

City of Bozeman

Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project Update

November 2024

Following the completion of the Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project in July 2024, the City remains committed to keeping participants and interested partners informed about the implementation process and opportunities for continued engagement. This update highlights recent progress and upcoming opportunities to engage with the City about our local food system.

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Community Development Advisory Board Presentation

The Sustainability Division is scheduled to present to the Bozeman Community Development Advisory Board on **Monday, November 18th at 6 PM** about the project process and findings from the Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project. The public is welcome to attend the Community Development Advisory Board meeting in person at City Hall or [tune in remotely](#).

Unified Development Code (UDC) & the Local Food System Engagement

The City is ramping up engagement on the Unified Development Code (UDC) Update project. The UDC is the part of the city code that outlines the rules and regulations for development in the city. The City is hosting a discussion with the City's Community Development staff specific to the UDC's connection to the local food system. This is open to the public. Anyone interested or involved in the local food system is encouraged to attend.

- UDC & the Local Food System Conversation: **Monday, December 16th at 3:00 PM in the Bozeman Public Library Community Room.**
- If you plan to attend, please [RSVP](#) and share any specific questions or discussion topics.

UDC Public Open Houses

The City is hosting a series of public open houses regarding the UDC in the first two weeks of December. To learn more, sign up to receive UDC updates, and review the draft text visit [Engage Bozeman](#).

UDC Public Open Houses

- Dec. 2: 12 to 2 p.m. at MSU SUB Ballroom B, 751 W Grant St.
- Dec. 4: 6 to 8 p.m. at Gallatin High, 4455 Annie St.
- Dec. 5: 6 to 8 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W Graf St.
- Dec. 9: noon – online webinar with registration to attend at engage.bozeman.net/udc
- Dec. 11: 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 901 N Black Ave.
- Dec. 12: 6 to 8 p.m. at Sacajawea Middle School, 3525 S 3rd Ave

Notable Progress

The following highlights notable progress the City has made, projects underway, and opportunities for engagement. It does not encompass all the work or the extensive work of partners and project participants.

- The City shared the findings of the Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project with the Bozeman Sustainability Advisory Board, the Bozeman Community Development Advisory Board, the Gallatin County Planning Coordination Committee (PCC) and the Bozeman City Commission. *(Leadership 1.1; Leadership 1.5)*
- The City is currently developing a Sustainable Events Guide, which includes recommendations for sustainable and local food purchasing. Since the City does not routinely purchase large quantities of food and every event is unique, we are focusing on creating a list of suggested vendors along with the sustainable and local food options they offer, rather than establishing strict purchasing guidelines. This will be available to the public on the City’s webpage within the next few weeks. *(Leadership 1.2)*
 - **Action Item:** If your business offers local or other sustainable food options and you would like to be added to the list, reach out to Ali with information about your business, the food options you offer, and the preferred way to order.
- In Spring 2024, City Sustainability and Parks and Recreation staff visited the Spring Creek Communal Garden to learn about their community garden model. *(Leadership 1.3; Land Access + Collaboration 2.1).*



(Above) City staff and community members tour the Spring Creek Communal Garden – thank you Richard and the rest of the garden members for having us!

- Over the summer the Parks and Recreation Department managed the City Hall, Langohr, and Westlake Garden. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank managed the Learning Garden at Story Mill Community Park. Thank you GVFB!
 - As expressed in the Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project report, the City is interested in expanding the existing community garden program and exploring other opportunities for urban agriculture on City-owned parkland. However, the City lacks the capacity to effectively manage and grow these initiatives on its own. The most viable model that emerged would be to partner with a community organization(s) that could lead new initiatives and manage the community garden program.

(Land Access + Collaboration 2.1).

- The Sustainability Division and Water Conservation Division are exploring the potential of adding edible plants to Water Conservation's existing resources like the [Water Conservations Water Smart Planting Guide](#). If you have resources on water smart edible plants or gardening, please reach out to Ali.

(Awareness + Outreach 3.2)

- Edible Bozeman featured an article, '[City of Bozeman Considers its Role in a Robust Local Food System](#)', written by Ali Moxley. Thank you, Ali and Edible Bozeman!



Photo from Edible Bozeman article

Next Steps: [Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project](#)

Leadership 1.1	Continue communication with Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project participants and additional potential partners to discuss findings and feedback, implement next steps, and prioritize and pursue opportunities.
Leadership 1.2	Develop and adopt a City of Bozeman local food procurement policy for internal operations and City-hosted events. Actively share this resource with institutions, businesses, and community members.
Leadership 1.3	Provide opportunities for City staff and leadership to participate in site visits and educational programs, fostering engagement with community partners and firsthand learning about the local food system.
Leadership 1.4	Build relationships with members of the Indigenous peoples’ community living in Bozeman. Begin exploring the potential for partnerships related to resilient food system development and strengthening community members’ connection to the diverse agricultural heritage of this valley.
Leadership 1.5	Share the results of this report with Gallatin County and engage with the County on their Future Land Use Map, Housing Strategy, and future agriculture preservation planning.
Land Access + Collaboration 2.1	Continue working to strengthen and expand the City of Bozeman’s community garden program.
Awareness + Outreach 3.1	Transition the “Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project” webpage into a central City location for “Resilient Local Food System” information and resources.
Awareness + Outreach 3.2	Expand existing City planting incentives and outreach programs to include food-bearing species. Coordinate with partners and experts to address wildlife concerns.
Awareness + Outreach 3.3	Strengthen sense of place and the connection between community members and our natural environment by building a strong connection to our local food system and natural environment.
Housing + Resilience 4.1	Continue to prioritize developing and improving multimodal transportation options that facilitate access to local food sources such as HRDC’s Market Place facility, community gardens, etc.
Housing + Resilience 4.2	Host a working session with food system practitioners and interested MSU students to review the Unified Development Code.
Housing + Resilience 4.3	Define the City’s role in ensuring community food security during emergencies and planning for community food resilience.
Infrastructure + Sector Development 5.1	Engage food system practitioners to identify missing elements and areas of improvement within community infrastructure that could enhance the local food system. Incorporate these insights into planning for future City assets and improvements to existing City facilities. Collaborate with partners on community infrastructure projects when the involvement of the City can help advance the project.
Infrastructure + Sector Development 5.2	Convene business development and support resource providers to map various programs available for different business sizes and types and identify gaps. Develop communication and information about the resources available.