

# Homegrown Minneapolis

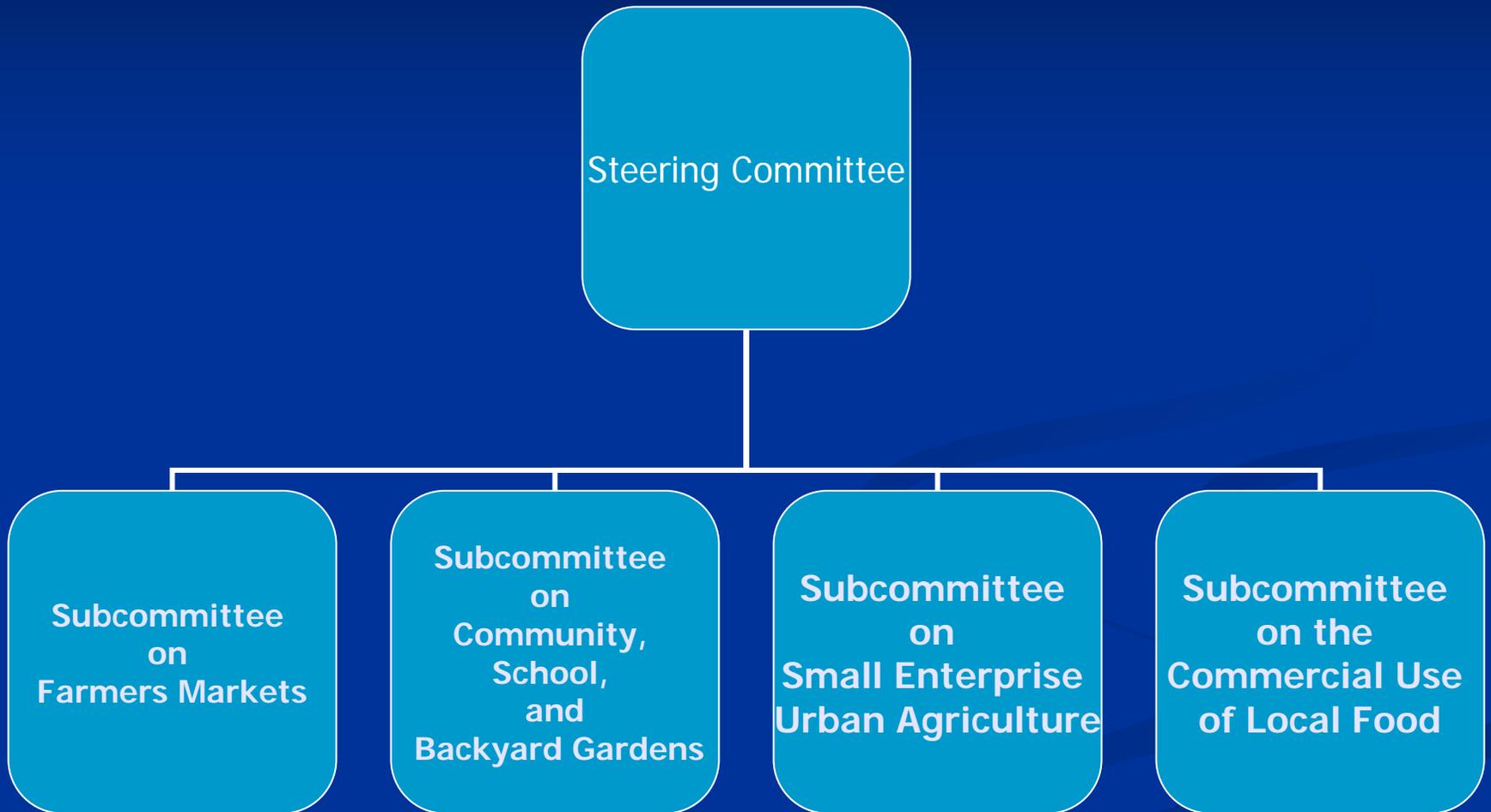


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# Homegrown Minneapolis

- **An initiative to develop recommendations**
- for the City of Minneapolis
- to
- improve sales, distribution and consumption of fresh, locally grown foods
- to
- positively impact the health, food security, economy and environment of our city and the surrounding region

# Process and Involvement



**Stakeholders**

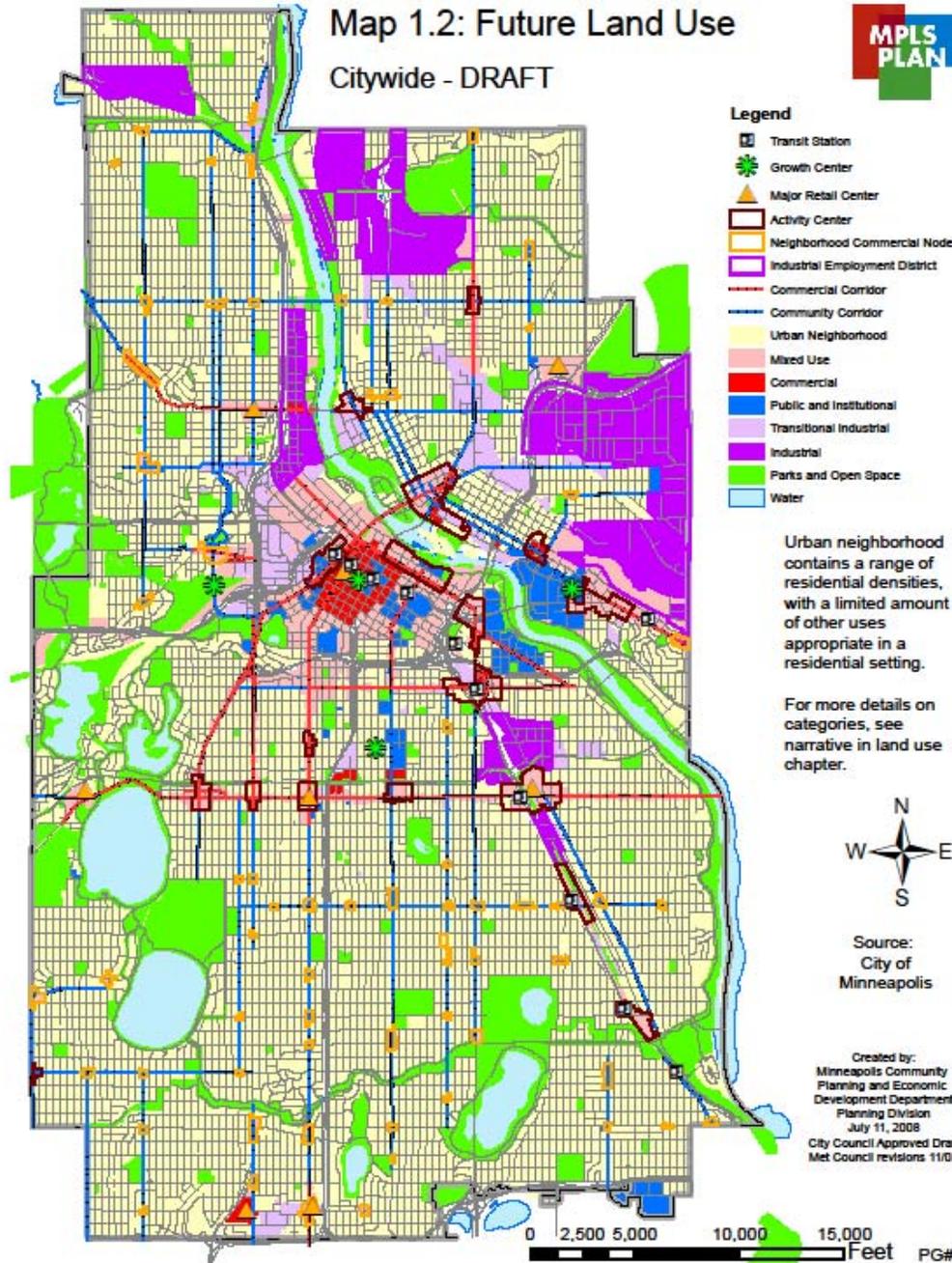
# Process and Involvement

- More than 100 stakeholders met 3 times since Dec 2008
- 4 subcommittees met 1-2x/month to develop recommendations
  - Farmers' Markets
  - Community, School, and Backyard Gardens
  - Small Enterprise Urban Agriculture
  - Commercial Use of Local Food

# The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth



# Map 1.2: Future Land Use Citywide - DRAFT



### Legend

- Transit Station
- Growth Center
- Major Retail Center
- Activity Center
- Neighborhood Commercial Node
- Industrial Employment District
- Commercial Corridor
- Community Corridor
- Urban Neighborhood
- Mixed Use
- Commercial
- Public and Institutional
- Transitional Industrial
- Industrial
- Parks and Open Space
- Water

Urban neighborhood contains a range of residential densities, with a limited amount of other uses appropriate in a residential setting.

For more details on categories, see narrative in land use chapter.

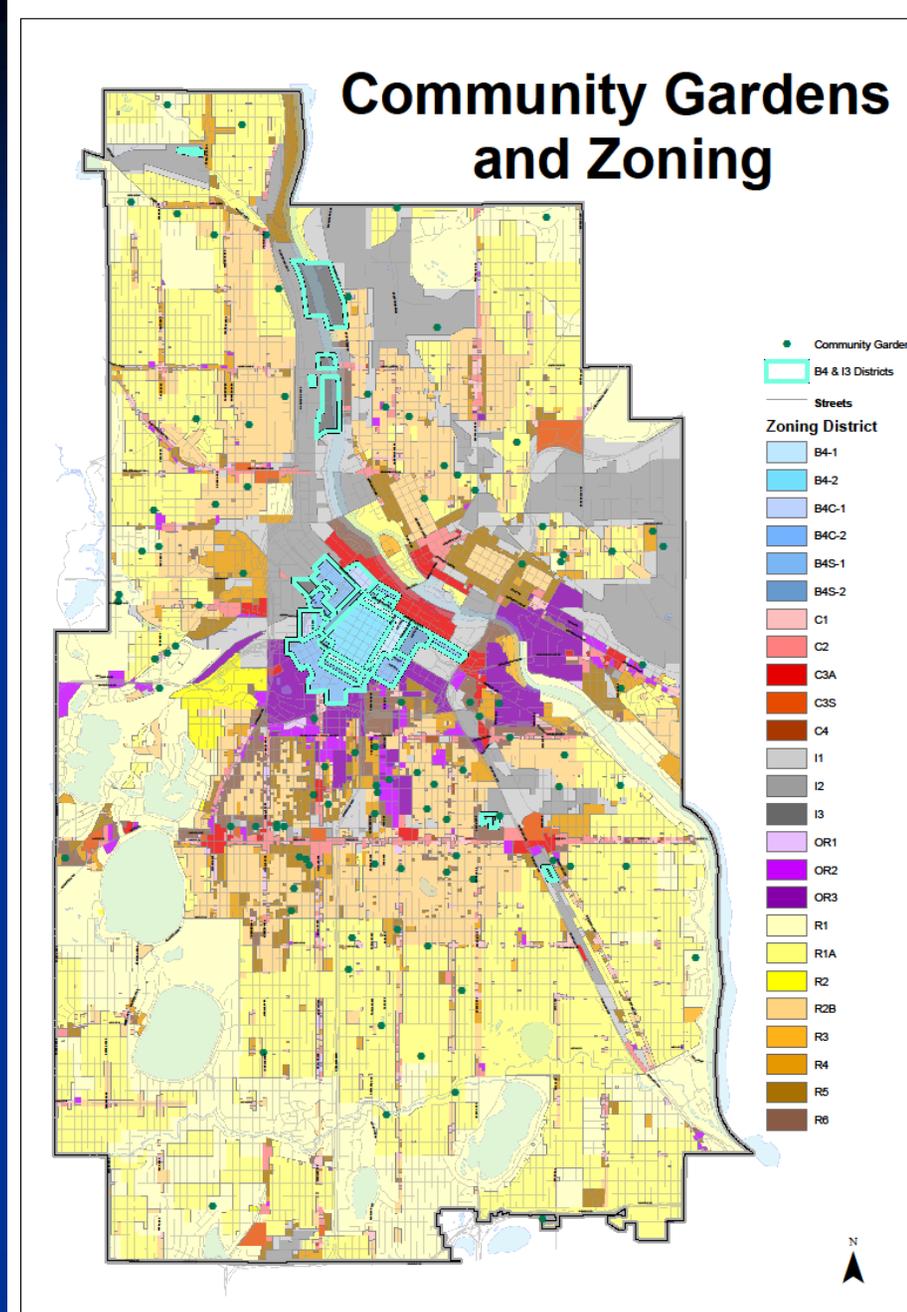


Source:  
City of  
Minneapolis

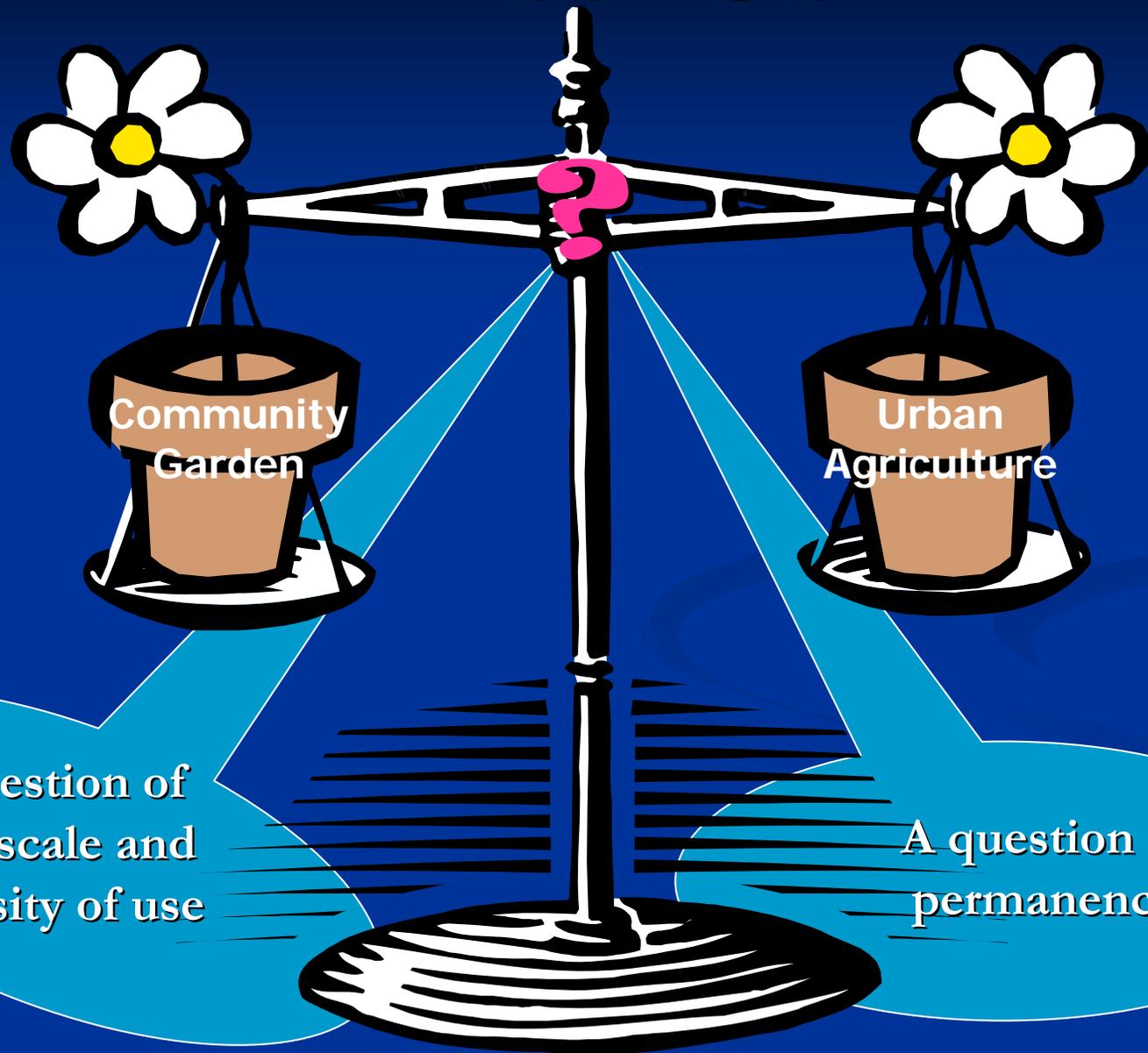
Created by:  
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Planning Division  
July 11, 2008  
City Council Approved Draft  
Met Council revisions 11/08

# Community Gardens and Zoning

- Comp Plan policies related to community gardens:
  - Support creation and improvement of community garden and food markets which sell locally and regionally grown foods.
  - Where appropriate, support the planting of edible fruit and vegetable plants.
- Community Garden is a principal use identified in the zoning code
  - Community Gardens permitted use (subject to development standards) in all zoning districts, except B4 (Downtown) and I3 (General Industrial)
  - The zoning code does not regulate the duration of the use; as long as a community garden is permitted in the zoning district it can be of any duration
  - Specific development standards for a community garden



# There is a tipping point!



A question of  
size, scale and  
intensity of use

A question of  
permanency

# The City and Land

- Why does the city own land?
  - Provide essential services (police, fire, water, sewer...)
  - To achieve goals for growth and development
    - Right of ways
    - Housing
    - Business development
- How does the city acquire land?
  - Thru purchase, tax forfeiture or other means to gain site control for redevelopment and other public purposes (blight removal, for example)

# The City and Land

- In general, the City seeks to **quickly return the property to a tax-generating** use or other purpose to help grow the City according to the Comp Plan
  - Market forces influence timing of redevelopment
- The city **Disposition Policy** informs the process:
  - Sold at fair market value
  - Sold for a purpose consistent with the comprehensive plan
    - Land sale review form and process

# The issue of permanency

- **Green space on municipal property** may be available for community gardens and urban agriculture
  - **A new idea, thus the tipping point!!**
    - **Needs policies and procedures** to ensure that issues and concerns are accommodate
      - Consistency
      - Compatibility
      - Cumulative affects
      - Unintended consequences

# Farmers Markets and Zoning

- Permitted use first in the OR2 – High Density Office Residential Zoning District
- Permitted in all areas in commercial or downtown zoning districts
- Permitted in these industrial zoning districts:
  - I3: light industrial
  - I2: medium industrial
- Licensing requirements depend on size of the market
- The code distinguishes between farmers markets and public markets
  - “Local food” vis-à-vis “more than food”



# Urban Agriculture and Zoning

- “Commercial gardens” not called out specifically in the Zoning Code
- Commercial gardens are subject to development standards, like community gardens, which include:
  - Overhead lighting prohibited
  - Signage is limited to a single, non-illuminated, flat sign of four feet square
  - Nor than two vehicles shall be parked on-site, excluding those parked within an enclosed structure
  - Retail sales shall not be permitted, except as an approved temporary use



# Homegrown Recommendations

- Over 70 recommendations from the four subcommittees



# Common Recommendation #1



- Develop a city-wide policy framework for urban agriculture
  - City-wide vision and policy support

# Common Recommendation #2

- **Adopt a City of Minneapolis resolution that formalizes the City's commitment to growing the local food system.**



# Common Recommendation #3



- **Identify an advisory committee** to advise the City on local foods issues (existing or establish new if necessary).

# Common Recommendation #4

- **Identify a point person within the City** (existing or hire new, if necessary) to help coordinate the City's work on local food issues.



# Common Recommendation #5



- Develop a Homegrown Minneapolis communications campaign to increase consumer knowledge of, interest in, and demand for local food, with an emphasis on outreach to underserved communities.

# Subcommittee on Farmers Markets

- Develop and evaluate a **city-wide EBT and/or FMNP** (food assistance) system and facilitate acceptance at all markets
- Identify and help **secure permanent sites for existing farmers' markets** and establish a market in an area currently underserved



# Subcommittee on Community, School, and Backyard Gardens



- Work with landowners to identify possible soil contamination,
  - provide education to reduce perceived barriers, and develop remediation options
- Establish mechanisms that allow community gardens to thrive, including
  - making readily accessible land immediately available for gardens,
  - exploring ways to reduce insurance burdens,
  - reducing costs associated with water usage

# Subcommittee on Small Enterprise Urban Agriculture

- Support or provide a **"match-making"** web-based service to connect people and organizations seeking land with property owners
- Ensure small urban agriculture enterprises have access to support systems for small business
  - Workforce and training
  - Business counseling
  - Small business finance



# Subcommittee on the Commercial Use of Local Food



- Establish a scale-appropriate regulatory system for local foods
- Commission a study on the local foods value chain

# Next Steps

- Public feedback process (May)
- Final report to HEE Committee (June)
- Implementation of Homegrown Mpls



# Homegrown Minneapolis

## ■ Resources:

[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/comp\\_plan\\_update.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/comp_plan_update.asp)

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/zoning/code/>

[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/Land Use and Zoning Overview.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/Land_Use_and_Zoning_Overview.pdf)

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp>