City of Federal Way
Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments in Support of Urban Agriculture

PSRC Brown Bag – Food Policy + Comprehensive Planning
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Our food policy work began in 2010 with a CPPW grant.
Health Disparity

Map 2

Adult Obesity by Health Planning Area, King County, Washington 5-year Average, 2004-2008

Legend

- King County: Population of Highest
- Comparison to KC:
  - Higher
  - Lower
  - No significant difference

Percent

- 4.7-0.8
- 6.9 - 11.3
- 11.9 - 18.2
- 18.3 - 24.4
- 24.5 - 39.9

The Food Landscape in Federal Way, WA
Background

Healthy Food Access

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

Legend:
- Accepts SNAP (food stamps) and WIC
- Accepts SNAP (e food stamps)
- Supermarket
- Small grocery
- Convenience store
- Specialty (e butcher)
- Other food retail (e drugstore, warehouse)
- Fruit & vegetable stand
- Farmers Market
- Within a half m. from a supermarket
- City of Federal Way boundary
- Freeway
- Street

Sources: Public Health- Seattle & King County, King County GIS Center, U.S. Census 2000, Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services and Dept. of Health.

*Food retailers identified by public health permit database (March 2011) and DSHS food stamp retailer database (April 2011).

Made possible by funding from the Department of Health and Human Services and Public Health - Seattle & King County.
Federal Way City Council passed a resolution (12-617) accepting the recommendations of the Food Landscape Report.

Per Res. 12-617 staff was specifically directed to develop Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments that encourage and support access to healthy food in Federal Way.
Federal Way has many citizens engaged in urban agriculture.

- Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation
- Urban farmers
- Home gardeners
- Farmers market
City staff and community realized that the code was insufficient.

Applied for technical support from Forterra via Building Sustainable Communities Consortium
Community Engagement

- Engaged a broad range of stakeholders at two community meetings.
Workshop Outcome - Vision for Urban Agriculture:

- Community Gardens
- Pea Patches
- Food Forests
- Urban Farms
- Farmers Markets
- Cottage Food Business
- Home Gardens
- School Gardens
- Farm Stands
Workshop Outcome – Identified Benefits of Urban Agriculture:

- Enhance Education
- Build Community
- Make fresh fruits and vegetables available to those who are unable to access/afford it
- Provide economic development opportunities
Comp Plan Policies Adopted in January 2013

Amended ONLY the Land Use Element:

- Directs staff to develop regulations that support urban agriculture
- Supports Farmers markets
- Promotes urban agriculture through existing and new partnerships
2.8.5 Healthy Food Access: Urban Agriculture

Purpose
Land use and transportation have a strong influence in promoting healthy and active lifestyles. Healthy food resources such as farmers markets, community gardens, pea patches, and urban farms provide public health, economic, social, and environmental benefits for the community.

Urban agriculture in Federal Way supports and encourages healthy and active lifestyles through a wide range of activities such as raising, cultivation, processing, marketing, and distribution of food in urban areas. Urban agriculture also provides opportunities for community building and encourages social interaction for Federal Way’s diverse population. In addition, urban agriculture activities can contribute to the local economy by providing opportunities for residents to start and grow businesses such as urban farms and cottage food processing.
Goals and Policies:

**LUG9 Provide access to healthy food resources for all residents through opportunities for urban agricultural activities, such as farmers markets, farmstands, community supported agriculture (CSA) drop-off sites, community gardens, pea patches, school gardens, home gardens, and urban farms.**

**LUP51 Establish development regulations that allow for healthy food resources as a permitted use and provide for on-site sale and delivery of healthy foods, on public and private property, where appropriate.**
Goals and Policies:

**LUG10** Encourage and support farmers market opportunities that are accessible to all residents.

**LUP53** Establish development regulations that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use on public and private property, where appropriate.

**LUP54** Encourage farmers market to accept public benefits such as food stamp electronic benefit cards, senior farmer market vouchers, and Women, Infant, Children (WIC) benefits.

**LUP55** Coordinate with local and regional organizations to promote local farmers markets.
Goals and Policies:

**LUG11** *Promote urban agriculture activities through existing and new programming and partnerships.*

- **LUP56** Encourage and support the use of public lands for urban agricultural activities by establishing criteria for assessing suitable sites.

- **LUP57** Where appropriate, support joint-use agreements for publicly or privately owned sites for uses such as urban farms, community gardens, and pea patches.

- **LUP58** Consider development incentives, grants, and other funding sources to support development of urban agriculture sites and programming.
Additional meetings were held with stakeholders.

Vision and goals were related to zoning code language.

Issues addressed:

- Appropriate zoning (urban ag is allowed in all zones)
- Size limitations in residential zones
- Potential impacts addressed (traffic, parking, operation and maintenance)
- Signage
- Retail component (farm stands, cottage food operations)
The following definitions were developed:
- Agricultural use (modified)
- Community gardens
- Cottage Food Operation
- Farmers market
- Farm stand
- Pea patch garden
- Urban agriculture
- Urban farm

The desire for signage was addressed:
- Specific standards for farmers market signs
- Allow monument signs for identification of community gardens in residential zones

Other Issues addressed:
- Review Process identified – Process I Administrative
- Size limit of 10,000 square feet in residential zones unless notice is provided
- Fertilizer usage, power equipment usage, hours of operation for farm stands – farm stands must be accessory use
- Farmers markets in residential zones – temporary use only
Citizens were encouraged to participate in public hearing process
A variety of speakers testified in support of the code amendments including school children
Elected leaders were engaged in the topic and outcomes
Increased community interest has been generated
Microenterprise business idea is being looked into
School district is expanding garden programs
New Downtown park will include Pea-Patch garden
Farmers market is looking to expand
Forterra prepared a GIS public lands assessment to serve as a resource
Public Land Assessment
Lessons Learned

- Involve elected leaders early in process
- Find out where the community interests are so your goals and policies are sure to address them
- One size doesn’t fit all
  - Simple direct approach vs
  - More detailed comprehensive approach
  - Either is OK – depends on your desired outcome and resources