An Urban Ag Reserve in Montgomery County

Silver Spring based land trust prepares to create a Conservation Plan that helps carry out Thrive’s urban agriculture goals

The Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming

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CKC’s Nonprofit Pillars

➢ **Land Stewardship**
  ○ Redefine highest & best use of land
  ○ Local land oversight & governance
  ○ Equitable access to land

➢ **Farm Management**
  ○ Fresh, healthy, quality food
  ○ Safe, clean urban operation
  ○ Neighborhood involvement

➢ **Education**
  ○ Training the next generation
  ○ Community connections
“Residents have access to healthy local food provided through agriculture integrated into urban and suburban neighborhoods and increased local food production in the Agricultural Reserve.”

Draft Vision & Goals Document, Thrive Montgomery 2050

**Components of Our Local Food System:**

- Ag Reserve Farms
- Urban Farms
- Community Gardens
- Backyard/School Gardens

- 545 Farms in Ag Reserve (93,000 acres)
- 1 Urban Farm (1 acre)
- 14 Community Gardens (~ 4 acres)
- ? Backyard/School Gardens (? acres)
- Imports
Thrive 2050 Vision and Goals

How do urban farms address the County’s goals?

- Goals 2, 3 & 7: Resilient and Diverse Economy
- Goal 2: Neighborhood Connections
- Goal 3: Training the Next Generation
- Goal 6: Environmental Awareness & Protection
- Goal 7: Knowledgeable Consumers
- Goal 7: Increased Food Access

www.ckcfarming.org
Identifying Properties for an Urban Ag Reserve

Stewardship
- Local stewards
- Public access
- Long-term preservation options (i.e. matching property type to policy/program)

Farm Management & Produce Distribution
- Need (e.g. food desert)
- Points of sale (population density and/or proximity to farmer’s markets)

Education
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to transit

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Governance Model

Network of Neighborhood Farms:

- Scalable
- Measurable inputs/outputs
- Stewardship chapters
- Paid farm managers
- Local volunteers
- Connections to schools
**FINANCIAL MODEL**

- Diverse revenue streams
- Adaptable
- Streamlined financial management
- Shared farm revenue
- Mission-driven
- Affordable, sustainable and accessible food
Brainstorming Policies to Support An Urban Ag Reserve

Private SF & MF Residential
- Enhanced urban ag tax credit?

Private MF & Commercial
- Activate open spaces via points?

Public Land
- Identify new sites?
- Additional layers of protection?

Public/Private Partnerships
- Long term leases?