

CJP Community Forum: Food Goal

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Meeting Notes

General feedback:

- Comments uniformly supportive of the food goal and its strategies
- Food sovereignty seen as an important part of a “compelling and holistic vision of climate justice”

Recommendations/Concerns:

- Consider reduction of “food deserts” over time as an indicator
- Expand use of public lands for food forests and community gardens
- Expand strategy supporting Indigenous control of culturally important lands to include formally returning ownership of unceded lands
- Support ongoing educational forums for “Indigenous people to share their wisdom about living in right relationship to Earth and its inhabitants”
- Need for greater clarity/nuance about herbicide/pesticide elimination, as they are seen as critical tools for addressing invasive species

Leslie K

Initiatives to move the county away from fossil fuels as well as alternatives that don't meet sustainability criteria based on life-cycle analysis (e.g. use too much non-sustainable energy to produce, are too damaging to ecosystems, displace food crops or important habitat/forest)

Jane S / Jeff W / Dave C

Culturally Specific Food Access: Supporting traditional food practices and local production to build resilient, just food systems.

Diane M

Allow for some public lands to be utilized for food forests and support expansions of local sustainable food production through farm incubators, farm collectives, and community gardens

JR

Metric: Let's add a decrease in food deserts to the measuring impact list?

Michaela

In addition to advocating for Indigenous control of local and state lands, to preserve their food and spiritual practices, make a plan for returning unceded land to tribes, and sponsor ongoing educational forums for Indigenous people to share their wisdom about living in right relationship to Earth and its inhabitants.

EMSWCD

EMSWCD supports the goal that “Every community member has access to nutritious, culturally specific food and can participate in traditional food practices (pg. 54).” Our district is committed to protecting agricultural land and supporting land access for farmers of all demographics. We support the Plan’s strategy to “Increase availability of land and farm incubators/ collective farms and expand programs like Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares (CROPS).” EMSWCD owns and runs a farm business incubator program called Headwaters Farm that we hope can advance this goal by providing land access, capital equipment, and soil health education for emerging farm businesses.

We support the strategy “Provide outreach and education to expand equitable participation in community gardens and farms” and run a grant program called “Partners in Conservation” to actualize this work. A discrete goal of this grant program is to: “Establish school and community gardens and support sustainable and culturally appropriate agriculture practices.” We hope our investments through these grants continue to open doors for community organizations to develop and steward gardens and soil health.

We also ask that Multnomah County continue to provide funding to support the Plan’s strategy to expand Oregon State University Extension Services into Multnomah County for access to education (pg. 55). It has been several decades since Multnomah County has had an OSU Extension agent and there is demonstrated need for this service. East and West Multnomah SWCDs have collectively invested \$100,000 this year toward a study that interviewed 40 farmers to understand how OSU Extension could best serve the County. We are grateful the County is advancing a budget with an initial \$40k to realize this climate action goal.

SEI

Integrated Justice Approach: Framing climate justice alongside health justice, housing justice, and food sovereignty creates a compelling and holistic vision.

City of Portland

Community garden recommendations

- Emphasize free/low cost access to land and community gardens’

- Gardens at housing developments – depave areas, use unpaved back alleys, etc
Reconcile with street tree planting list.

Strategy 37: Education programs on reducing and eliminating pesticides

- Specify what counts as pesticides/herbicides. It may be difficult to manage highly invasive plants like blackberries without some herbicide use.