

# 2016 Parks Build Community Project Information

## 1. Detailed Project Information

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### 1. Agency name

City of Orlando

### 2. Your name

Denise Riccio

### 3. Your email address

denise.riccio@cityoforlando.net

### 4. Project title

Engelwood Neighborhood Center Garden Expansion

### 5. Park name

Engelwood Neighborhood Center

### 6. Address of park project (street address, city, state, zip code)

Engelwood Neighborhood Center, 6123 La Costa Drive, Orlando, FL 32807

### 7. Brief project overview (100 words or fewer)

This funding will improve the current garden by adding two green houses, two storage sheds, irrigation, raised garden beds for senior and wheelchair access, and potting stations. Removing undesirable trees will provide room for planting beds of various sizes, providing everyone a chance to connect with nature. A fence enclosure will add security for both plants and participants. Adding picnic benches and a shade structure will provide opportunities for learning and enhance the serenity of the space. Wheelbarrows and garden tools for both youth and adults will complete the project, providing healthy living opportunities for generations to come.

## 8. Detailed project description (350 words or fewer)

Engelwood Neighborhood Center is located in a low-to-moderate-income neighborhood and the 92% of the 160 children attending programs at the center each day are from low income families. Improving the small existing garden will allow more children and their families, as well as seniors attending daily programs at the center, to participate in learning how to garden and harvesting fresh vegetables.

The Engelwood garden can be divided into three (3) distinct areas, as shown by the photos attached:

Area 1-around the exterior perimeter of the Air Conditioning unit

Area 2-two (2) areas in front of the blue walls of the facility

Area 3-area in front of the fence at the pool to the sidewalk

Upgrades for Area 1 include installation of an all-weather pergola-style square gazebo with two potting stations and waist-high work benches. Some of the existing plants can be trimmed or removed, making room for a new citrus tree and the 10 ft. fence at the edge of the sidewalk that will surround the entire space.

Area 2 will host two (2) 6 x 8 ft palram hybrid greenhouses and a 5 x 4 ft. storage shed once the area has been cleared. A 10 ft. adjustable wall umbrella will be mounted to provide shade for participants and plants that need less sun. Merry Garden interchangeable picnic benches will be installed for structured classes or an opportunity just to relax and enjoy the view. An ADA recycled plastic picnic table with an extended surface will also be placed there for those in wheelchairs preparing plants or taking a gardening class.

Area 3 has three (3) small plant boxes, and a large 4 x 8 plant bed. The mango and carambola trees can be relocated for the six (6) additional boxes to be installed. Four of those new beds will be raised for wheelchair access. These new beds will have a 4 ft. mulched accessible path between them for easy access and maneuverability.

## 9. Focus area(s)

Connecting kids and nature

Healthy living

## 10. Describe specifically how this project will address the focus area(s) above, as defined in the Project Planning Guidelines. (150 words or fewer)

Conveying the importance of health and protecting our environment is essential to ensure that there are happy, healthy, and prosperous communities everywhere.

Healthy eating and nutrition have always been a priority for Ruby Jibaja, an Engelwood Center employee since 1991. Ms. Ruby's afterschool nutrition program teaches children proper food preparation; good table manners; and the importance of eating healthy. When the onsite garden was established, she incorporated good gardening practices into the program. The children now maintain the garden daily and harvest a variety of fruits, spices, and vegetables year round to prepare healthy and nutritious meals. They also grow wildflowers to attract butterflies.

Expanding the garden will provide opportunities to get our entire community involved. Whether it's by volunteering to help plant seeds, taking a cooking or nutrition class, or assisting in maintaining the garden itself, we will establish a community-wide healthy lifestyle today and for the future.

## 11. Does this project focus on an underserved community? Specifically does this program reach a low-income community or community of color?

Yes

## 12. If you answered "yes" to #11, briefly explain how. (350 words or fewer)

The American Community Survey (2010-2014) for the Orange County census tract adjacent to the community center shows that 13.4% of the households have a total income of less than \$10,000.00. 66.5 % are White; 66.7% are Hispanic; 10.3 % are Black; 2.3 % are Asian; and 20.9 % are of other races. The median household income in that area is \$ 30,147.00. Over 90% of the children registered in the afterschool program at the center receive free lunch at school, an accepted standard for identifying children from low income families.

**13. Does this project provide access to/reach people with disabilities?**

Yes

**14. If you answered "yes" to #13, briefly explain how. (350 words or fewer)**

There is a sidewalk that circles the perimeter of the community center providing access to the garden for people with disabilities. A facility exit between the gymnasium and the kitchen has a low threshold, making wheelchair/assisted access to the garden more convenient. Benches and chairs are provided as needed during garden maintenance, harvesting, or group instruction.

At this time, the children and recreation staff maintain the garden, as it is primarily used for the afterschool program. Future programs and activities are being planned to maximize the use of the four (4) raised beds that are part of the garden upgrade.

**15. Project audience**

Children (0-12 years)

Teens (13-18 years)

Adults (18-65 years)

Seniors (65+)

**16. Please describe specifically who will benefit from this project and how (100 words or fewer)**

With the expansion and renovation of the garden, we will be able to provide more programming for children, families and seniors living in our community. Seniors First participants can help grow produce to sustain our afterschool and summer nutrition programs. Nutrition classes will help adults learn how to choose nutritious foods. Homeschoolers who currently use the gymnasium for their physical education classes can learn ways to eat healthy after class. Neighbors can meet at the center to take a cooking class and learn new skills. Gardening programs on weekends will offer new ways for families to spend quality time together.

**17. Number of people to be served by this project**

2,200

**18. Project metrics**

1. Create "task cards" for volunteers to track how many hours they donate for different activities throughout the year.
2. Create "taste cards" to track students tasting different garden grown produce and documenting whether they like it or not.
3. Create a "produce log" to weigh and track all produce grown in the garden.
4. Increase the number of raised beds from 0 to 4 to accommodate people in wheelchairs and seniors

**19. Community events**

Planning a community event for the project launch would be a great way to promote the grand reopening and showcase the renovations. The community can be invited out to view the garden and participate in a community cooking presentation using produce grown in the garden.

**20. Employee volunteerism**

Volunteers will be able to help in several different ways. They can help with site preparation to get ready for the construction, help plant new plants near the completion of the project, help build the planting beds and/or participate in a spiff-up day right before the project launch, based on what they would like to do.

Volunteers can also participate in the project launch day in August 2016 to assist with the grand opening, including but not limited to:

1. Assisting with cooking demonstrations
2. Garden tours and plant identification
3. Harvesting vegetables and fruits grown in the garden
4. Distribution of information about activities and programs

## 21. Itemized project budget

	Cost
Greenhouses/sheds	3200
Gardens beds- soil, mulch, plants, fertilizer, etc	4400
Garden tools and supplies	2800
Irrigation	500
Picnic benches/chairs	2200
Shade structures	2100
Fencing	3000
Potting stations	800
Plant removal/relocation	1000
Total project costs	20000

## 22. Project timeline

May 2016 : Project planning

June 2016 : Order supplies and materials, site preparation

July 2016 : Construction

August 2016 : Finish construction and hold grand opening event

**23. You may upload photos (no more than 4) of the project here, or email them directly to [mwynn@nrpa.org](mailto:mwynn@nrpa.org)**