

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution authorizing the execution of a five-year farm lease with two five-year extension options with 3rd Space LLC d/b/a tBUG (the Bellevue Urban Garden) (“tBug”) to provide agricultural services for the Lake Hills Greenbelt for in-kind services to the City valued at up to \$7,675 over the initial term, plus all applicable taxes.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377

Kevin LeClair, Natural Resource Division Manager, 452-4880

Jammie Kingham, Environmental Programs Supervisor, 452-6048

Parks & Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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| ACTION | Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a five-year farm lease with two five-year extension options with tBUG to provide agricultural services and programs to the Lake Hills Greenbelt and wider Bellevue community. |
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RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10464

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Lake Hills Greenbelt agricultural land is located within a federally designated critical area wetland. Wetland farming consists of challenging hydrologic conditions, unique soil types, restrictive practices, and season equipment limitations. Natural Resource staff have formed a collaborative relationship with tBUG, developing successful farming practices conducive to the unique, and often challenging, farming conditions. The Lake Hills Greenbelt is home to some of Bellevue’s preserved agricultural lands and this site uses agrarian lands to provide hands-on teaching of farming, urban food production, and food security. tBUG has been farming this 2.75-acre parcel for 10 years growing both their crops and the crops of program participants all while teaching people who live, work, and play in Bellevue how to grow their own food in environmentally sustainable ways. The department has requested an exception to the competitive process and to retain tBUG to maintain our long-standing collaborative relationship and multiyear investment in farming practices.

In 2015, tBUG (then operating under the name Farmer Frog) entered into a lease and began farming services and programs in the Lake Hills Greenbelt offering a modern application to Lake Hills Greenbelt agriculture. In 2023, tBUG provided 95 programs to over 6,400 program participants, promoting an appreciation for the importance of urban agriculture and increasing understanding of sustainable farming practices.

tBUG has provided quality, practical agricultural services and programming for the Lake Hills Greenbelt. This lease will allow them to continue to provide enriched agricultural programs to people who live, work, and play in Bellevue. An exception to the competitive process has been granted to retain tBug to maintain our long-standing collaborative relationship and multiyear investment in farming practices. tBUG is well qualified, and staff is confident in the vendor’s demonstrated and continued service.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan:

PA-1: Establish a coordinated and connected system of open space and greenways throughout the city that provide multiple benefits including preserving natural systems, protecting wildlife habitat and corridors, enhancing scenic character, and providing land for recreation.

PA-4: Design parks and facilities to maximize available space and benefits for users, including offering parks with multiple functions and implementation of shared use facilities.

PA-7: Obtain, for preservation, natural areas that are sensitive to development or represent a valuable ecological resource to the community.

PA-28: Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.

Bellevue City Code 4.30.020 states that leases of real property for more than two years require council approval.

Bellevue City Code 4.28.130 allows for the exception to the competitive process.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with executing this lease agreement, as the lease payments are offset by services in kind to the community.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution of a five-year farm lease with two five-year extension options with 3rd Space LLC d/b/a tBUG (the Bellevue Urban Garden) (“tBug”) to provide agricultural services for the Lake Hills Greenbelt for in-kind services to the City valued at up to \$7,675 over the initial term, plus all applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10464

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

2025 – 2030 Farm Lease with tBUG