



**DATE:**  
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**TO:**  
Tulsa City Councilors

**FROM:**  
Susan Miller, AICP

## City Council initiation of zoning code amendments to add specific provisions for Farmers Markets

In 2024 the Tulsa City-County Health Department requested the City of Tulsa define farmers markets as a use inside the City of Tulsa Zoning Code. The request was done to remove ambiguity in the zoning code and provide clear guidance to community members wishing to operate farmers markets in Tulsa. Farmers markets look different in different communities, but they generally share a focus on providing communities a place to purchase fresh, local farm foods and farm food products.

Farmers markets can be year-round or seasonal, indoors or out, daily or only once a month, but are generally characterized by temporary structures, tents and equipment that is set up and broken down every day the market is open. Because of this characteristic, the current zoning code defines them as temporary uses requiring permits yearly and limits them to 180 days in a calendar year. Alternatively, farmers markets may seek City Council approval as a Special Event which requires approval for each individual instance the market is open. To the extent that this zoning code amendment is initiated it will not make changes to ordinances related to street closures for these operations.

The Tulsa Comprehensive Plan has a recommendation to “permit and facilitate the development of alternative options for healthy foods including urban agriculture, community gardening, food forests, and farmers markets”(LU.ER.4, Page 94 of planitulsa). The adoption of a zoning code amendment to add provisions for farmers markets would be a step in implementing this recommendation in the Comprehensive Plan.

If the City Council chooses to initiate the amendments, the Planning Office will prepare a draft of changes to the zoning code and bring it to the TMAPC and City Council for consideration.