

9. Agriculture and Foodⁱ

Note: The proposed new section “Healthy and Socially Thriving Community” will include agricultural and food policies relating to a healthy, socially thriving community. The proposed new section “Environmentally Sustainable Community” will include agriculture and food policies relating to land and environment. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

Food choices and their method of production represent one of the most significant impacts that humans have on the quality of our lives. A strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and its surrounding areas. Sustainable rural and urban agricultural practices and efficient transport of food can help reduce energy used to feed the community. Access to healthy food, including locally grown food for all Boulder residents, is a top priority for our community. It is important that such food be available to individuals and families in all neighborhoods, regardless of economic situation and location.

The city and county have made significant contributions to the preservation of lands suitable for agricultural production and the water needed to use these areas for agriculture. Most agricultural production in the Boulder Valley occurs on city and county open space.

The following policies on agricultural and food systems guide public policy and decision-making in our community.

- Support for Agriculture
- Sustainable Food Production Practices
- Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System
- Urban Gardening and Food Production
- Access to Healthy Food

9.01 Support for Agriculture

The city and county encourage the preservation of working agricultural lands, and sustainable production of food on them to the degree they provide cultural, environmental, economic and resilient benefits to the community. These uses are important for preserving the rural character of Area III. The success of agriculture on these lands is vitally dependent on their water supplies. The city and county will demonstrate and encourage the protection of significant agricultural areas and related water supplies and facilities, including the historic and existing ditch systems, through a variety of means, which may include public acquisition, land use planning and sale or lease of water for agricultural use. The city and county will support farmers and ranchers in this area as they negotiate the challenges of operating in a semi-arid environment that is often near residential areas.

9.02 Urban Gardening and Food Production

The city encourages community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. City incentives include allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production and sales on private lands and in shared open spaces and public areas, and encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.

9.03 Sustainable Food Production Practices

The city and county will promote sustainable food production practices on publicly- owned lands and will encourage them on private lands. Sustainable practices include food production methods that integrate ecological conservation objectives, responsibly use water and protect its quality, provide for pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, are respectful to workers, are humane to animals, provide fair wages to farmers, integrate whole farm planning and support farming communities. These can include a range of production types that take into account land suitability, water availability, invasive species, energy use and labor and capital needs. The city and county will also promote sustainable agriculture by recognizing the critical importance of delivering irrigation ditch water to agricultural lands.

9.04 Access to Healthy Food

The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow one or more year-round farmers' markets, supporting sales of produce from small community gardens and working with local partners on food programs. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food and long term availability of food.

9.05 Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System

The city and county will participate in regional agricultural efforts and implement recommendations at a local level to the extent appropriate and possible.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- Agriculture Resources Management Plan (in progress)
- City of Boulder Water Efficiency Plan (2016)
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- 2015 State of Colorado Water Plan (2015)
- Boulder County Environmental Element (2014)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2012)
- City of Boulder Source Water Master Plan (2009)
- Ordinances and policy changes to promote local food sales
- Boulder County Cropland Policy (2011)

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Note: The proposed new section “Healthy and Socially Thriving Community” will include agricultural and food policies relating to a healthy, socially thriving community. The proposed new section “Environmentally Sustainable Community” will include agriculture and food policies relating to land and environment. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

A strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and surrounding region. Food choices and their method of production represent one of the most significant impacts that humans have on the quality of our lives world around us. A strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and its surrounding areas. Sustainable rural and urban agricultural practices and efficient short distances to transport of food can help reduce energy used to feed the community. Access to healthysafe food, including locally grown food for all Boulder residents, is a top priority for our community. It is important that suchhealthy food be available to individuals and families in all neighborhoods, regardless of economic situation and location.

Roots in progressive food movements run deep in Boulder County and have contributed to the dynamic and thriving natural foods industry. Many local restaurants specialize in providing local ingredients in their food, garden to table processes have been developed in local schools, and the desire for a year round farmers market are all indications of people’s growing interest and demand for locally produced food.

The city and county have made significant contributions to the preservation of lands suitable for agricultural production, and the water needed to use these areas for agriculture. Most agricultural production in the Boulder Valley occurs on city and county open space.

The following policies on agricultural and access to local food systems guide public policy and decision-making in to move our community toward a more robust agricultural economy and ensuring everyone has access to food.

- Support for Agriculture
- Local Food Production
- Sustainable Food ProductionAgricultural Practices
- Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System
- Urban Gardening and Food Production
- Access to Locally Produced Healthy Food

9.01 Support for Agriculture

The city and county willencourage the preservation of working agricultural lands, and sustainable production of food on them use of agricultural lands as a current and renewable source of food and feed and for their contribution to the degree they provide cultural, environmental, and economic diversityand resilient benefits to the community. These usesareas

are important for preserving the rural character of Area III. The success of agriculture on these lands is vitally dependent on their water supplies. The city and county will demonstrate and encourage the protection of significant agricultural areas and related water supplies and facilities, including the historic and existing ditch systems, through a variety of means, which may include public acquisition, land use planning, and sale or lease of water for agricultural use. The city and county will support farmers and ranchers in this area as they negotiate the challenges of operating in a semi-arid environment that is often near residential areas.

9.025 Urban Gardening and Food Production

The city will encourage community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. City incentives include ~~This may include~~ allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production and sales on private lands and, in shared open spaces and public areas, and encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.

9.02 Local Food Production

The city and county will encourage and support local food production to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy foods and to provide other educational, economic and social benefits. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food for everyone and long term availability of food.

9.03 Sustainable Food Production Agriculture Practices

The city and county will promote sustainable agricultural food production practices on publicly-owned lands and will encourage them on private lands. Sustainable practices include food production methods that are healthy, have low environmental impact, integrate ecological conservation objectives, responsibly use water and protect its quality, provide for pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, are respectful to workers, are humane to animals, provide fair wages to farmers, integrate whole farm planning and support farming communities. These can include a range of production types that take into account land suitability, water availability, invasive species, energy use and labor and capital needs. The city and county will also promote sustainable agriculture by recognizing the critical importance of delivering irrigation ditch water to agricultural lands.

9.04 Access to Healthy Food

The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow one or more year-round farmers' markets, supporting sales of produce from small community gardens and working with local partners on food programs. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food and long term availability of food.

9.054 Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System

The city and county will participate in regional agricultural efforts and implement recommendations at a local level to the extent appropriate and possible.

9.05 Urban Gardening and Food Production

~~The city will encourage community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. This may include allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production in shared open spaces and public areas, encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.~~

~~9.06 Access to Locally Produced Food~~

~~The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow a year round farmers market and support sales of produce from small community gardens.~~

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- [Agriculture Resources Management Plan \(in progress\)](#)
- [City of Boulder Water Efficiency Plan \(2016\)](#)
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