

UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County awarded ‘unprecedented’ grant

Just in time for the holidays, the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County received some holly jolly news: One of its community garden projects, the [Los Guilicos Demonstration and Teaching Garden](#), was approved for a \$1.046 million Sonoma County Ag + Open Space grant. The grant was one of seven announced during the December 10 Sonoma County Board of Supervisors meeting.

“This grant is unprecedented in the history of the Master Gardener Program! It will allow for additional garden and gathering space to be developed at Los Guilicos so there will be even more educational programming,” says Missy Gable, Statewide Director of the UC Master Gardener Program. “Los Guilicos will be an educational showpiece that makes green and growing spaces more accessible, especially to youth from Title 1 schools.”



December 10 Board of Supervisors meeting in Santa Rosa. Photo by John Dennis.

Pictured (above) in the Board of Supervisors Chambers is the committee that collaborated on the Los Guilicos grant application. From left: Master Gardener John Dennis, Sonoma County Master Gardener Board Co-President Tami Stolte, Master Gardeners Clio Tarazi and Pat Decker who are co-leaders for the garden, and Mimi Enright, Program Manager, UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County. Committee members not pictured: Anne Haddix, Sonoma County Master Gardener Board Co-President, and Master Gardener Kim Robertson.

“This is such exciting news!” says Mimi. “We’re so grateful and appreciate Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, and the Board of Supervisors—especially Supervisor Susan Gorin who’s been a longtime supporter of the Master Gardener Program and the Los Guilicos Demonstration and

Teaching Garden. I'm also proud and thankful for the Master Gardeners who've volunteered their time and talent at Los Guilicos."

The Los Guilicos Demonstration and Teaching Garden, a 4.5-acre parcel of land in east Santa Rosa near the Valley of the Moon Children's Center, was damaged during the 2020 Glass Fire. Since spring 2023, Master Gardener volunteers have been transforming the property into a native, waterwise, fire wise, and wildlife-friendly garden for adults and children. Next steps in its continuing transformation include evaluating and prioritizing Phase 1 projects the grant may be used toward:

- Oak arbor picnic area
- Children's Garden expansion
- Orchard
- Outdoor nature classroom
- Native plant garden
- Fire-resilient garden

For more information about the grant and the garden:

- [Sonoma County Ag + Open Space press release](#)
- [Los Guilicos Demonstration and Teaching Garden](#)

Something extraordinary is blooming in Sonoma County!

In this video learn how Master Gardener volunteers, with unwavering support from First District Supervisor Susan Gorin, have transformed the Los Guilicos Demonstration and Teaching Garden into a botanical paradise. This space for learning, healing and growing is where children can experience outdoor gardening, residents can learn to create sustainable, low-water and fire-resilient gardens, and people of all ages can build a vibrant, sustainable future for Sonoma County:

- [English version](#)
- [Spanish version](#)