

# Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP)

City Council Briefing  
March 1, 2023

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Sustainability



**City of Dallas**

# 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.**



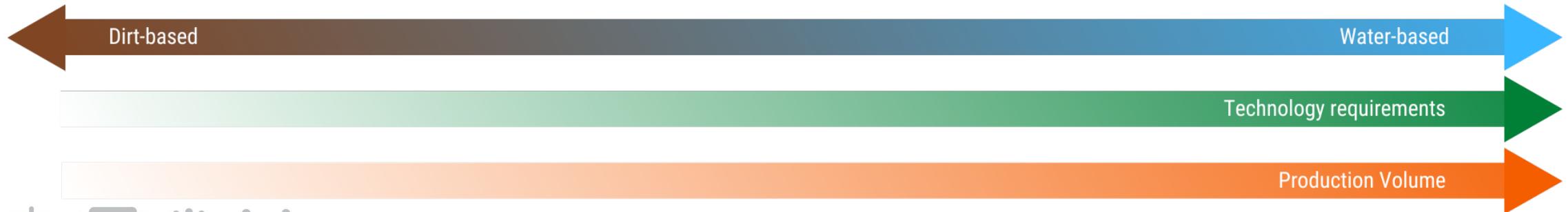
**Biophilia**  
(roofs/building face)



**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

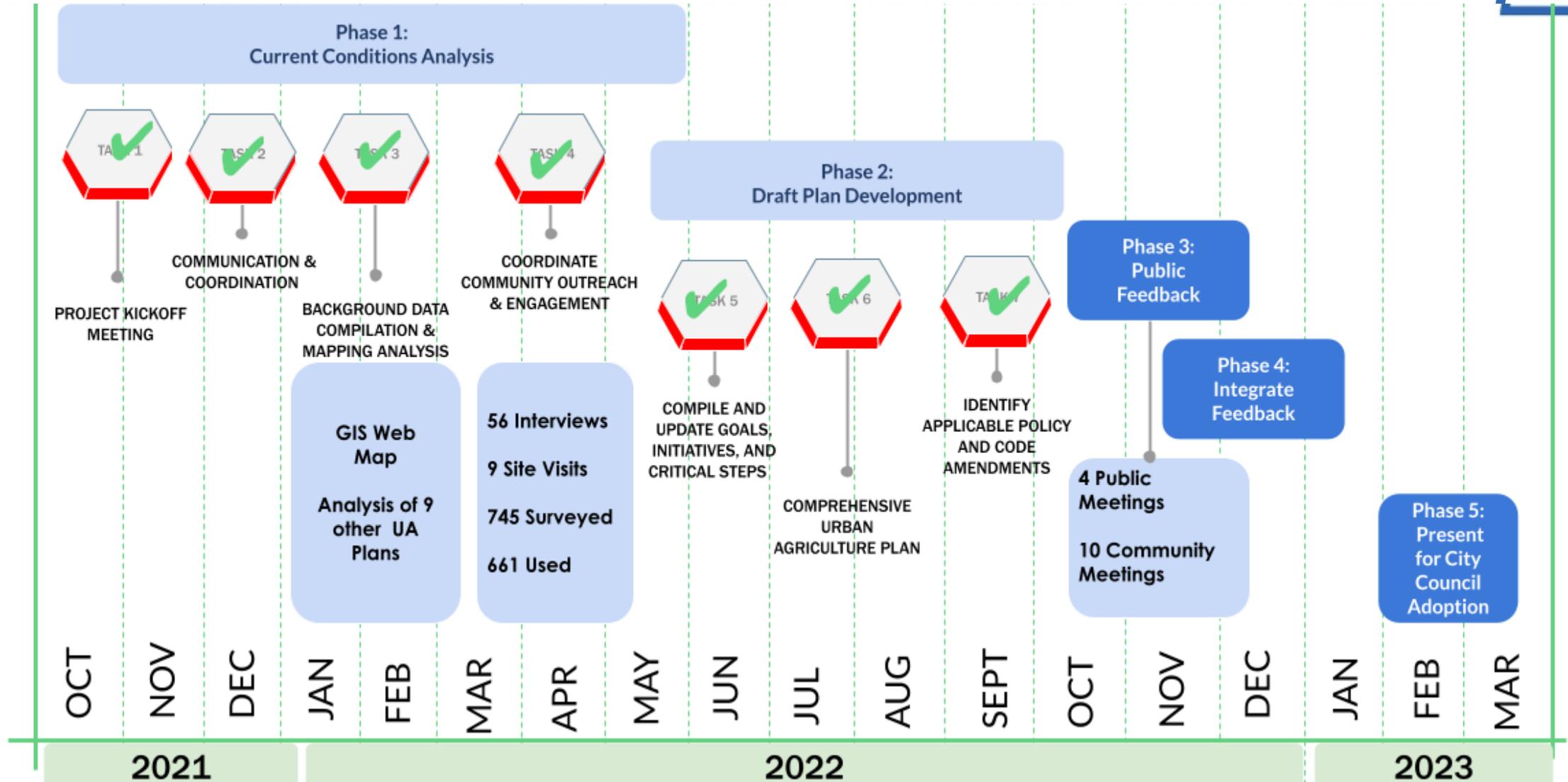


# Project Scope & Timeline

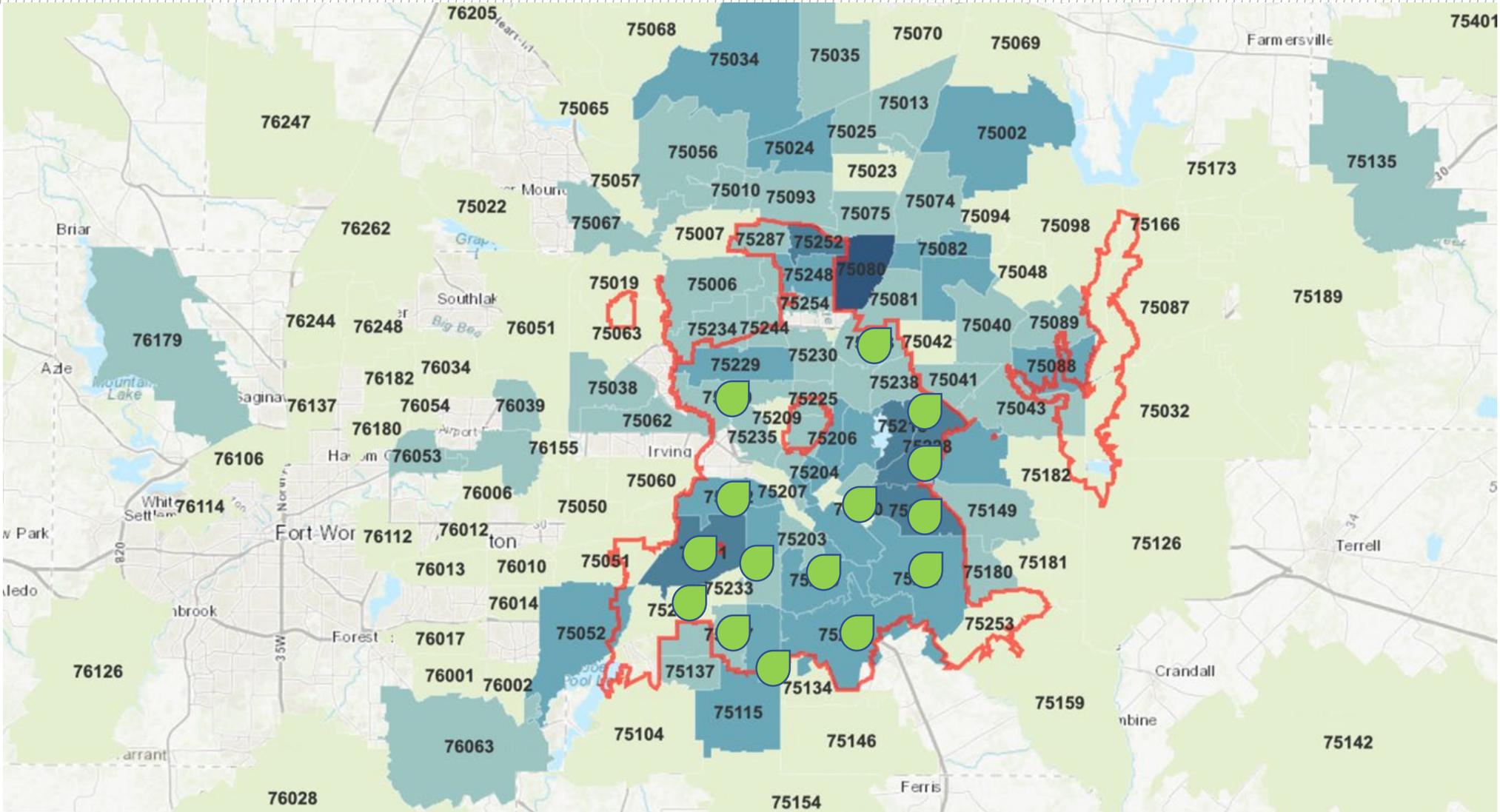


PROJECT KICKOFF

PROJECT COMPLETE



# Outreach & Engagement



 Equity Impact Zip Codes

**Legend**

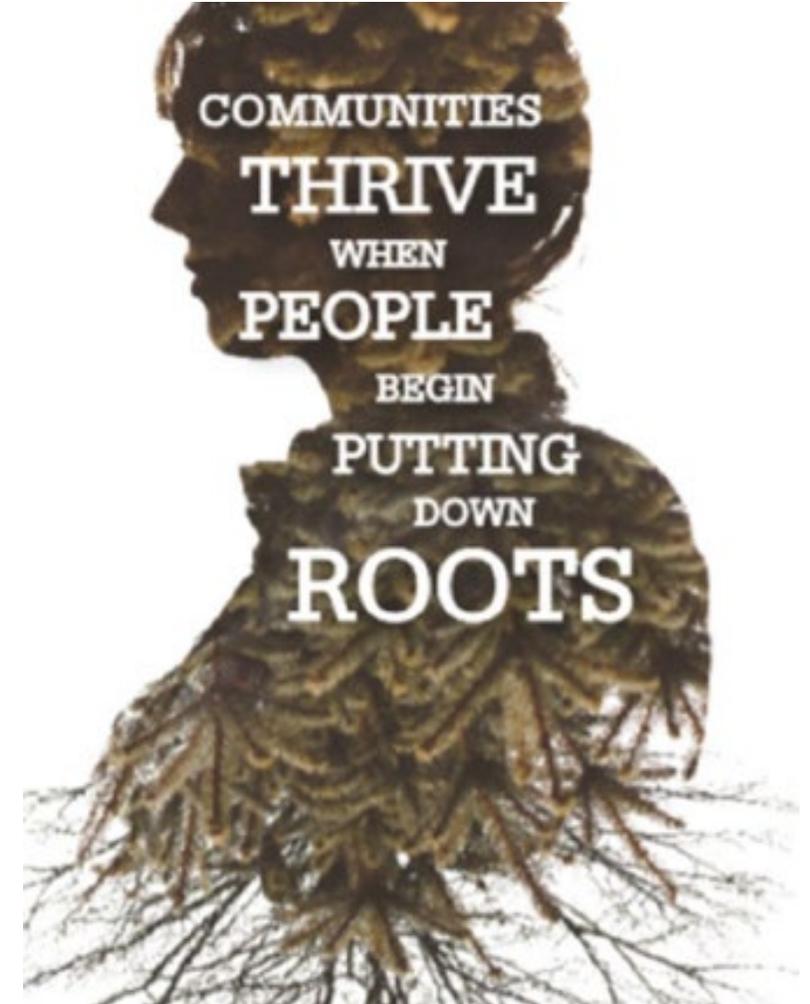
-  Dallas City Boundary
- Survey Percent Response by Zip Code**
- Percent of Responses out of 661
-  > 0.054 - 0.11
-  > 0.0166 - 0.054
-  > 0.009 - 0.0166
-  > 0.003 - 0.009
-  0.0015 - 0.003



# 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

## ESTIMATED PRODUCTIVE ACRES



16.78

Productive Acres are estimated by satellite imagery

City of Dallas Urban Agriculture and Community Health Explorer A project in collaboration with AGRITECTURE

Find address or place

**Legend**

- City Owned Parcels with High UA Potential
- HUD Public Housing Developments
- Farmers Market Stands
- Urban Agriculture Sites
  - Estimated Productive Acres
    - > 0.7 - 2.07
    - > 0.34 - 0.7
    - 0 - 0.34
- UAPA Tracts Tier 1
- UAPA Tracts Tier 2

**About this App**

Welcome to the Urban Agriculture and Community Health Explorer for the City of Dallas (COD)!

The purpose of this map application is to assist COD stakeholders to explore, identify, edit, and add urban agriculture (UA) projects in Dallas.

2mi

-97.047 32.716 Degrees

Hutchins POWERED BY esri







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/BSW 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

Lake Highlands Community Garden

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			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
<b>1. Reduce regulatory barriers</b>																					
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.					█				█											
<b>2. Support land access</b>																					
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.													█				█			
<b>3. Provide UA education, resources, and support to Dallas residents</b>																					
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.			█		█		█		█		█		█				█			
<b>4. Facilitate collaboration &amp; partnerships among UA stakeholders</b>																					
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.	█				█				█				█				█			
<b>5. Build market opportunities</b>																					
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

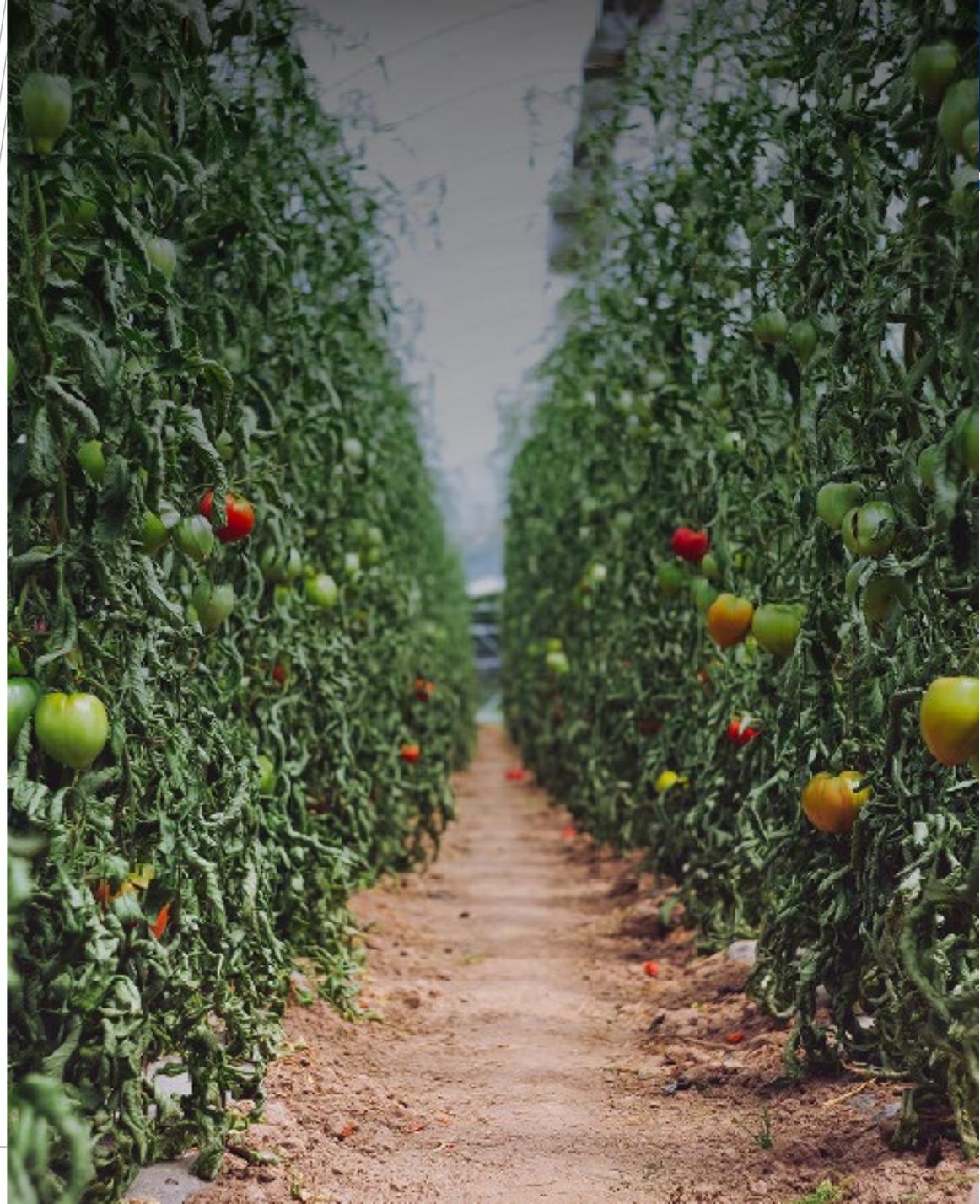
- Match-making model
- Building market opportunities
  - The “Buy Local” campaign
- Facilitate connections between Dallas area producers
  - Wholesale buyers & institutions

**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)



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