



Urban Agriculture

Developing an Ordinance for the City of Cambridge

City Priority: Healthy Eating

- Making it easy for people to improve health and well-being through healthy eating and active living
- Increase the availability of and access to affordable food for all residents



Food Systems Planning in Massachusetts

- Increase production, sales and consumption of MA-grown foods;
- Create jobs and economic opportunity in food and farming;
- Protect the land and water needed to produce food & ensure food safety;
- Reduce hunger and food insecurity, and increase the availability of fresh, healthy food to all residents



Food Systems Planning in Cambridge

- The City is interested in developing new zoning and regulations to actively encourage activities of agriculture
- ***What works in Cambridge?***
Examining nearby cities including Boston and Somerville and also national leaders (San Francisco, etc.)



What is urban agriculture?

- Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating, processing, & distributing food in or around a city or town



Urban agriculture may include:

- Residential gardens
- Commercial farms & gardens
- Community & school gardens
- Rooftop gardens
- Animals (e.g. chickens, honey bees, goats, sheep, rabbits, pigs)
- Hydroponics (roots in water)
- Aquaponics (fish in tanks)
- Aeroponics (roots in air, sprayed w/ water)
- Other innovative gardening strategies



The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of various fruits and vegetables, each enclosed within a circular frame. The items include a slice of watermelon, a whole watermelon, a tomato, a bell pepper, a corn cob, a carrot, and a bunch of leafy greens. The entire pattern is rendered in a light pink color.

Goals for an Urban Ag Ordinance

GOAL: Equitable access to fresh food



GOAL: Economic development



GOAL: Increased resiliency



GOAL: Increased support of regional food system



Urban Ag Task Force Action Items

Drafting an ordinance that includes:

- Zoning explicitly to allow agricultural activities
- Regulations to support and limit activities



Urban Ag Activities under Consideration size/scale

- Small-scale farm [less than 10,000 sqft (1/4 acre)]
- Medium-scale farm [10,000 sqft to 1 acre]
- Large-scale farm [greater than 1 acre]



Urban Ag Activities under Consideration

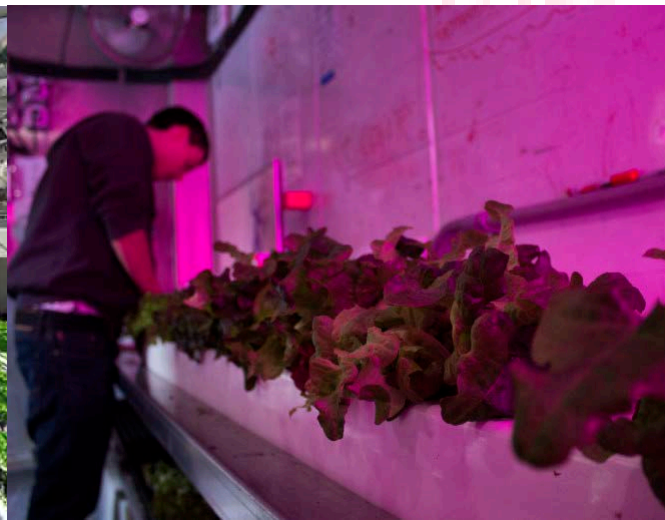
- Consumption, sale, and donation of products
 - Large/medium scale farms
 - Small scale farms – personal consumption, sale of products by residents, neighbors, community organizations or schools
 - Market growing, such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), or for farmers markets
 - EXCEPTION: no sales from City Community Gardens (donations allowed)



Urban Ag Activities under Consideration

type of farm

- Ground-level farms
 - Including freight farms (with max height & setback requirements)
- Roof-level farms
 - Open air (no permanent structure)
 - Roof-level greenhouses (permanent indoor growing structure)



Urban Ag Activities under Consideration

- Aquaponics/aquaculture
- Hydroponics/aeroponics



Urban Ag Activities under Consideration

- Keeping of chickens (hens)



Urban Ag Activities under Consideration

- Keeping of honey bees



Next Steps

- Focus groups with content experts to hear recommendations (Fall)
- Public outreach at neighborhood organizations, & Parking Day (Sept/Oct)
- Host a larger public meeting to confirm direction of public interests (Winter)
- Continue to draft & refine zoning, licensing and permitting language with City staff across departments

	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
BRUSSEL SPROUTS	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
GREEN KALE	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
BUTTERNUT SQUASH	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
3lb bag RUSSETS	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
BEETS	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
SWEET POTATO	1 lb	2 lb	3 lb
ONIONS			3 lb
Green CABBAGE	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
Greenleaf LETTUCE	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea
BOK CHOY	1 ea	1 ea	1 ea

We're Seeking Your Input!

1. What are you personally interested in doing in the realm of urban agriculture? (keeping of hens or bees? Growing food? If yes, where? How?)
2. What are you interested in seeing in the city as a whole?
3. What concerns do you have about urban agriculture being supported and practiced in the city?

Are we missing anything?

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?

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PARK(*ing*) Day®

Friday, September 18th

8:00AM to 5:00PM

City Hall (495 Mass. Ave.)

Food & Fitness Policy Council

Live chickens!
and
Gardening galore!







GREEN CITY GROWERS

Birds

Observed concerns/opportunities

- Noise, odors, rodents
- Commercial activities in residential neighborhoods & in multi-family buildings
- Raising animals in high density neighborhoods
- Food product safety
- Soil mitigation & composting
- Animal slaughter

