

Urban Agriculture Policy Plan - Recommendations related to the zoning code

1. Amend the zoning code to better accommodate urban agriculture uses	
	Define the following terms in the zoning code: community gardens, market gardens, urban farms, and anaerobic digesters. Further evaluate the appropriate zoning districts for these uses based on the guidance below. All urban agriculture zoning code text amendments would involve consultation with technical experts.
	Allow market gardens in a variety of zoning districts
	Set a maximum lot area and other performance standards for market gardens so the use fits into a neighborhood context.
1.1	Establish standards for market gardens similar to or more stringent than those that have been established for community gardens, including no retail sales on-site, except as a temporary use, no overhead lighting, signage limited to a single, non-illuminated flat sign of four square feet, and no more than two vehicles parked on-site, excluding those parked within an enclosed structure.
	Allow market gardens to be located on rooftops and on the ground.
	In districts typically associated with high density development such as in Downtown districts, Growth Centers, and Activity Centers, encourage gardens on rooftops or as part of development rather than on the ground as a single use.
	Allow urban farms in Industrial districts and some Commercial districts.
	Examine which Industrial districts are appropriate for anaerobic digesters.
1.2	Further study aquaculture and aquaponics with the goal of developing a zoning code definition.
1.3	Amend the development standards for community gardens to allow for larger, more visible signage and community bulletin boards within the garden areas, larger hoop houses, and the periodic sale of produce.
1.4	Amend signage regulations to allow temporary farmers' market signs (for local produce markets) to remain on-site all year, but require that the sign be removed after a farmers' market closes permanently.
1.5	Change the list of permitted obstructions in the front yard set back to allow for planting beds in front yards. A maximum height for the beds and minimum setbacks from the property lines should be determined.
1.6	Make provisions for trellises designed for growing food.
1.7	Change the home occupation standards to allow growing as an outdoor operation.
1.8	Amend the accessory use standards to include a hoop house as an enumerated accessory use with development standards, including size and height requirements for hoop houses specifically.
1.9	Explore incentives for installation of gardens as an interim use on stalled development sites.
3. Encourage innovative design in new development	
3.1	Encourage the planting of produce as part of the required landscaping in new developments.

For more information on the adopted plan, check out the project website at:
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp