



CITY OF
TUCSON



Community Meeting on Urban Agriculture

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sentinel Building

Tonight's Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions (10 mins.)**
- **Presentation: Why This Effort (30 mins.)**
 - *Stepping Back: Growing National & Local Interests*
 - *Background on City's Effort to Revise Zoning Regulations*
- **Discussion (15 mins.)**
- **Written Comments & Questions (30 mins.)**



Outreach Commitments

- To inform public about effort underway to revise zoning regulations pertaining to urban agriculture .
- To solicit public input about the proposed revisions to the zoning regulations.
- To review and respond to public input received.
- To consider further revisions to currently proposed revisions based on public input.
- To share with public any additional revisions proposed prior to initiation of formal review process.



Meeting Purpose

- ***Tonight's Meeting:*** Will focus on what led to the effort to revise zoning regulations pertaining to urban agriculture and to receive your questions, and questions.
- ***Next Meeting:*** Will review currently proposed revisions and input received, and solicit additional input.

Date: Tuesday, June 10

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: Sentinel Building



Handouts

Limited hard copies available

Community Meeting on
City Revisions to Urban Agriculture Zoning Regulations
Tuesday, May 13, 2014 / 6:30 – 8:00 pm / Sentinel Building

The latest draft of the revisions to City zoning regulations pertaining to urban agriculture can be found on the City of Tucson Planning & Development Services Department web page at:

<http://pdsd.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/news/sustainable-code-project>

The graphic below shows the screen that should come up when you enter the address above.

The green circle indicates the link for the draft revisions, and the blue circle indicates the link for a comparison of the current and proposed zoning regulations pertaining to urban agriculture.

If you have any problems accessing this website, please contact Adam Smith, Principal Planner, at:

Adam.Smith@tucsonaz.gov or 837-6591



APRIL 2014 DRAFT

SUSTAINABLE CODE PROJECT: PROPOSED URBAN AGRICULTURE AMENDMENTS

April 28, 2014

DRAFT



City of Tucson
Planning & Development Services Department

Handouts cont.

Use ONE card for each category about which you are asking a question or sharing a comment. Thanks.

Check the relevant category:

- Community Gardens Urban Farms Farmers' Markets Small Farm Animals
 Other [Please specify _____]

*You should have a packet of 5 cards and
a pen.*

*If you didn't pick one or both up, please
raise your hand.*



**WHY THIS
EFFORT?**

Working Definition of Urban Agriculture

- o The practice of cultivating, processing, distributing, and selling of food in a town or city and may involve horticulture, aquaculture, and animal husbandry.



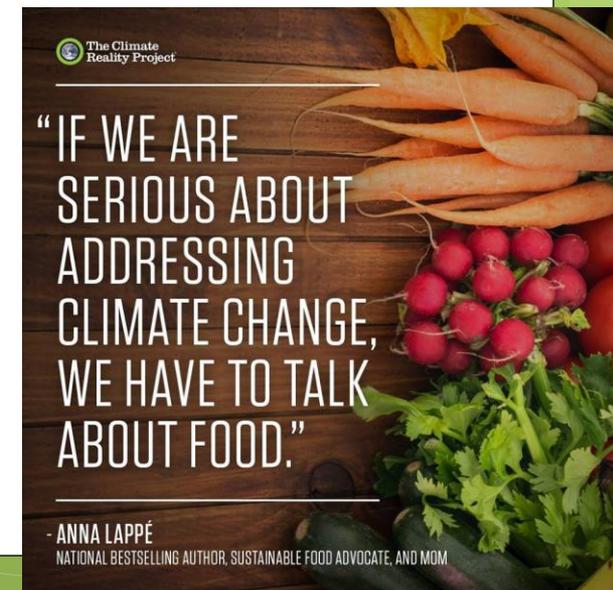
Stepping Back

- Growing NATIONAL interest in
 - sustainability
 - public health
 - urban agriculture



Some Urban Agricultural Challenges

- Food Security – nearly 15% of U.S. households food insecure (USDA, Sept. 2013)
- Global climate changes
- Peak oil/ “Food Miles” – How will rising fuel prices affect the availability and cost of food considering much of our food is imported?
- Food desert/fast food glut
- Global food demand expected to double by 2050



Some Urban Agricultural Opportunities

- A more localized food system increases a community's ability to respond to emergency food shortages and reduces environmental impacts associated with transporting food long distances.
- Gardens can help mitigate urban heat islands.
- Gardens can serve as amenities to residences and neighborhoods
- According to the Centers for Disease control and Prevention, community gardens provide mental and physical health benefits beyond access to healthy fresh fruits and vegetables.



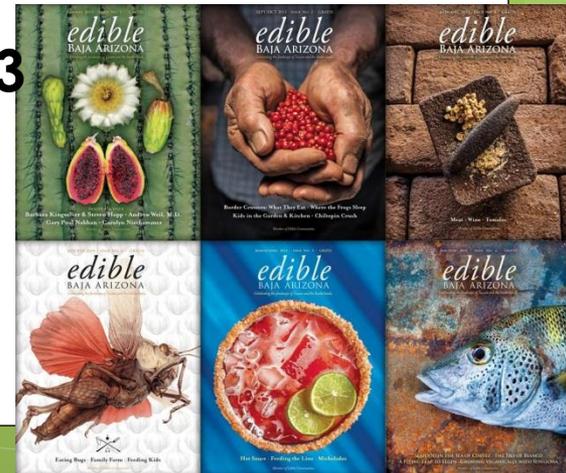
Opportunities *cont.*

- Increased attention to locally grown food has led to many cities updating urban policies and regulations to account for a changing urban “food system.”



Stepping Back

- Sampling of growing **LOCAL** interest in sustainability, health, and urban agriculture
 - Pima County Communities Putting Prevention to Work
 - City Office of Conservation & Sustainability
 - Community Gardens of Tucson has expanded from a handful to 28 gardens
 - Edible Baja Arizona debuted in 2013
 - Mayor & Council adoption of Sustainability Framework, 2008



Background on City's Effort to Revise Zoning Regulations

○ Why? ○ What? ○ When?



Sustainable Code Project

- City's federal Energy Efficiency Block Grant funded a variety of projects in keeping with the Mayor and Council adopted Sustainability Framework, including the Sustainable Code Project.



Sustainable Code Project

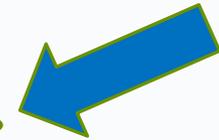
- Purpose of project was to identify and address regulatory obstacles to the advancement of sustainability goals and policies.
- Clarion Associates was contracted to prepare sustainability analysis of the Unified Development Code (UDC) and to draft amendments to code where obstacles were identified.
- Areas in which obstacles were identified included urban agriculture, solar development standards, and other miscellaneous items.

FOCUS AREAS & ELEMENTS



THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Housing • Public Safety • Parks & Recreation
- Arts & Culture • **Public Health • Urban Agriculture**
- Education • Governance & Participation



THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- Jobs & Workforce Development • Business Climate
- Regional & Global Positioning • Tourism & Quality of Life



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Energy & Climate Readiness • Water Resources
- Green Infrastructure • Environmental Quality



THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Historic Preservation • Public Infrastructure, Facilities & Cost of Development • Redevelopment & Revitalization
- Land Use, Transportation, & Urban Design

Plan Tucson: Related Public Health Policy

- Improve access to healthy, affordable food particularly in underserved areas of the city.



Plan Tucson: Urban Agriculture Policies

- Reduce barriers to food production and to food distribution, including home and community gardens and facilitate access to new markets for small-scale farmers and gardeners.
- Adopt zoning and land use regulations that promote and facilitate the safe, equitable growth and distribution of locally produced food.



Urban Agriculture Policies cont.

- Facilitate community food security by fostering an equitable, healthy local and regional food system that is environmentally and economically sustainable and accessible to all.
- Collaborate with key partners to facilitate new opportunities for urban-scale gardens, farms, gleaning, and distribution systems.



Areas Identified for Revisions

- Community gardens
- Farmers' markets
- Urban farms
- Composting
- Gardens
- Greenhouses
- Keeping of small farm animals
- On-site sale of agricultural products grown on-site



Why Revise?

- City's zoning code – called the **Unified Development Code (UDC)** – is either silent, unclear, or overly restrictive.
- Current standards are based on a time when “agriculture” was associated with “rural” areas. Accordingly, the agricultural standards in the UDC are designed for larger commercial-agricultural operations.
- Some urban agricultural uses have occurred through zoning determinations, which contributes to uncertainty about future issues.

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE



Chapter 23B of the Tucson Code

Adopted – October 9, 2012
Effective – January 2, 2013

Sustainable Code Committee

- Formed in early 2013.
- Ad-hoc committee of professionals working in sustainability-related fields, neighborhood representatives, and developers
- Met for six months to draft recommendations on revisions to regulations pertaining to **urban agriculture**.



Urban Agriculture Task Force

- Formed in Fall 2013 in response to objections raised to Sustainable Code Committee recommendations on urban agriculture.
- Ad-hoc advisory group comprised of Sustainable Code Committee members and neighborhood representatives.
- Task Force met four times, but was unable to reach agreement on many points, so was paused in favor of conducting wider community meetings.

Big Picture Proposal

o Uses

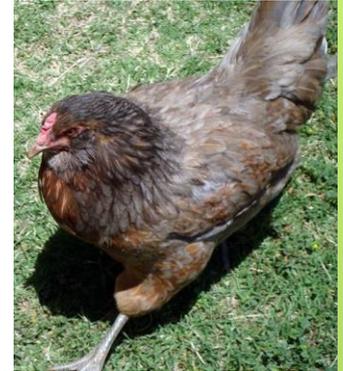
- **Community Gardens (principal or accessory use)**
- **Urban Farms (principal and home occupation)**
- **Farmers' Markets (accessory use only in residential and office zones, principal use in other zones)**



Big Picture Proposal

o Accessory Use Only

- Keeping of Small Farm Animals
- Gardens
- On-site sale of products grown on-site
- Composting
- Greenhouses



Next

- Questions & Comments (*15 mins.*)
- Written Questions & Comments related to key areas addressed in proposed zoning regulations (*30 mins.*)

Use one green card per category.

Use **ONE** card for each category about which you are asking a question or sharing a comment. Thanks.

Check the relevant category:

- Community Gardens Urban Farms Farmers' Markets Small Farm Animals
 Other [Please specify _____]