

Direct Install Gardens Pilot Program 2.0

September 28, 2023

Agenda

Background and Results
of DIG Pilot 1.0

Pilot Improvements
from previous lessons learned

Continued Partnership
for success

Funding and Grant
awarded for the DIG Pilot 2.0

Staff Recommendation
for Board Approval



Background

Promote turf removal in low-income communities with low conservation program participation

Pilot a direct installation approach using specialized contractors

Analyze pilot program results and identify areas for improvement



Results

Completed 17 gardens and planted over 50 trees in 3 years

Removed over 21,000sf of turf to save an acre foot of water per year and sequester over 43,000kg of CO₂

Identified labor intensive and costly turf removal and city-wide program availability



Pilot Improvements: Applicants

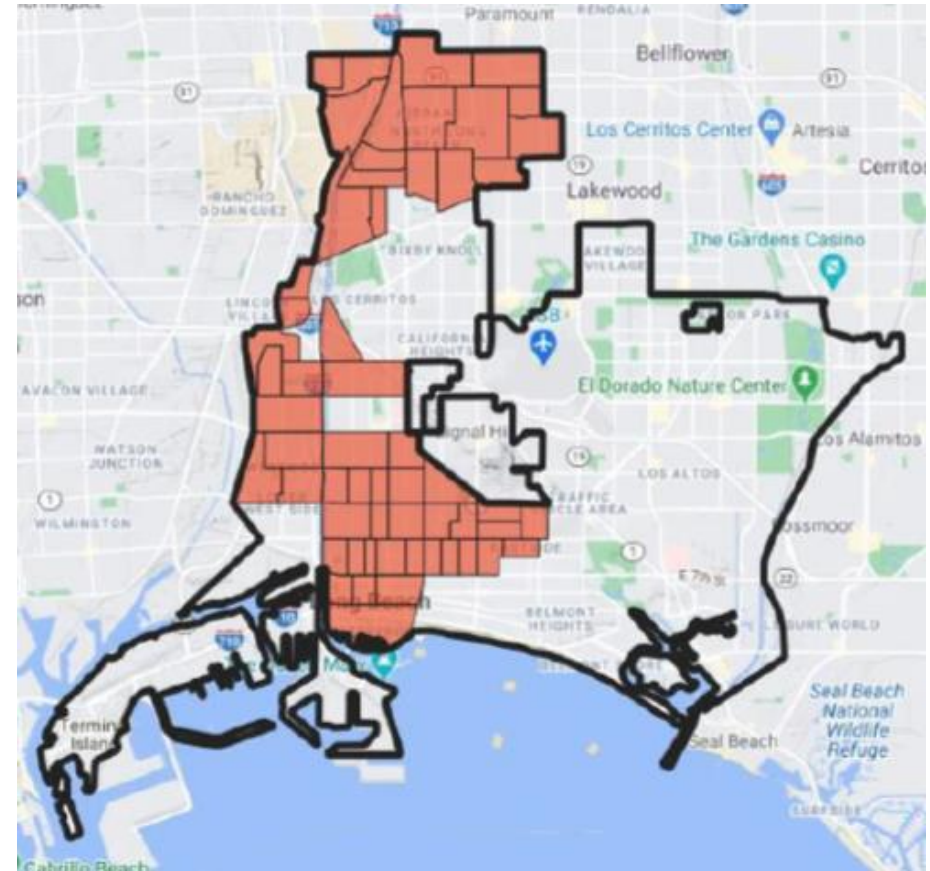
Customer Application Area Expansion

DIG 1.0 Limitation:

- Due to grant requirements, projects were restricted to a single census tract

DIG 2.0 Improvement:

- New grant funding expands opportunity to all SB-535 Disadvantage Communities
- New LBUD income verification and application process expands opportunity for qualifying customers outside of the SB-535 zone



LEGEND

▭ City of Long Beach Boundary

▭ SB-535 Disadvantaged Communities



Pilot Improvements: Designer

Landscape Designer

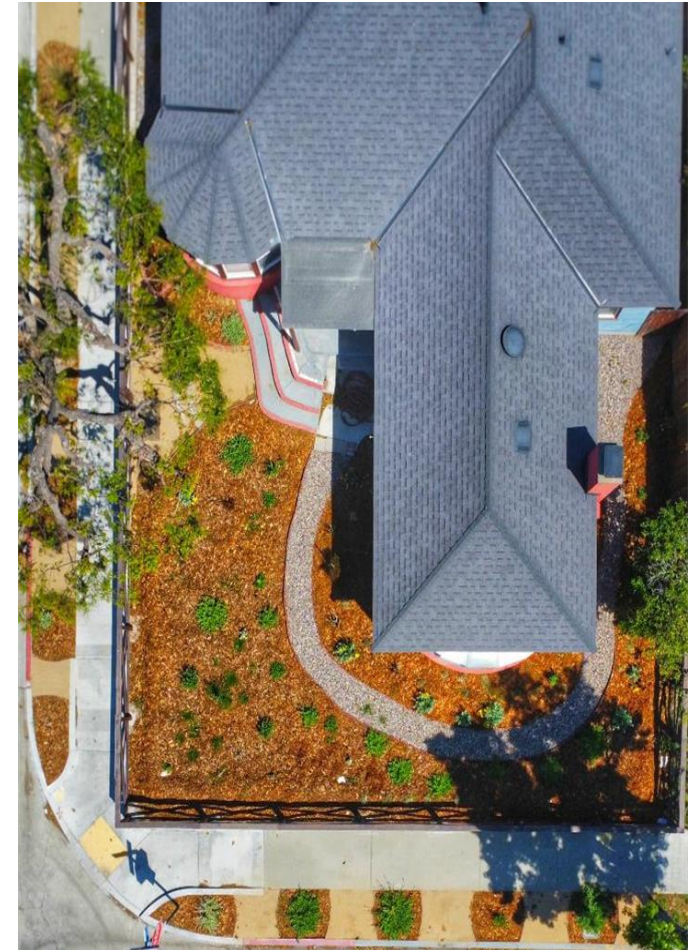
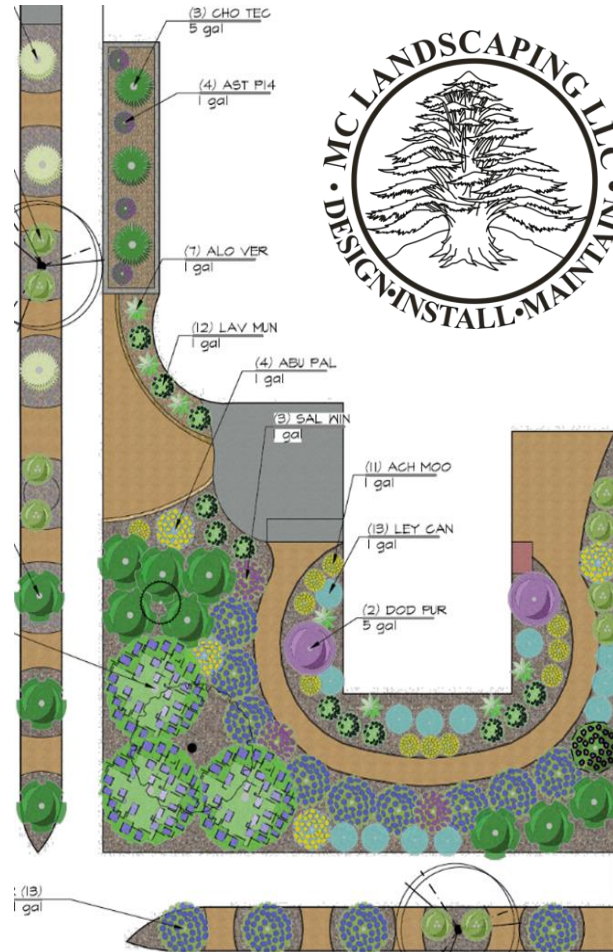
DIG 1.0 Limitation:

- Staff performed intermediary duties between customer and landscape designer causing longer design and installation timelines

DIG 2.0 Improvement:

- New landscape designer will act as primary point of contact for customer

New designer will continue to use previously-designed landscape templates to create site specific designs



Pilot Improvements: Turf Removal

Turf Removal Contractor

DIG 1.0 Limitation:

- Due to labor restrictions, hand tools were used to remove turf causing longer installation and completion timelines

DIG 2.0 Improvement:

- New contractor will remove turf and haul off property for same-day disposal
- New contractor will provide “ready-to-install” landscape for installer



Continued Partnership

Community youth development that provides jobs skills and learning opportunities

Mutually beneficial for on-the-job training and the advancement of outdoor water efficiency

Refined scope of work to focus on less labor-intensive tasks and more trade specific skills



Funding and Grants

Funding Secured

\$ 75,000	USBR Grant
+ \$ 220,000	MWD MAAP funding
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\$ 295,000	Total proposed DIG 2.0 budget



Program Analysis

- Is the new customer qualification process beneficial?
- Do turf removal contractors improve the program process?
- Board input

Staff Recommendation

Adopt Resolution UT-1494 authorizing the General Manager to execute a contract with Conservation Corps of Long Beach for landscape installation services for the Direct Install Gardens Pilot Program 2.0 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000; authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with MC Landscaping, Inc., for landscape design services in an amount not to exceed \$25,000; authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Harvest Landscape Enterprises, Inc., for turf removal and landscape preparation services in an amount not to exceed \$60,000; and authorize the General Manager to sign and file all necessary documents associated with the US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant.



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