



City of Austin Urban Farm Regulations

Effective March 21, 2014 the following regulations apply.

This is a summary; see ordinance # 20131121-105 and City Code Sections. 25-2-863 & 864 for more complete information.

- An urban farm is allowed in all zoning districts.
- An urban farm is allowed on properties that are 1-5 acres.
- The maximum number of dwellings will follow base zoning, up to two max. Animal raising not permitted without a dwelling.
- Raising livestock is prohibited, except miniature livestock per Sec 3-2 of the Code.
- For properties zoned residential, raising of fowl, rabbits, and aquatic foods using an aquaponic system is permitted in accordance with Chapter 3-2 (*Restrictions on Animals*) of the City Code.

- Slaughtering, processing of fowl and rabbits is prohibited for properties zoned residential. Composting of animal parts is prohibited in residential zoning districts.
- Agricultural products raised on the property may be sold from the property or distributed off site.
- Agricultural products raised elsewhere in Texas may also be sold from the site but may not comprise more than 20% of the retail space.
- Employees are permitted. The maximum number of full-time, non-seasonal employees is two for each full acre, plus two [one] for the remaining portion of an acre, if any. This does not include the property owner.
- For an urban farm use, a sign is permitted in accordance with Chapter 25-10-155.
- Agricultural education activities as referenced in Chapter 25-2-7 do not require a temporary use permit.
- The use of synthetic inputs is prohibited. An Integrated Pest Management Plan, developed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual and approved by the director, must be followed.
- Water conservation practices must be followed, at minimum in accordance with Chapter 6-4 of the City Code.
- An urban farm may pull up to 6 temporary use permits per year.

Question: Is this only urban farms in residential use? What about commercial or other zones?

- A market garden use is for a farm on less than 1 acre.

Question: Should “a farm” above be removed and replaced with “agriculture operations”?

To read: A market garden use is for agriculture operations on less than 1 acre.

- A dwelling unit must be located on the site of a market garden.
- On-site farm stands are not permitted. Sales must be conducted out of sight of the general public on the property. No more than three customer-related trips per day are permitted.

Question: Should “On a market garden” be added above?

To read: On a market garden, on-site farm stands are not permitted. Sales must be conducted out of sight of the general public on the property. No more than three customer-related trips per day are permitted.

- A market garden is allowed one employee.

If you own an urban farm or market garden:

- You must obtain a certificate of occupancy stating that the use of the property is urban farm or market garden.
- The first step is to obtain a site plan exemption from the Development Assistance Center (DAC) if you are not constructing any new structures.
- The DAC is located on the 1st floor of One Texas Center at 505 Barton Springs Rd.
- Robert Heil is the designated staff member in the DAC who will handle urban farm site plan exemptions. Robert’s phone number is 512-974-2330. Appointments are taken in the afternoon; the morning is reserved for walk in customers.
- If you have an as-built survey of the property you should bring it to your meeting with Robert.
- Once a site plan exemption is issued a residential building permit is required, even if you are not constructing anything new. Russell Hill in the Residential Review Division will handle urban farm applications. Russell’s phone number is 512-974-9148. Russell’s office is on the 2nd floor of One Texas Center.
- After the building permit is issued an inspection will be conducted.
- After the inspection is passed a certificate of occupancy for an urban farm is issued.