

Topic:	Healthy Communities; Farmers Markets
Resource Type:	Planning Documents and Policy Statements
State:	New York
Jurisdiction Type:	Municipal
Municipality:	Ithaca
Year (adopted, written, etc.):	1998
Community Type - applicable to:	Urban; Suburban
Title:	Policies Encouraging Farmers Markets
Document Last Updated in Database:	April 19, 2018

Abstract

Ithaca, New York a diverse and flourishing local food community with a deep and enduring interest in organic foods, sustainable local agriculture, cooperative food markets, community gardens, agricultural education, and a more equitable local food system. Despite this solid foundation, Ithaca has noticed that there is more work to be done. Primarily, this food needs to be made accessible and affordable to all members of the population.

Ithaca's Comprehensive Plan established a goal to locally integrate the production, processing, and distribution of food in order to increase food security for local residents. This goal simultaneously serves to increase the environmental sustainability of the food system. In furtherance of this goal, the city has set out to expand private and community gardens, connect food entrepreneurs with policy-makers, permitting agencies, and community members, expand on public farmers markets and public transportation to markets, as well as eliminate any zoning or policy decisions which inhibit the growth of their local food system.

Resource

8.3

Food Systems



We will transform Ithaca's FOOD SYSTEMS into a more community-based food network and economic engine. Ithaca is fortunate to have a diverse and flourishing local food community with a deep and enduring interest in organic foods, sustainable local agriculture, cooperative food markets, community gardens, agricultural education, and a more equitable local food system. More work remains to be done, however, to achieve a more fully sustainable and locally-based food system that makes nutritious

food available, affordable, and accessible to everyone. Food production, processing, and distribution should be locally integrated to enhance public health and food security, making Ithaca's food systems as energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable — and as accessible to all residents — as possible.



Food Systems : GOALS

- 1 All city residents will enjoy FOOD SECURITY.
- 2 Residents will have opportunities to grow their own food locally through private or community gardens.
- 3 Ithaca's community food network will improve food accessibility by connecting food entrepreneurs with policymakers, permitting agencies, and community members.
- 4 Ithaca will be home to local food-production and food-processing enterprises that capitalize on our location at the heart of a thriving agricultural region.



Food Systems : RECOMMENDATIONS

A	Allow and encourage the location of farmers' markets and small food markets providing wholesome and healthy food throughout the city.
B	Collaborate with TCAT to establish a regular shuttle to the Ithaca Farmers' Market and provide convenient service to local grocery stores.
C	Identify and remove impediments in the City Code to community gardens, shared projects, and other urban agriculture projects.
D	Promote community gardening sites, harvesting systems, and EDIBLE LANDSCAPES in all neighborhoods.
E	Encourage multi-unit housing owners and developers to set aside land for community gardens.
F	Advocate for the use of soil contamination testing and remediation procedures for community gardens and similar projects and require testing and remediation for sites on City property.
G	Collaborate with community partners to develop a long-term strategy for regularly maintaining community gardens and similar projects with strong community participation.
H	Promote safe and appropriate use of wasted organic resources.
I	Identify and remove zoning barriers to establishing food-production and food-processing enterprises in the city, where appropriate.
J	Focus City economic development efforts on attracting food-production and food-processing enterprises, where appropriate.

Ithaca, New York's Comprehensive Plan can be found here:
<http://www.cityofithaca.org/DocumentCenter/View/4054>