

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **ADDITIONS TO COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM**

BACKGROUND:

In July 2020, City Council directed staff to provide information about the Community Garden program operated by the Parks and Recreation Department as well as provide information regarding possible expansion to the program. At the March 9, 2021 the staff presented this requested information to the City Council. At the conclusion of the meeting, Council approved adding more raised beds and a water source at the Carr Park Community Garden site. Also, Council approved the development of a new Community Garden site at 830 Delaware Avenue, the former water tower site.

Staff presented costs to increase the number of raised beds at Carr Park with the addition of a water source. Also presented were the costs to add the new garden site on Delaware Ave. including fencing, water source, and sidewalk access to the gardens. In the FY 2025/26 Capital Improvements Plan, Public Works is planning street improvements to Delaware which may include adding sidewalks depending on Council direction regarding the Complete Streets philosophy at this location. **Because of the future street project, the sidewalk component has been removed from the Delaware Community Garden project at this time.**

Costs to complete the addition of raised beds and a water source at Carr Park as well as the additional garden site at the Delaware Avenue site are listed below.

Carr Park, 1704 Meadowlane Ave.

<u>Cost:</u>	
Raised Beds (14 @ \$350)	\$ 4,900
Water Source	\$ 5,000
Total	\$ 9,900

Delaware Community Garden, 830 Delaware Ave.

<u>Cost:</u>	
Ground Level Beds (12 @ \$0)	\$ 0
Fencing	
Posts (498' @ \$1.50/ft)	\$ 747
Rails (660' @ \$1.50/ft)	\$ 990
Fabric (2 rolls @ \$350/roll)	\$ 700
Concrete	\$ 1,500
Water Source	\$ 9,000
Total	\$12,937

At the March 9 meeting, staff reminded Council that the components necessary to complete the expansion at Carr Park and the new gardens at the Delaware site were not budgeted. Staff also stated that unless savings were identified from completed projects, funds to complete the garden program expansion would need to come from City Council Contingency Funds. The current Council contingency fund balance is \$109,979.

Total costs to expand the Community Garden Program at Carr Park and add an additional Community Garden location at 830 Delaware Ave. is estimated at \$22,837.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the use of City Council Contingency Funds in the amount of \$22,837 for the additions to the Carr Park Community Garden and the new Community Garden at the Delaware Avenue site.
2. Do not approve the use of City Council Contingency Funds in the amount of \$22,837 for the additions to the Carr Park Community Garden and the new Community Garden at the Delaware Avenue. site and direct staff to program the additions in the FY 2022/23 budget.
3. Refer back to Staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Over the last few years, the Community Garden program has been very popular and there is consistently a waiting list for individuals to enroll in the program. Adding additional beds and water source at Carr Park as well as adding a new garden site at the Delaware Avenue site will be well received and used by the Community. If approved, these gardens will be opened in 2022 for the growing season. **Therefore, the City Manager recommends Alternative #1 which is City Council Approve the use of City Council Contingency Funds in the amount of \$22,837 for the additions to the Carr Park Community Garden and the new Community Garden at the Delaware Avenue site.**