



City of North Port
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
Alaina Ray, AICP, Director
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the North Port Commission

THRU: A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, City Manager

THRU: Jason Yarborough, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Manager

THRU: Alaina Ray, AICP, Development Services Department, Director

THRU: Lori Barnes, AICP, Development Services Department, Assistant Director

FROM: Jeremy Rogus, Arborist, Staff Liaison to the Environmental Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Advisement to Incorporate Community Gardens into Land Development Code

DATE: October 10, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Members of the North Port Commission,

Code of the City of North Port Chapter 4, Boards and Committees – Article IX, Environmental Advisory Board – Section 4-182, states that The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) shall advise the City Commission on matters pertaining to preserving and promoting wildlife, habitat protection, trees, the City’s natural and environmental resources, its flora and fauna, tree planting and care, beautification of public spaces, and safeguarding environmental quality for the future.

On September 11, 2023, during their regular meeting, the EAB discussed and made motion to approve the attached advisement to City Commission to incorporate Community Gardens into the Land Development Code.

Attachments:

- A. EAB Community Garden Advisement

Attachment A

Dear City Commissioners,

It is the recommendation of this board that new developers need to be held to a higher standard in terms of green space. Our opinion is that a community garden be used in conjunction with any recreation area and green space area. Having a community garden as part of the initial plans is much easier than trying to find an area around the City that can be changed and utilized. A community garden is not just a place for people to grow a few vegetables, it promotes wildlife to thrive and gives residents a way to exercise and relieve stress. With the help of organizations like the University of Florida, who has a community gardens division operating in Sarasota, a community garden can be aesthetically pleasing as well as being functional in conjunction with any pools, playground, etc. the developer has in mind.

Thank you,

Environmental Advisory Board:

Desiree Holland

William English

Jessica Eik

Erin Hall

Casey McGowan

Lola Robinson