Urban Agriculture
The Knowledge Exchange Series
ONE Bay
March 11, 2022
Who is Forward Pinellas?

- MPO and Planning Council for Pinellas County
- Integrated countywide land use and transportation planning
- Regional transportation coordination
- Local technical assistance
The Knowledge Exchange Series

- Emerging planning topics
- Best practices locally and nationally
- Toolkit of research, case studies, example regulations, presentations and videos

Urban Agriculture
Knowledge Exchange Series • January 4, 2021
The term “agriculture” conjures up an image of open land for growing crops or grazing livestock. But in...
Read more

Finding the Missing Middle
Knowledge Exchange Series • January 4, 2021
The Tampa Bay housing market is currently underserved in providing affordable housing options for residents, and that trend...
Read more

Microbrewery Study
Knowledge Exchange Series • January 4, 2021
Microbreweries (and related uses like brewpubs, micro-distilleries and micro-wineries) are becoming increasingly popular in Pinellas County and around...
Read more
Partnership with St. Petersburg

Urban Agriculture
Planning Advisory Committee
September 5th, 2017
Why encourage urban agriculture?

- Increases access to fresh food
- Encourages healthier eating habits
- Decreases food transport miles
Why encourage urban agriculture?
What does urban agriculture look like?

- Traditional Farm
- Community Garden
- Hydroponics
- Rooftop Garden
- Outdoor Wall Garden
- Indoor Farm
What does urban agriculture look like?

Chickens

Bees

Fish

Compost

Sales

Education
Regulating urban agriculture

- What do you want to allow?
  - Indoor vs. outdoor
  - Crops vs. animals
  - Commercial vs. nonprofit

- Where/how do you want to allow it?
  - Land use and zoning categories
  - Approval process

- Other considerations
  - Supportive activities (e.g., sales)
  - Potential impacts
Amending the Countywide Rules

Originally allowed only:

- **Agriculture**
  - Permits cattle, horses, etc.
  - Allowed in lower-density residential, commercial and industrial categories

- **Community gardens**
  - Nonprofit only
  - Very limited sales
  - Allowed in nearly all categories
Amending the Countywide Rules

We added:

- **Agriculture-Light**
  - Impacts contained on site (similar to manufacturing)
  - Nonprofit or commercial
  - Small livestock only
  - On-site sales permitted
  - Allowed in nearly all categories
The Florida Right to Farm Act

Section 823.14(6), Florida Statutes:

- Commercial farms operating for one year
- Classified as “agricultural land” by the property appraiser
- Prohibits local government from adopting any regulation to “prohibit, restrict, regulate or otherwise limit” farming operations
Urban Agriculture Pilot Program

Section 604.73, Florida Statutes was created in 2021:

- Up to five municipalities with more than 250,000 population
- Three-year trial period
- Defines urban agriculture and allows it to be regulated

(2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds that, due to the application of laws relating to agricultural activities, it is necessary to distinguish between farms on traditional rural farm land and the emerging trends towards urban agriculture. The Legislature acknowledges that the “coming
Local government efforts to encourage urban agriculture

- Allow on-site sales
- Land inventory
- Composting programs
- Small grants
Urban Agricultural Ordinance

The Urban Agricultural Ordinance No. 17-19, adopted by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners on June 20, 2017, provides for design, operations and maintenance standards for community gardens, market gardens and community farms in Pasco County. The ordinance amended Chapter 500 Zoning Standards of the Pasco County Land Development Code detailing principal uses, permitted uses and conditional uses by zoning classification. The ordinance also created a garden plan permit system and provided for definitions of community gardens, market gardens and community farms.

So you want to GROW CROPS?

WHERE can I grow them?

Front, back and side yards

What about public RIGHT-OF-WAYS between the sidewalk & street?
Feeding the Community

Mark Trujillo, public health specialist with the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension Family Nutrition Program in Pinellas County, says, “We have a lot of people who are in need, and a great way to make people healthier is to ensure people have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.”

The benefits of local produce are numerous and far reaching, and the need is great. In the United States, 38% of adults and 20% of children are classified as obese, and only one in 10 adults get enough fruit or vegetables. Forward Pinellas estimates that only 13% of Pinellas County residents are within walking distance of a grocery store, which indicates that some areas of the county are located in a food desert and cut off from healthy food, like fresh fruit and vegetables. For those affected, a lack of reliable transportation may exacerbate the problem.
Questions?
Thank you!

Linda Fisher, AICP  
Principal Planner

Cell: 727-424-3351  
Main: 727-464-8250  
Email: lfisher@forwardpinellas.org

forwardpinellas.org

@ForwardPinellas  
@fwdpinellas