



Sonoma Garden Park Master Plan Update

A project of Sonoma Ecology Center



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Acknowledgements

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Sonoma Garden Park

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Mission and Goals

Mission of Sonoma Ecology Center: We work with our community to identify and lead actions that achieve and sustain ecological health in Sonoma Valley. As an educational landscape and classroom managed by Sonoma Ecology Center (hereafter “SEC”), the Sonoma Garden Park (hereafter the “Garden Park”) supports this Mission. The vision for the Garden Park emphasizes the commitment of Sonoma Ecology Center to honoring Pauline Bond’s will and memory.

The Vision of Sonoma Garden Park is...

a place that celebrates the intersection of people, food, and nature. It is a community hub, and an inspiring and beautiful place. It is a place to learn how to link home landscaping to our rich natural landscapes. It is a place to grow food sustainably and buy healthy food in a community setting. It connects us to the world of plants and our environment and helps to understand that when we eat we are part of a cycle —from nature to garden to table, and back!

The Goals for Sonoma Garden Park are to...

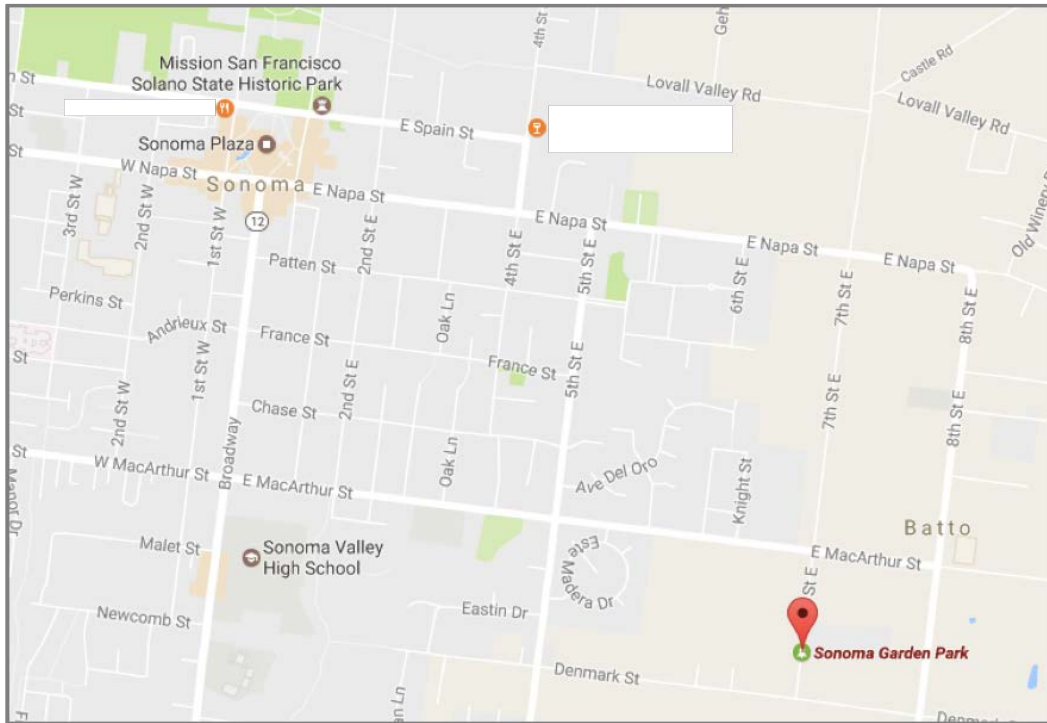
- Provide a beautiful park and a thriving community space
- Demonstrate ecologically sound practices in gardening, landscaping, construction, and resource use
- Offer an experiential hands-on garden curriculum covering sustainable agriculture, the environment and the watershed
- Create opportunities for community-building and development while cultivating a healthy balance between human needs and a functional healthy ecosystem
- Provide products and services that serve the Garden Park’s educational mission and provide financial resources to the Garden Park

Master Plan Update Goals

The Garden Park Master Plan was initially written in 2005 to aid the development of the Garden Park’s service to the community as a key landmark and educational resource. The City of Sonoma was an important partner in refining and supporting the Master Plan, and in providing baseline support to bring the site up to code. Additionally, community input from stakeholders and volunteers was crucial to development of the Plan and was once again crucial in creating the basis for this updated Master Plan document.

The Garden Park has grown in visitor usage, and expanded educational and gardening programs. This has given rise to a need for upgrades and changes in park facilities. Sonoma Valley's environment is under growing pressure due to increased population, loss of arable land, climate change, and increasing water scarcity. Exploring ways to more sustainably interact with nature is crucial to the future well-being of the Valley. Our goal is to develop the Garden Park in a way that is ecologically and economically sustainable. To meet these goals, facilities need to be developed for the Garden Park to accommodate more visitors and educational programs, and produce income to manage and maintain the property. These features include improved bathrooms, a gathering space for events, and an educational center. This Master Plan Update describes the current conditions and planned changes to grow the Garden Park. The Master Plan is conceptual and each aspect of the Master Plan will require specific information to be approved by the City of Sonoma prior to implementation.

Site Location & History



The Garden Park is located in the southeastern part of the Sonoma Valley, in Sonoma County, California. Sonoma County lies north of the San Francisco Bay Area, and is known for its natural beauty, and diverse and abundant agricultural production. The Sonoma Valley lies in the southeastern portion of the County, and its watershed drains into the San Pablo Bay section of the San Francisco Bay. The Garden Park comprises approximately six acres of land that lies just east of the City of Sonoma, at 19996 Seventh Street East, north of Denmark Street, and south of East MacArthur Street. Parcel number 128-041-002.



History

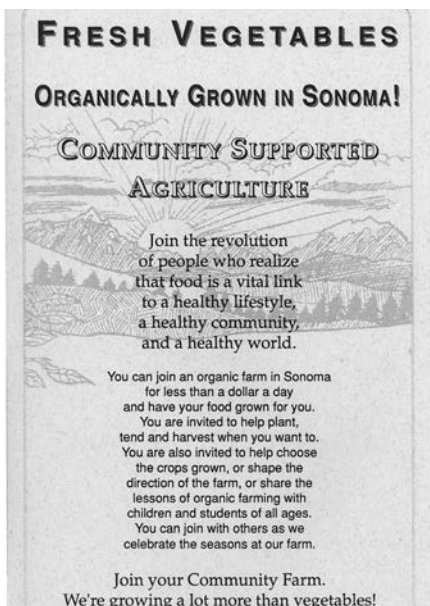
The area surrounding the Garden Park once contained large farm and ranch properties, but is slowly developing to support large estates with vineyards and suburban style homes. The Garden Park is zoned as a Public Facility and is surrounded by a rural neighborhood zoned for low-density residential. The Garden Park's location is on historically rich soils and a high-water table, creating an advantageous location for preservation of Sonoma Valley's rural heritage, and for teaching ecologically sensitive land management.

1977: The estate of **Pauline Bond** donated the six-acre **Bond property to the City of Sonoma** for the purpose of creating and maintaining a park. Prior to its donation to the City, the property operated as a private orchard where plums, pears, and figs were grown.



1993: The City of Sonoma responded to community interest for a demonstration farm and garden and **leased the farmland portion of the property to the Sonoma**

Ecology Center. The Garden Park was established to be a place for Valley visitors and residents to experience local organic foods and to cultivate an awareness of small-scale food production.



1993 – 1996: For its first three years, the Garden Park was named the “Community Farm” and **operated as a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm**, providing organic vegetables to local subscribers.

1996 – 2001: The **Garden Park was operated by volunteers**, with support from Sonoma Ecology Center. The first permitted straw



bale structure in the Sonoma was completed on the site as an “appropriate technology” demonstration project, to provide storage for the garden's tools and books. A potable water system was installed throughout the site, and a separate solar well and a pump system were installed to distribute water from the site's shallow well.

(This solar well system was recently upgraded with tanks and additional lines to offset potable water use.)

2002 – 2006: Sonoma Ecology Center worked with the City of Sonoma and community members to **establish the Master Plan for the property**. The plan was drafted by SEC staff and volunteers, reviewed by City staff and commissions, and approved and adopted in 2006 by City Council. The Council designated a portion of its Bond Property Maintenance Fund for garden improvements and program development. After the establishment of the Master Plan a number of infrastructure and program improvements occurred.



2006 to present: **SEC made significant improvements to the Garden Park**, encouraging it to grow and blossom into a center for education and activities related to gardens, horticulture, and food. In addition to program activities described in following sections of this document, several additions to the physical space were added. These include:

- An 800-foot long **ADA accessible paved pathway system** linking features of the Garden Park, supported by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Open Space District), Berger Concrete, and other sponsors and donors.
- **Interpretive educational signs** installed at three stations along the pathway as the foundation of a “Children’s Discovery Trail,” with support from the Scarlet Oak Foundation.
- Improvements to the **straw bale barn**, including flooring, windows, electrification, phone and web access, indoor and outdoor lights, and paint, with support from many donors.
- A new state of the art **greenhouse** (480 sq/ft) with support from Sonoma Rotary and the City for propagation of flowers, vegetables, and native plants.
- A **native plant nursery** with two shade structures (totaling 4080 sq/ft), workspaces, materials storage, and tables, for propagating over 10,000 native plants annually for native habitat restoration in the area, supported by public and private contracts and donations.
- **Solar panels** and inverters installed and linked to the grid that generate power for the barn and greenhouse, with extensive support from SolarCraft and Impact 100.
- A **parking area** for 17 vehicles, including 1 ADA space, designed as part of a **Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management demonstration project** supported by the Sonoma County Water Agency. This project also includes rainwater capture, storage tanks, raingarden and several stormwater management features.
- An **entry arbor and demonstration LID landscaping features**, supported by public funders and volunteers

2011: A **Conservation Easement** was acquired by the Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space District from the City of Sonoma to preserve the Garden Park’s open space, agricultural, natural resource, recreational and educational values. This Easement was conveyed to Sonoma County as part of the Ag + Open Space Matching Grant Program. The Matching Grant program provides funds to support parklands and trails in areas of the County that are accessible to urban populations. At the Garden Park these grant funds supported creating an accessible Discovery Path & parking spaces, drinking fountains, oak-woodland restoration, and new signage. This Master Plan Update is being written to be in alignment with the Conservation Easement.

The Conservation Easement protects the following uses at the park: community garden plots, low-intensity outdoor public recreation and education, natural resources restoration and enhancement, harvest market, plant nursery, and Community Supported Agriculture program. The full Conservation Easement is attached to this Master Plan Update, and includes a full description of the protected values of the park in section 4. The Conservation Easement states that it shall remain a public park that is open and accessible to the public, and restricts development of the park to protect the listed values of the park. Some of the Easement provisions that are likely to be most relevant to future developments at the Garden Park include restrictions on land uses, impervious surfaces, fences, removal of native vegetation, and signage size and number. All signage proposed in this Master Plan will be compliant with the provisions set out in Conservation Easement section 5.4.7. The Master Plan Update includes impervious surface plans that remain within the 0.33 acres of the property that is allowed to be developed as impervious as described in Conservation Easement section 5.4. A full description of the restrictions in the Conservation Easement in section 5 can be found in the attached Conservation Easement document.

Upon approval by Ag + Open Space, this Master Plan Update is deemed consistent with the Easement, and any updates, additions, amendments, or revisions to this document must be reviewed by Ag + Open Space for compliance with its Conservation Easement.

2013: The **Bond family home and barn were removed** by the City of Sonoma. The structures on the old Bond residence parcel were inspected and found to be beyond repair. After an analysis indicating that they were not historically significant, they were removed.

2015-2018: **The Master Plan update** was developed through a series of meetings between with the Garden Park Advisory Committee, which included long-term volunteers, neighbors, Master Gardener representatives, and SEC staff. Community gardening, habitat restoration, recreational space, educational programs, plant propagation, pollinator habitat, and other garden activities were all discussed and debated in identifying the uses for different areas of the Garden Park. In 2016, a landscape architect, Karen Boness, donated her time and expertise to creating a concept drawing, which has been developed into the Master Plan Update site plan. In 2017, the text from the Advisory Committee meeting notes and other sources were utilized by Minona Heaviland in writing the Master Plan Update document. From 2017-2018, outreach to solicit feedback on the Master Plan update was conducted to neighbors and the larger Sonoma community through email, flyers, newsletters, and a newspaper article in the Index-Tribune. Four public meetings were held where neighbors and the local community was encouraged to express thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. A public comment form was put on the web site and anonymous comments and suggestions were collected from the public online. City of Sonoma staff and City Council members were giving a briefing on the Master Plan update and provided comments and feedback through several meetings both at Sonoma Garden Park and at City Offices and public meetings.

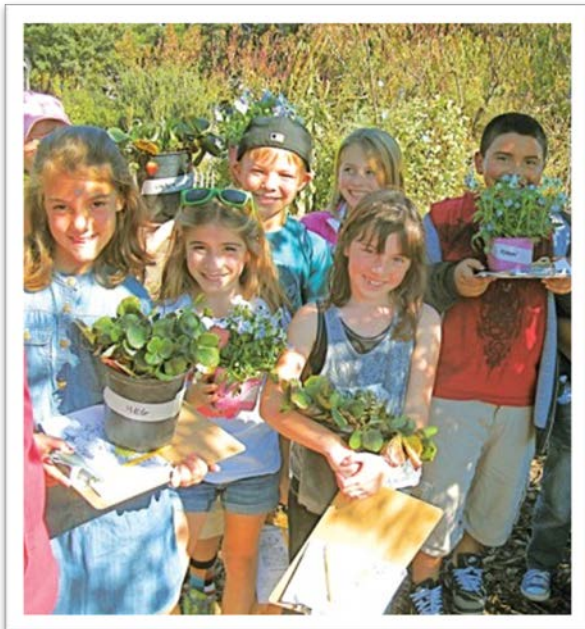
Education and Community Programs

The Garden Park provides an opportunity to connect with the natural world that sustains us. ***At the core of all programs is learning about the reciprocity of relationships to the natural world and among other humans in a community.*** The projects and programs of the Garden Park create an interdisciplinary learning environment.

K-6 Watershed Education Program

SEC's K-6 Watershed Education Program delivers comprehensive environmental education that teaches core science concepts and facilitates outdoor experiences and stewardship. SEC provides stand-alone educational curriculum modules for free to over 1,100 students annually in every 2nd, 4th, and 5th in SVUSD. Our 4th grade module, Growing Discovery, consists of five classroom visits and a field trip to the Garden Park. During lessons, students participate in engaging, hands-on activities and explorations. Curriculum focuses on food chains, pollinators, plant reproduction, and the relationships between plants, animals, and humans in the garden.

The K-6 Watershed Education Program is aligned with California Department of Education State Science Standards and is designed to support teachers' existing lesson plans. SEC also works with Sonoma Valley Unified School District to ensure the program's relevance to California's Next Generation Science Standards. The program undergoes a mixed-methods evaluation every year to ensure it is reaching set goals.



Garden and Nursery Programs

The Garden Park offers garden and nursery opportunities for youth and adults to gain work experience and learn from skilled farmers, gardeners, and nursery professionals. By participating in hands-on garden and nursery work, participants learn how to grow vegetables, flowers, and native, drought-tolerant plants using sustainable methods, while directly engaging in service to the community. Volunteers, students, and those earning community service hours learn specific farming techniques such as crop rotation, natural pest management, fruit tree pruning, and more. SEC staff supervise plant production and serve as mentors, sharing their knowledge and skill with those who assist them. Through volunteer workdays alone, the Garden Park hosts more than 200 youth and adults for over 3,000 hours of community service annually.

EnviroLeader Program

SEC's EnviroLeader Program fosters environmentally literate community leaders by providing paid training to a diverse population of Sonoma Valley youth ages 14-18. These student learners develop the skills they will need to tackle critical environmental challenges—climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and unsustainable agricultural methods—as tomorrow's leaders. The program is designed to ensure young people's readiness for further study or employment in the green sector. An impressive 50% of graduates will pursue additional training or higher education in science, agriculture, arboriculture or other environmental field, and gain valuable connections to jobs in the green industry.



Service Learning Days

SEC provides after-school and summer service learning opportunities at the Garden Park for student clubs, individuals and other groups. Offering hands-on training in sustainable farm practices, SEC staff provides supervision, education, guidance, and tools. Participating groups include local scout troops, students from Justin-Siena High School and Gateway Community School, the Mother's Club, Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance, Creekside Continuation High School, Hanna Boys Center, and individual students completing requirements for high school senior projects and work experience. The Garden Park provides a unique learning environment where members of our community can complete their necessary community service hours, and where their contributions benefit the community at large. In total, approximately 250 people participate in service learning days annually.

Summer Science Camp

SEC's Summer Science Camp provides 120+ children annually with a summer camp experience focused on science enrichment. In 2017, six sessions of camp were scheduled for the summer season, with three sessions at the Garden Park and three sessions at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Camps offered at the Garden Park provide youth with opportunities to learn about sustainable agriculture, water conservation, biology, geology, and meteorology—all in a fun, relaxed and engaging environment. Led by SEC science educators, this unique summer camp series provides children with valuable opportunities to learn new science concepts, strengthen their understanding of core concepts learned during the school year, and connect those concepts to the natural environment of their home. In 2015, SEC expanded the summer camp scholarship program to be able to include more children from low-income households in our camps.

Community Programs

The Garden Park hosts community workshops facilitated by SEC staff, Master Gardeners, and/or local experts. All workshops are learner-centered and experiential in nature. All workshop participants complete a post-workshop evaluation, which SEC utilizes to guide future workshop offerings and planning. Vintage House residents regularly come to Garden Park for senior programs facilitated by Master Gardeners. Spanish language programs that actively engage Latino youth and families are frequently held throughout the growing season.

Workshops cover a range of topics, including but not limited to:

- Summer/Winter Pruning
- Plant Propagation & Seed Sowing
- Introduction to Beekeeping
- Water-Wise Landscaping
- Medicinal Plants
- Chicken Farming
- Introduction to Raw Foods
- Permaculture



Climate Adaptation of Gardens

SEC is addressing climate change by reducing water use, managing storm water runoff and teaching water conservation to the community, through workshops and demonstration projects. We will continue to make improvements to the garden that reduce natural resource consumption in preparation for local impacts due to climate change. Our educators and master gardeners are developing curriculum to teach students and visitors about climate change and adaptation practices in managing gardens and agriculture. We would like to install signage and improve educational infrastructure to be able to use the garden to teach about climate change and climate adaptation strategies. Some of the adaptations that we have implemented so far to provide greater resiliency of the landscape to climate change include:

- The Garden Park has gradually transformed many of the annual gardens into perennial gardens and established nut and fruit trees throughout the garden that are drought tolerant. A diversity of native and Mediterranean plant species have also been established.
- Oak trees are maturing and provide shade and cool temperatures for visitors.
- Roof water is captured and shallow groundwater is recycled and stored in tanks.
- A solar pump fills our groundwater storage tanks and solar panels provide most electricity needed for the garden.
- Recent garden installations are utilizing the stored ground water during their establishment.

Sonoma Garden Park Highlights

1. **Grandmother Oak**, this ancient Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) is among the valley's oldest (estimated to be 300 to 500 years old), and sits on the original homestead of Garden Park donor Pauline Bond.

2. **Veggie Burger**, created by artists from Vintage House in 2001, this bovine sculpture was donated to the Garden Park by Mike and Mary Schuh, and is considered a mascot for the Garden Park.



3. **Straw Bale Barn** is the first straw bale structure built in Sonoma, and stands as a model of environmentally-friendly building. Its rooftop solar panels, donated by SolarCraft, generate power for the Garden Park. Rainwater is collected from the roof and stored as a demonstration. The seasonal Saturday Harvest Market is located there.

4. **Storm Water Management Gardens** surround the parking lot which is graded to illustrate best practices storm water drainage and distribution.

5. **Pollinator Gardens** provide important habitat for butterflies, bees and other beneficial bugs.

6. **Picnic Area** provides a welcome place for picnics, potlucks and parties, and public workshops.

7. The **Crop Circle** is the focal point of the Garden Park's agriculture, where most of its produce is grown. The Crop Circle serves as a demonstration site for sustainable farming, highlighting integrated horticultural techniques including crop rotation, heirloom varieties, seed saving, cover crops, companion planting, efficient irrigation, composting, and other soil amendments.

8. **Community Garden Plots**- plots are leased annually to members of the community. We provide the space and water; plot renters provide the plants and labor.

9. **Children's Orchard** features pear, plum, nectarine, apple, pluot and peach trees, and pays homage to the property's agricultural history as a fruit orchard.

10. **Bird Habitat & Discovery Panel** provides a guide to the various bird species found at the Garden Park.

11. **Oak Woodland habitat** demonstrates native plants that are compatible with native oaks and the importance of understory plants as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

12. The **Chicken Coop** is home to the Garden Park's heirloom chickens, who play an important role in the life cycle of the garden. Chickens eat pests, fertilize the soil, and reduce the need for a tractor. Essential for nutrient-rich soil, the **Compost Pile** is located nearby.

13. The **Native Plant Nursery and Rotary Greenhouse** play a crucial role in providing plants for the garden. Each year, Sonoma Ecology Center grows 500 drought-tolerant plants, 3,500+ veggie starts, and 12,000+ native plants for use in restoration projects throughout the Valley.

14. The **Fig Forest** is a favorite, magical place – perfect for gatherings. Its thick layers of dense foliage keep cool air in and hot air out, creating a shaded haven that can be 10 degrees cooler in summer than the rest of the park!



Section 1: Visitor and Educational Facilities

1. Expand Garden Park and Build Bond Homestead Learning Center (Planned)

Current: In the 2006 Master Plan, the area of the property north of the Straw Bale Barn was identified as important to the future success of Sonoma Garden Park. The area at that time had the old Bond homestead residence and barn that were occupied by a City employee, providing an onsite presence that helped keep the site safe. The residence and barn were removed in 2013, and the area is no longer open to the public. We would like to re-open this area to the public.

The Garden Park does not have a permanent restroom. A portable ADA toilet and graywater sink for washing is temporarily installed along the accessible pathway adjacent to the homestead area. Additional portables are used for larger events. We would like to re-build facilities on the Pauline Bond homestead area including a permanent bathroom.

Planned: SEC requests the addition of the Pauline Bond homestead area into the Sonoma Garden Park lease area to make this area of the park accessible, welcoming, and educational for the public. A Pauline Bond interpretive area will be developed for visitors, describing the teacher's life on the site, and the gift she left to the community. The large heritage "Grandmother oak" would be protected with a fence surrounding its dripline which would prevent people from entering the area under the canopy, protecting the soil from compaction, and the tree from the impacts of visitors to the Garden Park. Interpretation of this heritage oak would be installed, possibly including a raised walkway.

A Bond Homestead Learning Center will be developed including:

- Construction of two buildings: one on approximately the same footprint as the old Bond residence (1,270 square feet) and one on the footprint of the old barn (820 square feet). These buildings would serve as an educational and administrative center with a manager's office, resource library, a restroom, and meeting room for education presentation. The buildings could also provide a space for a park manager or caretaker, similar to the use of the Bond homestead prior to demolition by the City. This area could also include a commercial kitchen to provide space for training community members and cottage industry entrepreneurs in the art and science of preparing and preserving produce.
- Installing two ADA accessible restrooms in a permanent structure is a priority for both SEC and the City of Sonoma. The proposed restrooms would be located in the Bond Homestead Learning Center. A septic system following the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) regulations of Sonoma County would be installed onsite. Alternative waste systems may be considered and would require permitting from Sonoma County. An alternative waste system design was developed by Glenn Dombeck, P.E., and submitted to Permit Sonoma in 2007. This system proposed to reuse water on site through a subsurface drip irrigation system that would disperse water into a constructed wetland. The septic design will be reviewed and updated to current standards to support bathrooms on the property.

All planned structures will be designed to comply with ADA accessibility requirements, and be permitted by City staff through the normal building permit process. All structures will be built to follow current building codes, including sprinkler systems to protect from fire. Any new landscaping in this area will comply with the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance.

2. Straw Bale Barn

Current: Originally built by volunteers as the first of its kind in the City of Sonoma, the Straw Bale Barn with its reclaimed redwood doors and gables is an iconic feature of the park, now used to host the Saturday Harvest Market, for storing volunteer materials, as a meeting space, an office, a rental space for small community gatherings, a location for Master Gardeners to offer free programs, and for storage of items that need to be protected from rain. Recent upgrades include a concrete floor, electrification, phone and Internet service, windows, locking doors, solar panels, and rainwater capture and storage. There is a large refrigerator to store eggs and produce. An ADA pathway connects the barn to the entry for easy access. The barn is cool in the summer and relatively warm in the winter, offering relief to staff and volunteers working on projects.



Planned: Additional interpretive signage will better communicate the barn's demonstration and educational features. Too many demands are being put on this small building and it is overcrowded. Additional facilities are planned to accommodate educational and research opportunities at the Garden Park (see Bond Homestead Learning Center below). The Straw Bale Barn will remain a space for storing produce, hosting Harvest Markets, and Garden Park hands-on community programs.

3. Picnic, Campfire, and Outdoor Education Area



Current: The Picnic and Outdoor Education Area provides space for classes, camps, small events and picnics not far from the parking lot along the ADA discovery path. The area features a shade structure with tables and benches. A nearby campfire ring with seating supports camps and small special events. The fire pit is surrounded by a ring of sand and volcanic rock with a ten-foot radius. Municipal water from a high-pressure spigot is available on a post painted red, adjacent to the fire area, for wetting the area before use. Picnic tables and the campfire ring provide seating for up to 50 people. Portable chairs can be brought in to provide a comfortable event space for up to 80 people.

Planned: The picnic area will be improved to extend shading, add tables, and install a BBQ, but will continue to be designed to be used by up to 100 people. A new prep area and sink will be added to replace the one removed in the past. The shade structure is proposed to be replaced with a larger trellis that supports grape vines. There is interest in installing a pizza oven.

Fire safety precautions will continue to be observed, including wetting down the area around the fire pit before fires are started, and notifying the City Manager and fire department whenever the fire pit will be used. The fire pit will not be used during fire season.

4. Gathering Place (Planned)

Planned: A bowl shaped gathering space with a gazebo at its center would be developed to host groups of 30-60 people to view presentations, lectures, performances or other cultural activities. The gazebo will form a stage surrounded by bench seating on gradually sloped berms. Circular berms will be

approximately 5-6 feet tall and surround the gazebo to limit sound from reaching other parts of the park or nearby properties. Storm water impacts of the raised berms will be evaluated and designs will include treating storm water as a resource to be used in other areas of the Garden Park. The location would be to the east of the proposed learning center on the northern side of the property.

5. Children’s Play Areas (Planned)

Current: There is not a designated “children’s play area.” The Garden Park utilizes the fig forest as a space for play during summer camps, and offers a straw bale fort in the orchard in the fall. Given the number of school groups, summer camps, and families with children that come to the Garden Park we would like to develop a play area for children.

Planned: A common request from parents with younger children visiting Sonoma Garden Park is for an area designed just for children. Two areas would be established in the park for children to allow safe play and exploration, utilizing natural materials that encourage nature-based play and inquiry.

- 1) Garden Play Area would be located between the Gazebo Gathering Place and Fig Forest;
- 2) Orchard Play Area in the center of the orchard area, near the Children’s Garden. This area has been cleared and mulched to open this location to create a play area.

Features of these play areas would include age-appropriate, garden-themed play equipment made from natural materials, and educational activities, all with an aesthetic that fits with the rustic nature of the Garden Park. “Natural playgrounds” are a growing trend with good reason—current research supports that children benefit from play in natural spaces.

6. Fig Forest Meeting Area

Current: The Fig Forest is one of the favorite spaces at the Garden Park for visitors of all ages. The feature is created by mission fig trees, wild plum, and Valley oak trees, creating a densely shaded gathering space. Entry paths from the main pathway form tunnels to the central gathering area. Classes, lectures, camp activities, and other small events use the space. It holds approximately 50 people in varied configurations. An arborist was retained to inspect one of the older trees that was losing vigor; he pruned the tree back and feels it will recover. Garden Park staff and volunteers have pruned the rest of the area to ensure the Fig Forest’s long-term health.



Planned: The Fig Forest will continue to be used for meetings and educational activities and managed for its long-term health. Younger fig trees are being planted and nurtured to maintain the canopy in this area.

7. Group Camping

Current: SEC operates day camps at the Garden Park over several weeks in the summer; including the beloved Harry Potter camps. These camps include one group overnight that is coordinated with and permitted by the City of Sonoma. Camping is set up in the area of the grassy seasonal road between the Children’s Garden and the crop circle.

Planned: SEC plans to continue group camps, potentially 2-3 overnight group camping nights per year. We would also like to allow other groups to come in and camp in an organized respectful way for up to two nights per year. Group camping would be allowed along the areas of the seasonal road near the Children’s Garden or the community garden.

8. Children’s Discovery Trail

Current: There are currently three information stations along an accessible pathway throughout the Garden Park named the Children’s Discovery Trail, as part of a gift from Whitney and Jeanette Evans’ Scarlet Oak Foundation. Each panel was designed by noted Bay Area museum artist Gordon Chun, and features educational content on specific wildlife: one features pollinators and is located in the butterfly garden, the second is a bird panel along the path near the orchard, and the third is a honeybee panel in the oak woodland demonstration garden. Information is presented in both English and Spanish. After years of use, the panels have some broken and weathered features.



Planned: Self-Guided Tour: An updated, improved self-guided tour will increase the Garden Park’s capacity to educate the community. Additional educational elements will be incorporated into new activity stations along the trail, and information will be provided in English and Spanish. The Discovery Trail will be updated with new educational panels at the honeybee station, bird identification station, and butterfly station. In addition, there will be new educational information at a water conservation station, and an oak woodland station. A map of the Garden Park will be available near the entrance of the Garden Park as part of an informational kiosk. The informational kiosk will be improved and will orient newcomers to Garden Park policies, features, and programs.

Grape Arbor: A new grape arbor is planned to replace the one that was removed to accommodate the accessible Discovery Trail. The arbor will create an inviting entrance, offering welcome shade to visitors on hot summer days, as well as a structure on which to grow edible grapes. The new arbor will be constructed of redwood, and has been designed by architect Sean Taber to match the newly constructed pedestrian entrance gate to the Garden Park on 7th Street East.

Section 2: Garden and Farm Features

1. Mediterranean Demonstration Garden

Current: The Garden Park exhibits drought-tolerant plants that flower throughout the year. Water is gold in California, and one of the most important goals of the Garden Park is to offer examples of how to live more sustainably, which includes reverence for water and how it is used. A diverse selection of plants that flower over a long period are selected to attract beneficial insects and birds, including flowers of multiple colors and shapes. The area also demonstrates good land stewardship through low water use, minimal nutrient and pest control requirements, and added wildlife habitat.

Planned: Maintain the Mediterranean Demonstration Garden, adapting plantings over time to garden conditions and community interest.

2. Waterwise Demonstration Garden

Current: As a Public Facility, the Garden Park presents a great opportunity for the City to demonstrate water conservation to its residents. The swale to the left of the path at the main entrance is lined with plants that thrive with winter water inundation, and tolerate dry summers. The swale demonstrates what can be done in a garden to capture rainwater, rather than run it off to storm drains. Communities and households need to recharge groundwater, and this is a simple way to do it. There are also water storage rain collectors next to the straw bale barn. This demonstrates another way to capture rain from roofs.

Planned: Install signs interpreting the waterwise planting and water harvesting techniques for Garden Park visitors.



3. Butterfly Demonstration Garden

Current: The Butterfly Demonstration Garden is one of three teaching stations along the Children's Discovery Trail, (See Children's Discovery Trail in the prior section.) It was installed in 2008 as the beginning of the trail. Plants in this area attract butterflies and caterpillars, and their life stages are interpreted on the exhibit's signage, along with information about how to create pollinator-friendly habitat at home.

Planned: Maintain the Butterfly Demonstration Garden in its current state, while upgrading the signage.



4. Crop Circle

Current: The Crop Circle is a 150-foot ring of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, located in the center of the Garden Park. Its layout represents rays of the sun, and it is a teaching and growing space for students of all ages. Crops such as broccoli, raspberries, kale, and asparagus are grown here and sold at the Saturday Harvest Market, which provides income for the Garden Park, and excess produce is donated to local charities. An herb garden within the circle was planted by Master Gardeners and teen EnviroLeaders.

Planned: Continue to raise produce for instruction, Saturday markets, and food programs.



5. Community Garden

Current: Approximately forty garden beds are available for rent in the Community Garden area for a nominal fee, where community members can raise vegetables, flowers and fruit. The annual fee covers water, electricity, irrigation tubing, compost, and tools. Master gardeners have created a space in the area to teach children how to plant and to care for plants. Children follow the garden’s progress from seed sowing to harvest. Please note the wheelchair accessible garden box. Becoming Independent program for disabled adults has

adopted a community garden plot, and there is a community garden plot designated for the Latino families that participate in our *Senderos Naturales* program.

Planned: The planned expansion of garden plots has taken place over the last year. We have addressed the wait list for plots by dividing plots into smaller areas, and encouraging sharing of garden plots so that all the Community Garden area is well utilized and maintained.

6. Children’s Orchard

Current: Starting in the late-1800’s, land around the Garden Park was cultivated for orchards, where apples, figs, plums, pears, and pluots were raised for East Coast markets. The Garden Park’s Children’s Orchard reflects that history. Orchard trees have been replanted since SEC managed the property. In addition to providing fruit, this is a teaching orchard where winter and spring pruning is taught by experts.

Planned: Maintain Children’s Orchard to continue to produce fruit and teach pruning and organic orchard management.



7. Oak-Woodland Native Habitat

Current: When the Garden Park was established, after years of routine land clearing and disking, several large native Valley oaks were allowed to grow. These oaks have matured, and the area around them has recently undergone additional restoration. Weeds are controlled with sheet mulching and other native plants are being reestablished to create a diverse understory. This restored oak woodland will demonstrate what a natural oak woodland looks like and hopes inspire others to restore oak woodland habitat. The area is located near the native plant nursery and surrounded by habitat areas that will attract animals and insects.

Planned: The nursery is currently propagating additional native species to plant in the oak woodland. These will be planted and maintained until they are well established. An interpretive panel will explain the importance of oak woodland habitat and associated species.

8. Bird Discovery

Current: This is the second teaching station on the Children’s Discover Trail, where visitors can see and hear native birds from typical of the area. A bird blind allows people to watch birds foraging and nesting in nearby trees. An associated habitat garden is designed to teach people about the environments that birds require in order to survive.

Planned: Maintain the bird discovery area as an educational resource, while upgrading the signage.

9. Bee Station and Hives

Current: Community Volunteers help manage bee hives at the Garden Park. As part of a network of beekeepers, they also share their knowledge of bees and beekeeping in public workshops, and harvest honey from the hives for the Saturday Market. The Bee Station is also the third exhibit on the Children's Discovery Trail, and allows visitors to learn about honeybees and their behavior, and their shelter and food needs.

Planned: Signage at the Bee Station has deteriorated and is undergoing design for replacement.



10. Compost and Chickens

Current: The foundation of all successful gardening is healthy soil. Composting, vermiculture (worm composting), and biochar, are valuable tools to help build healthy soil. The Garden Park offers workshops and demonstrations of these soil improvement techniques, and maintains a compost pile at the back of the property for use in garden beds. Chickens also help a gardener manage weeds and insects, and add nutrients to the soil. The Garden Park maintains a flock of chickens and a chicken coop, a rustic structure made out of reclaimed materials. Workshops are offered on care of chickens, and

eggs are sold at the Saturday Harvest Market. The flock includes several varieties of chickens, managed by local volunteers.

Planned: A compost demonstration area will be created along the accessible pathway. The chicken coop will be improved to make it easier to maintain, including adding a floor and better caging for protection from predators. A mobile chicken coop may also be used around the garden to allow chickens to have more room, and to allow them to remove weeds and fertilize different sections of the garden.

11. Fig Forest (described in the Visitor and Educational Features section above)

Current: This magical place provides shade as hundreds of fig branches and leaves create a vast room for children to play in in the summer and fall, as well as for concerts, talks, and workshops. Children's stories are told here, and the popular summer camp's main classroom is in the fig forest.

Planned: The fig forest will be maintained as a gathering and educational space.

12. Habitat Hedgerow (Planned)

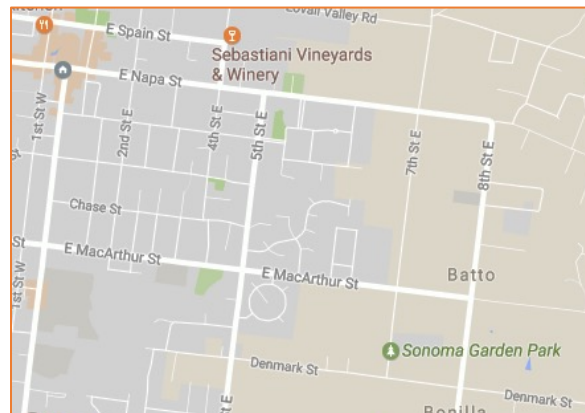
Habitat hedgerows are planned for sections of the fence line on the north, east and south property lines of the park. The hedgerows will provide an attractive screen from neighboring properties and serve as important habitat for beneficial animals, insects, and pollinators for both agricultural and educational purposes. Hedgerows will be designed with native and drought tolerant plant species that will not need irrigation once established, in accordance with the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance.

Section 3: Access and Circulation

Circulation elements at the Garden Park include transportation to and from the Garden Park, parking, trails, interpretive signs and information, ADA access, and spaces for gathering. The circulation has been designed to minimize vehicle use, to create a clear point of entry, to unite all Garden Park features, and to provide space for movement of materials on site.

1. Getting to the Garden Park

Current: Visitors to Garden Park primarily arrive by private vehicle. Students visiting the park mostly arrive by school bus. 7th Street East has been proposed as a class 3 bikeway, and increasing numbers of local and visiting cyclists come by the park on 7th St. Sonoma County Transit routes have moved away from local streets so transit is limited. A significant current limiting factor in directing visitors to the garden is signage on local streets, and signage for the entrance. Grants for sign improvements have been secured, and design and coordination is in progress.



Planned: New entry and directional signage is currently in development, with designs reviewed by SEC and City of Sonoma staff. Entry signs will be installed on 7th Street East at the vehicle and pedestrian entrances. Exterior directional and bike path signs will be installed on arterial street corners in cooperation with Sonoma County and City of Sonoma. Interior directional and area signs will be placed throughout the Garden Park to guide visitors. New interpretive signs for the oak woodland and native bee gardens will be installed and older panels updated or replaced. Funding has been secured from Sonoma County Advertising, SCAPOSD and Berkeley Bee Lab for the sign improvements.



2. Entrance and Trails

Current: The entrance area welcomes vehicle, pedestrian, and bike visitors arriving along 7th Street East to the Garden Park. Vehicles enter the park through the main entry gate and park in a gravel lot. Pedestrians arrive via an ADA accessible gate into this area. An entry kiosk with a map and information about the park is in the parking lot at the beginning of the “Discovery Trail.” This ADA path provides access to all major features of the Garden Park, (See “ADA accessibility” below). A staff access road provides vehicular access north of the Straw Bale Barn, and continues to the Native Plant Nursery Area, community garden plots and chicken coop. The

unimproved access road serves as an informal path for pedestrian and bicyclists.



Planned: The main entrance will be improved with signage and landscaping that will make the area welcoming and attractive, and easier to find. A possible exit at the north end of the parking area will be explored.

Should the homestead area be joined to the park, a two-way driveway entrance will be re-opened connecting it to 7th Street East and expanding the parking area. An ADA path will connect

visitors from the expanded parking area to the rest of the parks path system. The dramatic, heritage “Grandmother” oak will continue to be protected by replacing that area’s utility fencing with a split rail or similar rustic fence that will protect the tree and the area around its dripline from compaction. Possibly an elevated wooden walk way will be installed to allow access to the base of this majestic oak.

3. Parking & Events

Current: The current public parking lot was designed and built as part of a Low Impact Development (LID) demonstration project. It includes 15 parking spaces, one of which is ADA accessible at the entrance to the “Discovery Trail” path. The permeable parking lot features a LID storm water management and rainwater catchment demonstration project, which filters runoff with native and drought tolerant landscaping. The frontage along 7th Street is approximately 300 feet with pullouts, where overflow parking supports an additional 11-12 vehicles. During larger events, businesses on 8th Street East have allowed parking with van shuttles.

Planned: Parking and parking demand at Sonoma Garden Park is dependent on the format of the various events. For the purposes of parking planning, events are categorized as Small, Medium, or Large. A full list of current and anticipated events is listed in Appendix A: Sonoma Garden Park Events and Programs.

Small Events: Parking for small events such as a volunteer appreciation picnic are wholly contained on site with the existing off and on-street parking. Whole classes of children attending field trips are bussed to and from the site with minimal additional vehicles for parent chaperones.

Medium Events: For the most part, parking demand for medium events is met with existing onsite parking. These events might include the Saturday Harvest Market concurrent with people working on garden plots or picnicking in the park. Often, parking demand is spread over large periods of time and all attendees are not present at the same time. However, the proposed parking lot expansion for 8 additional onsite parking spaces will ensure that parking demand is met with existing and proposed on site and street parking.

Large Events: Parking demand for the 3 annual large events will be met with all available parking. In addition to the onsite and street parking, Sonoma Garden Park will utilize an offsite location and provide bus service to and from events. Large events include the Harvest Festival. Sonoma Ecology Center owns a passenger van, that can be operated by a staff or volunteer driver as a shuttle to bring visitors to and from a parking lot where visitors can park on 8th St. East. Some people may also be able to walk from the parking location on 8th St. East. Typically 16 trips are

made to and from or the shuttle runs every 15 minutes, depending on the length of the event. In the event issues arise, contact Sonoma Garden Park at (707) 996-4883 or call Sonoma Ecology Center at (707) 996-0712.

	Small Events (25-50)	Medium Event (50-100)	Large Event (100 to 300)
Existing Onsite	15	15	15
On street	10	10	10
New Onsite	10	10	10
Offsite	0	0	40
Busses	0	0	0
Bike Parking	8	8	8
Total	43	43	83
Required	13	25	75

4. Bicycles

Current: Visitors are encouraged to arrive at the Garden Park on a bicycle. As a Class 3 bike route, 7th St. East is a popular route for bicyclists and bicycle tours. The Garden Park promotes arrival on bicycle for all events and bicycle valet parking is offered at large events.

Planned: We will actively encourage use of bicycles with the installation of “Sonoma Garden Park” and “Bike Route” signs at the corners of Denmark and 5th St East, 7th St. East and East MacArthur, and 7th St. East and East Napa St. Additional bike racks will be installed at the new entrance by the Bond Homestead Learning Center. The Garden Park will continue to promote arrival on bicycle for events and bicycle valet parking will be offered. SEC will network with local bicycle tour guides and shops to promote use of this route and tour stops at the Garden Park.

5. ADA and Accessibility

Current: It is a priority that the Garden Park is accessible to everyone. The “Discovery Trail,” an 800-foot accessible paved pathway system was constructed that circulates throughout the Garden Park and connects to features so that individuals with impaired mobility can participate in activities. All directional, area and interpretive signs are viewable from the accessible pathway. An ADA parking space is positioned at the entrance to the Garden Park’s pathway system, and drinking fountains, the portable restroom, and other accessible features are situated along these paths.

Planned: Accessible features will continue be a priority for new structures and projects as the Garden Park continues to develop. The accessible paved pathway will be extended from the bathroom location to the new parking area adjacent to the Bond Homestead Learning Center. We also hope to make the Garden Park accessible to people with impaired sight and hearing, as well as to encourage appreciation and refinement of these abilities in people who have them. We continue to strive to make the Garden Park culturally accessible, with bilingual signage and interpretation where feasible.

6. Emergency Vehicle Access

Current: The vehicle entrance and parking lot driveway were designed and constructed to accommodate fire truck access for weight, width and turning radius. However, maintenance roads in the garden are dirt roads that are not passable in winter. The access roads serve for seasonal vehicle use by staff for

maintenance and access to the nursery and garden areas, but should be improved to accommodate fire vehicles in the case of an emergency.

Planned: The seasonal road to the north of the Straw Bale Barn connects to internal structures, including the greenhouse and shade structure, which require access for fire protection. We are planning to improve this road with 12 inches of class 2 aggregate compacted to 95% to support a 48,000 lb engine and allow year-round emergency vehicle access down this central access road. The improved road will be at least 12 feet wide and vegetation cleared around it to allow 13.5 feet clearance. A hammerhead turn designed to accommodate trucks with a 35 ft turning radius will be installed at the end of the road near the far eastern side of the property adjacent to the chicken coop. A map of the access routes will be provided to the Fire Department that can be printed and inserted into their emergency response book. This emergency vehicle access plan was reviewed and approved by Fire Marshal Alan Jones in 2018.

7. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (Planned)

An electric vehicle charging station (Level 2) is planned to be installed in the parking area by the Straw Bale Barn to support and encourage use of electric vehicles visiting the Garden Park.

Section 4: Nursery and Property Management

1. Native Plant Nursery, Greenhouses, and Shade Structures

Current: A native plant nursery and teaching area is located in the area between the Oak Woodland and the Fig Forest. The Nursery is operated and maintained by SEC's Restoration Program. The Nursery is an important plant production and educational site at the Garden Park. The Native Plant Nursery includes a greenhouse (30 x 16') and two shade structures (24 x 40' and 40 x 80') equipped with worktables. The greenhouse is equipped with propane heat, and electrical fans and vents controlled by a programmable system. The nursery has a concrete soil drop and fabric awning used to cover the potting area. Native plants are grown to be planted in the Garden Park and restore native species habitat throughout Sonoma Valley.



Planned: Nursery shade structures will require periodic shade fabric and floor fabric replacement. The soil drop will have a retractable roof system installed. Additional storage is needed to organize and protect potting containers, racks, and other supplies. A 16' x 40' structure is needed for a permanent enclosed potting shed and seed storage space for processing seed and performing management activities. A disinfectant system is also needed to clean pots and prevent plant diseases. The proposed disinfectant system consists of a deep sink, and an approved storage system for new and used disinfectant.

2. Storage Sheds

Current: The Garden Park currently has four sheds for storage: one is 6' x 10' and three are 8' x 10'. Sheds are for community gardeners, staff tools, gardening materials and building materials storage. Two of these sheds are beyond repair and need to be replaced.

Planned: Three additional sheds are needed to properly store nursery materials and lawnmowers. Two sheds for nursery materials (8' x 16' each) would go next to the water tanks (due east) and the extra shed for the lawnmowers (10' x 12') would go next to the chicken coop or existing tool shed. We are also considering using a used shipping container to allow for larger secure storage of tools and equipment on site.

3. Water System

Current: The primary source of water for the Garden Park is metered municipal water. In order to reduce our use of municipal water, SEC has continued improvements to a non-potable water system that utilizes the existing shallow well on site. SEC replaced the solar panel and pump and installed two 5,000 gallon tanks to store water for dry season use. We also installed a booster pump to pressurize the water for irrigation of the orchard, flower garden and native plant demonstration garden areas. The water system improvements were funded in part by a donation from Sonoma Rotary. Backflow prevention of well water into the city water system has been implemented through the installation of double flow check valves where the City water pipes enter the Garden Park.

Planned: SEC plans to continue improving the efficiency of our municipal water use by installing more reliable valve systems, drip irrigation and timers. We also plan to install two more 5,000 gallon tanks to store well water for dry season irrigation. We plan to expand the non-potable water (purple pipes) to

extend drip-irrigation of well water to more areas of the Garden Park. All changes to the water system will be in coordination and with permission of the City of Sonoma Building Department.

4. Electricity:

Current: Solar panels on the Straw Bale Barn generate electricity for the Garden Park. The electricity used for refrigerators, phones, and computers in the barn, for the fan and vents in the greenhouse, and the booster pump for the groundwater storage/irrigation system is mainly solar generated. Consequently PG&E costs for operating the Garden Park are negligible.

Planned: We plan to maintain solar panels as the primary source of electricity for the Garden Park.



5. Safety, First Aid, & Insurance

Sonoma Garden Park welcomes community members and visitors alike, who wish to work and play in a natural garden environment. Individuals who participate in classes, workshops, and workdays, are asked to sign appropriate waiver and release forms before participating in any activities. Other larger events require a signed rental agreement and a Certificate of Liability specific to the event.

Garden Park staff and docents are trained to host visitors. Staff and volunteer capacity will limit public access. SEC staff and docents reserve the right to cancel an event and ask guests to evacuate due to safety concerns. A SEC staff member supervises events that extend into the evening. There are two first aid kits in the Garden Park. The first one is located near the parking lot in the Straw-Bale Barn, and the second one is located in the Nursery toward the back of the Garden Park. SEC maintains a \$1 million general liability policy, which names the City of Sonoma as “additional insureds.”

6. Fire Hazard Reduction and Emergency Access

Current: Fire hazard reduction includes landscape design that demonstrates defensible public space (firebreaks, roads, particular plants). Annual maintenance for fire hazard reduction includes mowing, weeding, and removal of debris to reduce available fuel. Campfires are only allowed in the approved fire pit and only when attended by staff and volunteers informed of safety protocols. The area is soaked with water before fires are lit to suppress any sparks, and the City Manager and Fire Department are notified before any fires. There are no combustible structures within 20 ft of the campfire area. A pressurized water hose is installed and maintained at the campfire area. There is a fire hydrant along 7th St East across the from the northern corner of the property.

Planned: Improvements to accommodate emergency vehicle access to all structure on the property are being planned (see Fire Response Access Road in the previous section). The Fire Department will conduct an annual inspection of the property.

7. Solid Waste Management & Compost

Current: We strive to reduce waste going to landfills by encouraging composting and recycling. We have garbage and recycling bins at the picnic area and the straw bale barn. We provide recycling bins next to all garbage bins to encourage recycling. We have our own compost pile managed by volunteers, that is incorporated into our education programs. Another compost pile we maintain for garden green waste is a cold pile. There is no equipment to chip the waste, to turn the pile or manage the pile, therefore it never reaches a temperature which cooks the pile.

Planned: We will continue to manage waste by providing garbage, recycling, and compost bins at major gathering areas in the park. For larger events, a waste management and reduction plan will be developed along with event planning. We would like to be able to manage our compost pile as a hot pile. This would require equipment and staff dedicated to managing the pile. We are hoping to work towards this with additional management resources dedicated to the park.

Appendix A: Sonoma Garden Park Events and Programs

Community Events

Saturday Harvest Market (weekly from mid-spring through late fall; open 9am-12noon) - Ecologically grown and freshly harvested vegetables and fruit grown at the Sonoma Garden Park are sold at the weekly Harvest Market, mostly to members of the local community. The price of produce is lower than other local markets in order to be accessible to lower-income residents. The Harvest Market is also a venue for local, small-scale artisanal producers (of olive oil, jam, honey, etc) and artists to sell their products. Sonoma County Master Gardeners have a table to provide gardening advice to market-goers. Proceeds from the Harvest Market support maintenance and programming at the Garden Park. The number of market visitors varies by season, but usually ranges from 30-60 people over the course of the 3 hour event.

Organic Gardening Workshops (6-12 x/year; generally scheduled for 10am-12noon to coincide with harvest market hours) - Workshops organized by the Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC), and occasionally by Sonoma County Master Gardeners, to teach ecologically sound techniques for home-scale fruit and vegetable production, on such topics as fruit tree pruning, composting, water-wise gardening, native wildlife habitat gardens, and plant propagation. Other workshop topics have included making natural dye from garden plants, falconry and use of medicinal plants. Attendance at workshops generally varies between 10-25 participants.

Community Potlucks (15-20/year; 6:30-8:00pm) - Small, informal gatherings, open to all, from late spring to early fall. An opportunity to meet neighbors and celebrate the harvest from the garden. Typical attendance varies between 7 – 20 participants.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic (1x/year) - A thank you picnic for the hardworking volunteers who help at the Garden Park and at other projects of the Sonoma Ecology Center. Occurs once a year in the spring, following the harvest market. 25 – 40 people.

Apple Pressing (1-2x/year) - Family-friendly event during the fall, where excess apples from the orchard are collected, prepared and pressed into juice, which is given away to attendees. People can also bring apples from their own trees to press. 20 – 30 people.

Sonoma Bee Count (1x/year) - Organized by local bee-keepers and entomologists from UC Berkeley. A yearly citizen science event where participants learn about native bee ecology and count native bees to track population dynamics. 15 – 20 participants.

Educational Programs

School Fieldtrips (15-20/year): Elementary school trips bussed on weekdays for 4 hours of garden exploration and activities. 25-30 students per group. 3-5 Additional cars from chaperone and volunteer support.

Enviroleader Workdays (20-40/year): 5-8 youth employees on semester-long seasonal employment, assisting garden managers in management needs including weeding, prepping beds, planting crops, mulching trails and harvesting produce. 2-3 cars per workday

Summer Science Camp (3-5/year): 30 students per camp, weekly camps held June-August based at picnic shade tables and includes activities across the garden. Camps run Mon-Fri, 9:00-3:00 pm. Garden Park remains open to the public during camp. Brief, heavy use of parking lot for pick up and drop off of youth.

Community Activities

Volunteer Days (3-4/week) - The Garden Park welcomes volunteers to help with gardening work and the harvest market a few mornings every week. The native plant nursery, run by SEC's Restoration Department, holds its own volunteer day once a week. The flock of chickens and the cut flower gardens are managed by additional volunteer teams. (3-8 people/activity).

Group Tours/Picnics (5-8 per year)- tours for groups of 20+ people such as local garden clubs or the Vintage House. Smaller, informal group picnics are very common (5+/week) during the warmer seasons.

Corporate/organizational volunteer days (3-5/year) - groups from local organizations or businesses give their time to help with gardening work. Groups of 10-20

Bird Watching (8-12year) - The Sonoma Garden Park is a registered Audubon Bird Habitat, and local bird-watching groups and classes visit regularly. Groups of 5-15.

Girl Scouts Summer Solstice Gathering (1x/year) - Local Girl Scout troop has an annual event in the Garden Park on a Saturday afternoon/evening near the Summer Solstice in June. 30+ participants.

Organization garden plots (2-3/week) - Local organizations like the Vintage House, Shambala Meditation Center and Becoming Independent have garden plots, and come out to the Garden Park regularly to tend and harvest, usually in groups of 5-8 people.

Senderos plots – SEC provides garden space, tools and water for local Hispanic families to grow vegetables through its Senderos program. Families come out to the Garden Park 1-2 times a week to work on their plots, have picnics, and occasionally organize a larger dinner for these families. (20-30 people)

Large Events: Up to 3 times per year, we may have large scale events of up to 300 people, such as:

Harvest Festival- Harvest Festival is celebrated in October. At the event, children enjoy activities such as picking and carving pumpkins, face painting, exploring the straw-bale fort, and bobbing for apples. Families and children are entertained by games, puppeteers, musicians, and storytellers. Tours and classes also take place. Food is provided, and sometimes a special meal, featuring ingredients harvested from the Garden. The Harvest Festival is a participatory event that relies on the generosity and creativity of volunteers, and it is a time to celebrate with all the gifts of the Garden. Approximately 200 people attended at past events, a number that may increase over time. Additional parking and sanitary facilities are arranged for the event, and will be expanded should the need arise.

Spring Event- In spring, a Plant Sale will be combined with the first Harvest Market of the year. This event opens the season.

Heirloom Celebration or Other Fundraising Event- An Heirloom Festival or similar fundraiser for the Garden may be held once yearly. The event would tie into Sonoma Garden Park mission and programs.

Appendix B: Sonoma Garden Park Master Plan Update Site Plan



Sonoma Garden Park Master Plan Update

Site Plan

19996 7th Street East
Sonoma, CA 95476

Updated:
September 4, 2019

- Legend**
- Proposed Structures
 - 100 ft buffer
 - Existing Structures
- Access Routes**
- Fire Access Road
 - ADA accessible path
 - Seasonal Access Route

Site Information
Lot = 691 x 376 ft
Area = 261,370 sq ft
Current FAR = 0.015
Proposed FAR = 0.027

Seasonal access route is typically open May-October.

Existing Parking:
15 parking spaces (9 ft x 20 ft)
(includes 1 ADA space)
11 street parking spaces (not to code)

New Parking Estimates:
8 parking spaces (9 ft x 20 ft)
10 street parking spaces (8 ft x 24 ft)

