

Food Policy Assessment 2020 Update

Policy and Healthy Food Access

The Healthy Food Policy Project says: “**Healthy food is accessible when it is affordable, and community members can readily grow or raise it; find it; obtain it; transport it; prepare it; and eat it.**”

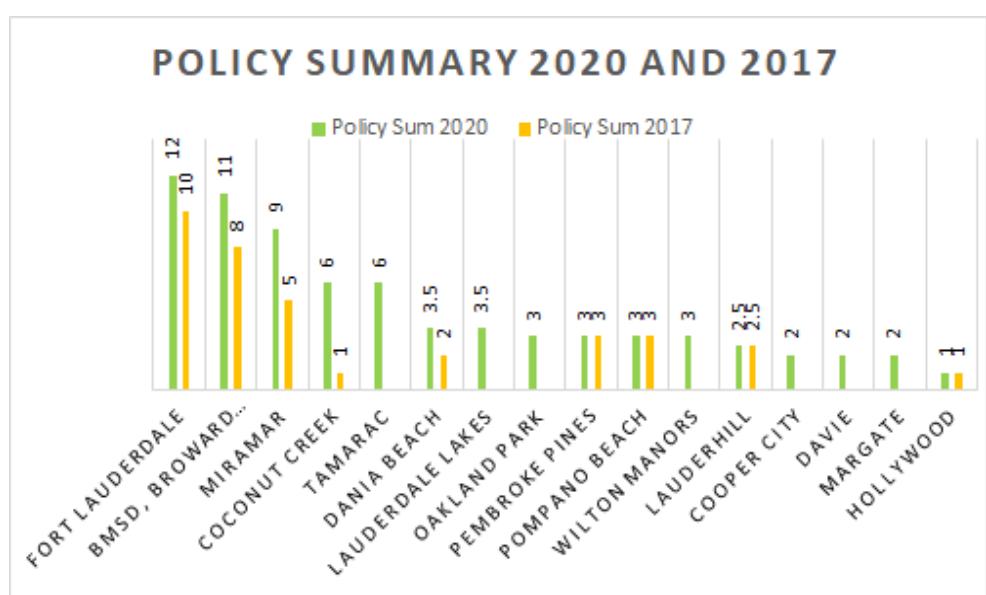
However, healthy food access does not exist without policies that define it. Specifically, land-use policies shape every aspect of this definition. This document provides an overview of land-use policies in Broward County that impact food access.

Policy Assessment Overview, 2017 & 2020

In 2017, Food for All Broward (FFA) assessed thirteen (13) Broward County municipalities for food access policies. The assessment process involved searching major land-use policy documents (e.g., comprehensive plans, master plans and codes) for food/food access related keywords. FFA also searched for “*allied policies*,” which could potentially predicate a healthy food access policy. The 2017 scan found approximately thirty-nine (39) policies, though in most cases, we did not find any policies directly related to food.

In 2020, FFA added thirteen more municipalities (26 total) to the policy scan and changed the methodology. This time, we focused more on food-specific policies, eliminating the “*allied policies*” search. Several jurisdictions adopted robust food-specific policies, which brings the total policies to 76.

*FFA also reviewed policies in Deerfield Beach, North Lauderdale, Southwest Ranches, Coral Springs, Sunrise, Hallandale Beach, Lauderdale By the Sea, Pembroke Park, Plantation, Weston and found that these municipalities had 0 food-specific policies in 2017 and one or fewer in 2020.

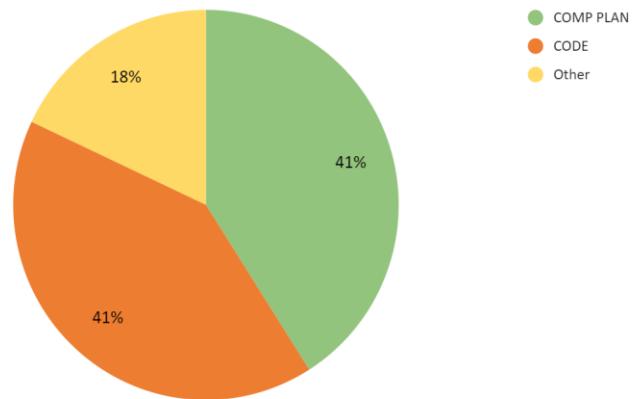


Policies by Planning

Documents

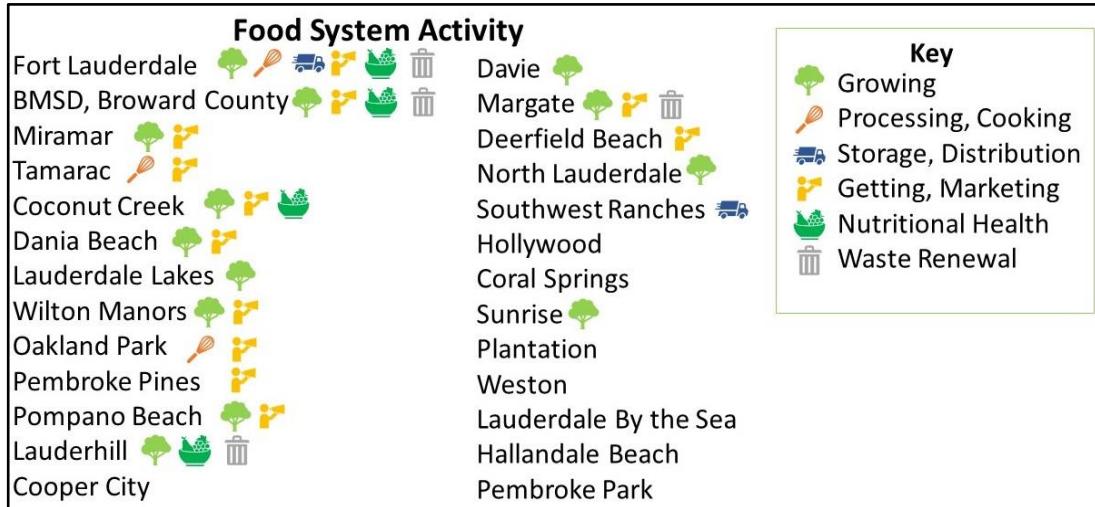
Some municipalities utilize the Comprehensive plan (Fort Lauderdale and BMSD), or the Land Use Code (Miramar) or master planning documents such as Sustainability Plans (Coconut Creek). Fort Lauderdale and BMSD, the two municipalities with the most policies, have them in the Comp Plan. Miramar has three Comp Plan food policies and appears to have methodically aligned some of these to land use codes; for example, the city has comp plan policies to permit Urban Farms and Farmers Markets in Industrial and Utilities districts, while specifying the standard operating conditions in the Code. Of note, Miramar changed its Code first, and then amended the Comp Plan.

Distribution of Food Policies by Policy Type



Policies Shaping Food System Activities

The food system is the network of activities and infrastructure required to grow, process, distribute, sell, consume, and dispose of food. Land use regulations play a role in shaping how these activities interact across space. Here we visualize how the food policies in each municipality impact food system activities:



- Higher number of policies about:
 - growing food (e.g., community gardens and urban farms)
 - selling/marketing food (e.g., farmers markets and supermarkets).
- Municipalities with the most policies have policies that affect a fuller spectrum of food system activities.

Central to healthy food access, should be policies regarding nutritional health. Policies around nutritional health can set the vision for all the other food system policies. For example, unlike Miramar or BMSD, the City of Coconut Creek does not have robust policies about urban farms, farmers markets, or composting. However, in November 2019, it adopted a resolution which recognized the need to establish policy that “promotes a healthy environment with food access and food security for all.” Because of the policy intent in this resolution, all subsequent food policies in Coconut Creek’s major planning documents will have the explicit public purpose of improving healthy food access. The policy gaps are important as well since these are areas of opportunity. Notably, most of the municipalities do not have any policies about ensuring nutritional health. Two other significant gaps are processing and storage/distribution.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Broward County’s municipalities food policies, which have grown over the years. Most of these policies are in the comprehensive plans, which sets a vision for a healthier community in the future. To expand these policies and make them actionable, codes need to be developed with a clear public intent for improving healthy, equitable food access. Implementation policies should consider the interconnectedness of food system activities, and the need for economic incentives. A robust public input process, guided by healthy food access equity, could be a way to catalyze this policy expansion.

Contact Us

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This fact sheet is based on the full 2020 Food Policy Audit Summary:

https://urbanhp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Policy-Audit-Summary_2020_Final-1.pdf

