



# Urban Agriculture

## Public Service & Infrastructure Committee

June 13, 2013

## ORDER OF PRESENTATION

- **Introduction**
- **Background**
  - What is urban agriculture?
  - Urban agriculture in St. Petersburg
  - Regulations
- **Discussion Items**
  - Zoning, site design, maintenance and operational
- **Next Steps**

## WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

- **Urban agriculture encompasses a wide-range of activities**
  - Agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, hydroponics, aquaponics, etc.
  - Personal gardens, community gardens, urban farms, etc.
- **General Definition:**
  - “The production of fruits, vegetables, flowers and other natural food and non-food materials within the limits of a city, either as an:
    - Accessory use on existing, developed lots,
    - Principle use on vacant, open spaces and in
    - Enclosed facilities such as greenhouses.”

## WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

- **Benefits:**
  - Health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables
  - Local access to affordable, healthy foods
  - Job training including farming, business, marketing and other skills
  - Income generating opportunities
  - Neighborhood empowerment:
    - Social interaction
    - Beautification
    - Safety
  - Reduced maintenance costs

## WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

- **Potential Impacts and Public Concerns:**
  - Sanitation issues related to:
    - Composting
    - Animal husbandry
  - Noise pollution from farm machinery and power tools
  - Pollution from air-borne soil and sand particles
  - Parking issues related to volunteers / employees / customers
  - Traffic issues related to on-site sales

## WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

- **Factors for Successful Urban Agriculture:**
  - Land acquisition
  - **Zoning ordinances**
  - Access to affordable water
  - Infrastructure
  - Support services (such as education and outreach)

## URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ST. PETERSBURG

- **2007: Bartlett Park Community Garden**
- **2009: Ordinance 933-G**
  - Created Section 16.50.085 relating to Community Gardens
  - Created Section 16.70.030.1.13 establishing permit process
  - Current Inventory:
    - 2735 Oakdale St. So. – Oakdale C.G.
    - 1443 Highland St. So. – Bartlett Park C.G.
    - 116 Hampton Ave. NE – Faith Covenant C.G.
    - 452 1st Ave. NE – Christ United Methodist C.G.
    - 2121 Beach Drive SE (Pending)

## URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ST. PETERSBURG

- **2009: Created web page for “Sustainable Foods”**
  - <http://www.stpete.org/green>
- **2011: Ordinance 1029-G**
  - *Commercial Garden and Greenhouse* meaning “Establishment for the propagation, processing and storage of plants produced for wholesale or retail sales. Typical uses include, but are not limited to, growing beds, greenhouses, vertical farming and hydroponic systems.”
- **2012: Ordinance 13-H**
  - Clarified code by adding reference to beekeeping



## URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ST. PETERSBURG

- **2013: Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition (SUAC)**
  - Mission is to, “...enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by creating local sustainable systems of naturally grown food in ways that optimize our resources and serve our community.”
  - <http://stpeteurbanag.org>
- **2013: Establishment of a Sustainability Council**

<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Site Design</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Operational</b>
<b>Approvals (P, SE)</b>	<b>Setbacks</b>	<b>Insecticides, Herbicides</b>	<b>Hours of Operation</b>
<b>Definitions</b>	<b>Accessory Structures</b>	<b>Power Tools</b>	<b>Noise</b>
<b>Land Uses</b>	Composting / Trash	<b>Farm Machinery</b>	<b>Keeping of Animals</b>
<b>Lot Sizes (min / max)</b>	Storage of Chemicals		<b>Sales</b>
<b>Soil Assessment</b>	<b>Fencing / Screening</b>		<b>Operating Rules</b>
	<b>Drainage</b>		<b>Garden Coordinator</b>
	<b>Access to Water</b>		<b>Agriculture Tax Exempt.</b>
	<b>Parking</b>		
	<b>Signage</b>		
	<b>Lighting</b>		

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	Access to Water		Agriculture Tax Exempt.
	Parking		
	Signage		
	Lighting		

## ZONING

- **Distinguish between land use types**
  - Community Garden vs. Urban Farm
- **Permitted vs. Special Exception**
- **Minimum lot sizes to help distinguish land use types**
  - For e.g., Chicago threshold is 25,000 square feet

## FARM MACHINERY

- **Power tools**
- **Farm machinery**
  - Residential vs. Non-Residential zoning districts
  - Lot size threshold

## **SALES**

- **Community Garden vs. Urban Farm**
- **Temporary / Seasonal vs. Full-Time**
- **Zoning districts (Neighborhood / Corridor / Center)**
  - Residential vs. Non-Residential zoning districts, for e.g.:
    - Sales accessory to residential uses prohibited
    - Sales accessory to non-residential uses allowed
    - Sales where retail allowed
    - Other



- **Synthesize discussion**
- **Meet with interested parties**
- **Schedule follow-up committee meeting(s)**
  - Review and discuss recommended text amendments
- **Public outreach**



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