

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**  
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission  
City Hall  
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

**AGENDA**  
July 6, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
  
- B. ROLL CALL:
  - \_\_\_ Walt Dunlap
  - \_\_\_ Ron Eischen
  - \_\_\_ Mike Bradbury
  - \_\_\_ Ryan Carlson
  - \_\_\_ Jeff Yager
  - \_\_\_ Shaun Curtin
  - \_\_\_ Susan Risher
  
  - \_\_\_ Council Member Melanie Leehy
  - \_\_\_ Nalisha Nandkumar, Staff Liaison
  
- C. PRESENTATION
  
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
  - 1. Approval of May 4, 2020 minutes.
  
- E. AGENDA:
  - 1. Community Garden Expansion
  
- F. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENT
  - Twins Youth Baseball Clinic
  - Ice Cream Social
  - Good Neighbor Grant 2020
  
- G. ADJOURNMENT:

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- \_\_\_ Staff Nalisha Nandkumar, Staff Liaison

C. PRESENTATION

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of March 2, 2020 minutes.

Eischen 1<sup>st</sup> Motion  
Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion  
Motion Passed

E. AGENDA:

1. Community Garden

- Discussion about the need for social distancing guidelines for Community Garden.
- Commission Members agreed that alternating the gardener's attendance to their plot based on the garden set-up versus the garden number was best.
- Gardeners were provided with a map of the garden. They were informed about which day (odd/even) they should tend to their garden.
- Gardeners have provided positive feedback so far. This might need to be reevaluated as the weather warms and gardens need more watering.
- Guideline #3 on the social distancing flier provided to gardeners states; "Only have one person in your plot at a time. If you are sharing your plot with anyone else, only one person can be in a plot at a time." Agreement to add "unless you are from the same household".

2. Social Distancing at Parks

- Commission agreed that physical activity is important during current pandemic.
- Courts should be opened and provide signage to promote social distancing.

- Courts are currently closed due to the congregating and lack of social distancing.
- Signs should be created that are consistent and pertain to each court (basketball, tennis, etc.)
- Subcommittees were created for research; tennis research conducted by Ryan and Mike, basketball research conducted by Ron and Jeff.
- A resident has also provided feedback and research about the opening of courts and language that should be provided in signage.
- Consider taping off playgrounds and kid friendly signage.

### 3. 2020 Events- Summer Programming

#### a. Story Time

- Pushed back to Fall 2020. Story Time could take place during Harvest Fest. This event would also promote local businesses similar to Ice Cream Social.
- Discussion about holding this event around the same time as State Fair to show what Falcon Heights has to offer.

#### b. Ice Cream Social

- Utilize Ice Cream as an event to showcase the various parks programs that are offered.
- Offer local businesses the opportunity to table the event.
- Discussion about the 2020 Ice Cream Social. Flier could be modified to address social distancing, weather and health issues.

#### c. MN Twins Youth Baseball Clinic

- This event is still planned for July 18, 2020.
- Volunteers will be needed to host the event as the date approaches.

### 4. Website Review

- Commission was asked to review the parks pages on the new website and provide feedback.
- Images of amenities at each park should be added, more information about CTC programming and more information about fillable forms (as applicable).

## F. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENT

- Elect Officers: Ryan Carlson was nominated and elected as Chair. Walt Dunlap will step down as Chair. Mike Bradbury was nominated and as the secretary/co-chair.

## G. ADJOURNMENT: 7:45PM

Dunlap 1<sup>st</sup> Motion  
 Bradbury 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion  
 Motion Passed



**The City That Soars!**

**ITEM FOR DISCUSSION**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	July 6, 2020
<b>Agenda Item</b>	Consent E1
<b>Attachment</b>	2006 Garden Proposal and Plot Map
<b>Submitted By</b>	Nalisha Nandkumar, Staff

<b>Item</b>	Community Garden
<b>Descriptions</b>	<p>Community Garden located at Community Park has 29 plots. All the plots are reserved for the summer by new and returning gardeners. Over the last couple of years there has been an increase of individuals the waitlist. Most of the gardeners are returning each year. This does not allow those on the waitlist to rent a garden plot.</p> <p>Returning gardeners are given priority each year to renew their plot rental. If returning gardeners do not wish to renew their rental then the application process is open to Falcon Heights residents. If there are remaining plots after the given deadline to Falcon Heights residents, then the plots can be rented by anyone in surrounding communities. Surrounding communities include St. Paul, Roseville and Lauderdale.</p>
<b>Budget Impact</b>	NA
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	-2006 Garden Proposal -Plot Map
<b>Action(s) Requested</b>	Review attachments and provide recommendation and discussion for expanding community garden.



# Falcon Heights Community Garden Proposal

Falcon Heights City Council  
November 8, 2006

# Why a Community Garden?

- Encouraging active living by creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, and education
- Fostering social interaction
- Encouraging self-reliance
- Beautifying neighborhoods
- Producing nutritious food
- Reducing family food budgets
- Conserving resources
- Allowing residents in apartments, townhomes and homes with unsuitable lots to garden
- Increases property values



# Activities to Date

3/23/2005	Joint commissions/city council meeting is held to discuss environmental initiatives. Community garden is highlighted as a potential new program.
4/13/2005	City Council changes name of Solid Waste Commission to Environment Commission and broadens scope.
Winter 2006	Environment Commission begins discussions on garden - considers fast tracking the initiative to begin in spring 2006, but decides to wait until spring 2007 to ensure a successful program launch.
May 2006	Environment Commission meets with representative from Gardenworks
June 2006	U of M Humphrey Inst. Report presented on walkability/livability issues



# Activities to Date

6/12/2006	Environment Commission holds joint meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission. Parks and Rec endorses the creation of a community garden.
6/12/2006	Environment Commission passes a motion to create a feasibility study to analyze potential locations of the community garden.
6/27/2006	Survey conducted at Ice Cream Social.
August 2006	Community Garden poll placed on website.
Fall 2007	Council includes considering a community garden in budget process.





# Market Analysis

- ***Community Garden Popularity***
  - *93 Community Gardens in Twin Cities with 3,000 gardeners*
  - *Gardenworks “Parade of Community Gardens” – 55 gardens*
  - *Many gardens have waiting lists.*
- ***Rental and Townhome Property***
  - *As of the 2000 census, there were 5,572 people and 1,434 families residing in the city. There are 2,129 housing units of which 875 are renter-occupied.*
  - *Falcon Heights also has a sizable number of townhomes.*
- ***Lot size***
  - *The city’s tree-lined streets and backyard oaks, elms and maples bring grace and beauty to the city year-round. However the shade they produce can make gardening problematic, particularly vegetable gardening.*
  - *Many lots in the cities are relatively small.*
  - *Families may prefer to have grass lots for kids to run around, outdoor parties, etc.*



# Market Analysis

## Survey Results from Ice Cream Social & Website

1. **Do you like the concept of community gardens?**
  - Yes – 23
  - No – 0
  
2. **If a community garden were available to you, would you be interested in leasing a plot?**
  - Yes – 13
  - No – 9
  - Don't know - 1
  
3. **Would you be interested in volunteering on a community garden steering committee?**
  - Yes - 11
  - No – 13
  - Need More Information - 3



# Falcon Heights

## Community Garden Poll

The Environment Commission is exploring possibilities for starting a community garden in Falcon Heights.

Please help us evaluate community support for a garden by filling out and submitting the poll below.

*Thank you for your participation!*

Do you like the concept of Community Gardens:

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know - Need More Information

If a Community Garden were available to you, would you be interested in a leasing a plot?:

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know - Need More Information

Would you be interested in volunteering on a Community Garden Steering Committee?:

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know - Need More Information

Do you have any comments for the Environment Commission?:

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Where will the community garden be located?**

*A: We do not yet have a site. The Commission is researching half a dozen possible sites in Falcon Heights*

**Q: When will the garden begin?**

*A: Not before spring of 2007.*

**Q: Who will be eligible for a plot?**

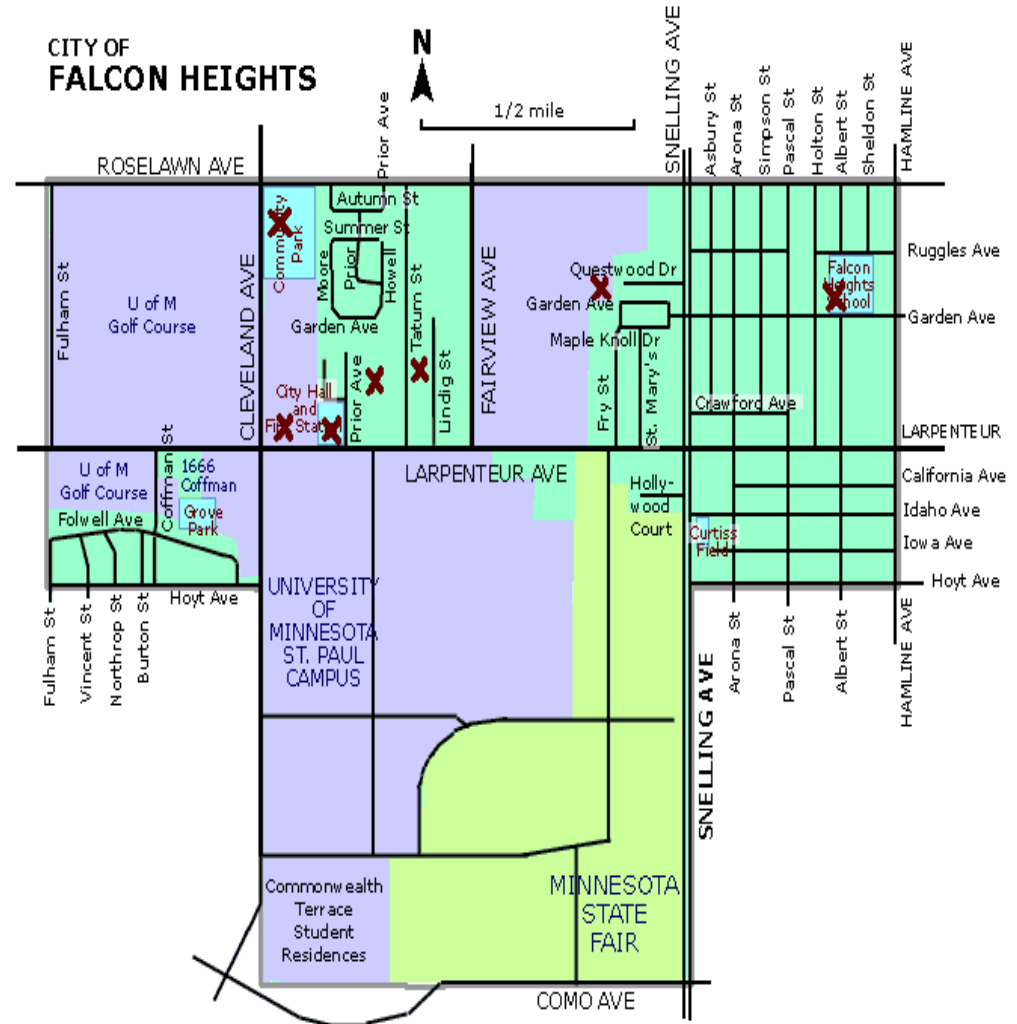
*A: Residents of Falcon Heights will have priority.*

**Q: How much will it cost to lease a plot?**

*A: The cost has not yet been determined, but it will be comparable with other community gardens in the Metro.*

# Location Analysis

- Community Park
- City Hall's front yard
- Falcon Heights Elementary School
- Lindig Park
- U of M property at Fry St. and Garden Ave
- Area behind Twin Cities Federal Co-op
- U of M property, west of City Hall



# Location Analysis

- How did we make our site recommendation?
- Utilized Community Garden Site Assessment List
  - Sun
  - Soil
  - Topography
  - Water Access
  - Site Amenities
  - Neighborhood



# Location Analysis

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# Location: Community Park



Standing South of the Garden Looking North



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Enter city, address, or landmark

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eye  
3D buildings  
Satellite  
Street view

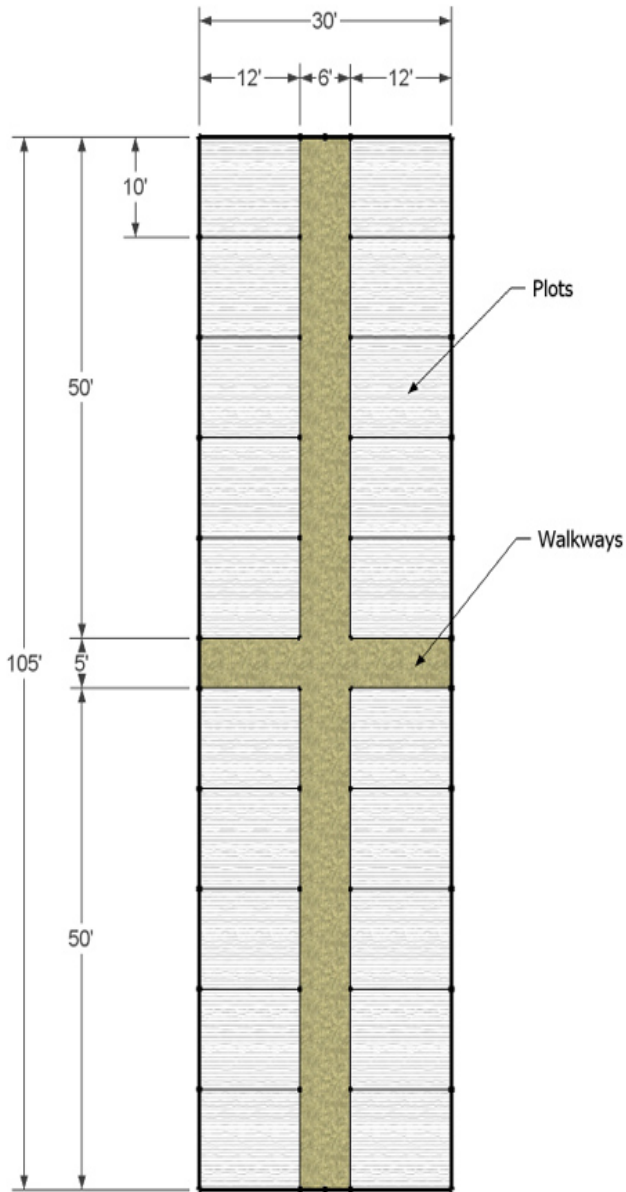


# Location: Community Park

- **Benefits:**

- Sun
- Soil
- Topography
- Water Access
- Site Amenities
  - Building
  - Parking
  - Playground
- Neighborhood
- Handicapped accessible
- Sidewalks lead to site





## Proposed Layout

20 Plots  
10x12 plots



# Location: Community Park

- **Disadvantage:**
- Uncertainty of the future



# Location: City Hall

- **Benefits:**

- Sun
- Topography
- Water Access
- Site Amenities
  - Building
  - Parking
- Neighborhood





# Location: City Hall

- **Disadvantages:**
- Parking lot reconstruction
- Visual impact
- Storage
- Water issues



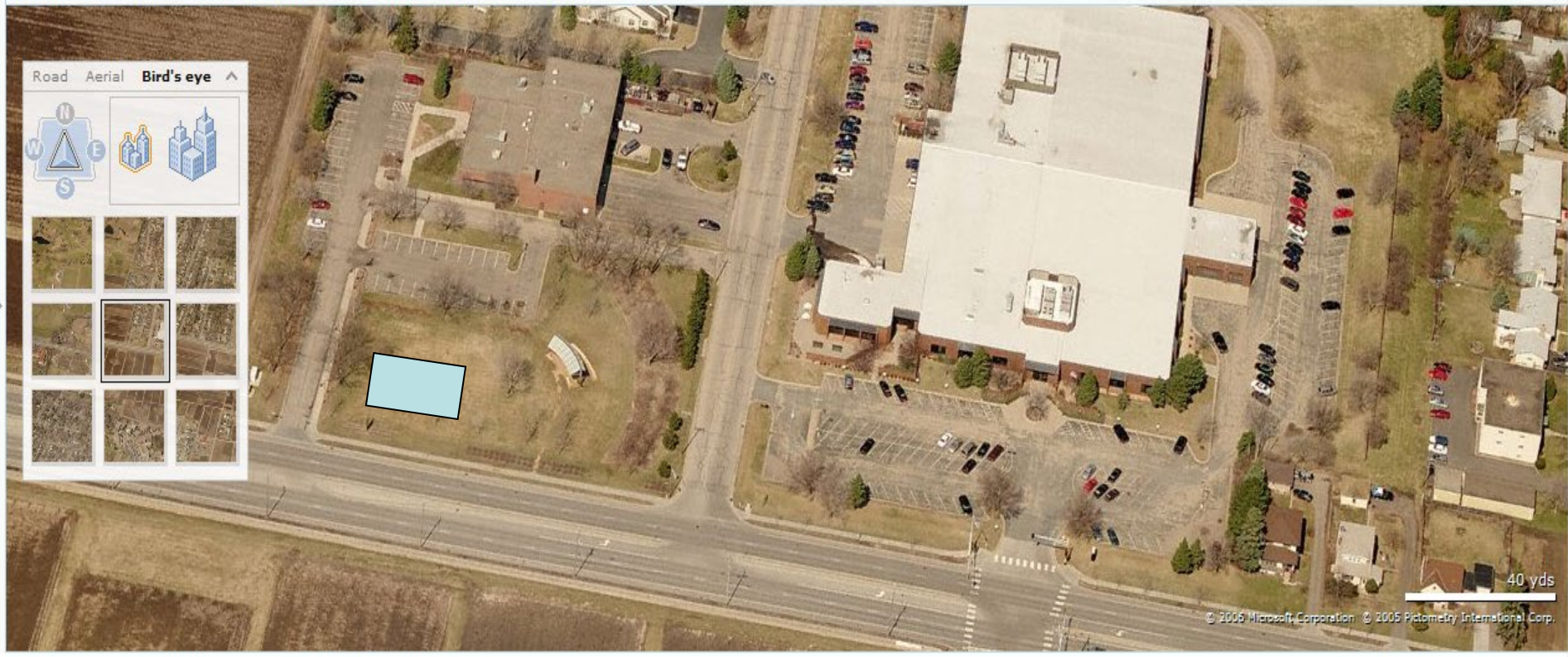


Enter city, address, or landmark

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Road Aerial **Bird's eye**

# Budget

- Council currently has \$5,000 allocated in capital budget (2% of 2007 cap. budget)
- \$2,500 - Tilling and hauling of compost/dirt (E.C. will work to secure free compost/dirt)
- \$500 for fence & miscellaneous expenses
- Revenue from plots = \$400-\$500 (20x\$25 = \$500)
- Voluntary contributions – tools, seeds, labor, etc.
- Reduced rate for qualified families



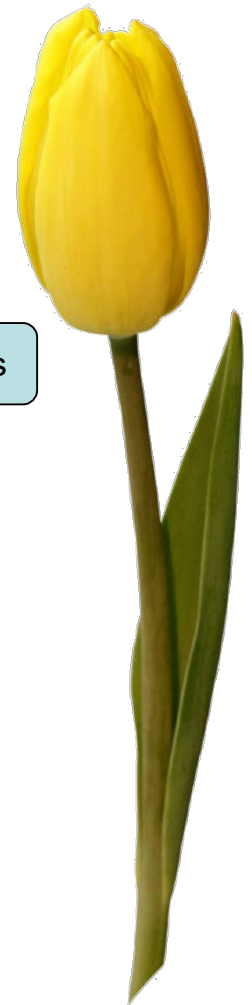
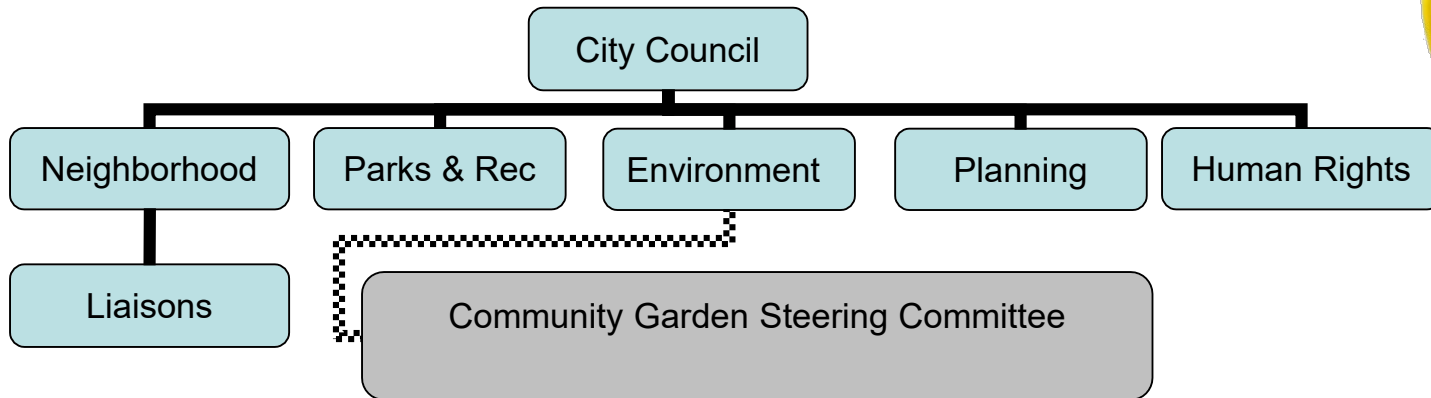
# Recommendations

- Plan A: Create a community garden at Community Park
- Plan B: Create a community garden at City Hall
- Create a Community Garden Steering Committee



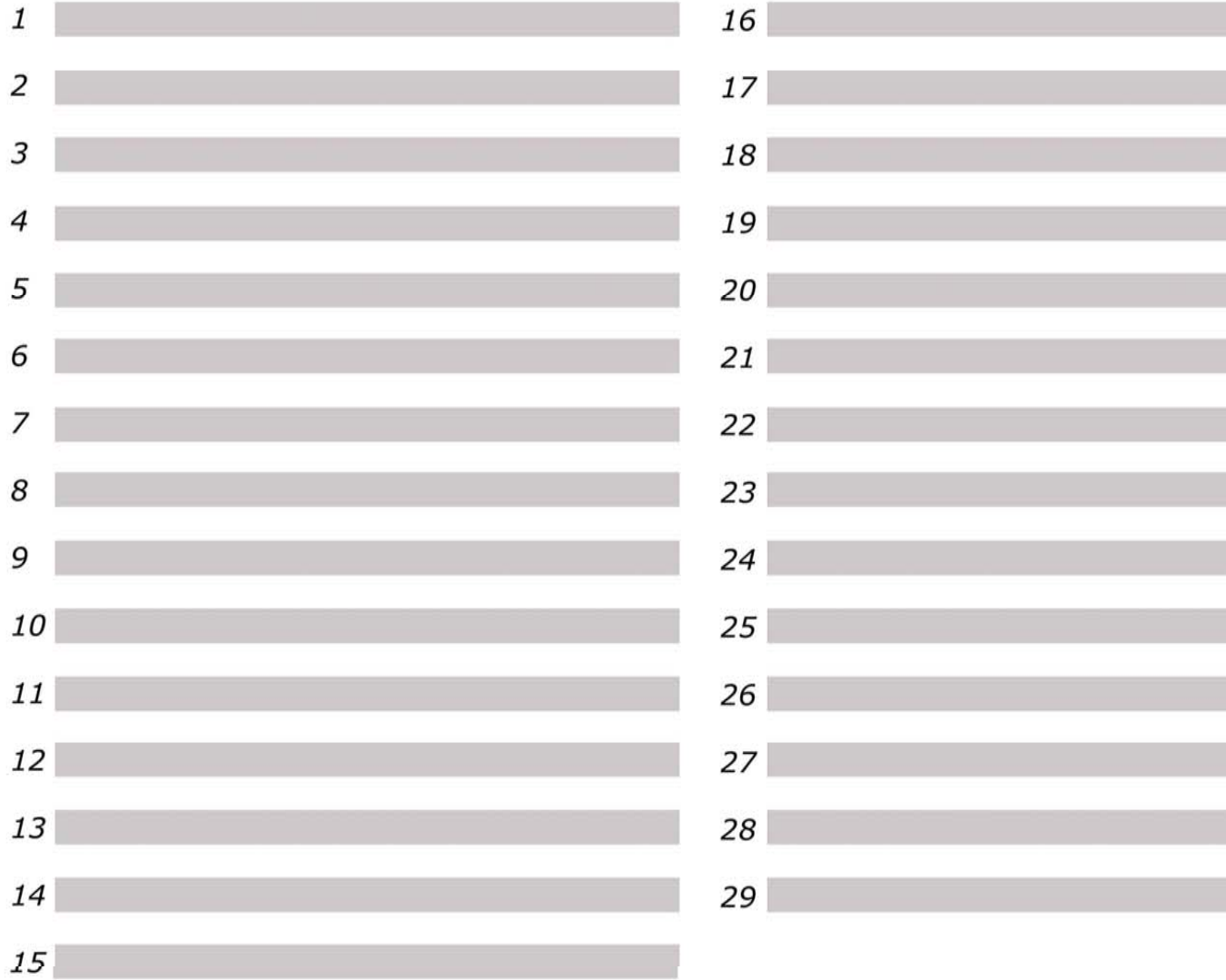
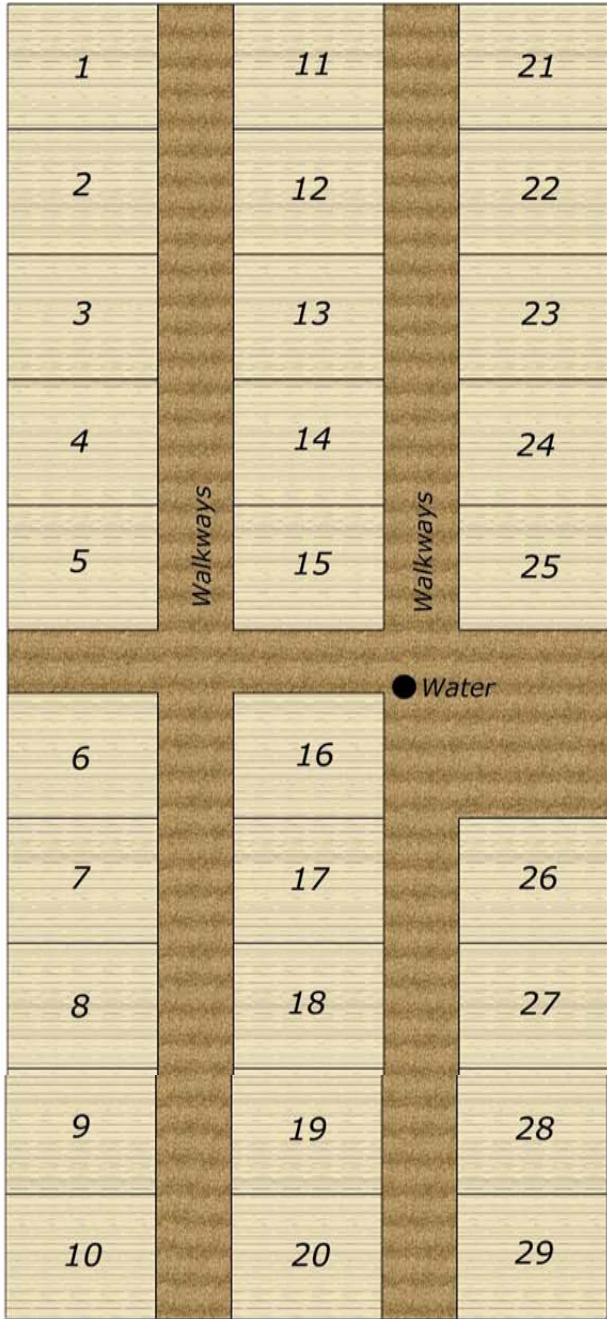


# Organizational Chart



# Thanks!





**Falcon Heights Garden Plots 2017**