

GRANT INFORMATION (DRAFT):

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, EXECUTE, ACKNOWLEDGE, IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT: GLOBAL IDEAS FOR U.S. SOLUTIONS: CITIES TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS HEALTH, EQUITY, AND CLIMATE

Green Ordinances Deliverable - City Plan Dept, Engineering Dept, Food System Policy Division

Recognizing the connections between the environment and the community's economic and physical health, in 2019, several departments in the City Of New Haven (namely, City Plan, Food System Policy Division, and Engineering) have partnered to systematically and methodically update a set of Green Ordinances. The goal is to provide an effective, responsive, fair, efficient, user-friendly, and predictable but flexible system to regulate development across the City's neighborhoods.

In this project the city will focus on four green ordinances with the aim of updating the two existing green ordinances; Stormwater Management Ordinance and Reflective Heat Impact Ordinance) and contributing to the development of two new green ordinances, that are very much interrelated - Urban Agriculture Ordinance and Vacant Lot policy.

Below is a brief description of the four policies this project will be centered on:

1. Stormwater Management Ordinance (in place, relevant to private developments)

The goal of the Stormwater Management ordinance is to mitigate the impact of the development on the City's storm sewer system and receiving water bodies. The ordinance has been very successful in committing developers to provide retention of the first inch of stormwater from their site and ensure that post-development peak flows and volumes are less than pre-development conditions. One of the planned revisions to the ordinance will increase the retention volume requirement to be consistent with the requirements within combined sewer areas. GNHWPCA requires sites within combined sewer drainage areas to capture and retain the 2-year, 6-hour storm which is 2.13 inches in volume. In addition, further revisions will focus on providing more clarity as to what information is required and remove extraneous requirements that are not essential to approval.

2. Reflective Heat Impact Ordinance

The goal of the Reflective Heat Impact ordinance is to mitigate urban heat island effects from paved, dark surfaces. While the intent of the ordinance is critical for the City, the current requirements in the ordinance are difficult to calculate, difficult to verify, and disincentivize the conversion of planned paved surfaces into pervious, green surfaces. The City plans on reviewing the latest research on the causes of urban heat island and reviewing best practices used in other cities to better inform revisions. The revisions will seek to incentivize the maximizing previous

area over paved surfaces and develop requirements that are straightforward to calculate and review.

3. Urban Agriculture

The Food System Policy Division (FSPD) is interested in zoning related to food and farming - to support the production and sale of locally grown foods, build community, improve public health and well-being, and provide economic opportunity, particularly in areas that have vacant or underutilized land. While the urban agriculture community in New Haven is vibrant, the uses, zoning requirements, and regulations are essentially nonexistent. Across the country, a commonly cited barrier to urban agriculture has been its absence from local zoning codes. In response, a growing number of municipalities are revising zoning standards to formally acknowledge community gardens and urban ag uses as permitted uses in existing zoning districts.

Among other goals, FSPD is looking to shape the way urban agriculture happens in the city through planning. FSPD would like to better use zoning to support local food systems in each neighborhood. Land-use policies can assist in securing access to and ensuring the preservation of land for agricultural uses. There is no one-size-fits-all urban agricultural land use policy. Urban areas vary in availability of land for agriculture, population density, soil suitability, and resident interest. Zoning regulations can ensure that agriculture occurs in suitable locations and under the proper conditions. But

4. Land Acquisition/Vacant Lots

In addition to ordinance provisions that acknowledge different intensities of urban ag activities, the FSPD is also researching other local policies besides zoning that could be used to sanction/encourage specific activities related to urban ag. This includes land-use policies that permit public land to be used for gardens or farms, land disposition policies that permit surplus municipal properties to be acquired for urban agriculture, and policies and regulations that strengthen the infrastructure for widespread urban ag. The FSPD's ultimate goal with this project is to create/formalize an enabling environment for such uses to occur, and to ensure an easy-to-understand, transparent process in how to engage in these activities in New Haven. This approach is an attempt to be forward-thinking rather than reactionary (e.g. with one-off zoning amendments/special permits).

Timeline Chart

Year One Timeline (Nov 2020-Nov 2021)	Q1 (Nov-Jan)	Q2 (Feb-Apr)	Q3 (May-July)	Q4 (Aug-Oct)
To establish and experiment with new public participation methods, document local knowledge, and utilize it to inform an effective, responsive, fair, efficient, user-friendly, and predictable but flexible set of Green Ordinances and institutional practices of community engagement.				
Tactic/task: Identify initial topics, questions, areas of interest that could benefit from the public's input- to incorporate in the surveys developed by Mapping group	V			
Tactic/task: Develop two training sessions for walk leaders reg the city's current land use policies, introduction to green ordinances, ...	V			
Tactic/task: Deliver training curriculum to 8 Street Walk leaders.		V		
Tactic/task: Develop an evaluation process of the public participation piece of the project to inform institutional practices.		V		
Tactic/task: Develop a tentative work plan for the 'Streets Lab' Meetings			V	
Tactic/task: Identify and invite relevant city staff to take part in the 'Streets Lab'				V

Year Two Timeline (Nov 2021-Nov 2022)	Q1 (Nov-Jan)	Q2 (Feb-Apr)	Q3 (May-July)	Q4 (Aug-Oct)

To establish and experiment with new public participation methods, document local knowledge, and utilize it to inform an effective, responsive, fair, efficient, user-friendly, and predictable but flexible set of Green Ordinances and institutional practices of community engagement.				
Tactic/task: administrate 'street lab' meetings - schedule, invitations, room	V	V	V	V
Tactic/task: develop and implement a few tactical urbanism style pilots, to the extent that it is found relevant and stems from preliminary findings.	V	V	V	
Tactic/task: commence an ongoing evaluation process of the public participation piece of the project to inform institutional practices.			V	V

Year Three Timeline (dates)	Q1	Q2
To establish and experiment with new public participation methods, document local knowledge, and utilize it to inform an effective, responsive, fair, efficient, user-friendly, and predictable but flexible set of Green Ordinances and institutional practices of community engagement.		
Tactic/task: Prepare proposal for policy changes/ new policies	V	V
Tactic/task:		
(add more Objectives and Tactic/Tasks, as needed)		

