



# Urban Agriculture

Public Open House

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*[fcgov.com/urbanagriculture](http://fcgov.com/urbanagriculture)*

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# Presentation Outline

1. What is urban agriculture?
2. Does the City support Urban Agriculture practices?
3. What have we heard to date?
4. What are the proposed regulations?
5. Next steps

# 1. What is Urban Agriculture?

*Urban agriculture* - food production and distribution in the urban environment

What does it look like in Fort Collins?

1. Urban Gardens
2. Farmers markets and produce stands
3. Animals in our food system



Above: Gardens on Spring Creek



Right: Produce from Grant Family Farms

# Urban Gardens - Market Gardens

Gardens or orchards where food is grown to be sold, can include produce sold at the site or distributed to pickup locations.



Happy Heart Farm



Food distribution site at the Fort Collins Brewery (Photo: Dan Weinheimer).

# Urban Gardens - Community Gardens

Gardens where several individuals or households work at the site and the food is primarily used for personal consumption and/or donation.



Mulberry Community Garden – Celebration May 2012

# Farmers Markets and Farm Stands

Events that occur on a regular basis in the same location, but may only occur during the growing season and often considered temporary uses.



Native Hill Farm – Farm Stand



Fort Collins Farmers Market (Alison O'Connor)

# Animals and Bees

Includes raising bees and a variety of animals in residential and commercial areas. The purpose is to produce food from animals, e.g., eggs, milk, honey, etc.



Beehive at the Mulberry Community Gardens.



Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association

## 2. Does the City support Urban Agriculture practices?

### City Plan Principle SW 3 and Policy SW 3.1

- Principle SW 3: ...encourage and support local food production to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy foods...
- Policy SW 3.1: Support cooperative efforts to establish community gardens and markets throughout the community and region...

### In addition:

- City Plan Principles LIV 42.2 (Encourage agricultural uses), Policy ENV 4.5 (Support Community Horticulture).
- Desire for allowing urban agriculture in more areas than we presently do (only allowed as a principal use in 4 of the 25 zones)
- Significant efforts to encourage more urban agriculture, but the Code is outdated

**Goal** – Ensure the Land Use Code supports the community’s desires in relation to urban agriculture practices both when and where appropriate.



### 3. What have we heard so far?

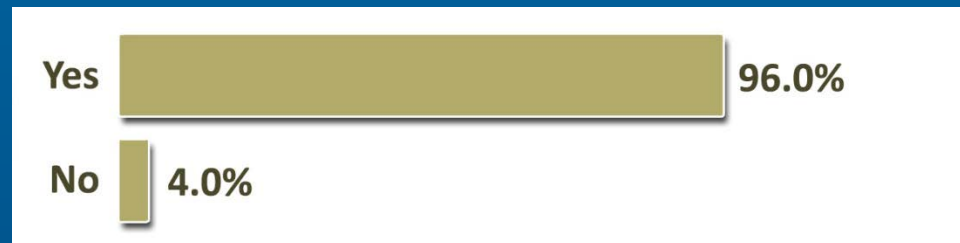
#### Mechanisms:

- Several meetings held with producers and interested citizens and other stakeholders, e.g., realtors and HOA representatives.
- Meetings held with the following City Boards:
  - Community Development Block Grant Commission,
  - Fort Collins Housing Authority Development Committee,
  - Landmark Preservation Commission
  - Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
  - Planning and Zoning Board
  - Senior Advisory Board
- Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee
- Online survey (611 responses)

### 3. What have we heard so far – survey results?

#### Urban Gardens:

- Does the community support allowing urban gardens in more zone districts while incorporating standards for addressing neighborhood concerns?



- Concerns:
  - General nuisances: traffic, noise, odor, parking
  - Visual impacts: too many fences, unsightly structures/stands
  - Overregulation
  - Use of fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides

### 3. What have we heard so far – survey results?

#### Farmers Markets and Farm Stands:

- Does the community support allowing farmers markets in more locations in the City while incorporating standards for addressing neighborhood concerns?



- Concerns:
  - Increased noise, traffic and parking issues
  - Overregulation of vendors that want to set up on a temporary basis
  - Lack of enforcement
  - Diluting the market

### 3. What have we heard so far – survey results?

#### Animals:

- Does the community support scaling the number of chicken hens and allowing ducks based on lot size?
- Does the community support allowing goats?



- Concerns:
  - Increased nuisances (odor, noise, etc.)
  - Lack of enforcement
  - Animals at large
  - Humane conditions for the animals

## 4. What are the proposed changes?

- Create a licensing system, as opposed to a traditional development review process, for urban gardens
- Allow farmers markets in more locations
- Allow produce stands and backyard gardens to function under the home occupation license if food is to be sold on-site

## 4. What are the proposed changes?

- Allow ducks and scale the number of chickens allowed:
  - 1/4 acre or less– up to 6 chickens or ducks
  - More than 1/4 acre but less 1/2 acre– up to eight (8) chickens or ducks, combined;
  - More than 1/2 acre– up to twelve (12) chickens or ducks, combined;
- Allow two goats per household, must meet minimum space and humane condition requirements

## 4. What are the proposed changes NOT?

- Overriding HOA regulations – as proposed, HOA regulations supersede these code changes
- Code changes do not address the following concerns we've heard:
  - When and where urban gardens can occur on public land
  - The building permit questions that have been raised
  - Economic incentives for encouraging urban agriculture

# 5. Next Steps

***Tonight - Give us your feedback!***

Feb 21 - Planning and Zoning Board Hearing

March 5 - City Council First Reading

March 19 - City Council Second Reading





# Acknowledgements

- Citizens and individuals who have helped to shape this effort
- City Boards and Commissions
- Chamber of Commerce
- City of Fort Collins and CanDo Staff Team
- Coalition for Activity and Nutrition to Defeat Obesity (CanDo)
- Farmers and producers who have contributed their time
- Gardens on Spring Creek
- Larimer County Humane Society



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