

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

2017-2018 Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program

1/12/2018 deadline

California Native Garden Foundation Regenerative Farm Training and Research Program: Phase One

\$ 77,962.00 Requested
\$ 137,969 Total Project Cost

Submitted: 1/12/2018 6:58:57 PM (Pacific)

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California Native Garden Foundation

76 Race Street
San Jose, CA 95126

CEO

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EIN 72-1562616

B. Project Description

Project Overview

1. Grant Category (check all that apply)

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

2. What type of project is this (check all that apply)

- Capital improvement
- Planning
- Program

3. Project Location: Address

If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all addresses. If there is no street address, please describe the area(s).

California Native Garden Foundation
76 Race St.
San Jose, CA 95126

Hester School
1460 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126

4. Project Location: Neighborhood

If unknown, please enter "N/A."

CNGF- the St. Leo neighborhood in San Jose

Hester School Garden- the Alameda neighborhood

5. Project Location: OSA District (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the OSA Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <http://www.openspaceauthority.org/about/boardmap.html>.

- OSA District 1
- OSA District 2
- OSA District 3
- OSA District 4
- OSA District 5
- OSA District 6
- OSA District 7

6. Are there any project partners?

If there are project partners, please list each partner and describe their roles. Required - upload letter from each partner describing their role.

- 1) Mindful ways, an ecological co op preschool
- 2) Good News Wood Salvation, a recycling wood products and materials business,
- 3) FACTR (Family Alliance for Counseling Tools and Resolution)- are part of the eco-village model at CNGF on 76 Race Street in San Jose. Their program is the Mindful Aging Project which is in the works for getting established at CNGF.
- 4) Middlebrook Gardens, a design/build ecological garden company.

We are partnering with our eco village businesses to bring more community members and volunteers into our eco-village and urban farm. These participating community members will be working and learning along side the student interns. The students will experience a sustainable urban village culture and be a part of it's success, as they are trained in regenerative farming techniques and participate in the regenerative farm to table experience as producers.

7. Project Abstract

(Brief, 3-4 sentences)

We are seeking funds that will engage and train more SJSU and SCU students so that we can develop a regenerative farm training and research program for SCCounty. Working with our university partners, this grant can provide an opportunity to focus specifically on the nursery production of the regenerative farm model. To reach the high production numbers that may lead to significant urban Ag success, an efficient nursery production is necessary. This component is imperative in our success.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)

8. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.

When applicable, the application should include letters of support from local jurisdiction(s), particularly for capital improvement projects. Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.

Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, and Sunnyvale Councilwoman Nancy Smith are some of the organizations in the community that support the vision and goals of CNGF. The universities send students to CNGF to further their knowledge of sustainability and regenerative farming methods. Sunnyvale Councilwoman Nancy Smith is very interested in preserving open space and supports urban farming. The community engagement process takes place with the collaborative efforts, studies and investigations of regenerative farming between the university students and the CNGF staff members all working towards the goal of improving traditional farming methods to become regenerative farming methods for healthier produce, water management and maintaining the quality of the soil so that it's not disturbed.

Project Planning (20 points)

9. Describe the proposed project

This project furthers community development and training in the areas of sustainability, urban farming, environmental stewardship, restoration and environmental education. The California Native Garden Foundation is going to set the stage at Middlebrook Garden Center and the Hester School garden to run its pilot project with university students on regenerative farming methods. Over the next 2-5 years, CNGF, in partnership with universities, school districts, cities, private developers and land owners, anticipates that 20-25 regenerative farms can be built at urban agriculture incentive zones in Santa Clara

County. Regenerative farms are also in planning stages in India and France with CNGF partners . As these farms are being planned with local partners, we are going to need trained young people to design and operate them. In addition to lectures, reading and testing, students benefit from hands on experiences to create and operate a high production nursery. The farm model uses poly-cropping which features 6 categories of food plants and extensive native hedgerow plants. These can all be grown at student operated urban regenerative farms. At the Middlebrook Center, we are now the first eco-village in San Jose, with 7 businesses operating from our center. Our eco-village model has the potential to reduce Co2 emissions by 86% and meets most human cycle needs with reduced transportation costs or CO2 emissions. We received a grant from Santa Clara County to fund an outdoor restaurant this spring. With nursery production at the eco-village, our Hester School campus garden, SCU Forge Garden and SJSU Community Garden, the restaurant can purchase most of its fruits and vegetables from the 4 farm locations. In addition, each farm can supply its own production needs. Once we get in full production, we hope to start a CSA of our combined regenerative farm food production.

This first phase of the training program immediately generates revenue and contributes to the success of a local restaurant where food from regenerative farms is sold. Proving the success of regenerative farming methods will strengthen CNGF's position in receiving further grants for the development of the 20-25 regenerative farms that CNGF and its partners would like to build at urban agriculture incentive zones in Santa Clara County.

This will also provide our future partners with data that will substantiate how productive the regenerative farm model is, how it builds soil organic content, sequesters more carbon and utilizes less water. Ultimately urban regenerative farms can reduce worldwide CO2 emissions by up to 14%. We think these training farms should be built in SV. We think new urban agriculture jobs can be created here for students from our partner schools and our other partners representing underserved youth from deep impact zones.

In order to establish this pilot training program and begin to prepare our youth for new jobs at regenerative farms.

10. What is the lifetime of this project?

For capital improvement projects, applicants must state how long the project would remain on the site AND demonstrate that they have appropriate permissions. Please submit the Land Tenure form and documentation using the Documents Upload tab.

- 5 Years (minimum for capital improvement projects)
- Other time period - explain:
- Perpetuity
- Not applicable

11. Describe your plans for operating and maintaining the project over the next 10 years, and indicate your source of funds for ongoing management.

This question is required for all capital improvement projects. For planning and program projects, please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

N/A

12. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

Please include the status of any planning, design, or funding development necessary for project completion. This includes the status of CEQA compliance and any permits required for this project. REQUIRED: CEQA form, if applicable.

The project is ready for implementation as soon as the funds are received. San Jose State University and Santa Clara University interns are part of a rich learning and hands on experience environment at CNGF. Thanks to them, CNGF is capable to keep its research on regenerative farming ongoing. They are focused on agriculture and finding better ways of growing crops. CNGF and the Hester School gardens are well established gardens and ready for the pilot for regenerative farming to begin. CNGF is also fortunate to have strong community partners in our eco-village and the support of Santa Clara County to fund our regenerative farm to table restaurant, Eating California. Along with our student interns, many community volunteers will be learning to grow, harvest and eat foods grown in urban Ag settings.

Project Budget (15 points)

13. Budget Summary

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload Tab. Please note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically total all lines. This additional TOTAL will not be used.

<input type="text" value="\$64,450"/>	Grant request: Personnel
<input type="text" value="\$5,000"/>	Grant request: Contracted Services
<input type="text" value="\$4,800"/>	Grant request: Supplies/Materials
<input type="text"/>	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
<input type="text" value="\$3,712"/>	Grant request: Indirect Costs

\$77,962	TOTAL GRANT REQUEST
\$60,007	TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS
\$137,969	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (grant request + matching funds)
76.97	PERCENT MATCH (matching funds / grant request)
353,976.97	TOTAL

Project Goals (15 points)

14. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

The project solves the lack of sustainable living in cities, cuts back on CO2 emissions as a result of cutting back on transportation for food, promotes urban farming and creates a connection between the communities and the earth. It also restores biodiversity and ecosystem services. Forty percent of the world's land is devoted to unsustainable agriculture. Big agriculture is the biggest cause of loss in biodiversity and we have now reached an unsustainable world crisis. Our model, built in urban environments, with its high production and CO2 sequestration as well as CO2 emissions reduction, has the potential to provide food locally to millions of urban dwellers and offer an alternative or compliment to current agricultural methods. Our work is about teaching our youth how to restore our local ecology and create a new urban farming system that builds soils and sequesters carbon while producing seven times more food with fewer resources. The average age of American farmers is 59 and there is an immense need to train young farmers in these regenerative farming methods. The curriculum for these programs can be designed to be a 2 year, 4 year period or as part of a vocational training program for high school students or students who can't afford college. There is great demand from university students to learn about regenerative farming methods and the time to teach them is now.

Urban farms that include native gardens connect people closer to nature. Public health studies show that human health and well being are enhanced with direct contact and engagement with nature. Over time data collected may support more urban farms and Native gardens in cities, reducing the cost for mental and physical health services. Our hope is that with more data, more studies and more human engagement, cities will enthusiastically support consistent investment in more urban farms with native gardens and more youth education programs to help perpetuate the model and provide sustainable jobs for the future that improve health, reduce CO2 and protect biodiversity.

15. Please list the project's goals (both social and environmental).

These should be specific, measurable goals (e.g. 600 people participating in educational programs). Please see Appendix E of the Grant Program Guidelines for a list of sample goals.

The social goals of this project are to train food and Agribusiness Institute and Environmental Science Studies students how to grow crops with regenerative farming methods, how to manage a farm like this and maintain it. CNGF also wants to establish 25-30 farms in 2-5 years in agricultural incentive zones in Silicon Valley which will bring about jobs for the region. The regenerative farming curriculum which can be designed for a two year, four year, or vocational program for high school drop outs, creates flexible forms of learning opportunities in the greater community in an area of study that is vital to the survival of urban societies. Teaching this knowledge is crucial at a time when global warming is causing climate havoc in our world. Environmentally, regenerative farming methods have the potential to restore our local ecosystems and biodiversity in such a way that pesticides aren't necessary. No till agriculture is what would be taught, meaning that the soil would be preserved without being disturbed and blown into the wind. Our model relies on storm water and reduces or eliminates the transportation of water due to the fossil fuel energy required to transport water. This reduces CO2 emissions while conserving water too as well as sequestering CO2 to bring these levels down even further. CNGF will also be including aquaponics, aeroponics and hydroponics so that space for crop production is maximized.

Impact (15 points)

16. Describe the lasting impact of the project.

The lasting impact of this project is both environmental and social. When urban farming is put in place with a regenerative model, jobs are going to be created, CO2 emissions are going to decrease by 86% because transportation is going to be cut back. Food is going to be more accessible to all people and the quality of food is going to be much better because the food is going to be fresh because it's local. People are going to be healthier as a result of the CO2 reduction, they are going to have more of a connection with the environment because they will actually be able to see where their food comes from. A connection with the Earth makes for healthy living and healthy societies both mentally and physically. When the regenerative farm model proves its effectiveness and CNGF and its partners obtain funds for establishing 25-30 regenerative farms in Silicon Valley, open space is going to be preserved and the ecosystem and biodiversity is going to be restored. Food production is also going to increase by seven times the amount of traditional farming methods and more people will be fed as a result. Food production, if practiced using regenerative farming methods has the potential to produce 7x more food using less resources

Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

17. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnership in the field of parks, open space, urban agriculture, land conservation, or environmental education.

Regen Ag utilizes no till and builds organic content of soils, while sequestering more carbon. It does not require costly fertilizers but relies on composting, vermicomposting, nitrogen fixing plants and poly-cropping to produce 7x the yields of traditional Ag. Our regen model utilizes Native hedge rows planted according to the Native plant communities of Santa Clara Valley, replicating local ecology. Some of these hedgerow plants are also edible and perennial food plants. Our model also includes 6 categories of food plants. Healthy predator insects that are a part of a biologically diverse native hedgerow help manage row crops of food plants so pesticides are not necessary. A regen farm looks visually more like a natural garden or park, mimicking natural cycles, with more species of food plants, more restored ecosystems and more food plants planted than one is accustomed to seeing. The row crops of our farm model have up to 7 plants across a row. Many of the food plants can be harvested each day or their planting cycles are staggered so more plants are being continuously harvested and new ones planted. Our farm model relies on an innovative approach to propagation and nursery management to supply the seedlings required to keep up with the planting and harvesting methods. Our regenerative farm method restores soil health, adds nature and food to the city and creates park like farms that are 7 times more productive.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

18. Briefly describe the organization.

Please include the year the organization was founded and its mission and goals. If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the APPLICANT and the SPONSORED ORGANIZATION.

CNGF was founded in 2004 by Alrie Middlebrook, owner of Middlebrook Gardens.

Mission: Bring native plants into our landscape again to restore our local ecosystem and promote biodiversity and educate communities in urban areas for a sustainable future

Goals:

- (1) CO2 reduction and carbon sequestration
- (2) Create a sustainable living environment in urban areas and promote urban farming with regenerative farming methods so that most of the needed food for cities is grown in cities
- (3) Bring growth and sustainability to local communities
- (4) Implement reduced air pollution solutions
- (5) Form programs for underserved youth and adult education and job creation
- (6) Create work-study programs for high school, college and underserved youth
- (7) Create indigenous people's programs for job creation in urban sustainability and human health and well-being, utilizing native foods in nutrition programs
- (8) Create and implement speakers programs to inform the public about eco-village models as a way to reduce CO2 emissions, sequester more carbon, and promote biodiversity
- (9) Preserve open space

19. Describe the organization's ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, staffing levels, financial resources, etc.

If applicant cannot otherwise demonstrate its capacity, expertise, and experience, please provide names and contact information of individuals knowledgeable about the organization's work.

- Since 2006 California Native Garden Foundation has given grants to more than 80 schools. We have provided design services for native gardens and sustainable food gardens. Have created science standards as part of lesson plans to be utilized in the teaching gardens for our school partners. Middlebrook Gardens- an organization within our eco-village, has designed and built over 800 native and food gardens since 1980 when Alrie Middlebrook founded MBG. It has won awards spanning 40 years.
- CNGF, worked with Core Development as the sustainable urban land use consultant for The Santa Clara Sustainable Agrihood which will have a working regenerative farm. Nearly 1000 residents will live in this ecovillage in low income, affordable and market rate apartments and condominiums. This will be the first development of its kind in America.
- CNGF is a creating restaurant, where nationally known chefs and leading local restaurateurs will be serving as consultants. Also collaborating will be Chef John Farais, who specializes in indigenous American cuisine. Including collaboration on a gardening and recipe book that will feature recipes that will be served at our restaurant.
- The Middlebrook Center has a Native plant nursery and greenhouse on site which has been expanded in recent years to include the six categories of sustainable food plants. We propagate all the plants for our two aquaponics farms which will supply approximately 450 superfood greens each month once we have implemented the additional resources this grant will provide.

•Santa Clara University and San Jose State sends their Agriculture and Environmental Science Studies students to intern at CNGF for the purposes of obtaining hands-on experience in the field of environmental sustainability.

20. Briefly describe key staff members and volunteers' qualifications and experience relevant to the project.

Alrie Middlebrook, president of cngf is a Native plant specialist with a working knowledge of over 700 locally Native and regional plants. She also has developed a working knowledge of over 200 food plants suitable to SC County soils.

Several of CNGF volunteers have nursery and propagating experience who are willing to work with community volunteers and student interns.

Middlebrook Gardens also has a close relationship with several local plant nurseries who have outstanding propagators who willingly share information.

BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)

21. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).

A map of the DECs can be found under the Library tab of online at <http://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>. This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

N/A

BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)

22. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

Because the training program will be taking place at the Middlebrook Center on Race St, student interns will be interfacing and socializing with many diverse members of the community. Our eco-village partners work with families, immigrant seniors who are underserved, and diverse populations as our gardens are located in the heart of St Leo's Neighborhood in San Jose. There are planned activities going on in the gardens 6 days a week. Patrons who will be dining at the restaurant will have opportunities to see how foods they eat will be grown and harvested, including food from our aquaponics Farm. College interns will be participating in the growing and harvesting process as members of our local community enjoy the results of their efforts.

Community members who visit the first working eco village in San Jose can dine where nature and food meet in the garden.

BONUS POINTS: Leverage Funding (5 points)

23. Describe how the project leverages funding with more than 25% match by grantee (cash or in-kind).

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

The project leverages funding with more than 25% match by CNGF because they recently were awarded \$26,919 for Technology Funding from Santa Clara County. They also rely on volunteer in-kind support and the CEO's staff time at \$24,000.

C. Work Plan

C.1. Project Work Plan

Task Number	Activities	Timeframe	Outcome/Deliverables
1 Startup Administration	-Planning meeting with the consultants and project staff Provide training program vision, spearhead the pilot projects at the selected sites	August-September 2018	-Formalized program guidelines and database to measure project success -Define consultants scope of work -Defined needs of the program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create documents with materials and implementation costs and proposed benefit (ex. water conservation, food production yield and/or profitability) -Prepare database to measure project progress -Post farmer/project manager position and advertise for farmer position. Send out emails and additional postings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Defined requirements of the business (farm- traditional and urban) community and educational institutions -Recruit Farmer Teacher/Project Manager
2 Training Program Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get specialists to identify appropriate data and catalog conventional agriculture issues and developing curriculum for the training program -Send out announcement of internship program to college departments -Set up merit based scholarship for students 	Oct-Nov 2018 University Collaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Internship programs with SJSU and SCU -Student workshops to gain knowledge about training program, data collection and analysis -Student interns are selected
3 Training Program Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Create training documents with materials and implementation costs. -Preparing sites and conducting classes -Farmer/Project Manager will prepare lessons and activities and tests for two months, working with consultants for review and input 	Nov-Dec 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Farmer/Project Manager presents lessons and activities at first class and gives tour -First class held at Race Street and walk to Hester -Community volunteers will be solicited and trained for nursery production -Seeds sown, and cuttings taken. Harvested plants sold to restaurant. Necessary materials purchased or donated
4 Project Management of Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Farmer works with universities to communicate to interested students -Prepare to implement the proposed program on the pilot site(s) 	Dec 2018- Jan 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Class schedules for volunteer hours are set for each intern with as much overlap as possible. Ideally if 2-3 interns could be working together at a time with a maximum of 6 interns per class meeting -Project manager will work with community outreach/volunteer coordinator -Program status updates provided
5 Training Program Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students will be tested about info learned on field trips. The results will be included in the merit rankings for end of semester prize 	Feb-March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Class begin field trips to regenerative farms, partner schools and other potential sites- The Santa Clara Agrihood, the farm in Sunnyvale on property owned by SCUSC, the farm land owned by Mr. Mobedshahi in Coyote Valley -Students evaluated on the knowledge of food plants and Native plants, nursery operations, propagation and farming techniques. -Team will submit judging criteria for the merit cash awards -All 12 interns will be rated and ranked according to

			data sheet. Top three will be chosen based on total merit points.
6 Monitoring and Analysis	-Reports and data submitted by student teams -Students will be judged on merit according to database template. -Farmer teacher/project manager will compile report comparing output of three nursery operations.	April-May 2019	-Awards will be given and student winners will be announced -Press releases will be sent to university, social media and partner data bases -Statistically significant data produced- analyzed to measure project success -Compiles nursery output report -Published project report that includes number of volunteers working on the project, categories of volunteers, underserved groups and numbers served, amount of food sold and funds received number of species sold, most popular food plants sold, number of harvest days/year and challenges faced
7 Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement	-Engage the community and ensure the components of the training program are integrated as planned -CNGF staff and university partners will continue to look for future farm sites and partners.	June-July 2019	-As much footage as possible of CNGF's engagement with the community and local farms in San Jose and Santa Clara County -All data shared as a report with potential regenerative farm projects and their staff that CNGF has been working -Signage at the sites to enhance public awareness -4 public workshops over a year -Social media posts/tweets/blogs -3 Interviews with stakeholders of the project sites
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D. Documents Upload

Documents Requested *	Required?	Attached Documents *
Financial statements	✓	CNGF Financial Statements
Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body download template	✓	CNGF Resolution
Project Budget download template	✓	CNGF OSA 2018 Project Budget
Acknowledgment Form download template	✓	CNGF Acknowledgement 2018

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

[download template](#)

Land Tenure Form

[download template](#)

CEQA Compliance Certification Form

[download template](#)

Letters of Support

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support- KR](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support- GNW](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support-ME](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of SupportDC](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support-Godfred](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support-VC](#)

[OSA LETTER OF SUPPORT GG](#)

[OSA LETTER OF SUPPORT Ojan](#)

Letters from Project Partners

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support-KMH](#)

[CNGF OSA 2018 Letters of Support- MW](#)

Maps

Other

[CNGF Infographic](#)

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