



URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

El Monte City Council – September 9, 2014

Outline



- Background
- General Plan Goals
- UAIP Outreach
- UAIP Plan & Goals
- Recommendations



Background



- April 2010 - Awarded \$236,228
 - ✓ State of California's Strategic Growth Council
 - ✓ Establish an Urban Agriculture Initiative Program (UAIP) Planning Document
- June 18, 2013 - PSA with BASE Landscape Architecture to develop the UAIP Plan
 - ✓ A proposed fifteen (15) year Urban Greening Strategy
 - ✓ Help the City meet social, economic, and environmental sustainability goals
- UAIP goal is to recommend a comprehensive set of policies and implementation guidelines to encourage urban agriculture citywide

General Plan Goals



- Several specific Goals are outlined throughout June 2011 General Plan Update regarding Urban Agriculture in the Health & Wellness Element and Health & Wellness Implementation Plan
 - Goal HW-8.4 – Facilitate street closures for farmers’ markets...
 - Goal HW-10.4 – Support the creation of new farmers’ markets in the City with the goal of having year-round farmers’ markets...
 - Goal HW-11.4 – Explore the potential feasibility for creating “edible school yards” that provide gardens and gardening programs on school property.
- Other goals contained in the CD and P&R Elements include:
 - Plant community gardens where feasible
 - Accessibility to healthy foods
 - Preservation and enhancement of the City’s agricultural roots



UAIP Outreach

- Visioning and outreach process was strategically implemented to maximize community participation in the development of the UAIP
- BASE Landscape Architecture and Planning Staff used a variety of outreach strategies over the course of a year:





UAIP Plan & Goals

- UAIP Plan was designed to be “Community Friendly”
- Recommends nine (9) goals over the short, medium, and long term
- Recommended Action Items:
 - Establish Community Gardens – Prioritize local food production
 - Establish Schoolyard Gardens – Education is critical to the success of urban agriculture
 - Establish a Farmer’s Market – prioritize, fresh and organic food distribution





UAIP Plan & Goals cont'd.

- Amend the Zoning and Code – Change Zoning and Municipal Codes to allow and encourage food production
- Urban Agriculture Land Audit – Create and audit of all vacant and underutilized City property to identify parcels suitable for food production
- Evaluate a Food Policy Coordinator Position – Consider a centralized coordinator for urban agriculture to oversee the implementation and administration of the UAIP
- Amend the City's Landscape Ordinance – Allow fruit trees as street trees; Amend the City's tree protection and preservation ordinance
- Implement Compost Programs – Develop diversion of leaves, yard and food waste from landfills
- Create an Urban Agriculture Hub – create a space for the coordination and support of food production; provide community grants to non-profits

Recommendation



- Adopt an addendum to the Certified 2011 General Plan EIR; and
- Direct staff to prioritize and evaluate the implementation feasibility of the goals outlined in the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program Planning Document (the “UAIP Plan”)



Questions