

COMMUNITY SPACES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM WEBINAR

Sonoma Garden Park
City of Sonoma/Sonoma Ecology Center



**AG +
OPEN
SPACE**
SONOMA COUNTY

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SPACE**
SONOMA COUNTY

LAND FOR LIFE

AGENDA

- Ag + Open Space Overview
- Community Spaces Matching Grant Program Overview
- Eligibility & Project Requirements
- Application Process
- Evaluation Criteria & Process
- Program Requirements

Cloverdale River Park
City of Cloverdale/Sonoma County Regional Parks

Ag + Open Space Mission



The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District permanently protects the diverse agricultural, natural resource, and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations.



**OVER 125,000 ACRES
OF LAND PROTECTED**

**12% OF THE LAND
IN SONOMA COUNTY**



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OPEN
SPACE**
SONOMA COUNTY

From the Ag + Open Space Expenditure Plan:

*“5. Other open space projects include but are not limited to, **urban open space** and **recreation projects within and near incorporated cities** and other **urbanized areas of Sonoma County**. Funds for these projects shall be available to cities, the County and other entities through a **matching grant program**, with **preference** given to **acquisition** and **development** projects that **link communities**. Examples of these projects include creek restoration and enhancement, such as along the Petaluma River, Santa Rosa Creek and Laguna de Santa Rosa, trails, athletic fields, and urban greenspace.”*



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SONOMA COUNTY

A scenic view of a residential development. In the foreground, a brick-paved path curves through a lush green lawn. To the left, a row of colorful, two-story houses with red, green, and orange siding is visible. The background is filled with tall trees and a clear blue sky. The text "\$50+ Million from 1990 - present" is overlaid in the center of the image.

\$50+ Million
from 1990 - present

Graton Green
Graton Green Group



64

Projects accepted into the program





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480+
acres of natural habitats protected

Colgan Creek
City of Santa Rosa



AG +
OPEN
SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

21

New parks opened to the public



Andy's Unity Park
Sonoma County Regional Parks



14

Expansions or improvements to
existing parks

Sebastopol Skategarden Expansion
City of Sebastopol

Matching Grant Program Project Location Map

Completed MGP Projects

- 1 - Alman Marsh
- 2 - Andy's Unity Park
- 3 - Andy's Unity Park Development
- 4 - Bayer Farm Development
- 5 - Bayer Neighborhood Park & Gardens
- 6 - Cloverdale River Park - Andersen
- 7 - Cloverdale River Park - Treadwell
- 8 - Colgan Creek
- 9 - Colgan Creek Phase 2
- 10 - Colgan Creek Restoration
- 11 - Falletti Ranch
- 12 - Forever Forestville
- 13 - Giorgi Park Phase 1
- 14 - Giorgi Park Phase 2
- 15 - Graton Green
- 16 - Irwin Creek Riparian Restoration
- 17 - Keiser Park Expansion
- 18 - McNear Peninsula Phase 1
- 19 - Meadowlark Field
- 20 - Nathanson Creek
- 21 - Nathanson Creek Restoration Phase 2
- 22 - Old Monte Rio School (Creekside Park)
- 23 - Patterson Point Preserve
- 24 - Paula Lane Open Space Preserve
- 25 - Petaluma Community Sports Fields
- 26 - Petaluma Marsh Access & Enhancement
- 27 - Prince Gateway Park
- 28 - Prince Memorial Greenway
- 29 - Riverkeeper Stewardship Park
- 30 - Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1a
- 31 - Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1b
- 32 - Santa Rosa Creek Greenway - 3 Bridges
- 33 - Sebastopol Skategarden Park Enhancement
- 34 - Sebastopol Skategarden Park Expansion
- 35 - Sebastopol Skategarden Park Phase 1
- 36 - SMART Pathway - Hearn to Bellevue
- 37 - Sonoma Garden Park Phase 1
- 38 - Sonoma Garden Park Phase 2
- 39 - Taylor Mtn RP OSP - Cooper Creek Addition
- 40 - Tomodachi Park
- 41 - West County Trail - Ross Station Trailhead
- 42 - Windsor Town Green

Active MGP Projects

- 43 - A Place to Play
- 44 - AmeriCorps Trail
- 45 - Badger Park
- 46 - Bodega Bay Trail
- 47 - Crane Creek Regional Trail
- 48 - Denman Reach
- 49 - Geyserville Community Plaza
- 50 - Guerneville River Park
- 51 - Healdsburg Montage Park
- 52 - Helen Putnam RP Extension
- 53 - Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension Phase 2
- 54 - Keiser Park Expansion 2
- 55 - Lower Colgan Crk Restoration and Neighborhood Park
- 56 - Mark West Community Park
- 57 - Maxwell Farms
- 58 - Petaluma Bounty Community Farm
- 59 - Petaluma River Park
- 60 - River Lane
- 61 - Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c
- 62 - Sonoma Schellville Trail
- 63 - Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway
- 64 - Tierra de Rosas

● Active MGP Projects

● Completed MGP Projects

Supervisorial District

Ag + Open Space Protected Land

Map Date: 03/08/2024

Data Sources: Sonoma County ISD/GIS; Sonoma County Ag + Open Space; California Protected Areas Database (CPAD)
This map displays GIS data for illustrative purposes and is not intended to depict definitive property boundaries or feature locations.

0 5 10 Miles

MGP | 2024 REVISION



- Increase focus on equity & access to underserved communities
- Simplify, reduce barriers to application
- Improve transparency & community awareness
- Remain consistent with Voter Approved Expenditure Plan



Maxwell Farms
Sonoma County Regional Parks

MGP I 2024 REVISION



- **PROGRAM MODEL**
 - Pilot rolling application model
 - Submit applications anytime
 - Two-step process:
 - Pre-Application
 - Full Application
- **FUNDING**
 - \$3M/year (50% increase)
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
 - Pre-application coaching
 - 3rd party consultants
- **EVALUATION**
 - Equity best practices
- **ADMINISTRATION**
 - Priority community outreach
 - Reduce app requirements
 - Clarify post award requirements

COMMUNITY SPACES | Pilot Timeline



Winter

- Pilot Program launch – March 25, 2024

Spring

- Virtual Workshop – April 24, 2024

Summer

- Pre-application due – June 24, 2024
- Full Application due – August 16, 2024

Fall

- Initial Funding Recommendations – October
- BOD Funding Recommendations – December



Creekside Park
Monte Rio Rec & Parks District

COMMUNITY SPACES | Terminology



Prince Memorial Greenway
City of Santa Rosa

- **Matching Grant Agreement (MGA)**
 - Project description
 - Grant vs. match funding
 - Contract terms
- **Conservation Easement (CE)**
 - Permitted vs. prohibited uses
 - Protects conservation values
- **Recreation Covenant (RC)**
 - Public access is primary component
 - Ensures property remains open to the public

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)3 Nonprofits
- Public agencies
- Federally recognized Tribes

2. Eligible Project Categories

- Acquisition
- Improvement
- Combination



Bayer Neighborhood Park and Gardens
City of Santa Rosa

Eligible Project Activities:

1. Acquisition

- Public access to open space and outdoor recreation
- Farmland – urban greenspace and access to local food and fiber
- Restoration and/or enhancement significant natural area

2. Improvement

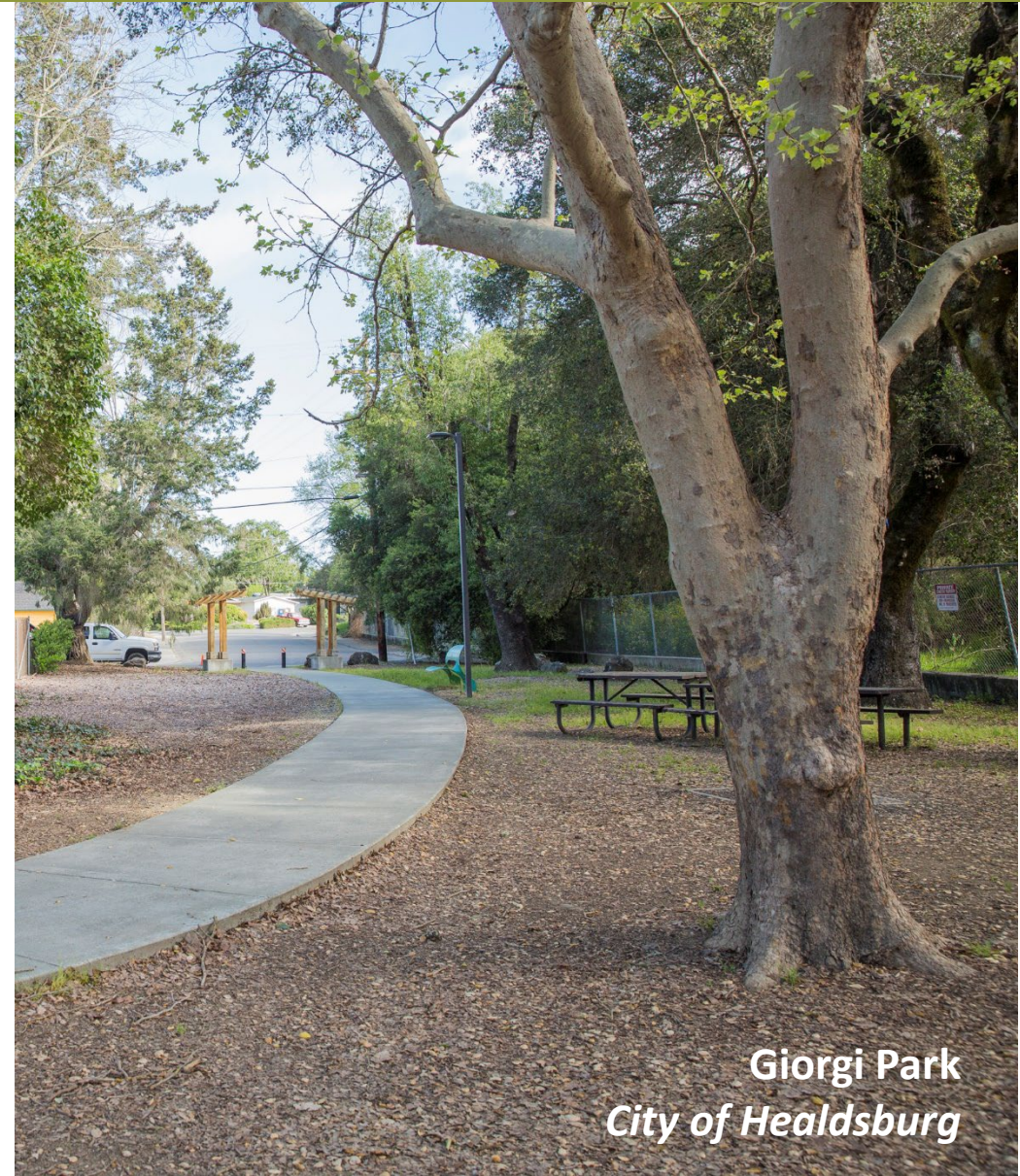
- Implementation/construction new site improvement for outdoor public recreation and education
- Development of connections between communities, parks, & public lands within adjacent to urban area
- Restoration/enhancement significant natural areas
- Construction new site improvement necessary for urban ag use

Ineligible Project Activities:

- Projects that involve acquisition of property via power of eminent domain.
- Projects replacing existing or former facilities or amenities with same function or purpose.
- Projects that fulfill mitigation requirements for development projects.
- Acquisition of, or interest in, land that restricts access to specific persons.
- Projects on property Ag + Open Space owns.
- Projects that are eligible for or have received Initial Public Access Operation and Maintenance (IPAOM) funding.
- Projects that implement conditions of approval for unrelated development.

Acquisition Projects

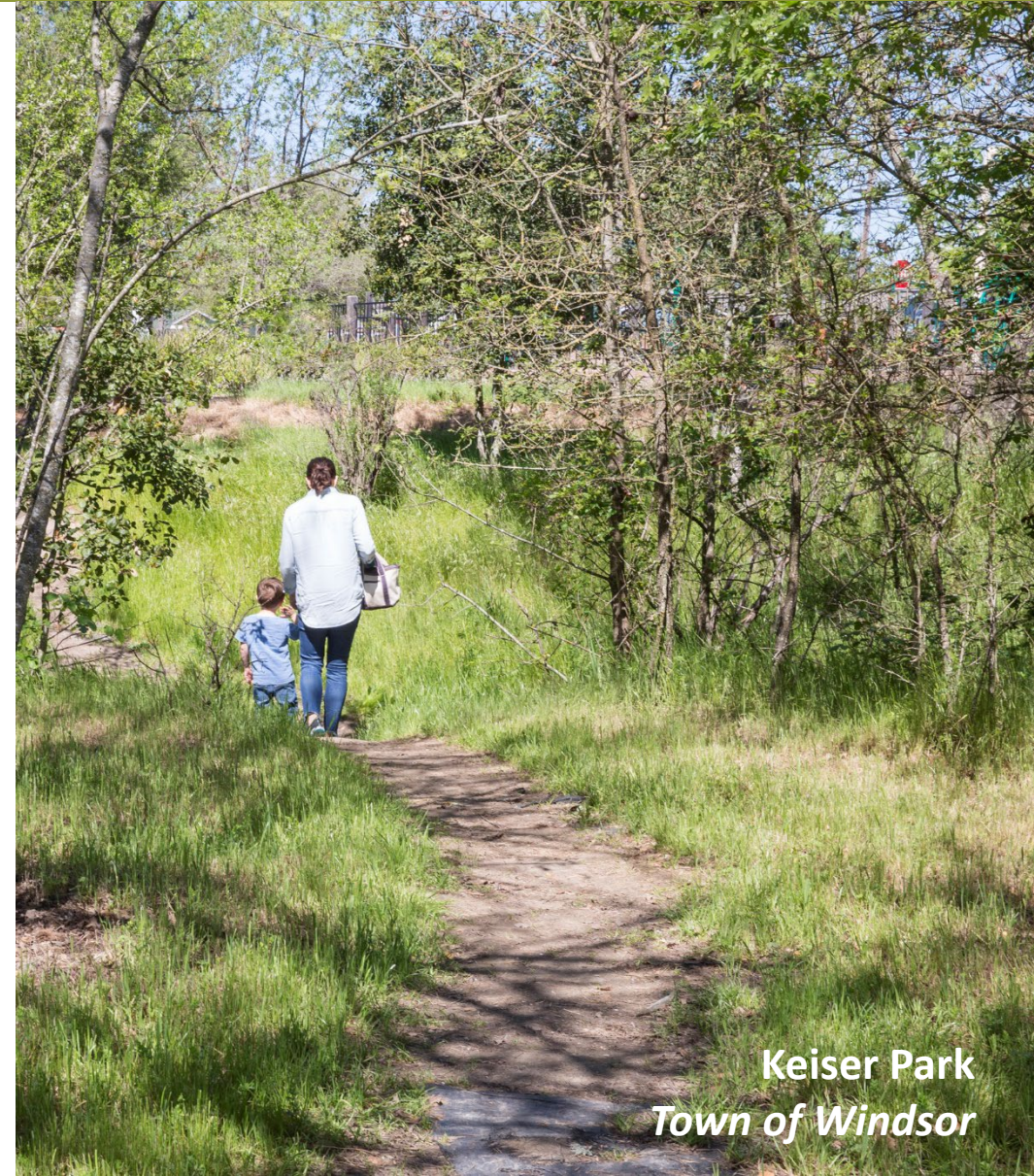
- **Willing seller**
 - Letter of Intent, Purchase and Sale Agreement
- **Visual Design and Maps**
 - Can be conceptual design plan
- **Required Approvals Status**
 - List & status of permits, CEQA, ADA, etc.
- **Appraisal Status**
 - Opinion of value or full appraisal



Giorgi Park
City of Healdsburg

Improvement Projects

- **Site Ownership or Control**
 - Letter of Intent, Purchase and Sale Agreement
- **Visual Design**
 - Conceptual, construction, design plan,
- **Public Outreach/Community Support**
 - Documentation including outreach plans, meeting agendas, public comments summary
- **Required Approvals Status**
 - List & status of permits, CEQA, ADA, etc.



Keiser Park
Town of Windsor

All Projects:

- Authorization from Governing Body
- Location
- Fiscal Review
- Long-Term Benefit
- Complete Application



Meadowlark Field
City of Sebastopol

QUESTIONS?



Falletti Ranch
City of Cotati

Pre-Application

- Assess eligibility
- Request pre-award technical assistance
- Staff review within one month
- Eligible projects invited to submit full application
- Applicants receive technical assistance if requested

Pre-apps are due June 24 for 2024 batch funding

**Pre-apps received after that date will be considered next round*

Full Application

- Comprehensive project information
- Staff review & score full application
- Applications bundled for initial funding recommendations
- Funding recommendations presented to AC/FOC/BOD

Full apps are due August 16 for 2024 batch funding

**Full apps received after that date will be considered next round*

QUESTIONS?



Falletti Ranch
City of Cotati

COMMUNITY SPACES | Evaluation Criteria

1. Program Intent
2. Need
3. County Strategic Priorities
4. Planning & Design
5. Readiness



McNear Peninsula (Steamer Landing Park)
City of Petaluma / Friends of the Petaluma River

1. PROGRAM INTENT

Creation & Improvement of Community Open Space

- Acquisition
- Improvement
- Combination



Nathanson Creek
City of Sonoma

OTHER PROGRAM INTENT PRIORITIES:

- **Links communities to open spaces** via trails or other open space connections. Preference for projects that include existing and planned regional trail connections.
- **Implements restoration** techniques to reinstate or enhance natural and native habitats.
- **Constructs outdoor public community gathering space** in a natural setting.
- **Develops new, outdoor, nature-based, recreational opportunities.**
- **Constructs amenities to provide opportunities for public education** about the natural world and agriculture.

OTHER PROGRAM INTENT PRIORITIES: (continued)

- Protects and/or improves open space in communities **significantly impacted by fire and/or flood.**
- **Protects and/or improves climate resilience**, such as mitigating urban heat, reducing flood or fire risk, increasing water storage capacity, promoting food security, and/or preserving native biologic diversity.
- Protects, creates, or enhances public access to the **Russian River, Pacific Ocean, or other waterways.**
- **Protects native plant and/or animal species.**
- **Protects farmland** that provides urban greenspace and access to local agriculture and provides opportunities for food and/or fiber production.

2. NEED

- Community-based support
- Public sector support
- Limited MGP projects
- Areas lacking open space



Petaluma Community Sports Fields
City of Petaluma

3. COUNTY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Projects Located in:

- Environmentally vulnerable community
- Areas with lower health and well-being outcomes
- Economically disadvantaged community
- Communities disproportionately impacted by climate change



*Santa Rosa Creek Greenway
Sonoma County Water Agency*

4. PLANNING & DESIGN

- Consistent with existing jurisdictional plans
- Understanding of permitting, environmental and other documentation requirements
- Project design – open space with limited impervious surfaces (ideally 25% or less)



Colgan Creek
City of Santa Rosa

5. READINESS

- **Tasks/Schedule/Budget**
- **Match**
 - **50% recommended**
 - 50% limit O&M
 - 25% limit planning/admin
- **Project Sustainability**
- **Performance on Previous MGP**
- **Partial Funding**



Riverkeeper Stewardship Park
Russian Riverkeeper

QUESTIONS?



Falletti Ranch
City of Cotati

Evaluation Process

- Full Applications for 2024 consideration **due August 16**
- Staff Review
- Subcommittee Review
- Recommendations to Advisory Committee + Fiscal Oversight Commission
- Recommendations to Board of Directors in **December**



Windsor Town Green
Town of Windsor

1. Grant Acceptance Letter
2. Matching Grant Agreement
3. Conservation Easement
4. Recreation Covenant (if applicable)
5. Property Appraisal (if applicable)



Tomodachi Park
City of Sebastopol

COMMUNITY SPACES | Program Requirements



6. Schedule for Project Completion

Acquisition – 3 years

Improvement 5 years

7. Payment of Grant Funds

8. Living Wage/Prevailing Wage

9. Reporting

10. Ag + Open Space Recognition



Petaluma Marsh
City of Petaluma

COMMUNITY SPACES | Program Requirements



11. Accounting

12. Fiscal Monitoring

13. Project Monitoring

14. Records Retention



Patterson Point
Friends of Villa Grande

COMMUNITY SPACES

Matching Grant Program

Documents here:

www.SonomaOpenSpace.org/MGP

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