



**AM No. 12-17: SUPPORTING AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A RESOURCE FOR CITIZENS THROUGH A COMMUNITY GARDEN AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN ASSOCIATED TASK FORCE.**

**Agenda of:** April 9, 2012

**Date:** March 29, 2012

**Originator:** Council Member Katkus

Route to:	Department	Signature	Date
X	Public Works Director		
X	Finance Director		3/30/12
X	Interim Deputy Administrator		4-2-12
X	City Clerk		4/3/12

**REVIEWED BY MAYOR VERNE E. RUPRIGHT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  yes or  no      Funds Available  Yes or  No

**Account name/number:**

**Attachments:** 2012 goals and initiatives, page 8 of 9 (1 page)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** On January 9, 2012, the Wasilla City Council adopted AM No. 12-02, confirming the goals and initiatives for FY2012 and FY2014.

- Goal 7 states:
  - Preserve and enhance the quality of life for current and future residents of Wasilla and for visitors to this community.
- Initiative No. 35 states:
  - Continue to encourage and promote cultural and recreational programs, events, and activities to improve the quality of life of the City's residents and visitors through the use of City facilities (such as parks, museums and library).

- Initiative No. 36 states:  
Establish citizen focus groups and continue to conduct community surveys to assist in the development of long-term plans and policies to accommodate future growth.

In order to take action on both of these initiatives, and thereby moving forward to meet one of our goals, I would like to propose the creation of a community garden as well as an associated task force.

A community garden would:

- enhance the quality of life, provide opportunity for public civic involvement build civic pride and civic cooperation
- provide educational opportunities for all ages;
- provide opportunity to improve health and experience outdoor family recreation;
- provide positive sustainable growing practices for food;
- provide resources to the citizens to create a cultural and social atmosphere that would engage the citizens and the city government in a positive meaningful way.
- will add beautification and public relations opportunities for the citizens of Wasilla and visitors; and
- be an effective way to utilize some of our natural resources such as any dredge material from the Lake Lucile project.

I believe a community garden will meet four out of the five objectives of the City's Mission Statement:

"It is the mission of the City of Wasilla to provide optimum service levels to the public as cost effectively as possible to ensure a stable and thriving economy, promote a healthy community, provide a safe environment and a quality lifestyle, and promote maximum citizen participation in government."

During my research I have found that the location and the "how to's" can be decided by a citizen task force so citizens can benefit in the creation and ownership of a community project. Some citizens have suggested a location visible that is near to Nunley Park across from the City hall. The City lot is highly visible and children can play at Nunley Park and this specific lot has excellent public relation opportunity for the city and the public. Plus it goes well with the downtown farmers market and the nice public jewel market put on by Husky Electric.

I believe a task force should be created to address this issue because the process should be decided by the citizens for the purpose of civic pride and ownership. By creating a task force we will be inviting and encouraging the involvement of our citizens. A task force will therefore create an opportunity for those involved to have a sense of ownership and civic pride. If we do not give people something to own, they do not care. This task force allows our citizens to succeed, to dream, to learn and to educate, to empower and to have a higher quality of life while contributing to our city by being involved and sharing their experience. It is my belief that success breeds success, the subject of a community garden has been requested by many and there has

been positive interest to participate. So if we are successful in this community effort, there is a good chance for more successful ventures involving the public; which builds a strong sense of community and public relations for the City and it's citizens.

Therefore, I believe, that establishing a task force will give our citizens an opportunity to create, empower and have a sense of ownership that strengthens the City of Wasilla and our community for many generations.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt AM No. 12-17.

<b>Date:</b>		<b>Approved:</b>		<b>Denied:</b>		<b>Initials:</b>		<b>Comments:</b>	
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## Wasilla Budget Goals and Initiatives for FY 2013 – FY 2014

**GOAL: Preserve and enhance the quality of life for current and future residents of Wasilla and for visitors to this community**

<i>Department(s) Responsible for Supporting Specific Budget Initiative</i>																
	Admin	City Clerk & Records	Finance	MIS	General & Admin	Human Resources	Planning	Police	Dispatch	Code Compliance	Public Works	Parks, Property & Roads	Purchasing	Recreation & Cultural Services	Library	Museum
31	X		X								X	X				
32					X							X				
33					X							X				
34	X		X													
35	X				X						X	X		X	X	X
36	X				X		X				X			X	X	X

31. Allocate funding annually for the preservation and clean-up of lakes and waterways within the City.
32. Enhance Lake Lucille Park and water quality to increase use.
33. Enhance Wasilla Lake Park use to include exploring opportunities to enhance recreational activities.
34. Assign \$50,000 annually for land bank for the purpose of positioning the City to purchase land as necessary to enhance the quality of life for residents of the City of Wasilla.
35. Continue to encourage and promote cultural and recreational programs, events, and activities to improve the quality of life of the City's residents and visitors through the use of City facilities (such as parks, museums and library).
36. Establish citizen focus groups and continue to conduct community surveys to assist in the development of long-term plans and policies to accommodate future growth.