

## Food System Plan Public Hearing

Comment Log

September 23, 2025

<b>ID</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization or Business</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Response</b>
01	9/18/2025	Jennifer Colvin	Colvin Ranch	Supports adoption of the plan.	Staff forwarded comments to Planning Commission and City Council.
02	9/18/2025	Rita Robison		Does not support protecting agriculture land inside city limits.	Staff forwarded comments to Planning Commission and City Council.
03	9/19/2025	Rachel Friedman	Community Farm Land Trust	Supports adoption of the plan	Staff forwarded comments to Planning Commission and City Council.
04	9/23/2025	John Ficker	Thurston County Food Bank	Supports adoption of the plan.	Staff forwarded comments to Planning Commission and City Council.

**From:** [Brad Medrud](#)  
**To:** [Dana Bowers](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on the Tumwater Food System Plan  
**Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:44:57 PM

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FYI

Brad Medrud, AICP | Community Development Department Director  
City of Tumwater Community Development

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly Wallace <KWallace@ci.tumwater.wa.us>  
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:44 PM  
To: Brad Medrud <BMedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us>  
Subject: FW: Comments on the Tumwater Food System Plan

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Colvin <jennifer@colvinranch.com>  
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:43 PM  
To: CDD DGroup <cdddgroup@ci.tumwater.wa.us>  
Cc: rebecca.potasnik@gmail.com  
Subject: Comments on the Tumwater Food System Plan

Tumwater Planning Commission Members:

Thank you for taking the time to consider how Tumwater can best support the community by encouraging better access to fresh, local food. There are many good policies and opportunities outlined in the food system plan. I would also encourage you to consider how to support Tumwater schools in purchasing local food from local producers. This can be an important source of revenue for smaller food producers in the region. ESD 113 provides support and assistance to schools who are interested in purchasing local food, and WSDA offers Farm-to-School purchasing grants to support local purchasing as well. When schools buy fresh, local food directly from farmers, it helps strengthen local food system as a whole and creates connections between kids, the food they eat, and farmers.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Colvin  
Owner, Colvin Ranch  
(360) 339-8465

**From:** [Brad Medrud](#)  
**To:** [Dana Bowers](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Why Agricultural Lands Don't Belong in Urban Growth Areas  
**Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:52:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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FYI

**Brad Medrud, AICP | Community Development Department Director**  
 City of Tumwater Community Development

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**From:** Brittaney McClanahan <BMcClanahan@ci.tumwater.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:52 AM  
**To:** Rita Robison <robisonrita58@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Lisa Parks <LParks@ci.tumwater.wa.us>; Brad Medrud <BMedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Why Agricultural Lands Don't Belong in Urban Growth Areas

Good morning, Rita,  
 Thank you for your email—it was received by our Councilmembers.  
 Have a great day!

*All Councilmembers were bcc'd in this email response.*



**Brittaney McClanahan**  
**Executive Assistant**

City of Tumwater  
 555 Israel Road SW | Tumwater, WA 98501  
 O 360-754-4120 | M 360-810-0218  
[bmccclanahan@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:bmccclanahan@ci.tumwater.wa.us) | [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us)

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**From:** Rita Robison <[robisonrita58@gmail.com](mailto:robisonrita58@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:56 AM  
**To:** Council <[Council@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:Council@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Why Agricultural Lands Don't Belong in Urban Growth Areas

The Jolt reported the city council is considering a food plan. Included in the article was this paragraph: "Some of the challenges with food production include high farmland costs, urban growth area rules being incompatible with agriculture, access to affordable water, limited cold storage capacity and difficulty hiring farm workers."

This statement shows a lack of understanding of the Growth Management Act. Urban growth areas are designated for urban growth that's why agricultural lands aren't included in them. When urban growth goes into urban growth areas, rural areas can be protected and resource lands, agricultural lands and forests, can be conserved.

Please continue GMA policies to densify the city and urban growth area to protect rural areas and conserve resource lands.

Rita R. Robison, AICP  
[robisonrita58@gmail.com](mailto:robisonrita58@gmail.com)

360-754-9651

**From:** [Brad Medrud](#)  
**To:** [Dana Bowers](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on Draft City of Tumwater Food System Plan - Resolution No. R2025-015  
**Date:** Friday, September 19, 2025 8:00:45 AM

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FYI

**Brad Medrud, AICP | Community Development Department Director**  
City of Tumwater Community Development

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**From:** Kerri Kinnaird <[kkinnaird@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:kkinnaird@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 7:57 AM  
**To:** Brad Medrud <[BMedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:BMedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>; Erika Stone <[ESTone@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:ESTone@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>; Dana Bowers <[DBowers@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:DBowers@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on Draft City of Tumwater Food System Plan - Resolution No. R2025-015

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**From:** Rachel Friedman (Chair) <[rachel@communityfarmlandtrust.org](mailto:rachel@communityfarmlandtrust.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 5:59 PM  
**To:** CDD DGroup <[cdddgroup@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:cdddgroup@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Draft City of Tumwater Food System Plan - Resolution No. R2025-015

To Whom it May Concern: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Food System Plan for the City of Tumwater. These comments are being submitted for inclusion in the record for Resolution No. R2025-015 – Food System Plan.

The Community Farm Land Trust (CFLT) (<https://www.communityfarmlandtrust.org/>), a local non-profit, serving Thurston county for over 25 years, supports the adoption of the City of Tumwater Draft Food System Plan. The mission of the CFLT is to promote vibrant local food and farming systems through community supported farmland preservation strategies, educational outreach, and partnerships that increase opportunities for farms and farmers to flourish. As such we support abundant, productive, sustainable local farmland providing healthy food for our community and contributing to a vibrant, viable farm economy.

The Draft Food System Plan contains two elements: providing healthy food for all members of the community; and supporting local food production and processing which align closely with the mission, vision and goals of the CFLT. While CFLT supports all of the draft goals, in particular, CFLT strongly supports Goal 3: Support Local Food Processors and Production. In order to improve access to local, healthy food, the following proposed policies and opportunities should be adopted and implemented:

3.1.2 Explore partnerships to improve access to land, water, and infrastructure for food producers by supporting shared-use models, facilitating connections to underutilized private or public land, and leveraging programs such as land leases and technical assistance;

3.1.3 Review existing land use regulations to identify barriers that disproportionately limit food production opportunities for low-income households and those on smaller lots;

3.1.4 Support water access and explore potential rate reductions for urban agriculture, community gardens, and school gardens such as stormwater fee waivers, fire hydrant access, and subsidized or waived system development charges—recognizing their role in strengthening food security, fostering education and community resilience, supporting local economies, and contributing to emergency preparedness.

In addition, the CFLT would be happy to engage with the City of Tumwater to overcome the historic inability of underserved and aspiring farmers to access agriculturally viable land. CFLT supports adoption and implementation of the partnerships of the following proposed policies and opportunities:

3.2.1 Partner with the Community Farm Land Trust and Thurston County to explore mechanisms such as urban growth area swaps and farmland easements for conserving high-value agricultural land adjacent to Tumwater's Urban Growth Area, while supporting farmland transitions to new farmers and those from communities facing barriers.

The CFLT produces an annual guide entitled Fresh From the Farm Guide (FFFG) ([https://www.communityfarmlandtrust.org/fresh\\_from\\_the\\_farm\\_guide.html](https://www.communityfarmlandtrust.org/fresh_from_the_farm_guide.html)) as part of our mission to support local food and agriculture. This is a free, educational resource for underserved populations and residents from our entire region to learn where to find local, affordable, fresh and healthy foods through CSAs, farm stands, farmers markets, food banks, as well as nutritional incentive and matching programs available in our four county region of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties. In 2025 we printed and distributed 15,000 free copies. We are able to keep this as a free resource to our community through grants, sponsorships, advertisements and fundraising campaigns that help to pay for distribution and printing costs. The FFFG lists approximately 125 farms in Thurston County. This resource should be recognized for the support of draft policy 3.4 Promote local food purchasing and community engagement.

Lastly, the CFLT is involved in preserving agricultural land through fee simple acquisition. We work deliberately to provide affordable and sustainable agricultural working lands to beginning farmers through long-term, heritable land leases. Policy 3.5 Increase local food production capacity should be adopted and implemented. The CFLT strongly supports the economic viability of small-scale farming by supporting efforts to make small-scale and urban farming financially sustainable by exploring ways to reduce regulatory barriers, promoting cooperative models, connecting growers with local markets and procurement opportunities, and exploring access to business support services, microgrants, and relevant state or federal funding. We would be happy to engage on this topic.

Sincerely,

Rachel Friedman

Chair, Community Farm Land Trust

[communityfarmlandtrust.org](http://communityfarmlandtrust.org)

**Consider a donation to the Community Farm Land Trust.**

*A donation today, preserves farmland for tomorrow.*

<https://bit.ly/Donate2CFLT>

**From:** [John Ficker](#)  
**To:** [Dana Bowers](#)  
**Cc:** [Brad Medrud](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Food System Public Hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:25:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Thank you Dana, that captures the conversation well!

All the best,

**John Ficker**

**Executive Director**

360.352.8597 ext. 102 | [tcfb.org](http://tcfb.org)



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**From:** Dana Bowers <[DBowers@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:DBowers@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:11 PM  
**To:** John Ficker <[Johnf@tcfb.org](mailto:Johnf@tcfb.org)>  
**Cc:** Brad Medrud <[BMedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:BMedrud@ci.tumwater.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Food System Public Hearing

Hi John,

Thank you for your phone call this afternoon and comments regarding the Food System Plan Public Hearing taking place tonight, September 23, 2025. I'm glad to relay your comments and have summarized them below for your review.

Thurston County Food Bank:

- Supports the adoption of Tumwater's Food System Plan.
- Acknowledges that all facts regarding the Thurston County Food Bank are correct except that the SNAP Ed Program will discontinue as of October 1, 2025 following cuts to Federal Funding on July 1, 2025.
- expects higher demand and fewer resources in the future due to funding and food donation reductions.
- Wants to express interest in partnering with Tumwater to implement the plan.

Please feel free to correct anything that is doesn't capture your comments.



Thank you!



**Dana Bowers (she, her)**

**Associate Planner**

City of Tumwater, Community Development Department

555 Israel Road SW | Tumwater, WA 98501

(360) 754-3842

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