

City of Madison Task Force on Farmland Preservation

Topics and Questions - Categorized w/ Teams

Big Questions (to be kept in mind throughout research and addressed in final report)

1. **NEW** - Significance (and rate) of farmland loss in our community
2. Definition of Farmland Preservation for Task Force purposes
3. Definition of people-focused entrepreneurial, e.g. urban ag vs. monocropping ag
4. What metrics do we want to see in policy recommendations to measure progress
5. Can we quantify potential impacts of proposed policies?

Land Access and Tenure (see [Yang memo](#)) (suggestions: Volk, Voss, Yang)

1. Who needs farmland preservation in the city?
2. Equity issues for urban growers' access to farmland
3. How to create affordable housing with land access - AgriCommunities
4. Physical Accessibility (maps of City existing and planned housing, utility and transportation investments)

Land Characteristics (suggestions: Caton Campbell, LeZaks, Paulson)

1. Soil Characteristics - quality for ag purposes, potential contamination issues, need for remediation; need for "brownfield site" definition and policy
2. Refer to characteristics already defined in [terrace planting](#), [edible landscapes](#) and [recommendations for ag leases](#) on city-owned properties
3. What info went into Comp Plan map and how were their terms defined (e.g. Productive Agriculture Soils and Natural Limitations for Building Site Development)? **NRCS Research**

Policy Review (suggestions: Evers, Fey, Kemble)

1. Comprehensive Plan [strategies](#)
2. Review of [Sustainability Plan](#) food goals
3. Review recently updated Dane County Farmland Preservation map (contact Brian Standing)
4. **NEW** - Explore land banking and transfer of development rights
5. **NEW** - Map of farmland lost within city limits in the past 20 years **also STAFF**
6. Model farmland preservation and farmland loss mitigation policies from other cities [Farmlandinfo.org](#) Research
7. [Food Innovation District memo](#) review **also STAFF**
8. Review conditional use standards for ag/greenhouses including hoop house vs. greenhouse distinctions **also STAFF**

Staff Questions - (most will be handled by Policy Review team)

1. Planning staff summary on their perspective (addressed by [12/14/22 presentation](#))
2. How to create a one-stop shop or pathway through city regulatory processes to enable growers to access farmland and get to work more efficiently?
3. Explore revising Campus-Institutional zoning districts to allow urban ag
4. Location and review of city-owned parcels: currently leased for ag purposes, not being used for food production, available for temporary food production -- temporarily and/or long-term
5. Update community gardens map to specify which public agency controls city-owned land
6. Review of privately owned ag land within the City of Madison