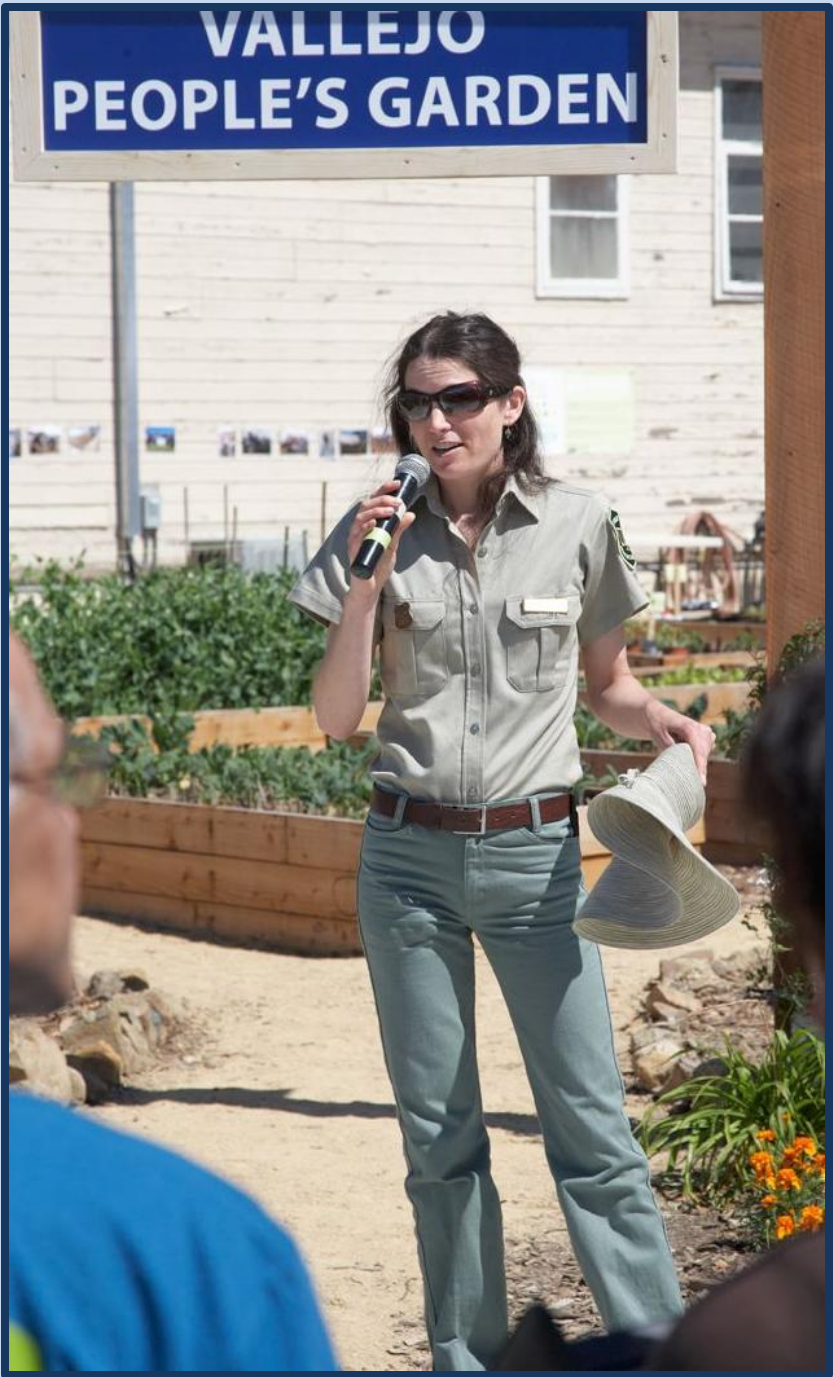


A green rectangular sign with a black border and white text that reads "VALLEJO PEOPLE'S GARDEN". The sign is mounted on a wooden post. In the background, there is a photograph of a community garden event. A woman in a white t-shirt and a wide-brimmed hat is handing a large bundle of greenery to another woman. Other people are visible in the background, including a man in a graduation gown on the right. The entire image has a light green tint.

**VALLEJO
PEOPLE'S GARDEN**

A PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY

told by Amanda Cundiff
Regional Partnership Office
Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Forest Service



Background of our collaboration and partnership

My story will touch on:

- How we started the partnership conversation - internal and external elements
- How we leveraged our resources for this project
- How we formalized our partnership with an written agreement







Apply & Vote now for the Nature's Path \$50,000 Gardens For Good Grant Contest

Sponsored by Nature's Path

Nature's Path is giving \$50,000 in cash, garden design, technical assistance, and fund raising support.

How the winner(s) will be selected?

Nature's Path is giving \$50,000 in cash, garden design, technical assistance, and fund raising support to two deserving communities.

Background:

"At Nature's Path, we live for healthy, great-tasting organic foods. It's why we get up in the morning. But we are also a company that wants to do more than just sell breakfast foods.

We aspire to advance the cause of people and planet, along the path to sustainability. And we put our money where our mouth is, rather, where our heart is. Because growing organic, healthy foods in a sustainable way is our passion—the cornerstone of our family company. It's where, and how, it all began, 25 years ago."

Two garden grantees will each win the following:

- A \$10,000 grant to be used toward the cost of planting an organic garden in their community in 2010 (cash grant)
- Coaching from Organic Gardening magazine to help establish the garden, including technical assistance with design, and technical assistance and guidance to build it (estimated value \$5,000)
- An organic breakfast fundraising event and garden dedication hosted by Nature's Path to raise funds for the

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your friend

Choose your n

YAHOO!

AOL

My next step: Google search for “food bank and Vallejo”

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. At the top left is the logo featuring a green apple, a yellow pear, and a red tomato next to the text "FOOD BANK of Contra Costa & Solano". To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for "DONATE", "VOLUNTEER", "ADVOCATE", and "CONTACT US". Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Enter keyword(s) to search" and an orange "GO" button. A horizontal menu below the search bar contains links for "GET HELP", "GIVE HELP", "ABOUT", "EVENTS", "EDUCATION & RESOURCES", "FOR MEMBER AGENCIES", and "MEDIA CENTER". The main banner features a blue background with the text "Working to end hunger." and a photo of a woman and a young girl. Below the banner are three buttons: "+ DONATE", "VOLUNTEER", and "ADVOCATE". The page is divided into three columns: "Welcome.", "Did you know?", and "Free Lunch for Kids".

FOOD BANK
of Contra Costa & Solano

DONATE | VOLUNTEER | ADVOCATE | CONTACT US

Enter keyword(s) to search [GO](#)

GET HELP | GIVE HELP | ABOUT | EVENTS | EDUCATION & RESOURCES | FOR MEMBER AGENCIES | MEDIA CENTER

Working to end hunger.

Ruby is a working single mother trying to feed her kids in these tough economic times. [Read more](#) →

[+ DONATE](#) [VOLUNTEER](#) [ADVOCATE](#)

Welcome.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano works to end hunger and increase access to affordable, nutritious food for low-income individuals and families through a comprehensive group of programs that combat hunger and its causes.

[→ Learn more](#)

Did you know?

- **28% of the people receiving emergency food are children?**
- **Peanut Butter is on the Food Bank's most wanted foods list? [See what else tops the list.](#)**
- **The Food Bank distributes fresh**

Free Lunch for Kids

In Contra Costa and Solano counties, over 86,000 school-age kids are at risk of going hungry this summer. Many community organizations and schools offer FREE lunch to any child, 18 years and younger.

[→ Learn more](#)

Next step: Identify major partner(s)

Global Center for Success

Teaching Basic Life Skills for Success

Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop life skills focusing on personal growth, communication, achievement and employment for a global community.

We teach life skills for success.





Lessons learned about getting started

- Be open to possibility and open to accomplishing your goal in a different way
- Talk to everyone and share your vision
- Relax your grip a little
- Pick up the phone!

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Vallejo People's Garden's Idea



Apply & Vote now for the Nature's Path \$50,000 Gardens For Good Grant Contest

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Vallejo People's Garden

In Vallejo, California, on a decommissioned Naval Shipyard called Mare Island, something good has emerged from hard times: a new community coalition to build and sustain a city garden.



Home to over 110,000, Vallejo is known for being diverse, depressed, crime-ridden, and bankrupt. Since the Naval Shipyard closed and the recession hit, Vallejo has struggled with poverty, stretched city services, and troubled schools. Crime and poverty are high, and, perhaps as a result, Vallejo is a quintessential food desert.

Our coalition envisions a People's Garden for Vallejo. The Garden will provide fresh produce to low-income residents and teach sustainable gardening practices. Coalition members each bring something vital to the project: volunteers to build and maintain the garden, low-income clients to benefit from vegetables and fresh eggs, and students to learn about nutrition and

food production through action. The lead partners in the Vallejo People's Garden are:

- Global Center for Success (www.globalcenterforsuccess.org) is a 501(c)(3) on Mare Island that provides supportive human services and programs to the homeless and needy. GCS helps with counseling, health, and job skills training. GCS is excited to start a garden right in its backyard to serve as an outdoor classroom, a community hub, and a source of free organic produce for its clients.
- The Regional Office of the USDA Forest Service, located on Mare Island, employs over 200 people. The Forest Service will contribute volunteers and (eventually) land for a second garden. Employees want to follow the example set by Thomas Vilsack, the Secretary of Agriculture, when he started a garden next to USDA offices on the National Mall last year (www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden). The convenient location of the Vallejo People's Garden will provide an opportunity for employees to meet and work alongside our neighbors and have a healthy place to volunteer during lunch breaks and after work.
- Betty Frank Senior Lunch Program is a 501(c)(3) feeding program that serves lunch daily in a community center, about 10 minutes from Mare Island in Vallejo. The coalition plans to provide fresh produce to this senior center's kitchen and to arrange visits for seniors to tour and even volunteer in the garden. (They organize other outings already.) The drawn plans for the garden include handicapped-accessible raised beds that will be easy for seniors to reach.

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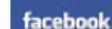
**Suggest this Challenge to
your friends**

Choose your network:









How did we drum up support?



We talked about our vision to everyone.

1. Food for those in need
2. Opportunities for all ages to learn
3. Safe green space for community connections

Formal and informal networks and partners

Those with and without written agreements, potential partners,

We won!



Lessons learned for keeping momentum

- Consider what you can best bring to the table and what others might
- Celebrate often & make it fun



We started planning the next steps.

Landscape
designer

Global Center
for Success

Forest Service

Community
member



We started regular (weekly) activities to attract volunteers.



Different volunteers showed up for different stages and tasks.







Lessons learned for longevity

- Create structure out of thin air
- Work with the best apples



We took great ideas from others.

**GROW
YOURSELF**

HELP YREKA

GROW -

INSPIRE OTHERS

TO GROW -

AT YREKA

COMMUNITY

GARDENS!

A place where the
Community
can gather to
grow fresh food,
learn and
share

Come visit the garden

At the corner of Knapp
Street and North Oregon
Street



Yreka Community Gardens

Email us at:
Yrekacommunitygardens@gmail.com

a project of
The Yreka Garden Club
Stiklyou Gardens, Parks and Greenway
Association
Yreka High School
and many other partners

*Promoting
local community health*



**YREKA
COMMUNITY
GARDENS**

We asked *everyone*.



Home Depot, Lowe's, Mid-City Nursery, AAA, Island Energy, Cresco equipment rentals, Electricians, Plumbers, Vallejo Times Herald, Clear Channel Radio, A+ Tree Service...



We invited little kids...



...and big kids.



Volunteers began to take ownership.





We planned for fun and food breaks.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

Vallejo People's Garden Grand Opening

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

9 am – 1 pm

Vallejo People's Garden, 1055 Azuar Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592
(Intersection of East Poplar Avenue & Oscar Street)

**Featuring a free organic
breakfast, including:**

Nature's Path organic cereals,
toaster pastries & granola bars
Stonyfield Farms yogurt
Organic Valley milk
Tea, juice, & Moschetti coffee

Free workshops include:

Basic beekeeping
Garden Layout
Composting 101
Gardening in Vallejo
California Natives
Children's Activities & more

**Free will donations accepted at the door to support
the future growth of the Vallejo People's Garden.**

For more information, please contact Amanda Cundiff, 707-980-9727 or visit www.vallejopeoplesgarden.org

Sponsored by



**ORGANIC
Gardening**



Green Peas



Schedule of Events

9:00 AM: Organic Breakfast—served all day
Garden tours—all day

9:30 AM – 9:50 AM Workshops:
1. Garden Layout
2. Basic Beekeeping

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM Workshops:
1. Composting 101
2. California Natives
3. Gardening in Vallejo

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM Workshops:
1. Garden Layout
2. Container gardening

11:00 AM – 11:20 AM

11:30 AM – 11:50 AM **WELCOME & DEDICATION**

Workshops:
1. Basic beekeeping
2. California Natives

12:00 PM – 12:20 PM Workshops:
1. Composting 101
2. Vallejo Gardening

12:30 PM – 12:50 PM Workshops:
1. Container Gardening
2. Advanced Composting (or "Composting 201")







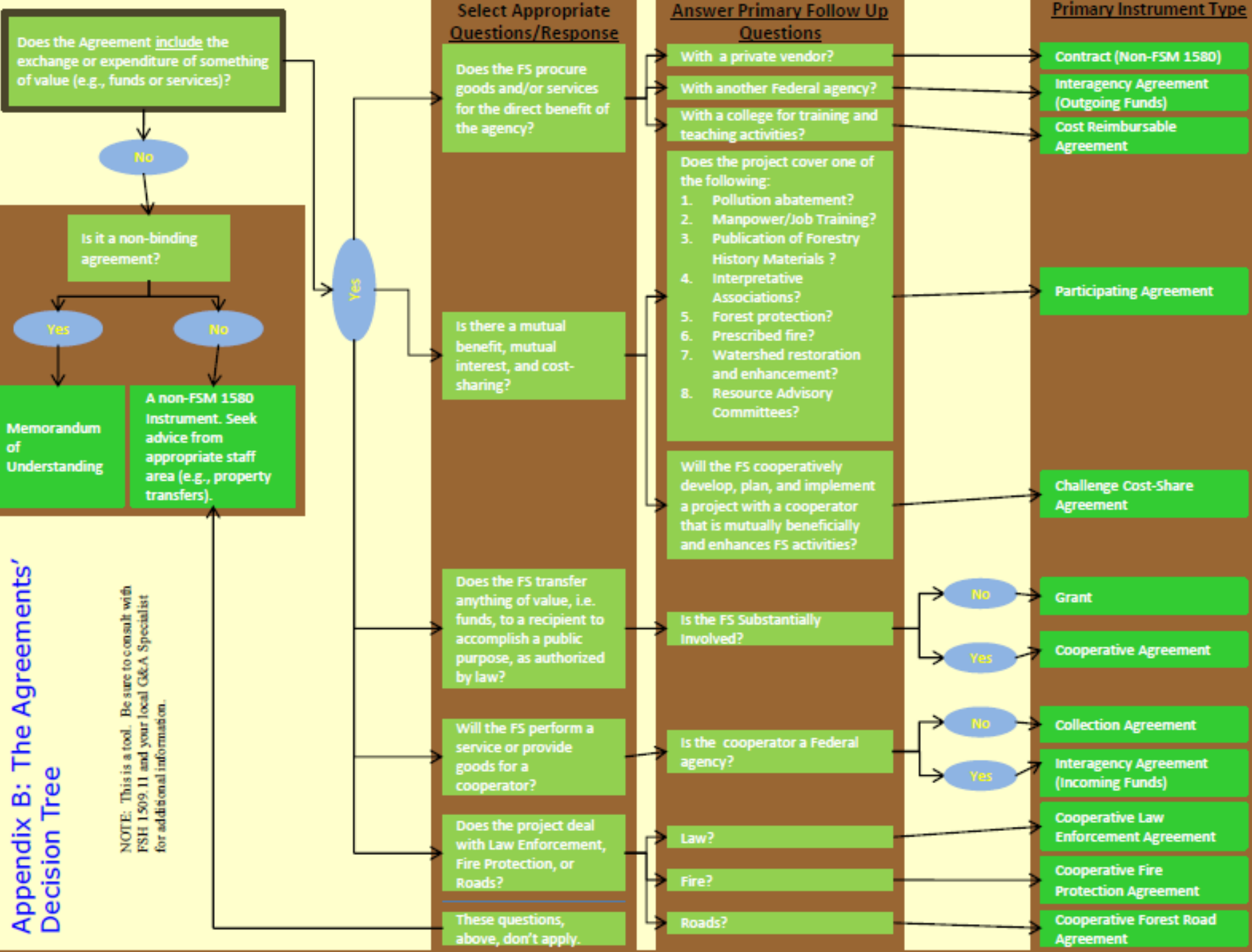



My story will touch on:

- How we started the partnership conversation - internal and external elements
- How we leveraged our resources for this project
- How we formalized our partnership with an written agreement



Appendix B: The Agreements' Decision Tree



NOTE: This is a tool. Be sure to consult with FSH 1509.11 and your local G&A Specialist for additional information.



FS Agreement No. 11-CS-11052000-345
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

CHALLENGE COST SHARE AGREEMENT
Between The
GLOBAL CENTER FOR SUCCESS
And The
USDA, FOREST SERVICE
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

This CHALLENGE COST SHARE AGREEMENT is hereby made and entered into by and between the Global Center for Success, hereinafter referred to as “GCS,” and the USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Forest Service,” under the authority: of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-154).

Background: As an agency of USDA, the Forest Service participates in the People’s Garden Initiative as a tool for community outreach and connection and a tool for conservation education. Beginning in May 2010, the Regional Office in Vallejo informally partnered with a non-profit

Q: Where does the network operate?

A: Vallejo

Q: Who benefits from the network?

A: homeless, mentally ill, and jobless clients of the GCS, volunteers from all over Vallejo, students from nearby schools, neighbors

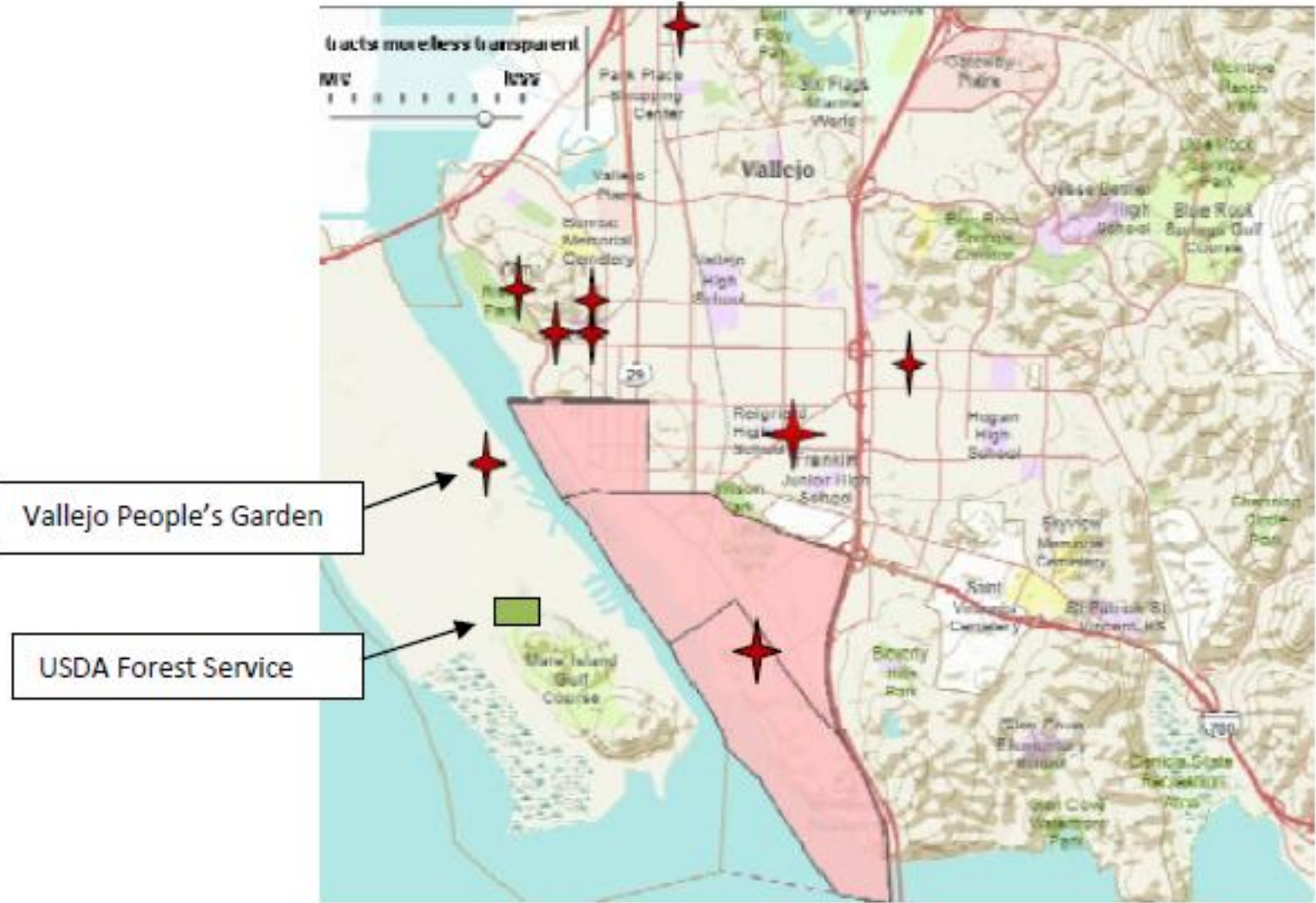
Q: Who are the future beneficiaries?

A: Hundreds and thousands of people in Vallejo and surrounding areas

Q: What is the status of your network and partnership development?

A: One garden down, 15 to go!

Figure 2. Map of USDA-designated “food deserts” (pink) and eight of the proposed garden sites (red stars) to be supported by Vallejo People’s Garden micro-grant program in Vallejo, CA.





B

Help us improve the quality of life for this neighborhood

Vallejo Heights Community Garden Project

Let's turn these empty lots into something beautiful

Vallejo Heights Community Garden Project

Help us turn these empty lots into something beautiful

- A water-based garden with 70 available plots
- Tilled and composted soil for planting
- Open space with benches and shade trees

A Community Garden in this neighborhood could improve quality of life, promote community health & togetherness, and create an affordable resource for healthy organic foods. To contribute or volunteer call (707) 342-7347 and leave your name and phone number or email maggie@vallejoheightsgarden.org



Evaluating Network Potential and Performance

	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities of the agency	“Engage urban America in Forest Service programs”
2	Leverages funding	\$0 from us. \$25,000 from them!
3	Demonstrates big-picture thinking	Gardens taking over the world...
4	Demonstrates entrepreneurship	We won money! Grant Award.
5	Management of formal agreements and contracts	Yes. I do it.
6	Demonstrates effective external and internal communication	E-updates, monthly board meetings, etc.
7	Demonstrates accountability	Building Trust with community.
8	Potential as a network management model	High.

Questions for my colleagues:

- How do we avoid burn-out, foster wider ownership, and cultivate volunteer leaders now that the garden's built?
- How can I get the existing RO Steering Committee and other USFS employees more involved?





www.vallejopeoplesgarden.org