

TO: City Council
FROM: Dana Bowers, Associate Planner
DATE: July 8, 2025
SUBJECT: Food System Plan – Status Update

1) Recommended Action:

No action is requested. This is an update with the consultant who will present the Draft Community Food Assessment and requests input regarding goals and policies that will guide the strategy in the final Food System Plan.

2) Background:

To address community concerns about food insecurity at the local level, the City Council included the preparation of a Food System Plan in the 2024 and 2025 Long Range Planning Work Program.

City staff have been working with our consultant Rebeca Potasnik to prepare a plan that develops a strategy to promote providing healthy food for all members of the community, reducing food waste, and supporting food production and processing.

The final plan will identify strengths and gaps in the current food system, define goals and policies to direct the work, and create a strategy to support improving local food systems. Implementation will focus on eliminating barriers, addressing gaps in the current system, producing solutions to implement at appropriate scale, and identifying how to maintain and update resource materials with jurisdictional and community partners.

Work on this project has been done with extensive coordination with the Planning Commission and the General Government Committee to ensure that outcomes align with the vision of the community. The Planning Commission was briefed on the project in November 26, 2024, and held work sessions on February 11, 2025, and April 22, 2025. The General Government Committee received briefings on the project on November 13, 2024, March 18, 2025, and May 14, 2025.

This discussion with the City Council includes a summary of the draft Community Food Assessment. The consultant is requesting input regarding draft goals and policies to guide the next steps of the project. Staff and the consultant plan to present completed plan to City Council September 9, 2025.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority: Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity.

4) Alternatives:

☐ None

5) Fiscal Notes:

Preparation of the Plan is internally funded. Funding for implementation of the Plan will be a part of future discussions.

6) Attachments:

- A. Staff Memorandum
- B. Community Food Assessment