



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE TOPIC OVERVIEW

Access to Healthy Food



GROWING GREAT THINGS

Comprehensive Planning: The Hillsboro Way

Where does this topic fit within the new Comprehensive Plan?

Hillsboro’s updated Comprehensive Plan is organized around seven core topic areas. These core areas cover broad, interconnected subjects that help define and guide the future growth and development of Hillsboro.



Access to Healthy Food is part of the **Promoting Health, Wellness and Safety** core area.



The full background report is available at plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/wellness

Agriculture is at the heart of Hillsboro’s heritage. Increasing access to healthy food through urban agriculture, community gardens, and farmers’ markets helps improve individual health, supports the local economy, and benefits the environment.

Background

Hillsboro and its surrounding areas have produced generous crops over the course of generations. While growth and development have absorbed virtually all of the farmland within City limits, there is a wealth of farmland just beyond Hillsboro and a clear opportunity to increase citywide access to healthy, locally-grown food.

Issues and Challenges

The challenges to increasing access to healthy food include:

- the increasing cost of fresh produce

- the lack of existing community garden plots and the lack of space for new community garden plots, especially in denser neighborhoods
- culture, income, age, ability, and other barriers to accessing local food at farmers’ markets and other marketplaces offering healthy food

Emerging Trends and Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for Hillsboro to increase community access to healthy food.

These opportunities include:

- **Community Gardens** — Growing fresh produce on residential lots or in community garden plots yields health and economic benefits.
- **Farmers’ Markets** — Markets in which farmers and other producers sell directly to consumers increase access to healthy, local foods.
- **Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA)** — CSAs allow community members to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer or producer. Interested consumers purchase a share, or membership, and receive boxes of products during the farming season.

In addition to increasing nutritious food choices, these opportunities lead to other health, economic, and environmental benefits.



Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

The Comprehensive Plan update represents an opportunity to advance Hillsboro’s efforts to provide access to healthy, fresh, and affordable food.

Recommended updates include the following:

- **Allow for the establishment and maintenance of publicly-available community gardens.**
- **Support the efforts of other organizations working to expand access to healthy food.**
- **Support compatible periodic uses providing access to healthy foods, such as CSA distribution points.**

Find Out More

For more information, including upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, please visit plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov.

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