



**City of Dallas**

# **Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP)**

**City Council Briefing  
February 1, 2023**

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# Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Project Scope & Timeline
- Public Engagement
- Project Findings
- Plan Recommendations
- Next Steps



**Micro-farms**  
(backyard)



**Community Gardens**  
(church/school/community)



**"Guerilla" Farming**  
(food as landscape)



**Community-Supported Ag.**



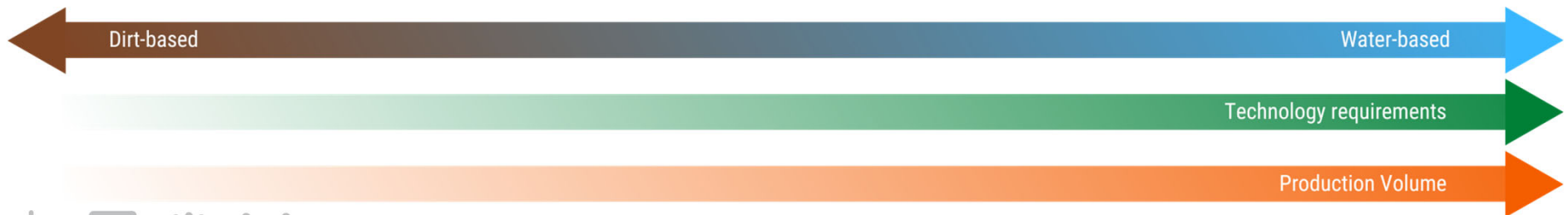
**Biophilia**  
(roofs/building face)



**Controlled-Environment Ag.**  
(aquaponics, aeroponics, hydroponics)



**Vertical Ag.**  
(Commercial scale)



# Background / History



- Initiated Community Garden planning with EPA “Local Foods, Local Places” grant in 2016
- Food Access identified as a critical sector within the Resilient Dallas Plan in 2018
- Urban Agriculture Manager identified in 2019
- “Healthy Local Foods” identified as critical to local climate planning in 2020
- Contract with Agritecture, LLC approved in 2021 to develop a comprehensive food and urban agriculture plan
- Briefed Environmental Commission, 08/10/22, 11/09/22; Environmental and Sustainability Committee, 09/06/22, 12/05/22
- Racial Equity Plan approved in 2022, including action targets related to supporting local urban agriculture in priority equity areas and increasing local food production



# CECAP & Racial Equity Plan Target Alignment



## CECAP: Food Access

### **\*Acres of Urban Gardens**

Increase of 20% by 2030

Increase of 50% by 2040

Increase of 75% by 2050

[producing food for community distribution,  
local markets, or restaurants]

*\*CUAP sets more aggressive targets for  
urban ag acreage.*

## Racial Equity Plan: Food Access

### **Big Audacious Goal Action Target 2.14:**

Support the local urban agriculture ecosystem in communities overburdened by environmental pollution.

**Progress Measure:** Increase acreage of neighborhood growing sites (e.g. commercial, community, and resident gardens) serving equity priority areas [with high minority populations] from 7 acres to 17 acres by December 2027.



# Purpose: CECAP Goals



*All Dallas communities have access to healthy, local food:*

- Build capacity & partnerships
- Improve access in food deserts through effective partnerships
- Reduce distance from farm-to-table
- Prepare the food system to be more resilient to extreme weather events
- Prevent food waste through donations, recovery, diversion, and composting

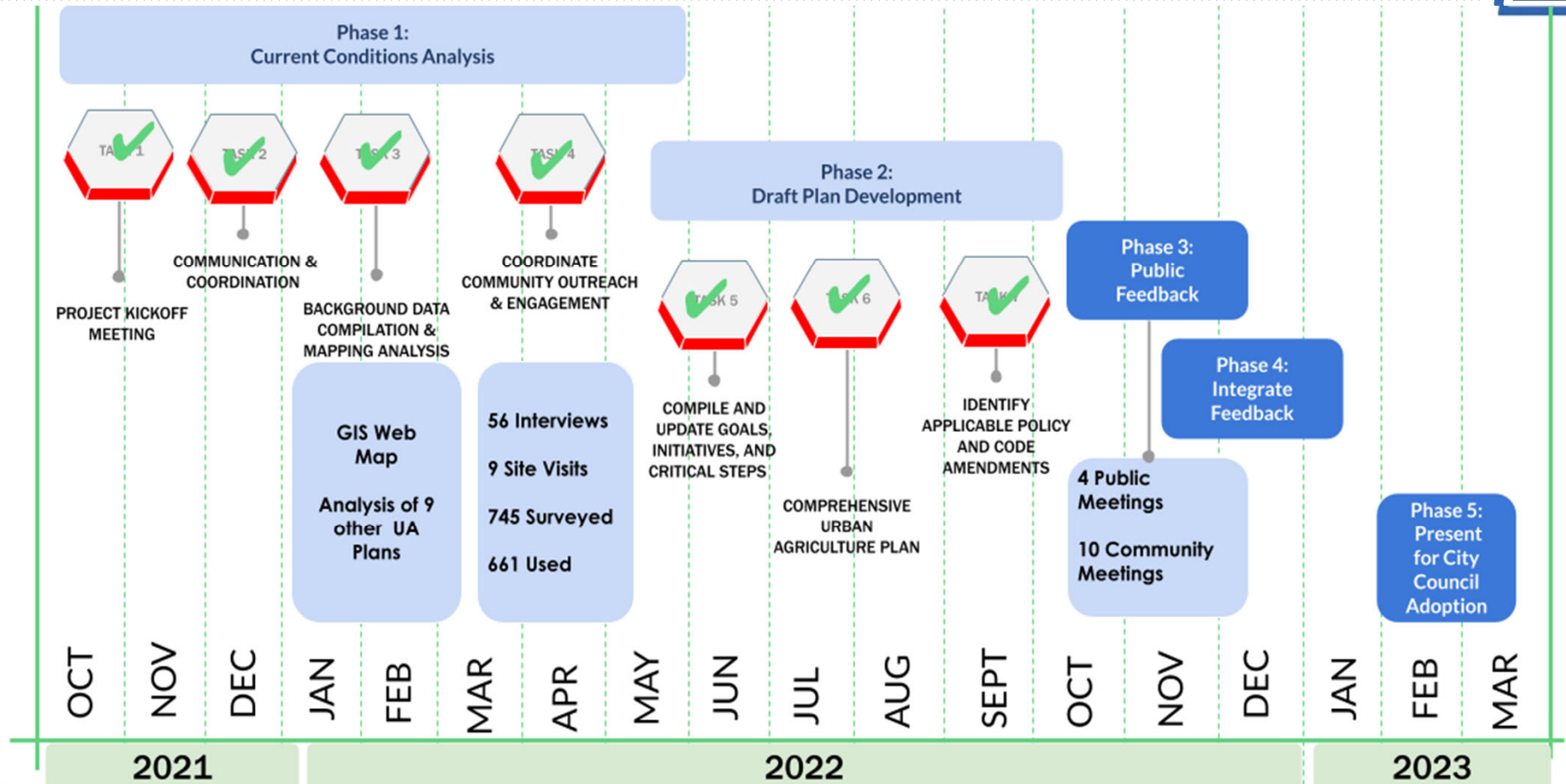


# Project Scope & Timeline

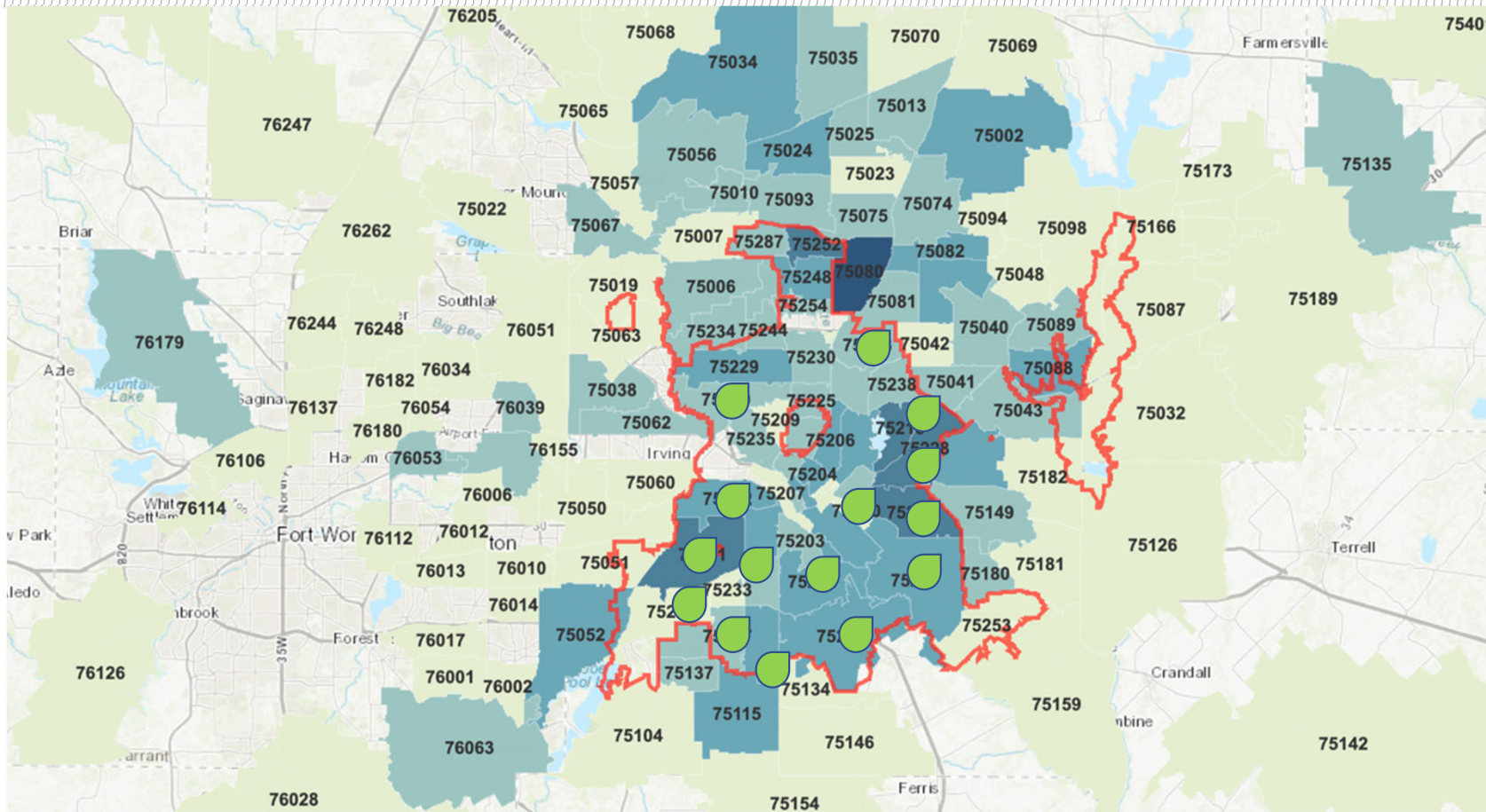


PROJECT KICKOFF

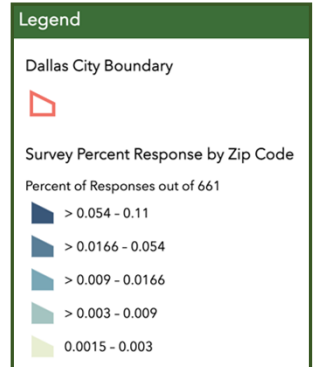
PROJECT COMPLETE



# Outreach & Engagement



Equity Impact Zip Codes



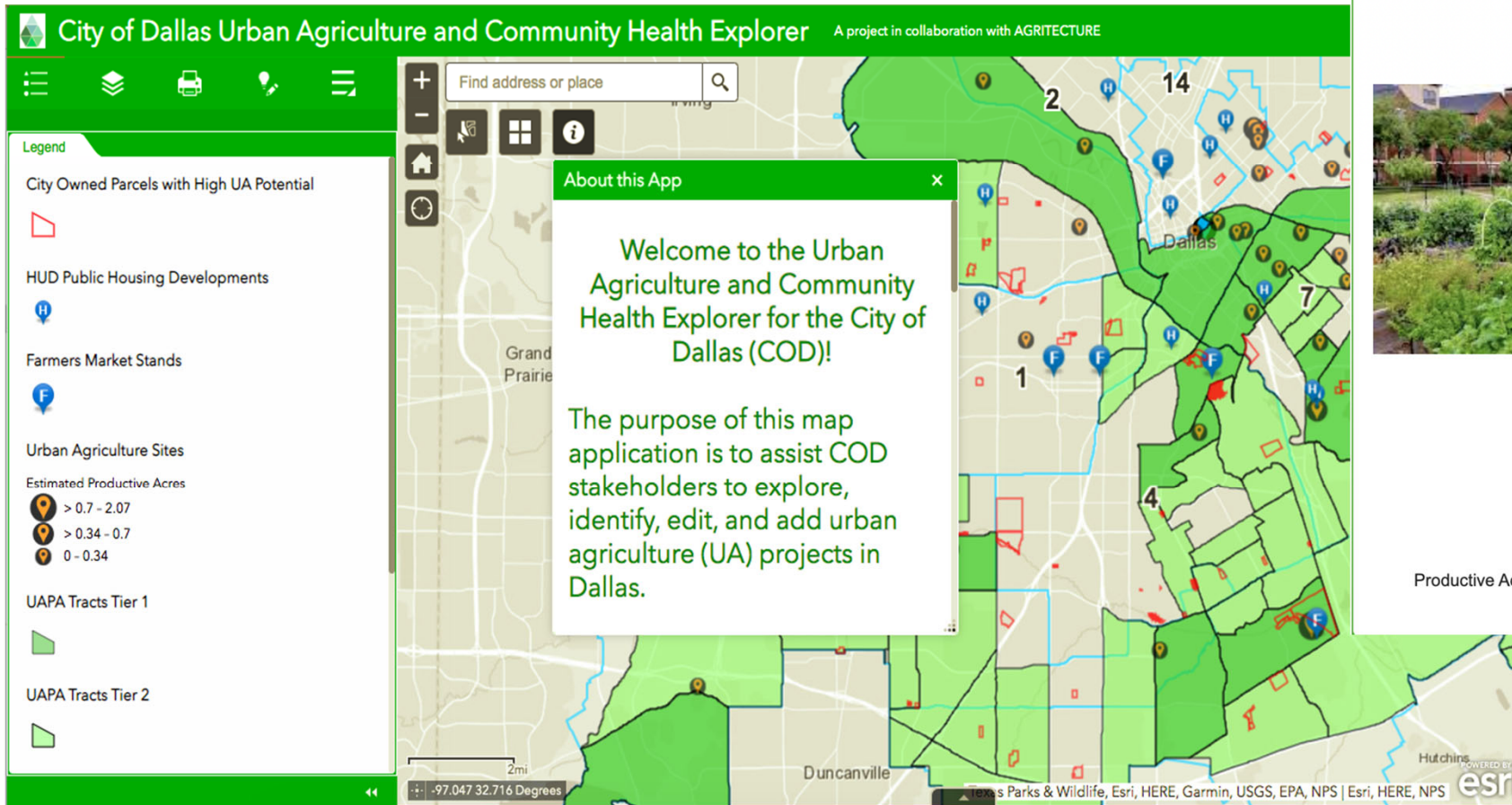
# Feedback – Community Concerns



- The siloed or competitive nature of stakeholders
- Lack of transparency around costs and allocation of related City resources
- Unclear City Ordinances providing roadblocks to starting UA projects
- The need to make the plan actionable and assign responsibility for continuity and follow through
- Limitations re: plan efficacy if action items are not supported with interrelated factors (*i.e.*, job development, education, utility use, infrastructure)
- Some distrust from marginalized communities as they have been left out of previous development plans, especially in southern Dallas (*i.e.*, below I-30)



# Data Compilation & Tools



## Infographic of Productive Acres

### ESTIMATED PRODUCTIVE ACRES



16.78

Productive Acres are estimated by satellite imagery



# Program Benchmarking



Identified  
best  
practices city





RECOMMENDATION 1.

## Reduce regulatory barriers.

1. **Update the Dallas Development Code** to reduce regulatory barriers in the urban agriculture landscape.
2. **Identify and establish incentives for developers to include urban agriculture** within new developments, especially those done by community development corporations. Evaluate synergies with other city initiatives to increase functional green and permeable surfaces within new and existing developments.



RECOMMENDATION 2.

## Support land access.

- 1) **Visualize the COD UA landscape** in geographic context, framed by equity
- 2) **Establish a process for making high-potential City-owned vacant lots available** for UA projects
- 3) **Match-making model** for connecting aspiring farmers and private landowners



RECOMMENDATION 3.

## Provide urban agriculture education, resources, and support to Dallas residents.

- 1) **UA Resource Page:** Create clear, accessible documents that educate the City of Dallas residents about relevant regulations and resources for starting and operating both commercial and community UA
- 2) **UA Education:** Develop a cohesive UA education strategy and implement it in relevant community programs
- 3) **UA Workforce Development:** Increase internship and traineeship opportunities in urban agriculture in Dallas





RECOMMENDATION 4.

## Facilitate collaboration and partnerships among UA stakeholders.

- 1) **Formalize and maintain an Urban Agriculture Advisory Council** that represents a range of UA stakeholders in the City of Dallas
- 2) **Showcase and organize UA events** focused on knowledge sharing, resource support, and partnerships for UA stakeholders



# Urban Ag Advisory Council Stakeholders



FoodSource DFW

Dallas CEC (Chef's Association)

Baylor, Scott & White/NTFB

Dallas Church Food Security

Network/Baylor Scott & White @  
Juanita Craft

Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions

Dallas County

North Texas Food Policy Alliance

Grow North Texas

Kroger

Parkland Health & Hospital Systems

Restorative Farms

Sysco North Texas

TAMU-Agrilife Extension

Hardies

University of Texas Arlington

Texas Restaurant Association - North  
Texas Region/Greater Dallas

The Harvest Project

Turn Compost

USDA - NRCS

USEPA

For Oak Cliff

Southern Methodist University

Richardson ISD

Dallas ISD

Oak Cliff Veggie Project

Dallas College

Texas Worm Ranch





RECOMMENDATION 5.

## Build market opportunities.

- 1) **Reduce barriers to operating farmers markets**
- 2) **Seek funding for nutrition assistance programs** to increase purchasing power of low-income consumers
- 3) **Initiate or partner with a “Buy Local” campaign** with consumer-facing, business-facing, and internal COD agency-facing elements
- 4) **Facilitate connections** between Dallas area producers and interested wholesale buyers such as restaurants, retailers, and institutions



# Budget Considerations



*Primary Cost: Staff support (2-3 positions)*

Current Budget: \$200k (CECAP)

- Soil testing & screening
- Facilitating collaboration and partnerships among UA stakeholders
  - DIGS, GWU Field Days, etc.
- Holding educational events
- Matching grant funds





| RECOMMENDATIONS                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | YEAR 1 |    |    |    | YEAR 2 |    |    |    | YEAR 3 |    |    |    | YEAR 4 |    |    |    | YEAR 5 |    |    |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
| 1. Reduce regulatory barriers                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1                                                                   | Update the Dallas Development Code to reduce the regulatory barriers in the urban agriculture landscape.                                                                                         |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2                                                                   | Identify and establish Incentives for developers to include urban agriculture within new developments.                                                                                           |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2. Support land access                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1                                                                   | Visualize the COD UA landscape in geographic context, framed with equity.                                                                                                                        |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2                                                                   | Establish a process for making high-potential City-owned vacant lots available for UA projects.                                                                                                  |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 3                                                                   | Match-making model for connecting aspiring farmers and private landowners.                                                                                                                       |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 3. Provide UA education, resources, and support to Dallas residents |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1                                                                   | UA Resource Page: Create clear, accessible documents that educate City of Dallas residents about relevant regulations and resources for starting and operating both commercial and community UA. |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2                                                                   | UA Education: Develop a cohesive UA education strategy and partner with education organizations to establish or strengthen UA education networks in Dallas Communities.                          |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 3                                                                   | UA Workforce Development: Increase UA Internship and traineeship opportunities in Dallas.                                                                                                        |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 4. Facilitate collaboration & partnerships among UA stakeholders    |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1                                                                   | Formalize and maintain an Urban Agriculture Advisory Council that represents a range of UA stakeholders in the City of Dallas.                                                                   |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2                                                                   | Showcase and organize UA events focused on knowledge sharing, resource support and partnerships for UA stakeholders.                                                                             |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 5. Build market opportunities                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1                                                                   | Reduce barriers to operating farmers markets.                                                                                                                                                    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2                                                                   | Seek funding for nutrition assistance programs to increase purchasing power of low-income consumers.                                                                                             |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 3                                                                   | Initiate or partner with a "Buy Local" campaign with consumer-facing, business-facing, and internal COD Agency-facing elements.                                                                  |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 4                                                                   | Facilitate connections between Dallas area producers and interested wholesale buyers such as restaurants, retailers, and institutions.                                                           |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |



# Plan Implementation Timeline



## Short-Mid Term Implementation

- Reducing regulatory barriers
- GIS Tool: Urban Agriculture Community Health Explorer Map
- Providing education, resources, support
  - Dallas InnerCity Growers' Summit
  - UA resource page

**Goal:** Increase UA acreage and the local supply

## Long Term Implementation

- Match-making model
- Building market opportunities
  - The “Buy Local” campaign
- Facilitate connections between Dallas area producers
  - Wholesale buyers & institutions

**Goal:** Increase local commercial food sourcing



## Next Steps

- Council consideration on the February 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda
- CUAP available at:  
[dallasclimateaction.com/foodaccess](http://dallasclimateaction.com/foodaccess)

