

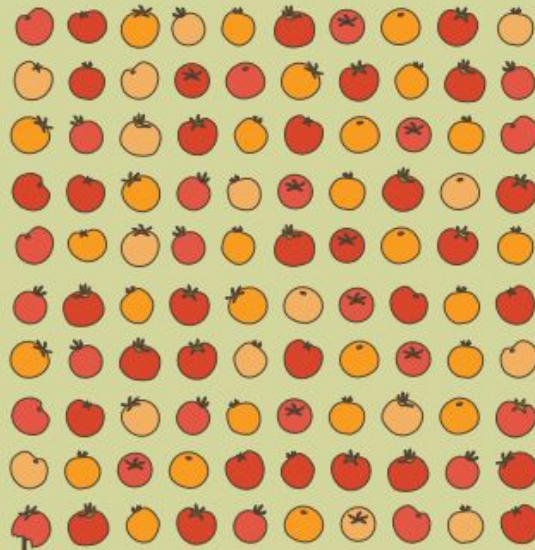


# A Food Plan for Austin-Travis County

Find your seat at the table



# Some Food for Thought



Approximately **0.06%** of food consumed in Travis County is locally produced

**1.24 million pounds** of food is wasted every day in Austin

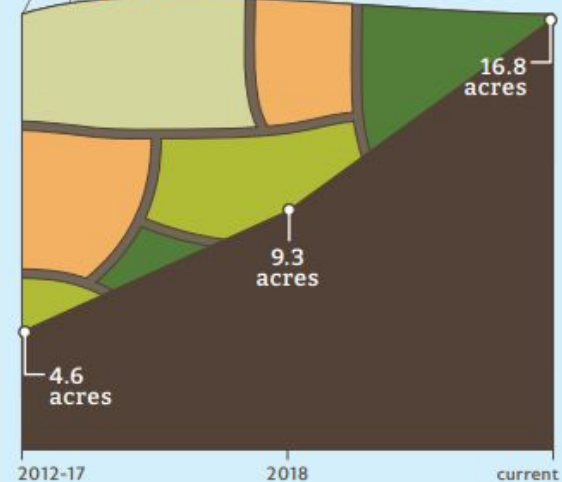
Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



**14.4%** of people in Travis County experience **food insecurity**



**16.8 acres** of farmland are lost every day in Travis County



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

Here's a brief message from our **Community Advisory Committee** on why you should care about this plan:

**Food connects us all.** Every bite sparks a ripple effect, impacting the system that nourishes our community. From farmers, chefs, and grocery store workers to neighbors and families, we're all part of this story. As the City of Austin and Travis County continue to grow, this food plan is here to guide us moving forward, ensuring everyone has access to the food they need to thrive. **This isn't just about eating – it's about building a future where food is a basic human right and our choices nourish not just ourselves but our world.**





# Good to Know

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- 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
- A *draft was released on March 18th* and it's now open for public comment.

[Link to full resolution](#)

# Project Timeline



## Phase 0: Planning for the Plan

*September 2021 -  
January 2023*

- Building Community Awareness 📰
- Release of State of the Food System Report 📖
- Onboarding Planning Consultant ★
- Recruitment of Community Teams 🚀

## Phase 1: Vision Development

*March - August 2023*

- Website launch 📊
- Listening Sessions & Tabling at events 🗣️
- Equity Grounding Workshops 🤝
- Community Circles 👐
- Selecting Issue Area Groups 🎯

## Phase 2: Goal & Strategy Development

*September 2023 -  
February 2024*

- World Cafe's ☕
- Issue Area Group Meetings 🏠
- Develop Goals and Strategies 🎯
- Review Goals and Strategies 🔍
- Develop a draft for the Food Plan ✍️

## Phase 3: Review and Ground truthing

*February -  
Summer/Fall 2024*

- Community Review of Plan 🗣️
- Council and Commissioner Review ⚖️
- Approval 👍
- Adoption 🏁

# Co-creating the plan



The draft goals and strategies for our community's first comprehensive food plan are here!



NOW, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Join us for a virtual public review meeting. Share what is most important to you in the food plan and let us know if we missed anything.

 Language interpretation and other accommodations are available on request.

APRIL 3 | 5:00 - 6:30 PM | OVER ZOOM

Take our brief online survey. Review the draft goals and strategies and share your feedback with a short online survey by April 19.



The Austin/Travis County community has been deeply engaged in shaping the plan, demonstrated by community member participation in plan meetings and events, feedback collected, and the commitment of many individuals to working tirelessly on all aspects of the planning process:

2,707

— individuals engaged in plan meetings and events.

3,468

— pieces of feedback collected.

2,524

— hours of committed community participation.\*

39%

— of participants identified as having current or past experience of hunger, using public benefits/financial assistance, or struggling to meet basic needs.°

21%

— of participants reside in Travis County areas outside City of Austin boundaries.°

9%

— multilingual engagement in a language other than English.°

\* — committed community participation is defined as persons attending more than one plan meeting

° — of 879 participants who completed an engagement form



# 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 DRAFT GOALS



**LAND** | Expand community food production, preserve agricultural lands, and increase the amount of farmland dedicated to regenerative agriculture long-term in Austin/Travis County.



**OWNERSHIP** | Increase access to and stewardship of land for regenerative food production by decreasing barriers to farm ownership for people underrepresented in agriculture, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, and other Persons of Color, women, and gender-non-conforming individuals, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, young adults, and justice system-impacted individuals.

**LIVELIHOODS** | Improve food worker and farm worker livelihoods by ensuring a safety net, defining career pathways, expanding training opportunities, and strengthening opportunities for advancement for workers across the local food system.



**PREPAREDNESS** | Establish and fund a resilient, inclusive, and accessible emergency food provision system that ensures all community members, regardless of cultural background or medical needs, have access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food during disasters and emergencies.



**INSTITUTIONS** | Create more resilient and sustainable local supply chains through the adoption of values-aligned distribution and purchasing frameworks and an increase in the number of institutions purchasing local food.



**ACCESS** | Expand access to nutritious and culturally relevant food in food distribution programs and food retail locations for residents of Austin/Travis County experiencing food insecurity or facing barriers to food access (proximity, mobility, income, and availability) with priority investment in areas experiencing high rates of food insecurity.



**FOOD RECOVERY** | Increase the amount of surplus food and non-edible food waste diverted from the landfill to support a circular food economy, healthy soils, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the food supply chain.

**PRO-CLIMATE/PRO-HEALTH FOODS** | Educate and raise awareness among individuals and organizations about the value and benefits of choosing foods that both nourish our bodies and contribute to decreasing the carbon footprint of our food system.



**EMPOWER** | Develop community education, empowerment, and infrastructure to support effective implementation of the food plan as measured by increased funding, data collection, partnerships, and community participation in a local food system network.

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**  
Review the draft plan goals and strategies.

Take our survey by April 19.  
Join us for a Virtual Public Review Meeting on April 3.



# Next Steps



# The Path to the Final Plan

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

# *Review the plan together*

*Join our virtual  
session!*

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



# *Provide feedback online*

*Visit our website and  
provide feedback  
online.*

- Window for public input:
  - March 18th - April 19th
- Survey is available online for you to review the Food Plan Draft!

# *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
- Provides 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



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# 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](mailto:sustainability@austintexas.gov)



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