

*City of Falcon Heights
Garden Subcommittee*

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue W.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.

A G E N D A

NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD BY WEB CONFERENCE*

A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: Jim Wassenberg ____ Nick Olson ____
 Scott Wilson ____ Joel Gerich ____
 Council Liaison Gustafson ____ Council Liaison Andrews ____
 Staff Liaison Markon ____

C. AGENDA

1. Recap meeting 2
2. Discuss survey results and possible draft ordinance

D. ADJOURN

***To view the virtual meeting, visit this [Zoom link](#). You can also listen to the meeting by calling 312-626-6799 and enter the Webinar ID 858 5684 9861.**



The City That Soars!

STAFF MEMO

Meeting Date	September 1, 2020
Agenda Item	Agenda C2
Submitted By	Justin Markon, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Discuss Survey Results and Possible Draft Ordinance
Description	<p>Following meeting 2 in late July, staff developed a web survey to gather feedback from residents about their thoughts on gardening in our city. Survey responses will be part of the discussion as we craft a new ordinance about gardening activities - both private, residential gardens as well as community gardens. Over two and a half weeks that the survey was available, 322 people completed the survey. A sample of results is below.</p> <p><i>Q: The City of Falcon Heights created a community garden in 2006, providing 29 plots of 200 square feet, at Community Park. The city is currently considering adding 9 more plots for 2021. Do you feel Falcon Heights has a need for more community garden space than we currently have?</i></p> <p>Answers: Yes: 71% No: 8%</p> <p><i>Q: Where should future community gardens be allowed? Select all that apply.</i> This question had four options with numerous combinations with the “Select all that apply” direction. The selections were: P-1, R-1 if institutional, all R-1 and R-2, and Business zones. Staff have consolidated responses into two categories.</p> <p>Answers: Not allowed in R-1 and R-2 residential: 31% Allowed in all R-1 and R-2: 67%</p> <p><i>Q: How far from neighboring property should RESIDENTIAL GARDENS be allowed? See the [native landscaping] setback information above.</i></p> <p>Answers: Per existing native landscaping setback requirements: 69% Other: No setback (or some variation): 15%</p> <p><i>Q: Should there be size limits on RESIDENTIAL GARDENS?</i></p> <p>Answers: No, as long as they meet setback requirements: 74% No more than 25%/50% of open space: 13% (combined) Other: No size limits: 9%</p> <p><i>Q: How far from neighboring property should COMMUNITY GARDENS be allowed? See the [native landscaping] setback information above.</i></p> <p>Answers: Per existing native landscaping setback requirements: 72% Other: No setback (or some variation): 11% Other: Larger (4-25 ft): 9%</p>

Q: *Should there be size limits on COMMUNITY GARDENS?*

Answers: No, as long as they meet setback requirements: 72%
No more than 25%/50% of open space: 15% (combined)
Other: No size limits: 7%

Q: *What facilities should be required for community gardens?*

On-street parking	Yes: 55%	No: 42%
Off-street parking	Yes: 30%	No: 66%
Access to water	Yes: 76%	No: 23%
Compost bins	Yes: 69%	No: 29%
Garbage bins	Yes: 60%	No: 37%
Restroom facilities	Yes: 20%	No: 76%

Q: *Sharing a Garden Plan and written consent for a community garden shall be required from...*

Answers: All immediately adjacent property owners: 33%
All owners within 100 ft and share street/alley: 28%
Other: None (or some variation): 27%

Q: *The maximum number of non-resident gardeners allowed to conduct edible landscaping activities at the same time on a lot shall not exceed...*

Answers: 5 gardeners: 18% 10 gardeners: 17% 20 gardeners: 19%

Q: *I am a/an... (select all that apply)*

Answers: Falcon Heights owner: 70%
Falcon Heights renter: 6%
Non-resident of Falcon Heights: 22%

Two questions asked for open-ended feedback on 1) draft definitions of edible landscaping, residential garden, and community garden and 2) operations and maintenance provisions. Staff do not have good data on these responses yet, but they can be discussed at a later time.

**Action(s)
Requested**

Staff request a discussion on the survey results and direction on drafting an ordinance. The current timeline was to have a draft available by mid-September and then provide a month (or so) for feedback on the proposal. This would be followed by a Public Hearing in mid-late October and final consideration shortly thereafter.