



**Guadalupe-Coyote
Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)**
An independent special district of the State of California

888 N. 1st Street, Suite 204, San Jose, CA 95112
408-288-5888 gcrcd@gcrcd.org www.rcdsantaclara.org

Community Grant Application

This document has been provided in Microsoft Word format to facilitate applicant use, but may be converted to a .pdf document for submittal purposes. Please complete all lines; if something doesn't apply, enter "N/A". Handwritten applications are acceptable. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the District at gcrcd@gcrcd.org if you would like to request assistance or accommodations to complete the application.

Section A: Application Information

Project Name: Guadalupe River Park's Historic Orchard Revitalization Project

Applicant (Legal Name of Organization): Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Website: www.grpg.org Federal EIN: 77-0166797

Street Address: 438 Coleman Ave., San Jose CA 95110

Mailing Address: 438 Coleman Ave., San Jose CA 95110

Grant Contact:

Name/Preferred Pronouns: Jason Su (he/him)

Title: Executive Director

Email: jason@gprg.org Phone: (408) 298-7657

Purpose of Grant: Honor our region's agricultural history, improve local food security, and expand public engagement opportunities through the revitalization of our Historic Orchard in the Guadalupe River Park. Funds will be used to support new fruit trees, site preparation, new irrigation installation, and both project and community engagement coordination.

Beginning and Ending Project Dates: May 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 5,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 121,700

Section B: Project Description

Please enter answers under each question. For purposes of this application, the term “project” refers to either a program or project. These answers will help inform reviewer assessment of the application. The Community Grant Policy and the Community Grant Application Review scoring sheet are available for viewing on the [Community Grant Program](#) page.

1. Describe the proposed project, including goals, proposed methods and implementation strategies, and list measurable outcomes.

PROJECT PROPOSAL:

The Historic Orchard is a 3.3-acre orchard within the Guadalupe Gardens by downtown San Jose just south of the San Jose International Airport. Planted over 25 years ago, the Orchard is in need of restoration. The goal is to increase its ability to produce fruit, replant fruit trees better suited for our changed climate - increasing the park's tree count, strengthen our local food system, support our environmental education programs, and become a place for the community to connect.

Our Historic Orchard was planted in 1994 with fruit trees that were found in the area when it was known as “the Valley of Hearts Delight.” The fruit trees exhibited a smattering of varieties found in the area during that time, showcase a snapshot of the past as the City continues to develop. In addition to paying homage to the industry that built the City, excess fruit grown was donated to local food banks, feeding San Joseans now as it has in the past.

GOALS:

Orchard Beautification and Revitalization: the restoration and enhancement of the orchard will reinvigorate an important cultural asset of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. By enhancing the green space into a welcoming and functional orchard, the Historic Orchard will continue to play a vital role in connecting San Joseans, new and old, to the history that built this great city.

Community Stewardship: The Conservancy believes in the power of community stewardship, and the connection it provides to those who contribute. Volunteers will be recruited to help with the planting and maintaining of the trees. Through repeat stewardship, the Conservancy expects the community to grow closer with and advocate for future investment and development of the Guadalupe River Park.

Educational Enhancement: Having new, young trees will enable students within our educational programs to not only watch the trees grow over the years and bear their fruits, but enhance topics of climate change, life cycles, adaptation, and local history.

METHODS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

Environmental justice-centric outcomes: Prioritize impact that addresses multiple community priorities and ensure that the benefits of park restoration and development are experienced by current and future neighbors, and by underinvested communities in our region.

Asset-based community development: Looking locally on skills, assets, community, ecology, and culture as a foundation to promote equitable community development and environmental stewardship.

Cross-sector collaboration: Embrace the amplified impacts of social enterprises that leverage public, private, and nonprofit sector resources, working in alignment to support community uplift and cherishment of our agricultural lands and open spaces.

The project will be led by our Deputy Director, Volunteer Coordinator, and Climate Action AmeriCorps fellow, with oversight by the Executive Director. Our partners, volunteers, and park users will also inform our implementation strategies.

MEASUREABLE OUTCOMES:

- Replant 150+ fruit trees in the Historic Orchard
- Installation of irrigation system (measured by project completion)
- One annual fruit tree harvest
- Increase volunteerism rates (volunteer counts)
- Involvement and trust (annual neighborhood survey)

2. Is this project a portion of a larger project? If so, please include a description of the larger project and how this component fits into it.

This project is a component of two larger initiatives:

- Building Civic-ownership of the Guadalupe River Park through Tree Replanting: GRPC, along with other community partners, aims to restore the lost tree canopy that has been declining over the last two decades. In an effort to “root” and reconnect the community, volunteer efforts to plant, care for, and learn about the trees aims to build a sense of “civic ownership” of the park with our surrounding neighbors. Tree planting efforts will begin with the Historic Orchard and the Guadalupe Gardens, with goals to address the River Trail and other portions of the Guadalupe River Park.
- Workforce development for Residents in Transitional Housing: In partnership with the San Jose Mayor’s Office and the San Jose District 3 Council Office, GRPC has convened a working group to discuss community-driven safety, maintenance, and activation efforts for the Guadalupe River Park. Part of this effort is also to create workforce and skill-development opportunities for a nearby transitional housing project, where 80 temporary homes will shelter unhoused residents currently located in the Guadalupe River Park. The revitalization of the Historic Orchard would provide additional opportunities to engage and teach skills to our newly housed neighbors. As the timeline for the housing project is two years, investment in the Historic Orchard now would allow time for the trees to establish, and allow us to develop a program that connects them.

3. Will this grant be used to leverage funding for another grant or funding request? If yes, please explain.

This grant will leverage future opportunities in two ways:

- Community support: this grant would show broad support for the initiative, with various partners aligning to different goals and impacts of this project. At least one other funder has inquired about diversified project support.
- Proof of Concept: the revitalization of the Historic Orchard and investment in partnerships and programs that support its ongoing impact would support the reimagining of open space and agriculture preservation as an element of environmental stewardship, workforce development, and community engagement.

4. Are there other organizations and/or partners participating in the project? If yes, please describe their role and level of participation.

Partners include:

- UC Master Gardeners of San Clara County (skilled horticulture volunteer nonprofit) – provide horticulture expertise and ongoing stewardship and community engagement support
- Climate Action Corps: (CA Governor’s climate change initiative) – provide AmeriCorps fellow to provide capacity to support tree planting, climate change, and volunteer coordination support.
- Our City Forest (environmental nonprofit) – provide urban forestry expertise, planning, and tree sources
- City of San Jose – Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services (PRNS): (City Department) – programming and maintenance partner. GRPC holds a management agreement with PRNS.
- West Valley & Foothill Colleges: (regional community colleges) – leverage the Historic Orchard as part of their forestry and open space management curricula.
- Corporate and Philanthropic Support: financial contributions from Farrington Historical Foundation, ARM, and Northrop Grumman, among others.

Additionally, we have begun preliminary conversations for additional support and alignment with the San Jose Mayor’s Office, Knight Foundation, and The Health Trust to align the Historic Orchard revitalization with other initiatives around promoting public health, civic engagement, and providing workforce trainings to youth and unhoused residents.

5. What is the need, problem, and/or opportunity to be addressed? Who else is addressing it?

Nature Disconnect: With urbanization and high land costs, private open spaces and access to public ones becomes more difficult. This necessitates support of existing open spaces that connect people to nature. This need is further exacerbated through COVID 19, where open spaces are the few safe spaces to gather. Also, current trends among youth show a decreasing understanding of life systems: how rivers flow, where food comes from, human impacts on natural environments, that hinder future systems support around climate change, food insecurity, and environmental degradation.

Critical Issues in a Close Geography: The Guadalupe River Park is the three-mile segment of a 12+ mile river that connects many neighborhoods to the Bay waters. Within our segment is a microcosm of our region’s challenges and opportunities: confluence of two waterways, robust trail system, massive private development and public infrastructure investments, the second highest concentration of homelessness, \$30,000 household income discrepancies among adjacent neighborhoods, and urban wildfires.

Our parks have the ability to bridge communities together, weave nature into the city, and build civic trust. The needs and its concentration around the River Park provide a chance to apply innovation for broad civic benefits.

6. How will the project provide a natural resource conservation benefit to the District and/or its constituents?

Our project aims to benefit the District and our community by supporting the preservation of agricultural uses, combating climate change, active public engagement, and amplifying the District's mission through partnerships.

- Increase local food production that provides nutrition for disadvantaged communities
- Develop agriculture and horticulture skills through the stewardship of the historic Orchard
- Promotes climate change awareness through education programs that leverage the Orchard, park, and river
- Enhance park access to promote active lifestyles and physical and mental well-being
- Supports community empowerment and their connection to land and nature, particularly in a region where ecological preservation is also cultural preservation

7. Which Area(s) of Strategic Focus in GCRCD's Long Range Plan will be served by this project?

Agricultural lands, Climate change, Public engagement, and District Operations.

8. How will the project help the District meet its goals for the indicated Areas of Strategic Focus?

Agricultural lands – revitalize an orchard in downtown San Jose that connects San Joseans to our history and land, and provide technical skills and education opportunities for our youth and community.

Climate change – increase carbon sequestration capacity with additional trees. Showcase the local impacts of climate change with educational signage highlighting how increased temperatures and made fruit trees originally planned in the orchard no longer viable.

Public engagement – encourage volunteerism with corporations, schools, community-based organizations, and the general public, connecting the people with the land. A majority of our education programs are delivered to students from Title I schools, many from communities of color and with less access to educational enrichment opportunities.

District Operations – funds will be leveraged with others to maximize community impact. GRPC also holds a management agreement with the City of San Jose, where future collaborations have the opportunity for greater and deeper community and environmental impact.

9. What are the anticipated challenges to the successful completion of the project?

Due to site's open space characteristics, it is well-populated with ground squirrels, whose presence has made it difficult for fruit trees to thrive historically. To a significant degree, the orchard's long-term vitality depends upon sustained management of ground squirrel populations. By leveraging the expertise of partners such as the UC Master Gardeners and proven integrated pest management methods, we are hopeful that we will be able to mitigate these impacts in an environmentally sensitive manner.

10. How will this project incorporate the principles of environmental justice, which call for "fairness, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, in the development of laws and regulations that affect every community's natural surroundings, and the places people live, work, play and learn"? (Cal EPA).

For many years, the Conservancy has sought to reduce barriers to program access by offering them for free or at low cost, and by providing an array of opportunities for community members to engage in education and stewardship through the park. We believe that every community member has a right to a high-quality park within walking distance from their home. By reinvesting in the orchard's core functions as a means of local food production and community education, we seek to enhance its ability to cut across socio-economic barriers and uplift our community.

11. Does this project have a data-driven component to address impacts from climate change? If so, please describe.

While there are not direct data-driven climate change components in our project, data does support our project implementation strategies and climate change impact.

- Estimating the increased carbon sequestration capacity of increased tree canopy
- Estimating reduction in carbon footprint with local food production
- Researching and selecting fruit trees that can best acclimate to the rising temperatures experienced in our region

12. How will the project be sustained after the grant has concluded? Will the results provide a basis for additional projects or programs?

In the short-term, the project will rely on grants and philanthropic support, along with committed volunteers and partnerships. GRPC has been nurturing these relationships and will continue to do so. In addition to allowing the trees to establish, a "proof of concept" program that connects agricultural use, workforce development, placemaking, education, and environmental stewardship.

In the long-term, our goals are to establish more partnerships to support elements of the Historic Orchard's stewardship:

- Master Gardeners and skilled volunteering program
- An "Adopt-A-Tree" program
- Grants and public budget allocations that combine economic development with orchard management
- Fees, sponsorships, and donations from education programs, corporate volunteer opportunities, and park users
- Formalize regular use of the orchard as an outdoor classroom for local community colleges and universities

13. How will project results be made available to the public?

Project impacts will be publicized through our quarterly newsletter, monthly email newsletter, social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), annual report, local and national media, and public presentations by GRPC leadership.

14. Add or attach any supplemental information you believe is important for the reviewers and/or approving authority to be aware of in assessing your application.

- Historic Orchard information site:
<https://www.grpg.org/river-park-gardens/historic-orchard/>

- Historic Orchard Revitalization Project site:
<https://www.grpg.org/river-park-gardens/historic-orchard/revitalization/>
- Map of the orchard: <https://www.grpg.org/Files/OrchardMap.pdf>

Section C: Project Budget

Please enter project budget information in the following table. If including indirect costs, please only apply the percentage to the "Personnel" and "Operating Expenses" line items. The total in the "Grant Funding" column should be \$5,000.00 or less. Add additional lines as needed.

Line Item Description	Grant Funding	Matching Funds *	Project Totals
Personnel Costs (position/hours/hourly wage):			
Volunteer Coordinator (\$25/hr, 400 hrs)		\$10,000	\$10,000
Deputy Director (\$45/hr, 300 hrs)	\$500	\$13,000	\$13,500
Climate Action Corps Fellow (annual stipend)		\$26,000	\$26,000
Operating Costs (list general categories):			
Fruit trees	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$22,500
Irrigation	\$3,500	\$15,000	\$25,000
Orchard Volunteer Program Planning		\$10,000	\$10,000
Personnel and Operating Expenses Subtotal:			
Indirect Costs (list percentage)	0%	0%	4.4%
Contractual Costs: (list firm name, if known)			
Tree & stump removal (in-kind)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$5,000	\$85,600	\$121,700

* Match is not required but may make the project more competitive.

Section E: Project Deliverables and Due Dates

Please complete the following task table. Add or subtract task lines as needed.

Task #	Task Description	Task Deliverables	Estimated Completion Dates
1	Install new irrigation system	Irrigation system installed to sustain fruit trees	Summer 2021
2	Replant 150+ fruit trees	New fruit trees planted	Winter 2021-2022
3	Conduct seasonal fruit harvest	Fruit from mature trees harvested and donated	Summer 2021

4	Recruit and train volunteers	Volunteers sustained to support site prep, tree planting, and care	Ongoing through Winter 2021-2022
---	------------------------------	--	----------------------------------

Section D: Additional Attachments

Indicate those attachments included as part of your application.

- ☒ Copy of a current IRS determination letter indicating 501(c)3 tax-exempt status or letter from a fiscal sponsor accepting responsibility (required)
- ☐ Letters of support (optional)
- ☒ Additional information for Question 14 (optional)
- ☒ Other: Historic Orchard Information Sheet

Section E: Application Signature

I certify that the information contained within this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I am authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant.



Authorized Signature

Jason Su, Executive Director

Print Name/Title

March 22, 2021

Application Date

Submit the application and attachments electronically to gcrd@gcrd.org by 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 2021. Please contact Executive Director Stephanie Moreno at the same email address if you have any questions.



Historic Orchard

Promoting environmental education, volunteerism, local foods, & history



The Historic Orchard is a 3.3-acre site planted in 1994 and located in Guadalupe Gardens just south of Taylor Street, adjacent to the Heritage Rose Garden and River Park trails. The orchard was planted with over 200 fruit trees: cherries, apricots, prunes, apples, and more, that were grown in the Valley over the last century.

The orchard is a living example of an earlier lifestyle and the economy that once drove the Santa Clara Valley. In the 1930s and '40s almost everyone who lived here was engaged in the business of fruit production: growing, picking, packing, canning, selling, or otherwise supporting the industry. Today, with very few orchards remaining, this is a place where adults and children can come to experience a piece of local history.

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy is managing the restoration of the orchard through the Historic Orchard Revitalization initiative.

200+
Fruit trees

1,000+
Pounds of fruit
harvested annually

20+
Community workdays

The **Guadalupe River Park Conservancy** provides community leadership for the development and active use of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens. We envision an active, iconic, world-class Civic Greenway encompassing gardens, trails, and parks where residents and visitors alike can experience open space and natural habitats in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Visit www.grpg.org to learn more.

Orchard Stewardship



Fruit Harvesting



Environmental Education

