




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed., CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

**DATE:** October 26, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Update regarding Resolution No. 20210729-115, Festival Beach Food Forest Expansion

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This memo serves as an update regarding Resolution No. 20210729-115 approved by City Council on July 29, 2021. The resolution directed the City Manager, through the Parks and Recreation Department (Department), to partner with Fruitful Commons serving as the nonprofit sponsor of the Festival Beach Food Forest to plan, design, implement, and maintain a three-acre phased expansion of the Food Forest, and to update the Holly Shores Vision Plan, if needed.

Fruitful Commons has created a [conceptual plan](#) for its phase 2 expansion from 1 to 3 acres. The conceptual plan included considerable public input from the local community. The proposed plan includes innovative elements including an outdoor pavilion, nature play space and an outdoor teaching kitchen that is contained in a food truck. The food truck is a cost-efficient option compared to in-ground outdoor teaching kitchens. The expansion will connect to adjacent public amenities including the north end of the Festival Beach Community Garden with the potential to connect to Hatchery Park, which is under development by private developer, Capital Project Management, in conjunction with the Rebekah Baines Johnson Complex. The connection element will require review by the Department to mitigate impacts to the Community Garden. The Department provided feedback throughout the planning process for the conceptual design.

The improvements made on parkland by Fruitful Commons will be incorporated into a Park Improvement and Maintenance Agreement to ensure expectations and responsibilities are clearly outlined and documented. All improvements made on parkland will be owned by the City but maintained by Fruitful Commons.

Because this is a multi-year process to address the resolution requirement to “plan, design, implement, and maintain a three-acre phased expansion of the Festival Beach Food Forest” and develop the Parkland Improvement and Maintenance Agreement, staff requests an extension to provide an update on December 2, 2022.

**cc:** Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Anne Morgan, Interim Deputy City Manager  
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager