



## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** June 7, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Common Ground NRH Community Garden Update  
**PRESENTER:** Adrien Pekurney, Director

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The City of North Richland Hills is working through the final processes for purchase of the property located at 5301 Davis Blvd, North Richland Hills. This is the former Davis Blvd United Methodist Church where the Common Ground Community Garden is located.

While the final sale documents have not been completed, we communicated to the Common Ground Community Garden volunteers that gardeners could return to their garden plots and continue care of this space in its current location.

Staff recently received communication from longtime NRH Common Ground Garden Coordinator and current Park and Recreation Board Member Dianne Spradling, that she passed the responsibilities of Garden Coordinator to Ms. Rachel Howe. Through Dianne's volunteer commitment, passion and love for the garden, she has shared that enthusiasm with Rachel, and Rachel has fallen in love with the Common Ground Community Garden. Rachel is excited to bring new and innovative ideas to make the garden even better. As Dianne wrote, "she brings a new set of eyes that are focused on the garden's future and I for one am looking forward to her creativity." Rachel has received her Master Gardener Certification through the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association. Rachel works part-time in the medical field and she became interested in gardening through the Grapevine Garden Club. Rachel is a high energy individual with great gardening and people skills. She is looking forward to working with our gardening community to help keep Common Ground one of the best community gardens in Texas.

While Dianne is stepping away from the day to day volunteer coordination of the garden, she will remain in an advisory position for as long as needed and will continue to work at the garden at her plot and support others in any way she can. Dianne was integral in establishing the Common Ground Community Garden in 2010 and has loyally served as its volunteer coordinator for 11 years since its inception. Dianne has logged more than 11,000 hours volunteering at the garden and managed the garden committee whose volunteers average over 20 hours each week at the garden. Under Dianne's management and oversight, the garden is recognized as a model community garden across the country. Dianne's leadership skills, positive attitude and gardening expertise have been invaluable to the garden. The NRH Common Ground Community Garden council continues to have committed participants and volunteers and is excited to see the garden



property remain in its current location with the recent City of North Richland Hills purchase of the former Davis Memorial United Methodist Church.

To learn more about the NRH Common Ground Community Garden visit their website at <http://www.nrhcommunitygarden.com/>.