

## STAFF REPORT



To: PED Council Committee

Date: June 21, 2016

From: Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer

Via: Cathy Ball, Assistant City Manager

Subject: UPDATE: Resolution 13-17 City of Asheville's Food Action Plan and Resolution 12-153 Inaugural Bee City, USA

---

### **Summary Statement:**

The Office of Sustainability continues to work towards implementing the City of Asheville's Food Policy Action Plan in support of the Asheville Buncombe County Food Policy Agenda. The purpose of this report is to provide updates and recommended action items to continue the work within the Food Policy Action Plan.

### **Update:**

#### **Food Policy Action Plan Website and Programming**

The Office of Sustainability and the City's Communications and Public Engagement staff have been working to create a Food Policy website to allow citizens to interact with the City's Office of Sustainability on the Food Policy Action Plan; provide information on upcoming events and programming, opportunities, success stories and education.

The website will be interactive; mapping locations of present successful gardens and orchards. Website information also includes a homeowner's guide on how to participate, applications and ways to engage with the City, and updates on future goals and projects such as the Edible Mile.

There are presently existing City properties that have community gardens, large agriculture leases and orchards that are available to the public. The Office of Sustainability, the Real Estate Manager, and the City's Neighborhood Coordinator are finalizing programming, Asheville Edibles, and an application process to support 1.) Community Gardens 2.) Large Agriculture Leases 3.) Adopt A Spot.

#### **Partnerships**

Partnerships for the Asheville Edibles program include working with GreenWorks through an Adopt-A-Spot (AAS) program. The intent of the AAS program is to encourage citizens to engage in regular, ongoing participation in beautification in approved designated areas in the community. Examples of beautification projects include edible gardens and pollinator gardens; examples of an AAS location include public spaces such as parks, greenways and possible right-of-way islands.

Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council – Land Use Cluster identified a desire for an "Edible Mile" on public land. In response, the Greenway Coordinator and Sustainability Office determined that the French Broad River West Greenway, under construction in 2018, would be a great location to plant a percentage of edibles within the landscaping. The City is partnering with GreenWorks on planning, fundraising, and implementing the edible and pollinator-friendly landscaping along the greenway.

Asheville's Tree Commission's subcommittee, Edibles, and its subcommittee members, will be working toward an edibles list that can be used for both the Edible Mile and GreenWorks' AAS program. The edibles list will be vetted through the appropriate departments to ensure consistency and safety.

#### **Attachments**

(1) Website Layout Draft