
STAFF REPORT

Date: November 3, 2025

To: City Council

From: Dana Bowers, Associate Planner, and Brad Medrud, Community Development Director



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 focused on developing strategies that improved 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 scope of work for the Plan on November 26, 2024, and conducted work sessions on draft elements of the Plan on February 11, 2025, April 22, 2025, and July 8, 2025.

The General Government Committee was briefed on draft elements of the Plan on November 13, 2024, March 18, 2025, and May 14, 2025. City Council was briefed on the development of the Plan July 8, 2025.

The Planning Commission held a work session on Resolution No. R2025-015 on September 9, 2025, and public hearing on September 23, 2025. After completing the public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the Plan.

The City Council discussed the Planning Commission recommendation on Resolution No. R2025-015 on October 14, 2025, and placed discussion of the resolution on the consideration calendar for the City Council's November 3, 2025, meeting.

2 – Proposed Food System Plan

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 annual work program development as funding and staff capacity allows.

Seven sectors were selected to provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing Tumwater’s food system in the Community Food Assessment. More information about each sector can be found in the Plan. The structure of the Plan followed established models from other food system assessments, while being adapted to Tumwater’s local context. The Plan’s 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 Plan also identified opportunities to address challenges in Chapter 3.

3 – Review and Approval Criteria

The Food System Plan was categorically exempt from SEPA under WAC 197-11-800(19) as a non-project, procedural action that did not establish substantive standards affecting use or modification of the environment.

4 – Public Notification

A Notice of Public Hearing was published in The Olympian on September 12, 2025, for the Planning Commission public hearing that was held on September 23, 2025.

5 – Public Comment After Hearing

Additional public comment was received on October 14, 2025, prior to the City Council work session regarding consideration of temporary or pop-up food distribution sites.

6 – Planning Commission Recommendation

After the public hearing on September 23, 2025, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution No. R2025-015.