



PANAMA CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Panama City *Grows!* to Sprout Four Community Gardens in Panama City

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Panama City Redevelopment Agency announces a landmark city-wide project that will unite the four neediest communities in Panama City with community garden projects. The districts of Historic St. Andrews, Downtown Panama City, Downtown North, and Millville will each sow forever gardens in high visibility locales. Each of these CRA districts has carefully selected a community garden site and will begin the delightful process of educating and involving students and local citizens in the **Panama City *Grows!*** community garden project.

The gardens will be used as outdoor classrooms for nine months out of the year to educate students in public schools in grades K through 12 as they grow vegetables, herbs, flowers and specialty crops. The harvests from the gardens will be used to teach agriculture and business skills to public school students and residents, in Community Harvest Dinners and to supplement meals for the underprivileged.

The first of four garden projects will begin in Historic St. Andrews in September with the volunteer efforts of St. Andrews residents and Lowe's employees. Lowe's store managers Michael Sullivan and Megan Blake will be present to coordinate volunteer efforts. The garden will be created at the site of a historic building within walking distance from the marina and St. Andrews shops and restaurants. Downtown North district will break ground on their community garden later this fall.

Private funding for the **Panama City *Grows!*** project has been provided in part by Lowe's Home Improvement stores 0448 and 2367. The stores have committed both funding and volunteer hours from each

of their Panama City and Panama City Beach stores to kick-off the St. Andrews garden project in September. The America the Beautiful Fund of Washington, DC is also funding the project.

Panama City Grows! is currently competing for an additional grant of \$250,000 through Pepsi's "Do Good for the Gulf" program. Grant recipients are selected by their level of online support. The public is invited to vote each day in August at <http://gulf.refresheverything.com/pcgrows> .

The mission of the Panama City Community Redevelopment Agency is to provide leadership and inspiration for the improvement of all four redevelopment districts and to assist and support community and economic redevelopment and revitalization in order to eliminate slum, blight and poverty. The agency actively seeks community input while building community pride.

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