



Urban Agriculture Development Code Updates



Tim Smith, Interim Community Planning & Development Director

Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting

July 18, 2024



Urban Farming in Olympia Comprehensive Plan

Goal GL25. Local Thurston County food production is encouraged and supported to increase self-sufficiency, reduce environmental impact, promote health, and the humane treatment of animals, and support the local economy.





Urban Farming Work Group

- City Council referral to Land Use and Environment Committee June 2020
- Olympia Urban Farming Work Group
 - City Council members
 - Thurston Conservation District
 - Community Farmland Trust
 - Local urban farmer
 - City staff: Parks and CPD
- Mapped existing access to locally grown food and identified gaps in Olympia's local food system
- Policy recommendations to fill gaps; encourage urban farming and gardening



Thurston Conservation District Contract

Task 1: Expand Community Gardens

Task 2: Incentivize Urban Agriculture and Remove Barriers in City Code

Task 3: Connect Private Vacant Land with Potential Farmers





Ordinance to Address Code Barriers to Farming

Recommended Code Changes in proposed ordinance:

- Allow small-scale growing and harvesting of food crops in downtown zoning districts (UW; UW-H; DB) – p. 29
- Allow small-scale growing and harvesting of food crops in high density residential zoning districts (RM-24, RMH, RMU, UR) – p. 7
- Add Section 18.04.060.kk – p. 10



Ordinance to Address Code Barriers to Farming

KK. AGRICULTURE.

In the RM-24, RMH, RMU, UR, UW, UW-H and DB zoning districts, agriculture is limited to the small-scale growing and harvesting of food crops or non-food crops (e.g., flowers) for personal or group consumption, for donation, or for sale that is incidental in nature and where no nuisance is created by such use. This includes community gardens managed and maintained by a group of individuals or a public or not-for profit organization or association; rooftop gardens; vertical agriculture on exterior walls of a building; and hydroponics or other indoor growing methods that are small-scale and accessory to the primary use of the property.

Additional Considerations: Update code standards for farm animals



LUEC Options

- Refer ordinance to Planning Commission
- Refer ordinance to Planning Commission with changes
- Defer for future Discussion



Urban Agriculture

