

STAFF REPORT

Date: September 23, 2025
To: Planning Commission
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.

Planning Commission set a public hearing to receive community input on Resolution 2025-15, Food System Plan to take place September 23, 2025, at 7 p.m. After hearing testimony, the Planning Commission may take action to recommend adoption of the plan by the City Council.

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 lead and guide 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.

3 – Next Steps

A. Planning Commission Review and Recommendation Process

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the resolution on September 23, 2025, at 7 p.m. Staff expects that following the public hearing and deliberations, the Planning Commission will forward a recommendation on the resolution to the City Council.

B. City Council Review and Approval Process

The City Council is scheduled to be briefed on the Planning Commission's recommendation on the plan and resolution on October 14, 2025, and to consider adoption of the plan on November 3, 2025. 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.