

AFT Farm-Friendly Checklist

Does your community...	YES/NO	Notes
Prioritize natural resources conservation		
...have policies or regulations to support access to water for food production (e.g., traditional agriculture, urban agriculture, and/or community gardens)?	No	The city currently charges a higher rate for irrigation between July 1 and October 31. A discounted rate for water used for agricultural can remove a significant barrier.
...have policies to address food waste and recovery (through strategies such as composting, gleaning programs, and/or food product recycling programs)?	Some	Food waste is collected for low-density residential with the curbside yard waste bin. There is no larger scale program for restaurants, higher density multi-family housing, or institutions. The Thurston County Food Bank offers a gleaning program.
Encourage agriculture and food production		
...have a section on agriculture and food production in your comprehensive plan or other community plans (e.g., economic development, strategic, or sustainability plan)?	Yes	Goals for farmland and local food are outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, but lack a strategy for implementation. The Sustainable Thurston Plan, Climate Mitigation Plan, and Climate Adaption Plan all have goals and strategies related to agriculture and food production.
... support agricultural leadership (e.g., an agricultural ombudsman, advisory board, or commission to represent farmers and ranchers in local decision making)?	No	This does not exist at the city. There are opportunities to coordinate with the Thurston County Agriculture advisory committee, create a city-specific advisory group, and engage in other regional work.
...provide public land for farming and food production (e.g., lease land to farmers, provide space for community gardens or urban agriculture)?	Some	Public land is provided for farming and food production with the lease to Spooner's Farm and two sites for community gardens. More could be done to acquire public farmland and expand food production on public land.
...encourage connections between agriculture and residents (e.g., through agritourism, direct marketing, and/or promotion of local farms)?	Some	Connections between agriculture and residents are encouraged with the ownership of the Farmer's Market. More work can be done here (i.e. the Creative District, economic development, etc.).
Protect Farmland		
...create agricultural protection zones specifically to support working farms and ranches?	No	A look at the active and potential farmland inventory, compared to areas that are not conducive to development, could identify areas that could be zoned for agriculture.
...purchase conservation easements (development rights) on agricultural land?	No	Could explore options to purchase conservation easements in the UGA.
...have urban growth boundaries?	Yes	Assess UGA for preservation opportunities.
...have a transfer of development rights program or mitigation ordinance to engage private developers in protection activities?	Some	A TDR program exists but has had very little success and should be evaluated. There is no mitigation ordinance to protect farmland, that could be explored.
Improve agricultural viability		
...have a local right-to-farm ordinance?	No	Should consider when UGA is annexed.
...provide tax credits and exemptions (e.g., property tax relief, school tax credits, sales tax exemptions)?	No	Check to see if the Open Space and Agriculture Property Programs in Thurston County apply in the UGA. Their program is currently limited to 20+ acres - could be reduced.
...have ordinances to support agriculture and food production (e.g., accessory use allowances, farm labor housing policies, setbacks and buffers, on-farm processing)?	Yes	Agriculture is allowed as primary or secondary use in most zoning districts. There is no specific ordinance for urban agriculture, which could be considered for a more clear and comprehensive approach.

...create voluntary districts where agriculture is encouraged and protected?	No	There has been interest in forming an Eco-District in Olympia.
...have livestock regulations to address nuisance, environment, and welfare issues (e.g., regulate number of animals per acre, manure and nutrient management)?	Yes	Agricultural animals are permitted with conditions in most zoning districts. They should be evaluated to see if they are too restrictive, considering the option for site management plans to permit activities.
Support Market Infrastructure		
...have regulations scaled appropriately to address on-farm marketing and direct-to-consumer systems (e.g., agritourism, CSAs, farm and roadside stands)?	Yes	Produce grown on site in Olympia may be sold on site. We could consider ways Olympia can support regional agritourism.
...support marketing infrastructure for local farmers (e.g., farmers markets, food hubs)?	Yes	The City owns the Olympia Farmers Market. The West Side Farmers Market is permitted on a private park. More market opportunities could be supported with the SW Washington Food Hub.
...support value-added processing (e.g., slaughter facilities, cold storage, packing sheds)?	Some	Value-added processing is only permitted in industrial districts. Could be expanded to support cottage industries. A community commercial kitchen could support local food entrepreneurs.
...support farm to school and other institutions' procurement policies?	No	These programs exist (Olympia School District, GRuB, etc.). Consider how the City could support this work.
Promote local farms		
...have a Buy Local campaign?	No	There are campaigns to support downtown businesses, not for local food.
...provide promotion materials such as maps, resource guides, and interactive websites?	No	Could support distribution of Community Farm Land Trust Farm Map. Could also work to connect businesses and institutions to local food.