

Agricultural Management: Diversity of Agricultural Operations

- Policy Guidance
 - *City Council identified the promotion of local foods as a city priority at the 2014 Council Retreat*
 - *Open Space Board of Trustees approval of the departmental practice of prohibiting the use of transgenic crops on open space (2000).*
 - *City Charter ARTICLE XII. OPEN SPACE*
 - *Section 176 Open Space Purposes – Open space lands*
 - *(d) Preservation of agricultural uses and land suitable for agricultural production*
- Existing Conditions
 - *For the past 40 years, OSMP has focused exclusively upon agricultural production of food, feed, and fiber and those activities necessary to support the operations.*
 - *Description of types of Agricultural Operations currently found on OSMP*
 - *Hay production (grass, alfalfa)*
 - *Vegetable farming*
 - *Annual crops (wheat, corn, barley, etc.)*
 - *Livestock production*
 - *Bees*
 - *Fruit orchards*
 - *MAP: Diversity of Agricultural Operations*
 - *Environmental conditions such as soil quality and water availability limit most of the agricultural production on OSMP lands to livestock grazing or hay/forage production.*
 - *OSMP staff has rarely influenced the production choices of agricultural producers other than prohibiting the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).*
 - *Lessees have freedom to decide what to grow and to a large degree how to grow it.*
 - *Lessees' choices of specific agricultural commodities are influenced by local markets and their ability to sell a product profitably.*
 - *Requests have been submitted for additional uses related to agriculture such as farm stands and farm dinners or events. Requests have been denied based upon OSMP practice to limit permitted agricultural uses to production. However:*
 - *These other agriculturally related uses can provide opportunities for agricultural producers to diversify their income and market their products.*
 - *Providing farmers and/or ranchers with these opportunities may increase resiliency and/or success rates for local food producers.*
 - *These types of agriculturally related enterprises have also been increasing in popularity nationwide increasing their relevance for OSMP lands.*
- Objective(s)
 - *Maintain and support a diversity of agricultural operations and uses on OSMP lands, with the exception of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).*

- *Increase the availability of acres for diversified vegetable farming and micro-dairies as market forces allow/demand.*
- **Management Strategies**
 - *Evaluate the compatibility of other agriculturally related activities on OSMP lands*
 - *The criteria and process will be developed as part of the Community Connections write-up.*
 - *Identify Best Opportunity Areas (BOAs) for diversified vegetable farms and micro-dairies*
 - *Criteria for identifying BOAs:*
 - *Phase I Evaluation Criteria: Essential Characteristics*
 - *Infrastructure – presence of/ proximity to farmstead residence and agricultural outbuildings*
 - *Soil Type – Capability Class I-III on 16 contiguous acres*
 - *Water Availability – 1.5 acre-feet of water per acre for 100 consecutive days*
 - *Phase II Evaluation Criteria:*
 - *Compatibility with VMP Management Area Designations and goals*
 - *Limited conflict with Visitor Infrastructure*
 - *Compatibility with Prairie Dog Colony Management Designation and occupation history*
 - *Compatibility with Bobolink Habitat/Management Area Designations*
 - *Compatibility with other sensitive species habitat conservation objectives*
 - *Northern leopard frog*
 - *Nesting raptors*
 - *Rare and state tracked plant populations and communities*
 - *Federally threatened or endangered species including Preble's meadow jumping mouse and Ute ladies' tresses (Spiranthes) orchid.*
 - *Presence and Extent of Noxious Weeds*
 - *Compatibility with the conservation of cultural resources and protection of scenic areas*
 - *MAP: Best Opportunity Areas for diversified vegetable farming and/or micro-dairies*
 - *Best Opportunity Areas Summary:*
 - *Nine sites, comprised of 11 properties*
 - *Five sites with infrastructure*
 - *Four sites without infrastructure and can solely be used for expanding a nearby existing operation*
 - *Only a portion of the land identified in each BOA is suitable. The maximum range of acres converted to vegetable farming (every BOA converted) would likely range from approximately 80-250 acres, with only half tilled or in production at a given time.*

- **Measures of Success**
 - *Types of agricultural operations and agriculturally related uses on OSMP lands.*
 - *Associated acres dedicated to the various types of agricultural operations.*
 - *Acres in diversified vegetable production.*
- **Next Steps**
 - *1-10 years*
 - *Site selection among the BOAs for conversion to diversified vegetable farming (as market forces allow, 0-2 per year).*
 - *Infrastructure improvements to selected farm site (ongoing as market forces allow, 0-2 per year).*
- **Estimated Cost(s)**
 - *\$\$ - \$\$\$\$\$\$ for infrastructure improvements to selected farm sites.*
 - *Preliminary estimates for sites with a residence and outbuildings range from \$150,000 – more than \$500,000 per site.*
 - *Preliminary estimates for “expansion” sites for existing farming operations range from \$25,000 - \$40,000 per site.*



Agricultural Resources Management Plan

Diversity of Agricultural Operations



