

Prior work from ATCFPB/SFPB on CodeNEXT (2015)

[Code Next Analysis - Food](#)

[SFPB Recommendation to Code Next Sep 2015.docx](#)

[Code Next White Paper 2015](#) folder

City website on LDC: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/land-development-code-draft-map>

Another staff report set to come out on November 25th

Introduction

BIG opening statement... (On any given day, there are typically only two days' supply of food available...Many Austin residents live further than a mile from a grocery store and would face major challenges with food access in a major weather event like flooding...)

The Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board (ATCFPB) serves in the unique capacity of directly advising both the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners' Court to address health disparities; improve the availability of safe, nutritious, locally and sustainably-grown food at reasonable prices for all residents, particularly those in need; end food injustices; and ensure the community has a voice in policy decisions that support a healthy and equitable food system.

To accomplish this, the revised Land Development Code **must support locally grown food and prioritize food access.**

The working groups and volunteer board members of the ATCFPB have worked together to develop recommendations that improve upon the existing code in a way that meets the needs of communities, farmers, and regulators in the interest of a healthy, safe, and sustainable food system for all of Austin. The Land Development Code (LDC) update process is a way for these recommendations to be integrated into the code revision process and ensure that all stages of Austin's food system are considered in the revised LDC.

A food system is an integrated and interconnected network that includes production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management—essentially everything that happens with food, from where and how it is grown, to how it is ultimately disposed of. All current and future land uses in the City have the potential to be part of the food system if codes/ordinances allow for it. By integrating these recommendations, communities are enabled to set up hyper-local food systems where needed and evolve as land uses change. This also allows for land uses not typically considered part of the food system to participate, and

flexibility for future developments of the food system not yet implemented or envisioned. With this code revision process, Austin can have an equitable, sustainable food system that meets the needs of residents, developers, and businesses, and corrects for historical injustices.

The Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board recognize that the existing code does not give the City adequate tools to support a secure, sustainable food system and does not align with Imagine Austin goals, and therefore, we would like to emphasize.... Embedding components of food security and access into the code revision process will enable communities and the City to implement stages of the food system where and when they are needed. We appreciate the chance to provide our feedback and look forward to being involved in this process to revise the Land Development Code.

Specific Recommendations

Supporting/Background Information

Vision: To create a protected and connected, community-integrated food system

Our goal is to improve upon the existing code in a way that meets the needs of communities, farmers, and regulators in the interest of a healthy, safe, secure, sustainable, and equitable food system for all of Austin. Under the existing code, most Austin residents are experiencing inadequate access to healthy food (see Map 1). Imagine Austin recognizes that food is integral to municipal infrastructure and intimately associated with public health and well-being, economic growth, and community development. Imagine Austin included 25 food-related recommendations; these are included at the end of this document in Appendix A.



Map 1: 1 Mile Proximity Buffers Around Grocery stores

Austin is experiencing rapid growth and this trend is expected to continue for the next few decades. We must develop strategies to improve the sustainability and security of our city's current food system and ensure equitable food access for all residents while providing for this changing demand. Our strategies must be flexible enough to address current and future needs, and anticipate the integration of new technology and innovation in the future.

Appendix A: IMAGINE AUSTIN AND THE FOOD SYSTEM

1. Production

E P18: develop Sustainable food system through all sectors

S A9: make healthy and local foods accessible by removing barriers and providing incentives for establishment of gardens, farms, neighborhood groceries, farmers markets, farm stands

S A10: link farmers, distributors, markets. create programs and partnerships

2. Processing and Distribution

CE P13: incent, develop, expand market for local/sustainable food

CE A13: expand existing and facilitate new distribution avenues

S A13: Remove regulatory barriers and provide incentives for local food production

LUT P29: develop accessible community gathering spaces: plazas, parks, farmers' markets, sidewalks, streets

3. Access and Consumption

S P6: promote availability and educate the community about healthy food choices- ed programs

S P7: provide broad access to fresh foods- FMs, coops, stores, gardens, healthy restaurants

CE A14: identify and map food deserts and provide incentives for full-service grocery stores and farmers markets

S A11: develop partnerships w/ stakeholders

S A12: Reduce obesity thru local initiatives- schools, universities, hospitals, nursing homes

S A50: develop nutrition programs

S A51: work w/ schools for school gardens

4. Preserving Land for Growing Food

LUT P23: integrate citywide green infrastructure- trails, parks, greenways, farms

CE P1: Permanently preserve green spaces of enviro and ag value

CE P3: expand the city's green infrastructure

CE P5: expand regional programs for conservation easements and open space for aquifer protection, habitat protection, ag land

LUT A36: Incent appropriately-scaled green infrastructure in new development projects,

CE A11: protect farmland- transferable development rights, farmland trusts, farmland mitigation, conservation easements

CE A12: support local farmers by removing regulatory barriers, small business support, public campaigns

CFS A38: promote innovative water usage

5. Waste Management

E P18: Develop a sustainable food system across sectors

S A10: linking sectors of food system

Codes for Building Blocks = LUT (land use and trans); HN (housing/neighborhood); E (econ); CE (conservation/enviro); CFS (city facilities); S (society); C (creativity)