

Food in planning: a seven year odyssey from off the planning table to on the planning table

Jerry Kaufman
Emeritus Professor
Urban and Regional Planning
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Symposium on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Design
and Planning of Buildings and Cities

May 2-4, 2008
Ryerson University, Toronto

The Food System: A Puzzling Omission

- Planning claims to be comprehensive!
- Of basic necessities of life—air, water, food, and shelter--only food left out



Why?

Why the food system absent from the planner's table?

- It's driven primarily by the private market
- If it ain't broke, why fix it?



- Not our turf
- Food's grown on farms not in cities
- Planning agencies—no money to do food planning

Since 2000 putting food on the planning table

- Special journal issues on food planning
- Food planning track sessions at American Planning Association conferences
- A few food planning courses in graduate planning programs
- APA White paper on food planning approved
- **APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning approved March 2007**

The APA Policy Guide on Community/Regional Food Planning

2 overarching goals for planners

- ❖ Help build more self-reliant and sustainable community and regional food systems
- ❖ Suggest ways the industrial food system can help communities enhance economic vitality, public health, ecological sustainability, social equity, and cultural diversity

Six General Policies

Support food systems that:

1. Strengthen the local and regional *economy*
2. Improve the *health* of region's residents
3. Are *ecologically sustainable*
4. Are socially equitable and just
5. Sustain *traditional food cultures* of Native American and ethnic communities
6. Promote *comprehensive food planning* at the community and regional levels

Linking planners and designers: help small farmers in the region survive economically

Develop plans, development regulations, and economic incentive programs to provide accessible and well-serviced sites for public markets, farmers markets, small scale processing facilities, and distribution centers for food produced in the region



Fayetteville, Arkansas farmers market



Public Market

Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C.



**Increase access to healthy food,
especially for low income households**

**Encourage mixed-use neighborhood design
and redevelopment to include**

**→ small and mid-sized grocery stores,
farmers markets, and community gardens
to allow residents to grow their own food**

Community Garden Next to Chicago Public Housing Project



Hortliza, a Youth Nutrition Garden project in SW Detroit



Buffalo, NY west side low-income neighborhood

- *Food for Growth: A Community Food System Plan for Buffalo's West Side*
- Assessed food security in the city's West Side neighborhood and analyzed opportunities and shortcomings in the local food system
- Strategic objectives : enhance local food production through land-use planning; promote food-based economic development;; increase transportation access to food; promote food-based youth development through food-based projects



Support foods produced in the region

Prepare comprehensive plans
and neighborhood plans
that recognize community gardens,
farm/garden stands,
and farmers markets



as *desirable civic uses* and provide sufficient space, infrastructure, and inter-modal transportation for such uses.

Madison, Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan Update on Community Gardens

- Strive to create one community garden site for every 2,000 households.
- Establish permanent community gardens on city-owned land or in city parks where possible.
- Extend leases of community gardens on city-owned property from one to five years.
- Consider making community gardens a permitted use in all residential zoning districts

WINTER GROWING BEDS



AQUAPONICS



Urban Bee Keeping/Honey Making



Food-growing projects on publicly owned lands

Support development of vegetable gardens, edible landscaping, and related infrastructure on publicly owned lands, such as schoolyards, parks and greenways, and tax-foreclosed properties

Somerton Tanks Farm, Philadelphia

- In 2004 the *Philadelphia Water Department* developed an urban farm as an example of how to use urban vacant land for agricultural production.
- Professional farmer hired using spin farm method to grow vegetables for market sale on a half acre plot in front of the water tanks.
- In 2006 the farm grossed \$68,000 in sales.



Community Vegetable Garden in Grant Park, Chicago Lakefront



Gallery 37-Chicago's Loop across from Daley's Plaza



Mixed residential/food growing developments

Provide incentives and special zoning provisions

→ to integrate locally supported agriculture (e.g., community gardens, urban agriculture, small farms) into existing settlements and new areas of residential development

Troy Gardens, Madison, WI

- 31 acres on city's northside
- Urban agroecology project
 - + 5 acre 30 unit co-housing devt
 - + 5 acre CSA farm
 - + 6 acre community garden
 - + 5 acre prairie restoration
 - + children's garden
 - + edible landscape
- A Partnership
 - housing community land trust,
 - conservation community land trust,
 - friends of TG,
 - city govt.,
 - university,
 - community action coalition



Prairie Crossing



- Gray's Lake, Illinois
- Conservation design subdivision
- Housing, organic farm, and a CSA

Recycle food waste

- Assess the impact of food waste disposal on area landfills
- Explore possibilities for recycling food wastes through composting and bio-fuel development



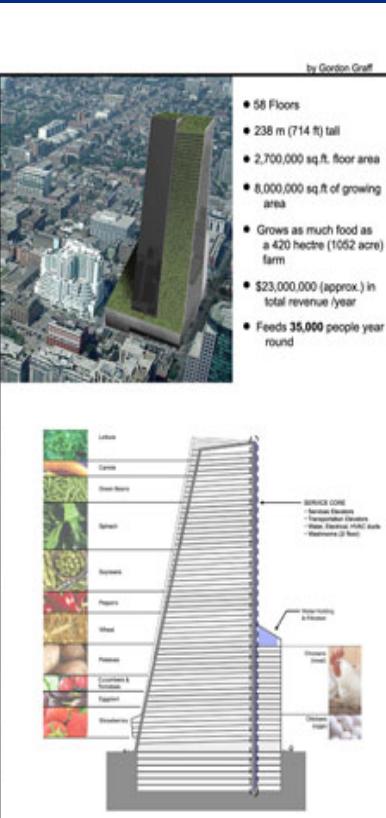
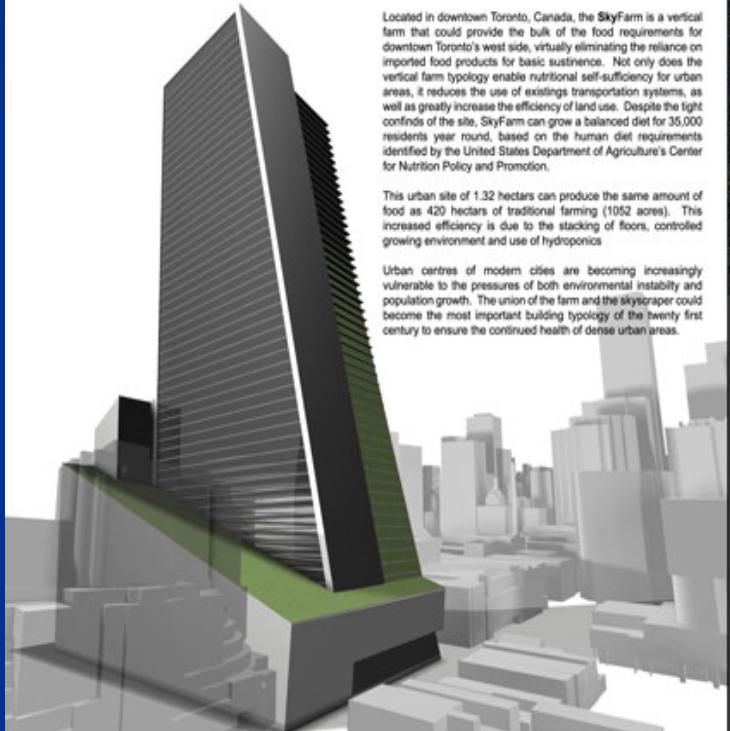




Chicago School Growing Beds On Asphalt

The Future: Vertical Farms?

SKYFarm



- SKYFARM
(Toronto
proposal)
- 58 floors
- 8 million ft. of
growing space
- 3.3 acre site
- Grows as much
food as a 1,000
acre farm
- Feeds 35,000
people year
round

The Built Environment Shapers and Urban Food System Actors

- Planners and designers latecomers
- Urban food system actors eager for partnerships

A case in point
Growing Power collaborations

- top flight architectural firm prepared plans for GP carbon-free, green building
- planners on board of directors and serve as consultants
- support from Milwaukee and Chicago planners and designers on urban ag projects