

The below message was sent to each member this morning.

From: Amy Wiggin
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 9:03 AM
To: 'sheri.gallo@austintexas.gov'
Subject: Springdale Farms Support

Dear Ms. Gallo,

I am writing to you in reference to **Springdale Farms** permit request. [Springdale farms](#) is a unique asset in the community that Austin should support.

Springdale Farms provides **enriching experiences** that allow the Thinkery to expand the practice and expertise of [our mission](#). Over the summer we send our campers to Springdale Farms for a look at the work done at the farm. Campers come back exclaiming that they never knew mustard looked like that , and describing how composting works. They share the funny things they see chickens do and how the dirt felt in their hands as they pulled a carrot. For most, if not all, of the campers this was their first opportunity to see that food comes from beyond their grocery store, it is truly invaluable.

The Thinkery is proud to act as a home for a new generation of innovators and creative problem solvers. This is largely in thanks to the continued support of the community, volunteers, and organizations, like Spindale Farms. It would be a shame if the farm went away and another development grew up in it's place.

We appreciate that Springdale Farm is in our community, and we will appreciate seeing you support them with your vote to pass the permit.

Best,
Amy Wiggin

Amy Wiggin | Camp Coordinator
Thinkery
1830 Simond Ave, Austin, TX 78723
[512.469.6223](tel:512.469.6223)



July 24, 2015

Mayor Steve Adler and the Austin City Council

On behalf of Sustainable Food Center, I am writing to express our support for Springdale Farm and the approval of their conditional use permit. Springdale Farm is a vital community asset that provides access to healthy food, offers educational opportunities for children and adults, and serves as a space where families and the community can gather.

Springdale Farms goes far beyond the role of local business that contributes to our local economy and provides meaningful jobs. As conscientious members of the community, farm owners Glenn and Paula Foore are committed to providing nutritious and affordable food for the neighborhood. They have taken great strides to ensure that even those who struggle to afford healthy, local fruits and vegetables can shop at their farm stand. As part of a City of Austin Health and Human Services contract, Sustainable Food Center is providing training and technical assistance to Springdale so they can accept SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits. Going a step further, our partnership allows Springdale Farm to double the value of SNAP benefits to help families stretch their food budgets and eat healthily.

Springdale Farms is also home to the nonprofit Springdale Center for Urban Agriculture. The hands-on experiential learning model employed through field trips, tours, and classes held at Springdale helps children establish a foundation for healthy lifestyles, teaches the community about sustainable food systems, and encourages both adults and kids to develop new gardening and cooking skills. Recently, Springdale's work has grown to include on-farm research to identify climate-adaptive plant varieties, further contributing to the body of knowledge about environmentally sustainable growing practices needed in our changing environment.

Springdale Farms rounds out their contributions to the community by hosting gatherings for families and other groups, including weddings and dinners and fundraisers for area nonprofit and service organizations. Offering paid events (in a commercially zoned area) allows the Foore family to continue supporting charities and causes vital to our community, and helps underwrite their educational programming and their ongoing commitment to healthy and affordable food access.

In considering the vote for Springdale Farms' conditional use permit, we urge Mayor Adler and City Council members to consider it a vote for healthy and affordable food, for homegrown educational opportunities, and for community gathering spaces.

If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Smiley, SFC Deputy Director

512-220-1080 direct

CC: Ronda Rutledge, SFC Executive Director



August 17, 2015

Dear Mayor Steve Adler and Honorable Members of the Austin City Council,

On the behalf of the Austin Food and Wine Alliance, a local non-profit organization dedicated to fostering awareness and innovation in the Central Texas culinary community through grants, educational programming and events, would like to express our support for Springdale Farm. We believe the approval of their conditional use permit is vital to the existence of this invaluable East Austin business and resource.

We have seen the way this East Austin farm supports our local economy through offering homegrown and sustainable produce to local residents, restaurants and businesses and donating much needed produce to local charities within its neighborhood and surrounding areas. By offering up their farm stand every week, many customers from within the neighborhood and all over Austin come into the East Austin neighborhood to not only purchase produce, but to visit and support other local businesses within the area. I know I have made many stops on the way home from The Springdale Farm Stand to purchase gas, shop at surrounding stores or to stop off for a bite to eat at one of the neighborhood restaurants.

Although some may feel that by hosting private events Springdale Farm compromises the integrity of the neighborhood, we contend that the presence of Springdale Farm (which in part depends upon such events) *enhances* the integrity and rich history of agriculture in this part of East Austin. Moreover, it is in perfect accord with the 1992 initiative by the Austin City Council to foster small businesses exactly like Springdale Farm.

We selected Springdale Farm's program, Springdale Center for Urban Agriculture, as a 2014 Austin Food & Wine Alliance Grant Recipient, as they made great efforts in supporting our community and in providing the means to fuel innovation and grow sustainable agriculture in Austin. Through educational development, area school children and culinary students from local programs have had the opportunity to learn about the importance of sustainable agriculture through farm tours and educational programs. In addition, our grant supports their commitment to finding local, sustainable solutions to the challenges that confront central Texas farmers (i.e. the record drought), largely through their experimentation with heirloom varieties of various crops.

In considering the vote for Springdale Farm's conditional use permit, we ask and urge Mayor Adler and City Council Members to consider a vote for an institution that wholeheartedly supports its community and inspires much needed innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Most Sincerely,

Mariam Parker
Executive Director
Austin Food & Wine Alliance

Dear Mayor Adler and Councilmembers,

I am writing to you in my capacity as interim President of Green Corn Project, (GCP). GCP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and has been active for 17 years. Our mission is "Feeding Austin, One Garden at a Time" and we install organic vegetable gardens in homes, community centers, schools and wherever there is a need in underserved communities in Austin. The majority of our work is in East Austin, where many people live in food deserts and have little access to good produce. We teach them to grow their own. As part of our mission, we teach volunteers to plant seeds, then later to transplant them into larger pots, before ultimately planting them in our recipient gardens. We have always had a difficult time finding a place to store and water our seeds and transplants. Springdale Farm generously offered their greenhouse space and is caring for our planted seeds until we need them. This is just one example of many, of how Springdale Farm contributes to the community - not just East Austin, but all of Austin. Please vote yes to the Conditional Use Permit this farm has been negotiating for 2 years. We need to keep this farm viable for so many reasons, and having a responsible number of events, on their commercially zoned property is a reasonable request. Thank you for your time.

Carla Crownover,
Green Corn Project

Street address: 2701 Greenlee Drive

