

## Urban Ag in the Burbs



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## Story from Ferguson, MO

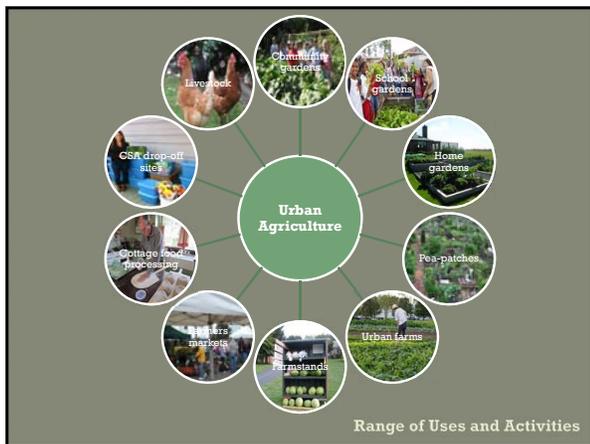


<http://www.sundancechannel.com/blog/2012/05/growing-your-own>

## What is urban ag?

## How are they different?

<p>RURAL/ PERI-URBAN</p> 	<p>URBAN</p> 
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## BENEFITS

- Food access
- Health
- Local economic development
- Public safety
- Community building
- Education
- Bridge urban-rural divide

## (Sub)urban agriculture considerations

- Street and land use patterns
- Lot size/Density
- Landscaping standards
- Demographics
- Health inequities



## Uses and Activities

**Production**

- Range of types (i.e. community garden)
- Operation standards
- Soil/Compost
- Water- greywater and others
- Keeping animals- chickens, bees, goats, etc.
- Structures- hoop houses, greenhouses, sheds, fences



**Sales**

- Farmers markets/ farmstands
- On-site sales
- CSA drop-offs



**Processing**

- Cottage operations
- Operation standards

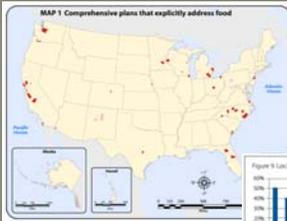


## What planning tools can we use?

- Comprehensive plans and other plans
- Zoning/regulatory code
- Resolutions

## Urban Ag Policy: Comprehensive Plans & Codes

## Urban Ag Policy Across the US: Comprehensive Plans



MAP 1 Comprehensive plans that explicitly address food

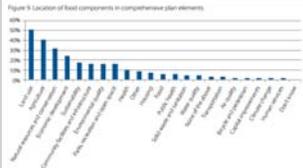
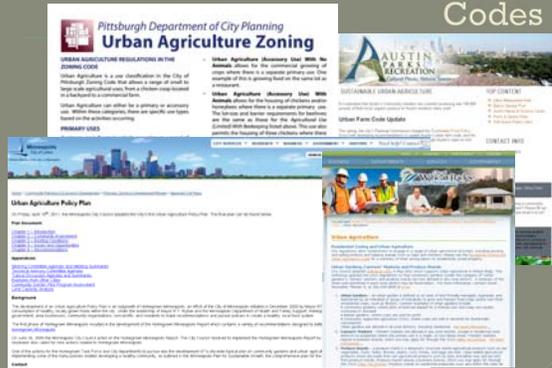


Figure 3 Location of food components in comprehensive plan elements

Element	Percentage
Land Use	100%
Community Development	100%
Transportation	100%
Public Works	100%
Public Safety	100%
Environment	100%
Health	100%
Education	100%
Arts and Culture	100%
Historic Preservation	100%
Open Space	100%
Water Resources	100%
Energy	100%
Climate Change	100%
International Affairs	100%
Other	100%

## Urban Ag Policy Across the US: Codes



Pittsburgh Department of City Planning  
**Urban Agriculture Zoning**

Austin Parks & Recreation  
**Urban Farm Code Update**

### Code Barriers

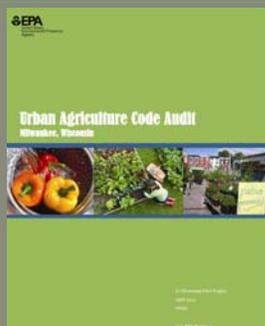
- Missing
- Unclear
- Prohibitive

### Code Barriers

- Definitions
- Use standards
- Site standards
- Approval process

### Potential Code Revisions

- Code Audit



### Potential Code Revisions

- Definitions- Include, clarify
- Use standards- Make it easy to grow/sell/process in zones
- Site standards- Allow edibles, structures, signage, etc
- Approval process- Lower or eliminate requirements

### Example: Flint, Michigan

Ordinance	Barrier
Definitions	No definitions
Appearance Standards	Could prevent hoop houses and greenhouses
Site Plan review	All structures must go through review
Off-street parking and loading	Nothing about agriculture
Animals and Fowl	Does not allow poultry in residential zoning. Allows animals only at slaughterhouses
Fences	Unclear, maybe not appropriate
Nuisances	Could limit composting
Parks	Bans picking

### Example: Kansas City, Missouri

## Example: Cleveland, Ohio

**City of Cleveland**  
Zoning Code Update  
Effective Date: November 3, 2010  
**AGRICULTURE IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

**Section 337.02 One-Family Districts**

In a One-Family District, the following buildings and uses and their accessory buildings and uses are permitted:

- (a) Dwelling houses, each occupied by not more than one family and not more than two members of a household.
- (b) Playgrounds, parks.
- (c) The extension of existing cemeteries.
- (d) Railroad rights of way, not including switching, storage or freight yards or industrial sidings.
- (e) **Agricultural uses, subject to the limitations of Section 337.02 and Section 343.01.**
  - (1) The following buildings and uses, if located not more than fifteen feet from any adjacent premises in a Residential District not used for a similar purpose:
    - (A) Churches and other places of worship, but not including funeral chapels or mortuary chapels.
    - (B) Telephone exchanges and electric transformer stations, provided there is no part, business office or any storage yard or storage building operated in connection therewith.
    - (C) Bus turn-around and layover areas operated by a public transit agency provided that no building other than a passenger shelter and restroom are located at such site, and provided, further, that any layover space accommodates no more than two buses.



## Urban Ag Policy: Puget Sound region

### Scan

20+ cities

10-20 cities

5-10 cities

< 5 cities

Indicates areas of conflicting policies and/or lack of assessment of zoning code details

### Blueprints

Environment*
Farmland and Farming*
Forest Lands
Food Safety
Food Security
Food Systems
Food Systems
Urban Agriculture*
Agri-Tourism
Economic Development
Urban Agriculture*
Emergency Preparedness
Nutrition and Health
Recreation and Amusement
Land Use Planning
Procurement
Planning
Energy
Transportation and Trade
Urban Agriculture*
Policy and Government
Education

#### Urban Agriculture

**Background**

Urban agriculture is the practice of growing food, raising livestock, and raising the awareness of food systems in the city. It includes the production, distribution, and consumption of food in the city. It is a growing sector of the economy and is becoming increasingly important in the city.

**Recommendation:** Define locally urban agricultural land uses and activities in city code. Develop implementation strategies to increase urban agriculture.

**Managerial Data Built**

Local food production and distribution systems are becoming more important in the city. It is important to define locally urban agricultural land uses and activities in city code. This will help to increase urban agriculture and support the local food system.

## Comprehensive Plan Examples: Tacoma, Urban Forestry Element

- Urban agriculture and partnerships
- Education
- Community gardens
- Plant selection
- Support
- Land
- Zoning
- New housing developments
- New construction
- Security

**Urban Forestry Element**

**Urban Agriculture and Partnerships**

Urban agriculture is the practice of growing food, raising livestock, and raising the awareness of food systems in the city. It includes the production, distribution, and consumption of food in the city. It is a growing sector of the economy and is becoming increasingly important in the city.

**Urban Forestry**

Urban forestry is the practice of growing trees in the city. It includes the production, distribution, and consumption of trees in the city. It is a growing sector of the economy and is becoming increasingly important in the city.




## Comprehensive Plan Examples: King County

- Create and support community gardens, farmers' markets, produce stands and other community based food growing projects
- Agricultural processing, packing and direct sales-allowed at appropriate size and scale



## Code Example: Small Animals Tacoma Municipal Code

- Allows 6 adult poultry and pigeons per parcel (up to 10 with neighbor permission)
- 12 foot setback for cage or coop
- No roosters



## Code Example: Seattle Gardening in planting strips

**Seattle Department of Transportation**

**Seattle Permits**

**Gardening in Planting Strips**

Many Seattle residents are interested in gardening, especially in the planting strip immediately adjacent to their property. Please be aware that only one plan strip and one plan strip are allowed. SDOT encourages the installation of low (24-30 inches) urban, permanent or semi-permanent planting strips. A minimum 12-foot setback is required between the planting strip and the sidewalk. The planting strip must be a minimum of 12 feet wide. The planting strip must be a minimum of 12 feet wide. The planting strip must be a minimum of 12 feet wide.

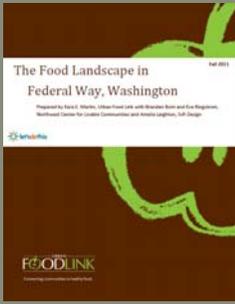




# The Federal Way Story

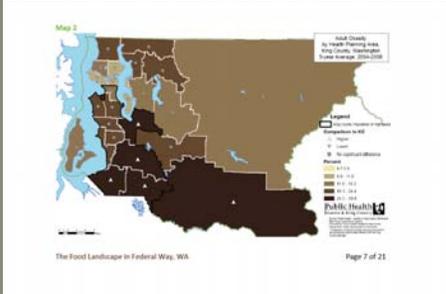
## Background

Food Landscape Assessment



## Background

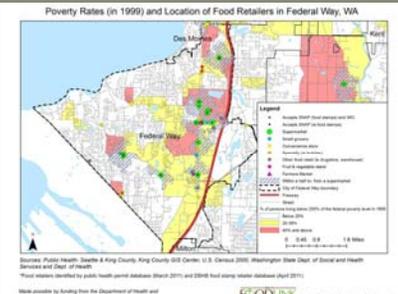
Health Disparity



The Food Landscape in Federal Way, WA Page 7 of 21

## Background

Healthy Food Access



Poverty Rates (in 1999) and Location of Food Retailers in Federal Way, WA

## Background

Federal Way has many citizens engaged in urban agriculture.

- Federal Way community gardens
- Urban farmers
- Home gardeners
- Farmers market



## The ask

City staff and community began to realize that the code was insufficient. Applied for technical support from Forterra.




## Actions

- 2011 Code interpretation as a place holder
- 2012 Applied for technical assistance
- 2013 Comp Plan Policies Adopted in January

**2.8.5 Healthy Food Access: Urban Agriculture**

**Amended Land Use Element:**

- Directs staff to develop regulations
- Supports Farmers markets
- Promotes urban ag , through existing and new partnerships

Purpose: Land use and transportation have a strong influence on growing healthy and active citizens by creating food resources such as farmers markets, community gardens, pop-up farms, and urban farm parks. Public health benefits include increased physical activity, improved mental health, and reduced obesity. Urban agriculture also provides a venue for community building and social interaction. The goal of this element is to create a supportive regulatory environment for urban agriculture through a variety of activities including, but not limited to, providing technical assistance, marketing, and distribution of food to urban areas. Urban agriculture is a practice opportunity for community building and economic development. Federal Way's diverse population, its vibrant urban agriculture activities are consistent with the community's goal of providing opportunities for residents to meet unique business and lifestyle needs through urban agriculture. This policy will be used to increase access to healthy food choices for all Federal Way residents.

Goal: LEU2 Provide access to healthy food resources for all residents through opportunities for urban agriculture activities such as farmers markets, community gardens, pop-up farms, and urban farm parks.

Policy: LEU2B Encourage and support urban agriculture activities that are accessible to all residents.

Policy: LEU2C Encourage and support urban agriculture activities that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use in public and private property, other agreements.

Policy: LEU2D Encourage and support urban agriculture activities that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use in public and private property, other agreements.

Policy: LEU2E Encourage and support urban agriculture activities that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use in public and private property, other agreements.

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Policy: LEU2I Encourage and support urban agriculture activities that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use in public and private property, other agreements.

Policy: LEU2J Encourage and support urban agriculture activities that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use in public and private property, other agreements.

## Partnership

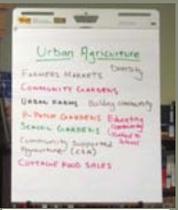
City of Federal Way  
 Forterra  
 Urban Food Link  
 Kristina Cerise





## Community Engagement

Engaged a broad range of stakeholders at two community meetings.

**FORTERRA**

## Advocacy

Advocacy training and city meetings



## Advocacy – Update!

- Planning Commission:
  - Codes passed through to the next step
- Land Use and Transportation Committee:
  - Next week!



## Proposed Regulations

- Summary of provisions:
  - Definitions are established
  - Urban Ag. Uses are allowed in every zone
  - Administrative Review Process
  - A management plan is required
  - In residential zones:
    - Urban ag. uses greater than 10,000 SF must provide notice
    - Farmers markets are allowed as temporary uses only
    - Greater restrictions for on-site sales
    - Considers cottage food operations as a home occupation

## Proposed Regulations

### Summary of provisions:

- Accessory structures are considered
- Signage is addressed
- Perimeter landscaping requirements can be waived



## Putting it on the ground

- Increased community interest has been generated
- Microenterprise business idea is being looked into
- School district is expanding garden programs
- Farmers market is looking to expand
- Forterra prepared a GIS public lands assessment to serve as a resource



## Public Land Assessment



## Your City

## Questions?



## Resources

- [FHRC Food Policy Blueprint](#)
- [Food Access Policy and Planning Guide—University of Washington Northwest Center for Urban Communities \(2011\)](#)
- [Integrating Food Policy in Comprehensive Planning: Resources for the City of Seattle. Final Report Regional Council \(2010\)](#)
- [Planning to Build Inclusive Local Government Plans & Policies to Build Healthy Food Systems in the United States-SUNY, Buffalo\(2011\)](#)
- [Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans. American Planning Association, Hodgson \(2012\)](#)
- [Urban Agriculture Audit. City of Milwaukee](#)
- [Turner Environmental Law Clinic \(2011\) Urban agriculture: a sixteen city survey of urban agriculture practices across the country. Atlanta, Georgia. Author](#)
- [University of Missouri Extension. Urban agriculture: Best Practices and Contributions.](#)