

RESOLUTION NO. _____
A RESOLUTION of the (organizing body)
designating (community name) as a Garden Friendly Community.

Whereas, the mission of a Garden Friendly Community is to strengthen communities through sustainable home and community gardening to increase the health of residents, economies and ecologies in an equitable and just manner; and

Whereas, gardens play a role in sustaining families and are an important component of strong and sustainable food system; and

Whereas, gardens increase the health and happiness of people through exercise, and consumption of healthy food; and

Whereas, gardens bring communities together through sharing of food, seeds, flowers and the revitalization of neighborhoods; and

Whereas, a community rich in gardens:

- Significantly localizes food production;
- Creates jobs, increases economic opportunities and enhances ecologies;
- Efficiently provides high quality, organic produce to the community;
- Develops in its citizenry a shared sense of investment in local resources and community;
- Enhances the beauty and increases the desirability of neighborhoods;
- Uses resources wisely, promoting composting, water conservation and sustainable techniques;
- Promotes physical activity and nutrition, placing less burden on the medical system;
- Provides therapeutic and rehabilitation opportunities and reduces stress and incidences of violence in communities.

Whereas, communities strong in gardening culture are more resilient and food secure during times of prosperity and difficulty; and

Whereas, gardens bring numerous additional ecosystem benefits including habitat for rare/endangered species and pollinators, increased soil health, carbon sequestration, water and resource conservation; and

Whereas, (name of community) should be certified a *Garden Friendly Community* because:

- We have a long history of gardening and self-sufficiency;
- Our community is rich in gardeners, programs for gardening and service-oriented organizations which help to feed people, provide jobs, and promote sustainability;
- The great risk of emergency and natural disasters to our rural community is buffered by a strong, local food system.

Now, therefore, be it that in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that gardens play and what each of us can do to support our resilient community, Fort Bragg, California chooses to support and encourage community and home gardening, resolving as follows:

1. The (name of) Department is hereby designated as the Garden Friendly Community sponsor.
2. The (position) of (department) is designated as the Garden Friendly Community Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the Garden Friendly Community program is assigned to the Garden Friendly Community Committee.
4. The Garden Friendly Community Committee is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or garden opening each year to showcase commitment to raising awareness of the important role gardening plays for conserving resources, promoting peace and creating resilience.
 - b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized Garden Friendly Community street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the (community name) website which includes, at minimum:
 - a copy of this resolution and links to the national Garden Friendly Community website;
 - contact information for your Garden Friendly Community Liaison and Committee;
 - reports of the Garden Friendly Community activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
 - c. **Access:** Encourage access to green spaces or potential garden spaces:
 - Identify and inventory land that can be enhanced with community gardens.
 - Track (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of gardens created or improved.
 - Provide resources for the community to hold events and workshops to promote gardening.
 - Encourage relationships between individuals, local government, land owners, businesses and non-profits to promote partnerships and resource sharing.
 - d. **Garden Friendly Community Plan:** Create and adopt a plan to implement gardens and encourage best practices
 - e. **Policy:** Establish, through the (community name), a policy to acknowledge and commit to the Garden Friendly Community designation.
 - f. **Plan Review:** Develop and review the Recommended Action Plan and other relevant documents to engage community feedback on implementation of the plan and practices as they relate to resource conservation, land accessibility, and consider other appropriate measures.



The Garden Friendly Community Initiative



Recognizing the role gardens play in a peaceful and abundant future

The Garden Friendly Community Initiative (GFC) helps us bring back a strong gardening culture.

The GFC Initiative focuses on increasing gardens and gardeners by bringing together community in celebration of the work ahead.

The result is that our communities and ecologies are stronger, more resilient, more peaceful, localized and abundant for everyone.

The GFC Initiative is a template for organizing through bringing together community leaders, decision makers, business leaders and individuals to create a more equitable and sustainable future through the promotion and increased access to community and home gardens.

The Initiative is comprised of three key elements:

1. The *Garden Friendly Community Resolution* declaring the importance of community and home gardening
2. The *Organizing Toolkit* including:
 - *Recommended Action Plan* for implementing gardens and increasing access to gardens
 - *Educational Resources and Manuals*
 - *Mapping Templates* to assess the potential and communicate the role our garden culture plays in a peaceful and sustainable future
3. The *Global GFC Network* sharing experience and resources for growing community, passing resolutions and implementing projects.

For more information and to access our resources free of charge, contact info@victorygardensforpeace.com

