



MEDIA ADVISORY

OFFICE of the MAYOR | RALPH BECKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2012
Contact: Bridget Stuchly
801-535-6438

Salt Lake City to survey residents as part of Community Food Assessment *Survey aims to identify food sources and link residents with resources*

SALT LAKE CITY – Mayor Ralph Becker and representatives of Salt Lake City’s Food Policy Task Force will officially launch the next phase of the capital’s Community Food Assessment on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012, at 10 a.m. in Room 326 of the City & County Building, 451 South State Street. The comprehensive assessment evaluates the entire life cycle of the City’s local food system from production to plate to food waste. The City will also unveil a novel new digital tool for residents interested in growing their own food.

The first phase of the Community Food Assessment, initiated in August 2011, concentrated on compiling historic and current data related to food production, health and nutrition in Salt Lake City. The next phase is focused on surveying community members to learn more about how and where they are getting their food and what guides their decisions. Salt Lake City is also hoping to hear about the challenges residents face in feeding their families and in accessing healthy food options.

“A strong local food system relies on an understanding of the existing barriers to food production, accessibility and quality,” said Mayor Becker. “The Community Food Assessment will provide insight and guidance toward crafting effective policies to strengthen our local food system.”

The City will gather information from residents through online surveys and community meetings. Residents will be connected to resources and information that help educate and empower them on how to get and grow local foods. A Community Food Production Mapping Tool – the first of its kind in the nation – will allow residents to access a City map, click on their property and find out how much food they could grow. The purpose of the mapping tool is to provide residents with an estimation of how much they could supplement the produce they buy with food grown in their gardens. The tool was developed by Salt Lake City GIS Coordinator Kevin Bell and University of Utah Department of City and Metropolitan Planning students.

With a commitment to fostering the development of a vibrant, sustainable and equitable local food system that is capable of providing healthy food to all residents, Salt Lake City created the Food Policy Task Force in 2009. The group’s purpose is to recommend and promote sustainable food policy.

More information about the Community Food Assessment is available at www.slcgreen.com.

EVENT: Community Food Assessment Survey Launch/Community Food
Production Mapping Tool Unveiling

WHO: Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City Outreach Program Manager, Bridget Stuchly
Salt Lake City GIS Engineer, Kevin Bell
Salt Lake City Food Policy Task Force Representatives

WHERE: Salt Lake City & County Building, 451 S. State Street
Room 326

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012
Press Conference - 10 a.m.
Website Demonstration - 10:30 a.m.



FACT SHEET – Salt Lake City Food Policy Task Force

Fostering a vibrant, sustainable and healthy food system for all Salt Lake City residents

Who are we and what do we do?

Throughout the country there is a growing recognition that strengthening local food systems advances multiple social, economic and environmental goals simultaneously—from improving public health and food security, to stimulating economic development, creating local ‘green jobs’, and enhancing the sustainability of the food system. In response to this growing interest, municipalities across the country are beginning to assess the state of their local food systems and introduce supportive food policy initiatives.

Salt Lake City is committed to fostering the development of a more sustainable, resilient and healthy local food system capable of meeting the needs of *all* City residents. To help achieve this broad and ambitious goal, Mayor Ralph Becker convened the Salt Lake Food Policy Task Force in October 2009. The Task Force is comprised of a diverse group of individuals and organizations interested in improving food policy in Salt Lake City. Its purpose is to recommend and promote sustainable food initiatives and act as a liaison connecting local stakeholders with City policymakers.

The Salt Lake Food Policy Task Force is working to help:

- assess the state of Salt Lake City's food systems;
- evaluate and recommend revisions to relevant policies and programs;
- raise public awareness about food policy and how it impacts all of our lives;
- reduce hunger and food insecurity by identifying opportunities to improve access to fresh and nutritious food for all Salt Lake residents;
- promote the revitalization of the local food economy;
- expand opportunities for urban farming and community gardening;
- reduce the environmental impact of food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal; and
- empower residents to adopt healthier, more sustainable diets and lifestyles.

What is food policy?

A food policy is any legislative or administrative decision made by a government agency or partner which affects how food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased, and disposed of, designed to influence the operation of the food and agriculture system. Examples of food policy and programs include: laws that impact the quality and safety of foods that consumers have access to; loan and grant programs designed to support community-based food projects and small business development; government incentives, zoning ordinances and regulations influencing how and where food is produced and sold; budget decisions that fund crucial food assistance programs; and procurement policies that determine the quantity, quality and origin of food served through public institutions, such as public schools.

Current Salt Lake City food initiatives:

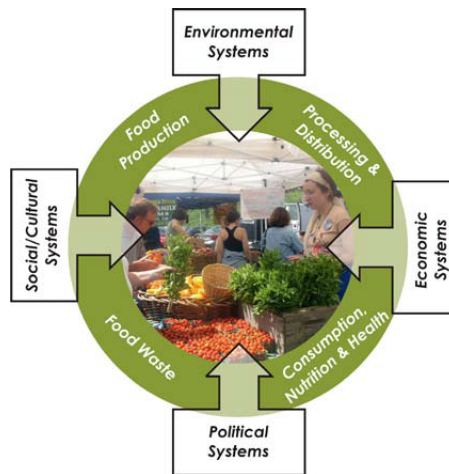
- **Salt Lake City Community Food Assessment** –The Food Policy Task Force is overseeing Salt Lake City's comprehensive assessment of its food system. The assessment will inform the City's future efforts to promote a healthy, sustainable and equitable local food system.
- **Revised Ordinances for Beekeeping and Urban Chickens** – Salt Lake City has made changes to city ordinances to relax restrictions and allow residential chicken coops and beekeeping.
- **Sustainable Code Revision** – As part of the Salt Lake City Sustainable Code Revision project, members of the Task Force evaluated existing ordinances and supported revisions that reduced barriers to community and urban food production for city residents.
- **Community Gardening & Urban Farming** – Salt Lake City works directly with local non-profits and community members to develop gardens within City limits. The City also supports Salt Lake County's countywide effort to expand urban farming opportunities.
- **Salt Lake City Fruit Gleaning Program** – Neighborhood fruit harvesting, waste reduction and donation program.
- **Curbside Yard Waste & Food Composting Program** – Salt Lake City's Curbside Yard Waste Program now also diverts compostable food waste from the landfill. Learn more at: www.slcgov.com/slcgreen/recycle/yard.htm

Learn more about Salt Lake City food policies and initiatives at: www.slcgov.com/slcgreen/food/

Tell us your food concerns. Contact us at: slcgreen@slcgov.com or 801.535.6438

The Community Food Assessment- A Community System Approach

Salt Lake City, and its Food Policy Task Force, the Carbaugh Associates team, and others in the community are working together to develop a food systems evaluation that will provide analysis and information on how food in Salt Lake City is related to well being, community, culture, as well as, supporting the local economy, and the environment.



The Community Food Assessment Systems Approach
Carbaugh Associates, inc

Among the many complexities of growing a healthy, resilient, and resourceful city, developing an integrated understanding of local food systems can provide Salt Lake City with the opportunity to address challenges, increase awareness, as well as, inform planning, and policymaking for improving daily living in our community.

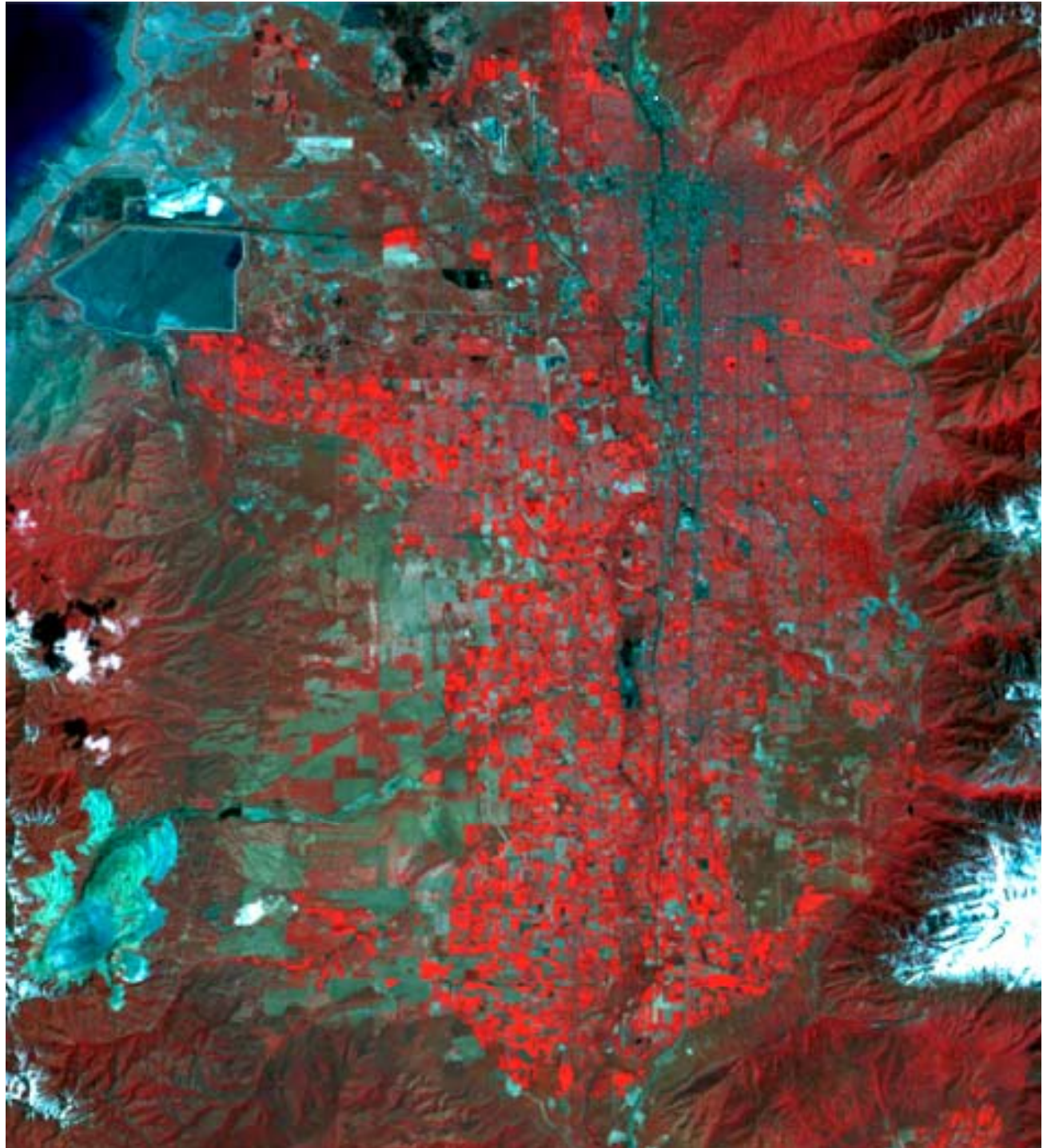
Facts About the Local Food System

- As of the 2007 Agricultural Census: Our local growing community within a 250 miles of Salt Lake City, includes 40,988 farms.(forty thousand, nine hundred and eighty eight). (USDA)
- When we look at satellite maps showing how our county and city has changed over the last 30-40 years, we see that increasingly we have less and less land to grow food for an ever increasing population.
- While it is true that we have more farms, we have less land to grow food on. In Utah, within a short 5 year period, from 2002 to 2007, 12, 600 (twelve thousand, six hundred) acres of Utah's prime agricultural land has been converted to developed land. Source: American Farmland Trust
- Of the farms within a local radius of 250 miles, there is an increase in growing organically produced food. Utah currently has 154 organic farms, and since 2000 has experienced nearly a 50% increase in certified organic pasture and cropland. (USDA)
- The demand for farmers markets in our City is on the rise. Along with our Downtown Farmers market, Salt Lake City now has Farmers Markets across the City, including Glendale, People's Market, two Farmers Markets on the University of Utah campus, and the Sugarhouse area. With our study, we hope to understand if there are other City neighborhoods where Utah farmers can bring their locally grown fresh produce, and locally produced goods for direct market.
- When compared with much of the nation, Utah, and Salt Lake City can be proud that are relatively healthy. When we think of food, it is important to think about how it can help contribute to our health and wellbeing. We have learned that about one quarter (25%) of our Utah adult population is classified as obese.
- In Salt Lake City, increases in body mass index and diseases like diabetes are on the rise. (Utah Department of Health)

Landsat MSS
May 22, 1973

**The bright red parcels are
agricultural land**

Source:
Charles W. Gay
Associate Vice President
for Cooperative Extension



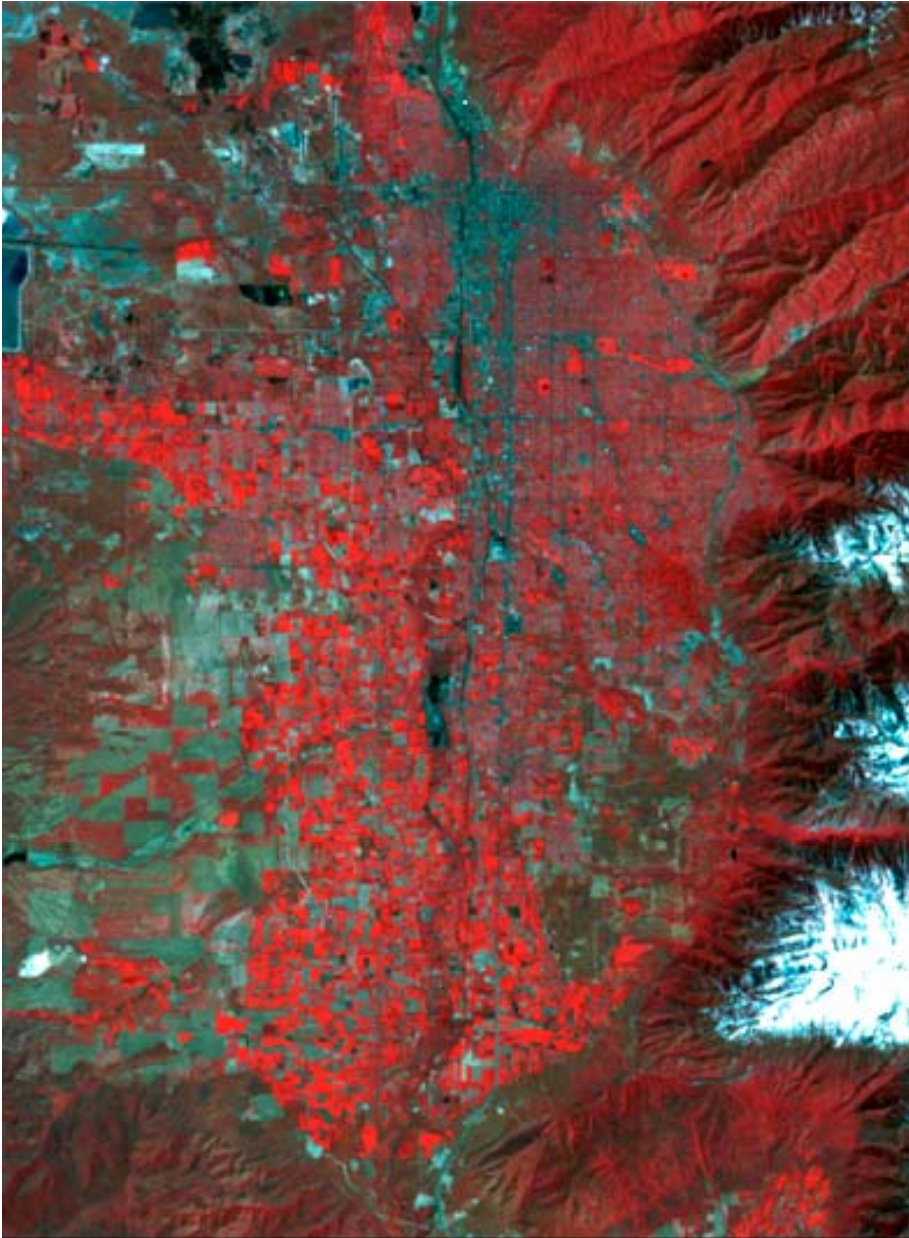
Landsat TM
July 16, 2009

**The bright red parcels are
agricultural land**

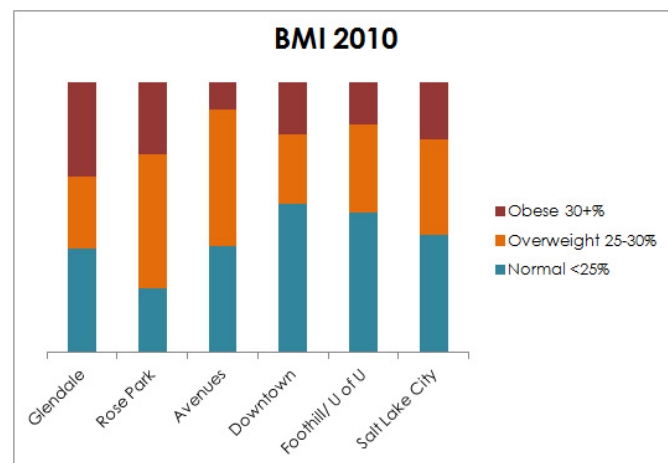
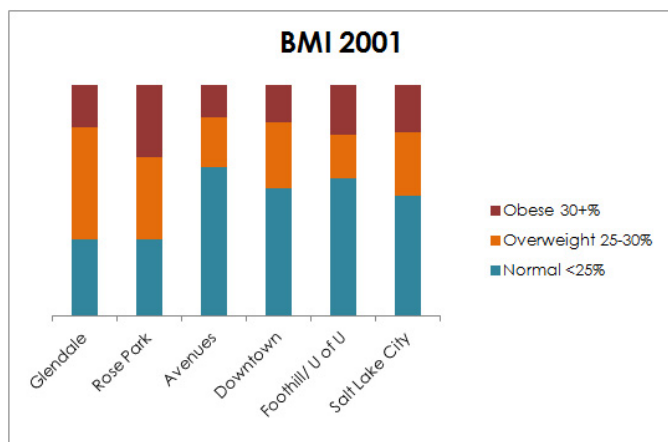
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Salt Lake County, Utah Agricultural Land Use Change 1973-2009

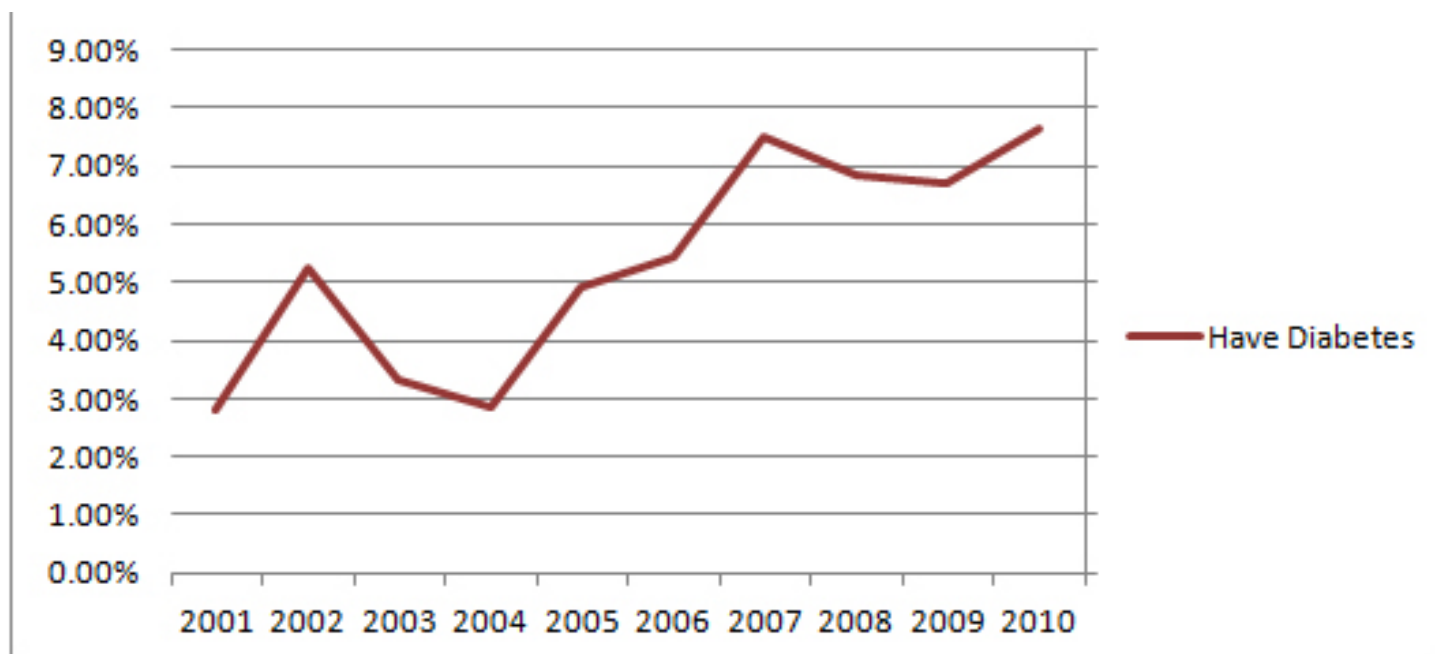


Diet Related Disease



	Category	Glendale	Rose Park	Avenues	Downtown	Foothill/ U of U	Salt Lake City
2010	Normal <25%	38.38%	23.79%	39.52%	55.26%	51.87%	43.75%
	Overweight 25-30%	26.83%	49.54%	50.63%	25.60%	32.71%	35.35%
	Obese 30+%	34.79%	26.67%	9.85%	19.14%	15.42%	20.90%

Salt Lake City Diabetes Rates 2001-2010



	Category	Glendale	Rose Park	Avenues	Downtown	Foothill / U of U	Salt Lake City
2010	Have Diabetes	9.2043*	9.7109*	7.1895*	5.4642*	8.4915*	7.64%
	No or pregnancy only	90.7957*	90.2891*	92.8105*	94.5358*	91.5085*	92.36%