



A Food Plan for Austin-Travis County

ATCFPB March 18th 2024



Food Production: Where our food comes from, including everything from farming to ranching to backyard gardening.

Food Processing & Distribution: What happens to food from where it is grown to when it reaches your plate, including how food is moved and processed.

Food Markets & Retail: Where food is sold, purchased, or provided cost-free.

Food Consumption & Access: How we eat our food, who struggles to get enough food, and what impact our consumption has on our health.

Post-Consumption & Food Waste: What happens to the parts of food we don't eat and the impact of food waste on the environment.



Developing a Food Plan





What is a Food Plan & why do we need one?

- A Food Plan will set clear **Goals and Strategies** to move toward a more equitable, sustainable & resilient food system
- The Food Plan build on **several other initiatives** made by the County, City, and Communities to tackle key food system issues.
- The Food Plan will **center equity** and the lived expertise of those most impacted by the current food system

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a light green background with white line drawings of various botanical items including a pumpkin, a chili pepper, a slice of citrus, an oak leaf, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a sprig of rosemary, a pea pod, a slice of citrus, a quince, and an ear of corn.

Plan Authorization

- On June 2021 Austin City Council *directed* the City Manager to initiate a planning process
- Travis County Commissioners Court *approved formal participation* in the plan in fall 2022
- ATCFPB assisted with the creation of the ‘plan for the plan’, including the review of the RFP for the planning consultant, development and on-boarding of the CAC, and participation in the Issue Area Group

[Link to full resolution](#)

Project Timeline



Phase 0:
Planning for the
Plan

Phase 1:
Vision
Development

Phase 2:
Goal & Strategy
Development

Phase 3:
Review and
Ground truthing

September 2021 -
January 2023

March 2023 - August 2023

September 2023 -
February 2024

March 2024 - July 2024

- Building Community Awareness 📺
- Release of State of the Food System Report 📖
- Onboarding Planning Consultant ★
- Recruitment of Community Teams 🚀
- Website launch 📊
- Listening Sessions & Tabling at events 📞
- Equity Grounding Workshops 🤝
- Community Circles 👐
- Selecting Issue Area Groups 🗳️
- World Cafe's ☕
- Issue Area Group Meetings 🏠
- Develop Goals and Strategies 🎯
- Review Goals and Strategies 🔍
- Develop a draft for the Food Plan 🖋️
- Community Review of Plan 👁️
- Council and Commissioner Review ⚖️
- Approval 👍
- Adoption 🏁



Co-creating the plan

- **Planning Team:** Coordinating and managing all moving parts
 - Includes:
 - City of Austin staff
 - Travis County staff
 - Consultant Team
 - Equity Consultants
 - Austin Travis Food Policy Board
 - Executive Leadership Team
- **Community Advisory Committee:** Advisory body overseeing the planning process
- **Issue Area Groups:** Developing goals and strategies for the plan
- **Community Food Ambassadors:** Connecting the plan to our communities
- **Broader community feedback:** Provide input at different stages of the plan

Food Plan Structure

- **Vision:** Describes and articulates our shared aim - the kind of future we agree we would like to move toward together.
- **Objectives:** The ends towards which the goals and strategies of the food plan will aim to achieve.
- **Goal:** A specific target or desired end result to meet one or more objectives.
- **Strategy:** A specific action we will take to achieve one or more goals.

Will also require an **Implementation Plan:** A roadmap of how we will accomplish the goals and strategies in the food plan (TBD, when we get there!).










Food Plan Vision



We envision a just, accessible, and culturally diverse food system, built by undoing inequities, that supports and sustains inclusive thriving communities, healthy ecosystems, and solutions to climate change where everyone can reach their full potential now and for generations to come.

Food Plan Objectives

	Sustain and restore living ecosystems including air, soil, water, and biodiversity.
	Invest in an equitable local food economy and workforce, including strengthening local food production, agriculture, processing & distribution, and food recovery.
	Improve emergency food distribution preparedness and response.
	Strengthen food supply chains to support community health and nutrition, the well-being of workers, the environment, and animal welfare.
	Support health and eradicate food insecurity through equitable access to nutritious and culturally relevant food.
	Act as a climate solution, considering the food system from field to fork and beyond.
	Build collective community power and coordination to strengthen the local food justice movement towards the fundamental human right to food.

Goals and Strategies



A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a light green background with white line drawings of various botanical elements including pumpkins, leaves, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a pea pod, a corn cob, and other fruits and herbs.

Goal and Strategy Development

- **Five Issues Area Groups** have been meeting monthly for the last 3 months
- After **21 workshops, 9 goals and over 50 strategies** have been developed
- Each strategy is being reviewed using a **Sustainability and Equity Assessment Tool** to prevent unintended consequences,

Summary of our Community Engagement:

- 2500+ pieces of community feedback from 30+ engagement activities/events throughout Austin & Travis County
- 200+ volunteers across 20 workshops for 5 issue area groups
- Comprehensive review of existing City and County plans
- Aggregated and organized by the project team (consultants + City/County staff)



Next Steps





Phase Three Public Engagement

- Development of the Food Plan Draft
- Public Review Window March 18th - April 19th
- Public Review Meeting via Zoom on April 5th
- Integrate Public Input into Strategies.
- CAC's final review of the Plan



Plan Adoption

- Present Plan to City Council and Commissioners Court in Summer 2024
- Begin Implementation

The Path to the Final Plan

March 4 - March 11	March 18 - April 19	April	May	Summer 2024
Internal Review of Draft Plan	Public Review of Draft Plan	Public Review Meeting on April 3rd Integrate public input into existing strategies	Creating the Final version of the Plan CAC Approves Final Plan	Present Plan to City Council and Commissioners Court Implementation Begins

Get involved



Review the plan together

Join our virtual session!

- Joins us on Zoom,
Wednesday, April 3rd, at
5:30pm
- Multiple languages
available!

Provide feedback online

- Window for public input:
 - March 18th - April 19th
- Survey is now **available online** for you to review the Food Plan Draft!
- Please complete the entire survey including demographic info

Stay in touch

*Subscribe to never
miss a beat!*

- Subscribe to **Austin Food Notes**, our monthly newsletter to receive timely updates!

Important Resources and Information



The State of the Food System 2022

- Provides a brief **history** of the Austin Food System
- Will provide the **foundation** for the Food Plan
- Each section contains: Overview, Trends and Challenges, Policy Actions, **Key Questions** & Facts



State of the **Food System** Report

2022



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Assessment

- describes **issues** that impact local food suppliers
- assesses the **ability to rebound after a disaster** for different sectors of the food system
- identifies **strategies to decrease chronic vulnerabilities**



Supply Chain Vulnerability Assessment *Toward food resilience in Central Texas*

A Report Prepared by Emmie DiCicco
Interviews & focus groups conducted by: Caroline Alexander & Emmie DiCicco

July 2023

View full report [here](#).

Stay in touch



Visit our [website to learn more!](#)

Questions? Email sustainability@austintexas.gov



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN