

## Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP)

## City Council Briefing March 1, 2023

Carlos Evans, Director Rabekha Siebert, Urban Agriculture Coordinator

Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

# Presentation Overview

- Background/History
- Project Scope & Timeline
- Public Engagement

- Project Findings
- Plan Recommendations
- Next Steps

		* GUENNIA GUEDENING				
<b>Micro-farms</b> (backyard)	Community Gardens (church/school/community)			<b>Biophilia</b> (roofs/building face)	<b>Controlled-Environment Ag.</b> (aquaponics, aeroponics, hydroponics)	Vertical Ag. (Commercial scale)
	irt-based					er-based
					Technology requi	rements
					Production	Volume
3005	<b>2×11</b>					

# **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**

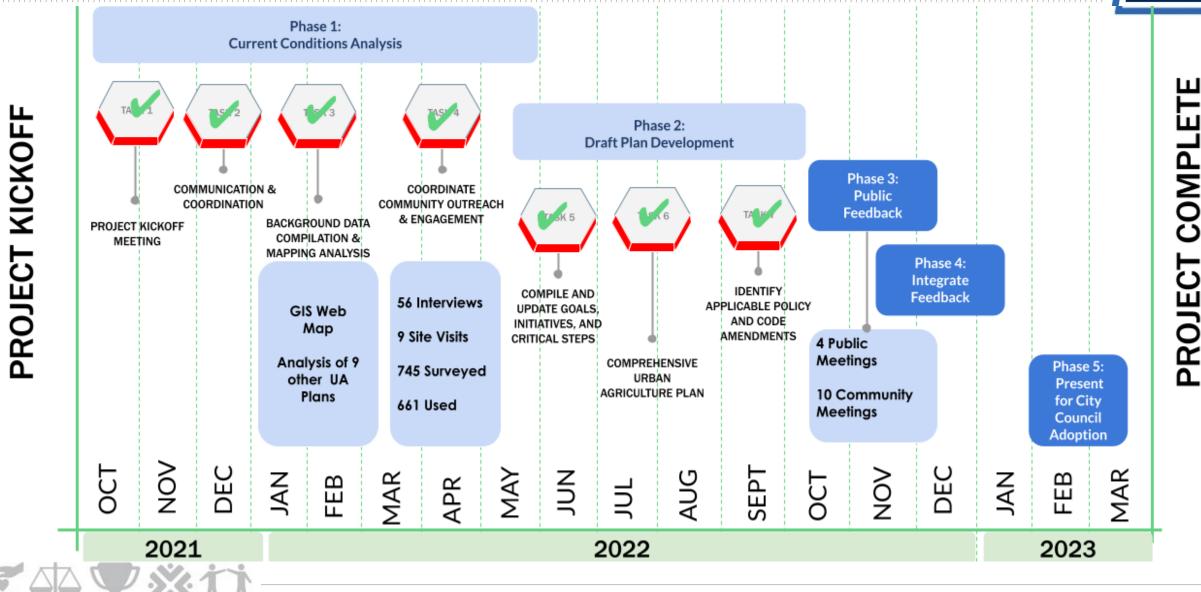
All Dallas communities have access to healthy, local food:

- 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**

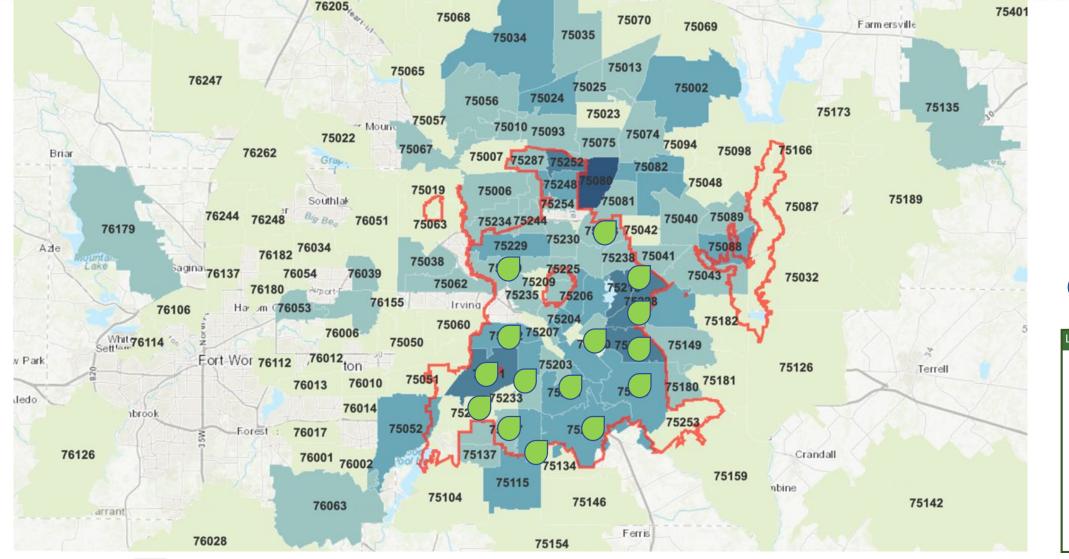




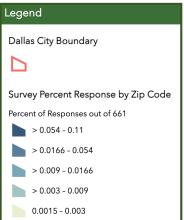
PROJECT COMPLET

## **Outreach & Engagement**





Equity Impact Zip Codes



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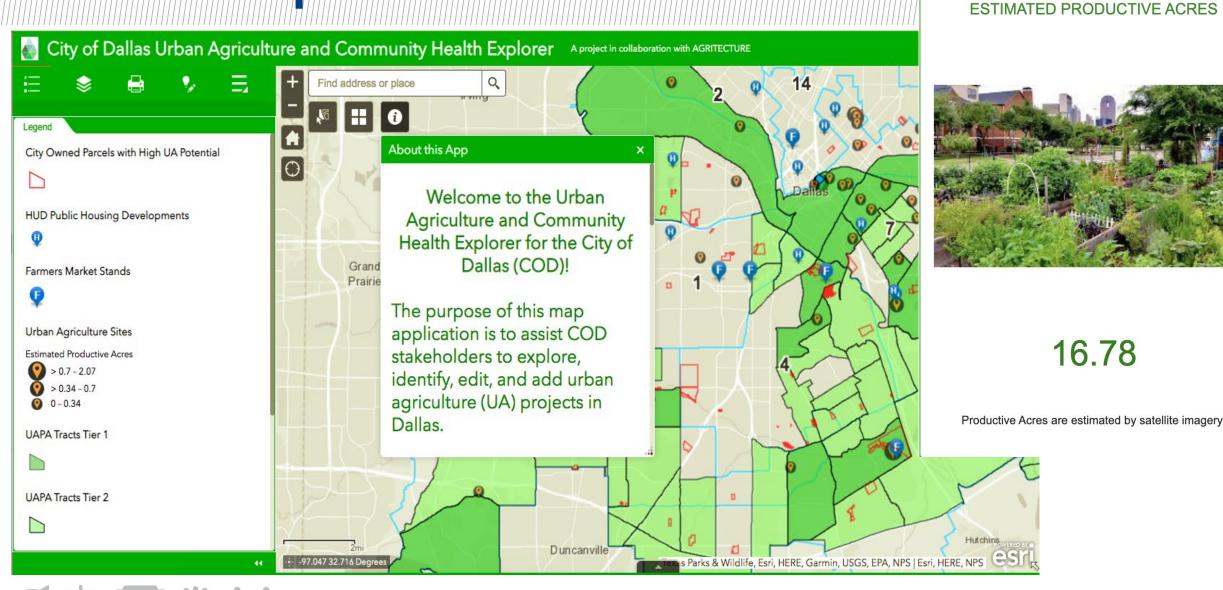
# Feedback – Community Concerns

- 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**



## **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 highpotential City-owned vacant lots available for UA projects

3) Match-making model for connecting aspiring farmers and private landowners

**RECOMMENDATION 3.** 

## Provide urban agriculture ducation, 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						
	1. Reduce regulatory barriers		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	<b>Q</b> 3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	<b>Q</b> 3	Q4	Q1	Q2	<b>Q</b> 3	Q4		
	Update the Dallas Development Code to reduce the regulatory barriers in the urban agriculture landscape.																						<i>ٵ</i>
	2 Identify and establish incentives for developers to include urban agriculture within new developments.																						
	2. Support land access		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	<b>Q2</b>	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	<b>Q4</b>		
	Visualize the COD UA landscape in geographic context, framed with equity.																						
	<ul> <li>Establish a process for making high-potential City-owned vacant lots available for UA projects.</li> </ul>			-																			
	Match-making model for connecting aspiring farmers and private landowners.																						
	3. Provide UA education, resources, and support to Dallas residents		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	<b>Q4</b>		
	<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>																						
	2 UA Education: Develop a cohesive UA education strategy and partner with education organizations to establish or strengthen UA education networks in Dallas Communities.																						
	<ul> <li>UA Workforce Development: Increase UA Internship and traineeship opportunities in Dallas.</li> </ul>																						
	4. Facilitate collaboration & partnerships among UA stakeholders	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	<b>Q2</b>	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	<b>Q</b> 3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
e	Formalize and maintain an Urban Agriculture Advisory Council that represents a range of UA stakeholders in the City of Dallas.																						
	Showcase and organize UA events focused on knowledge sharing, resource support and partnerships for UA stakeholders.																						
	5. Build market opportunities		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	<b>Q2</b>	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	<b>Q4</b>		
	Reduce barriers to operating farmers markets.																						
	Seek funding for nutrition assistance programs to increase purchasing power of low-income consumers.																						
	<ul> <li>Initiate or partner with a "Buy Local" campaign with consumer-facing, business-facing, and internal COD Agency-facing elements.</li> </ul>																						
	<ul> <li>Facilitate connections between Dallas area producers and interested wholesale buyers such as restaurants, retailers, and institutions.</li> </ul>																					 	18



# **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

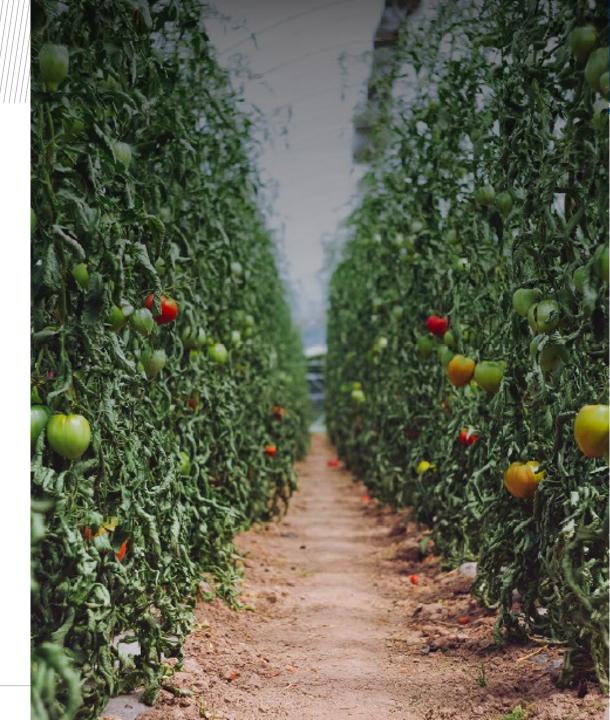
**Goal:** Increase local commercial food sourcing



# Next Steps

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







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