

TO: City Council  
FROM: Chuck Denney, Parks and Recreation Director  
DATE: January 11, 2022  
SUBJECT: Community Garden

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1) Recommended Action:

Discussion Item

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2) Background:

The need for a community garden has been suggested by many local leaders and residents for several years. This need was addressed in the creation of the Tumwater Metropolitan Park District (TMPD). Funds were allocated to support community/civic groups, churches, or neighborhood associations in the creation of community garden spaces.

The City does not intend to operate or manage a community garden, but will act in a support role and assist with infrastructure and initial organization and planning. Garden location and management is opportunity-based and will be considered as requests are submitted to the City.

GRUB, a local nonprofit that promotes and teaches various community garden program options, has developed a guide for creating community gardens. A copy of the guide is attached as a resource. As you will see, the guide encourages gardens to be built on strong community support.

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3) Policy Support:

Council Strategic Goals and Priorities

- Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity - Pursue "quality of life" (e.g., trails, trees, parks, community gardens, events) and aesthetic improvements (hanging baskets, public art, specialty and wayfinding signs, landscaping)
- Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability - Expand food system resilience with local production and community garden initiatives

Vision-Mission-Beliefs

- Environment - We act to preserve and enhance the natural environment and the social fabric of our community.
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4) Alternatives:

☐ Discussion Item

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5) Fiscal Notes:

\$200,000 – TMPD funding to support city-wide garden opportunities.

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6) Attachments:

A. GRUB's "Growing Community: Starting Your Own Community Garden"