Where Are We Now? Urban Garden Policies in the Tampa Bay Region

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How Public Policy Can Benefit Urban Community Gardens

- Provide resources to community groups
- Foster collaboration between local governments and the community
- Prevent conflicts by designating specific land uses for a property
- Reduce exposure to soil and water contamination

(Hodgson et al., 2011)

Introduction

Research question: Which municipalities in the Tampa Bay region have urban farm ordinances or public policies related to gardening and local food production?
Research Methods

- Research conducted during the summer 2013 semester
- Seven undergraduate students from the USF Environmental Science and Policy major assisted with the data collection effort
- Utilized Municode to collect policy data
- Called and emailed municipal officials for additional information
Results

Urban Community Garden Ordinances

• Hillsborough County
  • City of Tampa

• Pinellas County
  • City of Indian Rocks Beach
  • Town of North Redington Beach
  • City of Safety Harbor
  • City of Seminole
  • City of St. Petersburg

• Polk County
  • City of Lakeland

• Pasco County
  • City of New Port Richey
  • City of Zephyrhills

• Manatee County
  • NO COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICIES
**Discussion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonalities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Minimum set back requirements</td>
<td>• Animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hours of operation and equipment usage</td>
<td>• Front yard restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chemical usage</td>
<td>• Organic gardening</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Restrictions on produce sales</td>
<td>• Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Restrictions on trash and debris storage</td>
<td>• Zoning districts</td>
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Select comments from discussions with municipal officials:
- “Our city is too small to support agriculture”
- “Created draft ordinance to support proposed community garden”
- “No ordinance is needed until we receive complaints about urban gardens”
- “Existing community gardens have their own policies in place”
Thank You!

**Urban Sustainable Food Policy Research Group**

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