

Resolution to Recommend the Food Forest continue at Leslie Park and to renew the agreement between the True Earth Org and the City of Ann Arbor

October 19, 2021

Whereas, in April 2021, PAC approved a pilot project in the southern section of Leslie Park, on a site less than one acre in size;

Whereas, The City and True Earth entered into an agreement for a Pilot Northside Food Forest (NFF) Project at Leslie Park in April of 2021;

Whereas, this agreement outlines the goals and purpose of the NFF, the organizational structure of the NFF, maintenance responsibilities, community outreach, signage, insurance requirements, and level of City support;

Whereas, the NFF sought and received prior approval for additional plantings and landscaping;

Whereas, no permanent or semi-permanent structures were erected in the NFF site in Leslie Park;

Whereas, the NFF conducted more than 3 free outreach and educational classes, with support from City Staff, on Food Forests to neighborhoods near Leslie Park;

Whereas, the NFF reported back to the Park Advisory Commission at their October 19, 2021 meeting on the success of the 2021 season;

Whereas, the NFF aims to achieve goals in line with City sustainability goals;

Whereas, staff recommend removing the pilot provision from the NFF project;

RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission recommend approval of the continuation of the NFF, removing the pilot program designation, following these steps:

1. Prior to April 1, 2022 The City and NFF renew the working agreement that outlines the goals and purpose of the NFF, the organizational structure of the NFF, maintenance responsibilities, community outreach, signage, insurance requirements, and level of City support.
2. This agreement will be eligible for annual renewal, provided all parties agree to the renewal.
3. Any additional plantings and landscaping must be approved prior to implementation.
4. During each season the NFF conduct at least 3 free outreach and educational classes, with support from City Staff, on Food Forests to neighborhoods near Leslie Park.
5. That the NFF report back to the Park Advisory Commission at a Fall 2022 meeting on how the prior season went.