



City of Dallas

Urban Agriculture Update

**Environment & Sustainability
Committee
June 7, 2021**

Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director
Office of Environmental Quality &
Sustainability
City of Dallas

Urban Agriculture Program Update:



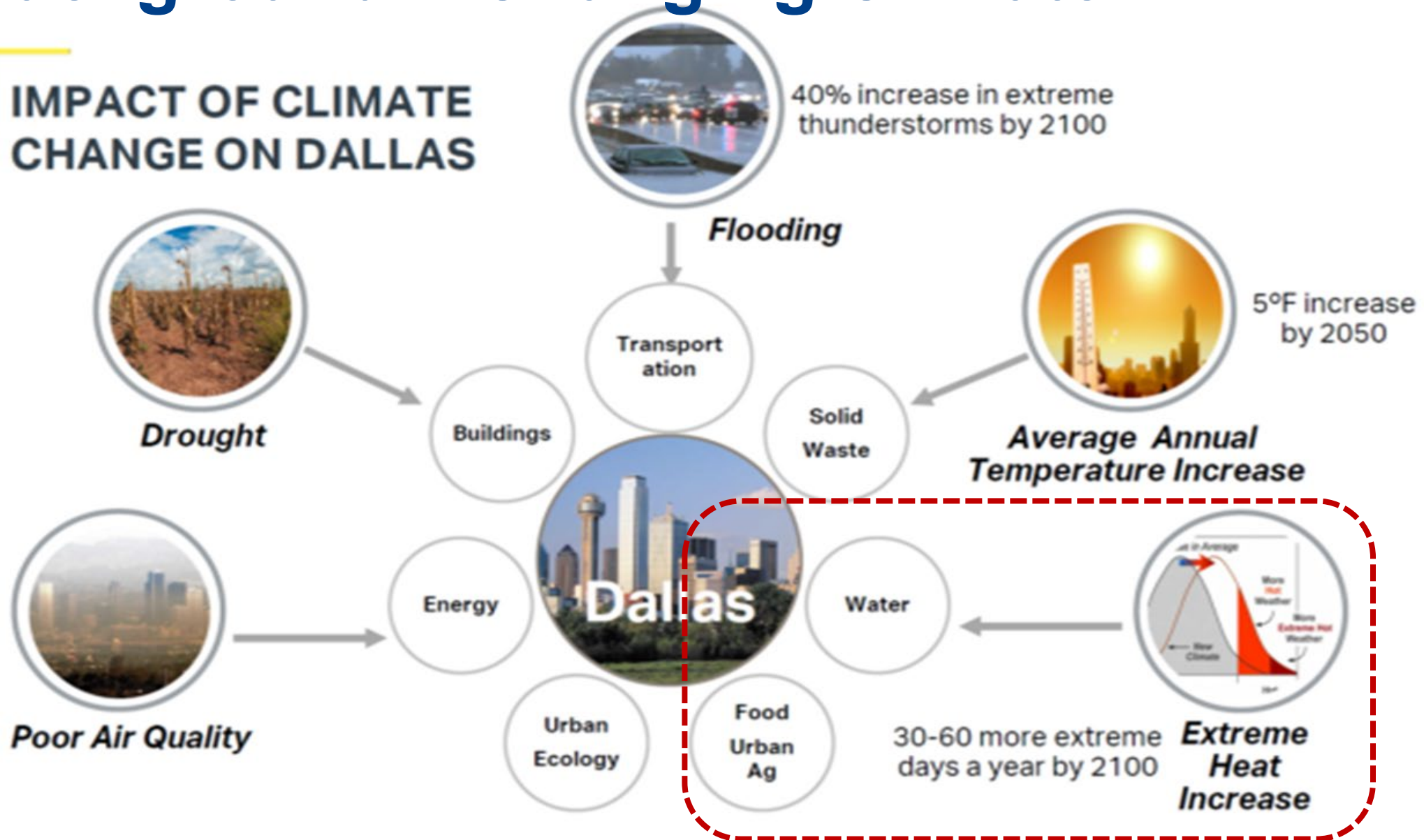
- Background
- Ongoing Efforts
 - Healthy Food Dallas Initiative
 - Food Innovation In-home Kits
 - North Texas Food Policy Alliance
- CECAP Actions/Goals
- Next Steps



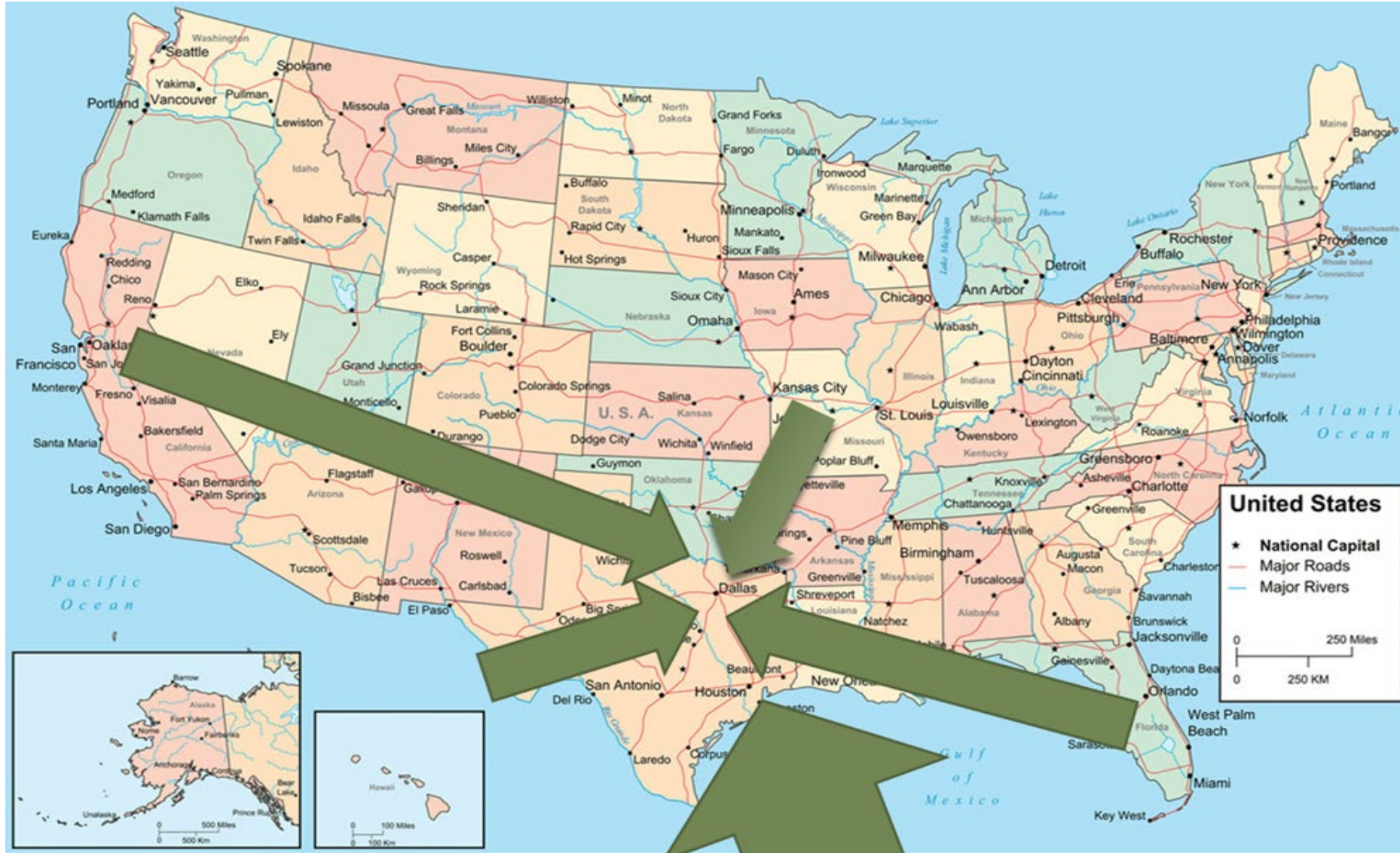
Background – Changing Climate



IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DALLAS



Background – Farm-to-Table



Background – Food Deserts/ Supply Chain



Dallas Food Deserts



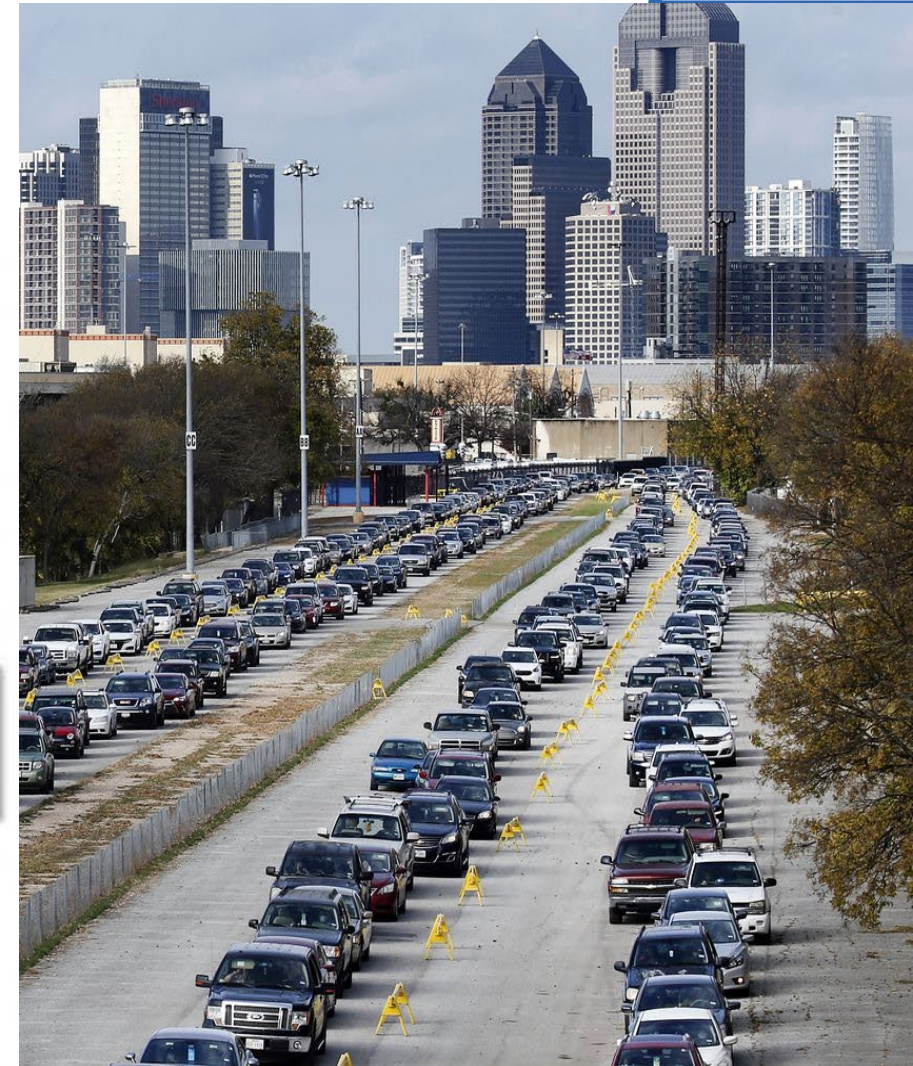
The USDA defines food deserts as: *parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas. This is largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers' markets, and healthy food providers.*

▼ Low Income (LI) & Low Access (LA) Layers ?

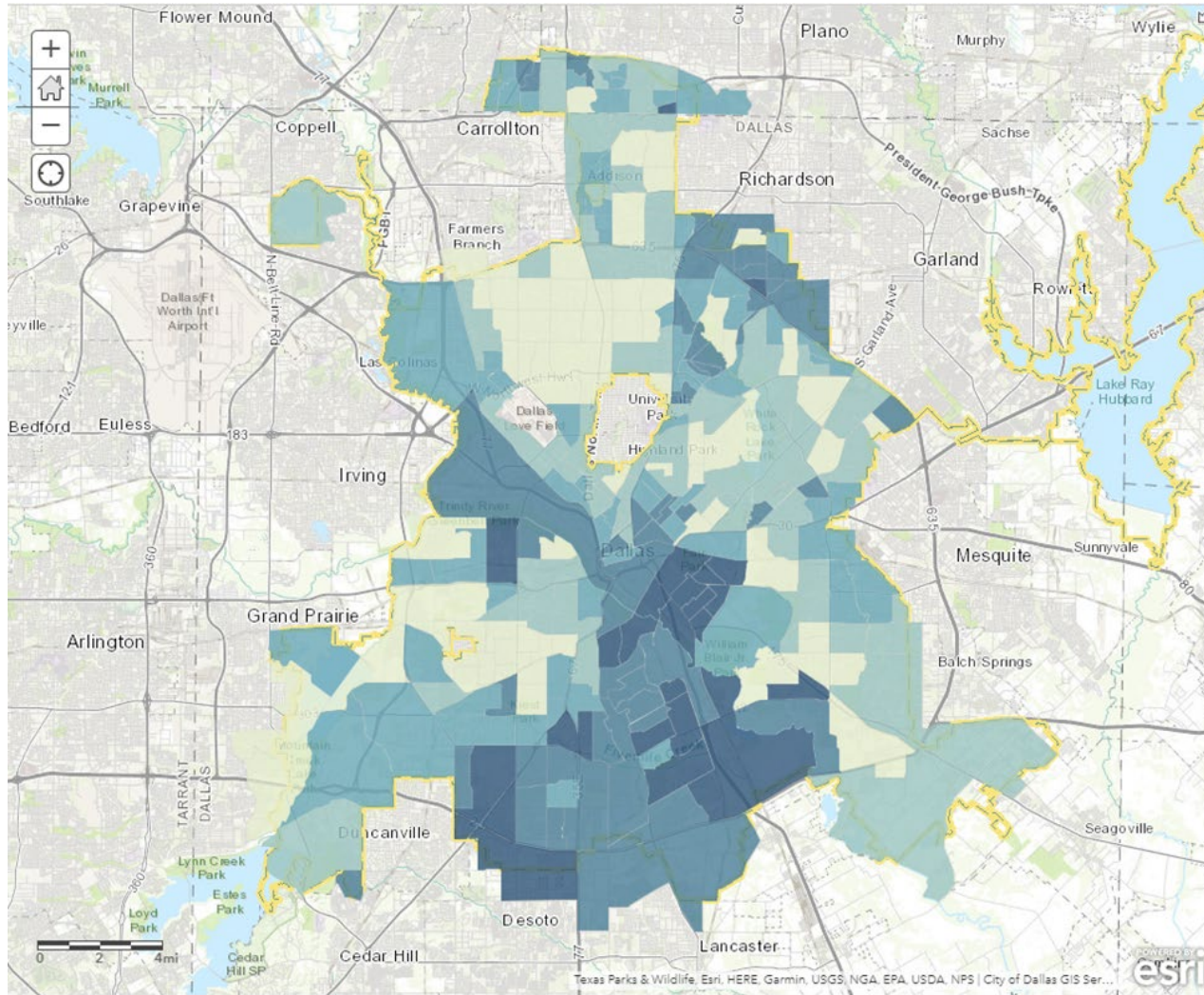
■ LI and LA at 1 and 10 miles

Low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>



Background – Food Insecurity

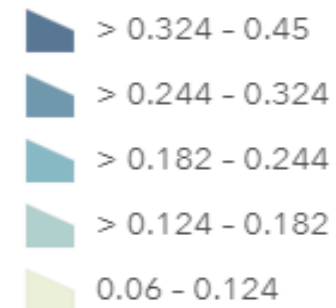


For City of Dallas:

- Overall food insecurity rate is 19.8%
- Rates range from 6% to 45%

NTFB_food_insecurity_Project

Food_Insec



Data courtesy of



Low Income/Low Access Demographics



	Food Desert	City of Dallas
Population	450,141	1,260,688
Population Density per Square Mile	1,847	3,623
Children Under 18 Years Old	130,526	325,859
Children Under 18 Years Old as Share of Population	29.00%	25.85%
Median of Median Family Income	\$36,979	\$46,902
Per Capita Income	\$15,554	\$28,693
Househlds	130,028	477,249
Family Households	86,072	274,501
Family Households with Income less than \$35,000	37,988	103,250
Family Households with Income less than \$35,000 as Share of All Households	44.14%	37.61%
SNAP Recipient Households	30,005	80,896
SNAP Recipient Households as Share of All Households	23.08%	16.95%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2011-2015 5 Year Estimates. Food Desert includes any Census tract defined by USDA as a food desert at the LI/LA 1-Mile urban measure that is entirely or partially within the City of Dallas, excluding tracts located in the unpopulated area at Lake Ray Hubbard.



Healthy Food Dallas Initiatives








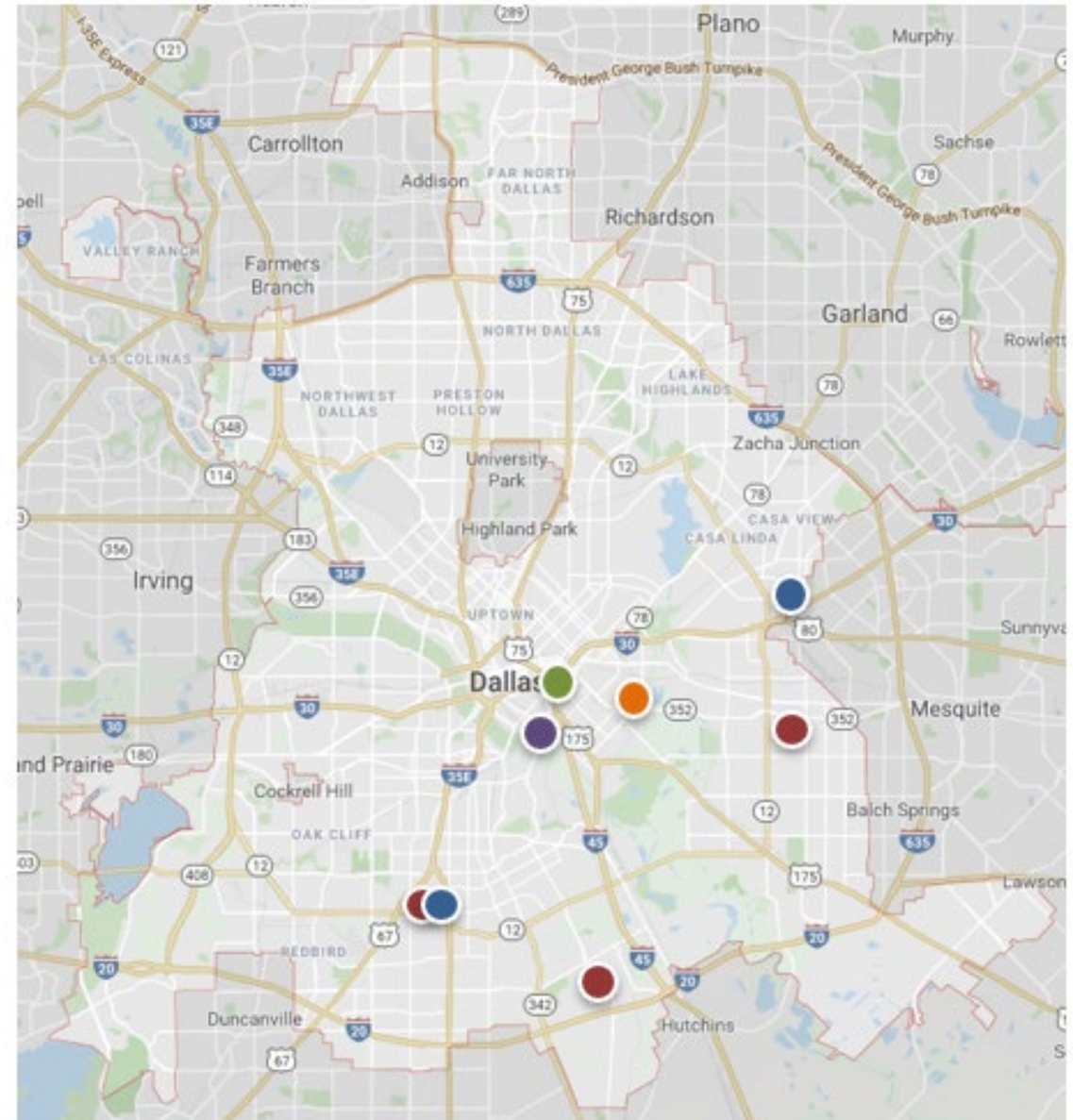
- Funded/managed by Dallas Development Fund (City-controlled entity)
 - Issued NOFA to increase the number of non-traditional food access points in low-income, underserved communities across Dallas (\$70,000 max award) May 2019
 - Open to nonprofits to support brick-and-mortar, mobile/home-delivery, community gardens
- Broadly written to support healthy cornerstore type initiatives
- Received 10 responses requesting approximately \$650,000
- Board awarded six projects
 - Structured as a forgivable loan over two years



HFDI Project Locations



Color	Project
	BSW Farm Stands
	WIC Farm Stands
	<u>CitySquare Food Pantry</u>
	St. Philip's Garden
	Hatcher Urban Farm
Mobile	CC Mobile Food Pantries



HFDI Project Impacts



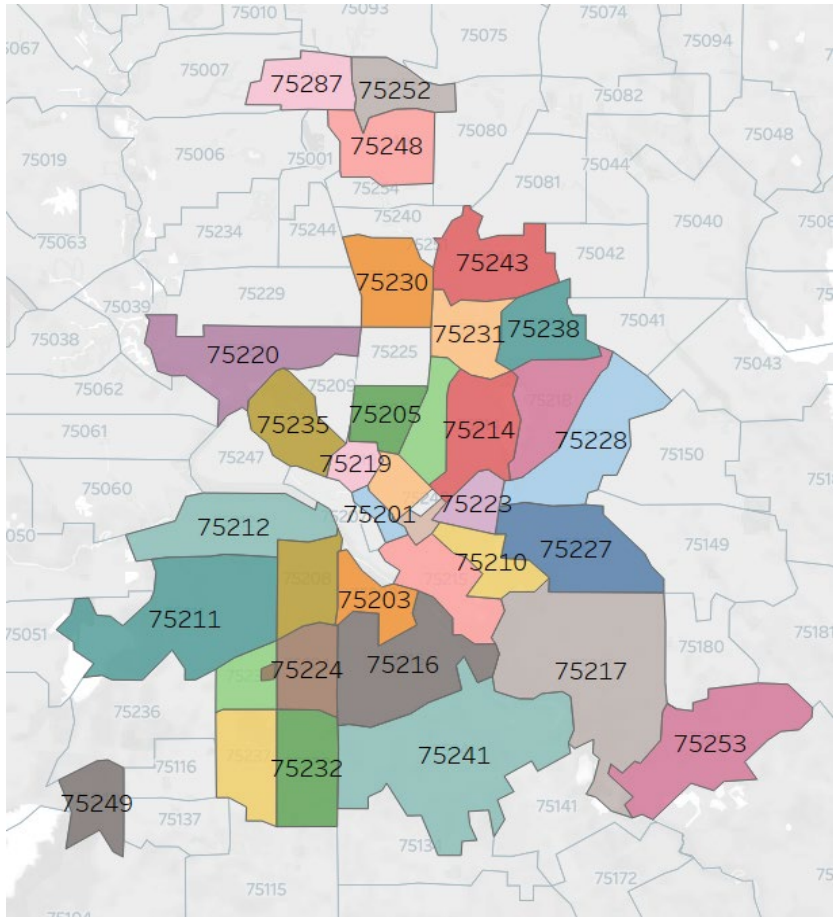
Project	Total
DDF amount	\$358,887
Match amount	\$1,051,166
Total Project Costs	\$1,410,053
Total pounds of food produced/distributed	507,352
Number of people served	11,128
Outreach events	34
Volunteer hours	3,680
Number of people trained	35
Number of WIC stands supported	262
Farmers Market Nutrition Program/food vouchers redeemed	5,200



Food Innovation Task Force: Garden Kits



Countertop in-home gardens that grow food faster than normal soil gardens, are not dependent on natural light and use little water/soil



Over 200 Units provided
Participant feedback:

- More than 90% said the garden kit was easy/very easy to set up
- Benefits:
 - Direct food access (88%),
 - Eating more nutritious meals (77%), and
 - ongoing supply of produce (74%)



North Texas Food Policy Alliance



- UT-Arlington – Regional Center for Excellence
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- CECAP Goals/Actions
- North Texas Food /Agriculture Stakeholders



NORTH TEXAS
Food Policy Alliance





CECAP Goal 7: All Dallas' Communities Have Access to Healthy Local Food.

14

Objectives

- Build organizational capacity and partnerships.
- Improve **food access** in neighborhoods with low food access.
- **Reduce food miles** by encouraging local food production & consumption.
- Prepare the food system to be more **resilient** to extreme weather events.
- Prevent **food waste** through food donations, recovery, diversion and composting.

Targets

Healthy, affordable food access (<1/2 mile)

- 50% of the population by 2030
- 75% of the population by 2040
- 100% of the population by 2050

Urban gardens producing local food (acres)

- Increase in 20% by 2030
- Increase in 50% by 2040
- Increase in 75% by 2050

Sourcing from local producers

- Increase in 10% by 2030
- Increase in 25% by 2040
- Increase in 50+% by 2050

CECAP Actions FY20-21: Food/Urban Agriculture

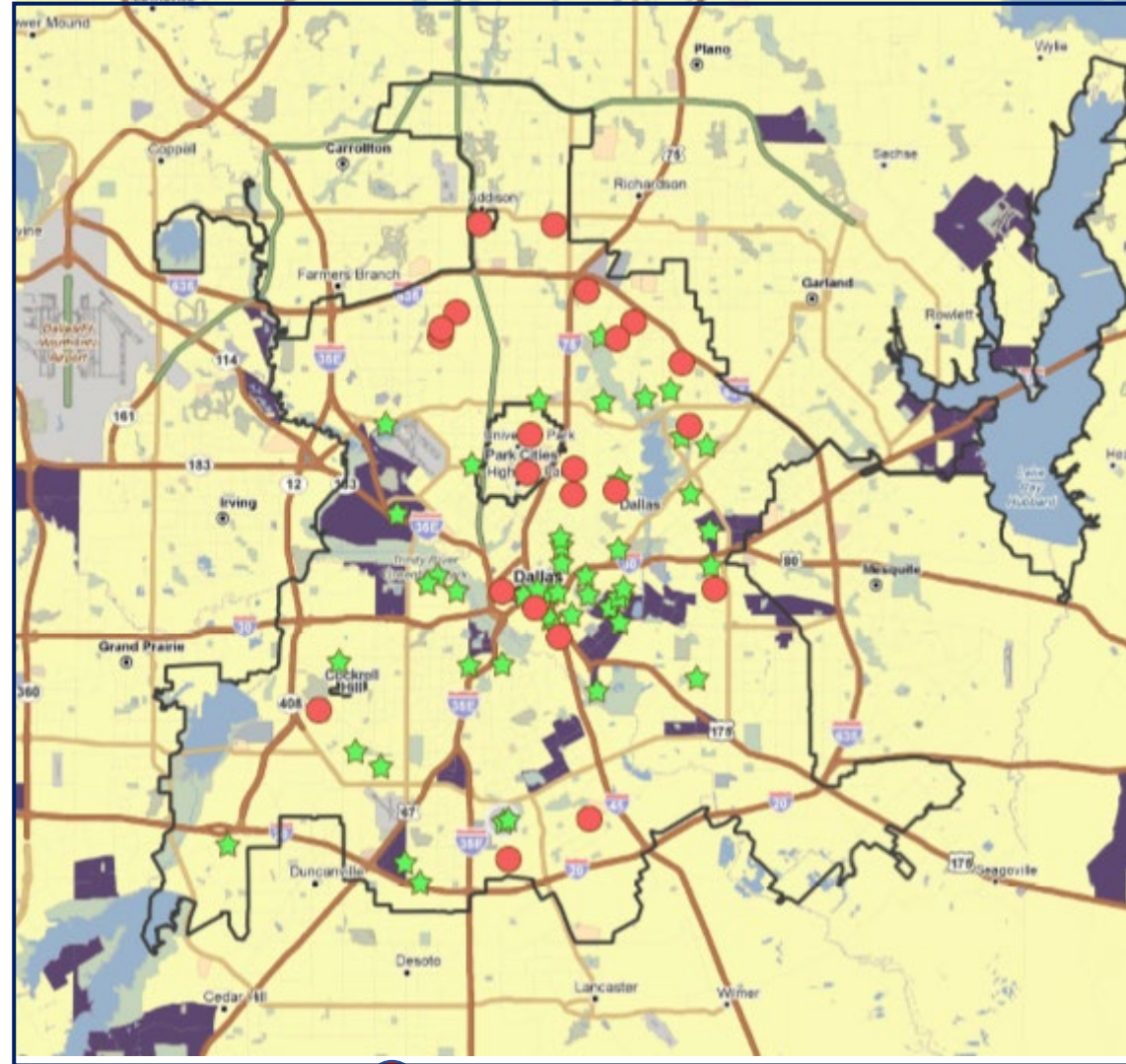


	Description	Lead Department
FA1	Promote sustainable agriculture, best practices, benefits of local, healthy food	OEQS, Economic Development, Innovation & many others
FA2	Create a Food Advisory Council	OEQS, Economic Development, Innovation & many others
FA3	Develop a food and urban agriculture plan	OEQS
FA9	Establish a local food procurement plan to encourage local food purchase at City-sponsored events	OEQS, Convention Center & Special Events, Procurement
FA14	Develop a special-events ordinance that encourages locally sourced food, recycling of waste, food waste diversion and compost bins at special events	OEQS, Convention Center & Special Events, Procurement Services

Urban Ag Plan Development Activities



- Community Garden Working Group
- Garden/Agricultural Inventory
- Advising local garden efforts
- Developing Food Advisory Council
- RFCSP - underway
- Working with Sanitation re: food waste issues



School Gardens

Community Gardens



Urban Agriculture Spectrum



Micro-farms

(Backyard)

Community Gardens

(Church / School / Community)

"Guerilla" Farming Community Supported Ag.

(food as landscape)

Biophilia

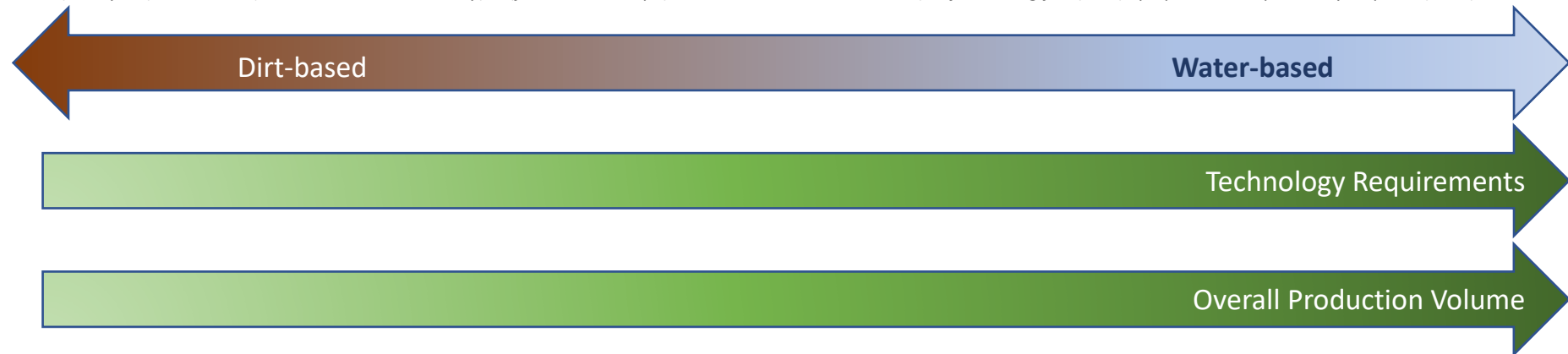
(roofs / building face)

Controlled-Environment Ag.

(aquaponics, aeroponics, hydroponics)

Vertical Ag.

(Commercial scale)



Food & Urban Agriculture Plan – RFCSP Scope



- Analyze existing conditions, including needs assessment and organizational capacity;
- Define partners (City/non-profit/private) collaborations;
- Attain community input into area-specific needs;
- Develop a range of strategies or options for the Food Advisory Task Force for review
- Recommend actions to sustain and expand urban agriculture, and local food production
- Develop an implementation plan with priorities, a phased program of implementation, and budget
- Identify potential funders to sustain and expand urban agriculture in Dallas





BFZ21-00015263 - Comprehensive Food & Urban Agriculture Plan

- RFCSP – Due May 27, 2021; 3 received
- Interviews – June 8, 2021
- Contract selection by June 18, 2021
- Tentative Council Agenda: August 25, 2021





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