

Memo

RECEIVED

Oct 11, 2023

CITY OF IRVINE
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

To: Oliver Chi, City Manager
From: Larry Agran, Councilmember *LA*
Date: October 11, 2023
Re: **Expansion of the Municipal Community Gardens Program**

Due to the high interest in community gardening — and on behalf of Irvine residents who contacted me regarding limited gardening opportunities — I ask that the City Council consider expanding community gardening. Specifically, I request that the City Manager initiate further development of the municipal community gardens program with our operating partner at the Great Park Farm + Food Lab, Solutions for Urban Agriculture. The program should prioritize affordability and be open to all Irvine residents as space permits.

Community gardens support better health, provide gardening activities for many with limited land access, and foster community spirit.

The Community Services Department manages twelve garden plots at the Rancho Senior Center and twelve at the Irvine Historical Museum, located next to the Rancho Senior Center. The existing program requires gardeners to be Irvine residents, age 50 or older, with annual membership fees ranging from \$17-\$26 depending on plot size. The City currently has thirty-seven on the waitlist. Please agendaize this matter for full City Council consideration at the October 24, 2023, meeting.

cc: City Council
City Clerk
City Attorney