

# JUST AND HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEM

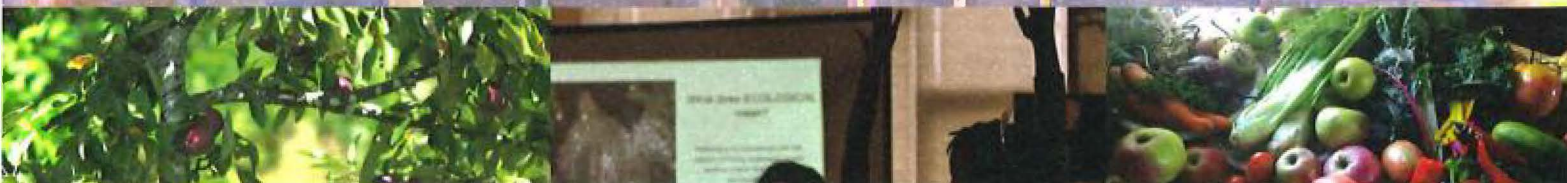
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## CITY REPORT

Prepared for:  
Tacoma City Council  
Infrastructure & Planning Committee

Proposal issued:  
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Prepared by  
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FIRST,

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# THANK YOU

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FOR CONSIDERING US!

The primary purpose of this document is to provide an outline of the recommendations each of our leadership teams have come up with.

As a participant of the larger Puyallup Watershed Initiative to advance our long-term vision and the community's vision for the watershed.

It embodies the shared understanding between individuals that are participating in the Just and Healthy Food System Community of Interest of how we intend to work collaboratively to advance opportunities.

The hope is that, together, we can navigate the world of food issues so that we can build, learn & share ideas and resources to create a more equitable and resilient food system in the Puyallup Watershed.

Brandi Yanez Riddle

JHFS COI Coordinator



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**WE CREATE**

# SPACES FOR EQUITY

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Our core practices and operating procedures include equity decision making practices, centering communities - especially those that identify as low income, black or brown, and applying an equity lense to all of our activities and projects.

We believe in connecting community members to each other, resources, and strengthening their capacity and skill set.

The Just and Healthy Food System is built on a foundation of anti-racism and is a collective of individuals, organizations and other institutions currently working on food justice, or work related to food justice. The purpose is for us to get out of our silos and move forward together – which JHFS do from a base prioritizing racial equity and anti-racist actions.



# JHFS COI

Our communities want the ability to provide food for themselves, and their communities. To create resilient systems that don't completely rely on business or institutions to meet their needs.

## CREATE SPACE

Host or support less formal spaces that don't require Robert's Rules of Order, "professional" dress codes, or conventional meeting formalities

## SUPPORT

Recognize that you are support. Community is taking the lead.

- Provide funds, materials, food etc.
- And/or pay for them

## LISTEN

Listen. Don't interject unless asked. Listen for the things that you can support.

## BRING REAL FOOD

Food of substance. Preferably with a personal connection to you or the people in the meeting.

## ACT

Follow through and tell people what that will look like. Support them to do and own the work. Don't take it, and make it yours.



## OVERALL

# 2 | CONTEXT

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There are existing urban farms/ urban farmers in the City of Tacoma but they exist in a legal grey zone and are not regulated or supported

### ZONING

Currently, there is no existing zoning that allows Urban Agriculture, and there are no guidelines or system to support selling food that is grown on small-scale lots.

### ACCESS

Increased access to healthy food in low-income neighborhoods is something that multiple organizations are focused on and investing in (TPCHD, EFN, St. Leo's, PCD, etc.), but growing and selling food locally has not been addressed or considered in a systematic way.

### FORWARD

There is strong interest in increasing this type of activity (from potential growers, buyers, and support agencies) but there is not a clear path forward.



### INTERVIEWS

We interviewed over 40 individuals for this report – some representing organizations (City of Tacoma, Pierce County, TPCHD, WSU Extension, United Way, St. Leo's Food Connection, PCC Farmland Trust, UWT, Sound Outreach, Tacoma Farmer's Markets, and PCD), plus numerous community members and urban farmers who participate in growing food, including representatives from several immigrant communities (Vietnamese, Cambodian). We also interviewed leaders from around the country to gather information about 'best practices' happening elsewhere.



# GOALS

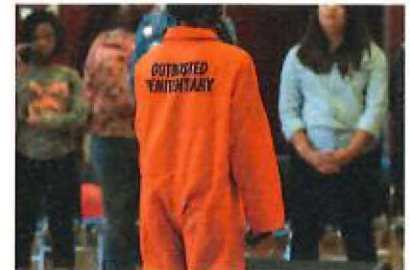
As the City works to promote equity, manage anticipated growth, build effective civic engagement, and recognize that representation of marginalized groups is crucial (Roadmap to Civic Engagement). We, at JHFS, aim to do similarly impactful work.

## RESILIENT CITY



Clarify the ways in which urban agriculture can lead to a more resilient city - economically, socially, and environmentally

## POTENTIAL RISKS



Clarify potential risks and unintended consequences

## DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING



Develop an understanding of the existing system and the barriers, challenges and potential for increased urban agriculture within the City of Tacoma

## EXAMINE LINKS



Examine the links between urban agriculture and gentrification and explore alternative models nationwide to build community rather than accelerate displacement.

## EXPLORE WAYS FOR EQUITY



Explore the ways that urban agriculture can be a tool for creating a more equitable city by developing systems that share power with marginalized communities

The hope is that, together, we can navigate food issues to build, learn & share ideas and resources that create a more equitable and resilient food system in the Puyallup Watershed.

Our communities want the ability to provide food for themselves, and their communities. To create resilient systems that don't completely rely on business or institutions to meet their needs.



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# RECOMMENDATIONS

## CREATE 1 TO 2 SPOTS ON THE CITIES SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

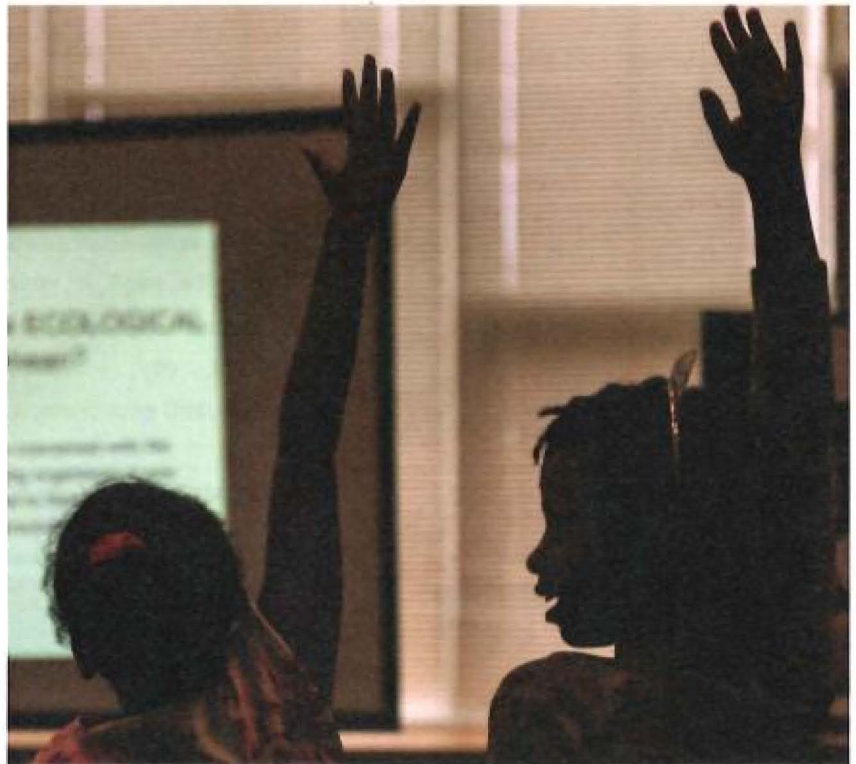
### CONTEXT

The purpose of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission is to bring citizen accountability, transparency, and vigilance to the long-term implementation of Tacoma's Environmental Action Plan, and to oversee, coordinate, communicate, and encourage public involvement regarding sustainability initiatives as are consistent with the City's vision and definition of sustainability."

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The City's EAP has action items that contain specific actions for addressing local food. But the current iteration of the commission doesn't necessarily have participants with that focus or experience.

We recommend the use of one of the following blurbs (or combination thereof) for language in the cities flyer when advertising for positions on the Sustainable Tacoma Commission.



- Seeking (or prioritizing) applicants that have previously experienced, or are currently experiencing, food insecurity.
- And/or applicants that wish to advocate for a more sustainable food system.

Other wording could be:

We would like to prioritize up to two seats for individuals that are passionate about food sustainability.



## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Requested by the Community Council of the JHFS COI



Remind supporting staff of these teams they have power to direct commission members where to take feedback and recommendations that fall outside of the purview of the commission (rather than telling them, "That's not something we work/focus on.") and help them initiate that process.

Connect the members of the Sustainability Commission to the JHFS COI, so they can regularly hear about the types of programs we support, and how we, as a community came to the decisions that uplift those people and



The JHFS COI also has indicators of success that they would like to see action behind in regards to the food system, beyond the support and resources the COI can provide.

We would like to share that, and continue to build or expand it with more community members.



## 2 INSTITUTIONALIZE AND ALIGN WITH THE WORK OF THE OEP&S WITH JHFS COI

### FOOD JUSTICE WORK WITH A RACIAL EQUITY LENS



#### CONTEXT

Tasks of the OEP&S occasionally fall under the domain of food justice work. It would greatly benefit our members and communities to have the OEP&S support the work that community members deem to be making the most action and impact using a racial equity and anti-racist lens.



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Requested by Community Council,  
Community Created Research Teams (South  
Tacoma and Hilltop) and Urban Ag Task  
Force

##### Attend JHFS COI Meetings

Assign a staff person to attend JHFS COI meetings as a general member, or as members of the Activity Support Team.

##### Prioritize Resources for Food Insecurity

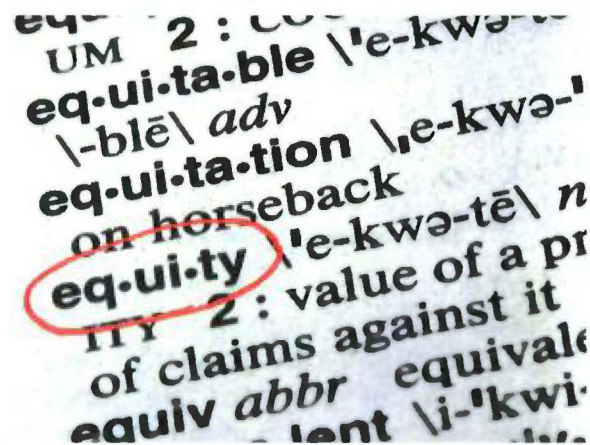
Prioritize resources for organizations and individuals who are impacting root causes of food insecurity (or other intersections relevant to sustainability) in conjunction with a focus on anti-racist actions and racial and socioeconomic equity.

##### Grassroots Leaders

Be a resource to grassroots leaders and passionate residents who are already doing food justice work.

##### JHFS COI as a Resource

Tap the JHFS COI whenever the city is considering actions, events, or support for food related issues.





# RACIAL EQUITY IS CRUCIAL TO OUR WORK

## **THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

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**JHFS COI serves as a point of connection for existing projects and leaders who are working from a framework grounded in anti-racism and racial equity.**

This will give us the time and ability to convene members and community to determine a collective strategy, position, or action to take (or not take).

Therefore, we can be one potential voice (or many) looking at the cities work from that perspective in combination with the cities Equity Lens and ours.



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# DEFINE, REDUCE BARRIERS, & INCORPORATE

## CONTEXT

While the food economy—from farmers markets to community gardens—has dramatically increased over the last decade, the zoning code has not kept pace. The regulations can be a disincentive because they do not address some situations and are unclear and/or are too restrictive about others. So, we recommend that the City, define Urban Agriculture, reduce barriers to entry, and incorporate food into the landscape.



## CONTEXT: BARRIERS

Increased access to healthy food in low-income neighborhoods is something that multiple organizations are focused on and investing in (TPCHD, EFN, St. Leo's, PCD, etc.), but growing and selling food locally has not been addressed or considered in a systematic way.

### GREY ZONE

There are urban farms/urban farmers in the City of Tacoma but they exist in a legal grey zone and are not regulated or officially supported.

### CITY CODE

Urban Agriculture is not defined in the City's code, and there are no guidelines for selling food that is grown on small-scale lots.

### DEVELOPMENTS & LAND

The City also, does not request sustainable food infrastructure (other than gleaning) to be built into new urban or suburban developments.

### STRONG INTEREST

There is strong interest in increasing this type of activity (from potential growers, buyers, and support agencies) but there is not a clear path forward.



## Recommendations

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### Reduce Obstacles and Generate Support

We are recommending that the City of Tacoma reduce obstacles and generate support for urban food production and distribution by removing zoning code barriers to growth, buying, and selling food - particularly in neighborhoods.

### Make Staff Available

Make appropriate staff available to implement this program and make the JHFS COI an official partner in the implementation of an application process for accessing city property for urban agriculture.

### Support Low-Income & Marginalized Groups

Collaborate with JHFS COI to implement a program that uses an Equity Lens (combined from the City's existing documents and processes and the JHFS COI's) to support low-income and marginalized groups to access support and resources.

### Recognize JHFS as a Partner

It is recommended that the City recognize as an official partner the Just and Healthy Food System Community of Interest.

**This would affirm the City's commitment to promote appropriate neighborhood-scaled food production that increases access to healthful, affordable food for all residents, builds community and increases knowledge about local food systems**

It would also set up landowners, business owners and new farmers for financial incentives from existing national and local funding sources that support sustainable agriculture. The following pages contain specific actions to take.







### CREATE A DEFINITION FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE THAT CLARIFIES ON WHAT TYPES OF PROPERTY AGRICULTURE IS ALLOWED

#### Legalize

Once there is a definition, Legalize Sale of Urban Agricultural produce In Yards Everywhere.

#### New Category

Urban Horticulture is currently defined, but only allowed in CIX and light industrial zoning. This could be expanded, or a new category of Urban Agriculture could be created.

#### Federal Dollars

An "Urban Agriculture" land use definition will allow sites to access federal dollars through the EQIP program. Cleveland, OH has done this to great success and is worth studying. More information in the appendix.

## 6 REDUCE PERMIT FEES to support urban farming in unused Right of Way property.

Current permit structures charge a permit fee of several thousand dollars (depending on the property values of adjacent properties) to access.

The permit for the pilot project we are working to develop as a part of this project will cost between \$2,000-\$8000, depending on whether we use the entire site and whether we request exclusive or non-exclusive use.

A fee like this is prohibitive to grassroots, non-profits, or potential entrepreneurs and should be waived or reduced in order to support urban agricultural development.



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## EXPAND EXISTING PERMIT PROCESS THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH JHFS COI



### PERMIT PROCESS

The City already has a permit process for people to apply to grow in the parking strip (free permit) -

Allow people who are a part of this program to use multiple sites with one permit

**This would allow a greater potential for scale to those that are selected by the Equity Lens**



### OPEN UP ACCESS TO LAND (ESPECIALLY PUBLIC UNUSED SPACE)

This would make urban agricultural activities available to those who are not property owners by creating a system to access nearby land

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## BUILD UPON EXISTING CODES TO SUPPORT GREATER USE OF 'PLANTING STRIPS', LANDSCAPING, AND REQUIRED FOOD TO BE BUILT

Partner With or Incentivize private property owners to allow their lots to be used for urban agriculture

Work with property owners of vacant lots at all sizes (from small-scale homeowners to larger scale property i.e. UWT) to encourage use of property for urban agriculture

For example:  
Property owners that donate a parcel, portion of a parcel or planting strip to agricultural use will be provided a tax rebate, tax reduction or storm water utility fee reduction.



# SPECIAL CHALLENGES

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE GAIN LAWS

### PUBLIC FUNDS DOCTRINE

- > The "Gift of Public Funds Doctrine" refers to a fairly broad set of prohibitions contained in two sections of the Washington State Constitution. While the two sections vary to some degree, they focus on a common theme of barring the state government and its political subdivisions from conferring benefits on private parties in ways that

### USE OF LAND

- > The section that applies to this use of land is ARTICLE 8, SECTION 7 CREDIT NOT TO BE LOANED. No county, city, town or other municipal corporation shall hereafter give any money, or property, or loan its money, or credit to or in aid of any individual, association, company or corporation, except for the necessary support of the poor and infirm.

### NECESSARY SUPPORT

- > Section 7 contains an express provision for providing "necessary support for the poor and infirm." It is particularly worth noting that the courts and the attorney general's office have interpreted this exception as being disjunctive, allowing for the support of individuals who are poor or who are infirm. This was made particularly clear in AGO 1991 No. 7.

### CITIZEN BENEFIT

- > Government entities may use public funds to carry out a "fundamental purpose of the government." State and local governments regularly confer benefits on their citizens who are, of course, private parties. However, when the grant of those benefits is part of a "fundamental purpose" of the state, such as protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, no violation occurs.

### COMMUNITY CARETAKING

- > Hudson v City of Wenatchee – helping citizens into locked cars is a "community caretaking" function, which is a fundamental purpose of the government, such that no gift of public funds occurs.

### MORE INFORMATION

- > More information is available here <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Legal/Ethics-Fairness-Conflicts-of-Interest/Gift-of-Public-Funds.aspx>



## SPECIAL CHALLENGES

continued

### CITY OWNED LAND



This is often brought up as a barrier to access of City-owned land and municipal support of urban agriculture but here are some examples of how other entities have addressed the challenge.

### ACCESS TO PUBLIC



Access to Public Land in exchange for social benefit. This involves leasing or allowing access to land to growers in return for a social benefit to the city, such as food, learning, enjoyment, increase physical activity, increase rainwater percolation, strengthen cultural connections, preserve traditional practices, build social bonds, and increase value of community. There are templates available from Snohomish County, Bellevue, Everett, and Milwaukee.

### LEASE PUBLIC LAND TO



Lease Public land to Farmers. Some sites are leased - the county appraises the value and farmers pay a fee just like any other entity.

### PRIVATE PARCELS

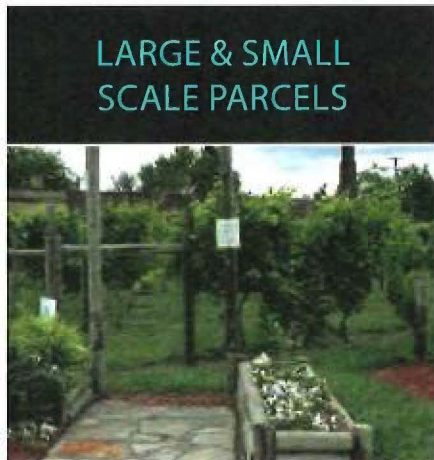


Private parcels. Private parcels avoid the challenges of the 'private gain' law, but pose different challenges for access. To incentivize private land owners to participate in the program, it may be necessary to create a program that subsidizes the tax burden to local landowners.



# 7 MARKET

A market report was compiled to support this research – it revealed potential for income generation at multiple scales



While large scale properties (>1 acre) can generate enough produce to create living wage jobs, there are relatively few large properties available for agricultural purposes. So in addition to removing barriers for accessing large vacant lots, it will also be important to access smaller scale parcels – (i.e. 1/8 acre city parcels), and micro-parcels (i.e. planting strips or portions of property with existing structures) as even small properties can generate significant revenue that can be used as supplemental income.

Net revenue 1/8 acre = \$4,000-\$14,000  
depending on crop selection seasonally

Net revenue 700 sq ft = \$1000-\$2000  
depending on crop selection seasonally

Map research was also done – it revealed an abundance of properties that are currently vacant. Publicly owned property can be made available with zoning changes, however, the vast majority of parcels are privately owned and therefore we believe it also makes sense to consider tax reductions and other financially incentives in order to support landowners in pursuing this options. This could also make a significant number of parcels available that might not otherwise be – including sizable properties owned by large landowners.

The color legend is as follows:

**RED = City of Tacoma**

**ORANGE = Tacoma Public Utilities**

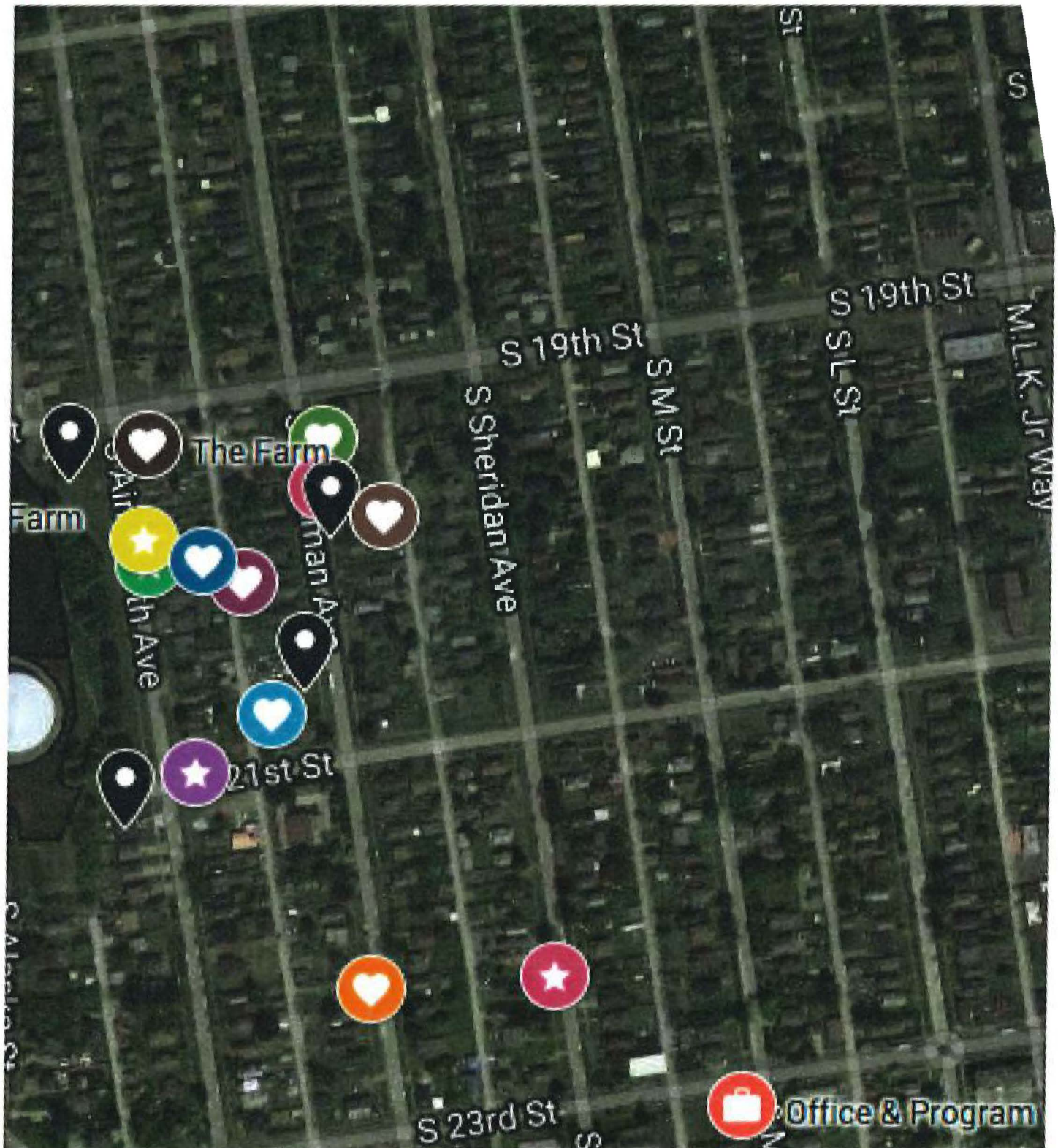
**Blue = Other**

The full interactive map can be seen here: <http://jhfs.mapseed.org>. Once in the map, you can hover your mouse or click a parcel polygon to get the Taxpayer Name, Estimated Value, Acreage, and Parcel Number.

See Tacoma 2025 and Tacoma Comp plan strategies (at end of this doc).



## MAP RESEARCH







**LEGALIZE SALE OF PRODUCE IN YARDS EVERYWHERE**

**PROBLEM: COMMUNITY MEMBERS WANT TO BE ABLE TO SELL THEIR GOODS WITHOUT BEING PENALIZED OR SIFTING THROUGH RED-TAPE AND REGULATIONS.**

CONTEXT

Create a definition for Market Gardens that clarifies how and when food can be sold. This report recommends considering for adoption the definitions developed by the City of Portland.

Allow both urban agriculture and market gardens in residential zones; create regulations so there is clarity about what is allowed regarding hours of operation and hours of sales.

Topic	Current	Proposed
Area	Code	
Market	None	Allow in residential zones with regulations to mitigate impacts
Garden		
Urban	None	Allow in residential zones with regulations to mitigate impact
Food		
Zone		
(HUB)		



# BASIS FOR CHANGE: CITY OF PORTLAND AND CITY OF CLEVELAND

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

### CLEVELAND EXAMPLE

<https://www.nlc.org/resource/urban-agriculture-policies-city-of-cleveland-ohio>



## URBAN AGRICULTURE

### PORTLAND EXAMPLE



#### Portland's Definition:

Market Gardens: are gardens or orchards where food is grown to be sold. It may be sold directly to consumers, restaurants, or stores. Market gardens tend to be more intensively cultivated and smaller scale than typical farms. A market garden can be the only use on a

## WHO REQUESTED THIS

### INTERVIEWEES, JHFS COI COMMUNITY COUNCIL, URBAN AG TASK FORCE

Over 40 individuals for this report – some representing organizations (City of Tacoma, Pierce County, TPCHD, WSU Extension, United Way, St. Leo's Food Connection, PCC Farmland Trust, UWT, Sound Outreach, Tacoma Farmer's Markets, and PCD), plus numerous community members and urban farmers who participate in growing food, including representatives from several immigrant communities (Vietnamese, Cambodian). The Urban Ag Task Force, Community Council, and Community Created Research.



# SIMPLIFY & AGGREGATE CITY CODE

## THE CONTEXT

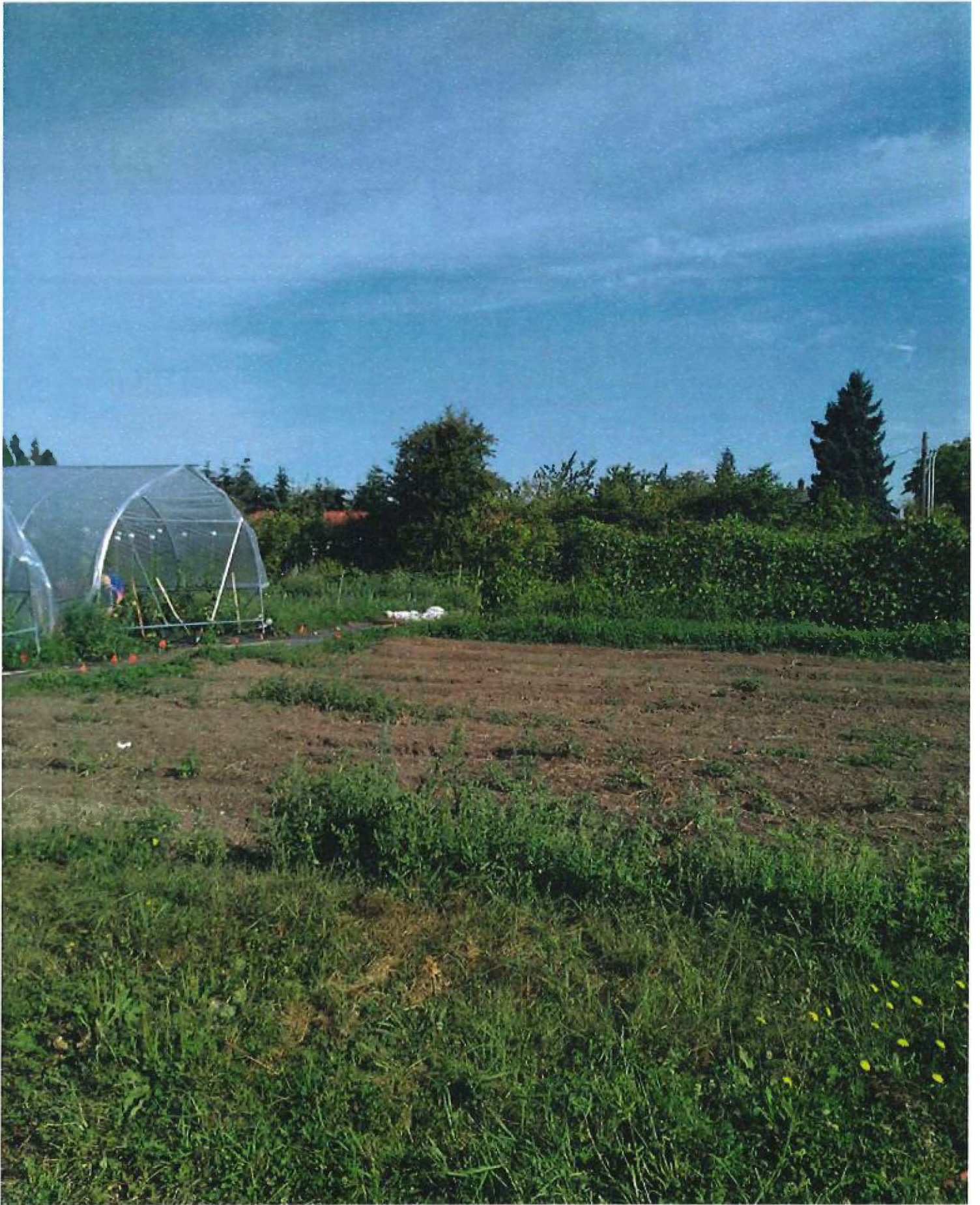
City code and regulations surrounding urban agriculture and the growing of food within city limits (not at a community garden) are difficult to find and understand, and in some cases, do not exist. Residents may then be operating

## RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>SIMPLIFY REGULATIONS</b>	Simplify regulations so they are easily understandable by the public (and translatable into multiple languages)
<b>ZONE &amp; CODE INFORMATION</b>	Create a single place for the public to access updated code/zoning information and other relevant information on urban agriculture
<b>CHECKLIST</b>	Develop a 'Checklist' that is updated regularly to support new entrepreneurs in accessing land and developing a market garden. ( <a href="https://makeittacoma.com/checklists/">https://makeittacoma.com/checklists/</a> )

Who requested this? Urban Ag Task Force and the over 40 individuals interviewed.









## SUPPORT COOPERATIVES, LAND TRUSTS & COMMUNITY CENTERED DEVELOPMENT **MODEL: HILLTOP URBAN GARDENS**

### WE NEED SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT



Support and Invest in grassroots community groups (built by individuals living and working in the affected communities) and organizations, making a direct impact on this issue. The JHFS COI urges the Council to determine ways to directly support the following example and trusted community organization in the Hilltop.



# HOW THE CITY CAN TAKE ACTION

## SOLUTIONS

### HILLTOP URBAN GARDENS

Hilltop Urban Gardens (hereafter referred to as HUG) is a grassroots community organization working on urban agriculture, with a focus on reconnecting Black folks to the soil, their indigeneity, and LGBT

### URBAN FARM NETWORK

Support and Invest in the Hilltop Urban Gardens Model for the Urban Farm Network and the use of first rights of refusal.

THE URBAN FARM NETWORK OF HUG IS SUPPORTED THROUGH VOLUNTEER WORK AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE HILLTOP.

PROPERTY OWNERS SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF THEIR PARKING STRIP AS A GROWING SPACE.

WHEN THE PROPERTY OWNER PREPARES TO SELL, PART OF THE AGREEMENT OFFERS THE FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL TO HUG. IF THEY HAVE THE FUNDS, THEY ARE THEN ABLE TO SECURE THE PROPERTY. WHICH CAN THEN BE USED AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

THIS ORGANIZATION REPEATEDLY AND CONSISTENTLY HAS PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES THAT ALIGN DEEPLY WITH OUR VALUES OF ANTI-RACISM AND RACIAL EQUITY. THEIR WORK ALSO DIRECTLY IMPACTS AND INVOLVES THOSE IN COMMUNITIES MOST AFFECTED. BECAUSE OF THIS, HUG HAS HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE JHFS COI AND THE PUYALLUP WATERSHED INITIATIVE FOR OVER 3 YEARS.

MAKE CITY OWNED LAND AVAILABLE FOR LEASE OR SALE AND PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE HISTORICALLY NOT HAD ACCESS TO THE CAPITAL, RESOURCES OR CONNECTIONS TO PURCHASE.

CREATE STABILITY IN COMMUNITIES BY ALLOWING OR INCENTIVIZING COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP OF LAND SO THAT INDIVIDUALS LACKING CAPITAL CAN POOL THEIR POWER TO GAIN ACCESS TO LAND AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES.

Who requested this?

Community Created Research, Community Council, Urban Ag. Task Force



## CONTEXT

EQUITY IS A CONCEPT THAT IS EASY TO CONFLATE WITH EQUALITY AND PEOPLE OFTEN DEFAULT TO SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS TO DESCRIBE IT. WE RECOGNIZE (AND THANK) THE CITY OF TACOMA FOR TAKING LARGER STEPS TO ADDRESS THESE NUANCES AND WE (AS A COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION) WOULD APPRECIATE A PARTNERSHIP TO HELP BUILD AN EXTRA LINK OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO OUR COMMUNITIES IN THIS REGARD.



Members say they are continuously reliant on cheap, quick, processed foods in the areas the city deems, “food deserts”. Or they deal with low variety and quality at the nearest local grocery store. Meaning, sometimes, if they are able, they go out of their neighborhood to find the things they want or need.

It’s important to note, there are intersecting reasons for this need, including:

**Available Time, Low Wages, Living at the Benefits Cliff, Health, or the necessity to have the option for ancestral foods/diets.**



## CONTEXT CONTINUED...

Neighborhoods deemed “food deserts” are in historically red-lined districts and have higher populations of communities of color (Black/African diasporic, Native, non-white Hispanic/Latinx, Asian)

**These communities experience some of the highest risks and rates for heart disease and diabetes. The environment and accessibility of culturally significant, fresh, affordable, foods plays a large role in the ability to decrease that risk.**



There are many people from these neighborhoods with the knowledge and capacity to grow food either as individuals or a community, but they may not own land or are not permitted to grow on leased land/property. And if they do own the land, may be operating in legal grey areas.

Those who do currently grow and operate within these grey areas may also be holders of critical cultural and ancestral knowledge around plants, foods, plant medicines, and dietary knowledge that can and does vastly improve the health and wellbeing of descendants from these communities who are living in the City.



## RECOMMENDATIONS: EQUITY

Partner with the JHFS COI to continue the conversations on aspects of equity when implanting the policy and zoning recommendations.

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### THE FOLLOWING IS ONE SAMPLE OF HOW EQUITY CAN BE WRITTEN INTO JUST ONE OF THE SUGGESTED CHANGES:

Again, we urge you to make planning staff available to work with the Just and Healthy Food System COI to make necessary changes to City's code and other recommendation in this report.

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The following is an example of recommended ways to increase equity in regards to offering up pullback land for growing food: When including urban agriculture in land use management and

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Use the definition described in the recommendation titled: "Define Urban Agriculture, Reduce Barriers & Incorporate Food Into The Landscape" of this document.

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Ascribe to this definition, or with Environmental Action Plan documents to "support community farms, allotment gardens, rooftop gardening, edible landscaping, urban forests, and other productive features of the urban environment." (Lovell, 2010) and to prioritize developers and purchasers of land that will incorporate food in any of these ways based on the needs of the

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We recommend, once mapping is complete for city owned acreage that is suitable for growing (the JHFS COI has only the vacant lots mapped) prioritize neighborhoods marked as food deserts

"When releasing municipal land for urban agricultural purposes"

"The City will make these identified land parcels available to prospective leaders or buyers," prioritizing community members that have historically lacked access to such resources first, based on:

- People who are currently experiencing or have previously experienced food insecurity
- People seeking to utilize cultural or ancestral methods of growing, and grow culturally relevant foods.
- People seeking to teach or share culturally relevant knowledge to the people who identify as members of those communities so as to create spaces where intergenerational knowledge can be transferred and maintained.
- People seeking to improve the health and nutrition of communities that disproportionately experience the highest rates of heart disease, diabetes, and food related illnesses and autoimmune disorders, and food insecurity.



# Fund An Urban Farming Training Program

## REQUESTS THAT ARE MORE COMPLEX

**Problem:** An increase in support and visibility of Urban Farming will need an increase in training for people. In particular, the focus should be on young folks and people from historically marginalized communities, so they can learn how to navigate the urban landscape as it relates to food and growing food. This can also be an attractive alternative to young people seeking to grow food, but who are hesitant to move away from urban centers.

### Recommendations:

- Don't create an entirely new program – support people already doing the work.
- Provide funding for an Urban Farming Capacity Building Program to develop, train, support and provide resources for low-income and marginalized people to launch farm businesses. This would cultivate new farmers and entrepreneurs and set them up for success.
- Partnership between HUG (Urban Farmer training), PCD (Larger scale farmer training), and organizations that do Business Incubation could build upon existing work and resources. Both the Tacoma Urban League and Sound Outreach are providing business incubation services.

A current pilot is in the works.

## Support Development of an Urban Food HUB

**Problem:** There are existing food projects in the city that have overlapping goals and needs. At the end of this report are a list of resources people or representatives from organizations are in need of. The pressure and competition to seek out funding for similar needs can leave organizations without experience writing major grants, or who lack staff and capacity out of the running to meet these needs. So a shared approach such as a HUG has potential to alleviate some of that need.

### Recommendations:

- Provide support for the development/adaptation of an aggregator/food hub to help the smaller scale farmers get their food into marketplaces more easily such as grocery stores, restaurants and other institutional food buyers (e.g. hospitals, jails, schools, etc.).
- Existing conversations are exploring this idea and it will be important in the mid-long range to support new agricultural businesses in scaling up.
- Explore possibilities of connecting this developing market with the existing 'Anchor Institutions' program.
- Impacted Community-Led Solutions - People living through food and housing adversity are experts of their experience and best positioned to create lasting solutions.



# Support JHFS COI Meeting Structure & PMA

## Model For City Events

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**Context:** A repeated issue or concern among communities of color and members of the JHFS COI is how institutions structure meetings and events that community members are meant to participate in. Often times it's the same story of feeling unwelcome, feeling stifled, not heard, unseen or not experienced enough (or like our experiences are not as accepted as worthy for consideration) to speak on an issue.

### Recommendations:

- Support the JHFS COI Meeting Structure mentioned at the beginning of this publication.
- Encourage the appropriate departments to work with JHFS COI to update city event planning protocols, or helps us to see what ways city meetings (in advisory groups or commissions) could adjust to

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## Support HUG

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### Problem:

Is a grassroots community organization that requires more resources and funds to fully realize their vision and goals. Support for HUG is mentioned several times throughout this report, but this stand alone request is meant to emphasize those points.

### Recommendations:

- Hilltop Urban Gardens Urban Farm Network (UFN) model (as mentioned in previous recommendations), in addition to generating a tremendous amount of food from many small-footprint plots, has become a proven model to mitigate displacement and the lack of affordable housing for low-income people.



**APPENDICES WITH FURTHER DETAILS, DATA & EXTRA**

The JHFS COI has links to all extraneous data and individual policy documents for use. There are also other needs requested by the individuals interviewed and other sensitive needs for the City Council to consider when impenting these changes.

We would be happy to provide these to the appropriate department or implementor.

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