

STAFF REPORT

Date: October 14, 2025

To: City Council

From: Dana Bowers, Associate Planner



Resolution No. R2025-015 Food System Plan

1 – Background

The City Council approved the development of a Food System Plan as part of the 2024 and 2025 Long Range Planning Work Programs. The intent of the Plan is to review the current food landscape in Tumwater and create a strategy to improve outcomes for the community. The City hired Rebeca Potasnik as a consultant to assist with the development of the Plan.

Because the scope of food security is broad, the project focuses on developing strategies that focus on improving outcomes for the following goals:

- How to provide healthy food for all members of the community;
- Reduce food waste; and
- Support local food production and processing.

The Planning Commission was briefed on the Plan on November 26, 2024, and conducted work sessions on February 11, 2025, April 22, 2025, July 8, 2025, and September 9, 2025.

The General Government Committee was briefed on November 13, 2024, March 18, 2025, and May 14, 2025. City Council was briefed July 8, 2025.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the resolution on September 23, 2025, and the Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the plan.

The intent of this work session is to present the Planning Commission's recommendation, gather further feedback from the City Council, and request the resolution be moved forward for council consideration at the November 3, 2025, meeting.

2 – Proposed Goals, Policies, and Opportunities

The Food System Plan provides the current context of the food system network, identifies gaps which lead to inequitable food access, and proposes goals, policies, and opportunities to improve Tumwater's local food system. These goals and policies will guide City Council decisions. Programs and projects proposed in the opportunities section will be considered by the City Council as part of the work plan development process as funding and staff capacity allows.

Seven sectors were selected to provide a comprehensive yet streamlined framework for analyzing the food system in the Community Food Assessment. More information about each sector can be found in the plan. They follow established models from other food system assessments, while being adapted to Tumwater's local context. This structure captures the full cycle of the food system in a way that is relevant for City action and consistent with best practices. Challenges were identified for each of the sectors as a basis to identify needs and create goals for the Plan and are included in Chapter 2. The Food System Plan also identified opportunities to address challenges in Chapter 3.

3 – Public Comments

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 23, 2025. Four people provided written comments on the plan before the hearing and two people were present to testify at the hearing. The in-person remarks are part of the public record and can be heard on the meeting recording. The written comments are provided as appendices to this packet.

4 – Next Steps

A. City Council Review and Approval Process

Staff requests that the City Council place the resolution for consideration at their November 3, 2025, City Council meeting. The Planning Commission has recommended that the City Council approve the resolution. The City Council will need to find that the provisions of the resolution are in the best interest of and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City.