



CALL TO ACTION FOR FOOD AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

A MODERN FRAMEWORK FOR BOULDER COUNTY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY

The Parks and Open Space mission is “to conserve natural, cultural and agricultural resources and provide public uses which reflect sound resource management and community values.”

WE CALL ON THE BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE, BOULDER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, AND BOULDER COUNTY OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY TO UNDERTAKE A COORDINATED COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF BOULDER COUNTY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY TO ENSURE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF OUR MOST VALUABLE PUBLIC ASSET: OUR AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

BOULDER COUNTY AGENDA FOR FOOD AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- 1. Mitigate climate change and manage for climate resilience through agricultural practices that minimize greenhouse gas emissions and maximize carbon sequestration**
 - Minimize disturbance of mycorrhizal soil networks caused by tilling and herbicides
 - Use perennials and cover crops to keep soil covered and alive through four seasons
 - Practice crop diversity through intercropping, prairie strips, and rotation
 - Integrate properly managed livestock into agricultural systems and land use planning
 - Minimize use of synthetic fertilizers, a prime contributor to destructive greenhouse gasses
- 2. Improve health and wellness of Boulder County residents**
 - Prioritize private and commercial production of local food crops for use by Boulder County citizens
 - Eliminate the use of harmful toxic pesticides and herbicides on county lands
 - Select crops, livestock, and production systems that mitigate and eliminate pollution of soil, air, and water.
 - Grow local food crops and livestock to improve nutrition and reduce food insecurity in Boulder County
 - Provide opportunities for citizens to practice farming and gardening outdoors with their neighbors
- 3. Ensure land is managed to mitigate harm from flooding and drought, and to increase water security**
 - Ensure soil health and tilth are prioritized on all lands to maximize infiltration, absorption and retention of water from rainfall and irrigation
 - Ensure measurable soil health improvement is required by all management plans and leases
 - Establish baseline measures of soil health before and after each lease or management period
 - Identify, acquire, protect, and manage key wetlands as natural catchment areas
- 4. Allocate public agricultural land for use by both farmers and the community for its highest best use -- as determined by sound long-term resource management and community values and needs.**
- 5. Open appropriate parcels of public land for community gardens for food production, citizen education, and agriculture engagement.**

These valuable public lands must be managed with transparency, accountability and responsibility to the citizens of Boulder. Reassess every use, lease, contract, and management plan to ensure it upholds the mission promised to voters. Climate resilient management requires consistent, accurate, scientific and peer-reviewed measurement and analysis of the current status of our public lands as a starting point. We must implement and enforce plans for measurable improvement, consistent monitoring, and regular reporting of progress on each parcel, followed by ongoing adjustment and revision.



As a public asset of key importance, county agricultural land must be managed according to sustainability plans and goals already developed and agreed upon by the Boulder County government in consultation with citizens, farmers, public health advocates, climate scientists and soil experts.