

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION of [your city council or county commission of your city and state here]
designating [your city or county here] as a Garden Friendly Community affiliate.

WHEREAS, The proposed mission of a Garden Friendly Community is to galvanize communities, through sustainable backyard and community gardening, to increase the health of residents, economies and ecologies in an equitable and just manner.

WHEREAS, gardens have always played a major role in providing sustenance for families and are an important component of strong food system;

WHEREAS, gardens increase the health and happiness of populations through exercise, exposure to fresh air and sunlight and consumption of healthy food; and

WHEREAS, gardens bring communities together through the sharing of food and revitalization of their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, a community rich in gardens:

- Significantly localizes food production;
- Creates jobs, increases economic opportunities and enhances local farmers markets;
- Efficiently provides high quality, organic produce to the community;
- Develops in its citizenry a shared sense of investment in our local resources and community;
- Enhances the beauty and increases the desirability of our neighborhoods
- Uses resources wisely, promoting composting, water conservation and proper techniques;
- Places less burden on our medical system through promoting physical activity and reducing obesity-related diseases
- Reduces stress and violence and offers therapeutic and rehabilitation benefits

WHEREAS, communities with a strong gardening culture are more resilient and food secure during times of prosperity and emergency;

WHEREAS, gardens bring numerous additional ecosystem benefits including habitat for rare/endangered species and pollinators, increased soil health, carbon sequestration, water and resource conservation;

WHEREAS, [your city or county here] should be certified a *Garden Friendly Community* because:

- XXX (City declares their own reasons)
- XXX
- XXX

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that gardens play and what each of us can do to support our resilient community, [your city or county here] chooses to support and encourage community and backyard gardening, resolving as follows:

1. The [your city or county here] [appropriate department name] Department is hereby designated as the Garden Friendly Community sponsor.
2. The [appropriate position title] of [department above here] is designated as the Garden Friendly Community Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the [your city or county here] Garden Friendly Community program is assigned to the [committee name here] Committee.
4. The [committee name here] Committee is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or garden opening each year to showcase [your city or county name here]'s commitment to raising awareness of the important role gardening plays for conserving resources, promoting peace and creating resilience.
 - b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized Garden Friendly Community street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the [your city or county name here] website which includes, at minimum:
 - a copy of this resolution and links to the national Garden Friendly Community website;
 - contact information for your Garden Friendly Community Liaison and Committee;
 - reports of the Garden Friendly Community activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
 - c. **Access:** Encourage access to public and private lands for community gardens including:
 - Identify and inventory [City or County] land that can be enhanced with community and backyard gardens.
 - Track (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of gardens created or enhanced.
 - Provide resources for the community to hold events and workshops to promote gardening.
 - d. **Garden Friendly Community Plan:** Create and adopt an organic approach and plan to implement gardens and encourage sustainable, resource-conserving practices.
 - e. **Policy:** Establish, through the [City or County], a policy in the [Plan name here] Plan of the [City's or County's] Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the Garden Friendly Community designation.
 - f. **Plan Review:** Review the [Plan name here] Plan and other relevant documents to: new strategies for engaging community feedback on implementation of the plan and practices as they relate to resource conservation, land accessibility for future garden plans, and consider other appropriate measures.
 - g. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a Garden Friendly Community affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of the [your city or county name here]'s Garden Friendly Community designation following the format provided by Garden Friendly Community, including a report of the previous year's Garden Friendly Community activities, and paying the renewal fee based on [your city or county name here]'s population.