



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

SUBMITTER: Caitlyn
Gendusa

MEETING DATE:

AGENDA SECTION: CONSENT

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

TITLE OF ITEM: Seventh Avenue Brooklyn Community Garden Expansion & Revitalization

SUGGESTED MOTION(S): I move City County adopt the resolution by the City of Hendersonville City Council accepting a grant from the Healthy Babies Bright Futures for the expansion and revitalization of the Seventh Avenue Brooklyn Community Garden as presented.

SUMMARY:

Located adjacent to Sullivan Park in the historic 7th Avenue district, the Brooklyn Community Garden was started in 2011 with a partnership between the City of Hendersonville and a few dedicated community members to use City land for a community garden in the Green Meadows community. Granted from the Healthy Babies Bright Future non-profit organization, \$25,000 was awarded for the expansion and revitalization of the community garden with a focus on maternal and infant health and wellness through classes that will be taught at the garden through volunteer community partners which include The Boys and Girls Club, A Place To Go, Henderson County NC State Extension agents, and The Beacon Child Development Center. Grant funds will be used for new garden beds, soil, landscaping, fencing, and hardscape for ADA- compliant beds, among other items. With the approval to utilize grant funds, this community garden will be a shining example of collaborative community efforts to bring local foods, community gardens, and wellness education to the residents of the City of Hendersonville.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Awarded Grant Application

**RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL
ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE HEALTHY BABIES BRIGHT FUTURES
FOR THE EXPANSION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE SEVENTH AVENUE
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

WHEREAS, Healthy Babies Bright Futures has established a grant that provides funding to municipalities for implementing projects that increase primarily organic food access to communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville has the Seventh Avenue Brooklyn Community Garden which serves a historically underserved yet vibrant and engaged community located adjacent to Sullivan Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville, in particular its Public Works Department, Sustainability Division applied for a grant from the Healthy Babies Bright Futures to expand and revitalize the Brooklyn Community Garden to increase access of fresh, local foods for an increased quality of life for all Hendersonville residents, especially mothers and infants who reap significant benefits of a diet rich in fresh, organic fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, the City has been awarded \$25,000.00 by Healthy Babies Bright Futures to be used for the Allowable Purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville desires to accept the grant funds, and authorize the execution of the grant funding agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina that:

1. The City hereby accepts the grant from Healthy Babies Bright Futures to be used for the Allowable Purposes; and
2. The City Manager is authorized to execute the Grant Agreement, with such changes as he deems appropriate, provide they are consistent with the terms of this Resolution;
3. City Staff are authorized and directed to proceed with the expansion and revitalization of the Brooklyn Community Garden for the Allowable Purposes.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina on this ____day of _____ 20____.

Attest:

Barbara G. Volk, Mayor, City of Hendersonville

Angela L. Reece, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Angela S. Becker, City Attorney



June 8, 2023

Caitlyn Gendusa, Public Works Superintendent, Sustainability
Hendersonville, NC
email | cgendusa@hvlnc.gov
phone | (828) 712-4464

Dear Caitlyn:

I am pleased to inform you that Healthy Babies Bright Futures (HBBF), via our fiscal sponsor Virginia Organizing, has awarded a grant of \$25,000 to the City of Hendersonville, NC, for the period of June 8, 2023, to June 30, 2024. This grant is designed solely for the purpose of the proposal and budget submitted (Attachment A). Your HBBF contact for the work performed under this grant is Kyra Naumoff Shields.

Grantee shall use the Grant Funds only for charitable and education activities within meaning of Code section 501(c)(3). No grant funds may be used for lobbying purposes. All of Grantee's action with respect to this grant must be consistent with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations to which Grantee and HBBF's fiscal sponsor, Virginia Organizing, are subject.

Grantee shall not directly or indirectly use any portion of the Grant Funds to:

1. participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of any statement), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office within the meaning of Code section 501(c)(3);
2. carry any voter registration drive described in Code section 4945(d)(2); 3. make grants to individuals for travel, study, research, or similar purposes, as described in Code section 4945(d)(3); or
3. make grants to organizations (unless U.S. public charities described in Code sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1), (2), (3)(B)(1) or (3)(b)(ii)) unless grantee requires the sub grantee to execute an agreement materially identical to this Agreement before receiving any funds.

Grantee shall repay to HBBF any portion of the Grant Funds not expended for the purposes of the Project or irrevocably committed to be paid to third parties, in good faith, for the purposes of the Project.

We require that the Grantee provide HBBF two short written reports detailing how these funds are spent (see below) and that your communications office send out a press release about the grant award announcement and about the completion of your project—preferably including a quote of support from your mayor or other city leader. We are happy to assist with press communications as needed.

- Interim written report due by December 31, 2023, including a short discussion about whether or not you integrated values from this project and/or health more explicitly into your sustainability planning.
- Final written report due by June 30, 2024, including (1) qualitative and quantitative metrics of evaluation as described in your proposal, (2) photographs of events, (3) quote(s) from participants, and (4) a short description of what worked well and what could be improved. We will use information from your final report to create a sharable case study.

In addition, Grantee agrees to keep written records of receipts and expenditures under the grant adequate to enable the use of Grant funds to be checked readily, as well as copies of the report submitted to HBBF, for at least four years after the completion of the Grant funds. The records must be made available to HBBF for inspection, if necessary, within a reasonable amount of time. No provisions of this Agreement may be changed or modified except by written agreement of the parties.

Please indicate your agreement to these terms by having the head of your organization sign and return the signed copy. Upon receipt of this signed award letter and all required documents, we will forward your payment.

Sincerely,

Kyra S. Naumoff Shields

Kyra Naumoff Shields, PhD
Bright Cities Program Director, Healthy Babies Bright Futures

ACCEPTANCE: On behalf of the City of Hendersonville, I hereby accept and agree to the terms of the grant as set forth herein.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

EIN: _____

**Application for #4—Increased—mostly organic—Food Access
City-supported 7th Avenue Community Garden**

City of Hendersonville, NC, Department of Public Works

1. Short description of your city's challenge to children's health, including exposures like lead, air pollution, and others that harm brain development. Include any relevant social, environmental, or economic background that will help us understand more details about your community

As of 2020, 15.7% of children in Henderson County face food insecurity.¹ Moreover, 3.8% of Henderson County residents are unemployed, higher than the state average.² This results in a disproportionate number of residents with income and transportation barriers who are unable to access or afford fresh, local fruits and vegetables. A diet rich in fruits and vegetables has been shown to protect against toxic substances like neurotoxins much of which, disrupt brain development in babies.³

Within the City of Hendersonville lies the 7th Avenue Community. Historically called the Brooklyn Community, this area was established in the late 1800s by emancipated slaves. Around the 1960's, families were pushed out with meager stipends to make way for affordable housing development. Since these homes were built before 1978 when lead was removed from residential paint, the risk of lead poisoning is unfortunately a reality for many residents and babies. This area has become an active low to middle-income community whose residents have had barriers to many opportunities. There is limited access to locally grown fresh produce since government-supported housing does not allow gardens and the area renters are hesitant to start one due to the lack of ownership. In addition, this community has primarily black residents which in the United States, babies born to non-Hispanic African American women are more than twice as likely to die in their first year of life as compared with babies born to non-Hispanic white women.⁴

Even through these obstacles and lack of opportunities, the 7th Avenue community maneuvers through these barriers and thrives with a bright outlook. One opportunity to combat these health risks and pave the way for a more healthy and prosperous community is through the 7th Avenue Community Garden revitalization. Located adjacent to Sullivan Park in the historic 7th Avenue district, this community garden was started in 2011 with a partnership between the City of Hendersonville and a few dedicated community members to use City land for a community garden in the Green Meadows community. Due to lack of funds and issues with groundhogs, the garden has become dilapidated. With renewed community support and champions willing to revitalize the garden, a new master plan has been created to make the garden more accessible for people of all ages while expanding the footprint to allow for increased fresh foods to communities in need, especially families with young children and infants. This community has become a vibrant area with the Boys and Girls Club located adjacent to the garden, and recently "A Place To Go" (which is in the process of transitioning into a non-profit) whose mission is Healing & Connecting the Community. It provides a space for men's and women's groups to attend health classes on food choices, healthy cooking, nutrition, and exercise. This organization is open for everyone but especially for communities that may be marginalized by barriers.

2. Reference to alliance with city values, initiatives, and/or plans (for example, strategic plans, comprehensive plans, sustainability plans, racial equity plans, etc.)

At the City of Hendersonville, our roots in African American and minority communities are paramount. Unfortunately, much of this history has resulted in disparate and marginalized communities with many members challenged with low income and health complications among babies and children. To combat these inequalities, Hendersonville recently created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan in partnership with Ahkirah Legal & Diversity Consultants. The plan provides recommendations to build community trust in Hendersonville's local government, ensure all community members and staff members are treated with respect, and improve access to local government services. The 7th Avenue Community Garden is ideally located on City-owned property and is an expansion of Hendersonville's Sullivan Park. In addition, the City recently hired its first Sustainability Manager in March 2023. A focus for this new position is to create the first Sustainability Strategic Plan for the City. The plan will include a focus on land management and community engagement that prioritizes minority and low income communities as key areas for community gardens for improved health and wellness, biking and walking access, as well

¹Feeding America

²Henderson County's 2022 Profile of Statistical Information

³The Role of Nutrition in Brain Development; National Library of Medicine

⁴Office of Minority Health; Infant Mortality and African Americans

as other important services. Moreover, the City's most recent Comprehensive Plan specifies the need for a more healthy, sustainable community and a goal to promote more locally grown food. The 7th Avenue Community Garden is well aligned with the Sustainability Strategic Plan and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

3. Project Goals including short- and long-term goals

The 7th Avenue Community Garden revitalization will bring multiple short-term opportunities to this community. These include learning about growing food with organic methods and making fresh in-season produce accessible to all ages while promoting healthier lifestyles. The use of freshly harvested produce in healthy recipes will take place in cooking classes offered through the "Garden to Table" program at the Boys and Girls Club across the street from the garden as well as the neighborhood community center, "A Place To Go" who will also offer this produce to low income families with an emphasis on new mothers and infants. Food preservation classes will be conducted at the local community center by Henderson County NC State Extension agents. The Beacon Child Development Center, open since 2004, serves the youngest community members who are most impacted by the lack of available fresh fruits and the increased risk from exposure to toxic substances. Classes will be marketed to the Center to increase access to fresh local food for the infants and children the organization serves, free of cost. Enjoying meals and camaraderie while breaking bread together in the garden with the fruits of the harvest and in-garden classes are planned once the garden is completed in fall 2023-spring 2024.

These short-term goals will lead to long-term programs for this community and more. The 7th Avenue Community Garden revitalization has the potential to reach beyond the Green Meadows community. The expectation is for this successful blueprint with its educational elements and collaborative spirit of multiple stakeholders, including the city, community center, non-profits, and local volunteers, become the model for future community gardens in Hendersonville and surrounding areas.

4. Project impact

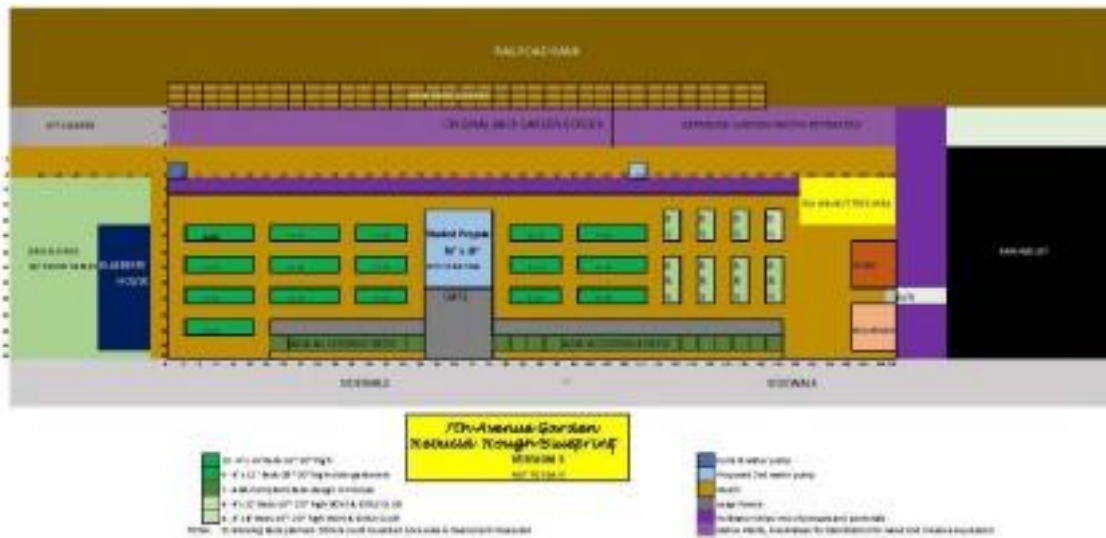
The 7th Avenue Garden serves multigenerational Black, Latino, and Mixed-Race area residents who will be impacted even more with the interest of developers to purchase property in the area. In 2019, the median income for this group was \$38,678. Food insecurity rates for children are expected to increase due to inflation and the reduction of SNAP benefits. Despite these barriers, tremendous positive impacts will transcend across the entire community through the 7th Avenue Community Garden. A minimum of six healthy eating classes utilizing fresh fruits and vegetables grown from the garden will be completed each year once the revamp is completed.

The Boys & Girls Club, across the street, currently serves a diverse group of children and youth with 92% qualifying for free/reduced lunch and 47% living in single-parent households. A key initiative is their “Garden to Table” workforce development program which provides employment skills and teaches healthy living habits. Currently, an average of 24 classes are completed each year. This partnership with the 7th Avenue Community Garden will result in even more children able to learn the benefits of healthy eating and taking ownership by growing their own food. Already, children have shown a reduction in anxiety and depression from their interaction with nature and gardening. Based on this success and with the expansion of the garden, programs will be developed and available for all age groups.

A revitalized and expanded community garden in this neighborhood will promote increased socialization and build community while providing access to space for growing fresh healthy food resulting in health benefits to children of all ages. Gardening will provide the multigenerational residents an opportunity for outdoor activity; supporting mental and physical health. The project footprint will build out as the garden continues to grow with expected increased demand from the community members and area residents.

5. Project timeline, including any key milestones

With increased community need, the garden is being expanded by 58% to .34 of an acre. This garden rebuild will use a permaculture approach integrating the land, people, and nature. The timeline begins in late spring with clearing knotweed, vines, and diseased trees with a solarization project to prevent weed regrowth. Next, we will begin leveling the garden with fill dirt, laying cardboard and wood chips over the total acreage. A perimeter fence to keep out the groundhogs out and children safe from the street will be built. Below is a general outline of the planned revamp which also includes ADA accessible garden beds for the disabled.



Once the garden is in full operation, harvesting 3 growing seasons, new raised beds with 1085 sq. feet of growing space are projected to produce a minimum of 2,100 pounds of food annually using organic methods. We aim to have growing beds installed to plant cool season crops starting in September for a November harvest where we will all give thanks.

6. Project budget and justification, including any matching funding

7th Ave. Community Garden Project Top-line Expenses	
Description	\$ Expense
Garden Beds	\$8,172.00
Soil	\$3,835.00
Hardscape for ADA-Compliant Beds	\$3,004.00
Shed estimate	\$1,200.00
Garden Needs-Assorted	\$806.00
Lot Preparation-additional	\$439.00
Permaculture Design	\$2,000.00
Landscaping	\$4,000.00
Signage	\$600.00
Fencing-estimated supplies only	\$3,750.00
Pergola	\$2,907.00
Benches/Picnic Tables	8,000.00
Contingency Fund	\$5,000.00
Estimated Total	\$38,713.00

Matching funds: \$2,050

- *The Seed Money Challenge* - \$1050
- *North Carolina Community Garden Partners* - \$1,000

Awaiting and Applying for Additional Grants:

- *AARP* micro-grant - \$2,500
- In-process of applying for local and regional community grants
- Requesting community donations