

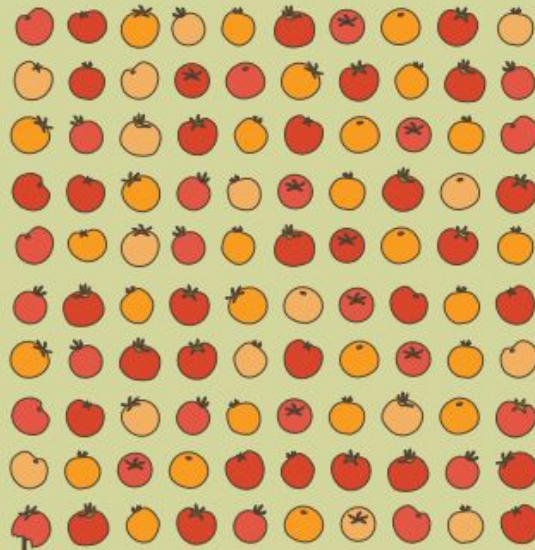


# A Food Plan for Austin-Travis County

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

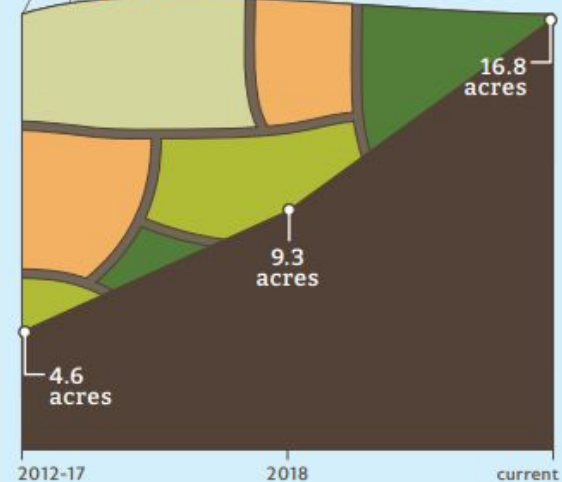
Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



**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?

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- 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



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 chili pepper, a slice of citrus, an oak leaf, a strawberry, a rosemary sprig, a pomegranate, a pea pod, a lemon slice, a peach, and an ear of corn.

# 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 has been reviewed by hundreds of community members.

[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

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- **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

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The food plan has **9 goals** and over **50 strategies** that seek to address many of the top concerns identified during the planning process:

- **Goal 1 - Land:** Increase local farmland for regenerative agriculture.
- **Goal 2 - Ownership:** Decrease barriers to farm ownership.
- **Goal 3 - Livelihoods:** Better conditions for food and farm workers.
- **Goal 4 - Preparedness:** Ensure food during emergencies.
- **Goal 5 - Institutions:** Strengthen local supply chains.
- **Goal 6 - Access:** Address food insecurity.
- **Goal 7 - Food Recovery:** Divert food from the landfill.
- **Goal 8 - Pro-Climate/Pro-Health Foods:** Decrease our carbon footprint.
- **Goal 9 - Empower:** Community supporting the implementation of the plan.

# Health and Nutrition surfaced in multiple goals and strategies

Suggestion to look closely at Goal 6

Read all the draft goals and strategies at [bit.ly/FoodPlanningATX](https://bit.ly/FoodPlanningATX)

**GOAL 6:** 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.

**Strategy 6.1:** Actively establish culturally relevant, affordable, community-backed or -driven retail options in areas experiencing food insecurity or facing barriers to food access, including replication and expansion of existing food retail initiatives in the city and county such as the community-owned food retail initiative and Fresh for Less Mobile Markets & Home Delivery.

**Strategy 6.2:** Increase and improve medically appropriate infant feeding education and support strategies through collaborative government, school, and community based support organization efforts, including information on breast/chest feeding and formula feeding and advocacy for paid parental leave policies.

**Strategy 6.3:** Hospitals, clinics, and food access organizations collectively implement Food as Medicine and Food Pharmacy programs administered by Registered Dietitians, in partnership with food distribution centers and retail grocery stores, such as providing a voucher program for expanded ability to access the food that fits individual nutritional and medical needs .

**Strategy 6.4:** Identify funding opportunities to expand the local subsidized food distribution infrastructure in resilience hubs and other appropriate locations, prioritizing opportunities that incorporate culturally appropriate foods and services.

**Strategy 6.5:** Support and expand community-based programs that provide effective, culturally relevant, and appropriate nutrition and food preparation education and services.

**Strategy 6.6:** Expand benefits and access to nutritious foods through programs that amplify and supplement the purchasing power of individuals and households facing food and nutrition insecurity and explore the feasibility of creating a locally funded nutrition incentive program with less restrictive eligibility criteria than SNAP/WIC.

**Strategy 6.7:** Increase utilization of publicly administered programs that improve food access, such as SNAP, WIC, and the national school breakfast/lunch program.

**Strategy 6.8:** Make access to food assistance programs more equitable by reducing barriers due to lack of funding, language, technology access, housing instability, immigration status, disability, and current and historic inequities.

**Strategy 6.9:** Support technology literacy education and technology access programs to increase ability to meet individual and family needs through online food shopping, including how to utilize benefits for online shopping, prioritizing programs that serve older adults, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and others who face additional barriers to accessing online retail services.

**Strategy 6.10:** Identify promising practices across sectors for mitigating transportation barriers and support programs that increase community access to efficient and convenient transportation to markets and grocery stores, especially for those living in areas lacking healthy food retail and with high food insecurity rates, and for those who have barriers to reliable transportation (e.g., people living with disabilities, older adults, etc.).

**Strategy 6.11:** Support, fund, and expand programs that provide food delivery services, prioritizing delivery to households facing food and nutrition insecurity and/or barriers to food access and prioritizing distribution of food that is locally sourced and culturally relevant

# Co-creating the plan



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



# 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>Present Plan to City Council and Commissioners Court</b>  <b>Implementation Begins</b>

***Celebrate with us!***

*Join our final event*

- Meet us this May 11th at For the Love of Parks:
  - Saturday, May 11th from 11am - 3pm at the Richard Moya Park
  - Stop by our table and join the celebration!

# *Stay in touch*

*Subscribe to never miss a beat!*

- Implementation will need even more people involved!
- Subscribe to [Austin Food Notes](#), our monthly newsletter to receive timely updates!

# Thank you



Visit our [website to learn more about the plan!](#) and read the full list of draft strategies.

Questions? Email [sustainability@austintexas.gov](mailto:sustainability@austintexas.gov)



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# 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

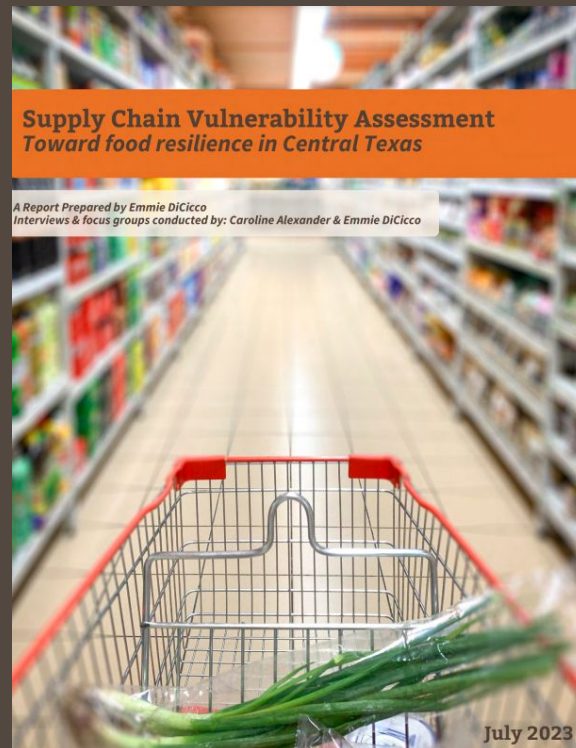


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# Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Assessment

- 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](#).