

Anchorage Food Security & Land Use

Advancing Equity, Sustainability, Local Resilience

Presented by: Assembly Member Martinez

5/1/2025



Why this matters?

- Anchorage imports the vast majority of its food.
- Many neighborhoods—especially in food deserts—lack access to affordable, fresh produce.
- Excessive lawn coverage and underutilized land increase stormwater runoff, strain infrastructure, and offer little public value.
- This ordinance helps us repurpose land for community good—growing food, improving public health, and supporting climate resilience.



Vision of the Ordinance

- Expand local food production in both residential and commercial settings.
- Incentivize sustainable land use with stormwater and environmental benefits.
- Activate state-supported tax exemptions for farms (SB 161).
- Create equitable access to tools and land for urban agriculture.



What's Included

- Sections:

- 🧑🌾 Urban Agriculture Incentives

- Market gardens, food forests, compost hubs

- 🏡 Lawn-to-Garden Incentives

- Edible landscapes, rain gardens, permaculture

- 🏠 Vacant & Abandoned Property Use

- Temporary use for growing food, composting

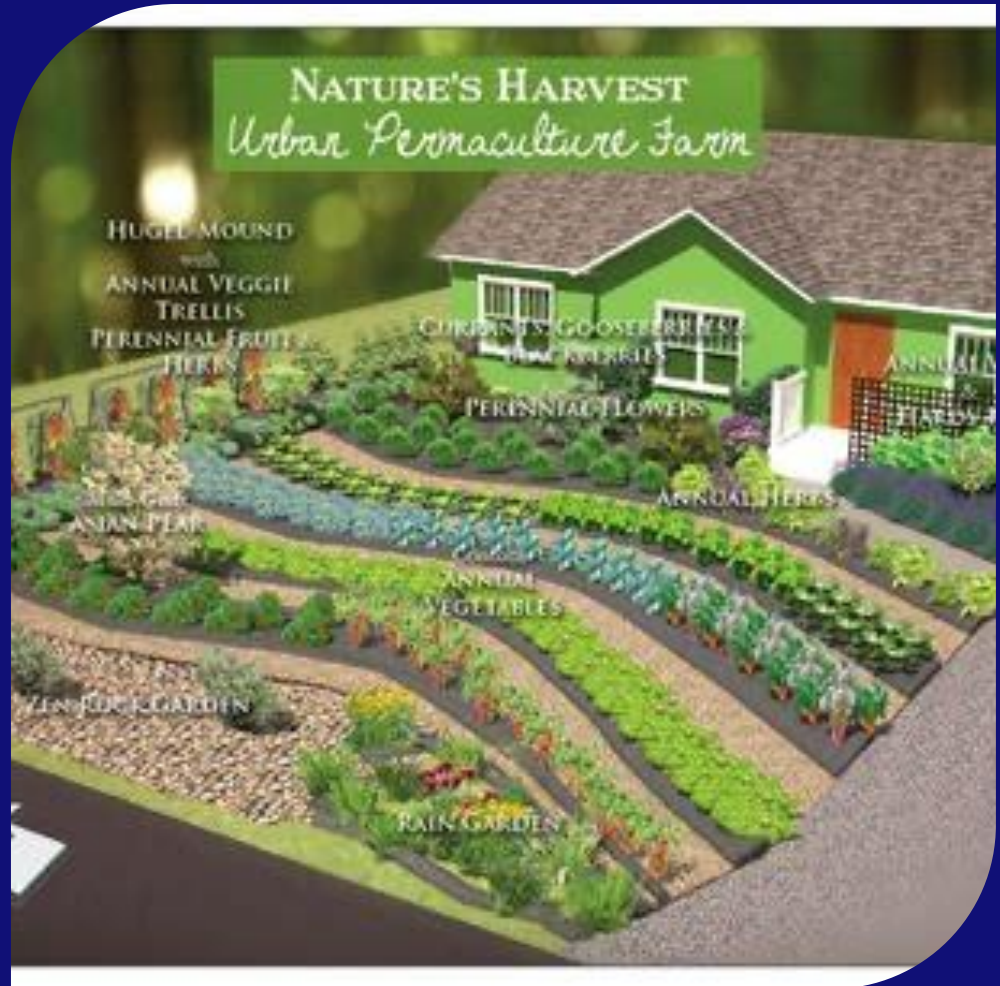
- 📍 Priority Zones

- Extra benefits for food deserts, distressed areas, and opportunity zones



Community Impact Goals

- ✓ More healthy food grown close to home
- ✓ More land activated for public benefit
- ✓ Reduction in stormwater runoff and pollution
- ✓ Revitalization of blighted and underused areas
- ✓ Empowerment of new growers, families, and community groups



What's Not Finalized Yet (Let's Discuss)

 Greenhouses and high tunnels – Should they be eligible for incentives?

 Beekeeping, urban poultry, hydroponics – Should these be included in a future phase?

 Community-based administration – What partnerships would help scale impact?

 Priority area mapping – What neighborhoods should we prioritize?

Next Steps

- Introduction - May 6 - Set PH 6/24
- Feedback and refinement with relevant departments and this committee 6/5
 - Potential launch in January 2026

