

# Late Backup

#41



Austin

## Sustainable Urban Agriculture

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

January 27, 2011



## History



- On November 19, 2009 Council approved Resolution #20091119-065 requesting the Sustainable Food Policy Board explore streamlining the process to promote the establishment of community gardens and responsible urban farms
- A cross-departmental team was organized to determine the program scope and to identify procedural and budgetary requirements for implementation
- Over twelve departments in collaboration with the Sustainable Food Policy Board have participated in framing the scope and recommendations for this program

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## Revisions to City Code



- Repeals the current Qualified Community Garden Code Chapter 8-4 provisions (LDC Chapter specific to Parks and Recreation)
- Replaces repealed Chapter 14-7 with a new Sustainable Urban Agriculture chapter (Establishes permitted uses and regulations for Public Property)
  - Defines City Supported Community Gardens
  - Establishes Garden Permit requirements

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## Revisions to City Code Continued



- Amends and modifies City Code, Title 25 and 30 and Chapter 14-11 (Zoning, Permits and License Agreements)
  - Adds Community Gardens to Agriculture uses as a permitted use in all zoning districts
  - Establishes the process for water tap fee waivers
  - Establishes Community Gardens license agreement process
- Authorizes additional fees and fee waivers in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Fee Ordinance
  - Garden Permit Application Fee \$50
  - License Agreement Application Fee \$100
  - Waives Site Plan Exemption Fee for City-Supported Gardens on Private land or on Public land without a General Permit process
  - Waives Plumbing Permit Inspection Fee
  - Waives 5/8" meter tap, installation, meter cost and reconnection Fees
  - Waives Utility Cut Inspection Fees associated with water meter installation

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## Categories of Community Gardens



- City-supported Community Gardens
  - Located on eligible City land with or without a water tap
  - Located on Non-City (private) land and granted temporary Water Tap Permit and fee waiver
- Not City-supported Community Gardens
  - Located on Non-City (private) land and not requesting a temporary Water Tap Permit and fee waiver

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## Process for City-supported Community Garden on Non-City Land



- A Non-profit organization files application for a Garden Permit on Non-City Land
- City reviews, approves and issues Garden Permit
- Non-profit proceeds to obtain water service:
  1. Non-profit prepares and submits Engineer sealed drawings for a temporary water tap permit and fee waiver
  2. Non-profit applies for a plumbing permit
  3. Non-profit obtains an excavation in the ROW permit if needed
  4. Meter is installed and street excavation is repaired if needed

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## Process for City-supported Community Gardens on Eligible City Land



- Real Estate houses the List of Eligible City Land identified by the departments as appropriate for City-supported Community Gardens
- Non-profit files application for Garden Permit
- Non-profit files application for Community Garden License Agreement



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## Community Garden License Agreement Requirements



- Major terms:
  - City may terminate with 30 calendar days notice
  - Standard Insurance requirements
  - Sealed survey is waived for a boundary sketch
  - Land Department or City Attorney may add special requirements (based on existing uses of the property)
  - Annual renewal requires report and sign off by managing Department of the City owned land

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## Urban Farms



- City-owned land may be used as Urban Farm under an appropriate contracting method determined by City Manager
  - Urban Farms added as a permitted use in P-Public zoning district as a concession
  - Example – Award use of City-owned land as an Urban Farm in response to a concession bidding request for proposals on a competitive basis



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## Tasks Accomplished by Staff to Date



- Identified possible code modifications
  - Chapter 8-4, Repeal
  - Chapter 14-7, Replace
  - Titles 25 & 30, and Chapter 14-11, Amend
- Drafted legal language for Code Revisions
- Identified public properties appropriate and available for urban agriculture uses
- Created screening requirements to address environmental concerns and issues
- Provided Real Estate with a list of properties available to the public for Community Gardens
- Prepared proposed fees and fee waivers
- Prepared fiscal memo for staffing for the proposed program
- Prepared Community Garden Guidelines and Process in an Information and Permit Application Packet

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## Boards and Commissions



- **Land, Facilities and Programs Subcommittee**  
August 9, 2010 (Unanimous vote to recommend support to PARB)
- **Sustainable Food Policy Board**  
August 23, 2010 (Unanimous vote to recommend support to Council)
- **Parks and Recreation Board**  
August 24, 2010 (Unanimous vote to recommend support to Council)
- **PC Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee**  
November 16, 2010 (Unanimous vote to recommend support to Planning Commission)
- **Water Wastewater Commission**  
December 8, 2010 (Unanimous vote to recommend support to Council)
- **Planning Commission**  
December 14, 2010 (Consent approval to recommend support to Council)

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## Implementation



- Staffing: Parks and Recreation Department
- Conservation Program Coordinator (1 FTE)
  - Administrative Associate (.5 FTE)
  - Conservation Program Coordinator will coordinate with the Chief Sustainability Officer to assess other issues identified by the Sustainable Food Policy Board. A plan of action, with specific recommendations, will be submitted no later than October 2011.
  - Funding Source: General Fund, PARD will absorb the position costs in 2011, with positions added to PARD's FY 2012 budget

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