



**LACEY CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022  
6:00 P.M. –7:15 P.M.  
REMOTE AND IN PERSON**

The Lacey City Council Worksession will be conducted both remote and in person.

The public may attend the meeting in person in the Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall, 420 College Street SE, Lacey, Washington, or you may view or listen to the meeting by using one of the following platforms:

Live through Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85620761240>

Live or as a recording on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/t0Xo7Ljs-Ks>

Listen via telephone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 856 2076 1240)

The public may submit written public comments by email to [publiccomment@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:publiccomment@ci.lacey.wa.us). Written comments will be provided to the City Council electronically prior to the meeting. Comments will not be addressed during the meeting; however, comments received will be added to the official record. The comment period will close at **4:00 p.m. on September 22, 2022.**

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**AGENDA**

**6:00 [LACEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE](#)**

*JENNY BAUERSFELD, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST  
(STAFF REPORT)*

**6:15 [COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM](#)**

*SARAH HOCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOINT ANIMAL SERVICES  
(STAFF REPORT)*

**6:45 REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL STATUS UPDATE**

*RICK WALK, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
(PRESENTATION)*

**7:15 ADJOURN**



## LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

September 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Lacey Neighborhood Grant Program Status Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Informational/Briefing: Based on past Council guidance, Staff will update the 2023 Grant Program Overview & Guidelines to include informal neighborhoods within the City as well as expand grant categories.

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**STAFF CONTACT:** Scott Spence, City Manager *SS*  
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager *SKF*  
Jenny Bauersfeld, Community Relations Specialist *JMB*

**ORIGINATED BY:** Public Affairs Department

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [2022 Approved Grant Projects](#)
2. [Draft Updated 2023 Grant Program Overview & Guidelines](#)

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**PRIOR REVIEW:** General Government Committee Meeting - June 28, 2022

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### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2017, the Lacey City Council (Council) approved a \$25,000 budget for the Lacey Neighborhood Grant Program (LNGP), to encourage neighborhood activities that foster community pride, engage community members, and beautify the City.

The community had a positive response to the LNGP and interest quickly grew. In response to this success, in 2019 the Council approved a program budget increase to \$60,000. The current LNGP budget remains the same at \$60,000.

### **2022 Neighborhood Grant Program**

In 2022, the City accepted eligible applications from Homeowners Associations (HOAs) formally recognized within the City of Lacey. The application period for the 2022 LNGP

closed on April 1. The City received twenty-seven (27) grant applications for the current calendar year, see **Attachment 1**. In total, HOAs requested \$60,599.23 in grant funds.

Representatives from Public Affairs, Community Development, and Parks Maintenance reviewed each application for compliance with program guidelines as well as City regulations, ordinances, and non-discrimination policies. All twenty-seven grant submittals were accepted and fall within the following project categories:

- Safe Neighborhoods
- Environmental Sustainability
- Neighborhood Beautification

With additional funding from the 2021 cycle, the City was able to approve all of the 2022 grant requests. Grant recipients must complete their project and submit all required paperwork by December 31, 2022, in order to receive their reimbursement grant. Neighborhood matching funds are anticipated to total \$89,563. With grant and matching funds, over \$150,162 will be invested into the safety, sustainability, and beautification of the community.

### **2023 Neighborhood Grant Program**

This grant program has proven to be a successful and valued program in Lacey. Award recipients oftentimes share their heartfelt thanks to the City for investing back into the community in this way.

At the Community Relations Committee on February 7, 2022, Councilmembers expressed interest in potentially expanding this program to include informal neighborhood groups located in Lacey city limits.

Below, **Table A** provides an overview of similar Neighborhood Grant Programs across the United States.

**Table A**

<b>City</b>	<b>HOA Requirement</b>	<b>Max Grant</b>	<b>Project Match %</b>	<b>Project Categories</b>
Lacey, WA	Yes	\$2,500	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Neighborhoods</li> <li>• Environmental Sustainability</li> <li>• Neighborhood Beautification</li> <li>• Board Education</li> <li>• Organizational Development</li> <li>• Compassion</li> </ul>
Tumwater, WA	No	\$1000 – Projects \$500 – Events	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project</li> <li>• Event</li> </ul>
Kirkland, WA	Yes	TBD by grant committee	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Building Events</li> <li>• Communications and Operations</li> <li>• Physical Improvement Projects</li> <li>• Neighborhood Identity Projects</li> <li>• Training and Education</li> </ul>
Kent, WA	Yes	TBD by grant committee	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Mini Grant</li> <li>• Project</li> <li>• Newsletter/Communication</li> </ul>
Renton, WA	No	\$10,000 – Projects \$1,000 – Events \$500 – Communication	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Communication</li> </ul>
Bellingham, WA	Yes	\$5,000	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open</li> </ul>
Tempe, AZ	Yes	\$20,000	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Landscape and Trees</li> <li>• Parks</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Traffic Calming</li> <li>• Water Conservation</li> </ul>
Mountain View, CA	No	\$2,500	None	Open
Livonia, MI	No	\$500	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Community Events</li> <li>• Beautification / Landscaping</li> <li>• Stewardship of parks or common spaces</li> <li>• Youth Programs</li> </ul>
Monterey County, CA	No	\$4,000	None	Open

In 2023 and future years of the LNGP, the City's program could expand to include informal neighborhood groups.

In addition, the program could also introduce some new project categories, such as:

- Neighborhood Art & Monument structures
- Expand National Night Out Events
- Encourage Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) organization
- Educate neighborhoods on xeriscaping and irrigation rebate programs for water saving efforts

Based on past Council guidance, Staff will update the 2023 Grant Program Overview & Guidelines (**Attachment 2**) to include informal neighborhoods within the City as well as expand grant categories.

Advantages and disadvantages listed below are based on the expansion of the LNGP.

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### **Advantages**

1. Positively impact more neighborhoods throughout the City of Lacey, including our newly annexed neighborhoods.
2. Provides the opportunity to engage and connect with more community members in un-reached areas of Lacey to foster a sense of community pride.

### **Disadvantages**

1. Program oversight for informal neighborhoods may be more challenging, without the presence and structure of a HOA board or management company.
2. Depending on the community response, the City may receive more applications than available grant funding to award.

## 2022 Approved Neighborhood Grant Projects

	<b><u>HOA Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Title</u></b>	<b><u>Grant Amount Requested</u></b>	<b><u>Total Proposed Matching Funds</u></b>	<b><u>City Approved Grant Amount</u></b>
1	Capitol City Golf Club Estates	Vehicle Speed Indicator Signage	\$2,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$2,500.00
2	Carpenter Hills HOA	Re-purpose old Tennis Court	\$2,500.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,500.00
3	Christa Heights HOA	Christa Heights Common Area Renewal	\$2,500.00	\$10,100.00	\$2,500.00
4	Continental Crest HOA	Community Mailbox Lighting	\$2,500.00	\$2,985.00	\$2,500.00
5	Emerald Heights HOA	Mail Box Replacement Project	\$2,500.00	\$6,703.35	\$2,500.00
6	Greenbriar HOA	Replace mailbox cluster	\$1,194.90	\$1,194.90	\$1,194.90
7	Hawks Glen Loop Neighborhood	Community Entry Sign	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
8	Hidden Oaks HOA	Restoration of Storm Drainage Ponds	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
9	Jackson Farm Association	Asphalt Repair Jackson Farm Loop and Pond Treatment	\$2,500.00	\$2,800.54	\$2,500.00
10	Le Village HOA	Tree work for beautification at LeVillage	\$1,735.00	\$1,787.00	\$1,735.00
11	Meadowlake HOA	Carpenter Road Entrance Beautification	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
12	Meridian Campus ROA	Blooming With Pride	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
13	Park Place HOA	Blackberry and Scotch Broom Control	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
14	Rainier Crossing CA	Stormwater system upgrade to lateral system pipes	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
15	Schilter Farm HOA	Repair side trail connecting to Chehalis Western Trail	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
16	Shadywood HOA	Phase 1 Stormwater Pond Clean-up and Remediation	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
17	Sorrento CA	Storm water dispersal trench retaining wall installation	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,500.00
18	Southlake HOA	Stormpond Refurbishment	\$2,174.33	\$2,174.33	\$2,174.33
19	Southwick Lake Estates	Tree trimming and Bio Swale fix	\$2,000.00	\$4,273.34	\$2,000.00
20	Stikes Woods HOA	Common Area Tree Work	\$2,500.00	\$3,331.02	\$2,500.00
21	Stonegate at Avonlea	Neighborhood Beautification	\$2,500.00	\$2,519.00	\$2,500.00
22	The Cottages HOA	Stormpond Refurbishment	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
23	The Links @ Indian Summer	Stormwater Enhancements and Erosion Mitigation	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
24	The Park HOA	Energy Efficiency for Community Clubhouse	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00
25	The Pointe HOA	Common Area Beauty Bark	\$1,895.00	\$1,895.00	\$1,895.00
26	Vista Village HOA	Holding Tank Installation in common area	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,500.00
27	Wedgewood Manor	Entrance Maintenance; adding lights	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
			<b>\$60,599.23</b>	<b>\$89,563</b>	<b>\$60,599.23</b>



## 2023 Neighborhood Grant Program **OVERVIEW & GUIDELINES**



### Program Goals

The Lacey City Council wishes to encourage neighborhood activities that foster community pride, expand citizen involvement, and beautify the city. To facilitate this initiative, the Council approved \$60,000 in the 2023 budget for the Lacey Neighborhood Grant Program (LNGP).

LNGP awards funds for projects that improve the livability of neighborhoods, encourage environmental stewardship, develop neighborhood leadership, or promote compassion within the community.

### Eligibility

Requirements:

- 1) Proposals may be submitted by a HOA **or informal neighborhood** located within the city limits. **Informal neighborhoods must have a project team of at least 5 individuals (non-family related) who live in one neighborhood and accept responsibility for the project.**
- 2) Projects must have a lasting and/or direct benefit to the neighborhood.
- 3) Proposal must be non-profit in nature.
- 4) All projects must meet city regulations, ordinances, and non-discrimination policies.
- 5) **Neighborhoods** may submit only one grant proposal per year.
- 6) **Projects must have documented support of the neighborhood and/or HOA, and have a measurable outcome that provides public benefit to the community. For informal neighborhoods, the project team must complete a Project Team Log (see **Attachment 1**) at the time of application.**
- 7) Applications must be complete and submitted prior to the deadline.

The following are not eligible for the grant program:

- 1) Applications from individuals, for profit groups, religious, or political groups.
- 2) Projects that are for routine maintenance purposes or any maintenance of previously funded projects.
- 3) Projects that take place on an individual's private/personal property. For example, trimming trees or landscape beautification on a residential lot.
- 4) Projects outside of the City of Lacey.
- 5) Projects that seek to promote any public or private group, business or commercial enterprise, political or religious group.
- 6) Projects that utilize any form of hate speech, or exclude any group or subgroup of people.

## Grant Categories

- Safe Neighborhoods & Community Emergency Response Team Organization
- Environmental Sustainability & Resiliency
- Neighborhood Beautification
- Board Education & Organization Development
- Compassion
- Neighborhood Art & Monument Structures
- National Night Out Events

*Neighborhoods are encouraged to be creative within the categories.*

## General Program Guidelines

- 1) Award amount will not exceed 50% of the total project cost, up to a maximum amount of \$2,500.
- 2) Proposals require a dollar-for-dollar neighborhood match for City funds awarded.
  - a. Adult volunteer hours, donated materials, and in-kind professional services are eligible for meeting the match requirements provided they are essential components of the project.
  - b. The value of volunteer hours will be calculated using [Independent Sector's value of volunteer time from the preceding year](#). For 2023, the value of each volunteer hour will be calculated at \$29.95 per hour ([2022](#)).
  - c. Volunteer hours cannot include administrative services (e.g., fundraising, project planning, preparing proposal, acquiring bids).
  - d. Donated materials will be valued at their retail price.
  - e. Professional services will be estimated at current market rate.
  - f. Grantee must provide documentation to support all value calculations. Original receipts are required and must equal or exceed the requested grant match.
- 3) A panel of City staff representing Public Affairs, Community Development, and Parks Maintenance, will review proposals and make recommendations to the City Manager for final approval.
- 4) A signed, written agreement with the City will be required before funds are awarded.
  - a. Contract will include an approved scope of work, term, and reimbursement guidelines.
  - b. Proof of insurance is required as laid out in the grant program agreement
- 5) Probation for Incomplete Projects
  - a. If your HOA is unable to complete the project within the calendar year and does not use any portion of the allocated grant funds, you will be ineligible to participate in the grant program the following year.
  - b. Accommodations may be made to the above for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the City.

## 2023 Grant Application Calendar

Application Deadline	March 31, 2023
Notice of Funding	Week of April 17-21, 2023
Late Applications	Late applications considered if grant program funds remain after deadline

For further details, contact City of Lacey Public Affairs Department  
360-438-2621 | [PublicAffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:PublicAffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us).





Lacey Neighborhood Grant Program  
**PROJECT TEAM LOG**



Informal neighborhoods within the City of Lacey must complete this Project Team Log. Please note, you must have a minimum of five (5) individuals (non-family related) who live in your neighborhood and accept responsibility for completion of the proposed project.

**NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATION (Street and Cross Street):** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #1 (Required)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #2 (Required)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #3 (Required)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #4 (Required)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #5 (Required)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #6 (Optional)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

<b>PROJECT TEAM MEMBER #7 (Optional)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

Please attach a separate sheet for additional Project Team Members. For questions, please contact Lacey Public Affairs Department, 360-438-2621 or [publicaffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:publicaffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us).



## LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

September 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Update definitions and language in City of Lacey Municipal Code to support Joint Animal Services Community Cat Program

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**RECOMMENDATION:** No action necessary; Lacey City Council would consider an Ordinance at a future regular City Council meeting.

JASCOM recommends updating definitions and language to the City of Lacey municipal code to support a new, lifesaving cat program at Joint Animal Services (JAS), called the Community Cat Program (CCP).

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**STAFF CONTACT:** Scott Spence, City Manager *SS*  
Shannon Kelley- Fong, Assistant City Manager *SKF*  
Sarah Hock, Executive Director *SA*

**ORIGINATED BY:** Joint Animal Services and the Joint Animal Services Commission.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. [JASCOM Ordinance Recommendation Letter](#)

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**PRIOR REVIEW:** None

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### BACKGROUND:

Joint Animal Services Commission (JASCOM) recommends updating definitions and language to the City of Lacey municipal code to support a new, lifesaving cat program at Joint Animal Services (JAS), called the community cat program (CCP).

With this program, staff will proactively work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include:

- Education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination;

- Responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and
- Effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures and targeted areas.

JAS will be partnering with Best Friends Animal Society (Best Friends) on the implementation of the CCP across all jurisdictions in Thurston County. Specifically, Best Friends will be supporting JAS with funding and training for this program.

**Attachment 1**, JASCOM Ordinance Recommendation Letter, which was sent to the Lacey City Council on September 6, 2022, provides a lengthy overview of Community Cat Programs (CCP), Trap Neuter Vaccinate and Return (TNVR), and Return to Field programs (RTF), highlighting the efficacy of these programs to:

- They limit cat overpopulation over time.
- They're humane. CCP saves the lives of cats that would otherwise be euthanized.
- They reduce nuisance complaints by eliminating behaviors caused by un-altered cats.
- They reduce the burden on shelters and animal control agencies both in cost and labor to care for the animals.
- They have public support. [Research by Alley Cat Allies](#) on the humane treatment of community cats found that 80% of Americans support allowing community cats to live out their lives rather than being trapped and killed.

The following changes (in red) are being requested by JASCOM and JAS to aid in this life-saving program.

Definitions additions:

**7.04.030 Definitions.**

**Community cat** means any free roaming cat that may be cared for by one or more residents in the area, known or unknown. Community cats with ears-tipped were sterilized and vaccinated against rabies at least one time. Community cats are not considered pet animals.

**Community cat caregiver** means a person who provides care to a community cat in the form of food, water, shelter and veterinary care, while not being considered the owner, custodian, harbinger, possessor, or keeper of a community cat.

Language changes:

**7.04.040 Licensing and registration requirements.**

A. Failure to License ~~a Dog or Cat~~ a pet animal. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to own, keep or have control of any dog or cat **considered a pet animal** in the city of Lacey unless the person has procured a license. Failure to license a pet animal is a civil infraction. If a person is charged with a violation, the person shall not be determined to have committed an infraction

*if the person produces within fourteen days of the date of issuance proof of licensing or registering of the subject dog or cat under this subsection to either the court clerk or Lacey violations bureau. The court or violations bureau at the direction of the court may assess court administrative costs of \$25.00 at the time of dismissal.*

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#### **ADVANTAGES:**

1. In addition to its effectiveness at population control, communities turn to TNVR and RTF because when confronted with a choice to euthanize the majority of these cats, or to return them to the community where they have been thriving (after being vaccinated and spayed or neutered), the public will choose the latter. In two recent national surveys, respondents preferred TNVR over catch and kill by a 3-to-1 or 4-to-1 margin.
2. Since many community cats are not socialized and not adoption-eligible, impounded community cats often end up being euthanized in shelters. Successful community cat programs also lead to a dramatic decrease in nuisance complaints. CCP also foster better relationships between local government and residents. This type of model is centered on the idea of community members partnering with their government agencies and partner entities to achieve a shared goal.

#### **DISADVANTAGES:**

1. None foreseen.



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[www.jointanimalservices.org](http://www.jointanimalservices.org)

September 6, 2022

Mayor Ryder and Lacey City Council  
City of Lacey  
420 College Street SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

CC: Scott Spence, City Manager

**Re: Ordinance Change to Support Live Saving Community Cat Program**

Dear Mayor Ryder and Lacey City Councilmembers,

Last year, Joint Animal Services Commission (JASCOM) adopted a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan is to:

**“Expand and improve animal care and programming to support our community’s pets and people.”**

Within this goal, the Strategic Plan identifies the following strategy:

**“2. Review, identify, and recommend changes to local ordinances that impede or limit live-saving programs and services within Thurston County.”**

Under this goal and strategy, JASCOM recommends updating definitions and language to the City of Lacey municipal code to support a new, lifesaving cat program at Joint Animal Services (JAS), called the Community Cat Program (CCP).

**What is a community cat and community cat program?**

Community cats (sometimes referred to as “free-roaming,” “stray,” “feral” or “at-large” cats) can be found just about everywhere that people live. These outdoor, free-roaming cats live in and are cared for by the community, hence the term “community cats.” Notably, while cared for by individuals, community cat are not pets; no one individual owns a community cat. For decades, community cats have been trapped and removed in a failed attempt at population management. Using this approach, shelters have struggled with resources, staffing, and space, including JAS, to keep up with the number of cats coming in.



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There are two approaches for managing community cats. Over the past century the most common approach has been the “Catch-and-Kill” which relies on an ineffective and expensive model where animal control officers round up cats (typically in response to nuisance complaints), attempt to adopt out the small number as appropriate, and then euthanize the remaining cats at the local animal shelter. However, the data continues to demonstrate that the catch-and-kill approach does not work to control cat populations. Cats reproduce faster than a typical animal control department can catch them, which is why more and more municipalities across the United States have adopted alternative options.

To address the failures of the catch-and-kill model, communities have increasingly turned to Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR), which has proven itself effective for managing community cat populations. TNVR is a non-lethal, decentralized technique employed by community members for managing community cats. The cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian, ear-tipped (the universal sign that they have been sterilized and vaccinated for rabies), and returned to where they were trapped. TNVR empowers the community to take action in their neighborhoods. In addition to being a more humane option, TNVR can also reduce the costs required for animal control and sheltering.

Many TNVR programs, in addition to vaccinating against rabies, also vaccinate cats against three other common viruses (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia virus) using the FVRCP vaccine. In addition, some TNVR programs will find homes for adoptable cats and kittens (when doing so is feasible and appropriate) and coordinate with designated cat caregivers who provide ongoing care (e.g., food, water, shelter, veterinary care), avoiding the costs of sheltering and care usually borne by the local government in the Catch-and-Kill model. These programs will also relocate a cat from the place it was trapped if doing so is required or in the best interest of the cat and/ or community.

Brick and mortar municipal animal shelters (and private shelters with government contracts) also commonly implement this type of programming, calling it Return-to-Field (RTF), Shelter-Neuter-Return, Shelter-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return, or some variation on these terms. The major difference between TNVR and RTF is that TNVR programs are community-based (with residents typically bringing community cats to a local clinic) whereas RTF programs are shelter-based (i.e., for community cats brought to a shelter by residents or animal control officers).

The places that have most successfully controlled their community cat populations implement and support both TNVR and RTF. Both programs operate best when the shelter and the community work hand-in-hand as partners with a shared goal.

In addition to its effectiveness at population control, communities turn to TNVR and RTF because when confronted with a choice to euthanize the majority of these cats, or to return them to the community

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where they have been thriving (after being vaccinated and spayed or neutered), the public will choose the latter. In two recent national surveys, respondents preferred TNVR over catch and kill by a 3-to-1 or 4-to-1 margin. Since many community cats are not socialized and not adoption-eligible, impounded community cats often end up being euthanized in shelters. Successfully community cat programs also lead to a dramatic decrease in nuisance complaints. Community cat programs also foster better relationships between local government and residents. This type of model is centered on the idea of community members partnering with their government agencies and partner entities to achieve a shared goal.

Given all of these positive reasons, it's no surprise that so many people prefer the community cat program approach to the Cat-and-Kill model.

#### **Recommendations from JASCOM**

Align with the Strategic Plan, JASCOM recommends updating definitions and language to the City of Lacey municipal code to support a new, lifesaving cat program at Joint Animal Services (JAS), called the community cat program.

With this program, staff will proactively work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include:

- Education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination;
- Responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and
- Effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures and targeted areas.

JAS will be partnering with Best Friends Animal Society (Best Friends) on the implementation of the Community Cat Program across all jurisdictions in Thurston County. Specifically, Best Friends will be supporting JAS with funding and training for this program.

The following changes are being requested by JASCOM and JAS to aid in our life-saving community cat program.

#### Adding definitions:

##### **7.04.030 Definitions.**

**Community cat** means any free roaming cat that may be cared for by one or more residents in the area, known or unknown. Community cats with ears-tipped were sterilized and vaccinated against rabies at least one time. Community cats are not considered pet animals.





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***Community cat caregiver** means a person who provides care to a community cat in the form of food, water, shelter and veterinary care, while not being considered the owner, custodian, harborer, possessor, or keeper of a community cat.*

Language change:

**7.04.040 Licensing and registration requirements.**

*A. Failure to License ~~a Dog or Cat~~ a pet animal. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to own, keep or have control of any dog or cat **considered a pet animal** in the city of Lacey unless the person has procured a license. Failure to license a pet animal is a civil infraction. If a person is charged with a violation, the person shall not be determined to have committed an infraction if the person produces within fourteen days of the date of issuance proof of licensing or registering of the subject dog or cat under this subsection to either the court clerk or Lacey violations bureau. The court or violations bureau at the direction of the court may assess court administrative costs of \$25.00 at the time of dismissal.*

JASCOM thanks you in advance for considering this reasonable and effective measure to not only benefit the community but to save the lives of community cats in the City of Lacey.

Respectfully,

Joint Animal Services Commission

Chair Lisa Parshley, City of Olympia  
Vice Chair Carolina Mejia, Thurston County  
Ed Kunkel, City of Lacey  
Peter Agabi, City of Tumwater  
Richard Blinn, Thurston County Humane Society  
Jo MacGugan, Feline Friends of Olympia