

Rotary
Club of Sedona Village



*Community Garden
Proposal*



Community Garden Proposal

“A garden is a public service and having one a public duty. It is a man’s contribution to the community.” -Richardson Wright

A community garden can transform not only the people involved, but the community it’s placed in. The benefits are many:

- Health: healthy nutritious food being grown with the option to share
- Nature: water conservation, environmental stewardship, sustainability, and community support in the heart of the Village
- Life skills: planning, organization, teamwork, all can be taught and experienced by every age group and the option to incorporate in learning lessons with local educational establishments
- Finance: opportunity to sell the produce, create a unique financial stream for fundraising, partner with local restaurants to provide produce, and more.

This proposal incorporates these benefits and opportunities for the Rotary Club of Sedona Village to explore as a signature cause for the Club.

STEPS TO CREATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

1. **Identify a site:** Big Park Community School is a perfect place for a community garden. The field where the baseball diamond and old snack shack are located provide shelter for tools and equipment, close proximity to sprinkler heads, electricity if needed, an area that needs improvement, is accessible from Verde



Valley School Road, and is visible to more people. Where do we go from here?

- a. Present the idea to the Sedona Oak Creek Unified School District
 - b. School Board presentation or information provided to staff to present for approval
2. **Plot Garden plan:** Begin dividing the ground for plot size and formulate a sales packet for locals and businesses to sponsor, or adopt a plot for growth beginning in spring of 2021.
 3. **Sponsorships:** Develop a sponsorship program for potential partners, sponsors, and donors to contribute in-kind donations including; labor, soil, tools, seeds, plants, fencing, building materials, and other supplies.
 4. **Engage the community and organizations:** Working with the PR committee, we can announce the plan and invite the community to get involved by securing a plot, sponsoring, or getting involved through in-kind donations. We can also work with Gardens for Humanity, Yavapai Health Department, and more for assistance.
 5. **Develop a Garden Plan:** By working with Gardens for Humanity and other gardening experts, we can develop a plan with:
 - a. Planting schedule
 - b. Composting
 - c. Weed management
 - d. Watering management
 - e. Plot development and separation
 - f. Produce management and disbursement
 - g. Farmer's Market creation

INITIAL NEEDS

To begin working on this project, we need:

- The support of the Club board and then the opportunity to present to the Rotary membership.
- Presentation to the Sedona School Board: proposed date to present, July 7.
- Based on final decision, we will move forward with the next steps for the project.

COMING MONTHS

We'll need to solidify the plan and work on:

- Architectural rendering of the space with proposed number of raised beds, garden boxes for sponsor/adoption, irrigation needs, etc.
- Fencing approximately 260 feet of space to enclose the area not already secured: \$4,500 proposal from Yavapai Fence.
- Create sponsorship packets with marketing materials
- Work with PR committee to share all of the details to begin promotion
- Groundbreaking ceremony with the School District, media, Rotary Club, and initial sponsors. Perfect photo op and chance to drum up more sponsors, publicity, and showcase what can be done
- Greenhouse project: option to explore the use of an old school bus no longer in service to transform into a greenhouse. Or use a traditional style as pictured below: 8x20 option \$1,600. Choices are plenty.



- Sun shades can be added to the existing fencing structure for year-round protection and coverage



- Boxes can be built with uniformity in mind and to be as appealing to residents and visitors driving by, as those taking pride in “owning” a piece of the garden



The Sedona Village Rotary Club Community Garden has the potential to bring together the community for the purpose of providing healthy options for food, educational learning lessons, fundraising events centered around goods produced, engaging all ages in the community, and so much more. It will require hard work, plenty of volunteer opportunities, fundraising, and commitment by the Club. The rewards however will be greater and continue to sow seeds of goodwill for years to come.