



City of Lawrence



DOUGLAS COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM PLAN

DEVELOPED BY THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

PUBLIC DRAFT: JANUARY 23, 2017

Written public comments about this draft will be accepted until February 21, 2017. Send feedback to hschnoes@douglas-county.com.

In-person public comments can be shared at the Monday, February 27, 2017 Food Policy Council meeting. Visit <https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan> for updated location information.

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What is the purpose of this plan?

This *draft* community plan provides strategic recommendations to help guide the development of the local food system and enhance agricultural uses and rural character in Douglas County. As part of its process to update the community’s comprehensive plan, the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee asked the Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) and its staff to develop a set of goals, objectives, and policies to “ensure the master plan is fitting the true needs of the community.” This has been created in response to that request. It is intended to set a framework for the next 10 years to guide community actions and policy changes.

How will this draft be revised?

This initial public version of the Douglas County Food System Plan is intended to serve a variety of purposes:

- Provide a framework to discuss appropriate local actions and policy recommendations to meet working goals that the DCFPC and community partners set in the fall of 2016
- Receive further input and review from community members and food system stakeholders, especially to identify gaps, concerns, and areas of particular support
- Identify additional partnerships and existing community goals or policies to include
- Begin development of the implementation priorities, responsibilities, and strategies to pursue upon adoption

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The DCFPC and staff will then oversee edits to develop a revised version. This revised version is intended to be brought to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County Commissions for formal adoption. Upon the completion of the revised comprehensive plan for Lawrence and Douglas County, the final plan will be incorporated by reference.

How was this draft plan created?

Nearly a year’s-worth of community effort led to the creation of this plan. Over several meetings the DCFPC planned a robust community engagement process and delved into secondary data about a variety of aspects of our food system – from agricultural production to health to economic impact. (*The resulting Food System Assessment is forthcoming in early 2017.*) The DCFPC collaborated closely with the Sunrise Project Community Coordinators, who

assisted with targeted story collection within Lawrence. Staff researched food systems planning in other communities across the United States.

Over the summer and fall of 2016, a wide range of community members shared their experiences, hopes, and challenges. The community input helped identify needs, barriers, and topics of interest to address with this plan. *(This information will be included with the final plan draft.)* The public engagement efforts included:

- 13 focus groups with community organizations
- 7 Community Coordinators reaching over 200 residents
- Over 450 respondents to a Lawrence Listens survey
- 5 public forums

A set of 5 criteria was used to select the objectives and policies included in this draft:

- **Need:** *Does this approach address an existing community barrier, resource gap, etc?*
- **Community Interest:** *Have we heard about this topic from the community?*
- **Impact:** *Do best practices suggest this approach could help us reach a goal?*
- **Feasibility & Funding:** *Could this really get done?*
- **Influence:** *Does this approach fall within the Plan’s jurisdiction?*

What is a local food system, anyways?

Our local food system includes how we produce, buy, eat, and throw away food in Douglas County. It impacts our economy, our health, our environment, and our local culture. In addition to the journey our food takes from field to plate, our food system also includes education, cultural tradition, investment, research, and public policies.



Who are the Sunrise Project Community Coordinators?

Sunrise Project is a Lawrence-based non-profit that collaborated with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and Douglas County to hire “Community Coordinators” to work with the Douglas County Food Policy Council to collect stories, particularly from traditionally under-represented and un-reached members of our community, about their experiences around food issues. Sunrise Project oversaw a range of trainings and field trips for the Community Coordinators to further engage them with our local food system. The Coordinators’ involvement continued into drafting working goals and will include plan revision and adoption.

What is the Douglas County Food Policy Council?

Formed in 2010, the DCFPC is a body of 23 stakeholders from across the local food system, appointed by the Douglas County and City of Lawrence Commissioners. The Council exists to advise these elected officials on food-related policy issues and provide a forum for the community. You can find out more by visiting their website:

<https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc>

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GOAL #1: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, FOOD ENTREPRENEURS, AND FOOD SECTOR WORKERS THRIVE IN OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY.

Agriculture and food-related sectors have long held important roles for the Douglas County economy and the quality of life of its residents. Douglas County agricultural products value nearly \$44 million, with an estimated economic impact of \$361 million.¹ Local agricultural producers tend land that has been in families for generations, while new producers look to join our agricultural community. Entrepreneurs, restaurateurs, and innovators launch and grow new businesses that shape our community’s culture. Many more community members work on farms, in grocery stores, and at food service outlets to build careers and secure seasonal work.

To ensure the continued success of the agricultural and food economy, it is critical to identify and encourage opportunities for growth in local employment, the county’s tax base, and citizens’ income. This can be achieved by a number of community actions. Economic development leaders can support and promote agricultural and food businesses. Tourism and community activities can celebrate local foods and share the story of area agricultural producers. Local residents and institutions can buy and eat more local foods (directing their food dollars back into the local economy). Area organizations can help train workers, support producers, and identify good jobs in agriculture and food sectors.

Each of these components will help ensure that all thrive in our local food system and regional economy.

OBJECTIVE #1: PROMOTE LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES AS PART OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

Economic development encompasses a variety of activities that seek to improve the quality of the local economy and meet community goals. The strong partnership of City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and Lawrence Chamber of Commerce supports local food system economic development in a number of ways. They have identified value-added agriculture as a targeted industry. Value-added agriculture includes making a processed food from a raw harvest and marketing a product separately from regular commodities, such as when a farmer identifies his or her farm as the source. Such existing policy supports provide a starting point to strengthen the local food system through economic development.

STAR EJ-3, Action 2, Action 6, Action 7; EJ-5, Action 8

<p>Policy 1.1 Maintain current support for strategic regional food system infrastructure development, such as processing and aggregation sites (EDC of Lawrence & Douglas County)</p>	<p>Policy 1.2 Conduct a needs assessment and research structures and funding streams to support the development of a local food system low-interest revolving loan fund</p>	<p>Policy 1.3 Identify opportunities to create a staff liaison for farmers to help them navigate Douglas County zoning, codes, and permits to identify the best</p>	<p>Policy 1.4 Develop a Food Business Start-up Resource Guide to help new entrepreneurs understand existing polices, needed permits, and available support</p>	<p>Policy 1.5 Conduct periodic farm tours with local officials and agency staff to visit area farms and food sector businesses to understand operations and learn about</p>
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¹ 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture and Kansas Department of Agriculture Economic Impact report <http://agriculture.ks.gov/economic-development-statistics/county-statistics-%28a-g%29/douglas-county>

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<p>Strategic Plan), and targeted industry assistance for Value-Added Agricultural Business (City of Lawrence Economic Development Policy, 1.3.3).</p>	<p>for beginning farm and food businesses to stabilize and grow, leveraging existing E-Communities and BizFuel programs.</p>	<p>opportunities to grow their operations. <i>See Goal 2, Objective 4, Policy 4.1.</i></p>	<p>agencies. <i>Partner with Kansas Department of Agriculture and KU Small Business Development Center.</i></p>	<p>challenges. <i>See Goal 2, Objective 1, Policy 1.5.</i></p>
<p>Policy 1.6 Support collaborative and shared-use opportunities for food business production and marketing, including community kitchens such as Culinary Commons and larger scale food business cluster developments.</p>	<p>Policy 1.7 Promote and fund partners providing targeted small business support and economic development programs to benefit immigrants, low-income residents, and peoples of color to help them launch food and agriculture businesses.</p>	<p>Policy 1.8 Identify opportunities to use economic development tools to support food system businesses that address critical community needs (i.e. grocery stores in food deserts).</p>		

OBJECTIVE #2: CELEBRATE LOCAL FOOD, FARMS, AND AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AS PART OF REGIONAL TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING.

Tourism helps bring new dollars into the local economy. Tourism promotion can help connect visitors to stories, places, and businesses in our local food system. Such targeted marketing encourages new spending at area restaurants, markets, and agricultural heritage sites. Specific events and tours that focus on area farms and local food experiences can also draw visitors to Douglas County. Placemaking refers to a variety of local actions that build upon existing community strengths to create places that enhance the lives of residents. Local residents can thus benefit from initiatives that support unique local businesses and experiences that build a sense of place and pride in one’s home community.

<p>Policy 2.1 Conduct a comprehensive review of the impact of Douglas County agritourism policies (Douglas County Codes 12-319-7) and implement any identified changes to support rural economic development on family farms.</p>	<p>Policy 2.2 Develop and execute a proactive educational campaign about agritourism policies and business opportunities.</p>	<p>Policy 2.3 Explore creation of a regional agricultural and heritage district that coordinates and amplifies branding and local business promotion in order to attract overnight visits and spur rural economic development in the local food system.</p>	<p>Policy 2.4 Promote tours, events, and festivals that celebrate area agriculture and local food activities, including financial support, in-kind support, and use of the Douglas County Fairgrounds, City of Lawrence parks, and other public sites.</p>	<p>Policy 2.5 Utilize the Transient Guest Tax program and Natural Heritage Conservation Council Grants to support related local food, farms and agricultural heritage tourism activities.</p>
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OBJECTIVE #3: INCREASE LOCAL, HEALTHY FOOD PURCHASING THROUGHOUT DOUGLAS COUNTY.

A local food system cannot succeed if there are not reliable consumers to buy the products. Local foods can play a tasty, nourishing, and important role in many food budgets, from families and individuals to businesses and institutions. A community can work together to build local food awareness and create consumer demand that in turn supports producers and the local economy. **STAR EJ-2, Action 8; EJ-3, Action 3, Action 4, Action 5, Action 8**

Policy 3.1

Invest in signage, shared infrastructure, and coordinated marketing to support the county farmers’ market sector and identify opportunities to utilize public land for market locations.

Policy 3.2

Motivate food entrepreneurs, retailers, and institutions to use local food, including the creation of local food purchasing guidelines and policies.

Policy 3.3

Maintain an up to date Douglas County local food directory to facilitate purchasing relationships and identify opportunities to connect to the FuelGood healthy food procurement program. *E-communities, area Chambers of Commerce, Extension, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.*

Policy 3.4

Develop a coordinated “buy local” consumer campaign with community partners to increase local food purchasing, including information about benefits to the local economy.

OBJECTIVE #4: EXPAND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS WITHIN THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM TO PREPARE COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT.

For individuals to find jobs and enter careers, they need skills, knowledge, and support. Each sector in the local food system presents a unique set of needs. Farmers need land and labor to enable production. Culinary arts require specialized training to advance in the vibrant local restaurant scene. Work in food and agriculture sectors is difficult but can be rewarding to those involved. Workers in these sectors should be compensated fairly for their labor. **STAR EJ-4, Action 4, Action 5, Action 9; EJ-6, Action 2, Action 8**

Policy 4.1

Research models for supporting agricultural land connections for sale and leasing. *See Goal 2, Objective 4, Policy 4.2.*

Policy 4.2

Create skill and technical training opportunities with universities, community colleges, and high schools for jobs and careers in food, culinary, and agricultural sectors. *Partner with Peaslee*

Policy 4.3

Support K-State Research & Extension—Douglas County’s efforts to educate producers on agricultural best practices in urban and rural settings.

Policy 4.4

Identify opportunities to attract farm workers to Douglas County, including those utilizing H-2A visas and regional organizations working with refugee

Policy 4.5

Support community campaigns that work towards a living wage for all workers, including on-farm labor.

	<p><i>Technical Training Center, USD497 College & Career Center, USD497 Culinary Arts Program, Johnson County Community College.</i></p>		<p>communities.</p>	
<p>Policy 4.6 Support programs to help workers access safe, affordable housing to maintain stable employment.</p>				

GOAL #2: AS OUR CITIES GROW WE PRIORITIZE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND MAINTAIN WORKING LANDS TO PROMOTE SOIL HEALTH.

Enhancing agricultural uses and rural character in Douglas County have been identified as important community issues—even as future growth of its cities suggests change in coming decades. A community needs to ensure the presence of important resources to support its local food system. These include resilient landscapes, nutrient-rich soil, clean and abundant water, and farmers on the land. To protect these resources and benefit local producers in the regional economy, a community must balance preservation with considerations of (sub)urban growth and development.

Past support towards this goal from the City of Lawrence and Douglas County has included establishing related planning goals and supporting on-going programs. High Quality Agricultural Land has been recognized as a finite resource having exceptional quality and fertility, and Capability Class (non-irrigated) I and II soils (as defined by the National Resources Conservation Service). It is land that has importance to the regional economy and requires less intervention to produce high yields of crops with high nutrition that should be protected for food production. Concentrations of High Quality Agricultural Land exist in Grant Township and along the Wakarusa and Kaw River valleys. The following objectives represent a continuation of existing community priorities with additional policies to advance this work in the future.

OBJECTIVE #1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT HIGH QUALITY AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE COUNTY.

Land and its availability represent an important asset to our regional economy and local food system. Given variability in soil type and topography, not all lands equally support all types of agriculture. Policies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 represent previous policies within our community’s long-range planning that remain imperative to the development of our local food system. **STAR NS-6, Action 7, Action 8**

<p>Policy 1.1 Utilize the protection of High Quality Agricultural Land as a key assumption in the sector planning process.</p>	<p>Policy 1.2 Maintain an inventory of High Quality Agricultural Land in Douglas County and annually track changes to land use, including amount lost to urbanization, to monitor protection efforts.</p>	<p>Policy 1.3 Establish tools to protect High Quality Agricultural Land for farming and make its protection economically feasible for the land owner.</p> <p>Policy 1.3.a Maintain funding for conservation easement support.</p> <p>Policy 1.3.b Develop incentives that encourage agricultural land protection, such as Impact or Development Fees, Transfer of Development Rights, public-private partnerships, or other funding mechanisms.</p>	<p>Policy 1.4 Promote agritourism enterprises as a strategy to maintain agricultural heritage and operating family farms. <i>See Goal 1, Objective 2, Policy 2.1.</i></p>	<p>Policy 1.5 Conduct regular educational events with elected officials, local government staff, and key agency partners to promote shared learning and issue identification with county agricultural producers. <i>Connected to Goal 1, Objective 1, Policy 1.5</i></p>
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OBJECTIVE #2: INCREASE SUPPORT FOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES.

Topsoil and fresh water are finite resources. How a community uses its soil and water resources will impact availability in the future. Conserving these resources is an important way to maintain and ensure the production capacity in the local food system for generations to come. The State of Kansas has taken important steps to ensure its water future, through the Governor’s Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas and the watershed-based Regional Advisory Committees who have set responsible goals to protect water resources. The majority of Douglas County is within the Kansas Watershed, although the southern end of the county is within the Marais des Cygnes. The City of Lawrence and Douglas County can take leadership roles by guiding their operations to meet best management practices that promote conservation. Local efforts concerning water conservation are linked to other communities as rivers and watersheds extend beyond political borders. **STAR NS-1, Action 3, Action 8m Action 9; NS-5, NS-5, Action 1, Action 3, Action 5, Action 6, Action 7; NS-6, Outcome 1**

<p>Policy 2.1 Support existing soil and water conservation organizations and increase funding for their expanded</p>	<p>Policy 2.2 Assess the feasibility of implementing a Douglas County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management policy</p>	<p>Policy 2.3 Maintain operations of City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation to support soil and water conservation</p>	<p>Policy 2.4 Support the realization of the Governor’s Vision for Water and the goals of the Kansas and Marais des</p>	<p>Policy 2.5 Promote utilization of gray water and rainwater for irrigation to reduce water use, e.g. laundry to landscape</p>
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operation (e.g., K-State Research & Extension—Douglas County, Douglas County Conservation District).	for public right-of-ways to guide strategic weed control practices and establish native plants to support soil and water conservation.	through landscape best management practices. <i>Parks & Rec Master Plan</i>	Cygnus Watershed Regional Advisory Committees.	and rain barrel workshops. <i>Collaborate with Sustainability Advisory Board.</i>
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OBJECTIVE #3: IMPROVE SOIL AND WATER QUALITY.

In addition to soil and water quantity, the *quality* of local soil and water is important to communities. For most of Douglas County residents, drinking water comes from the Kaw River and Upper Wakarusa Watershed (which includes Clinton Lake). Clinton Lake also provides important recreation activities that rely on clean and safe water. Soil quality influences agricultural production, including what inputs a farmer needs to buy and how much will grow on a farmer’s land. Activities that influence soil and water quality can impact the surrounding environment and lead to impacts in other parts of a shared watershed. Local and state agencies help individuals and communities work to improve and ensure water quality, including the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) overseen by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and county conservation districts.

Policy 3.1 Support programs and events to help residents and businesses improve soil and water quality in Douglas County through Best Management Practices.	Policy 3.2 Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies and buffer zones that protect those bodies.	Policy 3.3 Utilize the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) framework and Kansas Watershed Regional Advisory Committee goals to inform local efforts and secure funding for high priority projects.	
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OBJECTIVE #4: SUPPORT INTERGENERATIONAL LAND TRANSITION AND BEGINNING FARMER LAND ACCESS.

In Douglas County, the average age of farm operators in 2012 was 59.2 years—a slight increase from 2007. Nearly 80% of principal farm operators in Douglas County have been operating for over 10 years. The long-term success of preserving agricultural lands in Douglas County relies on an enduring presence of agricultural producers and farming families on working lands. The continued development of our local food system also depends upon attracting and supporting beginning farmers.

Policy 4.1 Identify opportunities to create a staff liaison for farmers to help them navigate	Policy 4.2 Identify policy tools and programs to help directly link farmers with land for production. <i>Goal</i>	Policy 4.3 Encourage clear and on-going communications about changes to Accessory Dwelling	Policy 3.4 Explore future opportunities to expand the City of Lawrence Common Ground community
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<p>Douglas County zoning, codes, and permits to help them understand the best opportunities to grow their operations. <i>See Goal 1, Objective 1, Policy 1.3.</i></p>	<p><i>1, Objective 4, Policy 4.1.</i></p>	<p>Unit regulations, including opportunities for farm worker housing. Conduct review of ADU changes after 5 years to determine utility and identify needed improvements.</p>	<p>gardening program and incubator farm program into rural Douglas County.</p>
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OBJECTIVE #5: PROMOTE THE RESILIENCE OF OUR FARMS AND LANDSCAPES.

Disturbances such as intense weather and draught, anticipated to be more common as the climate changes, can harm the productivity of Douglas County agriculture and prove disastrous to a seasonal harvest. Helping producers and landowners reduce these risks and prepare for unpredictable events can build resilience and better equip individuals to recover from shocks.

<p>Policy 5.1 Utilize the Douglas County Natural Resource Inventory to identify areas where ecologically sensitive and native plants should be protected. Align areas with County land use planning for protection.</p>	<p>Policy 5.2 Conduct a localized study of likely impacts to agricultural production and the agricultural economy from climate change.</p>	<p>Policy 5.3 Support programming to help agricultural producers adopt practices and technologies to enhance resilience.</p>	<p>Policy 5.4 Promote techniques that enhance carbon sequestration abilities of landscapes.</p>
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GOAL #3: WE BUILD AND DESIGN OUR COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE FOOD ACCESS, FOSTER HEALTH, AND ELIMINATE FOOD DESERTS.

Communities engage in planning activities that help guide how they develop. This includes defining a community’s vision and values. The planning authority given to a community empowers it with a range of tools, such as creating zones where homes go, where businesses go, and where industry goes. These efforts support quality of life and influence a community’s character. Ensuring healthy food access has not always figured prominently, if at all, in planning decisions a community makes (which commonly includes housing, transportation, and land use).

However, a community can commit to ensuring healthy food access. An important first step includes understanding possible challenges residents may face in their physical environment—particularly low-income communities and communities of color. The physical environment that creates our communities is often called the built environment. The built environment includes the human-made surroundings that provide the setting for activity, ranging from buildings and parks to neighborhood streets and transportation systems. Food deserts, for example, identify areas where a significant portion of

residents likely experiences low-income and limited grocery store access. Previous proactive local activities in Lawrence and Douglas County include efforts to support walking, biking, and transit services, expansion of allowed urban agriculture practices, and promotion of healthy food choices in public spaces. Ensuring healthy food access is essential to creating a vibrant local food system that benefits all Douglas County residents.

OBJECTIVE #1: REDUCE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS THAT LIMIT HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS AND LEAD TO FOOD DESERTS.

Healthy food access is in part based upon physical access opportunities in the built environment. Where someone lives, where food businesses locate, and what transportation options exist can create barriers to food access. Challenges can include travel distance, travel time, incomplete sidewalk and bikeway networks, and poor condition of sidewalks and bikeways. Some destinations may not be accessible by a variety of transportation options. To minimize physical challenges to access healthy food, a community must think intentionally about the composition of its built environment (where the houses, roads, community facilities, and businesses are located) and the quality and availability of transportation choices. Previous public input about transportation planning, especially among paratransit and human services consumers, has identified grocery stores as important community destinations, but also locations that residents struggle to reach. **Community Health Plan, Goal 1, Strategy 4, Action 7; Lawrence Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Task Force Report (2016); Transportation 2040 Goal 3 and Goal 4.**

<p>Policy 1.1 Create a Food Desert Retail Strategy by establishing a standardized analytic framework to assess the current status of food deserts in Lawrence and Douglas County, including its relation to periodic Retail Market Analyses, to identify opportunities for alleviation through zoning, regulations, parking requirements, and other development standards.</p>	<p>Policy 1.2 Ensure adequate mixed use neighborhoods in Lawrence with affordable housing, well maintained sidewalks, and neighborhood retail to promote food access close to home. <i>Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, Goal 5.</i></p>	<p>Policy 1.3 Design and build streets and public Right of Ways to include safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle transit connections between residential areas and food access points. <i>Community Health Plan, Goal 4, Strategy 1; Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Goal 4; City of Lawrence Complete Streets Policy.</i></p>	<p>Policy 1.4 Maintain and operate Lawrence transit routes and services to include access to grocery stores, pantries, and established farmers' markets. <i>Cultural Arts Plan, Getting the Work Done #2, c. Community Health Plan, Goal 1, Strategy 4 (7).</i></p>	<p>Policy 1.5 Locate publically-supported food access programs, such as summer meal feeding sites, along bus routes.</p>
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OBJECTIVE #2: CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD PRODUCTION.

Production in the local food system food is not limited to rural Douglas County or commercial-based agricultural operations. Backyards, schools, and parks can all have gardens and other food production

activities. Allowing for such community-based activities is important to giving all residents options for local, healthy food access, physical activity, and building community relationships. Current policies and programs support some of these activities already.

<p>Policy 2.1 Expand the utilization of public land, including new and future open space, for food production where appropriate (i.e., gardens and orchards in the Common Ground program and school-based gardens). <i>Community Health Plan Goal 4, Strategy 3; Goal 1, Strategy 1, Action 4.</i></p>	<p>Policy 2.2 Identify opportunities to expand fruit tree plantings on public land as part of park expansion when needed resources are available to support maintenance.</p>	<p>Policy 2.3 Ensure City of Lawrence and Douglas County use of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides does not negatively impact food production on and near publicly-owned lands. Maintain Integrated Pest Management policies as part of all public land maintenance.</p>	<p>Policy 2.4 Encourage water rate policies that promote conservation and prioritize food production.</p>	<p>Policy 2.5 Promote urban agriculture policies in Lawrence and conduct proactive outreach about differences by lot size, neighborhood, etc.</p>
<p>Policy 2.6 Maintain City of Lawrence programmatic and infrastructure support for the Common Ground community garden program and create a future vision and action plan for the program.</p>	<p>Policy 2.7 Support and collaborate with community partners who provide food production education and skill development to build community capacity and enable self-sufficiency. <i>See Goal 4, Objective 1, Policy 1.5.</i></p>	<p>Policy 2.8 Encourage private developments to incorporate food production in their plans and landscapes.</p>	<p>Policy 2.9 Support agriculture-based cluster subdivision developments to maintain parcels of working lands and connections to food production as a component of residential developments.</p>	

OBJECTIVE #3: EXPAND CONVENIENT, HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Convenience plays an influential role in the food choices people make. The location of food access points can influence food choices. Healthy food purchasing by public entities can provide options that foster healthy choices and habits. The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department was an early adopter of such nutrition standards at Sports Pavilion Lawrence. *Community Health Plan, Goal 1, Strategies 1, 2, 3.*

<p>Policy 3.1 Assess the feasibility and impact of establishing Healthy Food Zones near schools and public</p>	<p>Policy 3.2 Assess the feasibility of establishing a policy or program to address food deserts by encouraging the</p>	<p>Policy 3.3 Support efforts to establish mobile distribution options that promote healthy food access,</p>	<p>Policy 3.4 Adopt healthy procurement guidelines for public contracts, events, and facilities to</p>
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institutions to limit unhealthy food options and encourage healthy food consumption within walking distances. *STAR, HS-4, Action 3*

sale of healthy food options at neighborhood retailers, including convenience stores. *Community Health Plan, Goal 1, Strategy 4; STAR HS-4, Action 11*

such as mobile pantries, mobile markets, food trucks, community supported agriculture, and home delivery.

ensure the availability of nutritious food options as a dependable portion of offerings, including vending and concessions. *STAR HS 4, Action 9. Community Health Plan, Goal 1, Strategies 2 and 3*

GOAL #4: OUR COMMUNITY WORKS TOGETHER TO ENSURE AFFORDABLE AND CULTURALLY-APPROPRIATE FOOD FOR ALL.

Ensuring healthy food access in our local food system goes beyond physical accessibility in the built environment. The ability of a family to buy enough healthy food is a second part of food access. What influences the cost of food is complex. A family’s ability to afford healthy food also has multiple influences, including housing costs and full time employment with living wage—plus educational, child care, and medical expenses. Public policies influence affordability, including the level of sales tax applied to groceries. Targeted emergency food programs and supports can help families put needed food on tables when in challenging situations. These emergency food providers include food pantries, food banks, soup kitchens, and other groups that get food to community members without cost.

A third component of healthy food access important to our local food system is cultural accessibility. Ethnicity, heritage, religion, personal beliefs, and dietary restrictions all influence how one culturally relates to food. Intentionally addressing cultural food accessibility recognizes the importance of honoring diverse cultural traditions and strives to meet a variety of needs. It also recognizes that what may appear as “regular” food in one cultural tradition is foreign and perhaps even inedible to another.

Work to address cultural food access can inform how a community develops its local food system. Listening and identifying current shortcomings in local food campaigns can help identify new, inclusive strategies. This can include adapting outreach and engagement activities to meaningfully connect with and empower particular cultural groups. It can also involve finding opportunities, such as linking cultural celebrations to local foods.

OBJECTIVE #1: EXPAND CITY- AND COUNTY-LED INITIATIVES TO MAKE FOOD MORE AFFORDABLE.

Many Douglas County residents are concerned about the affordability of food, including locally-grown, healthy food. Addressing affordability of food (and other basic necessities that can impact food budgets) represents a central part of building a strong and inclusive local food system.

Policy 1.1

Policy 1.2

Policy 1.3

Policy 1.4

Policy 1.5

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Identify and pursue actions by the City of Lawrence and Douglas County to eliminate the State of Kansas sales tax on groceries, in recognition of food as a basic necessity and sales tax as a significant portion of grocery expenses—if and only if—an alternative revenue stream is identified to replace any potential loss to local governments in order to ensure continued execution of essential services and existing financial commitments.

Support efforts to promote food affordability for families with children, including enrollment in school meal and snack programs.
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, area schools and child care centers, LiveWell Lawrence Healthy Kids

Support efforts to promote food affordability for seniors. *Douglas County Senior Services, Jayhawk Agency on Aging*

Support the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks to promote the affordability of local foods at retail outlets such as farmers’ markets.

Work with community partners to support outreach to better connect local residents with available programs to promote expanded food access and educational opportunities to build food skills (i.e., meal planning, food preservation, etc.).
See Goal 3, Objective 2, Policy 2.7.

Policy 1.6
Continue to prioritize affordable housing and programs to support renters and homeowners, in order to reduce food insecurity and difficult tradeoffs between housing and grocery budgets.
Community Health Plan Goal 5, Strategy 3.

OBJECTIVE #2: STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO ENSURE ALL RESIDENTS HAVE ENOUGH FOOD.

Food is an everyday need for everybody. When families struggle to have enough food, it is not due to a lack of availability in our community, but often, an issue of distribution. Coordinated and collaborative efforts among emergency food providers in the Douglas County can help ensure good food gets to families and individuals in need. Community initiatives and programs already show the commitment, creativity, and collective drive to work towards this objective in Douglas County. **See Goal 5, Objective 2.**

<p>Policy 2.1 Analyze the current demand for emergency food assistance in Douglas County with community partners to identify gaps in programming, service guidelines, geographic coverage, transportation accessibility, and outreach.</p>	<p>Policy 2.2 Address gaps identified in the analysis described in Policy 2.1 and maintain support for strategies and actions identified in the Lawrence-Douglas County Community Health Plan. <i>LiveWell Lawrence</i></p>	<p>Policy 2.3 Prioritize funding for community partners, including pantries, food banks, and social service organizations, that provide healthy food to residents in need.</p>	<p>Policy 2.4 Support inter-organizational collaboration among emergency food providers, including efforts to establish healthy choices within pantries. <i>Community Health Plan, Goal 5, Strategy 4; LiveWell Lawrence Healthy Food For All</i></p>	<p>Policy 2.5 Continue leadership in key innovative community initiatives and programs to further local, healthy food access, such as the continued expansion of summer meal feeding sites throughout Douglas County. <i>Parks & Rec, USD497, Extension</i></p>
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OBJECTIVE #3: ENSURE CULTURALLY-APPROPRIATE HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Local food system development and healthy food campaigns can inadvertently marginalize or leave out community members, particularly low-income and people of color. Our local food system should be built upon mutual respect, inclusion, and communication. Current operations at the Douglas County Jail, for example, ensure that religious and other cultural food diets are appropriately met by food service offerings.

<p>Policy 3.1 Identify existing gaps and opportunities in local, healthy food efforts to promote culturally-appropriate food access and a more equitable local food system.</p>	<p>Policy 3.2 Maintain and encourage culturally-appropriate food service offerings in public spaces. And food service operations. <i>Douglas County Jail.</i></p>	<p>Policy 3.3 Define the populations intended to be targeted by local, healthy food campaigns and develop policies and procedures that ensure efforts meaningfully engage and build capacity within identified groups (e.g., Common Ground community garden program, Extension workshops and groups). <i>Community Health Plan, Goal 1, Strategy 4, Action 4; Cultural Arts Plan, Community</i></p>	<p>Policy 3.4 Pursue intentional community partnerships as a strategy to improve and advance culturally-appropriate local, healthy food efforts that empower residents (e.g., growing, preserving, cooking, donating healthy food, meal planning, self-sufficiency). <i>Cultural Arts Plan, Community Outcome 3, a(ii), Community Outcome 5, a; Lawrence Alliance, Haskell University, University of Kansas Small Worlds/International Student Group, Sunrise Project, etc.</i></p>	<p>Policy 3.5 Promote ethnic food traditions held by Douglas County residents as part of public health campaigns. <i>Cultural Arts Plan, Community Outcome 1, a; Community Outcome 2, b; Community Outcome 5, b.</i></p>
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		Outcome 2, e.	
<p>Policy 3.6 Implement a communications policy to enable regular translation of program materials and outreach. <i>Cultural Arts Plan, Community Outcome 2, a.</i></p>	<p>Policy 3.7 Maintain outreach through digital and print media, and design forms and public program information to promote accessibility to all. <i>Cultural Arts Plan, Community Outcome 2, a.</i></p>		

OBJECTIVE #4: CELEBRATE DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE AS PART OF LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION.

Lawrence and Douglas County boast a rich tradition of local cultural celebrations, with food often taking an important part in the festivities. Opportunities exist to pursue local food system development through intentional engagement with diverse cultural organizations to build new markets and direct community economic development efforts to benefit immigrants and peoples of color.

<p>Policy 4.1 Adopt a policy to encourage diversity in local government appointments to advisory boards and commissions. <i>STAR EE1, Action 1.</i></p>	<p>Policy 4.2 Promote ethnic food traditions held by Douglas County residents as part of local food system economic development. <i>Cultural Arts Plan, Community Outcome 1, a; Community Outcome 2, b; Community Outcome 5, b.</i></p>	<p>Policy 4.3 Encourage connections between area agricultural producers and ethnic food retail outlets, including food vendors at celebrations, specialty grocery owners, and restaurateurs.</p>	
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GOAL #5: OUR COMMUNITY MINIMIZES WASTE CREATION AND RECOVERS, RECYCLES, DIVERTS, AND COMPOSTS TO ELIMINATE WASTE IN OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM.

What happens after production and consumption matters to our local food system. Food that is still good to eat, whether at stores or on farms, gets too often thrown away. Food scraps we can't eat end up most of the time in landfills, adding weight, costs, and producing harmful greenhouse gases. Waste in our food system also comes through the packaging and containers that help us transport and carry our

food to-go. Commercial operations are the largest generators of food waste. Yet, Douglas County sees an estimated \$41.8 million dollars just in consumer-level food waste.²

Working to reduce waste can occur on many fronts. Businesses and institutions will pursue different strategies than families at home. Across the board, there is a unifying framework that helps prioritize and target what happens to reduce food waste. The priority should be to foster a culture in which less food waste is generated. For that food waste that still exists, getting it onto the plates of those in need takes is the next best option. When humans cannot consume the food waste, opportunities exist to divert it to animal feed and industrial uses. Finally, to prevent food waste from entering landfill (producing harmful greenhouse gases), we can collect what remains and compost it. Composting turns food scraps into an important soil amendment that benefits gardeners, farmers, and their crops.

These various actions can ensure that the time, energy, and resources to produce food—not to mention families’ grocery budgets—don’t end up wasted along with spoiled and thrown out food. Waste reduction helps us build a more sustainable community with related economic, environmental, and social benefits. The City of Lawrence and Douglas County have made important strides in recent years to increase waste diversion and recycling rates, determining appropriate and financially feasible options for urban and rural residents.

OBJECTIVE #1: FOSTER A COMMUNITY CULTURE OF WASTE REDUCTION TO MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF FOOD WASTE GENERATED BY ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, BUSINESSES, AND RESIDENTS.

People rarely aspire to be wasteful in their daily lives, but it happens—including food bought “to go” and how we store and use (or forget) groceries. Indeed, many residents have a desire to reduce waste. Reducing food waste depends in large part on *creating less waste* in the first place. Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations can all take steps to learn new skills, institute new practices, and shift habits to generate less waste. As a community, collaboration can help raise awareness and provide supports that ensure new practices become lifelong behaviors. City and County activities can provide leadership to support waste reduction throughout the local food system. **STAR CE-7, Action 3; EJ-2,**

Action 8

<p>Policy 4.1 Form an interdepartmental team with community partners to develop a coordinated communications campaign to promote waste reduction and</p>	<p>Policy 4.2 Support organizations, institutions, and businesses interested in conducting kitchen and food service waste audits. <i>EPA Region 7</i></p>	<p>Policy 4.3 Identify opportunities to encourage businesses and support food service operations to reduce food waste generation, including (1) proper</p>	<p>Policy 4.4 Encourage local educational programming about meal planning, cooking, food preservation, and composting to minimize at-home food waste.</p>	<p>Policy 4.5 Assess the feasibility of implementing a policy that prioritizes the purchase of recyclable and compostable food service items with City of Lawrence</p>
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² Estimation based on USDA Economic Research Service per-person average and Douglas County 2012 population. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2013-june/ers-food-loss-data-help-inform-the-food-waste-discussion.aspx#.VtCoJU32a72>

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encourage behavior change to prevent edible and food-related waste from entering waste stream. *City of Lawrence Solid Waste, Utilities FOGS program; Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office; Sustainability Advisory Board*

staff training to ensure efficient handling, preparation, and storage of food, and (2) using recyclable and compostable “to go” containers.

and Douglas County funds, including identification of area composting facilities that accept compostable food service items.

Policy 4.6

Develop a strategy to target specific public events as “Zero Waste Events” and collaborate with community partners to ensure proper financial and evaluation resources are available for successful execution.

OBJECTIVE #2: ENCOURAGE FOOD RECOVERY PRACTICES AND POLICIES TO SUPPLY SAFE, HEALTHY FOOD TO FAMILIES IN NEED.

Food recovery means connecting those with excess food they won’t use with those in need. Some restaurants and grocery stores in Douglas County already donate excess food to our food banks and pantries. This work provides a strong foundation to build upon. **Linkage to Lawrence-Douglas County Community Health Plan (Goal One, Strategy Four, Actions 1 & 5); STAR CE-7, Action 3, Action 6**

Policy 1.1

Prioritize social service and community partner funding from the City of Lawrence and Douglas County to support food recovery efforts to divert edible safe and healthy food from landfills and increase healthy food access.

Policy 1.2

Support the coordination and collaboration of pantries and emergency food providers in Douglas County to increase the scale, efficiency, and efficacy of recovering safe, healthy food from area retail food outlets.

Policy 1.3

Develop a guide and outreach strategy for local businesses and food service operations that (1) outlines the liability protections of the federal Good Samaritan Law allowing legal food donations and (2) includes a regularly updated list of local food pantries and soup kitchens accepting safe,

Policy 1.4

Encourage and enable donations from home and community gardens, such as a “grow healthy, give healthy” campaign. *Common Ground, Extension Master Food Volunteers and Master Garden Volunteers, Sunrise Project*

Policy 1.5

Encourage and enable on-farm gleaning programs with area growers to promote the harvest of safe, healthy food for donation to emergency food providers.

healthy food donations.

OBJECTIVE #3: ENCOURAGE THE DIVERSION OF INEDIBLE FOOD WASTE TO FEED FARM ANIMALS OR FIND USE IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES.

If food waste cannot be diverted to feed humans in need, it may be able to feed farm animals or be utilized in industrial processes. In fact, some area businesses already work with farmers to supply food scraps for their animals.

Policy 3.1

Review state and federal policies to create an educational campaign that (1) shares findings with food service operators and area farmers or agricultural animal owners, and (2) facilitates relationships as appropriate to encourage waste diversion for animal feed.

Policy 3.2

Collaborate with area universities and entrepreneurs to identify local applications of food waste diversion to be utilized in innovative industrial processes.

OBJECTIVE #4: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TARGETED ORGANICS COMPOSTING PROGRAMS FOR COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS.

When food waste cannot enter into neither human and animal consumption nor industrial uses, composting poses a regenerative way to turn waste into an important and nutrient-rich soil amendment. Already, a number of restaurants and institutions, including the Douglas County Jail, work with private waste hauler Missouri Organics to collect food scraps for composting. Some community members and organizations oversee their own composting in gardens and backyards, possibly with discounted bins sold by the City of Lawrence. These early leaders provide a glimpse of how food waste minimization can expand to other composting opportunities. Such actions benefit the local food system by creating a complete cycle as compost enters into gardens and agricultural fields to support new crop growth. **STAR CE-7, Action 6**

Policy 2.1

Maintain implementation of the 2012 Solid Waste Task Force report and efforts towards its goals of source

Policy 2.2

Encourage and support business and institutional participation in commercial organics food waste

Policy 2.3

Encourage Douglas County communities to work with private waste haulers to expand commercial and residential

Policy 2.4

Maintain educational focus and public outreach on backyard composting of food waste, including the

Policy 2.5

Conduct feasibility analysis and estimate operation costs of expanding City of Lawrence Solid Waste

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reduction, waste diversion, and recycling, including a 50 percent recycling rate by 2020 and equitable rate structures for services.

composting programs.

services to include opportunities for organics food waste recycling.

subsidization of compost bins by the City of Lawrence. Explore the opportunity to create a Master Composter program in collaboration with K-State Research & Extension—Douglas County and community partners.

composting operations to include organics food waste, including comparison of collection models (e.g., drop-off locations, curbside collection, etc.). Collaborate with Kansas Department of Health and Environment for feasibility process and compost site permitting.