

Share Your Thoughts Comment Cards Community Event on Urban Agriculture May 18, 2010

The following are the comments received from the Community Event on Urban Agriculture held at the Civic Center on May 18, 2010. The comments are as they were written by the contributors with a focus on what people felt was working and not working in terms of urban agriculture land use.

Think about development and land uses in Lakewood....

What do you like?

- Large lots, keeping of agricultural animals and horses, gardens – rural feeling that Lakewood has to offer – why we live here 20+ years.
- I like the mix of residential and rural, and I like the older neighborhoods. I like the freedom to do what I want (within reason) on my land. We seem to have fewer zoning restrictions than some other places.
- I like the 1R zoning. A few people complain but they chose to move to 1R. There are a lot of covenant controlled neighborhoods. Keep the 1R. Keep chickens, horses and livestock!
- Horses and horse trails.
- I love that there is the availability of agricultural scattered around the city. I walk around my neighborhood and I see horses, chickens, orchards and gardens.
- Lakewood seems open to making some progressive choices. Lakewood also (at last not yet) does not favor some of the over loaded “fee and process” solutions of other metro areas: this is a good thing. Keep the solutions open and enforceable.
- I like the country feel, the horse properties, the zoning for horses and other large animals such as sheep, goats, and donkeys. I moved to Lakewood for that reason.
- I love that Lakewood has homes with horses, vegetable gardens, bees, goats and little “farms” all around!
- Love rural (allowing animals) feel. Only a few metro western municipalities retain this feel. It is heart and soul of Lakewood. So please allow for bee keeping and chickens.
- I really like that Lakewood is considering adding rights to keep chickens, etc. I’m not interested in that, but I think it is good for people to have those rights.
- I like lower-density houses with spaces that are open in between. I like seeing geese in parks and horses. I like trees in parks.
- A county feel in Lakewood. I like the horses and sheep. I think bee keeping and gardening are a great benefit to all (& chickens).
- Trees, gardens, horses, farm feel to city living. Yes to chickens.
- Being able to have small amounts of chickens (hens) for backyard eggs.

- Being able to have a free breakfast from my chickens and give my neighbors fresh eggs.
- I get most of my information regarding city business thru reading the Sentinel and I feel that line of communication is good. Also, any time I've called with questions, you are always very courteous and prompt with answers.
- That you are considering adding to the zoning.
- Closeness of schools, stores, etc. City living.
- I appreciate the semi-agricultural areas and large lots available in Lakewood.

What could be better?

- Protecting large lots; our rural community reflecting history of what Lakewood once was. Imagine the turkey farm on Wadsworth at 1st. Allowing for chickens, beehives, gardening is great! We need to add more large lots. Cut down on subdividing large lots; demand for large lots is expanding. Lakewood is fortunate to have irrigation ditches that allow for watering at a fraction of the costs of using city water.
- I'd like to see the issue of selling from home addressed. I think retail sales from home should be allowed. We don't want dozens of shops in every neighborhood but what is wrong with the sale of produce? I think some sort of home retail sales should be allowed. Low traffic, etc.
- People should be allowed to have pets such as chickens.
- I want to have chickens and ducks as a use by right on my 2R lot, without permits or fees. I want more support and freedom for urban agriculture in residential areas.
- I need bees back in our neighborhood and am hoping the city sees the future and allows its citizens to once again feed ourselves properly with our yards and eliminate the 1600 miles our food now travels to reach us. Chickens also.
- Let 1R and others have bees! Better control of barking dogs is needed. Enforce the 3 dog limit.*
- I live on property zoned 1R, zoned for horses. I would like to be able to sell plants and produce from my home. I have nearly ½ acre in heirlooms. Selling plants and produce grown on the property is allowed in Wheat Ridge.
- More access for homeowners to be apart of an edible agriculture landscape.
- Allow chickens and bees without silly fees! Allow more provisions for wind in 2R. Help get the big RVs out of driveways.
- There are too many empty stores, too many pawn shops and check cashing places on Colfax. I'd like to see urban gardens, beekeepers, chickens, more trees.
- We'll need more home gardens and little "food generators" for local, fresh produce for the grower's pleasure and to share with others.
- More opens pace. Stop developing every tiny parcel into soccer fields or cultivated parks. Leave some space natural, "wild."
- I wish that there was an option like a kennel license (like Aurora has) for people to have more than three dogs.*
- Do something about all the graffiti that is showing up more on walls. Let people keep chickens and bees.
- Street sweepers are a waste of money. I think taxpayers could be speared this expense.
- Chickens (no roosters) over loose dogs and cats (which I help save).
- Being allowed to have chickens.
- I currently live in zone 2R. I would dearly love to keep a small chicken flock but really want to do it lawfully.

- Let chickens be on 2R zoning.
- Would like to see small kennel license (hobby kennel) added to zoning ordinance. Added to improve financial as well as educational help for community. Aurora already has one. We have proposed one to the city council and were told to propose this to you all as you will be doing the overall zoning ordinance. We have a great plan to increase the financial stability and improve income to the city of Lakewood.
- More options for food production. Chickens and bee keeping in residential areas – like Denver? Find it silly that Denver chickens are legal but it is not legal to keep chickens in man areas of Lakewood, which would be more appropriate.

* The Lakewood Zoning Ordinance currently allows for household pets not to exceed five (5) per household, with the exception that no more than three (3) of any species shall be allowed. Servant animals are allowed in addition to household pets.