

SUMMIT COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD CHARTER

12-091

VISION: Summit County is home to an economically vibrant, local and regional food industry and all residents are able to obtain and prepare nutritious food.

TO THAT END: As a direct result of the Growing Hope Food Summit and other local research, this document is crafted to guide individual and community actions so that members of the Summit County community can support a local food system by

- Acting in ways that respect and celebrate local food cultures; and
- Understanding that our community's health and well-being benefit from growing, preparing and eating nutritious food; and
- Supporting systems that enable people in all neighborhoods and at every economic level to obtain and afford nutritious, culturally-appropriate food; and
- Educating our children and the larger community how to find, grow, prepare, enjoy and share nutritious foods; and
- Supporting small-scale agriculture, community gardening, food preservation and food production that contribute to self-sufficiency and sustainable living; and
- Spending personal and organizational resources on food grown or prepared locally, thus sustaining our local economy.

THEREFORE, this Summit County community supports these initiatives to advance the local food economy:

1. Making available nutritious, affordable food to all residents at a variety of locations that are within reasonable distance by several means of transportation.
2. Actively encouraging growing food for personal use.
3. Providing education on growing, preparing and cooking nutritious food, and encouraging eating nutritious food at home, at work, at school and at places we gather.
4. Supporting regional agriculture as a business by encouraging the distribution, sale, and purchase of locally grown, nutritious food in area markets, grocery stores, restaurants, schools, other institutions and directly from farmers.
5. Developing policies that preserve farm land, enable appropriate use of vacant urban land for agriculture, and permit the raising of animals for food production in appropriate settings.

6. Supporting farming by training new farmers and an agriculture workforce, supporting the sale of existing farms to new farmers, enacting prudent farming regulations, and encouraging best farming practices.
7. Supporting existing local food businesses and new food-related entrepreneurial opportunities through investment, incubators, micro-credit and other financial incentives.