



CITY OF COSTA MESA
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
Agenda

Thursday, April 23, 2026

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers
77 Fair Drive

SPECIAL MEETING

The Commission meetings are presented in a hybrid format, both in-person at City Hall and as a courtesy virtually via Zoom Webinar. If the Zoom feature is having system outages or experiencing other critical issues, the meeting will continue in person.

TRANSLATION SERVICES AVAILABLE / SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE

Please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225 to request language interpreting services for City meetings. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make arrangements.

Favor de comunicarse con la Secretaria Municipal al (714) 754-5225 para solicitar servicios de interpretación de idioma para las juntas de la Ciudad. Se pide notificación por lo mínimo 48 horas de anticipación, esto permite que la Ciudad haga los arreglos necesarios.

Members of the public can view the Commission meetings live on COSTA MESA TV (SPECTRUM CHANNEL 3 AND AT&T U-VERSE CHANNEL 99) or http://costamesa.granicus.com/player/camera/2?publish_id=10&redirect=true and online at [youtube.com/costamesatv](https://www.youtube.com/costamesatv).

Closed Captioning is available via the Zoom option in English and Spanish.

Members of the public are welcome to speak during the meeting when the Chair opens the floor for public comment. There is no need to register in advance or complete a comment card. When it's time to comment, line up at one of the two podiums in the room and wait for your turn. Each speaker will have up to 3 minutes (or as directed) to address the Commission.

To maintain a respectful and orderly atmosphere during the meeting, attendees shall refrain from using horns or amplified speakers. Signs and props may be brought into the Chamber, provided they do not exceed 11 inches by 18 inches in size and do not hinder the visibility of other attendees. The possession of poles, sticks, or stakes is strictly prohibited.

All attendees must remain seated while in the chamber until instructed by the Presiding Officer to approach and line up for public comment. To ensure safety and maintain order during the proceedings, standing or congregating in the aisles or foyer is strictly prohibited.

Zoom Webinar:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87974281574?pwd=ARObQTvGzI6FSabKsY41cnRag0EcGZ.1>

Or sign into Zoom.com and “Join a Meeting”

Enter Webinar ID: 879 7428 1574 / Password: 179936

- If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click “Download & Run Zoom” on the launch page and press “Run” when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
- Select “Join Audio via Computer.”
- The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, “Please wait for the host to start this meeting,” simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
- During the Public Comment Period, use the “raise hand” feature located in the participants’ window and wait for city staff to announce your name and unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed.

Participate via telephone:

Call: 1 669 900 6833 Enter Webinar ID: 879 7428 1574 / Password: 179936

During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to "raise your hand" and to be added to the queue to speak and wait for city staff to announce your name/phone number and press *6 to unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed.

4. Additionally, members of the public who wish to make a written comment on a specific agenda item, may submit a written comment via email to the paccomments@costamesaca.gov. Comments received by 12:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will be provided to the Commission, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record.

5. Please know that it is important for the City to allow public participation at this meeting. If you are unable to participate in the meeting via the processes set forth above, please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225 or cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and staff will attempt to accommodate you. While the City does not expect there to be any changes to the above process for participating in this meeting, if there is a change, the City will post the information as soon as possible to the City's website.

Note that records submitted by the public will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information.

All pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please e-mail to paccomments@costamesaca.gov NO LATER THAN 12:00 Noon on the date of the meeting.

Note regarding agenda-related documents provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet (GC §54957.5): Any related documents provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the Agenda Packets will be made available for public inspection. Such documents will be posted on the city's website and will be available at the City Clerk's office, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

All cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off or set to vibrate. Members of the audience are requested to step outside the Council Chambers to conduct a phone conversation.

Free Wi-Fi is available in the Council Chambers during the meetings. The network username available is: CM_Council. The password is: cmcouncil1953.

As a LEED Gold Certified City, Costa Mesa is fully committed to environmental sustainability. A minimum number of hard copies of the agenda will be available in the Council Chambers. For your convenience, a binder of the entire agenda packet will be at the table in the foyer of the Council Chambers for viewing. Agendas and reports can be viewed on the City website at <https://costamesa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Assistive Listening headphones are available and can be checked out from the City Clerk. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102.35.104 ADA Title II].

En conformidad con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), aparatos de asistencia están disponibles y podrán ser prestados notificando a la Secretaria Municipal. Si necesita asistencia especial para participar en esta junta, comuníquese con la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al (714) 754-5225. Se pide dar notificación a la Ciudad por lo mínimo 48 horas de anticipación para garantizar accesibilidad razonable a la junta. [28 CFR 35.102.35.104 ADA Title II].

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

APRIL 23, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

KELLY BROWN
Chair

SHAYANNE WRIGHT
Vice Chair

ELIZABETH DORN PARKER
Commissioner

CRISTIAN GARCIA ARCOS
Commissioner

JAKE HUSEN
Commissioner

JASON KOMALA
Commissioner

BRANDICE LEGER
Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SPECIAL ITEMS:

1. **[COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE](#)** **[26-258](#)**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Parks and Community Services Commission: 1. Receive and file this update on the Community Garden program and; 2. Provide direction on identifying new locations for additional garden centers in Costa Mesa.

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)

[1. 2026 Community Garden Rules and Regulations](#)

2. [PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL 26-257 REPORT](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission (PACS): 1. Review and discuss the Parks and Community Services Commission annual report presentation for City Council.

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)

[1. Costa Mesa Municipal Code 12-71.](#)

[2. PACS Commission CIP Recommendations](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: MAY 14, 2026



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-258

Meeting Date: 4/23/2026

TITLE:

COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Parks and Community Services Commission: 1. Receive and file this update on the Community Garden program and; 2. Provide direction on identifying new locations for additional garden centers in Costa Mesa.



Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

File #: 26-258

Meeting Date: 4/23/2026

TITLE: COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE
DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
CONTACT INFORMATION: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR (714) 754-5009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Parks and Community Services Commission:

1. Receive and file this update on the Community Garden program and;
2. Provide direction on identifying new locations for additional garden centers in Costa Mesa.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Costa Mesa has two (2) community gardens, the Del Mar Community Garden on Del Mar Avenue, and the Hamilton Community Garden on Hamilton Street. The Del Mar Community Garden has been in existence for over 20 years and has 60 garden parcels and 5 raised garden beds. The Hamilton Community Garden was established in 2004 and has 42 parcels. The parcels are rented by residents to grow vegetables, fruits, flowers and plants for their consumption and use.

The annual cost to rent a parcel is \$60, plus a one-time \$20 key deposit and a \$100 clean-up deposit. Raised garden beds are a \$20 annual cost, since they are smaller. Each calendar year, gardeners pay the annual fee and sign an acknowledgement that they have read and will abide by the current Community Garden Rules and Agreement (Attachment 1). In late Fall of each year, staff prepares renewal packets that are sent to all gardeners. If the parcel is not renewed by the designated deadline date, the parcel will be assigned to the next person on the waitlist. Currently, Del Mar Community Garden has an average waitlist of 183 names and Hamilton Community Garden has an average waitlist of 59 names.

The Community Gardens were designated by the City as a self-governed entity monitored by the Parks & Community Services Department, with support provided by two (2) part-time City employees. The staff members are responsible for the administrative oversight of the gardens, including on site communication with gardeners, ensuring trash is picked up and portable restrooms are cleaned, and monitoring the tools, equipment, and water in use at the gardens.

ANALYSIS:

On an annual basis, staff explore opportunities to maintain and enhance the gardens. This year staff performed a major clean-up, disposing of items in the common area deemed unsafe or unclaimed by current gardeners.

As indicated by interested residents on the waitlist, there is a high demand for parcel space. Staff researched viable options to increase the number of available parcels within both community gardens. As garden plots are vacated, the plots will be resized to 6.5 feet wide by 7.5 feet long allowing two garden plots for every one plot as currently configured. While this doesn't solve the waiting list issue, it is still a positive use of that space and an opportunity that does not currently exist.

In preparation for this meeting, staff notified all current gardeners including those on the wait list to attend the meeting to share any thoughts, recommendations, or concerns regarding either the Del Mar Community Garden or the Hamilton Community Garden.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The Commission recommended that City Council allocate \$50,000 toward community gardens as part of the Fiscal Year 2027–28 Capital Improvement Program.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Parks and Community Services Commission:

1. Receive and file this update on the Community Garden program and;
2. Provide direction on identifying new locations for additional garden centers in Costa Mesa.



CITY OF COSTA MESA • PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Information:

City Hall: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed every other Friday)
 (714) 754-5300
CMgardens@CostaMesaCA.gov

Garden Locations:

Del Mar 170 Del Mar Avenue
 Hamilton 532 Hamilton Avenue

Garden Hours:

Monday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to dusk; Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to dusk
 Motorized equipment cannot be used before 9:00 a.m. on Monday - Saturday and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday

II. INTRODUCTION

The City of Costa Mesa has designated a portion of its property for a Community Garden at the addresses listed above. The garden will consist of individual plots, each measuring at 195 sq. ft. (~13' by 15'), as well as raised beds available in 20 sq. ft. (2' by 10') and 30 sq. ft. (3' by 10') configurations. Parcels will be assigned by Parks and Community Services Department staff. The City may assign parcels to community/charitable organizations as appropriate.

III. GARDEN PURPOSE

The Community Garden Program is designed to empower individuals to grow their own food and plants, promoting personal fulfillment, environmental stewardship, and a sense of community.

IV. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To join and maintain membership in the Community Garden, you must:

1. Maintain Residency in Costa Mesa

You must be a current resident of Costa Mesa. Business addresses and P.O. boxes are not eligible. Proof of residency is required at the time of key pick up for new members and will be periodically verified through an auditing process for current members.

Acceptable Proof of Residency includes:

- A valid California driver's license or ID card, or a valid passport, AND
- A current utility bill (issued within the last 60 days) showing a Costa Mesa address. Acceptable utility bills include those for gas, water, electricity, or refuse services.

Note: Members who move out of Costa Mesa will forfeit their garden plot. One plot per household.

2. Sign the Community Garden Agreement

You must agree to follow the Community Garden Rules and Regulations.

3. Actively Garden Your Plot

Your plot must be regularly maintained to remain in good standing.

4. Complete Annual Community Service

Perform a minimum of 4 hours of community service at the garden each year.

5. Stay Current on Dues and Fees

Ensure dues and fees are paid in full and on time.

Note: In the event of a member's death, the surviving spouse or partner residing at the same address may inherit the plot.

V. MEMBER CODE CONDUCT

Members shall:

- Be kind and courteous. Treat all staff, members, visitors, and neighbors with respect and kindness.
- Adhere to the established hours of operation for the community garden.
- Regularly check and read all email and mail correspondence for important updates and information.
- Ensure that children are supervised at all times while in the garden.
- Use all community garden equipment responsibly, returning it clean and in good condition. Ensure wheelbarrows are emptied after use.
- Conserve water at all times:
 - Stay with the hose while watering.
 - Must be done by hand using ONLY nozzles with automatic shut-off.
 - All watering must be contained within the parcel boundary, with no overflow.
 - Ensure water is turned off completely.
- Report urgent issues to the City:
 - Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed every other Friday) – Contact the Parks and Community Services Department at (714) 754-5300.
 - Evenings and Weekends- The Costa Mesa Police Department non-emergency line at (714) 754-5252.
- Be allowed, with prior approval from Parks and Community Services staff, to bring private vehicles to load/unload supplies or equipment in the common area only and only for the time needed to load/unload.

Members shall not:

- Sell or use garden produce for profit.
- Transfer, sell, or sublet garden space.
- Vehicles are not permitted in garden aisles at any time.
- No animals, including those on leashes, are allowed in the garden, with the exception of service animals.
- Allow children or guests to wander into neighbors' gardens or common areas.
- Enter another member's garden without explicit written permission. Removal of any item (crop, plant, tool, etc.) that is not yours is considered theft and cause for permanent loss of membership.
- Destroy or damage any other member's property or property of the Community Garden.
- Consume alcohol or smoke.
- Loiter in the garden after dusk.

VI. GENERAL GARDEN AND RAISED BED REQUIREMENTS

1. **Planting and Harvesting:**

- Keep your garden or raised bed fully planted with seasonal vegetables (no cover crops allowed). Ensure all crops are harvested before they rot.

2. **Edible Crops:**

- At least 80% of your parcel or 90% of your raised bed must be planted with edible crops and or flowers.
- The remaining area (20% for parcels, 10% for raised beds) may include:
 - One plastic storage container,
 - Two plastic or composite garden chairs or one small bench,
 - Two approved composting containers, or
 - For raised beds only: One small folding stool under the elevated bed.
- If using a trellis to support a growing crop, it counts as part of the planted area. If not in use, it will count as part of the unplanted area.

3. **Cleanliness and Weed Control:**

- Maintain your garden or bed in a clean, neat, and weed-free condition at all times.
- Remove weeds by hand and promptly address any pests or diseases by trimming or removing affected plants.

4. **Fertilizers and Soil Amendments:**

- Only neutral fertilizers are allowed.
- All soil amendments must be organic and free of synthetic ingredients.
- No chemical products are permitted.

5. **Personal Items:**

- Store all personal items, including plants, pots, tools, bins, etc., within the boundaries of your parcel or bed.
- The City is not responsible for the theft of crops, tools, or other personal belongings.

6. **Parcel and Bed Boundaries:**

- Keep parcel and bed boundaries as originally defined.
- Parcels are 195 sq. ft. (~13' by 15'). The City may re-stake or adjust boundaries as needed.
- Ensure boundary markers are visible and free of soil, plants, or debris.

7. **Aisleways:**

- Keep the aisleways surrounding your parcel or raised bed clean, neat, and free of weeds and obstacles such as tools, pots, and plants.
- Trim any plants that extend beyond your parcel or bed into the aisle.

VII. GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members Shall:

- **Dispose of Organic Waste Properly**

Use the Green Waste dumpster for organic materials, yard waste, and other biodegradable substances. Acceptable items include grass clippings, leaves, tree branches, plant trimmings, wood chips, fruit and vegetable food waste, and compostable materials like coffee grounds and filters. Do not include non-compostable items such as plastic bags, metal, or glass.

- **Use the Black Trash Cart for Non-Organic Waste**

The black trash cart is for non-recyclable, non-organic waste. Dispose of items such as plastic plant

containers, broken tools, non-recyclable packaging, and general garden debris. It is also for non-compostable materials like certain weeds, soil, diseased plants, and broken pottery or metal parts.

- **Arrange Care for Your Parcel**

Garden parcels must be actively tended. Ensure someone is available to tend your garden parcel during absences (e.g., vacation or illness). The City is not responsible for the maintenance of any individual garden parcel. Any parcel left unmaintained for 30 days will be reassigned.

- **Use Proper Materials for Frames and Supports**

Frames must be constructed from simple stakes, string, or prefabricated lightweight wire frames available at nurseries.

- **Trellises and Supports:** Trellises and plant supports must not exceed 6 feet in height, and stakes must not be driven deeper than 1 foot into the ground. Supports that create excessive shade on neighboring plots must be removed.
- **Prohibited Household Items:** Do not use household items such as baby gates, tires, bookcases, shelves, construction materials, screen doors, or mailboxes in the garden.
- **Rusted Items:** Rusted stakes, supports, fences, or structures must be removed for safety reasons.

- **Use Approved Storage Containers for Tools and Supplies**

One outdoor, weather-resistant storage container for tools and supplies is permitted.

- **Inground Parcels:** The maximum allowable height is 3.5 feet.
- **Raised Bed Parcels:** The maximum allowable height is 2.5 feet, and the container must fit under the bed.

- **Follow Proper Hose Use and Maintenance**

- Hoses must not exceed 50 feet in length.
- Hoses must be properly stored on hose hangers, wound without kinks, and arranged in concentric rings when not in use.
- Any issues with hoses, hose hangers, or water sources must be reported to the City immediately.
- Gardeners are responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own hoses, including those shared with others.

- **Compost Responsibly (Inground Parcels Only)**

- Composting must be done in covered containers; open composting in soil is not allowed.
- No more than two (2) compost containers are allowed per inground parcel.
- All compost must be covered with dirt or manure to prevent pests and animals.
- Meat scraps and weeds are not permitted in compost containers.
- Compost is considered part of the required 20% non-planted area of your parcel.

Members Shall Not:

- **Bring Broken Cement or Asphalt**

Do not bring broken cement, asphalt, or similar materials into the garden for use in parcels.

- **Encroach on Common Areas or Other Parcels**

Do not extend your garden or encroach into common areas or other garden parcels.

- **Use Chemical Products**

Chemical products such as synthetic pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, and herbicides are prohibited.

- **Exceed Height Limits or Cause Shading to Neighboring Parcels**

Keep all plants, trees, trellises, and structures in your garden parcel under six (6) feet in height.

Additionally, do not allow plants or items to cast shade onto another garden parcel. If a member's garden negatively impacts another parcel, Parks and Community Services staff may require trimming or other actions to resolve the issue.

- **Place Items Near Fencing or Common Areas Without Permission**

Do not place or grow any plants, shrubs, trees, vines, or items on or near garden fencing or common areas without prior approval from the City.

- **Play Amplified Music**

To respect fellow gardeners and the surrounding neighborhood, do not play amplified music in the garden.

VIII. RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED PLANTS

Restricted Plants - Allowed Only in a Grow Bag or Sealed-Bottom Container

Some invasive yet beneficial plants may be grown **only** if placed in a grow bag or sealed-bottom container. This list includes, but is not limited to:

Cactus	Horseradish	Lemon Balm	Mint
Passion Fruit	Petunia	Plumeria	Potatoes
Succulent	Roses		

Prohibited Plants

The following plants are **not allowed** in the Costa Mesa Community Garden because they are invasive, toxic, capable of spreading plant diseases, attracting harmful insects, or causing physical damage. This list includes, but is not limited to:

Bamboo	Castor Oil Plant	Dandelion	Datura
Four O’Clock	Illegal Plants	Morning Glory	Poisonous Nightshade
Sugar Cane	Trees* / Citrus Trees**	Tropical Milkweed	

* Trees planted in a parcel prior to 2015 are grandfathered in and will be removed as members leave the garden. The City may also require removal if a grandfathered tree is not properly maintained.

**A plant disease (Huanglongbing or citrus greening) that kills citrus trees has been found in California. Our gardens are located inside an HLB (Huanglongbing or citrus greening) quarantine area. As result, the transport or growth of any citrus plant is regulated to prevent the spread of this disease.

IX. COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK PARTIES

To help maintain the common areas of the community gardens, work parties are scheduled throughout the year. All members are expected to contribute through community service.

1. Annual Service Requirement

Each member (per parcel/raised bed) is required to attend two (2) work parties per year, contributing a total of at least four (4) hours of service to the common areas. If joining after July 1st, the hours are prorated, and those members will be required to contribute two (2) hours of service. If you are not able to attend, before and after photos can be emailed for work credit of areas serviced.

2. Service Deadlines

Members must complete two (2) hours by May 31st and the remaining two (2) hours by October 31st.

3. Work Party Scheduling

Work parties will be scheduled at least four (4) times per year, with dates posted at least three (3) weeks in advance through bulletin boards, email, and online. Work parties will be scheduled on various days of the week, each lasting two (2) hours.

4. Check-In Process

Check-in will begin 15 minutes before the start time of each work party. Members must sign in and sign out to earn credit for their service hours.

5. Age Restrictions

No one under the age of 18 may attend or work during a work party unless directly supervised by a parent or guardian throughout the event.

6. Work Party Attire

Personal gardening is not permitted during work parties. Members must wear closed-toe shoes, gloves, and appropriate clothing for safety and comfort.

7. Completion Deadline

Community service must be completed by the final work party of the year, typically held at the beginning of October (weather and conditions permitting). There will be no carry-over of service hours from previous years, and no grace period or waivers will be granted for missed hours.

X. NON-COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION PROCESS

City staff will conduct regular inspections of garden plots to ensure adherence to the Community Garden Rules and Regulations. If a garden plot is found to be out of compliance with the Community Garden Rules and Regulations, the following steps will be taken to address the issue:

1. Initial Notice (1st Notice):

A notification will be sent via **email, phone call, and/or mail** informing the member of the non-compliance issue. The member will be given **7 days** to correct the problem. A follow-up inspection will occur at the end of this period to verify resolution.

2. Second Notice (2nd Notice):

If the issue is not resolved after the first notice, a **second notification** will be issued via **email, phone call, and/or mail**. The member will again be given a 7-day period to correct the issue. A second follow-up inspection will be conducted to assess compliance.

3. Final Notice (3rd Notice):

If the issue persists after the second notice, a **final notice** will be issued via **email, phone call, and mail**. This notice will inform the gardener that failure to comply may result in the termination of their gardening privileges. The member will be given a **final opportunity** to address the non-compliance issue within 7 days.

4. Termination of Gardening Privileges:

If the issue remains unresolved after the final notice, a **termination notice** will be issued via **phone call, email, and mail**. This notice will inform the member that their garden plot is being revoked and they are no longer in good standing. It will also provide clear instructions on how to vacate the plot, retrieve any deposits, and collect personal items.

Policy for Compliance Violations:

The City enforces this policy for non-compliance with the Community Garden Rules and Regulations within a single calendar year. Each notice (Initial, Second, and Final) constitutes one strike. If a member accrues three strikes, their gardening privileges will be terminated.

For violations deemed by the City to be of a serious nature, such as those involving safety, property damage, or other significant concerns, the City reserves the right to bypass the strike process and terminate gardening privileges immediately.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-257

Meeting Date: 4/23/2026

TITLE:

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission (PACS): 1. Review and discuss the Parks and Community Services Commission annual report presentation for City Council.



Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

File #: 26-258

Meeting Date: 4/23/2026

TITLE: COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE
DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
CONTACT INFORMATION: TRACY HABIGER, RECREATION SUPERVISOR (714) 754-5083

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Parks and Community Services Commission:

1. Receive and file this update on the Community Garden program and;
2. Provide direction on identifying new locations for additional garden centers in Costa Mesa.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Costa Mesa has two (2) community gardens, the Del Mar Community Garden on Del Mar Avenue, and the Hamilton Community Garden on Hamilton Street. The Del Mar Community Garden has been in existence for over 20 years and has 60 garden parcels and 5 raised garden beds. The Hamilton Community Garden was established in 2004 and has 42 parcels. The parcels are rented by residents to grow vegetables, fruits, flowers and plants for their consumption and use.

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ANALYSIS:

On an annual basis, staff explore opportunities to maintain and enhance the gardens. This year staff performed a major clean-up, disposing of items in the common area deemed unsafe or unclaimed by current gardeners.

As indicated by interested residents on the waitlist, there is a high demand for parcel space. Staff researched viable options to increase the number of available parcels within both community gardens. As garden plots are vacated, the plots will be resized to 6.5 feet wide by 7.5 feet long allowing two garden plots for every one plot as currently configured. While this doesn't solve the waiting list issue, it is still a positive use of that space and an opportunity that does not currently exist.

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FISCAL REVIEW:

The Commission recommended that City Council allocate \$50,000 toward community gardens as part of the Fiscal Year 2027–28 Capital Improvement Program.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Parks and Community Services Commission:

1. Receive and file this update on the Community Garden program and;
2. Provide direction on identifying new locations for additional garden centers in Costa Mesa.

Title 12. Parks and Recreation

Chapter III. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

§ 12-71. Commission established.

There is hereby established as a part of the government of the city, a parks and community services commission, which shall:

- (a) Consider and provide advice regarding matters that may be referred to it by the city council, the city manager, the director of parks and community services, or the director of public works;
 - (b) By its own motion, conduct studies and investigations and hold public hearings as it may deem necessary for the formulation of policies, plans, and procedures relating to parks, recreation, senior programs, recreation facilities, community facilities, and parkways, or to determine the wisdom and efficacy of such policies, plans and procedures, or to determine an action plan to pursue in implementing the city's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and report its findings and recommendations to the city council, the city manager, the director of parks and community services, and/or the director of public works;
 - (c) Recommend to the city council approval of concept plans for development and/or modification of parks, recreation, community, and open space facilities;
 - (d) Solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities and other public and private agencies concerned with the parks, recreation, recreation facilities, community facilities, and parkways of the city;
 - (e) Make recommendations and findings on the necessity for removal of parkway trees and the necessity for terms and conditions for retention of trees in accordance with Chapter V of Title **15** of this Code, which decisions shall be final notwithstanding section **2-303**;
 - (f) Set the fees to be charged to participants in recreation and community programs and classes in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the city council;
 - (g) In its discretion, review the annual budget as presented to the city council and advise it on the current operational needs and long-range plans for capital improvements;
 - (h) Periodically visit parks, recreation and community facilities in the city to review established programs and facilities, and to monitor needs in accordance with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan;
 - (i) On behalf of the city, actively encourage programs for the cultural enrichment of the community;
 - (j) Solicit partnerships with senior organizations which share the common goal to serve Costa Mesa's senior population; and
 - (k) Seek out and recommend to the city council, city manager or director of parks and community services possible public and private funding opportunities available to implement new or enhance existing senior programs and services.
- (Ord. No. 19-06, § 2, 4-2-19; Ord. No. 22-05, § 2, 7-19-22)

PACS Commission CIP Recommendations:

Attendees Present: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Wright, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger

Absent: Commission Dorn Parker**Left during item discussion, did not vote.*

Commission moved staff recommendations and included the following additional recommendations in the following motions:

Motion to:	First	Second	Motion Carries	Nays
Add Marina View Park - sand and Sidewalk in priorities to FY 26/27)	Chair Brown	Commissioner Husen	6-0	
Add Wilson - restrooms to FY 26/27	Vice Chair Wright	Chair Brown	5-1	Commissioner Komala
Add community gardens to five-year FY 27/28 (\$50,000) and potentially navigate Neth Park in a multi-faceted way	Chair Brown	Commissioner Garcia Arcos	6-0	
Add Westside Development to FY 27/28 (\$400,000)	Chair	Commissioner Leger	5-1	Commissioner Komala
Explore alternative funding sources to reduce City funding for Fairview Park and Skate Park projects	Vice Chair Wright	Chair Brown	4-2	Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala
Prioritize C-rated parks in the 5yr. plan	Commissioner Leger	Vice Chair Wright	5-1	Commissioner Husen

