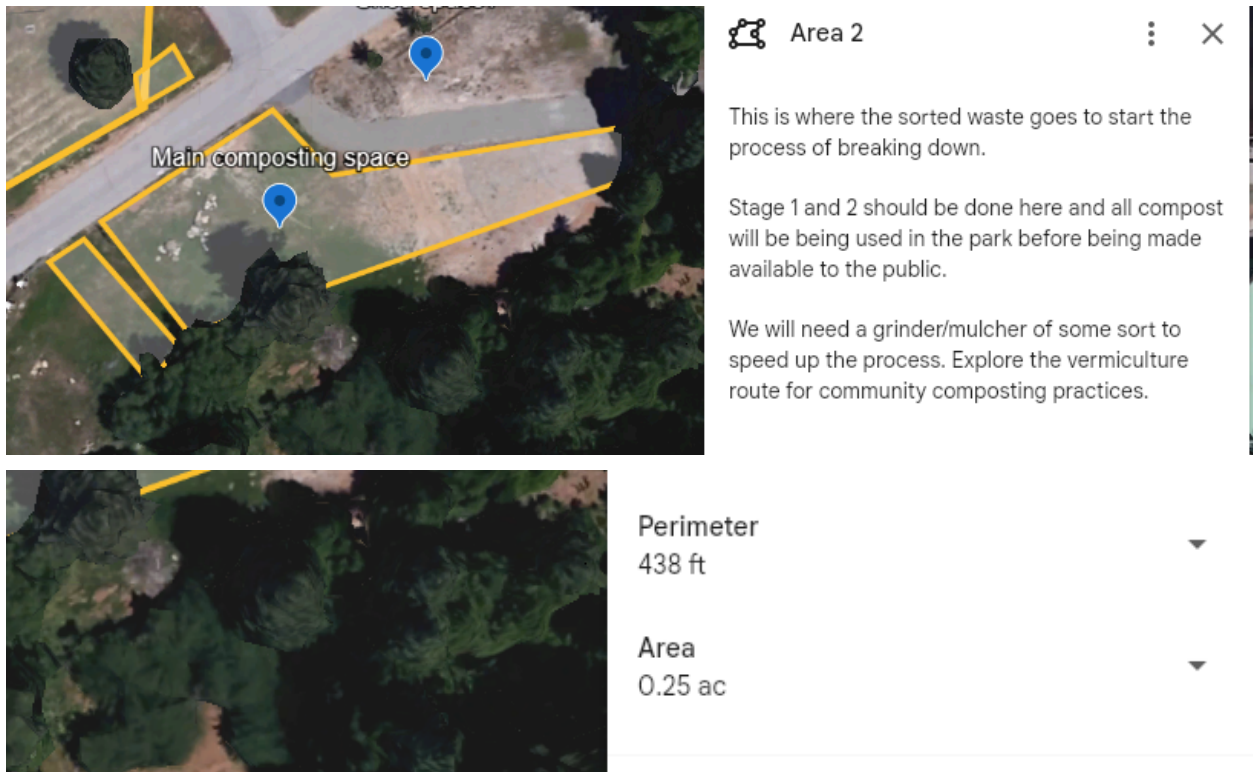


IFM will focus its planning efforts on Areas 1 and 2, while Sierra Harvest will focus its planning efforts on Area 3. Although the two organizations will have different projects in the different areas, all planning and eventual implementation efforts will have a shared vision and shared goals.

Area 1 - IFM - Potential Site of Educational Garden and Food Forest

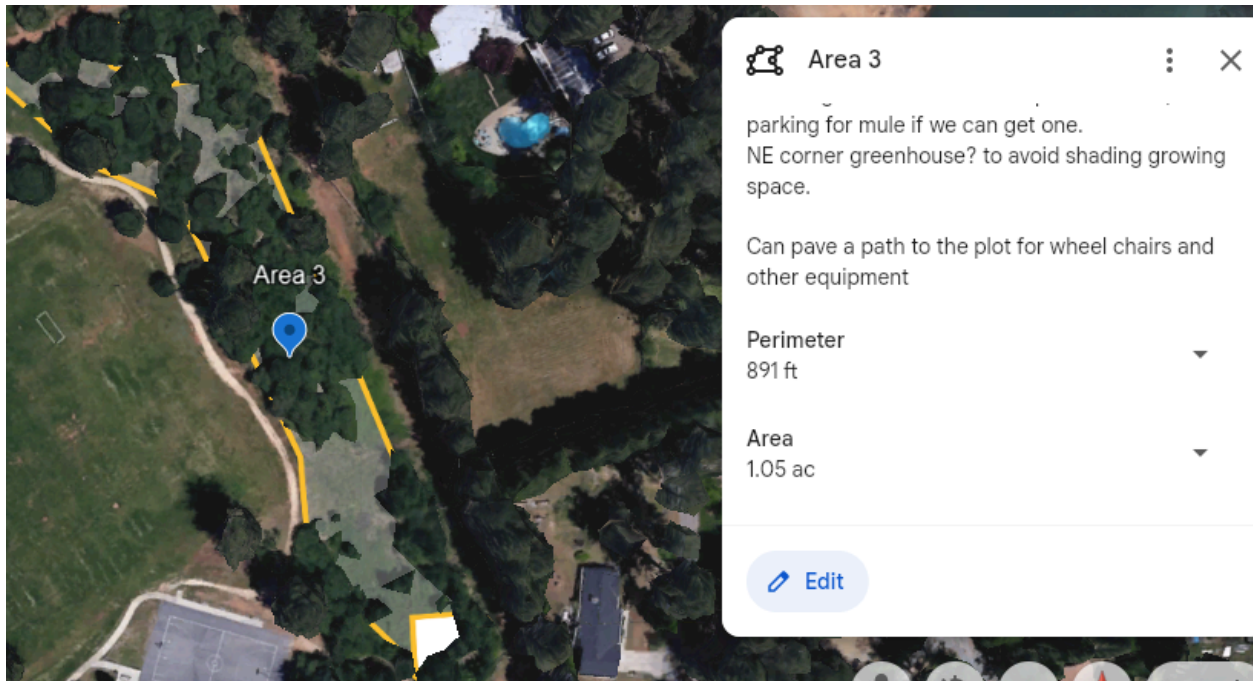
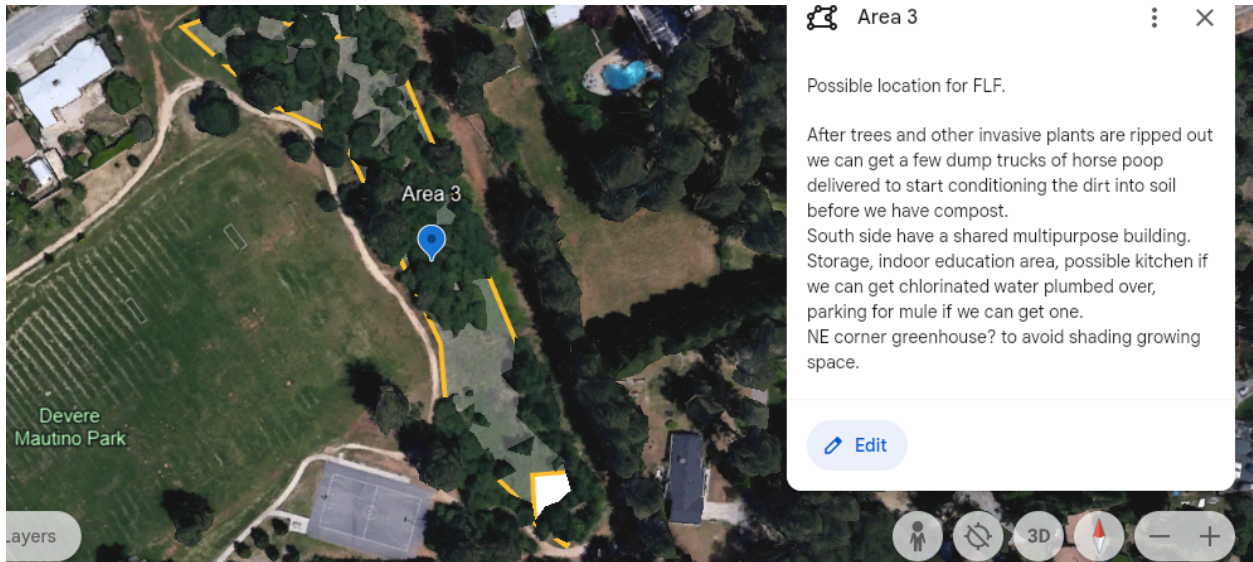


Area 2 - IFM - Potential Site of Educational Composting Program



Area 3 - Sierra Harvest - Potential Site of Food Love Farm

Sierra Harvest is focusing its planning efforts on Area 3 and the possible relocation of Food Love Farm to this site. Throughout the planning phase, IFM will work collaboratively with Sierra Harvest within a shared vision and shared goals.



**GRASS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL PROPOSAL:
COMMUNITY FOOD CAMPUS AT MAUTINO PARK
Sierra Harvest | Area 3**

OVERVIEW

For over seventeen years Sierra Harvest has been exploring ways to create more equitable access to fresh, local seasonal food. Our efforts have resulted in a robust Farm to School program serving 21 K-8 Western Nevada County schools, the Foothills Fresh program building a reality for scratch-cooked meals for Nevada County students, a gleaning program that rescued over 35,000 lbs (in 2023) of locally grown food from farms and private properties and redistributing it to those in need, a Food Love educational farm providing interactive, hands-on exploration into the natural world, and a backyard gardening program that installed over 50 gardens.

In our search for more effective strategies to increase access to fresh, local food, Sierra Harvest and Interfaith Food Ministry participated in a six-month human-centered design training with the Center for Care Innovations in which we came to a collaborative proposal for a community farm and garden park. The results highlighted broad interest in a community space that provides social support, food access, education and opportunity to give back to those who rely on food assistance programs.

Mautino Park, Area 3 provides an opportunity for Sierra Harvest to explore the relocation of our Food Love Farm to the City of Grass Valley, a more locally convenient site within walking and transit access. This increases connectivity for those who currently may not have the ability to reach our farm in its current location on Lake Vera Purdon Road. Grass Valley's Mautino Park is also an ideal location for growing food with its clear south-facing aspect, plenty of space for gardening, existing fruit trees and access to ample water. Further, it could extend Food Love Farm camp offerings throughout the year beyond just summer and provide easier access for field trips and u-pick. Most importantly it can bring a community together, provide more advantageous opportunities for volunteers of all ages, create a learning environment centered in the heart of a working community farm, and, with IFM's goals of providing composting and a food forest in Area 1 and 2, it will give families a better understanding of our local food system.

Outlined in this document is the proposed plan for Sierra Harvest to explore moving our Food Love Farm to Mautino Park Area 3 as part of the larger 'Community Food Campus'. The plan was designed in collaboration with Interfaith Food Ministry who would be designing and managing Mautino Park Areas 1 and 2 (see IFM plan for area maps) as outlined in their companion proposal. The plans have been purposefully created to mirror one another so as to provide a side-by-side and step-by-step comparison on how both organizations would approach utilizing all three areas of Mautino Park.

Sierra Harvest is grateful for the collaborative support of Interfaith Food Ministry and looks forward to working together to build a unified vision for Mautino Park should the City Council approve the Measure E funds to do so.

PURPOSE

- **Increase access to fresh foods** for local residents and students through farm classes, field trips, summer camp and u-picks
- **Create a beautiful and safe space** for community recreation, education, gatherings, and connection
- Meet community need for educational classes related to **fresh, seasonal, and local food**
- **Create a working educational farm for the community** featuring edible plants, water conservation, soil building and ecological diversity to support a sustainable and healthy environment
- **Utilize a model for viable composting systems** provided by IFM at adjacent areas
- Build community skills that support **economic resiliency and conserve natural resources**
- Collaborate with IFM to **adhere to state and county policy requirements and plans to leverage resources**, (e.g. SB1383, NC Food System Assessment, NC Recreation & Resiliency Master Plan, etc.)

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- **A thriving, centrally located Food Love Farm** that is easily accessible by walking and transit, providing increased opportunities to engage Grass Valley and Nevada County residents and their families.
- **A community hub that provides food education** and resources for students and community members
- **Increased collaboration** between local government, non-profits, and service organizations to more efficiently meet the needs of our diverse community and build a sustainable food system.
- **Increased access to health, wellness, happiness, and community connection** in an accessible facility with on-site parking, classroom spaces, small gathering areas, and outdoor kitchen.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- City of Grass Valley
- Interfaith Food Ministry
- Office of Nevada County
- Chapa De Indian Health
- Western Sierra Medical Clinic
- Nevada County Master Gardeners Program
- Community members at large with expertise in landscape design, farming, and conservation
- Business partners such as, but not limited to, Peaceful Valley, Weiss Bros., B&C, A to Z, Hills Flat Lumber Co., and Catalyt BioAmendments LLC.
- Other non-profit organizations such as, but not limited to; BriarPatch Food Co-op, FREED, CHIRP, NCRCD, Farm Bureau, Bear Yuba Land Trust, and Food Bank of Nevada County

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

- **Working with IFM, solicit input from community members within one mile of Mautino Park and other key stakeholders**
Specifically, identify needs, wants, concerns, and threats to the potential project to create a reasonable implementation plan and timeline.
- **Develop a design plan & implementation budget**
Develop an implementation plan and landscape/farm design which incorporates community and stakeholder input, farm models, best practices, and existing research Sierra Harvest has gathered to ensure success and maximum use.
- **Identify funding sources for implementation**
Build out a funding plan identifying city and county funds, government grants, private foundations, sponsorships, and individual donors to support start up costs, ongoing operations and building costs.
- **Develop an operations plan**
Develop an annual operating budget with income and expenses for Food Love Farm transition to new location for ongoing project success and long-term sustainability. Including, but not limited to, staffing roles and responsibilities, strategic objectives with key performance indicators, and program outline.

AREA 3 PHASES & DELIVERABLES

Community Engagement (in partnership with IFM)

- Develop human-centered design questions and process to engage stakeholders
- Implement survey to identify community feedback, ideas or concerns
- With City and County support, reach neighbors within one mile of park with informational flyers, surveys and public comment opportunities
- Promote and host at least two focus-group sessions for neighbors and community members
- Outreach and host at least two focus-group sessions with key stakeholders, organizations, and business partners to maximize collaborative efforts and inclusion
- Outreach and host BIPOC leaders to prioritize justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Engage existing volunteers, while recruiting new volunteers to support community engagement outreach, dissemination of information, tabling, and contributing to overall awareness of the project

Outcomes:

- Community survey and feedback results
- SWOT Analysis
- Proposed communications plan to report out results of survey and ongoing project development to community-at-large

Location Planning and Design

- Identify landscape architect through RFP process (at least three potential vendors) that matches desired outcome with proposed plan and budget
- Research programming at other successful educational farms and identify site requirements
- Develop plan and timeline for initial site prep, including tree and stump removal, cover crop and irrigation system

Outcomes:

- Proposed landscape design & sitemap

Infrastructure Research and Analysis

- Research other educational farms infrastructure and determine best practices
- Create materials and infrastructure list with associated costs
- Identify and price infrastructure and building costs; i.e. greenhouse, teaching kitchen, farm stand, covered teaching area, fencing, tool storage, etc.
- Develop a plan and timeline for infrastructure buildout
- Develop a plan to move the Food Love Farm to Mautino Park, including timeline, staffing and costs.

Outcomes:

- Proposed Sitemap
- Estimated Materials & Building Cost List
- Buildout Timeline

Fundraising Plan & Feasibility Study

- Identify potential individual, government, and foundation funding sources
- Build out engagement plan and timeline
- Complete a feasibility study for a capital campaign
- Secure initial funding commitments based on implementation planning and budget

Outcomes:

- Feasibility study & campaign timeline

Operational Plan

- Identify staff roles and responsibilities and estimated FTE positions
- Create work plan for first three years of operations
- Create estimated operational budget and identify start up costs
- Develop metrics and system for tracking program outcomes
- Develop programming plan including current and new programs such as, but not limited to, additional weeks of camp during school breaks, after school programs, and community classes

Outcomes:

- Operations plan
- Proposed Budget
- Key Performance Indicators

Implementation Plan & Proposal

- Create a comprehensive report of planning process and results
- Provide recommendations for implementation phase of Mautino Park project to City Council

SIERRA HARVEST PLANNING TIMEFRAME (FY 2024-2025)

Planning Process	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Community/Partner Engagement												
Location Planning & Design												
Infrastructure Research & Analysis												
Fundraising Plan & Feasibility Study												
Operational Plan												
Implementation Plan & Proposal												

BUDGET

Sierra Harvest	
Area 3 Exploration Budget	
Community Engagement*	\$3,586
Planning & Design*	\$7,130
Infrastructure, Research & Analysis	\$8,730
Funding	\$4,518
Operations	\$4,163
Budget & Reporting	\$1,873
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$30,000

* Budget to be adjusted as IFM and SH identify opportunities for streamlined and shared expenses

DELIVERABLES PROVIDED TO CITY COUNCIL

- Community survey and feedback results
- Project SWOT Analysis
- Proposed communications plan to report out results of survey and ongoing project development to community-at-large
- Proposed plan for implementing a community food forest, compost facility, and education farm at Mautino Park in collaboration with Interfaith Food Ministry

SUMMARY

The Community Food Campus at Mautino Park can increase food security, create a beautiful and safe space for community recreation and education, inspire healthier eating habits, and create a model for resilient landscaping that features edible plants, water conservation and ecological diversity. The park is accessible via sidewalk, bike-able streets, and public transportation, making it available to many residents of Grass Valley across the economic spectrum. Large areas of Mautino Park are currently underutilized and could be transformed into a thriving community hub for health and food education. Sierra Harvest is excited to fill this need for the community and sees it as a clear path for growing our mission to build a sustainable and accessible food system in Western Nevada County.