City of El Monte

URBAN AGRICULTURE

Initiative Program

Urban Greening Plan

August 2014

City of El Monte Health & Wellness

BASE Landscape Architecture
www.baselandscape.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was funded by the State of California's Strategic Growth Council (SGC) as part of the Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Grant Program.

The following individuals contributed to the preparation of the plan:

City of El Monte Team:

Raul Godinez II, City Manager
Jesus Gomez, Assistant City Manager
Gabriel Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Minh Thai, Economic Development Director
Damien Arrula, Former Economic Development Director
Jason Mikaelian, Planning Services Manager
Jerry Moreno, UAIP Project Manager
Alexandra Lopez, Director Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Sandra Salcedo, Community and Senior Services Supervisor
Delmy Johana Coca, Community Wellness and Senior Services Coordinator
Michelle Marquez-Riley, Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer
Mike Rodriguez, Public Works Superintendent

Steering Committee:

Nick Salerno, Superintendent, El Monte Union High School District
Dr. Maribel Garcia, Superintendent, El Monte City School District
Lillian Maldonado-French, Superintendent, Mountain View School District
Sandra Salcedo, Community and Senior Services Supervisor
Claire Robinson, President, Amigos de los Rios
Danny Oaxaca, Founder/Executive Director, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
Key Rausch, Executive Director, Downtown El Monte Business Association
Ruby Rose Sanchez, Chair, United States Green Building Council-LA SGV Branch
David Siegrist, First Vice President (Program), Friend O' Garden Club
Carmen Macias, Coordinator, La Madera Community Garden
Monica August, Resident
Rodrigo Hernandez, Resident
Amaranta Hernandez, Youth Resident

Consultant Team:

Patricia Algara, Lead Project Manager, BASE Landscape Architecture
Megan Stevens, Outreach and Facilitation, BASE Landscape Architecture
Julia Carr, Outreach and Facilitation, BASE Landscape Architecture
Samantha Dabney, Illustrator, BASE Landscape Architecture
Christine Shun, Project Associate, BASE Landscape Architecture
Andrea Nelson, Community Engagement and Facilitation, PMC
Loreli Cappel, Project Manager, PMC
Thomas Iandiorio, Financial Analysis, PMC
Patrick Hindmarsh, CEQA Analysis, PMC

A sincere and special thanks to the many residents and community members who participated in the meetings and workshops and provided crucial feedback to finalize the plan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

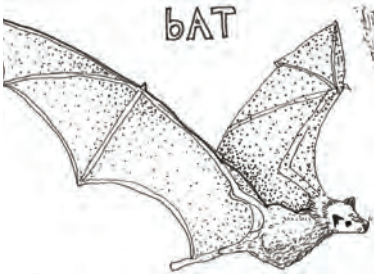
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2010, the City of El Monte was awarded a grant from the State of California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to develop and establish an Urban Agriculture Initiative Program in the City of El Monte. The goal of the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program is to develop a comprehensive set of policies and implementation guidelines to encourage urban agriculture citywide.

This Urban Agriculture Initiative Program represents the first attempt to characterize a wide range of urban agriculture issues as part of the City's comprehensive planning efforts. It includes a summary of what is currently known about El Monte's urban agriculture, conclusions from national studies about the impact and intersections between food, health and community design, and potential policy options the City could explore to support the urban agriculture initiative. Over a ten month period City staff and consultants worked with community partners and residents to complete the initiative program.

The Urban Agriculture Initiative Program engaged both consultants and community members from across the city, seeking input on all aspects of urban agriculture from key issues and concerns to needs, potential solutions and finally potential strategies for action. The project focused on creating a plan for urban agriculture for the City of El Monte.



Community Outreach Process

The active community engagement process involved the following:

Educational Materials A series of educational materials were produced to help people understand the concepts of urban agriculture and how they could be implemented in the City of El Monte. A coloring book was also created for all the children's activities. A booklet on how to start a school garden was produced with helpful guidelines and ideas for fundraising and design. A series of postcards were also created with information on upcoming events and general information.

Children's Day Parade (October 2013) Community was made aware of the efforts the City was taking for the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program. Promotional and educational materials were given to invite people to participate at the upcoming community meetings. Community input was gathered on the general goals and priorities they had.

Community Meeting #1 (January 2014) Gathered community input on existing conditions, assets, opportunities, City vision, and community goals.

Community Workshop #2 City of El Monte hosted the second formal Community Meeting and Workshop #2 on Friday, March 21, 2014 starting at 10:00 a.m. located at the El Monte Community Center and Historical Museum grounds at 3130 Tyler Avenue, El Monte CA 91731. The meeting and workshop was held during the City's annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting Ceremony. Team member from PMC (Julia Car) hosted a table activity and conducted outreach regarding the UAIP. Over 100 students from four (4) different schools participated in the event.

Trimming Land Company, Inc. (TLC) is continuing to conduct the complete tree inventory in GIS. TLC is 90% complete.

Community Meeting #3 (March 2014) Allowed community members to help flesh out and prioritize solutions, as well as provide an opportunity for the community to provide potential solutions to be presented in the final report.

Steering Committee The outreach process included creating a steering committee which included representatives from all school districts in El Monte, community organizations, City departments and residents. The Steering Committee was interviewed individually and met as a group to review and provide guidance on the potential solutions to be presented in the final report.

Stakeholders A list of stakeholders was generated by City staff that included a larger network of community organizations, members, City staff and interested residents. The list grew as people signed up at the different activities that were organized by the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program. Stakeholders were invited to participate at all community events.

Existing Conditions

To assess the existing urban agriculture conditions in the City of El Monte, the project team conducted a number of site visits to city parks, schools, community events, city agencies, community gardens and farms in the City of El Monte and the surrounding vicinity. The team also did a bike tour along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River bike path to assess the conditions and identify possible locations for urban agriculture. The team also conducted interviews and small group meetings at locations throughout the City to hear from the residents and the community organizations.

Key Community Needs

El Monte's community is passionate about accessibility to healthy food and urban agriculture. While community members identified a wide range of issues and opportunities over the course of the project, several concerns emerged as the highest priority issues to address.

Farmers markets

Community gardens

School gardens

Potential changes to City policies and ordinances

Potential Solutions

During the spring and summer of 2014, staff and consultants used the findings from the community engagement to craft policy and ordinance recommendations as well as design solutions and designate possible locations for the different elements identified as priorities by the community.

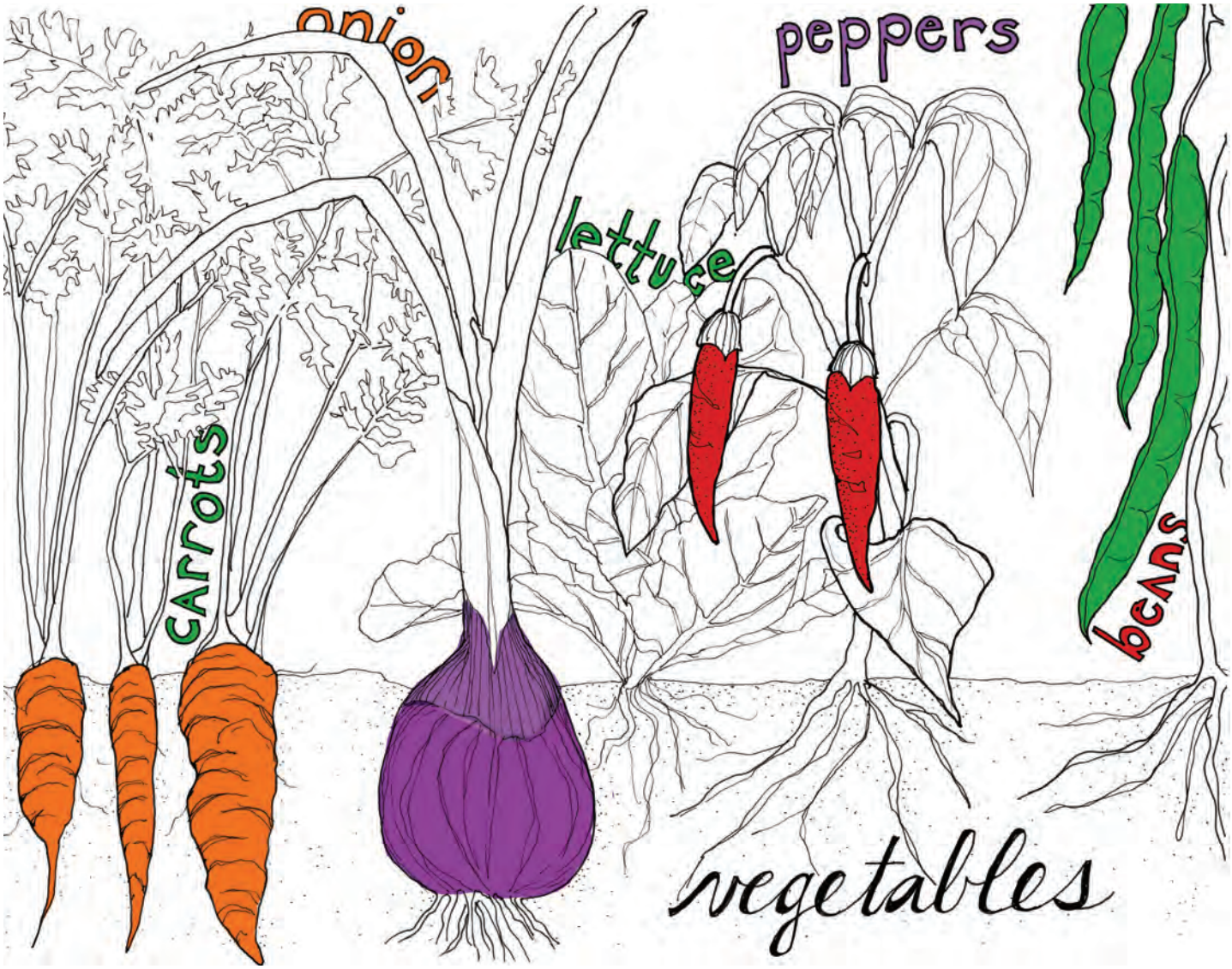
Funding Strategy

The Urban Agriculture Initiative Program (UAIP) Funding Strategy focuses on supporting the community's top priorities for urban agriculture. It offers different options and resources available to best support and maintain the long-term sustainability of the UAIP in El Monte.

The Funding Strategy includes the following three parts: identifying potential funding sources; developing these funding sources; and implementing the five-year action plan using the funding sources. The first part of the strategy outlines four basic ways to fund public programs, projects, and facilities and suggests the most viable funding sources to support the UAIP in El Monte. Since each agriculture program and/or project comprises of a number of different stages (startup, maintenance, growth and sustainability), the second part of the strategy provides potential funding sources for each program and/or project phase. Finally, the Funding Strategy presents a five-year plan that identifies phased actions needed to successfully implement and grow sustainable, long-term urban agriculture programs and/or projects in El Monte.

Next Steps

The results of this project are presented in this report. Based on these findings and suggested actions, the City of El Monte will work with the school districts, non-profits, and other partnering agencies as funding becomes available. Many of the suggested solutions presented in this report require support of grant-making agencies or other funders and entail partnerships between the City departments, school districts, local non-profit organizations, residents and other government agencies. Based on community priorities, the City will continue to foster these relationships in order to ensure that potential urban agriculture projects in the City of El Monte are implemented whenever possible.




1

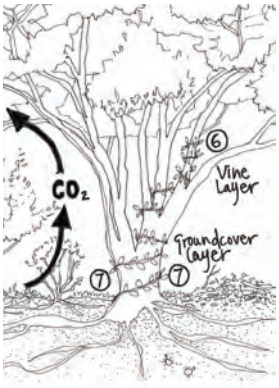
INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

In April 2010, the City of El Monte applied for an Urban Greening Planning Grant from the State of California's Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and was awarded funding to develop and establish an Urban Agriculture Initiative Program (UAIP) for the City. The goal of the UAIP is to develop a comprehensive set of policies and implementation guidelines to encourage urban agriculture citywide.

Key topics addressed include:

- Feasibility of creating community gardens on both public and private property
- Accessibility to healthy food and food security
- Local food production through urban farming, edible schoolyards and creation of farmers markets
- Encourage sustainable practices in food production



The City encouraged community involvement and participation to develop an Urban Greening Plan to meet several social, economic and environmental sustainability goals and improve the overall quality of life for El Monte residents.

The yearlong urban agriculture initiative project was conducted by a project team led by landscape architecture consultant BASE which created educational materials, facilitated community meetings and workshops and developed the Urban Agriculture Initiative Plan. Planning and outreach subconsultant PMC conducted the financial suitability analysis and the CEQA report, and drafted the outreach strategies.

The project engaged community members in ongoing conversations about urban agriculture through a series of community meetings, interviews and other outreach tools. Of special interest to the community were the creation of community gardens, school gardens, farmers markets and potential changes to city policies and ordinances to make urban agriculture more accessible.

ABOUT THE CITY OF EL MONTE

Located approximately 12 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, El Monte is the hub of the San Gabriel Valley, where two major freeways – Interstates 605 and 10 – intersect. It is the ninth largest city (out of 88) in Los Angeles County with a population of approximately 120,000. The land uses within its 10 square mile area are 58 percent residential, 11 percent retail, 10 percent industrial, 7 percent office/retail, and 14 percent other of amenities. El Monte also has an ethnically diverse and dynamic population with 72 percent Hispanic, 18 percent Asian, and 7 percent White.

As the San Gabriel Valley continues to grow so does the City of El Monte through new businesses and quality housing. Many public improvements are underway in the City to provide an attractive and safe environment for its community.

ABOUT THE GENERAL PLAN

In June 2011, the General Plan was updated and adopted by City Council. Specific urban agricultural goals are outlined throughout the City's 2011 "Vision El Monte" General Plan update to preserve and enhance the City's agricultural roots. Many of these goals are contained within the Health and Wellness Element, Community Design Element, and Parks and Recreation Element.

- Goal HW-8.4 of the Vision El Monte General Plan (Street Closures for Events). Facilitate street closures for farmers' markets...and other public events.

- Goal HW-10.4 of the Vision El Monte General Plan (Farmers' Markets). Support the creation of new farmers' markets in the City with the goal of having year-round farmers' markets three times per week.

- Goal HW-11.4 of the Vision El Monte General Plan (Edible School Yards). Explore the potential feasibility for creating "edible school yards" that provide gardens and gardening programs on school property.

Other goals contained in the Community Design and the Parks and Recreation Element include components to recreate a green environment.

- Community Gardens – Plant community gardens where feasible, that offer opportunities to plant vegetables, fruits, and flowers and foster neighborhood interaction.

- Accessibility to healthy foods, and the preservation and enhancement of the City's agricultural roots.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This UAIP is intended to encourage urban agriculture citywide. While the plan recommends new city policies and ordinances regarding urban agriculture, the UAIP does not amend the City's General Plan or Municipal Code.

When recommended changes are made to the General Plan or Municipal Code, the physical changes that could occur from the planting of edible plants on existing vacant parcels or within school campuses would be minimal. Other changes related to landscaping would also not result in substantial negative physical changes in the city. Farmers markets could result in street closures that could temporarily affect traffic. However, farmers markets would not be held during peak traffic hours, and the City would provide information regarding alternate routes to ensure traffic is not substantially affected.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City of El Monte General Plan was prepared for the adoption of the UAIP. In conclusion, adopting the UAIP would not result in any new impacts or increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts analyzed in the certified EIR. No new mitigation measures would be required. The proposed UAIP would not result in a substantial change to the project analyzed in the EIR, so additional environmental review is not necessary.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

In September 2011, the Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan was adopted by City Council. Several goals related to urban agriculture and the urban greening planning grant are outlined in the El Monte Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan. One of those goals is to conduct and complete a comprehensive tree inventory using global positioning systems (GPS) equipment and mapping and storing data in a geographic information system (GIS). Another goal of that plan is to create an edible tree and landscape palette and incorporate it into the City's existing tree and landscape palettes.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report documents the formal analysis of urban agriculture, the community process, the findings, and the proposed solutions to create an urban agriculture plan for the City of El Monte.

The report also offers recommended solutions, possible locations and potential funding sources to ensure that the City of El Monte will be able to move forward with the urban agriculture plan.

This report is organized in the following manner:

- Chapter one: Introduction. Describes the report, and gives an overview of what urban agriculture and food systems are.
- Chapter two: Tilling the Soil. Presents the agricultural history of El Monte, the existing conditions, site inventory and analysis.
- Chapter three: Pollination. Demonstrates urban agricultural models and precedent studies.
- Chapter four: Seeding. Outlines the community outreach process and the results.
- Chapter five: Growing. Lists proposed solutions and provides guidance on implementation. It also offers a comprehensive look at funding opportunities that could be used to take this project to implementation.

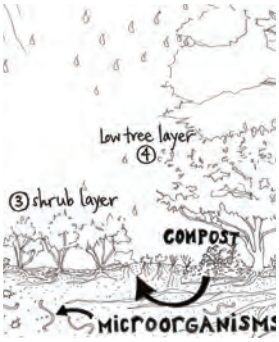
"This is important for the City to do because of food security; they should plant fruit trees in parks and sidewalks. This is an opportunity for the City of El Monte to become spectacular like it used to be in the 30s" - Claire Robinson, President, Amigos de los Rios

WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

Urban agriculture can be defined as the growing, processing, marketing and distribution of food of all kinds (fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, honey, grains, etc.) in urban areas.

Urban agriculture may include public and private community gardens, urban farming/gardening on vacant, underutilized lots and public spaces, green roofs to include container gardening and raised planters, landscaping with edible fruits and vegetables, crop raising, backyard farming, animal husbandry, beekeeping, farmers markets, farm/fruit/vegetable stands, and growing, trading and/or selling and composting programs.

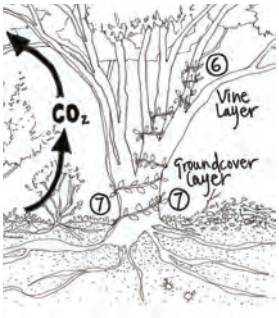
Urban agriculture is a growing movement that seeks to decentralize the food system by creating small, local food-producing centers in urban areas.



WHERE CAN IT HAPPEN?

Urban agriculture can happen on public, private, communal or institutional land. Some sites may include:

- Open, private yards
- Vacant & underutilized lots
- Schools
- Parks and public facilities
- Community gardens
- Parkways
- Public right-of-ways
- Rooftops
- Multiple family developments



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Economic

- Stimulate local economy - grow local, buy local, eat local
- Provide job training
- Create local jobs
- Provide affordable food

Social

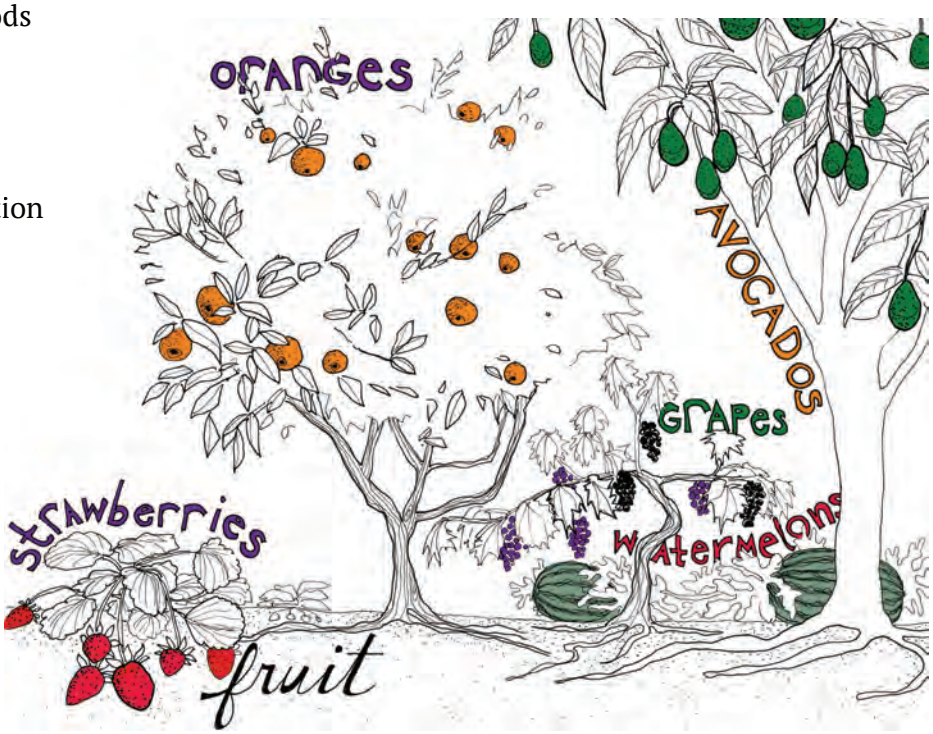
- Empower community members
- Support youth development & education
- Improve food security
- Provide safe spaces
- Integrate aging population
- Build friendships, reliance & accountability in neighborhoods

Health

- Improve accessibility to healthy foods
- Improve nutrition & dietary intake
- Healing & therapeutic purposes
- Increase physical activity & recreation

Ecological

- Increase ecological awareness
- Enable land stewardship
- Conserve natural resources
- Manage stormwater
- Improve soils
- Enhance habitats and biodiversity

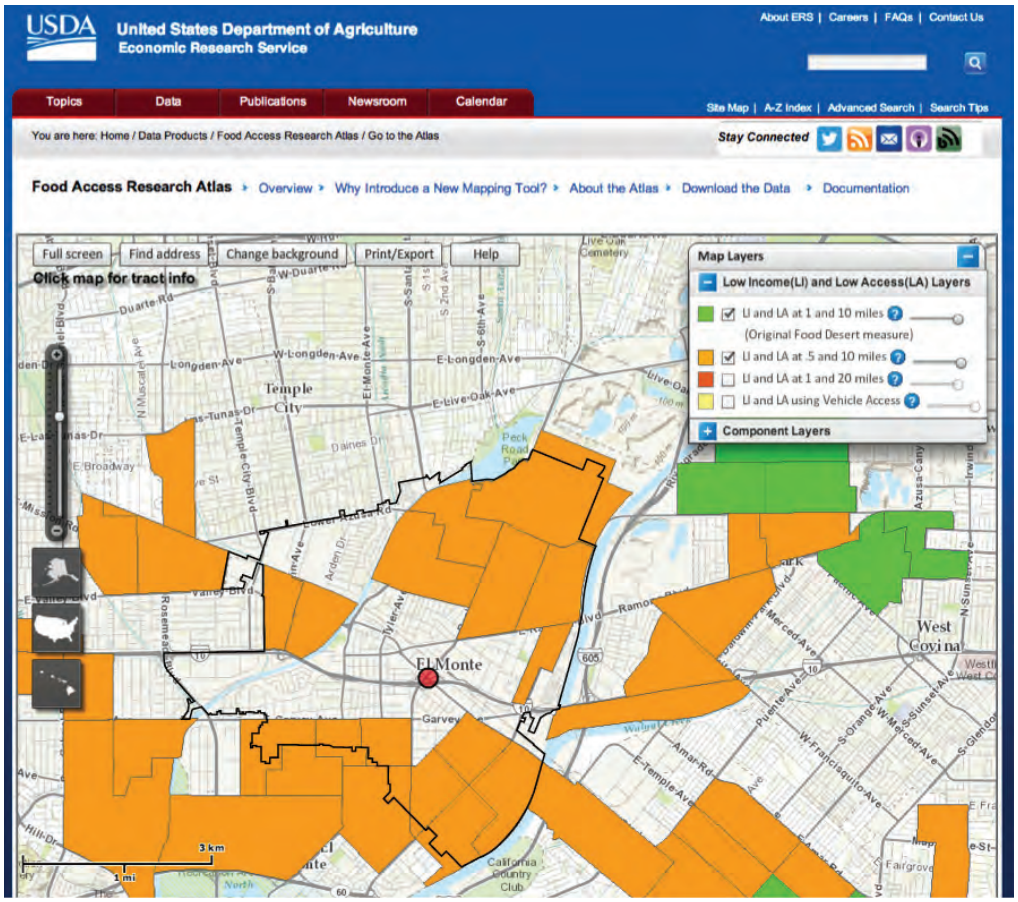


WHAT IS A FOOD DESERT?

A food desert is a geographic area where affordable, fresh, healthy and nutritious food is difficult to obtain, particularly for those without access to an automobile. Instead of grocery stores some of these communities only have fast food restaurants and convenience stores that rarely offer healthy food options. Food deserts usually exist in rural areas and low-income communities. Some research links them to diet-related health problems in affected populations.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), food deserts are defined as a census tract "with a substantial share of residents who live in low-income areas that have low levels of access to a grocery store or healthy, affordable food retail outlet."[1]

As stated by the USDA food desert map tool, some areas within the city limits of El Monte are considered food deserts. The map below indicates the areas in the City of El Monte that are low income and are between .5 to 10 miles from a grocery store.



1 http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/foodDeserts.aspx

BARRIERS TO ACCESS The British Food Access Network has concluded that four factors play into what it terms "food poverty" or lack of food access:

Accessibility – How do people reach food retailers, and do they have any food retailers near their home? For those who do not have access to adequate public or private transport, not being able to get to the shops is a defining factor in their ability to buy healthy affordable food.

Availability – In some cases, even if food retailers are available, individuals may not be able to buy the healthy food that they want. Local food retailers may not stock healthy options, such as fruit, vegetables and lean meats, due to a shorter shelf life, lower profit, a perceived lack of interest or a shortage of storage options. Some local shops may not accept Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) vouchers or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Affordability – Expenditure on food is the most flexible part of household budgets as the amount spent on food is often whatever is left over when all the essential bills have been paid. When sudden or unexpected costs happen, the amount available to spend on food is reduced. Nutrient-dense foods (especially fruits, vegetables and whole grains) tend to cost more and the cost of these foods has increased faster than the cost of calorie-dense foods such as chips and cookies.

Awareness – Many individuals lack the knowledge, skills or time needed to buy and cook foods from scratch. There is also a lot of misinformation about nutrition and healthy foods in the media meaning many people do not know where to start. [1]

In addition to those four factors, there are other factors that create barriers in the access of healthy fresh food. Those factors are:

Income and Racial/Ethnic Disparities - Food access disparities among different income and ethnic groups have been well documented. Low-income and minority communities tend to have less access to supermarkets than wealthier and predominantly white communities, while having a greater number of corner stores, convenience stores, and liquor outlets. 2 3

Transportation Barriers - Up to one-quarter of low-income households are transit-dependent and do not own an automobile. In fact, low-income households are six to seven times more likely to not own cars than other U.S. households. "Nevertheless, most low-income households attempt to use cars for food shopping, even though more than half cannot rely on a car that they own." [4] This impacts the time spent getting to and from the store. Fewer transportation options may affect the likelihood of low-income people visiting convenience stores and paying more for similar products and being limited by inadequate selection of healthy food.

1 SustainWeb, Food Access Network, "What is food poverty?" Accessed at http://www.sustainweb.org/page.php?id=187 on December 17, 2008.

2 http://www.policylink.org/pdfs/HealthyFoodHealthyCommunities.pdf (Healthy Food, Healthy Communities: Improving Access and Opportunities Through Food Retailing)

3 http://www.marigallagher.com/site_media/dynamic/project_files/1_DetroitFoodDesertReport_Full.pdf (Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Detroit)

4 http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/cfj/publications/transportation_and_food.pdf

WHAT IS A FOOD SYSTEM?

The food system comprises all the interconnected activities that get food from the farm to the plate, including growing, processing, preparing, buying and disposing of food. El Monte is made up of many community and local food systems, is served by a regional food system, and fits within a global food system.

There are many reasons and benefits for governments to address food system issues, including:

- Food system activities make up a large percentage of land use in certain communities and create economic value through growing, distributing, processing, repackaging, retailing, preparing, and warehousing food and agriculture products;

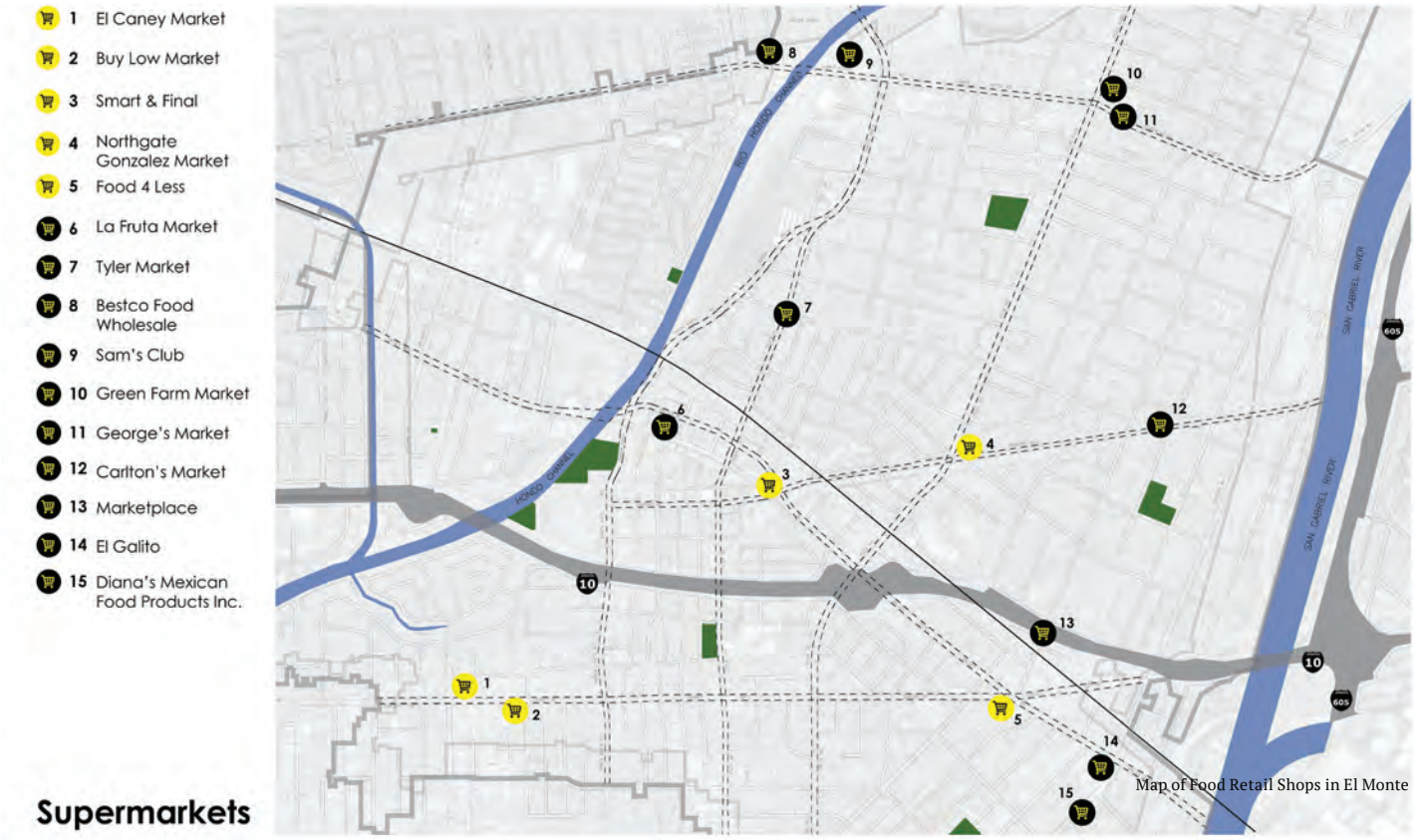
- Access to affordable, safe, fresh, and healthy food is a benefit to residents and communities. There is a direct connection between access to healthy food and rates of diet-related diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity; and

- Integrating sustainable food production into communities builds livable communities, strengthens the local economy, and reduces waste, soil erosion, the use of nonrenewable energy, and pollution of water from runoff.

About the Food System in El Monte

The consultants conducted a Food System Inventory to assess the status of the local food system in El Monte and documented efforts made toward the goals described in the General Plan. The Inventory is a baseline assessment of the state of the food system in El Monte, which is important for recognizing strengths, identifying gaps, and measuring future progress in the local food system.

The El Monte food system is primarily composed of independently owned supermarkets and smaller retailers. There are a few large retail outlets for food purchasing such as Sam's Club, Smart & Final, Food 4 Less—all of which offer bargain, bulk produce and processed foods. Some of the barriers to access of fresh produce that were identified in El Monte are (1) consumer awareness/ education, (2) willingness to pay for quality food, (3) low-income residents unable to pay higher prices for quality food, and (4) availability of fresh and organic produce at the retail outlets.

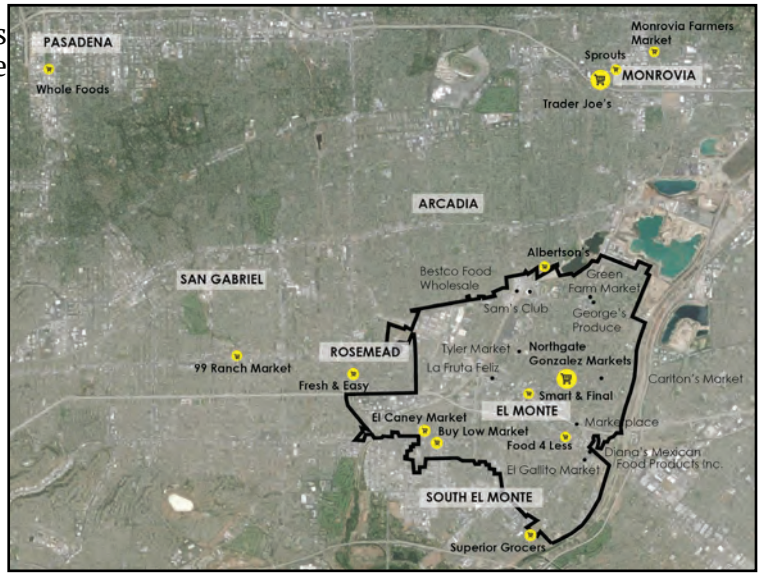


Map of Food Retail Shops in El Monte

The map above represents food shopping locations within El Monte. During the outreach efforts the community was asked people where they shopped for fresh produce. Only six places were identified as places where the community shopped for fresh food within El Monte. The yellow dots denote the stores that the community identified as places where they can shop for fresh produce. The black dots denote other food retailers in the City of El Monte but were not mentioned by the community as places where they shop for fresh produce.

Community members mentioned food retail centers in other cities as their source for fresh produce. Some of the places mentioned include:

- Superior Grocers in South El Monte (2 miles away)
- Trader Joe's, Sprouts and Monrovia Farmer's Market in Monrovia (10 miles away)
- Whole Foods in Pasadena (11 miles away)
- Fresh and Easy in Rosemead (3 miles away)
- 99 Ranch Market in San Gabriel (7 miles away)
- Albertson's in Arcadia (3 miles Away)



Map of Food Retail Centers in El Monte and Vicinity Where Residents Shop


2

TILLING THE SOIL

Understanding the City

2 TILLING THE SOIL

Understanding the city

EXISTING CONDITIONS

This chapter describes the rich agricultural history of El Monte as well as the existing urban agriculture facilities (including community gardens, demonstration farms, and residential edible gardens) serving the City of El Monte. It also describes other existing infrastructure that could become a potential site for urban agriculture (including parks, schools, streets, museums, etc.).

The assessment of existing urban agriculture in the City of El Monte is based on the following:

- Initial identification of urban agriculture issues, concerns and priorities identified by members of the community at the Children's Day Parade held in October 2013
- Observations of general conditions, conducted during site visits held on multiple days throughout the course of the project in the fall and winter of 2013 and Spring of 2014
- Review of previous reports and General Plan of El Monte
- Site visits to different locations (parks, schools, museums, etc.) and bike tour throughout the Rio Hondo San Gabriel Valley Emerald Necklace
- Interview and museum visit with Donna Crippen, Curator of El Monte Historical Museum, as well as historical research from the book "Images of America El Monte" by Jorane King Barton.

HISTORY

El Monte's Agricultural Past

Barton, *Images of America El Monte*, 97

Historically, El Monte has had a strong agricultural presence. Centuries ago, the Gabrielino or Tongva Indians occupied El Monte. The area provided small streams and deep, rich, alluvial topsoil covered by expansive meadows, wild grapevines, succulent watercress, and stands of slender willows, alders, and cattails. These conditions proved ideal for harvesting foods and hunting game.

Barton, *Images of America El Monte*, 95

It was not until the early 1850s that permanent residents began settling in El Monte. Many immigrant pioneers and prospectors had made the trek to California in search of gold, but instead set their sights on the agricultural promise of El Monte's rich, fertile soil.

In its early years, El Monte's new agrarian economy proved successful. Small farms cultivated products such as wool, honey, fruit, castor oil, hops, cotton, and El Monte Bacon. By the early twentieth century, El Monte became known as the "Garden City of the Valley" and crops such as walnuts, fruit, berries, vegetables, and flowers were being shipped across the country.

Barton, *Images of America El Monte*, 31

By the turn of the twentieth century, agriculture remained at the core of the economy, but agricultural industry replaced field crops with fruit orchards, walnut groves, hay and vegetable fields, flowering plants and truck farms. During this time, the area also became home to the growing dairy industry. Additionally, flowering plants were planted in large tracts in the southern part of El Monte. During the blooming season these flowers, which were planted in precise geometric patterns, attracted visitors throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Eventually, this area of El Monte became known as Las Flores.

El Monte Historical Society

The 1920s and 1930s brought Gay's Lion Farm, where wild animals (including over 200 lions) were raised for use in the motion picture industry. Gay's also became a major tourist attraction. It was forced to close during World War II due to meat and gasoline rationing.

In the economic decline of the Great Depression, some farm owners were forced to sublease small tracts of land. There, Japanese tenants began growing berries, melons, and vegetables. Many of the larger groves and orchards were

"My Dad had chickens and eggs; we grew veggies because we had a lot of land. We had lots of Japanese people in El Monte; they were doing a lot of farming and grew vegetables. We gave them chickens and eggs and they gave us vegetables. They were great. We had a lot of good produce."
-Donna Crippen, Curator, El Monte Historical Museum

then subdivided into home sites, transforming El Monte from a primarily agricultural community into a bedroom community. World War II brought even more changes. Small aircraft parts factories were established to supply war efforts, causing the number of farms and dairies to decrease. With these changes, the population exploded from about 10,000 in 1940 to almost 120,000 today. As growth continued, El Monte's expanding industrial and commercial base replaced its agricultural community with an urban community of homes, schools, and parks.

El Monte Historical Society Museum photo

El Monte also has a history of strong cultural heritage. Mexican immigrants began settling in El Monte in the 1910s, taking jobs as farm workers. By the 1930s, the Mexican population had risen to 20 percent, while Japanese residents represented 5 percent of the population. Three immigrant camps, known as Hicks, Las Flores, and Medina Court, housed most Mexican immigrants where they worked as farm hands, while Japanese tenant farmers lived on the farms they subleased. These immigrant groups suffered discrimination from the majority population, but there was minimal racial tension between the two immigrant groups. But, as El Monte's population exploded, it also diversified. In 2000, about 18 percent of the population was of Asian decent, 75 percent Hispanic, and 7 percent Caucasian. Since then, El Monte has welcomed new immigrants from Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Indochina, and the Philippines, as well as Central and South America, only increasing its cultural diversity. [1]

Barton, *Images of America El Monte*, 31

Many people in El Monte see the value of their agricultural history and would like to highlight that aspect of their history. The community members believe it is important to pass the agricultural knowledge to the next generation before it gets lost. This initiative is a great opportunity for the City to highlight and bring back the benefits of the City's rich agricultural history and diversity.

(Picture above from Barton et al 2006, 97. Opposite page: Barton et al, 2006, 14)

El Monte Historical Society Museum photo

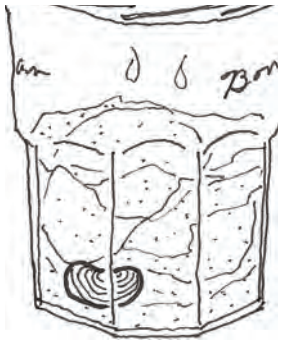
El Monte Historical Society Museum photo

1 Barton, et all; 2006. "Images of America El Monte" Charleston, Arcadia Publishing

SITE INVENTORY

ABOUT

The consultants worked with City staff to identify the most important places to visit and the people to talk to in the City of El Monte and the adjacent communities. The following locations and stakeholders were visited and interviewed:



Sites:

- Earthworks Farm and Community Garden, South El Monte
- La Madera Community Garden
- Dia de los Muertos Event at Valley Mall
- Rio Hondo River Bike Path
- Lashbrook Park
- Fletcher Park
- Pioneer Park
- El Monte Metro Station
- Rio Vista Park
- Gibson Mariposa Park
- Arceo Park
- Residential Edible Landscape
- San Gabriel River Bike Path
- El Monte Historical Museum
- Nutrition Services, El Monte City School District
- Driftwood Dairy

Schools:

- Durfee Elementary School
- Byron E. Thompson Elementary
- Rio Vista Elementary School
- Voorhis Elementary School
- Columbia Elementary School
- Park View Elementary School
- Maxson Elementary School
- La Primaria Elementary School
- Madrid Middle School
- Mountain View High School
- El Monte High School
- Arroyo High School

"People do not understand seasons, we do not get tomatoes in January, broccoli is a four-month investment" - Richard Untal, former farm manager at Earthworks Farm and Community Garden

Earthworks Farm and Community Garden

The farm is 7.9 acres total, divided into 2 areas: a 3-acre traditional community garden with plots that are divided and cared for by different people; a 4.9-acre educational farm that is managed by a farmer and focuses on high food production as well as education and job training. The Army Corps of Engineers owns the land leases it to the Los Angeles (LA) County Department of Parks and Recreation. The San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC) has a right of entry, which gives it a license to use every year as a farm, but it is not allowed to build any structures on the land. The water use is covered by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation. The farm has received funding from Edison Power Company, the American Community Garden Association, Coca Cola, CALFIRE, and United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

The farm serves many objectives, but the main one is job training. The healthy harvesters program is funded by Coca Cola. The farm also provides community and senior services for older Americans; a program that has worked really well as an unintentional, inter-generational mentor program. The farm offers various classes such as composting, beekeeping, etc. The Farm Manager teaches these classes and workshops as well as hosts volunteer days.

The farm has a farmers market on-site every Saturday, but it needs better visibility and advertisement. The farm partners with the Asian and Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance (APIOPA) to run a community supported agriculture (CSA) program. This program needs to be done in partnership because it requires a lot of staffing that the farm does not have. Danny Oaxaca, director of SGVCC, stressed the need for marketing and outreach in order to make the farm successful.

"My grandmother used to be able to always go to the garden and get what she needed to heal us. We have lost that knowledge and I would like to bring that back." - Carmen Macias, Coordinator of La Madera Community Garden

La Madera Community Garden

La Madera Community Garden is situated on a privately owned lot located at La Madera Avenue between Ramona Boulevard and Deana Street. Mosley Clarke owns the lot and agreed to allow the use of his land to create the community garden. Mr. Clarke gave the garden a 10-year lease for $1 dollar a year. The contract will terminate in 2015. The land was vacant for many years before it was turned into a garden. Most of the work to create the garden was done by the nonprofit organization Amigos de los Rios. Also the television show "DIY" built a fence and made a cob pizza oven and a bench. The City of El Monte also donated some benches and tables that are used for picnicking.

The garden has 34 plots which are all of equal size (15 feet x 30 feet). People pay $45 dollars a year for the use of a plot. As of October 2013, there are no open plots and there is a long waitlist. People are allowed to plant whatever they want except for trees and flowers. If the plot is not maintained for a few months the plot is leased to someone else on the waitlist. The garden gate is always locked, but the people with plots have access to the garden entrance code and can enter and exit as they choose. Plot holders are allowed to have picnics and parties with their families and friends at the garden.

The $45 payment for the plots is used to pay the garden's water bill. In the past, the membership annual fees were enough to cover the water payment, but it is no longer enough, and additional funds are required. The Los Angeles Garden Council is the nonprofit umbrella that oversees La Madera Community Garden and provides it with the additional funds that are needed to run the garden.

Dia de los Muertos at Valley Mall St

The street was closed off to cars and was filled with vendor booths and pedestrians. The vendor booths had traditional Dia de Muertos arts and crafts and seemed to be very popular. Ken Rausch, Executive Director of the Downtown El Monte Business Association and the main organizer of the event, explained the process to organize the event and the difficulties to get the permits. The event took place on the same date as the Children's Day Parade. In his opinion, having the event after the parade was a good idea, because people were already out and about. It was also a good day because it did not interfere with any of the other Dia de Muertos celebrations in the surrounding cities.

On the small park between Monterey Avenue and Granada Avenue people set up altars for their loved ones. Adults and children dressed up as "la calavera" and painted their faces as skulls. There was also a performance stage at the end of the street where children performed traditional Mexican dances in traditional outfits. The event was lively and well-attended.

Based on community input, Valley Mall was a popular and the most discussed location as a potential site for a future farmers market. Its central location, abundance of easy parking, and proximity to public transit are all reasons the community feels this location is ideal for a farmers market.

Emerald Necklace

Introduced in 2005 by nonprofit Amigos de los Rios. The vision of the Emerald Necklace is to connect 10 cities and nearly 500,000 residents along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River watersheds via a 17-mile loop of multi-functional greenways. The focus of the project in this highly urbanized areas is to transform underutilized lots and largely paved areas into green infrastructure. Composing the Emerald Necklace, several of the parks described here are park "jewels" conveniently located as pit stops along both river bike trails. Working with schools, local jurisdictions, and the community, Amigos de los Rios has thoughtfully designed and installed new parks and updated existing sites. These beautiful and attractive locations offer trails and places for people to gather, exercise, and enjoy the pleasant and mild year-round weather. The services provided by Amigos de los Rios are a wonderful asset to the community of El Monte, not only through construction and revitalization projects, but also by the continuing volunteer efforts and opportunities for the community to get outdoors and get involved.

Emerald Necklace Map from Amigos de los Rios website

Rio Hondo River Bike Path

This bike path is a flat, safe ride that mainly runs along the Rio Hondo. Proximity to public transit makes this an ideal bike path for commuters. Just outside El Monte city limits, the north end of the path starts at Peck Water Conservation Park. Winding under old growth trees, adjacent to soccer fields and picnic areas, the south end of the path runs through Whittier Narrows recreation area and connects with the Los Angeles River in the South Gate continuing all the way to downtown Long Beach and the Pacific Ocean. An excellent path for leisurely riding or for exercising, this bike path offers plenty of sunshine and views, along with adjacent parks to sit and relax.

The parks that intersect the bike path in El Monte are Rio Vista, Pioneer, Fletcher and Lashbrook Parks. These parks have the potential to provide better connectivity to the river by removing the fences. They could also be great potential sites for urban agriculture.

San Gabriel River Bike Path

The 28-mile bike path built along the San Gabriel River begins at the ranger station at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and ends at Seal Beach along the Pacific Ocean. Similar to the Rio Hondo bike path, this path is ideal for leisurely riding or exercising while enjoying pleasant views and rest stops at parks.

There are a few schools in El Monte located adjacent to the bike path that could be good potential sites for urban agriculture given the location and access to space. The schools are Durfee, Thompson, La Primaria, Madrid and Mountain View School.

Fletcher Park

This 2.9-acre park is located right off the Rio Hondo River, and is gated and fenced off so access is limited. It includes picnic tables, a covered picnic shelter, two basketball courts, playground equipment, and public restrooms. Gates to the park close early which is a problem for the community, especially those who want to play night games and take advantage of the lit basketball court. Aside from the gate hours, residents commented on the difficulty to access and get into the park.

Based on community input, this park was identified as a potential future site for a kitchen incubator, which is a feasible suggestion based on its large, green, empty lot and adjacent location next to the Rio Hondo, bike path and El Monte public transit station. If access to this park is improved, this park can become an excellent location for a future urban agriculture project.

Santa Fe Trail Historical Park and Osmond House

The Santa Fe Trail Historical Park is situated on one acre. The park was designed in 1989 by the State of California as Historical Landmark #975. The park depicts the historical significance of El Monte being the end of the Santa Fe Trail, whcih started in the State of Missouri. Currently, Pioneer Park is undergoing redevelopment; it is planned to become the new Gateway Development project. The historical significance of this park's buildings and its ties to El Monte's rich agricultural history could create a potential site for a small community garden as well as a site that could host classes and workshops.

El Monte Metro Station

This newly renovated bus terminal re-opened in the fall of 2012. Serving 22,000 people daily, it is the largest major regional transfer center west of Chicago. The El Monte Station connects the San Gabriel Valley to Downtown LA and the rest of the Metro bus and rail system via the Metro Silver Line. The station features two levels of bus bays, a park and ride lot and a secure bicycle parking lot. The map below shows El Monte's station in proximity to adjacent Pioneer Park and Fletcher Park. It provides easy local transit access for cyclists and commuters. The station can be accessed via Pioneer Park off the Rio Hondo bike path.

The proximity of both Pioneer and Fletcher Parks to this regional transportation hub makes it a great asset for an urban agriculture hub nearby in El Monte.

El Monte Metro Station Map from Metro.net 2014

Rio Vista Park

Rio Vista Park is 1.5 acre park with the following features: playgroud eqipment area, scattered picnic tables, and a recreation office with public restrooms. The entrance of the park features a map of the former barrio, called Hicks Camp, explaining the rich cultural history of this site. Adjacent to the Rio Hondo bike path and Rio Vista Elementary School, this site has a good opportunity for a future community garden connected to Rio Vista Elementary School edible schoolyard.

Gibson Mariposa Park

This new 4.5-acre park along the Emerald Necklace opened in March 2012. Through what started out as a letter writing campaign from local fifth graders, this park transformed a neglected area in their neighborhood into the park it is today. The space aims to exemplify sustainable design principles and outline a new model for municipal parks. Included elements and themes were based on input from residents and city officials as part of a community-based design approach. These elements include culturally relevant outdoor education areas, innovative play areas for all ages, and butterfly habitat. Other features include a splash pad water playground, basketball courts, picnic areas, natural habitat areas, jogging paths, and a small amphitheater classroom. The park was also designed for stormwater collection and distribution throughout the park and includes environmentally friendly native planting.

Arceo Park

At 3.4 acres, this park features two play areas with playground equipment, a picnic area, and community band shell. Its convenient central location make this park home to El Monte's larger community events and gatherings, including the Children's Day Parade which attracts thousands of people every year, and the summer concerts. The popularity and location of the park make it an attractive site for a future farmers market.

Based on the community input, Arceo Park was identified as a good site for many urban agriculture projects such as fruit tree planting, an urban agriculture hub, and kitchen incubator and a farmers market location. It is also a great asset to distribute information at the events that already take place there.

Lashbrook Park

Right off the Rio Hondo Bike Path, Lashbrook Park offers shade under trees on hot days and picnic areas with nearby water fountains. This small 1.8-acre park was recently renovated by Los Amigos de los Rios and is considered a park "jewel" in the Emerald Necklace. It features multi-purpose trails, native plants and trees, and other sustainable design elements. A vegetated bioswale winds through the site which retains and infiltrates all collected water on-site. Interpretive signage and elements help visitors identify different types of plants in the park.

Residential Edible Landscape

El Monte's ties to its rich agricultural history can still be seen throughout the city. Driving or biking around, it's hard not to notice the abundant citrus trees, especially in the winter when the trees are heavy with fruit. There are also many other fruit trees such as avocado, plum, guava, and pomegranate. The area's mild climate and good soil offers the opportunity to plant and grow food easily. Whether grown in the ground or in pots and containers or old trees brimming with ripe fruit, the community still takes advantage of their yards to grow food. People who attended the community workshops commented on how beneficial a trade system would be; neighbors trading lemons for squashes, avocados for oranges, plums for tomatoes, etc.

El Monte Historical Museum

Many photographs and exhibits showcase the vibrant agricultural history of El Monte at the Historical Museum. Photos of walnut trees, fields of flowers, pumpkins, roadside produce stands and edible yards highlight El Monte's agricultural history, which gave it the name "Garden City of the Valley." The museum has been open since 1958 and provides a fun and interesting view into El Monte's history. The parking lot of the museum was identified by the community as a potential site for a weekly farmers market.

"Anything you planted in the garden grew... Because of good local climate and water levels in El Monte."
- Donna Crippen, Curator, El Monte Historical Museum

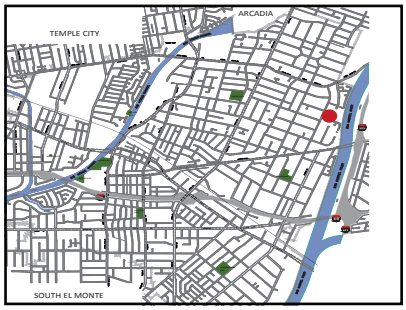
Nutrition Services, El Monte City School District

El Monte's K-8 City School District has a central kitchen facility which prepares three daily meals for the district's 15 campuses as well as two local private schools. Nutrition Services aims to promote healthy habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness through access to appealing and nutritious meals. Most school meals are cooked in their facility and also source foods that are less processed or prepared with only whole grains. The school district also provides a nutrition curriculum in the classroom to promote healthy living through activities and events.

"Ideally every school would have scratch cooking and salad bars, that would be awesome." - Lorena Casalda, Nutrition Specialist, El Monte City School District

Driftwood Dairy

Pat J. Dolan first began producing and distributing milk throughout Los Angeles in 1918, but it was not until 1928 that he moved his production to El Monte. In the late 1930s, a milk price war broke out, forcing him to sell the business in 1942. Dolan's son, Mike, then purchased his father's old El Monte dairy farm in 1946 which has operated as Driftwood Dairy ever since. Over the years, Driftwood has expanded its milk production and distribution to include schools, hospitals, independent markets, restaurants, bakeries, coffee houses, cafeterias, and creameries. Out of the over 66 dairies that used to be in operation in El Monte, Driftwood is the only remaining diary left. It supplies milk to Nutrition Services fo the El Monte City School District.

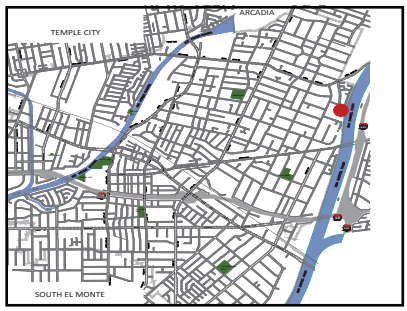


Durfee School

K-8 | 1,160 Students

This public school shares a large field with adjacent Thompson Elementary School. In 2008, Amigos de los Rios completed a planting project and site upgrade along the perimeter of the field that included 300 native trees, shaded walking trails with exercise equipment, an outdoor classroom and integrated bioswales to manage stormwater. This site is located adjacent to the San Gabriel River along the Emerald Necklace.

From the community input, this school was indicated as a good site for a future edible schoolyard. Perhaps the existing outdoor classroom could be expanded to include space for food prep and cooking.



Byron E. Thompson Elementary School

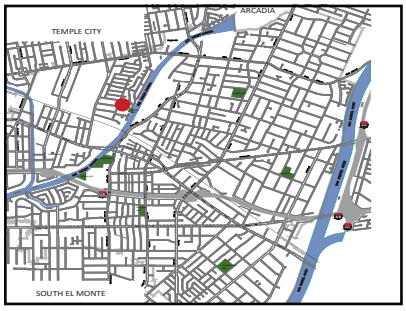
K-3 | 260 Students

This school is adjacent to Durfee Elementary School and shares the park that Amigos de los Rios renovated and updated. Students and teachers from both schools helped Amigos design and implement the project. The site has a large, open field.

Because of its location and the recent improvements from Amigos de los Rios, it makes sense that this site was also selected by the community as a potential site for an edible schoolyard.

Rio Vista Elementary School

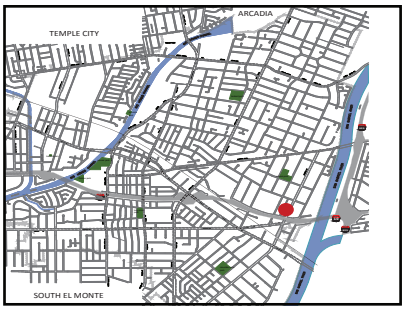
K-6 | 450 Students



Rio Vista Elementary School was built between 1954-1956 to provide schooling for the descendants of the Hicks Camp families. This public school has a larger Asian population than the surrounding primarily Hispanic populated schools. Located adjacent to the Rio Hondo, this school is also along the Emerald Necklace. There is a large, open field behind the back of the school, neighboring Rio Vista Park, a lush and well maintained park. Because of the school's prime location, access to a large open space and local community popularity Rio Vista Elementary makes a good site for an edible schoolyard.

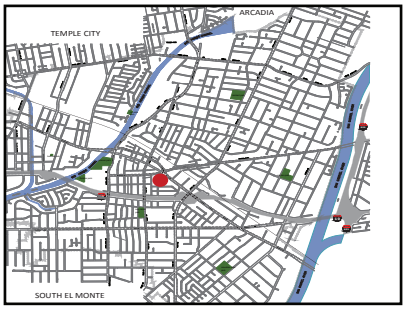
Voorhis Elementary

K-5 | 530 Students



This school has two large fields on the school site that could potentially serve as areas for future edible schoolyards.

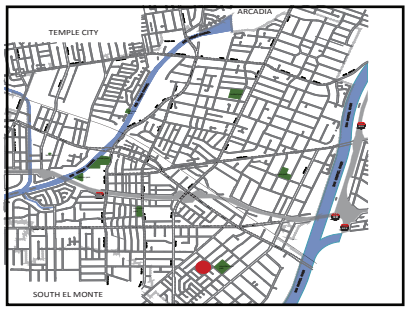
"There was one teacher who grew pumpkins every year and as they grew and came alive with color they had a great impact on the students. A sense of ownership, pride in growing a vegetable, awareness of how food comes to us and the care that it requires to grow." - Dr. Maribel Garcia, El Monte City School District Superintendent and Resident



Columbia Elementary School

K-8 | 850 Students

As part of a greenway project, Amigos de los Rios worked with the El Monte School District and Columbia Elementary School to install a joint use community and school park. Native plants and trees interlace a running track, sports field and nature trails on this school site. There are areas at this site suitable for future edible schoolyard space or perhaps as community garden space due to its joint use and central location.



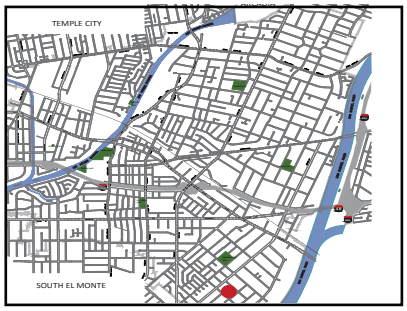
Park View Elementary School

K-6 | 880 Students

This school has a large, open, un-shaded field potentially available for a future component of urban agriculture. Located near Mountain View Park, this school is not part of the Emerald Necklace. Perhaps serving as a community garden, edible schoolyard or urban agriculture hub, this school's lot would tie in nicely with neighboring Mountain View Park's existing Health and Wellness program.

Maxson Elementary School

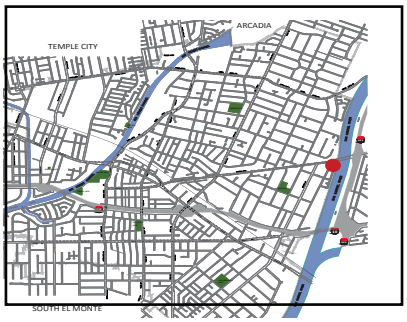
K-6 | 720 Students



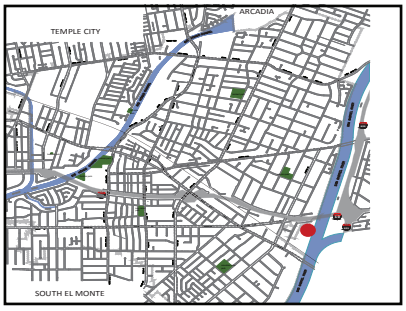
Mr. Maxson and his family were walnut growers who owned vast amounts of land in El Monte and donated property to build the school 65 years ago. Named after one of El Monte's early settlers, this school features a large, open field adjacent to the playground. Maxson's legacy of walnut farms could create the inspiration to build a kitchen incubator, right down the street from Park View Elementary School, where edibles could be grown and harvested for cooking at this site. Perhaps a walnut grove could be planted to honor the Maxon's legacy.

La Primaria Elementary School

K-5 | 350 Students



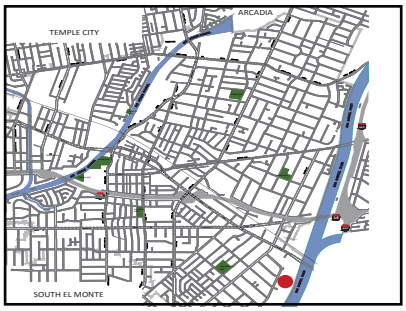
This public school is also adjacent to the San Gabriel River along the Emerald Necklace. Located very close to Durfee Elementary School, La Primaria has a large, open field in the rear and on the side of the school. La Primaria, in conjuction with Durfee, are sites of future projects with Amigos de los Rios, which could be nurtured into urban agriculture outlets. This area of El Monte could flourish into an urban agriculture hub complete with educating, growing, processing and distribution of food within the community.



Madrid Middle School

6-8 | 850 Students

This public school has another success story from Amigos de los Rios. For over 20 years, the school property was home to a .25-acre trash dump. Over time, 124 tons of trash and debris were removed and the soil was rehabilitated. The land was regraded to manage stormwater more effectively, and nature trails and exercise equipment were installed, along with native planting and landscaping. This site is located adjacent to the San Gabriel River and hosts regular Saturday stewardship volunteer events as a larger part of the Emerald Necklace stewardship efforts. Its location and community vibrancy could contribute to a community garden, edible schoolyard, animal husbandry classes or a demonstration farm.



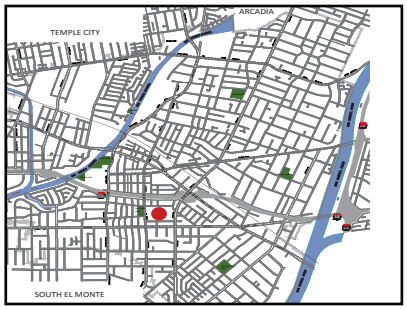
Mountain View High School

9-12 | 1,665 Students

Located next to the San Gabriel River, this school site has a lot of open space that could be used for urban agriculture. This site also features a joint use community and school park designed and installed with partnership from Amigos de los Rios. Its large student population and joint use development could become a great site for a community garden, urban farm or edible schoolyard, providing a CSA program and enrichment classes for soon-to-be graduates.

El Monte High School

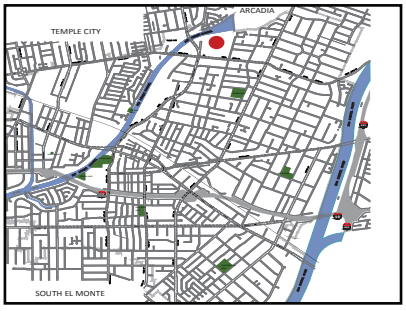
9-12 | 2,000 Students



Located downtown near Arceo Park, this school is one of the oldest high schools in the San Gabriel Valley. Not a part of the Emerald Necklace, this school features an outdoor campus with a lot of open space. Another opportunity with a large student population, this site could become an urban farm that grows and harvests produce for sale at a farmers market across the street at Arceo Park, creating education for students who are interested in working on or managing farms. El Monte High School already has a greenhouse, which could be used to grow seedlings for all the school gardens.

Arroyo High School

9-12 | 2,340 Students

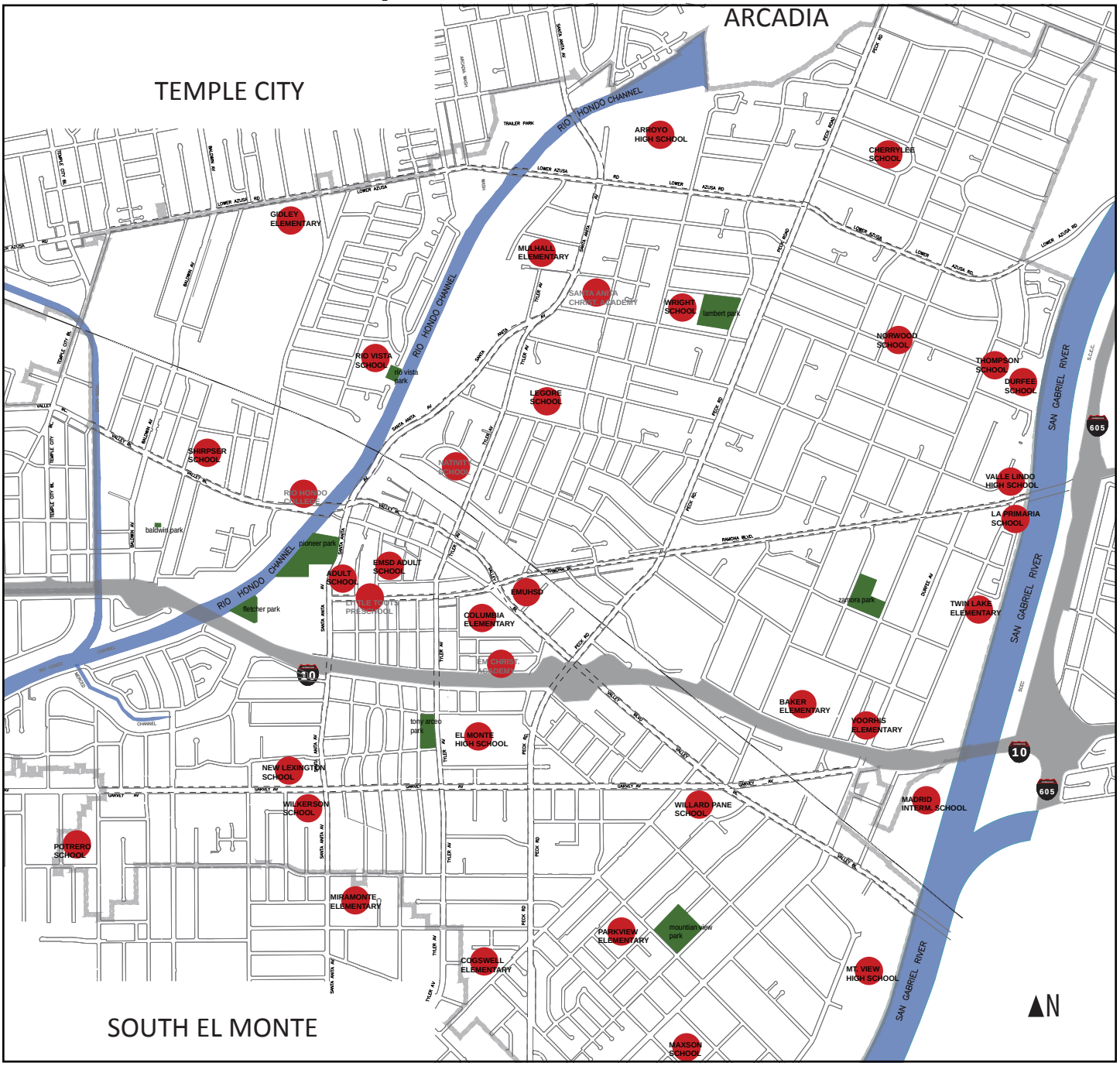


This large, 40-acre school has attendance from four different communities. Located near Peck Water Conservation Park and the Rio, it is in a great location for urban agriculture. This school could become the site of a large edible schoolyard or urban farm to grow food and further the development of El Monte Unified School District's desire to provide quality scratch cooking and healthier food options for the entire district. This school already has a small garden by the tennis courts , as well as have equipment and tools.

The Steering Committee members suggested the parking lot of Arroyo High School as a potential site for a farmers market because of its visibility, access and the space to do it without having to do a street closure.

Map of El Monte schools

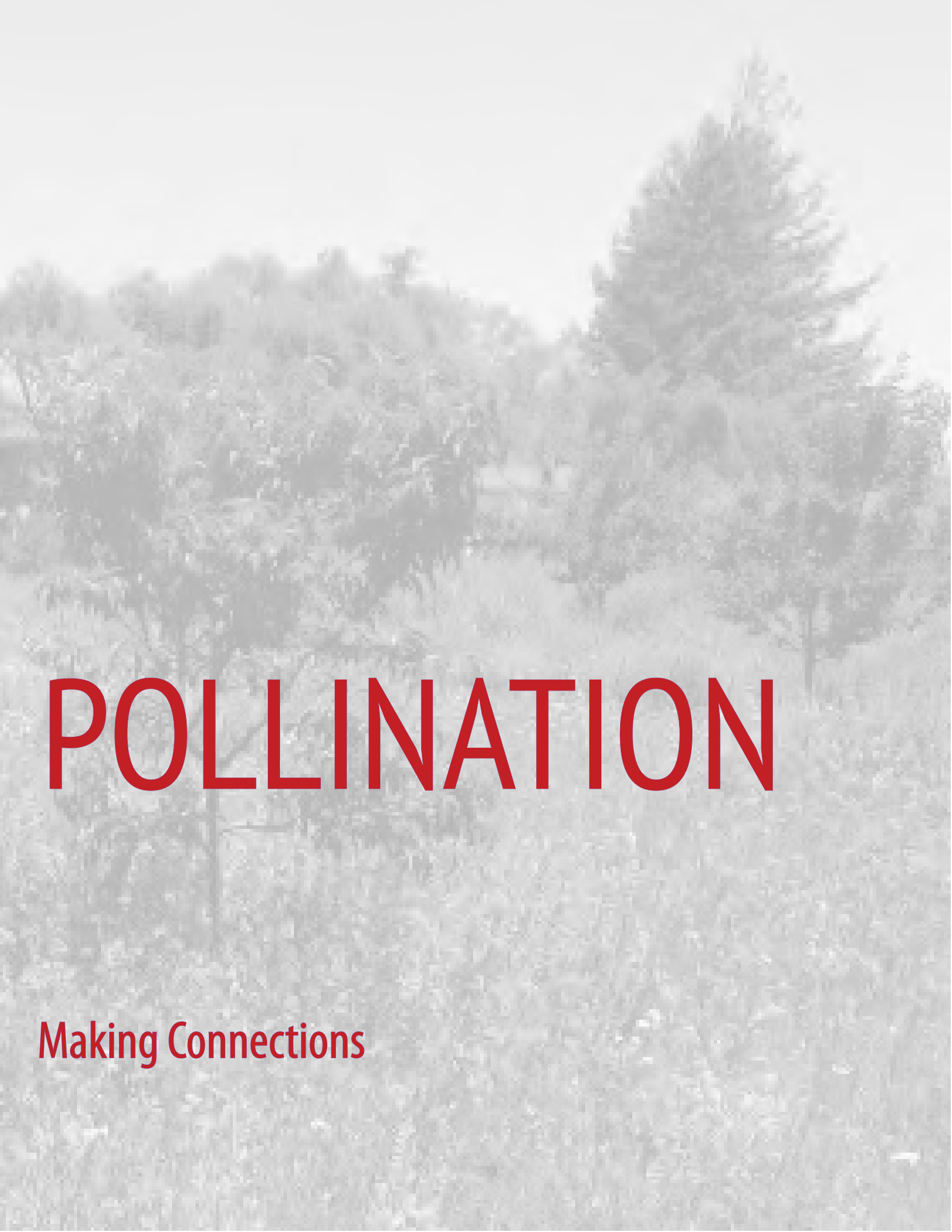
Below is a map of all El Monte public schools. Due to site requirements, not all schools were considered and evaluated in this report and not all schools that were evaluated were considered as good sites for model edible schoolyards and/or other urban agriculture projects. Based on community feedback, the list of potential school sites was further narrowed down to demonstrate the top choices selected within the community to start schoolyards as demonstration sites. Once a few demonstration schools have success stories it will be easier to replicate the model in all schools.



Map of Schools in El Monte

This page left blank intentionally


3



POLLINATION

Making Connections

3

POLLINATION

Making connections

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS

This chapter outlines a list that describes and analyzes the requirements, pros/cons, etc. of various agricultural models that are appropriate to El Monte and provides a list of precedent studies of successful models in the surrounding vicinity of El Monte in Los Angeles County. Only in the cases where a nearby example was not found, an example from outside of the Los Angeles region was given.

The models that were analyzed include: community gardens, community farms, demonstration farms, production farms, edible schoolyards, residential gardens, pollinator gardens, community orchards, urban agriculture hub, kitchen incubator, aquaponics, animal husbandry, farmers market, fruit/veggie stands, rooftop garden, and street fruit trees.

The models analyzed are presented for private use, nonprofit, and for-profit models. For agricultural uses where the final product is intended for sale, both wholesale and retail models were examined. Joint use and joint purpose models are presented including uses

POLLIN

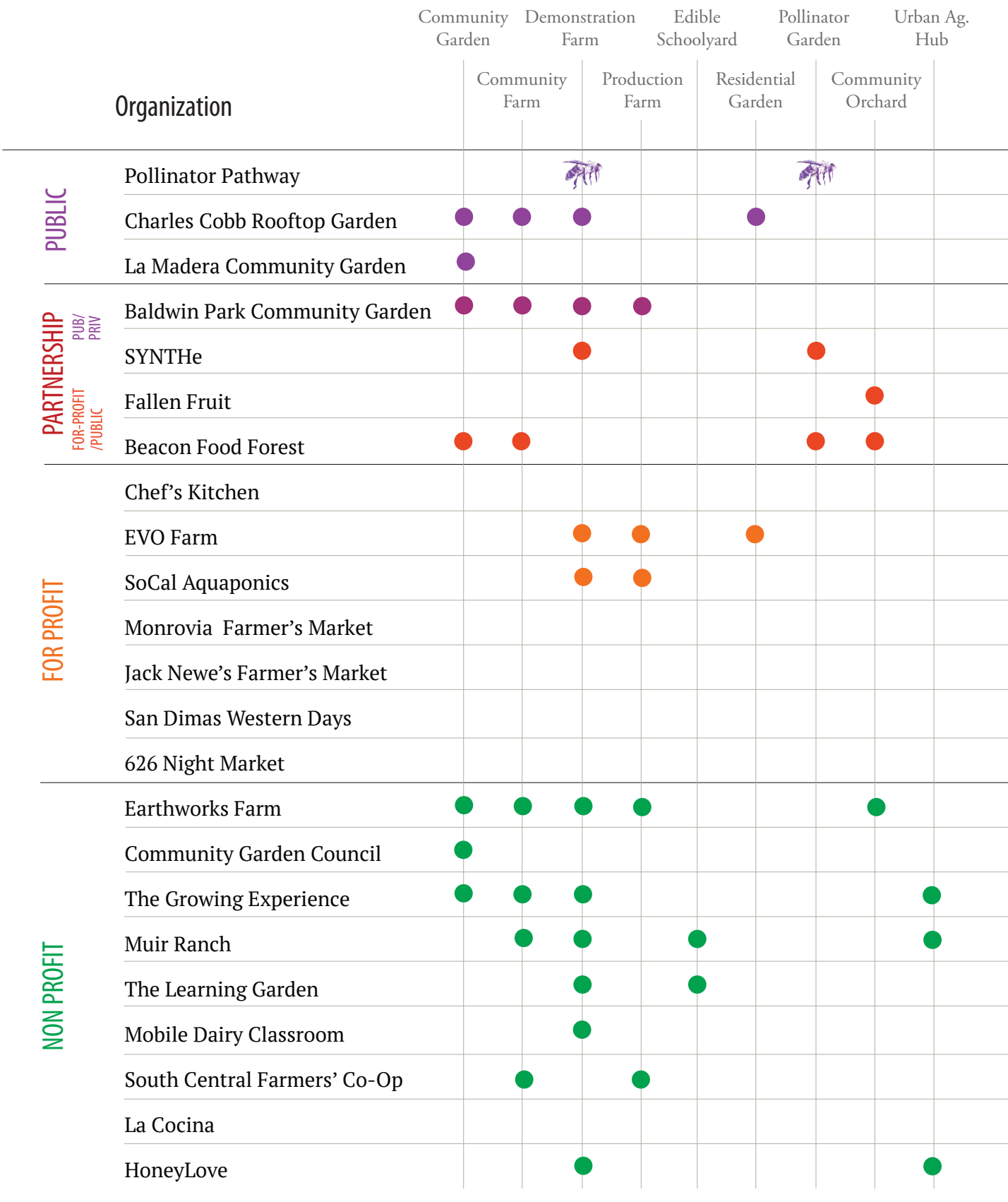
associated with parks, schools, public art, brown-field reclamation, stormwater retention, beautification, scientific research, hunger prevention, educational programs, etc. The models address various land ownership scenarios including full ownership, leasing, government/nonprofit partnerships, trusts, etc.

The models address not only the typology but also the programming elements that can be implemented to each one of the typologies. Programming elements include: education and workshops, research, commercial sales, kitchen for cooking, job training and community events.

Each urban agriculture model is presented with a list of possible funding sources, locations, issues and requirements. Following is a chart that summarizes the findings as well as longer descriptions for each one of the models.

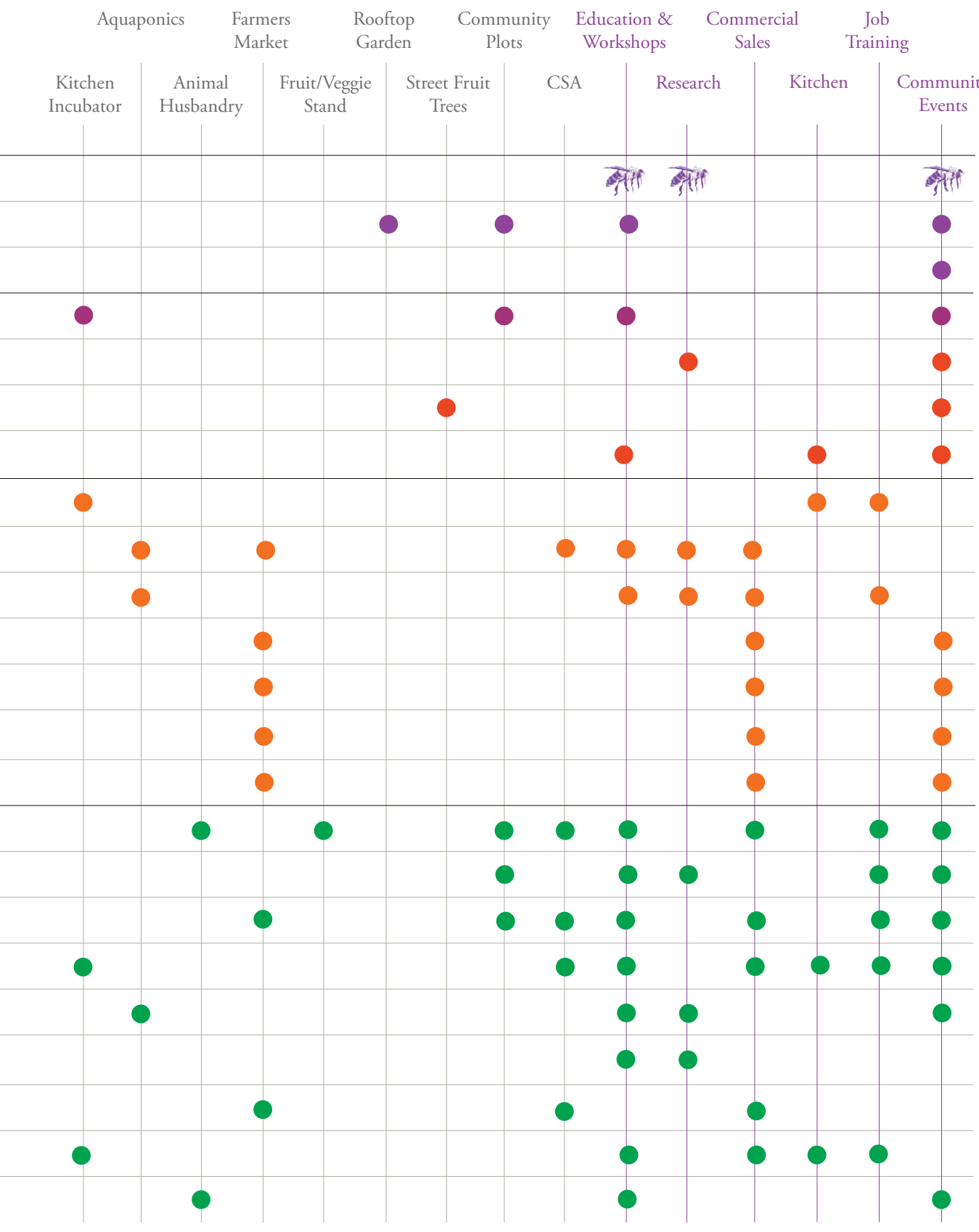
NA TION

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS



Typology

Programming



URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND

Community Garden

Managed by a designated group of local residents or volunteers, land is divided into plots for rent to families or individuals. An agreement of use is established and allows each plot holder to grow what they desire. Vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs are most popular and crop yields are not intended for sale but most often are for consumption, becoming a great way to supplement household food costs. In some cases, land is leased for a short period of time as a community garden until intended development commences.

FUNDING SOURCES	Memberships
	Grants & Donations
	Endowment
	City & Private Funding
LOCATIONS	Vacant Lots
	City Property
	Multifamily Dwellings
	Church
ISSUES	Ownership
	Administration
	Access
	Soil Testing
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Tools
	Storage Shed

La Madera (El Monte, CA)

Privately owned land with 34 large plots. The community garden has a cob oven and nice, shaded seating area with benches and picnic tables. Plot owners are allowed to host private events. The garden also hosts annual events to encourage community collaboration.

Community Garden Council (Los Angeles, CA)

501(c)3 nonprofit organization overseeing management of 27 community gardens in Los Angeles. Their website/blog includes a map of the 70+ community garden locations in Los Angeles County. It posts upcoming events and hosts an annual gathering bringing together over 200 gardeners and urban farmers. This annual event provides hands-on workshops, discussion panels, keynote speakers and networking. "If your community wants to build a community garden, the LA Community Garden Council will help you do it yourself."–(CGC)

Baldwin Park Community Garden (Baldwin Park, CA)

Through land and financial support from Kaiser Permanente, this community garden is situated in Baldwin Park. Both school plots and community plots are available at this garden. The program encourages business, officials and community leaders to serve as volunteer chefs, who create healthy recipes for students using food from the garden. The garden also hosts community events for seniors.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Community Farm

Managed by a nonprofit organization or group of member volunteers, land is shared in a communal growing space as opposed to individual plots. The mission of a community farm is to provide for the needs and desires of the local community, which is often reflected in what is grown. Open to the participation and enjoyment of the community, the farm is run by experienced farmers who oversee the work on the farm and community programming such as providing tours, educational classes, workshops and volunteer opportunities. Community farms can be financially supported by the sales of produce through a weekly market stand or CSA program.

FUNDING SOURCES	CSA/Memberships
	Produce Sales & Workshops
	Public Funding
	Fundraising & Grants
LOCATIONS	City Property
	Right of Way
ISSUES	Land Tenure
	Administration
	Access
	Soil Testing
	Water
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Tools
	Storage Shed
	Selling Space
	Proximity to Market/Transport

Earth Works Farm and Community Garden (South El Monte, CA)

4.9 acres run by San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps. SGVCC provides work training and education to local, at-risk youth through the farm. The farm is visited annually by schools, organizations and volunteer groups and has goals of incorporating a more successful weekly farm stand from which to sell their produce. There are also 70 plots for a community garden on the front 3 acres of the farm.

The Growing Experience (Long Beach, CA)

Operated by the Housing Authority of the County of LA, this seven-acre urban farm is located on the once-neglected Carmelitos Housing Development. Now a community garden and gathering space, the grounds provide educational events, workshops, and tours, as well as job training and skills development for low-income residents in the landscape and green industries. The Growing Experience also offers a year-round CSA box as well as a community garden with 60 plots for local residents.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Edible Schoolyard

Edible schoolyards focus on education, stewardship and nutrition. Garden spaces vary and can include schoolyards, rooftops, vertical walls, nearby community gardens, greenhouses and indoor facilities. The basis of school gardens teaches students how to plant and tend organic, sustainable and edible gardens. Classes can expand to include the full farm to table concept—from growing the food to cooking and eating what is harvested. School gardens are growing across the country and some programming includes on-site farmers markets, farm business practice and full integration of studies. Partnerships can be made between community gardens and schools to foster broader programming in the community.

FUNDING SOURCES	Produce Sales
	Fundraising & Grants
	Public Funding
LOCATIONS	Elementary Schools
	Middle Schools
	High Schools
	Kindergartens
ISSUES	Administration
	Soil Testing
	Maintenance
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Tools
	Storage Shed

Muir Ranch at John Muir High School (Pasadena, CA)

Two-acre urban farm located on the school's campus which grows flowers and edibles used in the cafeteria lunches and sold weekly through a CSA box. This nonprofit program also hosts community events including seed and starter giveaways plus information encouraging gardens in other schools.

The Learning Garden (Venice, CA)

Nonprofit organization that runs an outdoor classroom to bring back the knowledge of nature's life cycle through urban farming to high school students. Teaching different ways of gardening from raised beds to an aquaponics system, The Learning Garden also has an on-site seed library and will host community events to invite local residents to come check out the farm.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Demonstration Farm

Most often owned by educational institutions or government ministries, demonstration gardens provide useful research, educational and promotional tools to teach effective organic and natural methods of cultivation and self sufficiency. There are no direct economic gains. Demonstration farms teach practical techniques and promote urban farming through hands-on workshops and classes.

FUNDING SOURCES	Grants	
	Public Funds	
	Private Funds	
LOCATIONS	Vacant Lots	Churches
	City Property	Restaurants
	Multifamily Dwellings	Hospitals
ISSUES	Administration	Community Outreach
	Soil Testing	Marketing
	Access	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water	Selling Space
	Tools	Proximity to Market
	Storage Shed	Proximity to Transport

Mobile Dairy Classroom (Los Angeles, CA)

A 30-foot mobile classroom featuring a fully operational milking parlor and a live cow. The classroom teaches K-6 students about the anatomy of a cow, how milk goes from a cow to their refrigerator, and the agriculture technology used; it also gives them the chance to meet a cow.

Urban Adamah (Berkeley, CA)

An educational farm and community center in which integrates the practices of sustainable agriculture, mindfulness, social action, and Jewish tradition. They host youth programs and camps, holiday celebrations, workshops and public programs to teach people about growing food. Food grown at the farm is donated to the local community through food banks and a weekly Free Farm Stand.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Production Farm

Located on rooftops, in greenhouses or on privately owned or leased lots, production farms aim to maximize performance in order to achieve profitability. Their main goal is to produce goods for sale directly to consumers through year-round, regular use. These farms still share common goals of healthy eating and following sustainable business practices such as accessibility to local and organic food. Production farm items can range from a CSA box to specialty items such as goat cheese, eggs, or honey.

FUNDING SOURCES	Federal & Private Funding
	Sales
LOCATIONS	Vacant Lots
	City Property
	County Property
	City Park
ISSUES	Access
	Soil Testing
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Tools
	Storage Shed
	Selling Space
	Proximity to Market
	Proximity to Transport

South Central Farmers Cooperative (Bakersfield, CA)

This nonprofit co-op runs a farm serving various farmers markets around Los Angeles and a CSA box serving Los Angeles and Kern counties. The farm's original location was 14 acres, one of the country's largest urban farms, in south central Los Angeles. Shut down in 2006, the co-op now owns farm land in Buttonwillow and Bakersfield, but is working to raise funds to move back to LA where it feel it can better connect and serve the local community.

Fairview Gardens Farm (Goleta, CA)

This nonprofit educational farm provides foods as well as educatioal and cultural events to its surrounding commuinty. The farm demonstrates the economic viability of small farm operations, and the potential of small, regional farms to feed their communities.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Residential Garden

Residential urban gardening allows homeowners and renters with yard space to grow their own food. Front, back and side yards can be converted into productive gardening space used for growing food as opposed to decorative planting or lawns. In higher density areas such as cities, dwellers can turn to container gardening to grow their own food on balconies, roofs, front porches and window boxes.

FUNDING SOURCES	Private Funds
	City Incentives
LOCATIONS	Single Family Dwellings
	Commercial Buildings
	Multifamily Dwellings
	Sidewalks
ISSUES	Soil Testing
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Tools

2114/2116 Central Ave. (El Monte, CA)

Local El Monte resident Jose Ceja, who rents at 2114 and 2116 Central Avenue, lives on a property with a variety of mature fruit trees. Avocados, guavas, zapotes, pomegranates and a variety of citrus grow abundantly in his yard, reaching over the fence hanging above the sidewalk.

Residential Neighborhood (El Monte, CA)

During our site visits we noticed many El Monte residential yards with citrus trees. The weather in El Monte is condusive to the production of citrus and many other fruits and vegetables.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Pollinator Garden

Creating a garden for native birds, bees and pollinator insects. These types of gardens involve choosing the right types of plants with a diversity of nectar and pollen sources that are most beneficial to the native pollinator population. Pollinator gardens are designed to benefit and proliferate biodiversity in growing urban landscapes.

FUNDING SOURCES	Private & City Funding
	Grants
LOCATIONS	Vacant Lots
	Sidewalks
	Medians
	Right of Ways
	Schools
	Restaurants
	Hospitals
	Churches
	Roofs
ISSUES	Maintenance
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water

Pollinator Pathway (Seattle, WA)

Carefully researched and considered plants make up The Pollinator Pathway on Seattle's Columbia Street. Built as a living classroom, the Pathway is a mile long by 12 foot wide corridor of pollinator-friendly gardens being built in planting strips on the sidewalk.

West Seattle Bee Garden (Seattle, WA)

The West Seattle Bee and Pollination Garden is home to demonstration beehives and is filled with beautiful flowers and trees, illustrating the symbiotic relationship of bees and plants. The garden teaches visitors, residents and children about bees and pollination.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Community Orchard

A collection of fruit and nut trees planted in a public space or schoolyard and cared for by volunteers. Community orchards are not established as production farms and therefore do not focus on solely financial gains. However, fruit trees do produce large amounts of fruit at specific times and fruits can be sold at local farmers markets to supplement production costs. Community orchards are great spaces for public events such as pickings and tastings, annual harvest festivals, picnics, and classes; also creates habitat for pollinators.

FUNDING SOURCES	Produce Sales & Workshops
	City Funding
	Grants & Donations
LOCATIONS	Sidewalks
	Medians
	Right-of-Ways
	Schools
ISSUES	Maintenance
	Fruit Collection
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water

Fallen Fruit (Los Angeles, CA)

A team of artists started out by mapping and publishing existing locations of fruit trees in public spaces for foraging. They since have curated art shows and projects centered on fruit, public versus private space and forging community relationships. A great community project includes "public fruit jams" which brings people together to can jams. The team recently planted California's first public fruit park in Del Aire, near Hawthorne, CA. They have submitted a proposal for a large orange grove to be planted in CA Historic State Park in downtown Los Angeles, which would become the country's largest community orchard.

Beacon Food Forest (Seattle, WA)

A seven-acre permaculture forest of public food that is under construction in Seattle. A forest of food, by the people, for the people. The site is owned by the Seattle Public Utilities Department. It is not fenced and it is open to the public 24 hours a day, every day to go harvest food. The volunteer group who manages the site focuses on teaching the ethics of harvesting so it is done at the right time when the fruit is ripe, in the right way and in a sharing way. "Take only what you need" is its motto.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Urban Agriculture & Food Hub

A farm produce, resource, and materials library for urban farmers and gardeners. Available to the public, these centers provide a place for farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers. They also help people begin their own urban agriculture plots. They lend gardening tools for free and give out organic seeds. Some centers also lend books and DIY pamphlets on sustainable living. These lending libraries function to help community members save money while still maintaining their gardens.

FUNDING SOURCES	Fundraising & Grants
	Membership
	Produce Sales & Workshops
	Public Funding
LOCATIONS	Community Center
	City Buildings
	Vacant Lots
ISSUES	Zoning
	Administration
REQUIREMENTS	Sanitary Conditions (production)
	Transportation Access
	Water
	Electricity
	Sewage Hook-Ups
	Waste Disposal
	Tools
	Tool Shed

BASIL (Berkeley, CA)

The Bay Area Seed Interchange Library (BASIL) is a library of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds freely available to the public. Patrons check out seeds, grow them, let some plants go to seed, then return those seeds to the library to share with other gardeners. It is located at the Berkeley Ecology Center.

Old Grove Farm Share (San Bernardino, CA)

Old Grove Farm Share is a collective of 28 local farmers who sell their food directly from this central location to members of surrounding communities. They provide a central location and the facilities required to distribute food on a large scale. They have also combined forces to provide food to a farm-to-school program that feeds 1.5 million students in the district area through Inland Orange Conservancy.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Kitchen Incubator

Kitchen incubators are production facilities that offer specialty food processors, farmers, and caterers a relatively inexpensive place to access industrial kitchen space and offer food processing space and classes. Due to high costs and stringent FDA regulations, kitchen incubators offer an affordable space giving people the time, equipment, guidance and assistance necessary to prepare food. Members pay rental costs for the time they use the kitchen space. Aside from the facility, many kitchen incubators offer business development classes to budding entrepreneurs who are starting out their own business.

FUNDING SOURCES	Memberships	Private Funding
	Vendor Fees	Fundraising & Grants
	Workshops	
LOCATIONS	Community Center	Vacant Schools
	City Buildings	
	Vacant Buildings	
ISSUES	Administration	Sanitation
	Zoning	
REQUIREMENTS	Sanitary Conditions	Waste Disposal
	Transportation Access	Kitchen Equipment
	Water	
	Electricity	
	Sewage Hook-Ups	

La Cocina (San Francisco, CA)

A women-owned business with the mission to cultivate low-income food entrepreneurs as they formalize and grow their businesses by providing affordable commercial kitchen space, industry-specific technical assistance and access to market opportunities. The business focuses primarily on women from communities of color and immigrant communities. Their vision is "that entrepreneurs gain financial security by doing what they love to do, creating an innovative, vibrant and inclusive economic landscape."

Phat Beets Produce (Oakland, CA)

The Phat Beets kitchen incubator was launched to help Oakland residents and farmers with limited economic means access the tools they need to start and promote their own healthy food related businesses. Phat Beets provides a kitchen and training, as well as curriculum in business, marketin and permit processing education. The organization also offers support for sourcing organic and natural ingredients to strengthen the marketability of their products and offer affordable, healthy foods to the community.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Aquaponics

A system that combines the raising of fish and cultivation of plants in a mutually beneficial system. The waste produced by fish supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically. As the plants absorb the nutrients, the water becomes purified which helps to maintain a clean, closed loop system. Most often aquaponic systems are operated in a greenhouse or climate-controlled building.

FUNDING SOURCES	CSA/Memberships
	Produce Sales & Workshops
	Private Funding
	Federal Funding
LOCATIONS	Buildings
	City Buildings
	Greenhouses
ISSUES	Zoning
	Maintenance
	Noise
	Smell
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Electricity
	Sewage Hook-Ups
	Waste Disposal
	Tank for Fish
	Tools

EVO Farm (Los Angeles, CA)

EVO farms have created innovative prototype aquaponics system that produces a high yield of produce and fits in a small space. Working with the community, this organization is taking their system to schools, installing and educating students on how to maintain them. It hosts events and teaches classes open to the public to educate them on the benefit of aquaponics systems. EVO has started selling produce at local farmers markets with the goal of starting a CSA program.

Salvation Army (Anaheim, CA)

Salvation Army's new aquaponics farm – a recirculating system with fish tanks that provide nutrients for the plants and vegetable beds that clean the water for the fishes – will breed about 6,000 to 7,000 tilapia a year and produce thousands of pounds of vegetables in roughly 1,000 feet of grow space.

So Cal Aquaponics (East Los Angeles, CA)

A commercial production facility growing organic fish and produce, specializing in growing tilapia, shrimp and 30 different types of vegetables including more delicate crops such as tomatoes. Currently, the organization is constructing research labs to work with universities in improving its system with the mission to become a worldwide industry leader. The organization not only plans to provide employment but also support the community through youth education classes and local activities. Eventually, So Cal Aquaponics will sell its products in the local marketplace.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Animal Husbandry

Raising, management and care of animals for food or to obtain animal products. Pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens and bees are all examples of types of animals that are included in animal husbandry. For instance, sheep can be used to obtain wool, bees for honey, goats for milk, and chickens for their eggs.

FUNDING SOURCES	CSA/Memberships
	Farmers Market
	Workshops
	Public & Private Funding
LOCATIONS	Rooftop Bee Hives
	Backyard Chicken Coops
	Vacant Lots
ISSUES	Maintenance
	Noise
	Smell
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Place to Store Feed
	Shelter for Animals
	Shed
	Tools

HoneyLove (Los Angeles, CA)

Nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the honeybees through inspiring the community and educating new urban beekeepers. Through different levels of annual membership, members can enjoy many benefits. The organization provides workshops, access to a lending library to obtain books about beekeeping, a monthly newsletter and a discount to their annual "yellow tie" event. Beekeeping is not yet legal in all LA counties so HoneyLove partnered with a local farm to host monthly workshops and is helping to spread the message on legalizing urban beekeeping for across all of Los Angeles.

City Grazing (San Francisco, CA)

As a goat landscape business, City Grazing rents goats to clear both public and private land in order to eradicate weeds or invasive species and aid in fire prevention. Goat grazing is a natural and ecologically sound practice that eliminates the need for toxic herbicides, chemicals, and gas-powered lawn mowers. Additionally, goats can help restore soil fertility by providing organic fertilizer. The organization also does educational vists to teach kids and communities about what they do.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Farmers Markets

A food market which sells produce, eggs, cheese, plants, meat and baked goods directly to consumers. A variety of vendors will set up temporary stands in a public place to sell their products. There are 88 farmers markets in the Los Angeles area, one of the largest in the country. Consumers benefit from a broad, healthy, affordably priced selection of food that is often near their home or work. In addition to vendor stalls, farmers markets will often bring in food vendors or food trucks to sell prepared food.

FUNDING SOURCES	Vendors
	City Funding
LOCATIONS	Church Parking Lots
	School Parking Lots
	City Parks
	Vacant Lots
ISSUES	Maintenance
	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Parking
	Transportation Access
	Market Stalls
	Water
	Toilet Facilities
	Sanitary Hand-Wash Facilities
	Permits

Monrovia Farmers Market (Monrovia, CA)

Every Friday, from 5 pm-9 pm, this street fair and farmers market in downtown Monrovia extends four blocks and brings people from all over the city and neighboring cities. Food vendors, live music, a certified farmers market and a kids play area highlight this market as a fun Friday night activity.

San Dimas 'Western Days' (San Dimas, CA)

An annual weekend event in San Dimas that includes a parade, events, games, food, music and highlighted rodeo. Over 100 craft booths, businesses, non profits and food vendors participate in this family-friendly event.

626 Night Market (Arcadia, CA)

Inspired by the night markets of Asia, its events are held monthly during the summer each year. Each month's two-day night market draws 40,000 to 55,000 attendees with 150-180 vendors and is one the area's largest Asian public markets. Hosted at the Santa Anita Park, the event draws people from all over the city and surrounding vicinities.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Vegetable + Fruit Stands

Small roadside stands that sell fresh, seasonal, local fruits and vegetables. Usually associated with a nearby farm, these stands are a great way for farms to make extra money while giving the public more affordable access to their produce. Typically these stands are covered to keep produce protected from sun and can be open from once a week to daily.

FUNDING SOURCES	Vendors
LOCATIONS	Church Parking Lots
	School Parking Lots
	City Parks
	Vacant Lots
	Roadsides
ISSUES	Zoning
REQUIREMENTS	Parking
	Transportation Access
	Water
	Toilet Facilities
	Sanitary Hand-Wash Facilities

Hayashi Vegetable Stand (Oceano, CA)

Semi-permanent roadside farm stand selling vegetables, fruit, canned foods, and meats.

Heavenly Acres Farm Stand (La Habra Heights, CA)

Family-owned organic farm that produces goat milk, food and health products, fresh farm eggs, and produce. They have a farm stand on-site where people can buy items based on an honor system for payment.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Rooftop Garden

The growing of food, flowers or animal husbandry (such as beekeeping) on top of a building. Rooftops make ideal locations for gardens because they receive ample sunlight, do not take up room in small yard spaces and can work to help regulate a building's temperature. These gardens can be planted in containers or directly on the roof through an integrated roofing system design.

FUNDING SOURCES	Private Funds
LOCATIONS	Church Roofs
	School Roofs
	Private Buildings
	City Building Roofs
ISSUES	Building Structural Capacity
REQUIREMENTS	Water
	Tools
	Tool Shed
	Soil
	Raised Planters

Charles Cobb Rooftop Garden (Skid Row, Los Angeles, CA)

A communal rooftop garden with shared space and individual plots for residents. Funding was provided by the neighborhood council and Skid Row Housing. The garden includes mainly edibles but also flowers and has helped to leave a positive mark on an impoverished part of Los Angeles.

SYNTHe (Los Angeles, CA)

Rooftop garden that grows vegetables for the upscale restaurant downstairs. Designed in collaboration with LA Community Garden Council, this prototype is a terraced structure made of galvanized metal panels and grows 95 percent edible foods.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Street Fruit Trees

As opposed to planting trees for aesthetic purposes, the idea is to plant fruit-bearing trees that can easily supply free food for the community. Often times public policy does not allow fruit trees in public spaces; however, there are areas that could be a natural place for planting fruit trees.

FUNDING SOURCES	Grants
	City & Private Funding
	Donations
LOCATIONS	Sidewalks
	Medians
	Right-of-Ways
	Schools
ISSUES	Maintenance
	Fruit Collection
REQUIREMENTS	Water

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (Pittsburg, PA)

This nonprofit's mission is to plant edible fruit trees and plants that have a net positive impact on the environment as well as its inhabitants. They hope to plant 18 billion fruit trees globally (three for every living person) and ensure that they meet organic standards.

Desert Harvesters (Tucson, AZ)

This nonprofit organization promotes local food production by encouraging communites to plant native, multi-functional, food- and medicine-producing trees. They plant Mesquite, Palo Verde, Acacia, Hackberry, Ironwood and Desert Willow trees in planting areas along sidewalks and traffic circles. Many events are also held to encourage public participation and to educate local residents on how to harvest and process their produce.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL MODELS DESCRIPTIONS AND PRECEDENTS

Farm-to-School Programs

Farm-to-school is a way to bring locally produced food to schools or preschools while also supporting urban agriculture, public health and education programs. They can complement school gardens, field trips and lessons in healthy eating and cooking. Farm to school is a way to address childhood health problems and to support regional and local farms and farmers.

FUNDING SOURCES	Fundraising & Grants
	Public & Private Funding
	Produce Sales
LOCATIONS	Schoolyards
ISSUES	Maintenance
REQUIREMENTS	Point Person
	Water
	Tools
	Shed

Inland Orange Conservancy (San Bernardino, CA)

Farm-to-school oranges was started and is run by a family farm that helps to collect regional oranges and produce to provide surrounding school districts with fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Inner City Kitchen (Los Angeles, CA)

This nonprofit is an after-school cooking and nutritional education program that serves school districts across Los Angeles County. Its goal is to teach kids what food does to your every day living physically and mentally, to learn skills for healthy living, and to learn about themselves through food.

FUNDING URBAN AGRICULTURE

		Fundraising			Grants
		Donations	Endowment	Corporate	
COMMUNITY SCALE	**Supply**				
	Community Farm	●	●	●	●
	Demonstration Farm	●			●
	Community Orchard	●			●
	Edible Schoolyard	●	●	●	●
	Production Farm				
	Aquaponics Farm	●			
INDIVIDUAL SCALE	Residential Garden				
	Community Garden	●	●		●
	Pollinator Garden	●		●	●
	Animal Husbandry	●			●
	Street Fruit Trees	●			●
	Rooftop Garden	●			
COMMUNITY SCALE	**Distribution**				
	Urban Agriculture & Food Hub	●		●	●
	Farmers Market	●		●	●
	Kitchen Incubator	●		●	●
	Farm-to-School Programs	●		●	●
INDIVIDUAL SCALE	Vegetable Stands				

Tax Breaks	Public Funds			Sales					Private
	City	State	Federal	CSA	Memberships	Produce	Workshops	Vendor Fees	
●	●	●		●	●	●	●		
●	●	●	●						
●				●	●	●	●		
●	●	●	●			●			
●			●	●	●	●	●		●
●			●	●	●	●	●		●
●									●
●	●				●				●
	●								●
●	●	●		●		●	●		
	●	●							●
●						●			●
	●	●			●	●	●		●
					●	●	●	●	●
					●	●	●	●	●
	●	●	●			●			●
						●		●	

URBAN AGRICULTURE LOCATIONS

		Private Property						
		Vacant Lots	Parking Lots	Commercial	Churches	Homes	Restaurants	Hospitals
COMMUNITY SCALE	**Supply**							
	Community Farm	●						
	Demonstration Farm	●	●	●	●		●	●
	Community Orchard	●		●				●
	Edible Schoolyard							
	Production Farm	●		●				
	Aquaponics Farm	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
INDIVIDUAL SCALE	Residential Garden					●		
	Community Garden	●	●	●	●			●
	Pollinator Garden	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Animal Husbandry	●			●	●		
	Street Fruit Trees		●					
	Rooftop Garden			●	●	●	●	●
COMMUNITY SCALE	**Distribution**							
	Urban Ag & Food Hub			●	●			
	Farmers Market	●	●	●	●			
	Kitchen Incubator			●	●			
	Farm-to-School Programs							
INDIVIDUAL SCALE	Vegetable Stands	●	●	●	●			

School Districts	Public Property							
Schoolyards + Buildings	City Property	State Property	County Property	Medians	Sidewalks	Rooftops	Community Centers	Parks
●	●	●	●	●				
	●	●	●					
	●	●	●	●			●	●
●								
						●		
●	●	●	●			●	●	
	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●			●	●	●
●	●	●	●	●	●			●
						●		
●	●	●	●				●	
●	●	●	●				●	●
●	●	●	●				●	
●								
	●	●	●		●		●	●

REQUIREMENTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

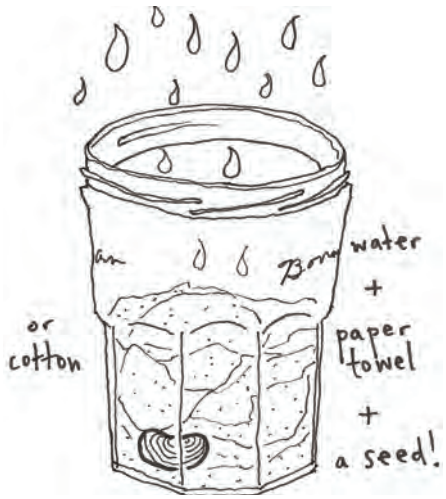
		Infrastructure							
		Shed / Shelter	WC	Wash Station	Selling Space	Compost	Animal Shelter	Fence	Planting Area
COMMUNITY SCALE	**Supply**								
	Community Farm	●	●	●		●		●	●
	Demonstration Farm	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
	Community Orchard								●
	Edible Schoolyard	●	●	●		●		●	●
	Production Farm	●	●	●		●		●	●
	Aquaponics Farm	●		●		●	●	●	●
INDIVIDUAL SCALE	Residential Garden								●
	Community Garden	●		●		●		●	●
	Pollinator Garden								●
	Animal Husbandry	●		●		●	●	●	
	Street Fruit Trees								●
	Rooftop Garden	●		●		●			●
COMMUNITY SCALE	**Distribution**								
	Urban Ag & Food Hub	●	●	●	●				
	Farmers Market		●	●	●				
	Kitchen Incubator		●	●	●				
	Farm-to-School Programs		●	●	●				
INDIVIDUAL SCALE	Vegetable Stands	●		●	●				

	Utilities / Elements							Other			
	Outdoor Furniture	Outdoor Classroom	Sun	Water	Electricity	Sewage Hook-up	Waste Disposal	Transport. Access	Sanitary Conditions	Tools	Office
	●		●	●		●	●	●		●	●
	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●
			●	●							
	●	●	●	●						●	●
	●		●	●			●	●		●	●
			●	●	●		●	●		●	
			●	●						●	
	●		●	●				●		●	
			●	●							
				●			●				
			●	●							
			●	●						●	
		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	●						●	●			
				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	●						●	●			

4

SEEDING

Getting to know each other



4 SEEDING

Getting to know each other

PURPOSE OF OUTREACH

The consultants in collaboration with City staff worked to develop a recommended approach to public outreach that would result in an Urban Agriculture Initiative Program (UAIP) for the City of El Monte. During the initial conversations a purpose and desired outcomes were identified.

The purpose was to provide engaging and innovative opportunities for the public to contribute input regarding the future of urban agriculture in City of El Monte, as well as to provide the City of El Monte with community-supported policies and strategies to be included in the UAIP.

Community outreach findings were used to identify the key community issues, obstacles, and opportunities for urban agriculture in the City of El Monte. Residents had an opportunity to review the findings of meetings and workshops at subsequent outreach events. This

SEEDIN

information was then used to develop and refine potential physical and policy solutions to provide an urban agriculture plan for the City of El Monte. Outreach findings are outlined in this chapter, while solutions developed from these findings are presented in chapter five.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Community members will provide meaningful contributions to the Urban Agriculture Plan development
- Project team will have a robust understanding of community preferences for the future of urban agriculture in the city
- All stakeholders will feel welcome and encouraged to participate throughout the process
- Participants will feel energized and positive about their experience
- The community will be educated/will learn about the benefits of urban agriculture
- Community members will be empowered to get involved and identify stewards that will carry the project forward

PUBLIC OUTREACH APPROACH

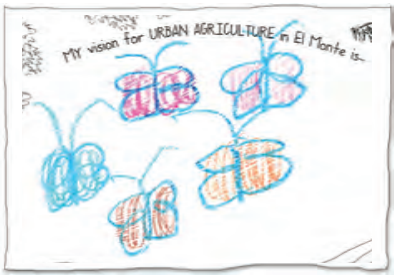
Over the course of the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program, El Monte City staff and BASE/PMC consultants conducted a series of community outreach meetings and events with community members throughout the City of El Monte. Partners from San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, Earthwork Farms, La Madera Community Garden, Downtown El Monte Business Association, Amigos de los Rios, Friend O'Garden Club, USGBC-LA, and all three school districts in El Monte also participated in the outreach process to reach residents across the community. Multiple means of outreach ensured that residents from across the community had opportunities to participate meaningfully in the planning process. Some residents and stakeholders attended only one meeting, while others participated in multiple outreach activities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROCESS

The outreach and community meetings for the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program began in October 2013 and concluded in April 2014. The goal of these workshops and meetings was to gather critical information from the community on existing conditions, assets and opportunities, neighborhood vision and goals, and other information key to completing the existing conditions analysis and formulating project objectives. The first community outreach event took place at Arceo Park during the Children's Day Parade. The event draws around 1,000 community members. The consultants set up a "Zome" structure (zonohedral dome—interlocking wooden structure, like a gazebo) in the park for the children's activity and a table for the adult activity. The children's activity asked kids to draw up their vision for El Monte. The adult activity was set up to gather basic information of the community's preferences. The day was also a promotional event to advertise the upcoming workshops and other events. Postcards and brochures with information were given out.

Individual interviews were conducted with each steering committee member. These open-ended questions were drafted to gathered critical information on existing conditions, assets and opportunities, vision and goals for the City of El Monte UAIP.

The community workshops for the UAIP took place in January and April 2014: two large community workshops at the community center, and a stakeholder meeting at the City of El Monte Planning Department meeting room. In contrast to the outreach event and the Steering Committee interviews, the community meetings set out to develop preliminary solutions and strategies to address the many concerns voiced by the residents.



PROMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

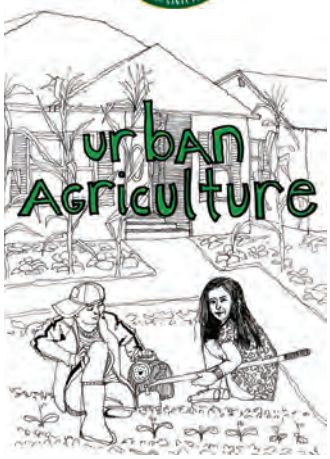
Informational brochures were created. The brochures featured information about the project, described the purpose of urban agriculture, and provided information on how community members could get involved.

A postcard with information about the project and upcoming events with dates and locations was also created in English and Spanish. The postcards were attached to seed packages with pollinator-attracting wildflower seeds and were given away at the Children's Day Parade information table and other events. Nearly 1,000 seed packages with informational postcards were given away.

A children's coloring book was developed to represent the principles of urban agriculture in simple imagery. These books were given to community members at all events.

Community workshops were advertised in a number of ways, including:

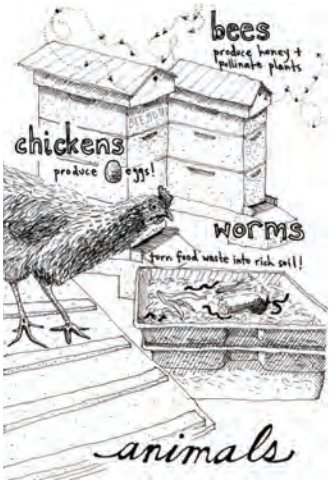
- Emails to community lists;
- Notices on the City website and social media;
- Hand-delivered flyers to public facilities and community groups within the study area;
- Advertisements through the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, Earthwork Farms, La Madera Community Gardens, Downtown El Monte Business Association, Amigos de los Rios, Friend O'Garden Club, USGBC-LA, all three school districts in El Monte, and the Historical Museum; and
- Media releases to the local press.



CITY OF EL MONTE
Urban Agriculture
Initiative Program

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRATION

Because many residents in the project area speak Spanish at home, all advertisements were bilingual to ensure that all members of the community felt included in the outreach process. The workshops and meetings were conducted in English but a Spanish speaker was available at all events to assist and answer questions, or were conducted in both Spanish or English, as appropriate to each group.



CHILDREN'S DAY PARADE

About the Event

The consultants worked with the City of El Monte to host a pop-up workshop at the City of El Monte Children's Day Parade, which took place on October 19, 2013. More than 7,000 participants attended the event. Consultants and City staff ran the information booth and Zome structure that housed the kids' visioning activity. Informational brochures, postcards, seed packages, coloring books and crayons were distributed at the informational table with information about upcoming events.

Through interactive activities for both adults and kids, participants provided feedback to help inform the UAIP. The activities were designed to gauge the community's interest in a range of possible urban greening opportunities related to urban agriculture.

Interactive Activities

Priority Buckets

Eight buckets were placed on a table and were paired with City-identified urban greening priority areas. Participants were given three poker chips and asked to identify the urban greening priorities they find most important by placing poker chips in the corresponding buckets. Poker chips were color coded by participant type to differentiate between residents and visitors.

The following eight priorities were identified by the City:

1) Composting and mulching program
2) Vegetable gardens and front yards/parkways
3) Farmers markets and fruit and vegetable stands
4) Rooftop gardens
5) Edible schoolyards and school garden projects
6) Urban farming on vacant and underutilized land
7) Animal husbandry and beekeeping
8) Community gardens public/private

Participants also identified the need for access to healthy food, such as more grocery stores or corner stores that provide healthy food.

Vision Wall

A Zome structure and activity table was set up to host the vision wall activity for children and adults. Participants were invited to draw their visions of El Monte urban agriculture on a foam core "canvas." The consultants set up a designated activity table at the Zome structure with crayons, kid scissors and glue.

Children selected materials from a variety of craft activities developed by consultants specifically for this event: a coloring book; a coloring sheet with fruits and pollinators for children to color, cut and glue to the mural; and a sheet titled "My vision of El Monte" for participants to draw their future vision for the city.

These vision drawings were displayed on the Zome structure for passersby to admire. Children could choose to display their artwork at the pop-up workshop or take it home. The children's activity area was packed throughout the day. Adults were given sticky notes to write their comments.

Throughout the day, 39 sticky notes were collected, 24 with comments and 15 with sketches from both adults and children. Children left 21 drawings for display. Though it is difficult to count the number of kids who participated in the vision wall activity, at least 100 contributed to the mural. One thousand coloring books were created and 500 crayon boxes were given away.


THE GROWING


CITY OF
NTE
Love
Katey
Sophia
Verdiva

"Information needs to be disseminated. Send it to people's homes in Spanish or Vietnamese and make it easy to understand with an easy 'how-to' and let them know that there is an organization that is helping with the process." - Danny Oaxaca, San Gabriel Conservation Valley Corps

STEERING COMMITTEE

A variety of community members, City staff and nonprofit organizations were invited to participate as advisory Steering Committee members for the UAIP. The purpose of this committee is to review and make recommendations on key activities associated with urban agriculture and other planning issues, including implementation.

Steering Committee members were asked to participate in a one-on-one interview and attend one meeting with all 13 members of the committee, as well as the community workshops. We invited Steering Committee members to provide feedback and help us identify various social, economical and environmental sustainability goals for the development of the City of El Monte UAIP.

Members

Nick Salerno, Superintendent, El Monte Union High School District

Dr. Maribel Garcia, Superintendent, El Monte City School District

Lillian Maldonado-French, Superintendent, Mountain View School District

Sandra L. Salcedo, Community & Senior Services Supervisor
City of El Monte Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

Danny Oaxaca, Founder/Executive Director, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC)

Ken Rausch, Executive Director, Downtown El Monte Business Association

Claire Robinson, President, Amigos de los Rios

David Siegrist, First Vice President (Program), Friend O' Garden Club

Carmen Macias, Coordinator, La Madera Community Garden

Ruby Rose Sanchez, Chair, USGBC-LA SGV Branch

Monica August, Resident

Rodrigo Hernandez, Resident

Amaranta Hernandez, Youth Resident, Student School President at Durfee Middle School

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

The interview was conducted one-on-one over the phone with each Steering Committee member. The questions were open-ended and included:

What are the top assets/resources in El Monte for urban agriculture?

What are the biggest barriers (e.g., educations, funds, access) for community members, groups and individuals to perform urban agriculture in El Monte?

What do you think is the City's role in urban agriculture?

How do you think urban agriculture could happen in El Monte? What changes would you like to see that would make it possible?

Do you have any specific locations in mind where urban agriculture could happen in El Monte?

Do you know of any successful models of urban agriculture in other places? Why are they working well?

Do you know of any financial models that could be used or other funding ideas for urban agriculture?

What role do you see yourself/ your organization playing in urban agriculture in El Monte? What role do you see [the City Council, City Commission, residents, businesses, community organization] play?

What are you hoping this initiative effort will accomplish?

Are there additional comments you'd like to share with me today?

Following are the results gathered from the steering committee interviews.

INTERVIEW RESULTS

The following is a summary of Steering Committee responses.

Community Assets

	Number of votes
Lots of **city-owned vacant properties** at spaces and schools	4 ●●●●
Partnerships such as Los Amigos de los Rios, USGBC	4 ●●●●
Willing, positive and **hopeful community**	3 ●●●
Youth	3 ●●●
Hard working community	2 ●●
Precedents of urban farming and community involvement (Earthworks Farm, South El Monte, back yards)	2 ●●
Community is **ripe for change**	2 ●●
Master plan for downtown district	2 ●●
Transportation - Metro Hub, bus station, airport	2 ●●
Agricultural **heritage of immigrant community**	2 ●●
Good climate for growing	1 ●
Rich **history of agriculture**	1 ●
Momentum in schools and community	1 ●
Finest **Historical Museum** in California	1 ●
Supportive administration	1 ●
Great **soil**	1 ●
Diverse Community	1 ●

Barriers to Urban Agriculture	Number of votes
Poor Information (urban agriculture, nutrition, life-style choices)	4 ●●●●
Liability and **safety** of students at school gardens	4 ●●●●
Low-income demographics	4 ●●●●
Lack of **funding** for urban agriculture	3 ●●●
Water access challenges to irrigate gardens	2 ●●
Language barriers (Spanish/ Chinese/ Vietnamese)	2 ●●
Cultural barriers between different communities	2 ●●
Lack of **staff**	2 ●●
No **stores with healthy food**	2 ●●
Lack of **transportation** options	1 ●
Lack of **familiarity** with the practice of urban agriculture	1 ●
Poor **image of downtown**	1 ●
Budget cuts	1 ●
Lack of **maintenance** (eyesore)	1 ●
Fear of **government-related hassle** with excess bureaucracy	1 ●

Needs for Urban Agriculture

	Number of votes
Create sense of **ownership** and appreciation	5 ●●●●●
Enhance **city image** and sense of pride	5 ●●●●●
Staff - **Point person** at the city and at each garden	5 ●●●●●
Information about the project and urban agriculture activities	4 ●●●●●
Funding urban agriculture projects	4 ●●●●
Education (how-to workshops / training)	4 ●●●●
Community **Events**	4 ●●●●
Public outreach to the community	4 ●●●●
Collaboration between City, non-profits, and school district	4 ●●●●
Infrastructure improvements	3 ●●●
Safe public **open spaces**	3 ●●●
Farmer's market	3 ●●●
Community and youth **leadership**	2 ●●
Gardening resources and tools	2 ●●
Safe routes for pedestrians and bikes	2 ●●
Schoolyard garden **maintenance** during school breaks	1 ●
City and **school district initiatives** and approvals	1 ●
Day care / homework **center for kids** while parents work at gardens	1 ●

Potential Programming Opportunities	Number of votes
Youth involvement through investment, cultivation, and learning	10
Collaboration with schools for space, lessons, and funding	8
Leverage and institutionalize **Amigos de los Rios volunteer base**	6
Community outreach to and connection	6
More safe and beautiful community **open green spaces**	4
Education about health and environmental benefits	3
More **streetscape greening** in medians, walkways, sidewalks, etc...	2
Cooking classes	2
Food security with fruit trees planted in public spaces	1
Native **pollinator-attracting plants** along rivers & at schools	1
School gardens supported by community, schools, and volunteers	1
Master gardener program	1
Leverage **heritage** of population with agricultural expertise	1
Food assistance to poorer families	1
Diverse farmer's markets (produce, art, food, crafts)	1
Opportunity for people **connect to ground** (apartment dwellers)	1
Community **mentoring** programs	1

Potential Funding Sources	Number of votes
Corporate grants for funding	5 ●●●●●
Produce sales as revenue generators	2 ●●
Private **foundations** for funding	2 ●●
Congressional **appropriations** as funding mechanisms	1 ●
USDA community grants for funding	1 ●
Kaiser grants and those of other health care corporations	1 ●
Endowments focused on **children's health** and food	1 ●
REI community stewards grants	1 ●
Car dealerships	1 ●
Local businesses and big businesses	1 ●
Cultural grants	1 ●

Potential Sites	Number of votes
Riverside stables (farming, animal husbandry, and bike routes)	3 ●●●
Open industrial space / vacant lots	2 ●●
Community Center (farmer's market in parking lot)	2 ●●
School district	2 ●●
Garvey Ave (former car dealerships)	1 ●
Every single parcel of land	1 ●
Corner of Santa Anita and Mildred St. (good visibility)	1 ●
Senior Center	1 ●
Mountain View High School (existing terraced picnic/ meeting area)	1 ●
Metro Hub (plan for new multifamily residence and retail that requires an art project that could be a community garden)	1 ●
Mulhall Elementary School	1 ●
New Wal-Mart	1 ●
Valley Street Mall	1 ●
Heritage Museum	1 ●

Successful Urban Agriculture Models

	Number of votes
Earthworks farm in South El Monte	2 ●●
Muir Farms at John Muir High School in Pasadena	1 ●
Community Garden Council of Los Angeles, and their newsletters	1 ●
Magnolia Place Community Initiative in Los Angeles	1 ●
Westminster Huntington Beach School	1 ●
Long Beach compost program where people can get compost	1 ●
California Community Foundation	1 ●
Beautification of El Monte school: students planted donated plants and felt sense of ownership	1 ●
Arroyo School student-run composting program	1 ●
John Finley in South Central LA - TED talk	1 ●
Homeboy Industries at Boyle Heights (train kids + sell baked goods)	1 ●
SGVCC and job-training program and community services	1 ●
Venice community gardens	1 ●
Kaiser Garden in Baldwin Park	1 ●
La Madera Community Garden	1 ●
Farmers' Markets in Arcadia, Monrovia, San Antonio College, and Saint Dimas ("Western Days")	1 ●

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

About the Community Meeting

The first community meeting for the Urban Agriculture Initiative Program took place at the Community Center on Thursday January 23, 2014. Upon arrival, participants were welcomed and asked to sign in.

Minh Thai, Assistant Economic Development Director for the City of El Monte, opened the event with a welcome and introductions. Consultants presented an overview of the project and a brief history of the agricultural roots of El Monte. The presentation reviewed background information about urban agriculture and the ways in which it can be developed in the City of El Monte. After the presentation, the consultants facilitated the different activities that took place during the open house.

Participants were invited to visit seven stations during the second portion of the meeting. The workshop stations included:

Station 1: Assets, Needs, and Barriers

Station 2: Vision Wall

Station 3: Opportunity Mapping – Where can Urban Agriculture Happen?

Station 4: Opportunity Mapping – Where do you Shop for Fresh Produce?

Station 5: City and Community Partnership Projects

Station 6: City Staff Question and Answer

Station 7: Children's activity

STATION 1: ASSETS, NEEDS, AND BARRIERS

A list of assets, needs, and barriers were developed based on information received from the advisory steering committee during the interviews and City staff.

Large worksheets were placed on the wall with the lists of assets, needs, and barriers for the project area. Participants were asked to identify their top three assets, needs, and barriers by placing a sticky dot next to their selection. Empty space was available for participants to add any assets, needs, and barriers that were missing from the list. There was also space available for participants to provide notes (either on a Post-It or directly on the worksheet).

Consultants were available to answer questions and encourage people to record additional comments on Post-Its.

The following tables provide the results from the activity:

What are El Monte's Top Barriers?

Barrier in El Monte	Top Barrier in El Monte *Place sticky dot here.*	Comments/Ideas *Please write your comments here.*
Barrier 1: Poor information dissemination	20	
Barrier 2: Budget cuts / Lack of funding resources	20	
Barrier 3: Unfamiliarity with the practice of urban agriculture	19	
Barrier 4: Poor image of downtown	16	
Barrier 5: Lack of maintenance / Lack of staff	13	
Barrier 6: Fear of government and excess bureaucracy	10	
Barrier 7: Water access challenges to irrigate gardens	8	
Barrier 8: Low-income demographics	8	
Barrier 9: Language barriers	8	
Barrier 10: Cultural barriers	5	
Barrier 11: Liability and safety of students at school gardens	4	
Barrier 12: Lack of transportation options	3	
Barrier 13: Write your idea here		

What are El Monte's Top Needs?

Needs in El Monte	Top Need in El Monte *Place sticky dot here.*	Comments/Ideas *Please write your comments here.*
Need 1: Funding for urban agriculture projects	18	
Need 2: Education about urban agriculture (workshops / training)	16	
Need 3: Community and youth leadership	16	
Need 4: Enhance city image and sense of pride	16	
Need 5: Farmers market	15	
Need 6: Collaboration btw City, private sector, nonprofits & school district	13	
Need 7: Public outreach to the community	11	
Need 8: Safe public open spaces	7	
Need 9: Economic/community development	7	
Need 10: Gardening resources and tools	7	
Need 11: Create a sense of ownership & community pride	5	
Need 12: Urban agriculture city liason	5	
Need 13: Information about the project and urban agriculture activities	4	
Need 14: Community events	4	
Need 15: Safe routes for pedestrians and bikes	2	
Need 6: Infrastructure improvements	2	
Need 17: Write your idea here		Knowledge and effects of current agricultural practices and negative health and ecological effects

What are El Monte's Top Assets?

Assets in El Monte	Top Asset in El Monte *Place sticky dot here.*	Comments/Ideas *Please write your comments here.*
Asset 1: Agricultural heritage of immigrant community	16	
Asset 2: Lots of vacant properties in El Monte and open space at schools	16	Kranz School has a humungous field!
Asset 3: Partnerships with nonprofits (Amigos de los Rios, SGVCC, USGBC, etc...)	16	Partnerships with outside cities
Asset 4: Great soil and good climate for growing	12	
Asset 5: Rich history of agriculture	10	Too much development, need moratorium?
Asset 6: Willing, positive and hopeful community	10	
Asset 7: Community is ripe for change	10	
Asset 8: Transportation - Metro Hub, bus station, airport	10	
Asset 9: Revitalization of Valley Mall & master plan for downtown district	9	The advantage is that the community consists of predominantly of Latin americcans whose culture is grounded in a close relationship with the earth and its offerings
Asset 10: Hard-working community	8	
Asset 11: Youth involvement	7	Bring back Boy/Girl Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, and publicize it!
Asset 12: Diverse community	7	We need to build more bridges / opportunities for members of diverse cultures to meet
Asset 13: Momentum in schools	6	Total lack of scholarship/felloship info for us!
Asset 14: Fine historical museum	3	Fix the Osmund House
Asset 15: Supportive administration	2	
Asset 16: Community garden precedents (La Madera Community Garden, Friend O' Garden Club)	1	

Assets, Needs and Barriers Exercise

STATION 2: VISION WALL

A big sticky wall was provided for workshop attendees to come up with key words/adjectives describing El Monte's urban agriculture future and post to the "Vision" wall.

RESULTS

"What is your vision for the future of urban agriculture in El Monte?"

Recognizing El Monte as a 'Garden City'

Farmers markets, fresh produce offerings at corner stores, and easy accessibility of fresh produce throughout all of El Monte.

Building a healthier, educated, and self-sufficient community with safe, beautiful spaces. A community that offers health workshops and is bicycle-friendly.

Afterschool and weekend programs for children and students

A reduction in convenience stores, fast food establishments, and an increase in healthy restaurants, markets, food choices, with increased access to fresh local food. "Less fast food joints!"

Gardens! School gardens! "A garden in every backyard!"

Self-sufficient community

Healthy lifestyle, healthy foods, healthy minds

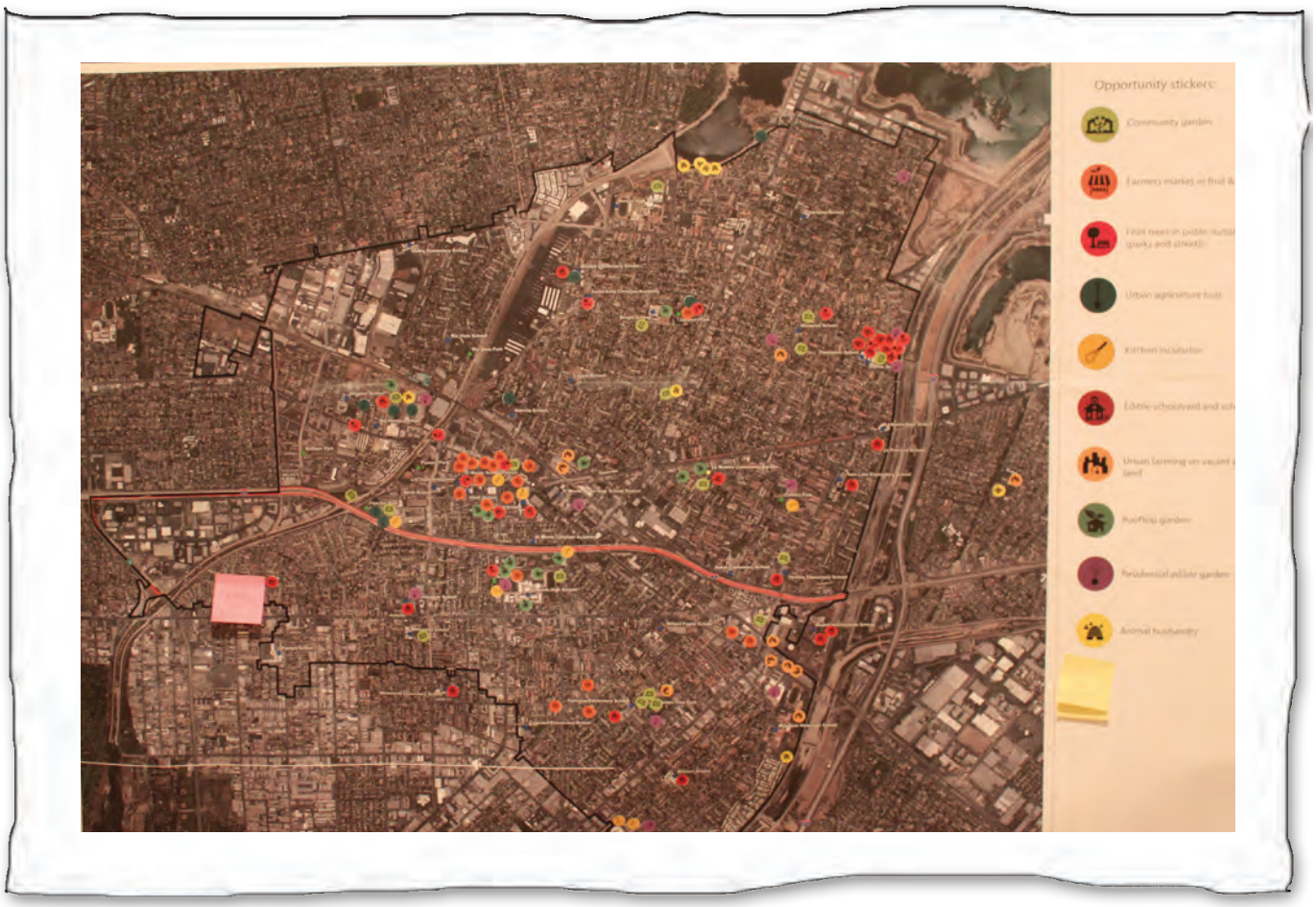
Safe, beautiful spaces

STATION 3: OPPORTUNITY MAPPING–WHERE CAN URBAN AGRICULTURE HAPPEN?

This station had a large format poster showing an aerial map of the project area. Schools and parks were highlighted.

Using pre-printed "opportunity stickers" showing images of urban agriculture projects, participants identified appropriate locations for these activities on the map.

Each participant was given one set of "opportunity stickers" showing various urban agriculture projects. These included stickers for specific uses (community gardens, farmers markets, edible schoolyards and school garden projects, etc.) and programs (composting and mulching program, and animal husbandry).



RESULTS

The following is a summary of the number of each opportunity sticker placed at each location on the map.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

3 @ Elliott Ave. / Penn Mar Ave. (Mountain View Park)

1 @ Maryvine St. / Parkway Dr.

1 @ Durfee Ave. / Southern Pacific RR

1 @ El Monte High School

1 @ Wilkerson School

1 @ Fletcher Park area

1 @ Hwy 10 / Broadway St.

1 @ Rio Hondo College

1 @ Elrovia Ave. / Basye St.

1 @ La Madera Ave. / Deana St.

1 @ Belcroft Ave. / Ferris Rd.

1 @ Durfee School

1 @ Norwood School

FRUIT TREES IN ROADS

2 @ Durfee School

1 @ Arceo

1 @ Velma Ave. / Valley Ave.

1 @ Valley Ave. / Santa Anita Ave. / Broadway St.

1 @ Li'l Tots Preschool

1 @ Thompson School

1 @ Ranchito St. / Cogswell Rd.

1 @ Lambert Park

1 @ Santa Anita Christian Academy

FARMERS MARKET

9 @ Valley Mall

2 @ Adult school

2 @ Valley Blvd. / Maxson Rd.

1 @ Cogswell Rd. / Klingerman St.

1 @ Schmidt Rd. / Mountain View Rd.

1 @ Peck Rd. / Bonwood Rd.

1 @ El Monte High School

1 @ Columbia School

1@ Lambert Park

URBAN AG. HUB

2 @ Durfee School

1 @ Arceo

1 @ Velma Ave. / Valley Ave.

1 @ Valley Ave. / Santa Anita Ave.

1 @ Li'l Tots Preschool

1 @ Thompson School

1 @ Ranchito St. / Cogswell Rd.

1 @ Lambert Park

1 @ Santa Anita Christian Academy

KITCHEN INCUBATOR

2 @ Kranz Junior High School

1 @ El Monte High School

1 @ Arceo

1 @ Fletcher Park area

1 @ El Monte School District

1 @ Columbia School

1 @ Zamera Park

URBAN FARM ON VACANT LOTS

2 @ Valley Blvd. / Rumford Ave.

2 @ Valley Blvd. / Gilman Rd.

2 @ Cypress Ave / Kauffman St.

1 @ Mountain View High School

1 @ Leafdale Ave at Mountain View Park

1 @ Killian St. / McGirk Ave. / La Madera Ave

ROOFTOP GARDEN

3 @ El Monte High School

2 @ Adult school

2 @ Arceo

1 @ Wright School

1 @ Rio Hondo College

1 @ Iris Ln. / Orchard St.

1 @ Ferris Rd. / Richwood Ave.

1 @ La Madera Community Garden

EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD

4 @ Durfee School

4 @ Thompson School

2 @ Madrid Intermediate School

1 @ Columbia School

1 @ Adult school

1 @ Maxson School

1 @ Parkview Elementary School

1 @ Lexington School

1 @ Cortada School

1 @ Shirpser School

1 @ La Madera Community Garden

1 @ Voorhis Elementary School

1 @ Twin Lake Elementary School

1 @ La Primaria School

1 @ Mulhall Elementary School

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

4 @ Peck Water Conservation Park

1 @ Mountain View High School

1 @ Peck Rd. / Basye St. (Fire Station)

1 @ Rio Hondo College

RESIDENTIAL URBAN GARDEN

1 @ every residential garden

STATION 4: OPPORTUNITY MAPPING—WHERE DO YOU SHOP FOR FRESH PRODUCE?

This station had a large format poster showing an aerial map of the project area and the surrounding vicinity.

Using pre-printed "shopping cart stickers" participants noted where they shop for fresh produce on the map.

RESULTS

The following indicates the number of participants who shop at each of the identified locations.

El Monte
Northgate Gonzales Market (7)
Buy Low Market (3)
El Caney Market (3)
Mi Pueblo Supermarket (2)
Smart and Final (2)
Food 4 Less (1)

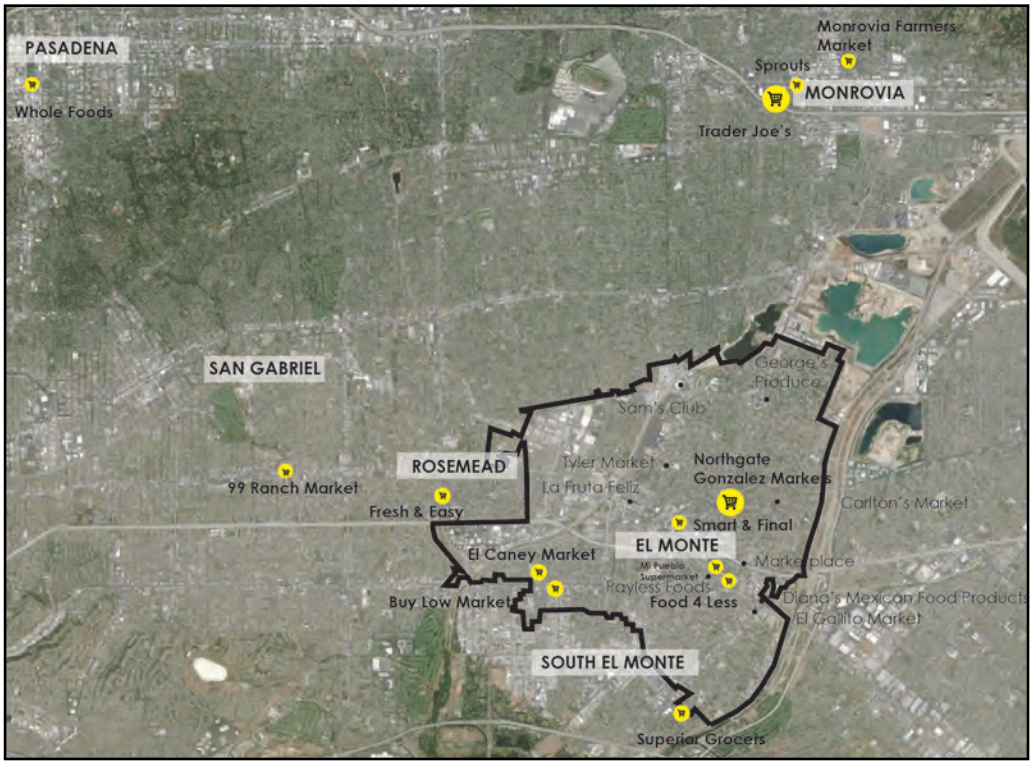
South El Monte (3 miles)
Superior Grocers (4)

Monrovia (10 miles)
Trader Joe's (6)
Sprouts (1)
Farmers Market (1)

Pasadena (11 miles)
Whole Foods (1)

Rosemead (3 miles)
Fresh and Easy (3)

San Gabriel (7 miles)
99 Ranch Market (1)



Map of Grocery Stores in El Monte and Vicinity where Residents Shop for Fresh Produce

STATION 5: CITY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

City Projects

Participants pretended they were the "decision maker." They received three poker chips to spend on public projects as they saw fit. Buckets with labels for different types of City projects were located on a table for people to drop their coins into. The priorities that were identified by the City were:

- Composting and mulching program
- Farmers markets and fruit and vegetable stands
- Rooftop gardens
- Edible schoolyards and school garden projects
- Urban farming on vacant and underutilized land
- Animal husbandry and beekeeping
- Community gardens public/private

Community Partnership Projects

Participants were asked to identify with sticky dots whether the listed community activities interest them.

RESULTS

Participants selected the following City projects in order of priority:

37- Urban farming on vacant & underutilized land

32- Edible schoolyards & school garden projects

30- Farmers markets or fruit & vegetable stands

22- Community gardens public/private

14- Animal husbandry & beekeeping

5- Composting & mulching program

Other issues identified by participants include the need for access to healthy food, such as more grocery stores or corner stores that provide healthy food.

What Activities Can the Community Participate in to Improve the Quality of Life in El Monte?

Community Activity	Yes, this Interests Me *Place sticky dot here.*	Comments/Ideas *Please write your comments here.*
Teach workshops (gardening, pruning, beekeeping, composting, etc.)	19	
Community gardens	19	
Edible schoolyards and school garden projects	19	
Residential edible gardens	13	
Animal husbandry and bee-keeping	9	Need special training for beekeeping if the bees jump out and bite us, so terrible
Composting and mulching program	8	
Plant street trees	8	
Food Policy Council	5	Advocacy work to oppose or pass legislation that will lead to cleaner food sources. Advocacy and education regarding eliminating GMO food sources
Have neighborhood residents come together as a co-op and share	1	
Write in your idea here		

COMMUNITY MEETING #2

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY MEETING

The event was divided into two sections. The first hour was the welcoming, sign in and a PowerPoint presentation that was given to the community. During the second hour, the group was divided into four work tables and came up with specific ideas for what they would like to see implemented in El Monte.

City staff opened the event by welcoming and introducing the project team. Consultants presented an overview of urban agriculture , a brief history of El Monte's agricultural roots, and the ways in which urban agriculture can be developed in the City of El Monte. A summary of the findings from the previous workshop and an overview of the different activities that would be taking place during the workshop were presented.

After the presentation the workshop participants self-selected which work table station they wanted to participate in and spent the rest of the time working together to draft ideas that were later presented to the entire group.

The four different work table stations were as follows:

Table 1: Community Gardens

Table 2: Edible Schoolyards

Table 3: Farmers Market

Table 4: Potential City Policies and Ordinances

A list of questions was developed for each table:

1. Who should be invited to participate in these activities?
2. What materials and resources are needed?
3. Do you need to promote this project? How?
4. What locations should be targeted for these activities?
5. What events or tasks should be included in this program?
6. What are the first steps that should be taken?

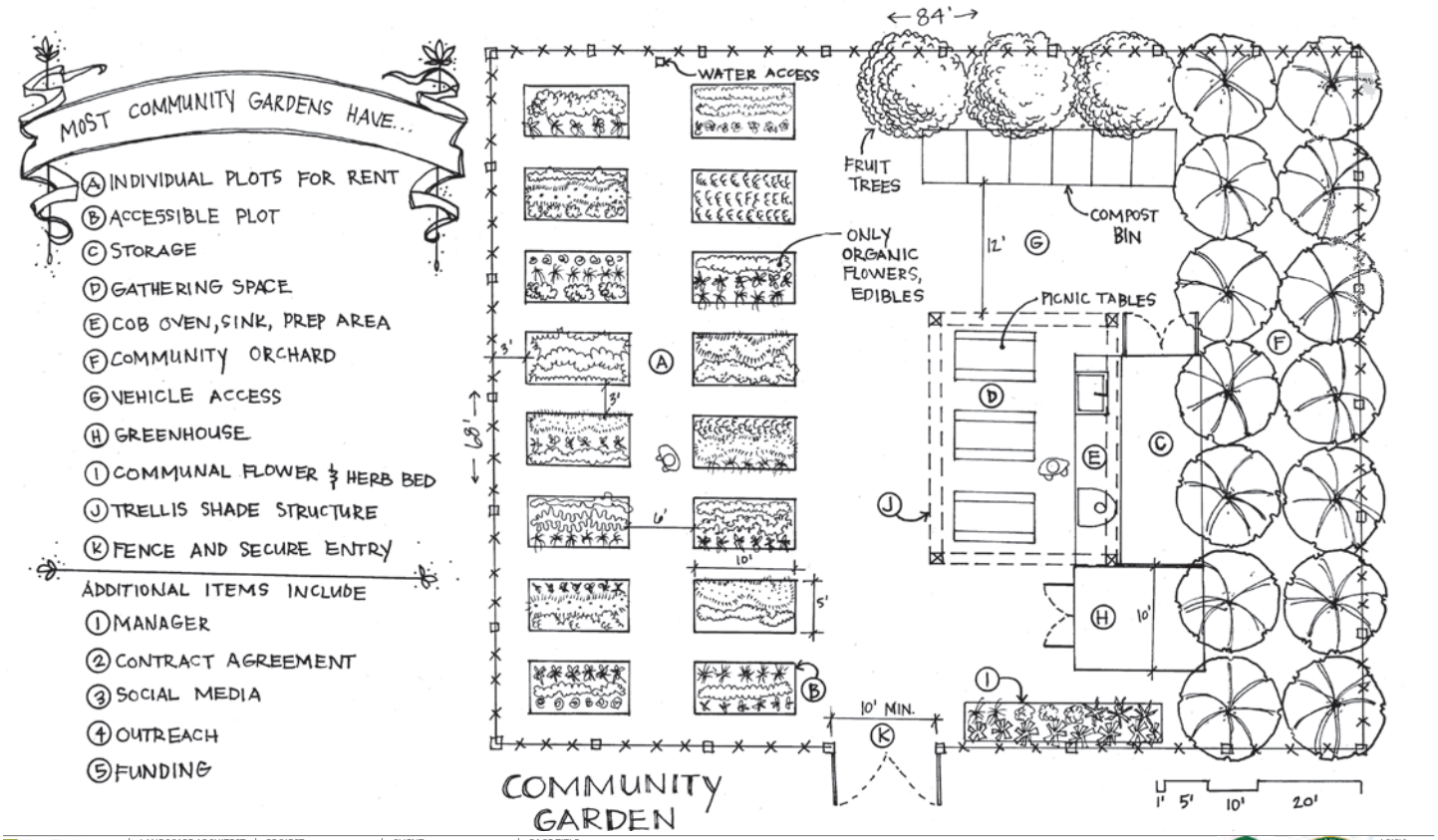
"Thank you for providing this open house to involve the community." -El Monte Resident

TABLE 1: COMMUNITY GARDENS

Some of the most common elements found in community gardens were provided on a board along with a site plan with some typical dimensions (see below).

A sample community garden program guide (from the City of Watsonville Community Garden Program Guide) was also provided to generate thoughts and ideas about how to format a community garden guide in El Monte.

CITY OF EL MONTE - URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE PROGRAM



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
BASE
2212 5th St.
Berkeley, CA
baselandscape.com

PROJECT
Urban Agriculture Initiative Program

CLIENT
City of El Monte
11333 Valley Boulevard
El Monte, California 91731

PAGE TITLE
COMMUNITY GARDEN

TABLE
1

RESULTS

The following is a brief summary of the group's discussion at Table 1:

- Instead of having divided plots in the community garden it will be good to have a shared community farm – unite the work and have higher yields
- Get all city officials involved and participating in this project
- We need community – Activities to get to know each other
- Community gardens in all neighborhoods, districts
- City needs to facilitate the city-owned properties for the gardens
- Be inclusive of all community groups. Intercultural – Intergenerational, teach kids!
- Provide information in different languages
- Provide workshops and classes on different urban agriculture/gardening techniques
- Pass on the knowledge from generation to generation
- Holistic / medicinal garden
- A garden consists of veggies, herbs, etc.
- Planting for pollinators
- Every district in El Monte should have its own community garden and it should be run by the community
- Familia – people working together

Next Steps:

- Identify potential lots
- Identify a committee
- Create a community garden board of directors
- Create rules
- Develop a plan on how to run the garden
- Solve structural issues
- Talk to neighbors
- Plan to avoid displacement

Potential Community Garden Sites:

- Highway 10 & Brockway St.
- Valley Blvd. & Arden Dr.
- Valley Blvd. & Santa Anita Ave. - Next to the church. This is a good spot because all the churchgoers can participate in the garden.
- Riverside Stables
- Mountain View Park
- Southern Pacific R.R. & Durfee Ave.
- Rancho Farallon: a great potential site, as it already has water and is vacant; this can be the first community garden project

POTENTIAL SITES FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

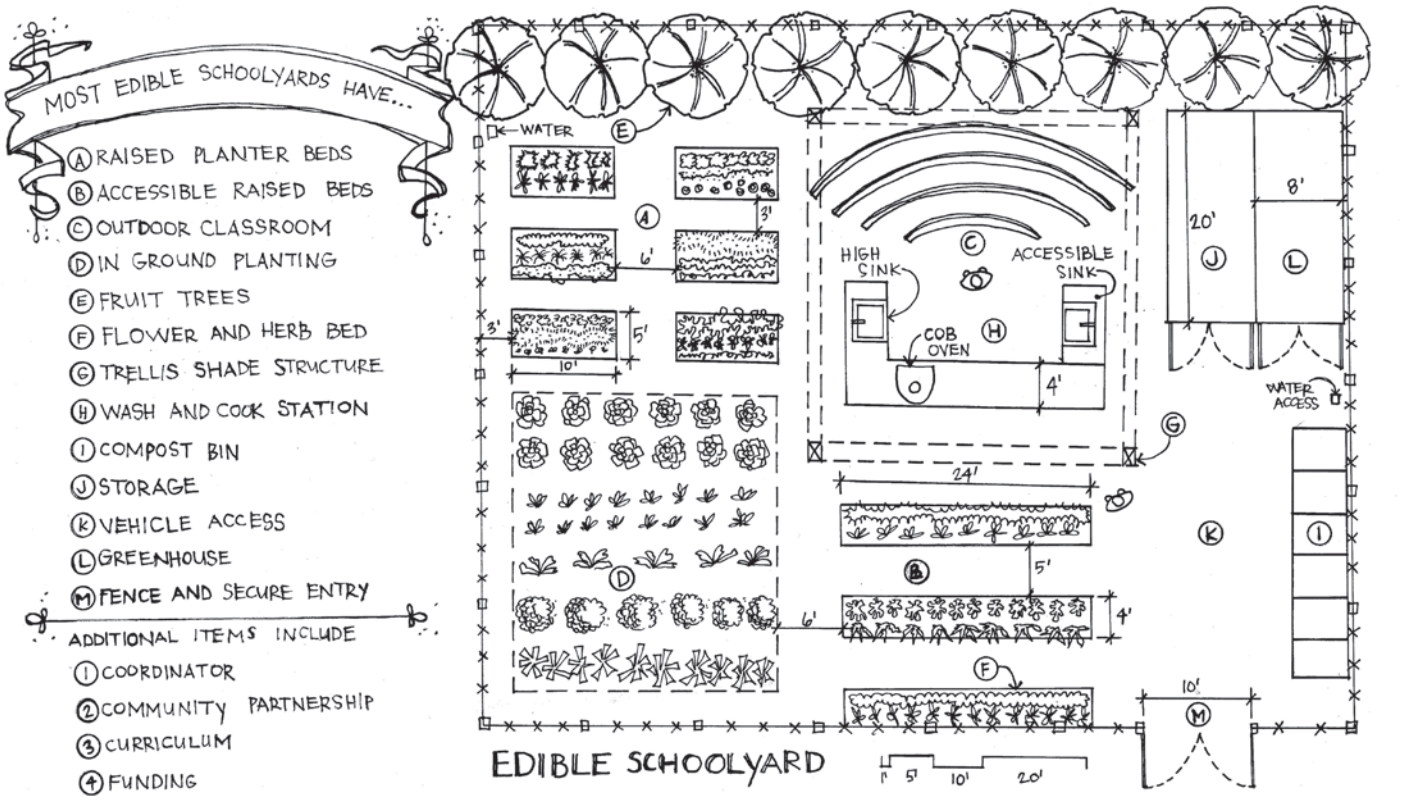
1. Hwy 10 and Brockway St.
2. Valley Blvd. and Arden Dr.
3. Valley Blvd. and Santa Anita Ave.
4. Riverside Stables
5. Mountain View Park
6. Southern Pacific R.R. and Durfee Ave.

Community Gardens

TABLE 2: EDIBLE SCHOOLYARDS

Some of the most common elements found in edible schoolyards were provided on a board along with a site plan with some typical dimensions (see below).

A sample community volunteer application form and volunteer orientation handbook (from Pasadena Unified School District) were also provided to generate thoughts and ideas about how to format the El Monte edible schoolyards guide.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: BASE, 2212 5th St., Berkeley, CA, baselandscape.com
PROJECT: Urban Agriculture Initiative Program
CLIENT: City of El Monte, 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, California 91731
PAGE TITLE: EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD
TABLE 2

RESULTS

The following is a brief summary of the group's discussion at Table 2:

Edible schoolyards have the following benefits:

- Improve access to healthy food
- Healthier lifestyle for students
- Therapeutic benefits
- Creates sense of community
- Value of life
- Improves beauty of an area
- Creates a sense of pride
- Improves environment and keeps food local
- Teaches plant science and different types of fruits and vegetables

Implementation Strategy:

- Teachers and staff, principals, clubs or academies, parents, students, and security could comprise the garden team.
- Goals of edible schoolyards include: improving school lunch, opportunity to go in nature, and help your surrounding community as well as support the school.
- The plan for the year is to split up maintenance amongst garden team, teachers, students, etc.; and hold weekly workshops and events.
- The ideal edible schoolyard site would have the appropriate soil composition, sunlight, access to water, a central and accessible location, and safety.
- Fundraise to have resources for seeds, soil, wood planter beds, tools and supplies, outdoor classroom materials, hiring a master gardener, fence for security, and have events to raise money and write grants.
- Invite your school community to build your garden!
- Engage your school and make use of the space.

Identified Needs:

There is a need and want for learning how to grow food.

It seems hard to even think of steps to building a garden without knowledge of how to grow food. Master gardeners are in high demand.

POTENTIAL SITES FOR EDIBLE SCHOOLYARDS

The Table 2 group identified the following potential sites for edible schoolyards:

1. New Lexington School
2. Columbia School
3. Park View Elementary
4. Maxson School
5. Voorhis Elementary
6. Madrid Interm. School
7. La Primaria School
8. Durfee School
9. Thompson School

Edible School Yards

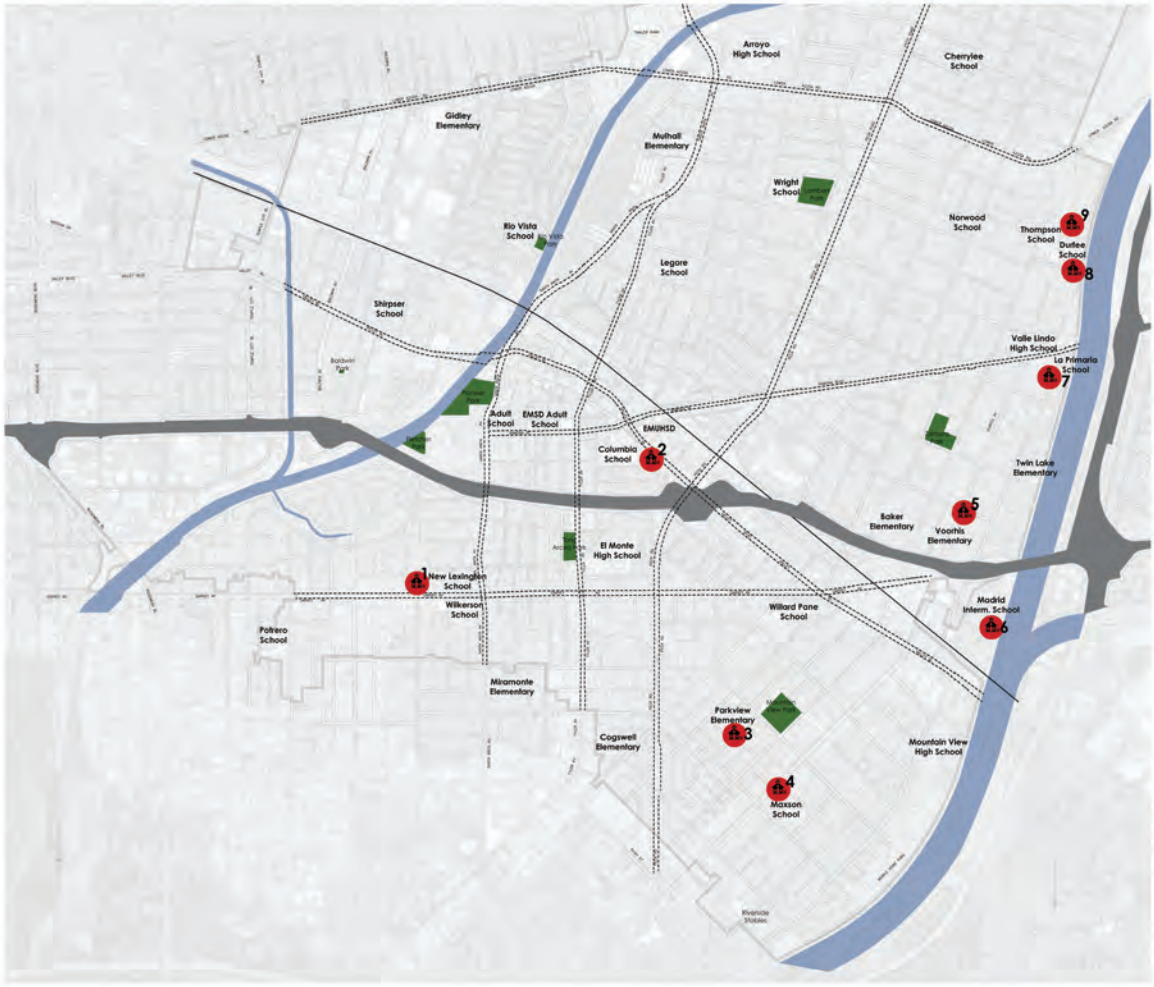
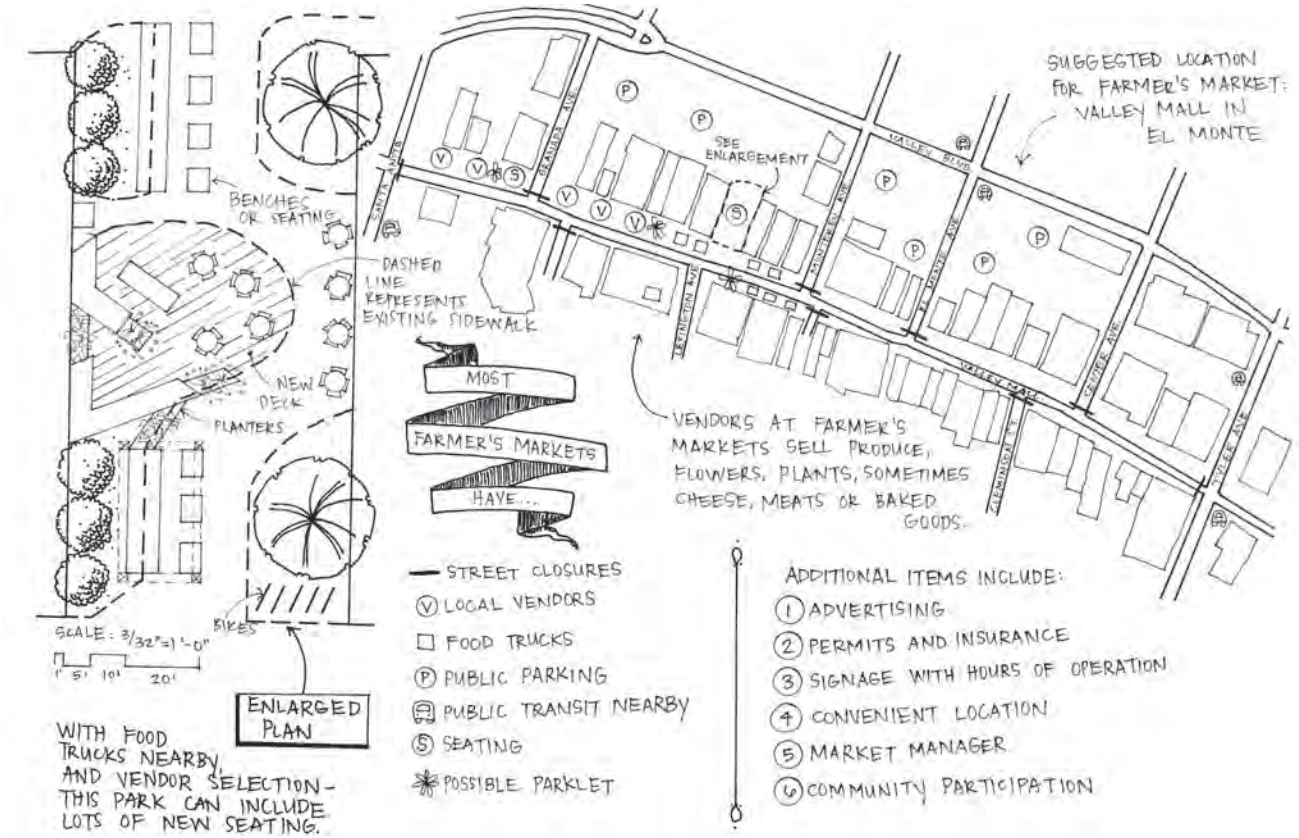


TABLE 3: FARMERS MARKETS

Some of the most common elements found in farmers markets, along with a sample site plan located at Valley Mall, based on the previous community workshop suggestion, were provided on a board (see below).

A sample farmers market guide (from USDA) was also provided to generate thoughts and ideas about how to start the El Monte farmers market.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: BASE, 2212 5th St, Berkeley, CA, baselandscape.com | PROJECT: Urban Agriculture Initiative Program | CLIENT: City of El Monte, 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, California 91731

PAGE TITLE: FARMERS MARKET

TABLE 3

RESULTS

The following is a brief summary of the group's discussion at Table 3:

- Education – classes, workshops, demo tables showing how to prepare and cook fresh food. Show how to grow - need components, hands-on access to healthier eating - THIS IS HUGE!! Seeing where food comes from, how it grows and what it tastes like "Garden on wheels"
- Accept food stamps, EBT and swiping for debit/credit cards
- Create outreach/marketing to show EBT and food stamp availability
- Include Asian community – sell cultural Asian foods
- Offer incentives to local businesses off Valley Mall: So they don't get upset about the farmers market
- Daytime: produce, Nighttime: food trucks, music
- Public transit access!! Trolley system runs to Valley Mall, bike valet, bike meet-ups; increase biking access to farmers markets
- Charge vendors who sell "less healthy" food an extra fee
- Limit the food trucks, 5 local vendors to one outside vendor
- Connection at market of community gardens, school gardens
- Selling plants and starters at the market
- Having vendors that sell what you can grow - Food swap
- Closing Valley Mall is A LOT of work (public works, rent restrooms, reimburse all departments including police department)
- Farmers market needs to have affordable organic food!
- Food trucks may be too much competition for local business if on Valley Mall
- Combination of food/produce, knick-knacks, art
- Dia de los Muertos was really successful on Valley Mall but local businesses don't want competition
- Who would manage this and market it? An organization or an individual?
- Perception is everything – "soften image of being in El Monte at night"
- Exposure is very important!
- "Tot lot" off Valley Mall: needs to be replaced and redesigned. Move "tot lot" to park area and replace existing lot with seating and public exposure

Possible Farmers Market Locations:

- Parking lot behind park off Valley Mall – great foot traffic!!
- Valley Mall
- Valley Mall & Tyler Ave. (similar to the concerts in the park)
- Ramona Blvd. & Valley Blvd. is another potential busy corner
- Ramona Blvd. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church - Sundays would be good for people coming from church
- Valley Mall & Maxson Rd.
- Parking lot behind Historical Society
- Potential "rotating location"
- Location should be away from merchants, no competition, no blocking streets (public works).

POTENTIAL SITES FOR FARMERS MARKETS

The Table 3 group identified the following potential sites for farmers markets:

1. Parking Lot off Valley Mall
2. Valley Mall
3. Valley Mall and Tyler Ave.
4. Ramona Blvd. and Valley Blvd.
5. Ramona Blvd. and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
6. Valley Blvd. and Maxson Rd.

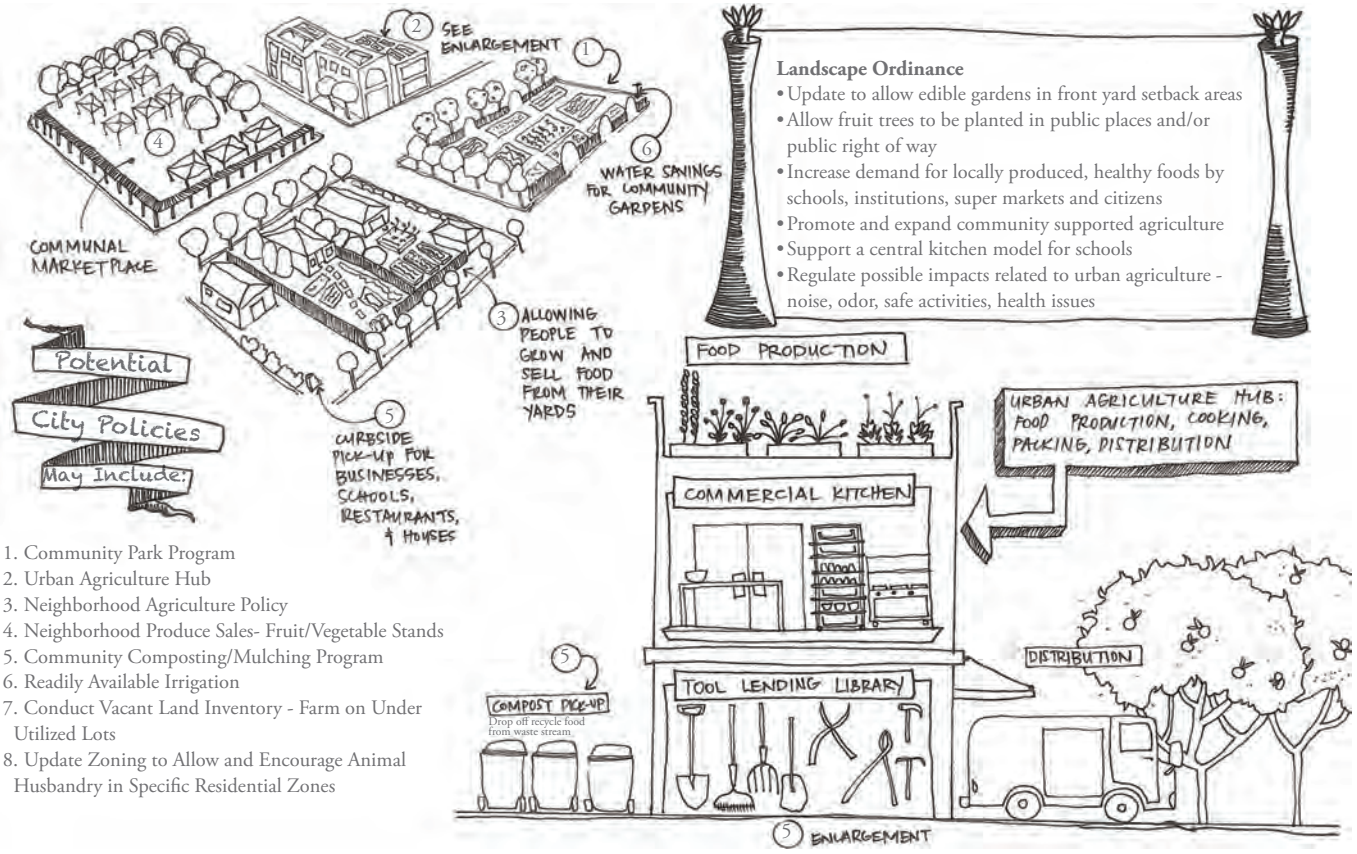
Farmers Markets

TABLE 4: POTENTIAL CITY POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

Some recommended potential city policies and ordinances were provided on a board (see below).

A sample list on the different ways in which the City can harness the sharing economy to expand local food production and improve access to good food for its residents (from the Sharable Cities Policy Primer) was also provided to generate thoughts and ideas about how to format El Monte's UAIP.

CITY OF EL MONTE - URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE PROGRAM



1. Community Park Program
2. Urban Agriculture Hub
3. Neighborhood Agriculture Policy
4. Neighborhood Produce Sales- Fruit/Vegetable Stands
5. Community Composting/Mulching Program
6. Readily Available Irrigation
7. Conduct Vacant Land Inventory - Farm on Under Utilized Lots
8. Update Zoning to Allow and Encourage Animal Husbandry in Specific Residential Zones

RESULTS

The following is a brief summary of the group's discussion at Table 4:

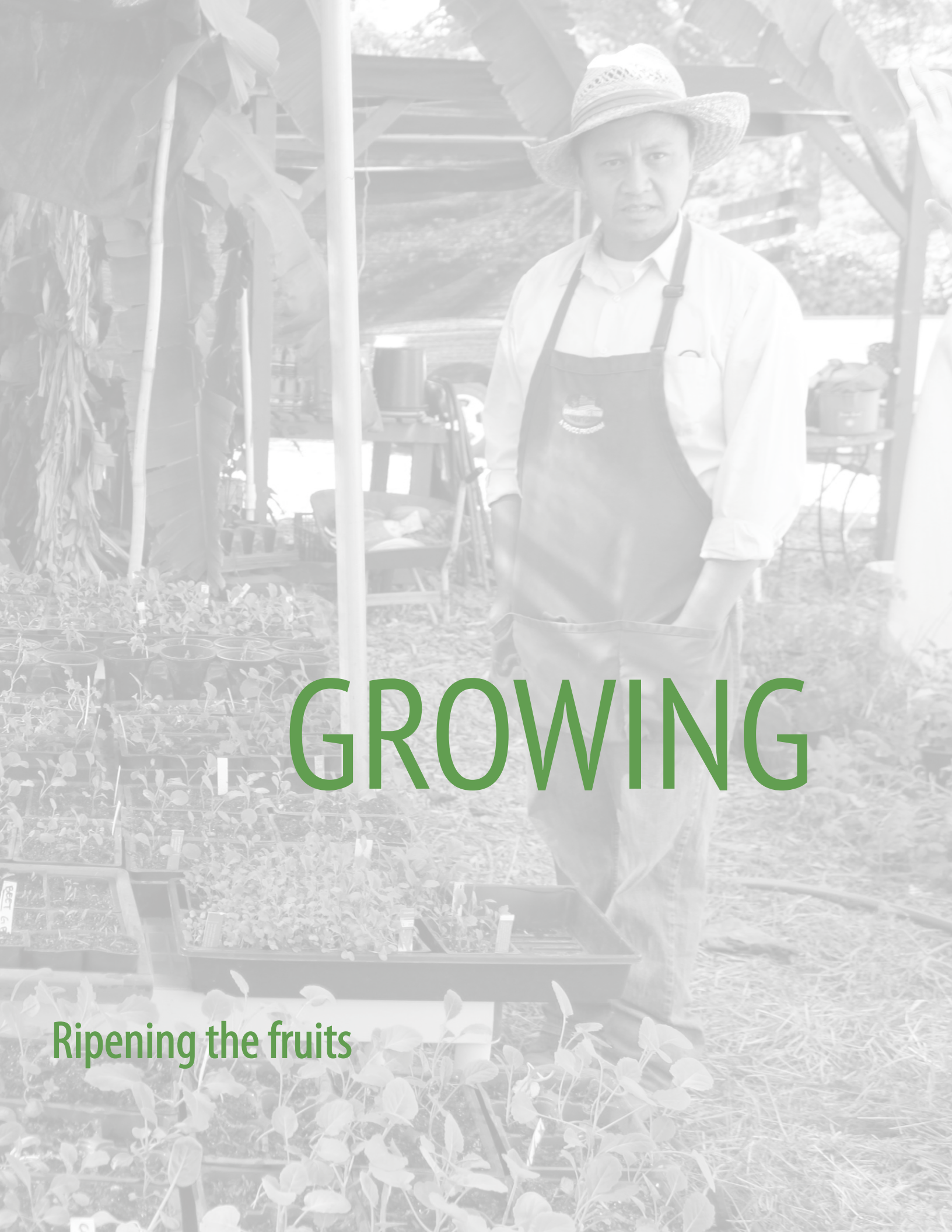
- Zoning changes: 1) Fruit edible gardens; 2) Public right of way; 3) Fruit and nut exchange
- Amending Landscape Ordinance to clearly state that an edible garden, landscaping with fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, etc. satisfies the City's landscape requirements for live plant material
- Consider animal husbandry in all residential zones or revise current zoning for more allowances of animal husbandry
- Potentially changing the zoning code to landscape the public right-of-ways with edible landscape and/or fruit. Plant fruit trees on public property and parks
- Potentially amend the Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance to require a tree removal permit on certain mature fruit trees such as avocados, citrus, etc.
- Allow and promote the use of gray water for irrigation in residential applications
- Allow and promote "rain harvesting"
- El Monte has so many citrus trees in residences. Many of the trees are full of fruit and go to waste. Create a volunteer program to donate the ripe fruit or have a group like the SGVCC pick and donate the food to a food bank, etc.
- Farmers market/street fair – Create an easier permitting process for special events such as farmers' markets, street closures, permits, fruit stands, etc.
- Create City compost program
- Identify/inventory vacant lots

RESULTS

The following is a brief summary of the group's discussion at Table 4:

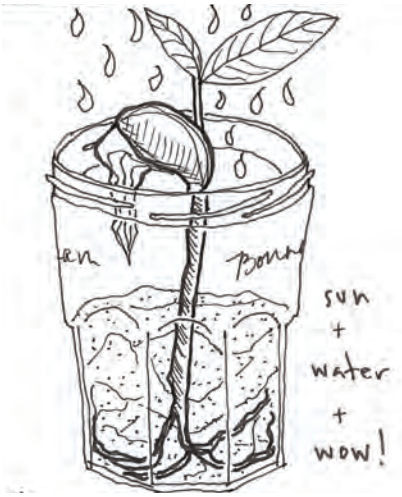
- Zoning changes: 1) Fruit edible gardens; 2) Public right of way; 3) Fruit and nut exchange
- Amending Landscape Ordinance to clearly state that an edible garden, landscaping with fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, etc. satisfies the City's landscape requirements for live plant material
- Consider animal husbandry in all residential zones or revise current zoning for more allowances of animal husbandry
- Potentially changing the zoning code to landscape the public right-of-ways with edible landscape and/or fruit. Plant fruit trees on public property and parks
- Potentially amend the Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance to require a tree removal permit on certain mature fruit trees such as avocados, citrus, etc.
- Allow and promote the use of gray water for irrigation in residential applications
- Allow and promote "rain harvesting"
- El Monte has so many citrus trees in residences. Many of the trees are full of fruit and go to waste. Create a volunteer program to donate the ripe fruit or have a group like the SGVCC pick and donate the food to a food bank, etc.
- Farmers market/street fair – Create an easier permitting process for special events such as farmers' markets, street closures, permits, fruit stands, etc.
- Create City compost program
- Identify/inventory vacant lots

5



GROWING

Ripening the fruits



5 GROWING

Ripening the fruits

Urban Agriculture Initiative Program and Guidelines

This section provides an assessment and recommendations pertaining to the key issues constraining urban agriculture in the City of El Monte. Key issues were identified based on public input, meetings with City staff, and field observations. Residents also identified four key urban agriculture priorities, which are presented in detail on the following pages.

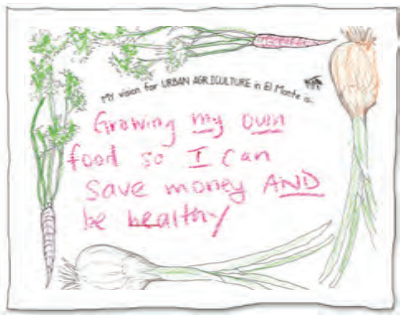
This chapter presents conceptual design recommendations and policy solutions for improving urban agriculture access. Based on the existing conditions assessment, the analysis of community needs, and extensive community engagement, consultants and staff worked with community members to develop the following suggestions for developing urban agriculture models in the City of El Monte.

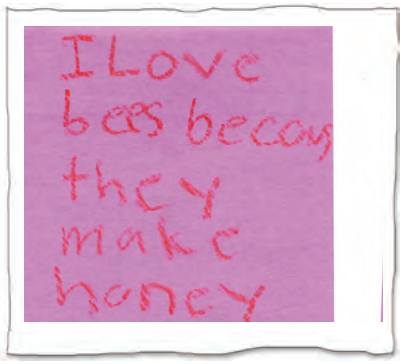
GROW

KEY URBAN AGRICULTURE PRIORITIES

The following major community needs were identified during the extensive outreach process. Each need is addressed in more detail in the sections that follow. Key needs for urban agriculture in El Monte include:

- Farmers markets
- Community gardens
- Schoolyard gardens
- Potential City policy and ordinance changes





ING

COMMUNITY GARDENS

A key urban agriculture priority identified by the community members of El Monte is community gardens. Community garden projects have great potential for improving neighborhood conditions by building healthier communities, improving the local economy, and providing access to healthy foods and diets.

Revitalize the community by creating safe and attractive spaces

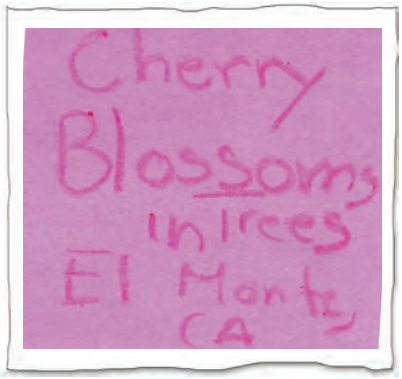
Community gardens reclaim and beautify vacant land, turning it into productive and welcoming spaces. They also foster a sense of community and integration. Urban farms and gardens can be an indicator of community resilience, linking diverse sectors of race and socioeconomic groups and giving them one common goal. Studies have shown that neighborhoods with community gardens typically report reduced rates of crime, trash dumping, fires, and violent deaths. They also report two unexpected advantages: increased voter registration and civic responsibility. [1]

Community gardens also reduce the amount of waste going into landfills by redirecting organic waste to generate compost. Many community gardens use food waste from local retail outlets and residences.

Improve economic health

Families who participate in community gardening are able to offset about 30 to 40 percent of their produce needs by eating food grown in their own gardens.[2] Other studies have estimated that a community garden can yield between $500 and $2000 worth of produce per family per year,[3] and that every $1 invested in a community garden plot yields around $6 worth of produce[4]. Community gardens and urban agriculture can also improve economic health by creating jobs, providing job training and skills development, and attracting new businesses and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Improve access to healthy foods and diets



In many low-income communities, there is a lack of access to healthy foods and the only places to buy food are fast-food and convenience stores. Studies

1 Hagey, A., Rice, S., & Flournoy R.,"Growing Urban Agriculture: Equitable Strategies and Policies for Improving Access to Healthy Food and Revitalizing Communities, retrieved from www.policylink.org

2 Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, "P-Patch," retrieved from http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/aboutPpatch.htm

3 Rob Baedeker, "What's the Value of Home-grown Food?," SF Gate, August 30, 2010, retrieved from http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2010/08/30/moneytales083010.DTL

4 Huntingtoncommunitygardens.com, "Gardening—A Holistic Approach to Civic Health," retrieved from http://www.huntingtoncommunitygardens.com/36.html

show that residents with greater access to fresh produce consume healthier diets and have lower rates of diet-related diseases than their counterparts in neighborhoods lacking food access. Community gardening is one strategy to offer healthy and affordable food sources.

Provide access to land

The City of El Monte is currently working on a vacant land inventory to identify all the City owned properties that could be used as potential sites for community gardens. However there are other ways in which land can be attained for community gardens, such as private land and/or State land. For example, La Madera Community Gardens is located on privately owned land and Earthworks Farm is located on Caltrans land.

How to Start a Community Garden

The consulting team researched community gardens in other cities and wrote this recommendations based on research from the City of Watsonville's Community Garden Program Guide[5] and Seattle's P-Patch Community Garden Guide.[6]

I. Finding a Site

An interested community member must find a site and test the soil to determine its quality. He/she should determine the ownership of the land (publicly owned, or privately owned) as they require different protocols and permitting.

Other things to consider when finding a site:

- The garden should be as close as possible to residences of participants
- There must be adequate space for each member
- Must receive adequate sunlight
- Can either be in-ground or have raised beds (the city must have the soil tested and amended for in-ground gardens)
- City water must be readily available
- Must establish a compost space
- Should have good visibility from the street

---

5 City of Watsonville Community Garden Program Guide," retrieved from http://cityofwatsonville.org/public-works-utilities/urban-greening-plan/community-gardens

6 "P-Patch Community Gardens," retrieved from http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/start.htm

- Must be accessible to the public as well as the mobility impaired
- Must abide by resource conservation guidelines

The site must also identify:

- Its boundaries
- How it will drain during a storm event
- A plan for storm water pollution prevention and run-off prevention
- Any natural features that must be protected

II. Organize the Group

Community members can form a garden group and organize governance. Deciding early on how the group will make decisions and divide tasks is essential. The Garden Coordinator/Project Lead can be the designated contact person, as well as hold many other duties managing the garden. Other positions to consider: outreach, bookkeeper, communications organizer, volunteer coordinator and materials organizer.

III. Proposal and Permitting

If the site is on city property, the group must submit a petition to the City's Community Garden Program manager, containing at least 6-12 signatures of interested members from different households. A neighborhood meeting may be called for public input. The petition will then be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council for approval.

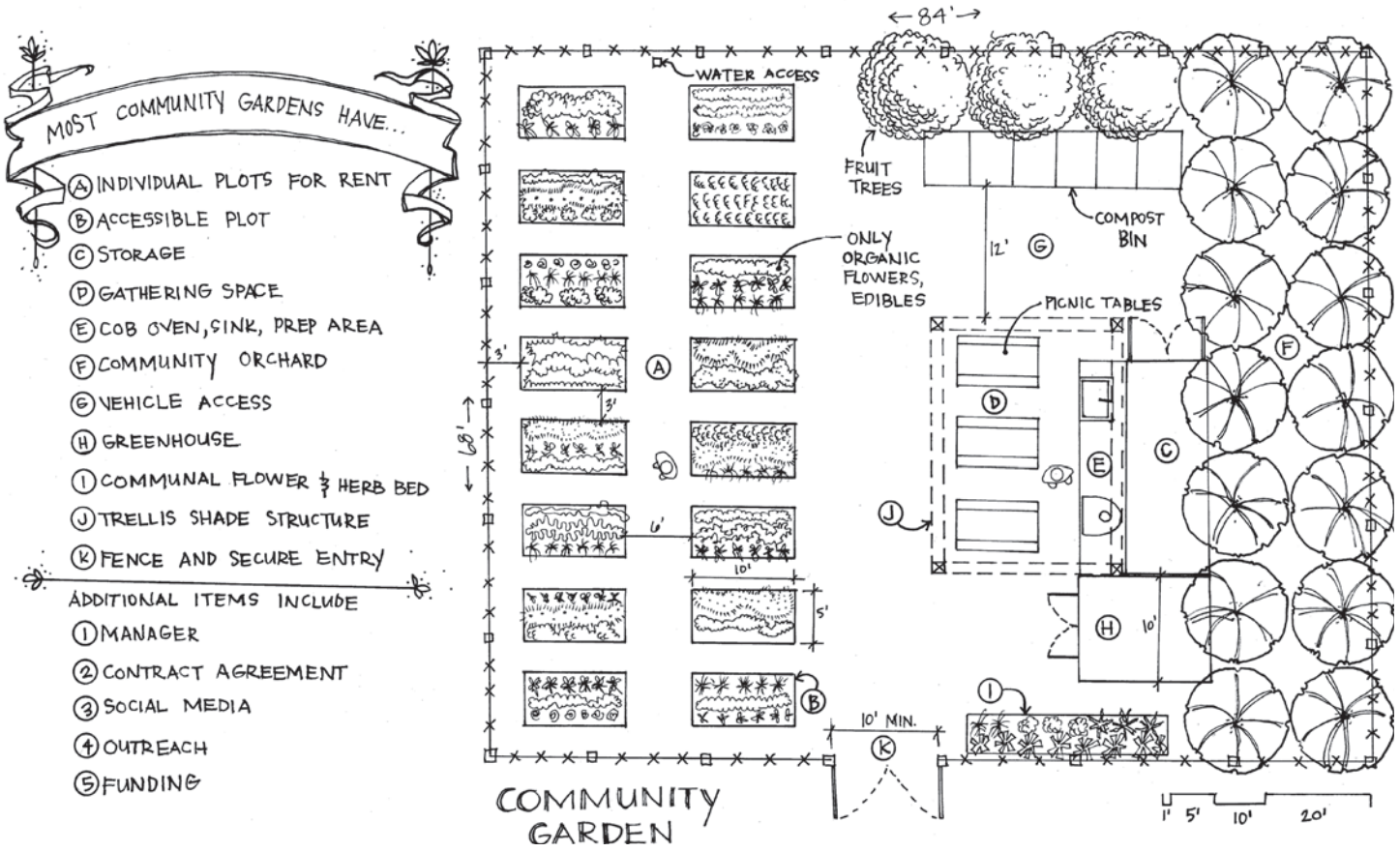
IV. Design and Build

Once land use is approved, the garden group can start the design process as well as make a garden plan outlining guidelines and policies that address issues such as garden plot size, tool shed, compost bins, pathways, fencing/ security, bulletins/message boards, signage, and maintenance/repair. The plan must also comply with city guidelines if these are set. Any construction and installation on city property must receive prior approval as well.

The build up can be a community event, set up as garden work parties. Inviting the community to this process builds a sense of pride and ownership. Once members and plots are assigned, the garden is ready to be planted!

V. Begin Gardening!

Following a sample conceptual plan created for the design of a community garden. The site plan includes all the typical elements to be considered when designing a community garden.

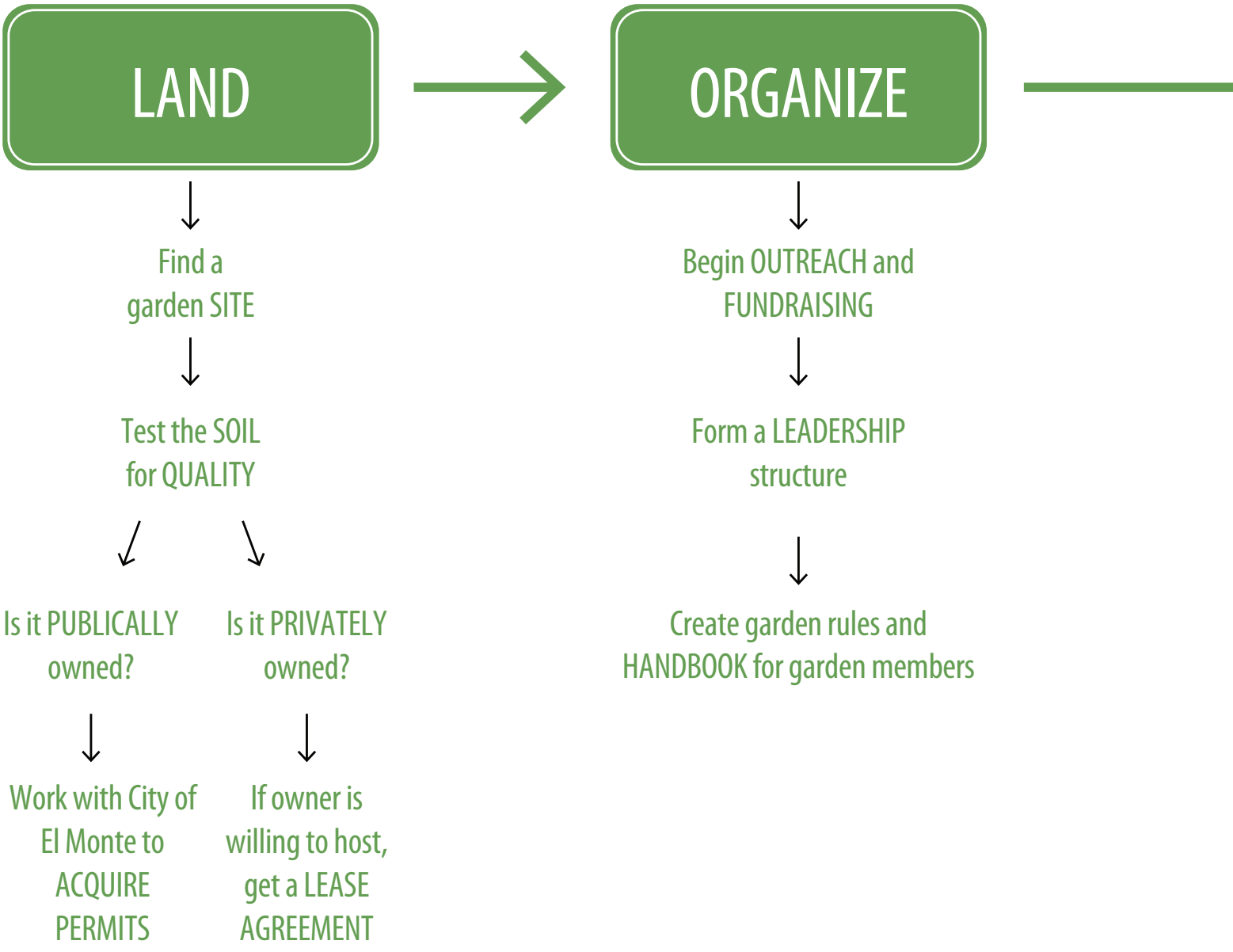


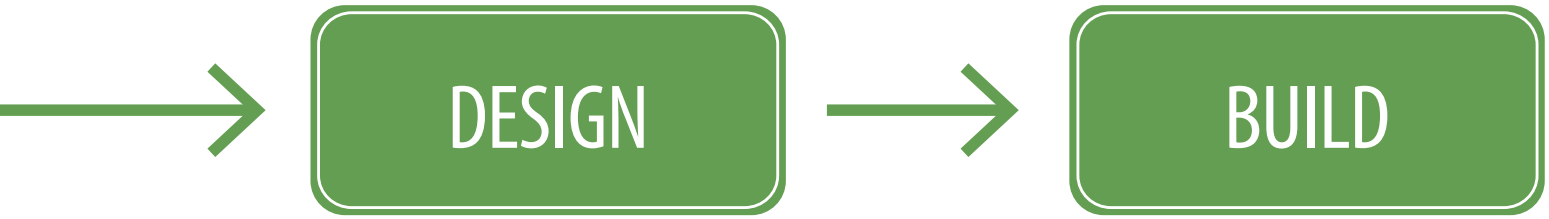
Top Sites Selected for Community Gardens

The community of El Monte agreed that it would be good to have a community garden in every district of the city; that way all residents could have access to a garden within walking distance. This list represents only the top areas identified as ideal locations to start a community garden by the community members.

- Rancho Farallon is a great potential site, as it already has water and is vacant.
- Valley/Santa Anita is next to the church, which is a good spot because churchgoers can also participate.
- Arden at Valley Road is another good location because it is central and easy to access.
- The land at the intersection of Southern Pacific Railroad and Durfee Avenue was also identified as a potential location
- The Osmond House at the Santa Fe Historical Park has potential for a small garden and will be the perfect place to tie in to the City's agricultural past. It is also near the Metro station, so it will have great access to public transit.

STEPS TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN





Site is approved, begin DESIGNING your garden!

Host a COMMUNITY MEETING design series

FINAL CONCEPT design

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Review of design DETAILS

Work with City to acquire planning, zoning, building, drainage, and grading PEMITS if required

Apply for water service if needed

Determine who will be doing the LABOR (hired or vounteer?)

Set up garden work parties

GRAND OPENING

Assign plots

BEGIN GARDENING!

"Youth are the future; getting the kids involved will have a lasting effect in the City." - Joel Kyne, Assistant Superintendent, El Monte Union High School District

SCHOOLYARD GARDENS

A key urban agriculture priority identified by the community of El Monte is to create edible gardens within schools. This priority was identified due to the available space to create gardens in the El Monte schools. The City of El Monte is highly developed and not much open space is available making the open space within the schools a good opportunity for the creation of edible gardens.

The community of El Monte also recognizes the importance of teaching kids how food is grown and creating a connection to a healthier lifestyle for the students through an improved access to healthy food. The garden can also be an educational opportunity, used as an outdoor classroom where students can learn science, ecology, biology, etc. This education should be linked back to the City of El Monte's rich agricultural history and leverage the existing agricultural knowledge within the elder community of El Monte.

Knowledge of food should be incorporated into the educational curriculum and the school experience for all levels, especially the K-12 grades. On one hand, this is a way to make sure children acquire basic skills in the way food is grown, harvested and prepared. On the other hand, a school garden can have a real impact in the production of food and become a real source of nourishment for the children. The food produced in the garden can be part of the school lunch. This will guarantee that kids are eating healthy and fresh produce every day. Kids are always more interested in trying out fruits and vegetables when they have grown them themselves; plus this produces tastes taste a lot better than any store-bought produce.

Beyond all of the previous points, a school garden will also beautify and create a sense of pride and ownership for the students in their schools. Working on a garden can be therapeutic, healing and a good workout. It also helps to create a sense of community by sharing tasks and love for a place.

HOW TO BUILD A SCHOOLYARD GARDEN

The consultants created a simple guide on how to start a schoolyard garden. This guide can be used by all schools in El Monte as a tool to assist them in the creation of a schoolyard garden.

1. Create a garden team

Find supporters within the school and community. Talk to teachers, parents, the principal, and community members to form a group of people with various skills to get behind the project. Once you have at least six to ten people on board, you have your garden team! This will be the team that coordinates and organizes garden maintenance, helps fundraise to support the garden, schedules educational activities, and finds and trains volunteers. This team can be composed of teachers, parents, other school staff, and student leaders. A strong team will be one of diverse and dedicated people.

2. Define the purpose and objective of your garden

Why does the school want a garden? Do you want students to learn culinary skills or to be more exposed to nature and the outdoors? With the team, make a list of the reasons why a garden is desired and how it will benefit the school community. Then create your vision by defining the purpose and goals of the garden. This will be a good time to get feedback from the principal and teachers as to how they will want to use this garden in their classes. Start having meetings with staff to find a plan to engage students and parents.

3. Create a year-round round garden plan

With the team, figure out a plan for what will happen throughout the whole year. Perhaps there is summer programming and the garden can be used in the non-school months, or the school is shut down and it will need to put the garden to bed. Make a month-to-month plan for how the garden will be used and who will help take care of the garden.

4. Choose a site and design your garden

Now that the organizational details have been figured out, its time to choose where to locate the garden and what the design will be. The team must take into consideration sunlight, a water source, terrain, and what type of garden is desired. The school may want in-ground beds, raised beds, or both. This would be a good time to bring in a gardener or landscape architect to help make a physical plan of the garden and if necessary hire a contractor to help build the infrastructure.

5. Fundraise

Once the design and plan are in place it is time to look at what will be needed financially to build and maintain the garden (wood, soil, tools, supplies, etc.). The school or district may have funds to start the garden, but there are always extra costs and needs through the whole process and into the future. Consider starting a "garden fund" and holding school and community fundraisers or drives. There are also many grant opportunities that can be applied for fund portions of the garden build and sustain the garden into the future. Fundraising should be happening at all times and can start as soon as the garden team is created.

"Focus on the schools; those are the most important places to start the work especially the ones along the Rio Hondo and San Gabrial River. Plant food and herb gardens as well as pollinator habitat."
- Claire Robinson, President, Amigos de los Rios

6. Build your garden

Depending on how the program is structured it may require permits from the School District, the Department State Architect or the City. Make sure those are in place before construction comemnces. Make an event out of the garden build and invite students and the community to be a part of this momentous change for the school. The garden build may happen in stages, especially if the design is large and requires lots of landscaping. Make sure to include the community in some aspect of the garden-building process whether it's digging and creating garden beds or taking part in the first planting. This will encourage involvement and a sense of pride and ownership for the garden in the future.

7. Engage students, teachers, and your community in the garden

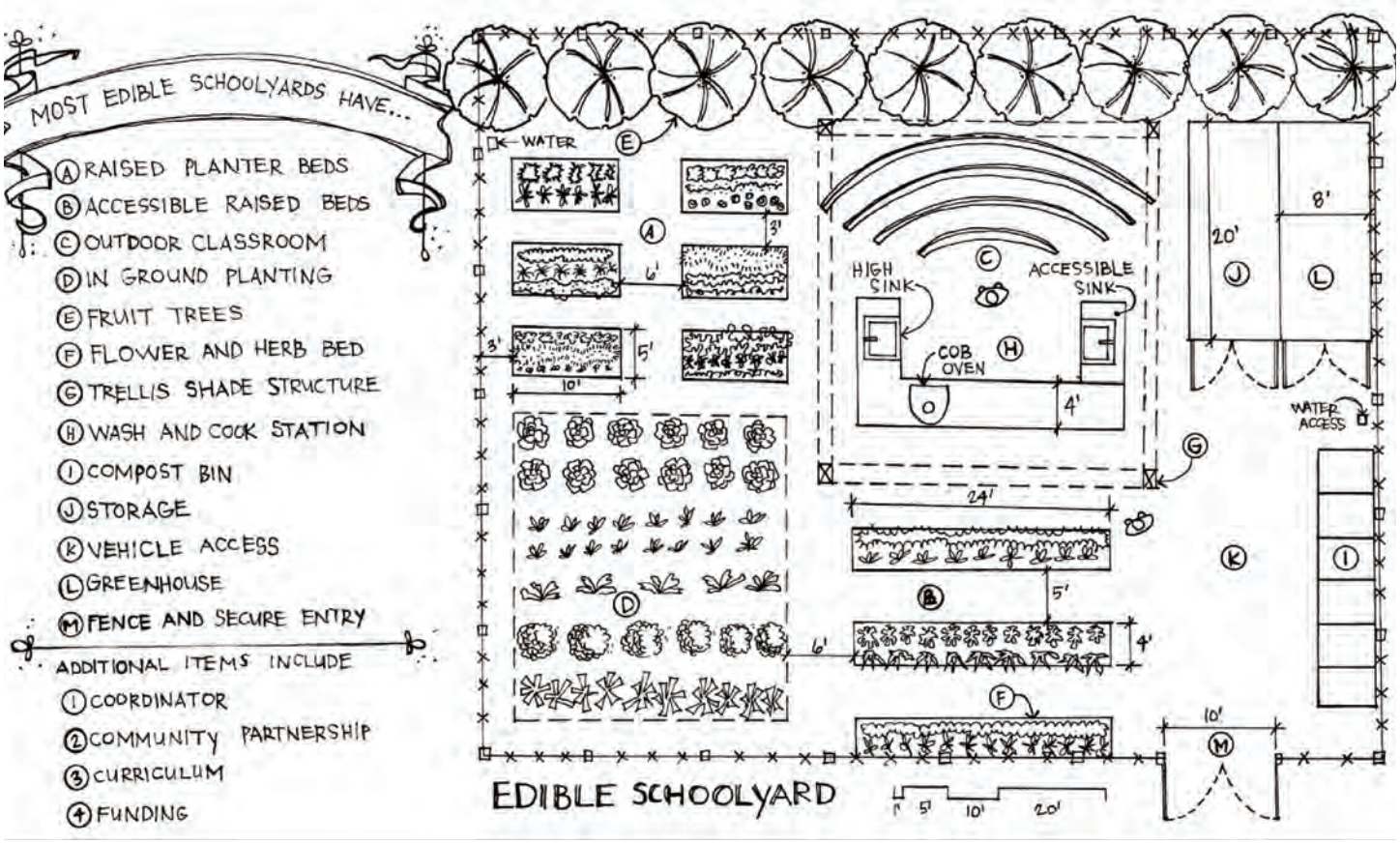
Now that the garden is built, it's time to use it and work on in. Teachers, after-school programs, club leaders, parents, etc. can all take part in the garden. It's up to the school (teachers and principal) to decide how the garden will be used in the curriculum and throughout the school day. It will be good to have meetings leading up to the garden build with the principal, garden team, and other staff to talk about how this will be a useful tool in the curriculum. Once everyone gets more familiar with the garden as a learning tool and resource, they will be inspired to use it in classes. Teachers can take their core classes out to the garden for lessons, or a garden elective class can be created. Plan a curriculum with the core team of teachers to ensure that all students are engaging in life science classes and nutrition education. An after-school program or garden club can also be started to engage students in the garden during non-class time. Students can earn community service hours by being involved in the garden club or after school program.

8. Harvest and Eat

Before too long there will be an abundance of food coming from the school garden. Food can be sent home with families as well as cooked and prepared in classes. Become familiar with harvesting techniques and seasonal recipes. Students love to taste what they have grown in the garden. Engage students in nutrition education and food harvesting and prep in the garden.

9. Reuse and Composting

While the garden goes through the seasons a lot goes in and comes out of the garden beds. That is why a composting system would be beneficial to set up at the garden to allow for the recycling and reuse of materials generated from the garden. For example, the beds will always need to be filled with nutritious soil. Having a compost area will allow you to take old, dying plants and food scraps and turn them into fresh new soil for your garden. Having a worm composting/vermiculture is also something helpful to ensure healthy soil and that nothing goes to waste in the garden. Things like newspaper, cardboard, milk boxes, food scraps, straw, etc. will be of great use in the garden. Begin collecting materials needed to store and use in the garden.



This is a sample conceptual plan created for the design of an edible schoolyard. The site plan includes all the typical elements to be considered when designing an edible schoolyard. However, the design should be altered and made specific to each school site based on the school location, orientation and needs.

Top Schools Selected for Edible Schoolyards

According to community input most people thought all schools should have an edible garden. This list represents the top choices of schools to start a schoolyard garden identified by the community. These schools can become models for other schools to follow. Most of the schools selected are located along the rivers. They have more space and fit within the implementation of the Emerald Necklace vision of an interconnected network of parks and open space along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The schools selected are: Durfee School, Thompson School, Madrid Intermediate School, Rio Vista Elementary School, Mountain View High School, La Primaria Elementary School and Arroyo High School.

Other Models

One issue that was brought up by the community of El Monte was the desire from the community and nonprofits to be able to work at the school gardens and share gardening knowledge and techniques with the students. School districts have restrictions on the people that can enter schools in order to protect the students; this can make it difficult for the community to participate in school garden activities if they are not part of the school community.

During the research, the consultants found a school that was able to solve this issue. John Muir High School in Pasadena has transformed part of its schoolyard into a highly productive 2-acre school farm. The farm not only grows food but also grows flowers and sells them through a CSA and at several farmers markets in the area. The money is used to sustain the farm and the students learn valuable lessons in business management and leadership skills through this enterprise. The farm has a wide range of volunteers who are members of the community. Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) has created a process in which people who wish to volunteer must fill out an application and present a valid ID and a negative tuberculosis test. PUSD processes a child safety clearance through Megan's Law and/or the Department of Justice/FBI.

PUSD has also created a volunteer orientation handbook. This handbook outlines the roles and duties of the volunteer, different tips and policies, law do's and don'ts as well as a volunteer pledge. This handbook and process could be used as a guide for the school districts in El Monte and replicate a similar process for creating a volunteer base in the El Monte school districts.

Other Helpful Resources

- Life Lab: http://www.lifelab.org/for-educators/schoolgardens/
- California School Garden Network: http://www.csgn.org/
- CSGN (Steps to a School Garden) http://www.csgn.org/steps
- Common Ground: http://commongroundct.org/environmental-center/school-garden-resource-center/
- UGA Extension: http://extension.uga.edu/k12/school-gardens/
- Edible Schoolyard: https://edibleschoolyard.org/resources-tools
- Vermicomposting: http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/resources/vermicompost107.shtml
- Composting: http://ucanr.edu/sites/sacmg/Composting/

"I grow this so the kids are attracted; it piques their interest and they want to eat it." -Richard Untal, former Farm Manager, Earthworks Farm Community Garden

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers markets were identified as one of the key elements of urban agriculture by the community of El Monte. While the community has identified farmers markets as a key priority, it can be a rather long process to ensure the success of a farmers market. This period can take a few years until the farmers market is established and gets going. In lieu of this, there are several smaller, less time-intensive steps that can be taken to bring farm fresh produce to the people while the farmers market gets on its way.

FARMERS MARKETS AND PROVIDING FRESH PRODUCE

A tomato grown and sold locally is juicy, sweet, colorful and often enjoyed in the summer season when tomatoes naturally flourish. A tomato grown and shipped long distance can be bought year-round because it is often grown in a greenhouse, picked before it is ripe, and they often lack in flavor. Fruits and vegetables grown locally and in season are more nutrient dense, taste better and contribute to healthier eating habits, which is likely to impact a healthier lifestyle and influence future buying decisions. Bringing fresh produce to the community provides economic benefits to local farmers who can earn money by selling what their farm grows.

A single urban agricultural activity can contribute multiple benefits and involve many individuals and institutions. For example, city farms and gardens can participate in a farmers market. Growers earn income-selling produce. Teenagers develop job skills as paid interns managing the farm. Local residents benefit from having a nearby option for fresh vegetables and from programs that offer cooking and nutrition classes. These outcomes overlap with the goals of a number of municipal agencies, funders and support organizations. [1]

PRODUCE SOLD AT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND CORNER STORES

Earthworks Farm Community Garden is located in a secluded location and has struggled to sell the produce of its farm to the local people. El Monte is currently underserved in its selection of quality, organic, and affordable produce and could greatly benefit from the produce grown at Earthwork Farms. Several corner stores already exist and are easily accessible to the community. Earthworks is currently investigating partnerships with these local businesses to sell its produce and more easily provide fresh produce grown locally to the households through a farm-to-table program. This type of program is a great first step to provide easier access to high quality, organic produce at affordable prices.

1 Design Trust for Public Space, "Five Borough Farm: Seeding the Future of Urban Agriculture in New York City", 2012

FOOD SWAP

One popular idea discussed by the community members was to establish a community food swap. A food swap is based on the exchange of food goods (fresh or prepared) with no monetary exchange. This would be especially effective in El Monte due to the large number of old growth fruit trees and existing residential edible landscapes. Instead of spending money at the grocery store or fruit stand, community members can use this type of system to exchange their excess while getting other goods. A neighbor with an abundance of lemons can trade with another neighbor who has an abundance of plums. This system existed in El Monte but was lost with urbanization. It would be easy to set up as it only requires a site for the exchange to take place, and coordination and communication with no major financial investment to start it.

Currently there are many communities that organize food swaps. The San Francisco food swap meets bimonthly at a retail space that offers its community room for free. The food swap has a growing demand and number of participants at every event. Some of the goods that are exchanged include fresh produce, herbs, honey, eggs, jams, salsas, pastries, kimchi and other fermented foods, etc.

LOCAL PRODUCE STANDS

Many photos and stories highlight the small produce stands that were popular in El Monte in the early 1900s. During the height of successful agriculture production, families who had lots of land had the advantage of growing a lot of food. Japanese families in particular sold their produce at little farm stands around the area. This is another direction Earthworks Farms is currently exploring on how to offer its produce to the local community. This is another inexpensive way for local production farms to provide easy access to high quality, seasonal, organic produce.

DEMONSTRATION TABLES AND CLASSES

Another extremely popular idea discussed at the community workshop is providing workshops, classes, demos, and tools showing where food comes

"I believe every city should have a farmers market for individuals to partake in and simply get his/her little produce for the week, and connecting with other artisans. A farmers market develops a community and brings the community together. Plus, being local, buying local and in turn being healthy and active is huge in helping a community to get well. According to a local RD, El Monte / South El Monte has only one establishment that serves organically grown foods in their restaurant."
- Marianne Zuagg, Farm Development Director at Earthworks Farm Community Garden

from, how it is grown, what it tastes like, and how to cook with it. Families with busy parents who work multiple jobs may not have the time or means to buy healthy produce or cook nutritious meals, let alone grow food in their backyards. This can lead to a lack of education and poor eating habits for the kids of this families. Most kids don't eat enough fresh produce, and end up eating too much fast food or frozen meals. As a result, they lack the knowledge of how to cook food or how sweet that fresh tomato can taste when plucked straight off the vine.

How can this type of nutrition education be incorporated into the community? While this will make a natural asset to the future farmers market, there are already many existing events and opportunities where workshops on healthy eating can take place. In the past, the Nutritional Services for the Unified School District provided parent's nutrition workshops, with short lessons, limited prep work, and a recipe at the end. They have the facility and the equipment for these types of classes and this could be reintroduced to the community as a valuable resource.

During the site visit to Earthworks farm, Farmer Richard Untal explained he had plants that were easy to harvest (such as berries or tangerines) for visitors to enjoy on the spot during farm tours. Similarly, other community gardens have expressed an interest in hosting these types of workshops. Carmen Macias, coordinator of La Madera Community Garden, believes these types of events will provide another way to light up minds with tasty bites and inspiring information.

Additionally, annual events such as El Monte's Arbor Day and the Children's Day Parade can host a demonstration table. Workshops can also be held at schools and at the Grace T. Black Auditorium.

HOW TO START A FARMERS MARKET

Being a pivotal aspect of life in Los Angeles, the farmers market happens year-round and Southern California boasts some of the most successful and oldest markets in the country. Research was done on local markets for recommendations. The consulting team spoke with local organizations that specialize in farmers markets in the Los Angeles region to gather advice. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Services website features a PDF on "How to Start a Farmers Market Guide" that was used as the basis for writing the guidelines below.

Starting a farmers market can take a few years but it will greatly influence a community. Based on the community input, the community of El Monte is ready for a farmers market and the City of El Monte should investigate the possibility further. Based on research by the consultants, the following are the recommendations on the steps necessary to consider starting a farmers market in El Monte.

1. CREATE A SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

First and foremost, feasibility of a farmers market should be discussed. El Monte has hosted a farmers market in the past but it was closed due to expensive costs and not enough regular attendance. Even though the community is currently very interested in having a market, the cost of permits, renting rest rooms, road closures, and reimbursement of City departments started to add up, not to mention the lack of general interest from the community which led to the downfall of the last market. To re establish a farmers market in this community, many factors should be considered. Objectives and goals, a mission statement, a governing body, and operating rules and regulations should all be established. The mission statement should include the direction the market is heading, and what types of products and services the market offers. Goals can include the time frame of the market, items to be marketed, expected achievements and expected earnings.

Local markets that are successful include night markets like the neighboring Monrovia Farmers Market. Aside from selling produce, this market has food trucks and live music, making it a great destination for families on Friday nights. Other markets could happen during the week after work hours and can be an easy spot for someone on their way home from work. The community members also suggested a "rotating market" that happens at different times during the week.

2. FIND A SITE

One of the most basic questions to ask is where to host a farmers market? A central destination that is close to public transit, has easy parking, bicycle paths, is a reliable location, supports existing waste disposal, has rest

"A single urban agricultural activity can contribute multiple benefits and involve many individuals and institutions. For example, a number of the city's farms and gardens participate in a farmers market. Growers earn income-selling produce. Teenagers develop job skills as paid interns managing the farm. Local residents benefit from having a nearby option for fresh vegetables and from programs that offer cooking and nutrition classes. These outcomes overlap with the goals of a number of municipal agencies, funders and support organizations."
-Design Trust for Public Space, "Five Borough Farm: Seeding the Future of Urban Agriculture in New York City", 2012

rooms, and is pedestrian oriented helps to establish a good site. Location suggestions include the parking area of shopping centers, public parks, downtown plaza area, and areas where closed-off streets easily connect local businesses.

A very popular site suggested by the community is Valley Mall; the Dia de los Muertos parade was hosted there, and was a very popular and well attended event. A market there would align with the current revitalization efforts of this area. According to the community, a potential night market similar to the market in Monrovia, would help to "soften the image" of El Monte at night. This site also meets all of the requirements listed above; however, several people were worried a farmers market would compete too much with local business and restaurants. Additionally, a farmers market used to exist in this location but was not bringing in enough revenue to support the cost to run it, including the street closure, police, and other city permits required. Other sites were suggested by the community such as Arceo Park, the parking lot behind the Grace T. Black Auditorium and the parking lot at Arroyo High School.

The recently approved Gateway Development is scheduled to bring big changes to El Monte. New infrastructure and business space will help bring a more diverse amount of shopping and restaurants to the city. Perhaps a good location for the farmers market is near this new development, to help create a more one-stop-shopping experience.

A common reason cited by non-farmers market shoppers for not patronizing a farmers market was the need to complete their shopping at one location. While it is unlikely that farmers markets will be able to serve that function, positioning markets in locations that give the appearance of one-stop shopping may overcome this access barrier. It is recommended that market operators who are serious about long-term sustainability turn the market into a destination. The market should not only be a place to buy produce, but should incorporate programming that integrates the market into the fabric of the surrounding community. [1]

3. MARKET SIGNAGE AND ADVERTISING

Market signwage should be installed in convenient locations with clear and concise, easy to read information, such as the hours and days of operation, location, and additional information. Advertising is also important to help spread the word. With social media being so popular these days, many existing farmers markets create a Facebook page with photos and event information. Advertising can also be done through the local newspaper or through a flyer sent in the mail.

---

1 Project for Public Spaces, "New Reports on Farmers Market and Low Income Communities", February 20, 2014, retrieved from http://www.pps.org/blog/new-report-on-farmers-markets-low-in-come-communities/

In El Monte, it may be beneficial to have the farmers market information written in different languages to better reach everyone in the community. It is also important to the community that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) can be used at the market, which is another key aspect to advertise. El Monte is likely eligible for enrollment and benefits through SNAP.

Adopting EBT technology to accept SNAP benefits can help markets tap into a larger customer base by providing an easy and convenient way for consumers to redeem SNAP benefits on eligible food items. EBT technology also allows markets that normally accept only cash to accept bank-issued debit and credit cards. While it is possible to increase vendor sales via EBT sales alone, the ability to process debit and credit cards, along with EBT, stimulates a sharper increase in vendor revenue, which can be used to offset EBT operating costs. EBT technology also allows markets that normally accept only cash to accept bank-issued debit and credit cards. [2]

Additionally, grants and fundraising opportunities to help cover costs are also available to those markets eligible for SNAP. Several grant opportunities are available, such as the USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP).

4. IDENTIFY A MARKET MANAGER

The market manager works with the board of directors and is selected as the main point of contact. This person oversees day-to-day operations such as collecting fees, enforcing the regulations, handling complaints, and maintaining the vendors. This person also helps obtain permits and insurance, recruits vendors, and helps to foster strong community relationships. In El Monte, it may be beneficial for the market manager to be bilingual to better work with the community, the vendors, and farmers.

5. IDENTIFY AND RECRUIT FARMERS

Of course the bulk of the market is based on what is sold. There are several resources to find farmers including the California Department of Food and Agriculture, farmers market associations, county extension offices, and good old word-of-mouth.

Similar to the diversity of its community gardens, like La Madera and Earthworks Farm, the community would like vendors that reflect the local diversity of culture. At La Madera Community Garden, bok choy and Asian greens are grown next to a plot that contains chirimoyas. At Earthworks Farm,

2 USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Project for Public Spaces, "SNAP At Farmers Market: A How To Handbook", retrieved from http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5085298

marigolds are grown for Dia de los Muertos celebrations while nearby citrus trees are drooping with sweet mandarins.

Tying back into demonstration tables that were listed before, booth ideas include a "garden on wheels" that allows families to harvest food "on the spot" while learning about what it looks like when it grows and how it tastes. Cooking demos and take home recipe cards can help influence buying decisions and encourage people to try new produce items sold at the market. Vendors selling plant starts and instruction on plant care were also recommended from the community members as an additional resource to those who wish to grow their own food.

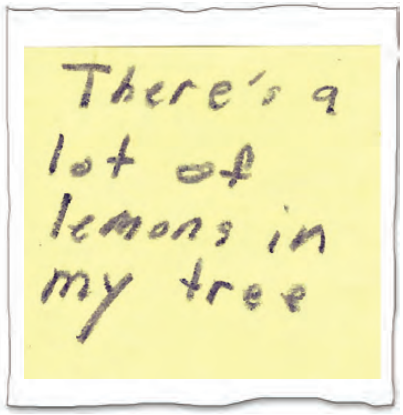
6. ESTABLISH BYLAWS

The purpose of by-laws is to define key aspects of the market. This also includes establishing the roles and responsibilities of the appointed directors and officers, as well as defining the election and amendment processes. The location, hours of operation, and purpose are defined along with market logistics such as membership, dues, and fees.

7. ADOPT AND ENFORCE RULES AND REGULATIONS, FOOD SAFETY FOR PREPARED FOODS

Rule and regulations include what types of food to sell, how many participants the site can hold, appropriate types of permits and licenses, and food safety guidelines. Will the market sell produce only or also prepared, hot food? Is this market for the community of El Monte only or should other local communities become involved? Is the selected site large enough with ample parking able to hold a large enough crowd? The health department is a good resource to ensure food safety guidelines are met.

El Monte's community members prefer fresh food over fried food and even considered an increased small fee for those selling "less healthy" food. Many feel consumers can buy fried food elsewhere, but the point of the market is to provide farm fresh produce. Food trucks were discussed and the community felt even those should be limited in order to not pull focus away from the farm fresh produce.



8. VENDOR STALL AGREEMENTS

The board of directors must also establish the standard vendor stall size. Pop up tents are very popular at markets; their standard size is 10'x10', which is an adequate size but also provides good shade for produce and sellers. A design plan should be drawn up to establish the market layout. Stalls should be organized next to each other, with wide, open aisles for buyers to easily move around. Stalls can also be organized based on what they are selling; for example, all of the produce is at one end, while arts and crafts sold at the other end. Food vendors or food trucks can be placed near public seating

and flowers can be sold near the entrance for easy grab and go. These stall agreements and design will also help to solidify who can sell what by placing controls on the number of different types of vendors. When working with vendors, it's important the rules and regulations are understood by all parties to avoid problems down the road.

9. CREATE A BUDGET

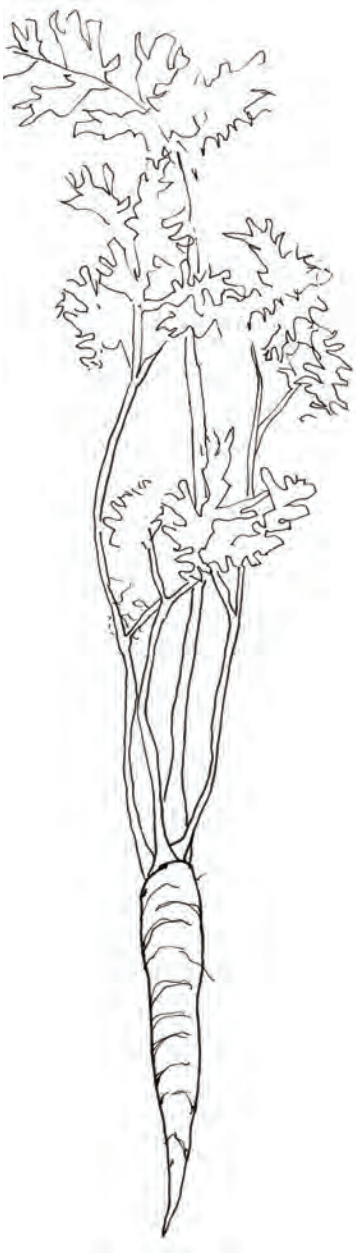
Establishing a budget early on is important. Some costs to consider include insurance, permits, advertising, and salaries. Every market requires insurance and this can be in the form of the insurance through the market or when the vendor is responsible for providing their own. Permits can also be enforced on vendors depending on what they are selling, sometimes becoming more stringent on the sale of prepared food. The market manager and board of directors works with the vendors, providing the necessary resources and information to ensure they have what they need. A market with ample advertising will be more successful than a market without one. Refer back to the section on marking and advertising for listed suggestions on how to spread the word. It is also important to consider how much the vendors need to make in order to make it profitable for them. If a vendor is coming a long distance to get to the market, the amount they make should make it worth their trip.

A note from the community includes selling organic produce at affordable prices at the market. Many feel organic food is unattainable because of its high cost. However research often shows that farmers markets sell food at more affordable prices than the local grocery stores.

10. DETERMINE FEE STRUCTURE

Fee structure is based on a realistic budget that is comparable with market standards, proposed market publicity, and community relations. Strong, capable management should be hired to fill the roles of the board of directors and the market manager. Community relations can contribute to a stronger market and can include teaching components for families through demo tables, workshops, discussion tables and additional resources.

Overall, take care of the customers, listen to consumer demands, keep a good market image, hold consistent operations, and have fun with new ideas!



Additional Resources include:

- California Farmers Market Association: http://www.cafarmersmkts.com/cfmarulesregs/2001202010.pdf
- USDA How to Start a Farmers Market: http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3022129
- Project for Public Spaces, Markets: http://www.pps.org/markets/

" I want to make a difference in advocating for a healthier generation! Plus, I can contribute to the farmers market because I own two orange trees - organic orange trees!"
- Amaranta Hernandez, Student President, Durfee School

CITY ORDINANCES AND POLICIES

Through the community outreach process, it was recognized as a key element in the UAIP that the City of El Monte needs to consider making some changes to some City policies and ordinances. Some of the changes are easier to implement and have already been identified in the City's General Plan. Others will require further investigation and analysis of feasibility in the City. The following is a list of recommendations that were identified by the community members. The consulting team researched how these initiatives have been implemented in other communities across the United States.

Zoning

Urban agriculture can happen almost anywhere a motivated individual can find a secured land. However, zoning can become an impediment if the City does not allow for agriculture to happen within a particular zoning district.

Currently the City of El Monte does not have an agricultural zoning district within its zoning code. The absence of urban agriculture within a municipal zoning code is common in many urban and suburban cities that have been built up. In the research, the consultants found that communities have taken a range of approaches that don't always call for a change in the zoning code. The most common approach is to list specific urban agriculture activities as permitted uses within an existing zoning district. Other municipalities have decided to create new zoning districts or overlays and they are set aside for community gardens and other urban agriculture activities.

One specific recommendation for El Monte is to consider changing the City municipal code to allow the planting of edibles and fruit trees on the public right of ways, public property, streets and parks.

The City of El Monte zoning code currently allows for animal husbandry. However, it would be good if the City would widely advertise and encourage residents to partake of the activities, perhaps finding incentives to motivate residents to keep chicken and bees in their backyards. For example the State of Virginia is now willing to pay its residents for taking up beekeeping. The Virginia General Assembly created the Beehive Grant Fund to promote the establishment of new beehives. Under the program, people can apply for a grant from the fund to cover the cost of purchasing a new hive or materials to construct a new hive. The grant will pay for the actual expenses incurred up to $200 per hive, not exceeding $2,400 per person, per year.

"The goal is to try and encourage more people to buy beekeeping equipment and get involved in beekeeping because it's vital – the honey bee is one of our greatest natural resources."

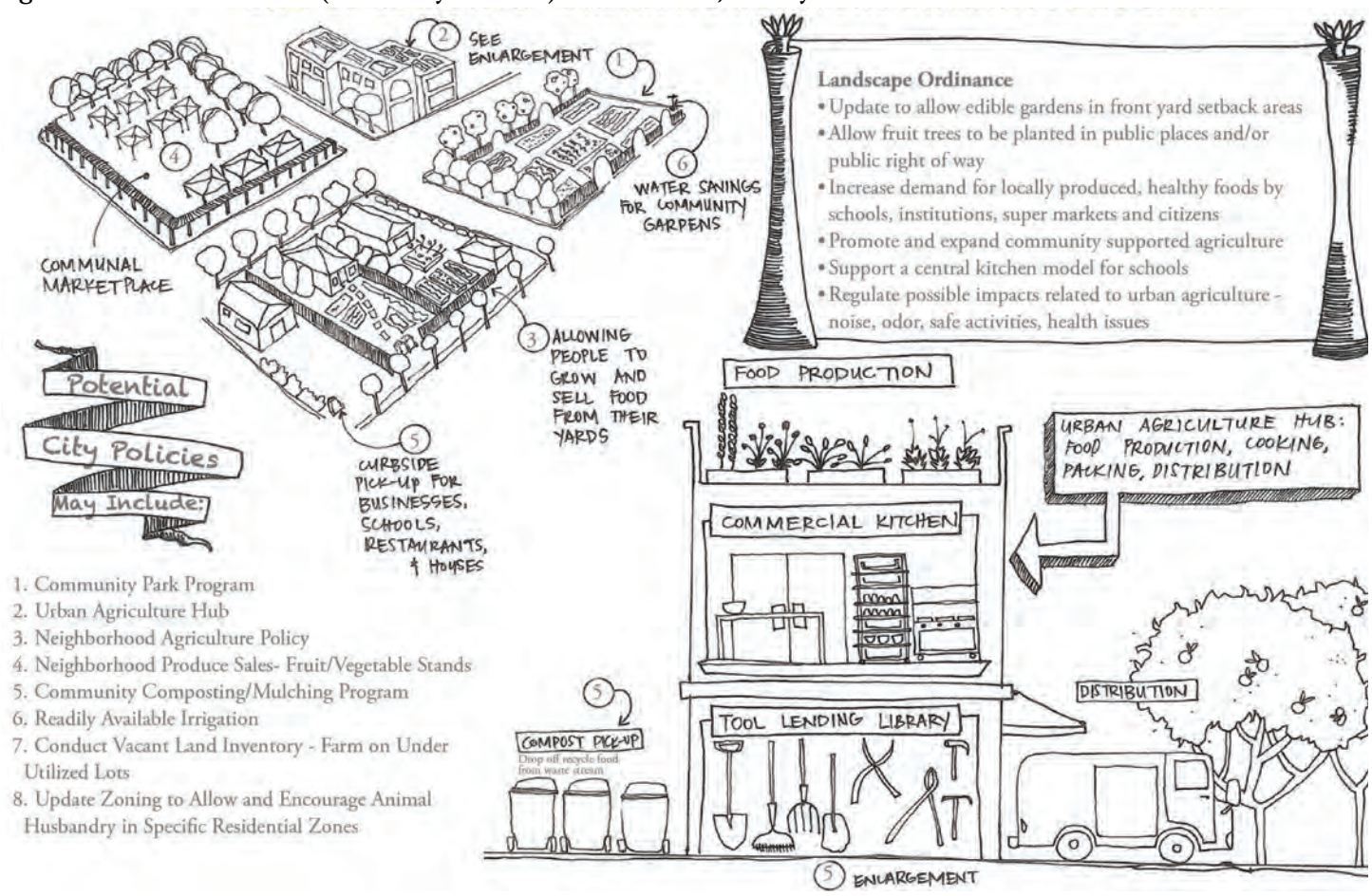
Norfolk Beekeepers Association President Frank Walker

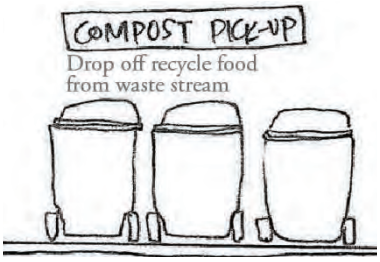
Ordinance

Fifty-eight percent of the total land use in the City of El Monte is dedicated to residential use. Most residences in El Monte have a front and backyard, sometimes even a side yard. This represents a lot of space within the urban fabric of the city and it could all be dedicated to growing food, creating an impact on the food security and the access to healthy fresh produce within the city boundaries. One strong recommendation from the community is to amend the landscape ordinance to clearly state that an edible garden, landscaping with fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, etc. satisfies the City's landscape requirements for live plant material.

Another recommendation to amend the City's Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance. The amendment would require a tree removal permit on mature fruit trees such as avocados, citrus, etc. This would help preserve the remaining agricultural heritage from the City's past and hopefully encourage the care and preservation of existing mature edible trees.

It is also recommended that the City of El Monte implement the new State Legislation that provides urban agriculture property tax incentives - Urban Agriculture Incentive Act (Assembly Bill 551) effective on January 2014.





Tax credits create an attractive incentive for property owners to offer their land for community gardens or other urban farming uses. The new law accomplishes two things: increased use of privately owned, vacant land for urban agriculture, and improved land security for urban agriculture projects. The legislation does this by allowing city governments, with approval from their county board of supervisors, to designate areas within their boundaries as "urban agriculture incentive zones." In these areas, landowners who sign a contract to commit their land to agricultural use for at least five years will get a reduction in their property taxes. Specifically, their parcel's property tax assessment will be based on the agricultural value of the land. [1]

POLICIES

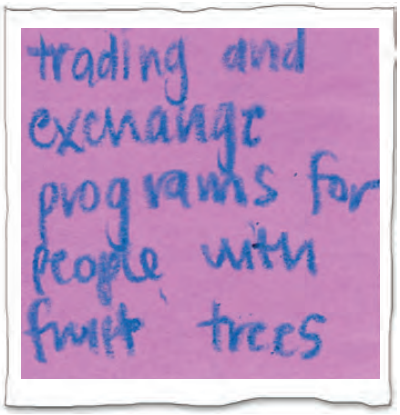
Municipal Composting Program

It is recommended that the City look into implementing a municipal composting program. A composting program that separates food, yard and garden waste can greatly reduce the amount of organic waste being sent to the landfills and provide nutrient-rich soil for gardeners. Healthy soil in the form of compost is a basic resource for City gardeners, especially for those who do not have access to healthy soils and need to garden on raised beds.

The City of San Francisco has a mandatory citywide curbside composting program. The City's green carts accept food scraps, food soiled paper, and yard waste diverting approximately 105,000 tons of refuse from landfills every year. After the scraps get processed, the compost is sold at gardening supply stores. [2] Other cities such as the City of Berkeley give away the compost to its residents once a month.

Conduct Land Inventory

The community and City staff of El Monte recognize that there are many vacant and under-utilized lots in the city that could be turned into productive sites. City staff is currently undertaking a vacant land inventory.



During World War I, land surveys were established to identify optimal farm land. The National War Commission used the slogan "put the slackers to work" implying that any open fields not being used for food production were slacking off. During World War II, individuals and families produced up to 44 percent of the countries vegetables in "victory gardens." [3]

---

1 http://www.spur.org/blog/2013-10-02/california-s-new-urban-agriculture-property-tax-incentive

2 San Francisco, City and County of, Dept of the the Environment n. d. "composting" Available at www.sfenvironment.org/our-programs/topics

3 Orsi, Janelle "Policies for a sharable City #11: Urban Agriculture" Shearable.net, http://www.shareable.net/blog/policies-for-a-shareable-city-11-urban agriculture

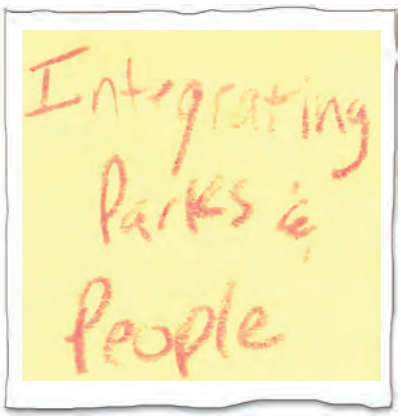
In 2009 former Mayor of San Francisco Gavin Newsom issued a directive asking all City departments to "conduct an audit of unused land including empty lots, rooftops, windowsills, and median strips- that could be turned into community gardens or farms." [4]

OTHER CITIES' URBAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

In 2007, the City of Sacramento revised its Front Yard Landscape Ordinance to include edible fruits, vegetables, and other design elements when integrated as part of the landscape design. The City of Oakland has recently developed an urban agriculture update to its zoning code and the City of Richmond conducted an urban agriculture assessment which looks at the potential for urban agriculture and the City's role in achieving an equitable food system. The Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Urban Greening Planning Grant was awarded to the City of Calexico which is adding an Agricultural Element to the City's General Plan update.

Many San Gabriel Valley cities welcome some form of urban agriculture in their communities. Monrovia, Claremont, Covina, West Covina, and South Pasadena have very successful farmers markets that are held weekly, and the cities address street closures for these types of events in their Municipal Codes. The City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment offers a guide to its residents called "Green Building Design Guidelines for Landscaping: Urban Agriculture and Gardens, growing food in residential gardens." The neighboring cities of Baldwin Park and South El Monte also have community gardens. The SGVCC runs the 4.9-acre Earthworks Farm and Community Gardens within the Whittier Narrows recreational area in South El Monte.

4 Calfee, Corinne, Weissman, Eve "Permission to Transition: Zoning and the Transition Movement" Planning and Environmental Law: Issues and decisions that impact the built and natural environments 64;5 (2012); Citing Josh Harkinson, "San Francisco Latest Eco-Innovation: Growing Produce Almost Everywhere" Mother Jones (9 July 2009), http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2009/07/san-francisco-latest-eco-innovation-city-effort-grow-produce-almost-everywhere.



FUNDING STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The City of El Monte was awarded funding from the State of California's SGC to develop and establish an UAIP. The goal of the UAIP is to encourage urban agriculture citywide and improve the overall quality of life for El Monte residents.

As part of the UAIP, a steering committee was formed and meetings were held to further understand and identify the community of El Monte's top priorities in establishing an urban agriculture plan. The top priorities identified by the community are:

- Community gardens in vacant and underutilized lots
- Edible schoolyards
- Farmers markets
- Potential City policies and ordinances

Based off this input provided by the community, a funding strategy was created which focuses on supporting these top priorities. The strategy offers different options and resources available to best support and maintain the long-term sustainability of the urban agriculture program and/or projects in El Monte.

The funding strategy includes the following three parts, each of which is described below in more detail:

1. Identifying the potential funding sources
2. Developing these funding sources
3. Action plan

FUNDING STRATEGY PART I

Identifying the potential funding sources

There are four basic ways to fund public programs, projects, and facilities: ***Current revenues*** (pay as you go), ***borrowing*** (bonding), ***intergovernmental transfers/assistance*** (grants), and/or ***public-private partnerships*** (private sector involvement in public sector activities). Not every financing source or mechanism is appropriate for every governmental program; it is important to take this into consideration when selecting funding sources and/or alternatives.

The two types of funding sources identified to be the most viable to support the UAIP in El Monte are ***intergovernmental transfers/assistance and public-private partnerships***. Alternative funding sources in the form of donations, fundraisers, and user fees could also be utilized to help supplement and promote the long-term sustainability of the UAIP. The following table shows the viability of each funding source compared to each urban agriculture program and project priority. Grants and donations are viable for each program and/or project, while public-private partnerships are viable for community gardens and edible schoolyards. Fees are viable for community gardens.

City of El Monte Funding Sources			
	Farmers Market	Community Gardens	Edible School Yards
Grants	✓	✓	✓
Private-Nonprofit		✓	✓
Donations	✓	✓	✓
Fees		✓	

FUNDING STRATEGY PART II

Developing these funding sources

There are numerous local, regional, and national resources available in developing the funding sources to support the City of El Monte's UAIP. This second part of the funding strategy identifies the stages of each agriculture program and/or project including start-up, maintenance, growth, and sustainability, and potential funding sources. The table below provides general strategies for each program and/or project in terms of actionable matters obtained from background research and discussions with field experts. The table also lists the potential funding source(s) for each program and/or project stage. Specific Internet links to additional information, opportunities, and grant resources are shown.

Funding sources:

El Monte Urban Agriculture Plan			
1- Farmers Markets		**Funding Sources**	**Links**
Partnering with a nonprofit that specializes in organizing, running, and managing farmers markets. They coordinate and handle all aspects including helping identify site location, vendor selection, permitting, and licenses; setup, breakdown, and cleanup; and local business outreach.	Start-up	Local Farmers Federal Grants City of El Monte	www.fns.usda.gov/ebt/usda-grant-resources-farmers-markets www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/fmpp www.rawinspiration.org
	Maintenance	Local Farmers	
	Growth	Local Farmers Federal Grants	
	Sustainability	Local Farmers	
2- Community Gardens		**Funding Sources**	**Links**
Los Angeles has 70 different community gardens. LA Garden Council is a nonprofit organization that was formed to help cities develop community gardens. These are most often self-sustaining and self-policed by creating a local oversight committee made up of residents, local business owners, and community leaders. The right piece of property, oftentimes an odd-shaped parcel that is unable to be utilized or developed, tends to make the best garden.	Start-up	Local Businesses Grants Donations	www.lagardencouncil.org www.americainbloom.org www.americainbloom.org/resources/Grant-Opportunities.aspx
	Maintenance	Local Businesses Donations & Fundraisers User Fees	
	Growth	Local Businesses Grants	
	Sustainability	User Fees Local Businesses Donations & Fundraisers	
3- Edible School Yards		**Funding Sources**	**Links**
Keys to success: Choosing a school that is willing to champion the program. Gain support of the administration at the school level and district level. Create an educational connection and make sure it ties directly to the curriculum. Working with the school PTA soliciting volunteer help and partnering with the local businesses.	Start-up	Local Businesses Grants Donations & Fundraisers	www.educationoutside.org www.educationoutside.org/school-garden-grants/ www.communitygarden.org/
	Maintenance	School District Dollars Fundraisers Donations	
	Growth	Private Nonprofit Grants Federal Grants Fundraisers	
	Sustainability	School District Dollars Local Businesses Federal Grants	

*The links in the above chart contain information to multiple organizations for funding and guidance in developing an urban agriculture program and/or project.

FUNDING STRATEGY PART III

Action Plan

The following five-year plan identifies phased actions needed to successfully implement and grow a sustainable long-term UAIP in the City of El Monte. It is broken down into two phases: Phase I: Start Up Phase (Years 0-2), and Phase II: Growth and Sustainability Phase (Years 3-5). Each phase with specific actions is outlined below.

Establish Farmers Market - Modernize City Ordinances - Create Community Garden - Launch Edible School Program

Phase I: Start-up Phase Years 0-2

- Partner with a local farmers market management company.
    - Select market location
    - Apply for grant funding
    - Create partnerships with local businesses
    - Promote and advertise

- Work with City to modernize its ordinances for urban agriculture.
    - Identify outdated ordinances that tend to discourage urban agriculture
    - Search for model ordinances
    - Present plans to help modernize ordinances
    - Plan for future urban agriculture needs
    - Follow through with modernization of ordinances

- Create Community Garden Council (CGC).
    - Establish CGC charter, bylaws, policies, and operating procedures
    - Locate and secure parcel(s) of land to be used for community garden

- Apply for grants
- Sponsorships from local businesses
- Promote community garden

- Partner with the local school district to create an edible schoolyard program.
    - Select school to pilot the program
    - Support from faculty and PTA
    - Apply for grants
    - Sponsorships for local businesses

Phase II: Growth and Sustainability Phase Years 3-5

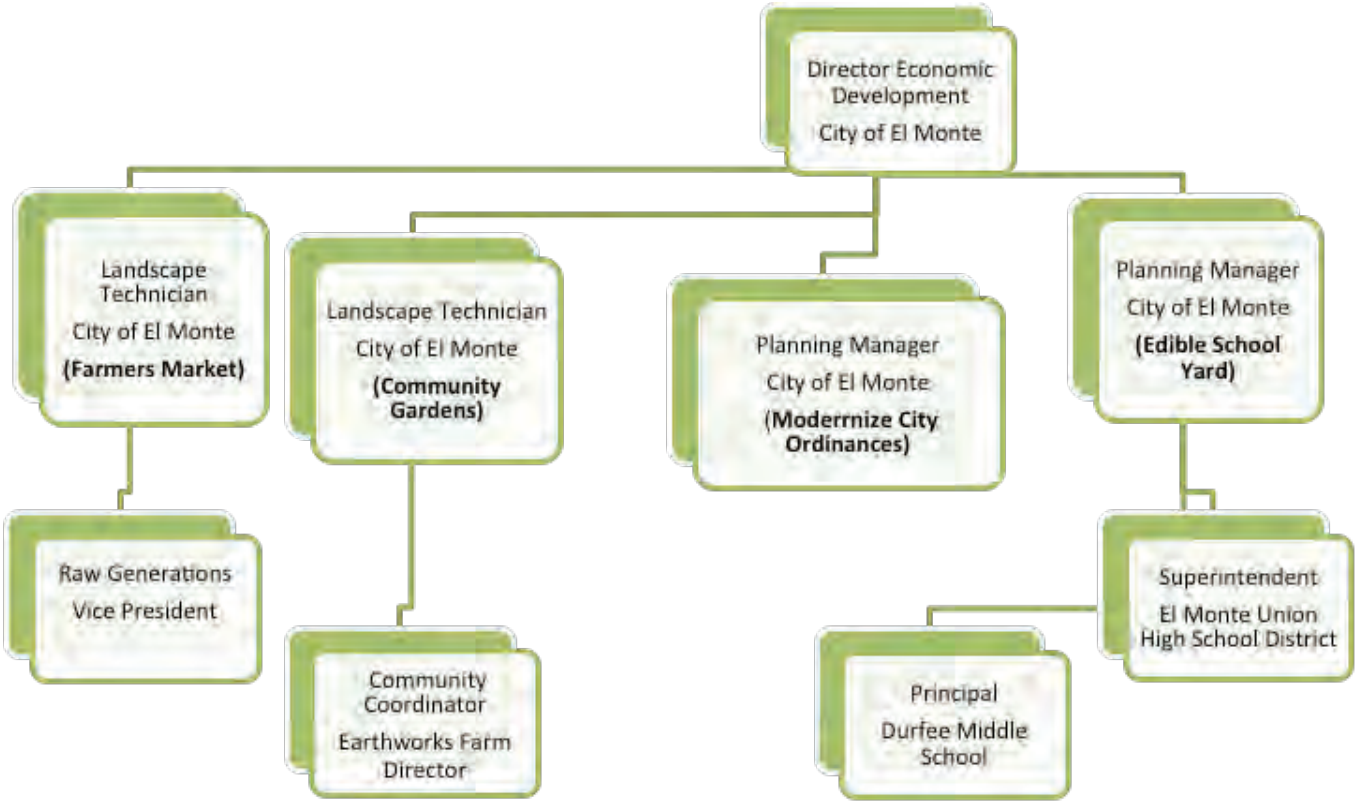
- Expand farmers market and add second location.
    - Work with management company to identify second location
    - Promote and advertise

- Expand community garden and add other locations.
    - Secure parcels to use
    - Create subcommittees for new locations
    - Apply for grants
    - Promote gardens

- Expand edible schoolyard program to other schools.
    - Identify which schools to partner with
    - Seek support of faculty and PTA
    - Apply for grants
    - Promote the program in the community

Plan Responsibilities

The following organization chart proposes the lead staff in the City of El Monte responsible for each UAIP priority. The lead staff could provide the policy and guidance toward implementing each program and/or project using the above funding strategy. Other personnel, whether with the City or an outside partner, could also facilitate the implementation of these program and/or projects.



Action Items

Following is a list of action items to be taken over the short, medium and long term. These actions present a road map for the next 15 years and will assure that the vision and goals discussed in earlier chapters of this document are supported and achieved.

ACTION ITEMS

URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE GOAL	SHORT-TERM (2-5 years)
Goal 1: Establish community gardens Prioritize local food production	• Establish a committee and invite interested residents to guide the development and implementation of community gardens • Identify most suitable locations in El Monte to establish community gardens • Determine the ideal location of the community garden pilot project • Establish clear guidelines, principles and a contract agreement for how to access a community garden • Provide guides for how to navigate the permitting process with a standard application process
Goal 2: Establish schoolyard gardens Education is critical to the success of urban agriculture	• Establish a committee of interested educators and students in the community to guide the development and implementation of schoolyard gardens • School districts in El Monte should make urban agriculture education with school gardens a priority • Create an inventory of available space for schoolyard gardens at each school in the district • Determine ideal school for the schoolyard garden pilot project - consider available planting space as well as educator/student interest and support • Partner with local organizations such Los Amigos de los Rios to collaborate in the creation of edible schoolyards
Goal 3: Establish a farmer's market Prioritize local, fresh and organic food distribution	• Create an inventory of local stores where local fruits and vegetables grown at Earthwork Farms could be sold and encourage local retailers to provide fresh produce • Create an inventory of possible farmers market locations • Determine best location to establish El Monte's first farmer's market - consider proximity to public transit and bike trails, areas of greater activity • Determine weather a city agency or non profit partner best serves as the main institutional support to run the Farmer's Market • Partner with Earthworks Farm to support their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and promote it by provide a CSA box pick up spot in El
Goal 4: Zoning and Code Change municipal code to allow and encourage food production	• Identify barriers to urban agricultural activities • Dedicate new zoning districts or overlays to the existing zoning laws that allow community gardens, food production, farmer's markets and community supported agriculture. • Develop policies that can be built upon to encourage urban agriculture • Explore desired activities as well as their scale and currently permitted locations • Identify how urban agriculture can align and support other policies and strategies within the City • Consider implementing short-term policy amendments in order to measure risk, challenges and opportunities before implementing long term regulations

MID-RANGE (5-10years)	LONG-TERM (10-25 years)
• Establish 3-5 more community gardens in El Monte • Provide financial support for start-up and operating cost through grants and by directing individuals and organizations to other public and private funding opportunities for community projects, open space and greening • Explore suitability of urban farms in City parks • Provide technical assistance • Provide discounted agricultural water rates • Provide support for networking and sharing lessons learned among urban farmers	• Develop a network of community gardens so that each resident in El Monte has access to local, healthy food • Encourage sharing of local resources and knowledge through community events • Update the inventory of vacant and under utilized lots in order to assess opportunities for additional community garden locations • Quantify the value of the community garden network using the most recent research and tools • Develop a business license suitable for urban farming • Create incentives for developers to include food gardens
• Establish a schoolyard garden committee of interested educators and students at each school in El Monte • Incorporate growing local, organic, and healthy food into each school's educational curriculum • Establish opportunities to engage the extended community during summer, weekends, and after school hours • Identify ideal schools to expand the schoolyard garden network • Establish 3-5 more schoolyard gardens in the district • Provide lesson plans, funding for school programs and grants to non profits that can help create this work	• Establish a schoolyard garden at every school in El Monte • Incorporate food grown in schoolyard gardens into meals served in the school's cafeterias • Hold educational events and cooking or gardening demonstrations at the schoolyard gardens for families of students and people in the community in order to expand knowledge of affordable, sustainable, and organic food production • Increase access to information about available resources
• Create a food swap program • Create a streamline application process for the FM • Ensure that FM's and fresh food retailers have the ability to accept electronic benefits for food assistance programs • Identify a farmer's market manager • Establish bylaws • Recruit local, organic farmers, dairies, and bakeries • Create signage, advertising, and marketing strategies • Set farmer's market location, date and time • Start farmer's market • Expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to double the value at FM	• Expand to a second farmer's market location within El Monte • Hold two markets in El Monte each week - open the main farmer's market on a weekend day and the secondary farmer's market on a weekday evening
• Allow for small urban farm buildings such as greenhouses and tool sheds in zoning bylaws • Public Utilities Commission should include urban agriculture as a storm water management strategy. Urban agriculture allows water to seep into the ground rather than run off into the City water system and it can also utilize rain water. • Incorporate California Bill 551 - Urban Agriculture Initiative Zone Act • Incorporate California AB1616 - California Homemade Food Act • Adopt an Integrated Pest Management Ordinance, and ban the use of pesticides within city agencies • Amend definitions, land use codes, zones, and site requirements in zoning and development regulations accordingly	• Consider using parks for growing and selling food. City agencies can turn over responsibility of maintenance to the community members who will be using the spaces • Incorporate urban agriculture into neighborhood plans

ACTION ITEMS

URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE GOAL	SHORT-TERM (2-5 years)
Goal 5: Urban Agriculture Land Audit	• Conduct an audit of all vacant or under utilized city property to identify parcels suitable for food production gardens and prepare a report of the findings • Determine which sites should be used for urban agriculture and the type of activities that can take place • Develop criteria to evaluate suitability of vacant land: quality of soils (fertility and toxicity,) access (near public transit,) growing conditions (sun, wind, slope, etc.) access to water or potential for rainwater catchment, availability, cost to convert and run programs • Support and encourage "temporary use" of urban agriculture projects on site where development is stalled • Develop standard lease language for the use of City-owned land and institute a city lease program
Goal 6: Create Food Policy Coordinator Position	• Create a staff position to coordinate urban agriculture. This position will oversee the implementation and administration of the UAIP • Work with other city agencies to develop a plan and identify ways to streamline and collaborate among all the agencies that provide services to regulate urban ag. • Help the public by answering all their questions and concerns regarding the UAIP • Be a liaison with other city agencies • Facilitate partnerships, coordination, communication and education amongst existing non-profits and individuals
Goal 7: Change City Landscape Ordinance	• Allow fruit trees to be planted as street trees • Amend City's Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance to require a tree removal permit on mature fruit trees • Allow residents to plant "edible plants" on sidewalks and medians in residential neighborhoods
Goal 8: Compost Program	• Develop diversion of leaves, yard and food waste from landfill by creating a residential green waste collection program. Collect also all green waste from private landscaping companies and Park's Department to convert into compost. • Provide the compost and mulch to urban farmers for free or at a low cost to offset the cost of the program • Provide disclosure of compost test result
Goal 9: Urban Agriculture Hub	• Create a space for the coordination and support of food production, packaging, cooking and distribution. This place should have a commercial kitchen facility and a tool lending and seed library, it should also have a space for workshops and classes • Provide community grants to a non-profit that could help develop and run this food systems program

MID-RANGE (5-10 years)	LONG-TERM (10-25 years)
• Once sites are identified, City should seek out community partners and non-profits to activate those places and convert them into the best type of urban agriculture program. • Land audit report should be made available to the public who is looking for vacant lots with block and lot info., dimensions, existing structures and water access if available. As well as which city agency has jurisdiction and the contact information.	• Identify private properties that are vacant and under utilized and could be used for urban agriculture • Incentivise property owners to participate by converting their properties into urban agriculture with tax incentives (Urban Agriculture Zone Act, Bill 551) • Connect individuals and groups with private property owners that are interested in participating in providing their space to grow food • Establish by-laws for rental/sharecropping or free use per owners needs • Update the inventory of vacant and undutilized land
• Provide this position with adequate staff and funding to carry out the tasks of developing the policy • Develop a guide to give to urban farmers that provides a road map on how to navigate the administrative requirements and permits to start an urban ag. project • Create a Food Policy Council made of representatives of various entities involved in the city's food system	• Coordinate and support existing food and agriculture related business and new and emergent enterprises • Provide information and lessons learned for new and emergent urban agriculture entrepreneurs from existing successful models • Expand programs to encourage urban agriculture with the City of El Monte • Update the Urban Agriculture Iniciative Program
• Provide inventory map of all edible fruit trees on City land and create a harvest calendar and invitation • Create City sponsored harvest parties at public parks, where people can bring their produce to share, trade and/or give away	• Establish city awards program for edible front yard landscaping
• Provide composting education and community composting projects	
• Teach cooking and nutrition, and host after school and summer camp as well as other educational programs • Provide training programs to enable community members to start seed-saving collectives, food co-ops, bee keeping organizations and other projects • Provide food business incubator services as well as marketing and distribution assistance and access to financing for small business.	• Provide continued access to information and education about nutrition and cooking to encourage residents to participate

REFERENCES

Barton, et all; 2006. "Images of America El Monte"Charleston, Arcadia Publishing

Calfee, Corinne, Weissman, Eve "Permission to Transition: Zoning and the Transition Movement" Planning and Environmental Law: Issues and decisions that impact the built and natural environments 64;5 (2012); Citing Josh Harkinson, "San Francisco Latest Eco-Innovation: Growing Produce Almost Everywhere" Mother Jones (9 July 2009), http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2009/07/san-francisco-latest-eco-innovation-city-effort-grow-produce-almost-everywhere.

City of Watsonville Community Garden Program Guide," retrieved from http://cityofwatsonville.org/public-works-utilities/urban-greening-plan/community-gardens

Design Trust for Public Space, "Five Borough Farm: Seeding the Future of Urban Agriculture in New York City", 2012

Hagey, A., Rice, S., & Flournoy R.,"Growing Urban Agriculture: Equitable Strategies and Policies for Improving Access to Healthy Food and Revitalizing Communities, retrieved from www.policylink.org

http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/foodDeserts.aspx

http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/cfj/publications/transportation_and_food.pdf

http://www.marigallagher.com/site_media/dynamic/project_files/1_DetroitFoodDesertReport_Full.pdf (Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Detroit)

http://www.policylink.org/pdfs/HealthyFoodHealthyCommunities.pdf (Healthy Food, Healthy Communities: Improving Access and Opportunities Through Food Retailing)

http://www.spur.org/blog/2013-10-02/california-s-new-urban-agriculture-property-tax-incentive

Huntingtoncommunitygardens.com, "Gardening—A Holistic Approach to Civic Health," retrieved from http://www.huntingtoncommunitygardens.com/36.htm

Orsi, Janelle "Policies for a sharable City #11: Urban Agriculture" Shearable.net, http://www.shareable.net/blog/policies-for-a-shareable-city-11-urban agriculture

Project for Public Spaces, "New Reports on Farmers Market and Low Income Communities", February 20, 2014, retrieved from http://www.pps.org/blog/new-report-on-farmers-markets-low-income-communities/

Rob Baedeker, "What's the Value of Home-grown Food?," SF Gate, August 30, 2010, retrieved from http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2010/08/30/moneytales083010.DTL

San Francisco, City and County of, Dept of the the Environment n. d. "composting" Available at www.sfenvironment.org/our-programs/topics

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, "P-Patch," retrieved from http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/aboutPpatch.htm

SustainWeb, Food Access Network, "What is food poverty?" Accessed at http://www.sustainweb.org/page.php?id=187 on December 17, 2008.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Project for Public Spaces, "SNAP At Farmers Market: A How To Handbook", retrieved from http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5085298