

VILLAGE OF PINCKNEY

VILLAGE COUNCIL

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATION

COMMUNITY GARDEN RELOCATION, PROGRAM UPDATES, AND PROPERTY TRANSITION

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: January 12, 2026

## **BACKGROUND**

The Downtown Development Authority has reviewed the current Community Garden operations, including the existing garden location and the seasonal sign up and close out process. The Downtown Development Authority has also reviewed the planned transition of the current Community Garden property, which is proposed to be sold as part of broader Village and downtown considerations.

In response to the anticipated sale of the current Community Garden site, the Downtown Development Authority evaluated alternative locations and voted to approve and forward the following recommendation to Village Council.

This recommendation reflects work completed by the Community Garden Committee and subsequent approval by the Downtown Development Authority. The proposed action addresses relocation of the Community Garden to a Village owned site and associated operational process updates intended to support continuity of the program, public access, and responsible stewardship of Village property.

No changes to Community Garden rules, fees, deposits, eligibility, or garden standards are proposed.

## **RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION**

The Downtown Development Authority recommends that Village Council approve:

1. Relocation of the Community Garden to the **Village owned lot located behind Village Hall**, and
2. Acknowledgement of associated sign up and seasonal process updates to support continued operation of the Community Garden at the new location

## RATIONALE FOR RELOCATION

The Downtown Development Authority identified the following factors supporting relocation of the Community Garden to the Village owned lot located behind Village Hall:

- The planned sale of the current Community Garden property necessitates relocation of the program
- Continued operation of the Community Garden without interruption
- Improved accessibility and overall site layout
- Better long term suitability for garden use
- Alignment with downtown planning and public use goals
- Inclusion under the Village of Pinckney's existing insurance coverage, addressing liability considerations associated with non Village owned sites
- Improved visual appearance and long term maintenance of the Village Hall grounds, including currently underutilized areas
- Opportunity to support future community engagement and shared use

In addition to the garden layout, the Downtown Development Authority supports several site enhancements intended to improve functionality and appearance of the Village Hall property. These include a **seasonal sunflower planting wall along the rear of the building beneath the existing deck** to enhance visual interest and soften the building façade, and installation of a **Village of Pinckney branded awning over the first level rear entrance door** to improve visibility, weather protection, and wayfinding for residents accessing the garden area.

Specific site details and any related installations would be coordinated in accordance with Village standards and subject to Council approval.

## SIGN UP AND SEASONAL PROCESS UPDATES

In conjunction with the recommended relocation, the Downtown Development Authority reviewed the Community Garden sign up and seasonal process and supports the following operational updates to improve clarity, accessibility, and administrative efficiency:

- One page registration form available for download or pickup
- Registration forms may be submitted by mail, email, or in person
- Payment may be submitted by mail, in person, or online
- Gardeners may request a preferred plot as part of registration
- Plot assignments confirmed by the Village on a first come, first served basis based on the date and time a completed registration and payment are received
- Seasonal garden fee includes both plot rental and the refundable cleanup deposit, consistent with the existing program
- Confirmation of plot assignment provided once registration is processed
- Optional voluntary contributions may be accepted, separate from required fees, to support

Community Garden related improvements or community benefit initiatives

- One optional group orientation at the start of the season
- Brief written orientation summary provided for gardeners unable to attend
- Clear end of season cleanup checklist and single close out deadline

These updates are operational in nature and do not modify existing program requirements.

#### **KEY CLARIFICATIONS**

- This recommendation reflects approval by the Downtown Development Authority
- The relocation is proposed in response to the planned sale of the current Community Garden property
- No changes to Community Garden rules, fees, deposits, or eligibility are proposed
- The recommendation addresses location transition and operational process only
- Sale of the existing property remains subject to separate Council action and approval

#### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

The Downtown Development Authority believes this recommendation allows the Community Garden to continue serving residents while responsibly responding to the transition of the current garden property. Relocating the garden to a Village owned site ensures continuity of the program, improves long term stewardship of public space, and supports thoughtful use of Village assets.

This recommendation is offered to support community connection, continuity, and careful planning as the Village moves forward.