



Memo to: Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

From: Douglas County Food Policy Council

Subject: Memo providing policies from the Douglas County Food System Plan to be considered when drafting the Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Comprehensive Plan

Date: _____

The Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) seeks to identify the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful, sustainable local food system in Douglas County, Kansas. To this end, the purpose of the DCFPC is to advise City of Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas elected officials on food-system related policy issues and to provide a community forum for local food system development.

As the City of Lawrence, hired experts, and the steering committee continue drafting the Parks, Recreation, Arts, and Culture Comprehensive Plan, it is crucial to incorporate relevant policies from the Douglas County Food System Plan (DCFSP) to promote a cohesive and sustainable community framework. Below are key policies and strategies from the DCFSP that should be considered:

Policy 1.2.4

Promote and attract events that celebrate and enhance area agriculture and local food activities. *Support events through financial investments or in-kind donations. Look to feature the Douglas County Fairgrounds, City of Lawrence parks, and other public sites, including those in Lecompton, Eudora, and Baldwin City.*

Policy 1.3.1

Invest in signage, shared infrastructure, and coordinated marketing to support Douglas County farmers markets. *Identify opportunities to utilize public land for market locations.*

Policy 2.2.3

Ensure public landscape maintenance adheres to best management practices, including integrated pest management, and does not negatively affect food production and water sources.

Policy 2.3.6

Minimize use of volatile chemicals on public land and review practices surrounding the sale of these products. Policy change could include no-spray times, use trainings, and consideration of liability.

Policy 3.2.1

Expand food production on public land. *Expansion may include new and future open space, where appropriate (i.e., gardens and orchards in the Common Ground program and school-based gardens).*

Policy 3.2.2

Integrate fruit tree plantings and harvest programming as part of Parks and Recreation operations. *Efforts should be pursued as needed resources are available to support maintenance. Public education opportunities could be passive (informational signs) or active (classes).*

Policy 3.2.4

Create a future vision and action plan for the City of Lawrence Common Ground program, targeting expansion to engage underserved communities. *Consider opportunities for garden manager technical assistance, development of Incubator Farm program, and collaboration with other Douglas County communities.*

Integrating these policies from the Douglas County Food System Plan into the Parks, Recreation, Arts, and Culture Comprehensive Plan will help build a resilient, healthy, and vibrant community. By fostering local food production, enhancing food access and equity, promoting education, supporting environmental sustainability, encouraging local economic development, and supporting the Lawrence Farmers Market's permanent location, we can create parks and recreational spaces that contribute significantly to the well-being of all residents.

Please review these recommendations and consider them in the planning process. The Douglas county Food Policy Council is available to discuss further details and implementation strategies at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Cody Haynes
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