

## **Tumwater United Methodist Church (TUMC) Community Garden Plan**

Community Garden Members: Deb Williams, Sandy Ward (pastor), Rebecca Lewis, Pam Parsons, Duffy Rader, Lee Hagen, Bobbie Schoss, Ann Risdon, Sandy Hedlund, Diana Lindvall.

### **TUMC Vision**

To bring together the needs of our community and the love of God with our actions, resources and connections.

### **TUMC Community Garden Vision.**

To connect and meet the needs of the community and practice loving our neighbors by nurturing independence, skills, healthy living and stewardship. We will use information, community events and resources to create a community garden.

Within this vision we are planning to create a community garden site that provides garden areas for the community, and raises food for the Thurston County Food Bank. These gardens may include a children's garden, teaching garden and compost bin. We plan to create community collaboration by including other groups such as the boy scouts who wish to create raised beds, community assistance with a food bank garden plot, and a harvest festival.

Information and education are important aspects of the plan. We may have a book library, tool library, and cooking classes. Also, we may have a time to share garden information or recipes. In addition, we may offer classes and include resources such as the University of Washington Cooperative Extension.

### **Garden Location**

The garden location needs sun, water, and a place for compost. Possible sites include the playground area, shed area, or parking area.

### **The Project**

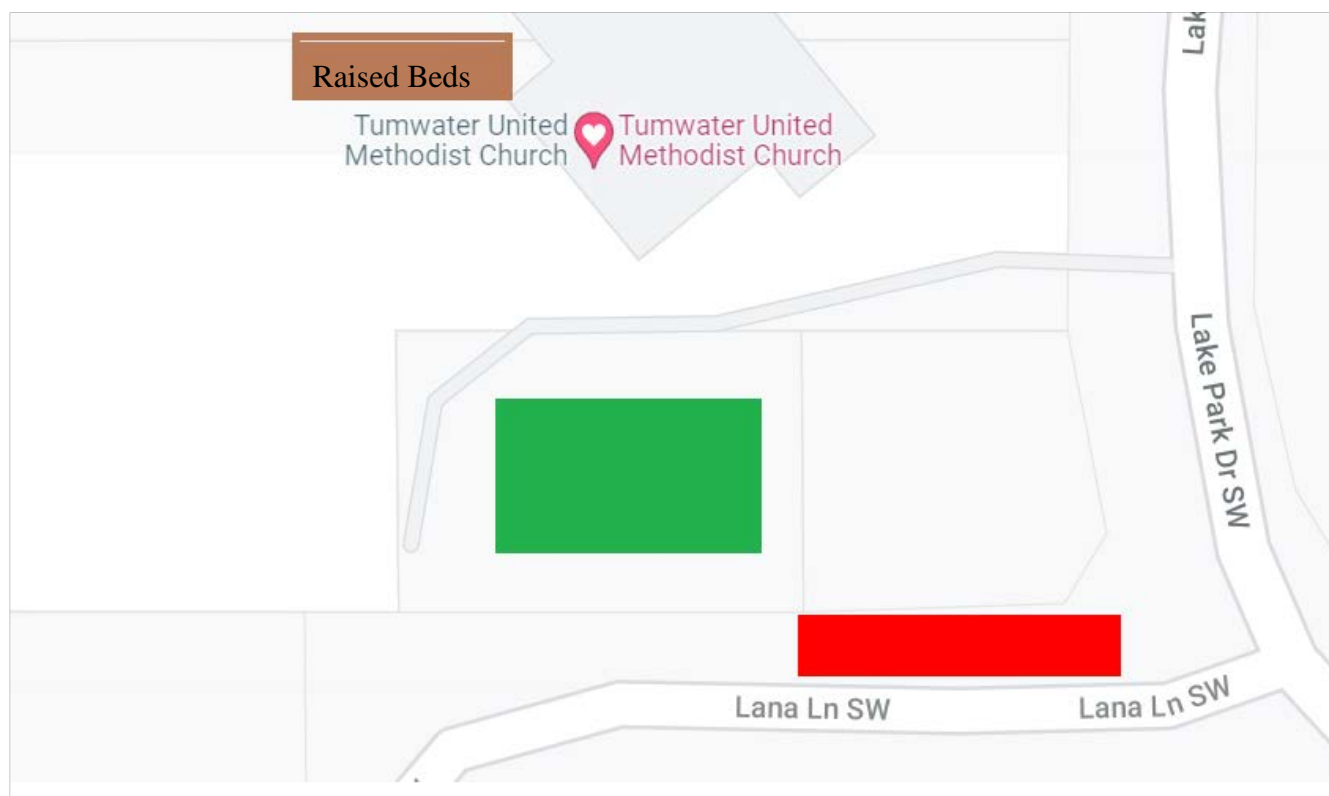
The Tumwater UMC Community Garden is a three phase garden program. Phase I are raised beds that are open to community members that have no garden space of their own.

Phase II is a garden to raise fruits and vegetables for the Thurston County Food Bank.

Phase III is an orchard project to grow fruit trees on the terrace of the property.

The Food Bank garden labor comes from church members and interested community gardeners that adopt raised beds for their own private use. Community gardeners will be approved to adopt a bed if they will agree to volunteer a few hours over the growing season. We require 12 hours per year, to assure coverage over the summer. (If there is a physical limitation that prevents one from volunteering to help with the Food Bank garden, but still want to use a bed, the Garden Coordinator can waive the requirement.)

There is a \$20 refundable deposit for the use of a raised bed. This is fully refundable in the fall given the volunteer hour requirement is met. We have 2-hour work parties every other week on Saturday mornings beginning in March that continue through October. There is also the option to come Monday – Friday mornings during the summer and work under the direction of the church member present as available.



TUMC Community Garden Map

### **Garden Guidelines:**

1. All interested gardeners will attend an orientation meeting at Tumwater UMC or will arrange to meet with the garden coordinator.
2. Gardeners need to sign a copy of the application form, the \$20 deposit, and the Garden Guidelines to the meeting.
3. Volunteer requirements (as outlined above). Those that do not meet their volunteer requirement will not receive their \$20 refundable deposit and will not be invited to keep their plot the next growing season.
4. Pets are not allowed in the garden.
5. We are eager to have children participate in the garden experience and ask that parents supervise their children at all times when in the garden.
6. Plot users promise to maintain their beds throughout the growing season. This means that it is weeded, and produce is harvested when ripe.
7. Although the garden is not certified as organic by the USDA, there is a strong preference to use practices consistent with organic gardening. Organic gardening is a process that promotes and enhances biodiversity, natural biological cycles and soil biological activities that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. As such, gardeners may amend their plot with organic fertilizer.
9. Planting restrictions:
  - ⑩ No sunflowers or other tall plants as they shade other's beds.
  - ⑩ No herbs in the garden. You can help yourself to our shared herb garden.
  - ⑩ Please no pumpkins or similarly large winter squash in the raised beds as there is not enough room – we will have an area to plant pumpkins – just ask.
10. Please keep your plants growing within your beds and not impeding the walk-ways around the garden. Stake up your plants so they do not fall over into the walkways.
11. If you need to abandon your plot, please contact the garden coordinator so that your bed can be reassigned and your deposit refunded.
12. If it appears that a plot has been abandoned without notification, an effort will be made to contact the gardener and if unsuccessful, the plot may be reassigned and the \$20 will not be refunded.

13. If you will be gone on vacation for a period of time and want your produce harvested for the Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB), e-mail the garden coordinator.

14. If produce looks over-ripe, volunteers may elect to harvest the crop for the TCFB. If you do not want your crops gleaned, place a sign in your bed stating "No Gleaning".

15. Please be respectful of other gardener's beds. Unless gleaning, please do not harvest from another's bed without permission. Do not harvest from a bed with a "no gleaning" sign.

16. All weeds and plant material must be discarded in the compost bins or in the blue City of Tumwater garden waste bin. There are wheelbarrows available.

17. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO WATER YOUR PLANTS** other than when planting and then watering them in. Automatic watering is provided. If you think your plants are too dry, notify the garden coordinator. Water is a precious and expensive resource, so please abide by the rule.

18. If you notice anything in the garden that needs to be fixed (broken hose nozzles, unusual accumulations of water or leaks, garden plots extremely dry, etc.) please contact Garden Coordinator.

19. Please keep the walkway around your bed free of weeds.

20. At the end of the growing season you are responsible for cleaning out your plot. You may loosen your soil and incorporate aged compost or leaves in it for the winter.

## Anticipated Costs

<b>Community Garden Budget/Startup</b>		
<b>Stage 1, Community Raised Bed Gardens</b>		
Raised beds	donated	
Standing raised beds, (2)		\$400
Soil for raised beds	completed	
Drip Tape and accessories		\$300
Beauty bark for pathways, 3 yards	donated	
Tools		\$200
Fencing		\$5,000
<b>Total Stage 1</b>		<b>\$5,500</b>
<b>Stage 2, Food Bank Garden</b>		
		\$3,500
Fencing		\$5,000
Soil amendments		\$200
Drip Tape and accessories		\$1,000
<b>Total Stage 2</b>		<b>\$9,700</b>
<b>Stage 3 Orchard</b>		
Terracing		\$1,000
water and drip tape		\$1,000
Trees		\$500
<b>Total Stage 3</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>