



Community Vision

**WHAT IS YOUR VISION
FOR AN URBAN
AGRICULTURE
COLLECTIVE FARM
AT BOOKER T.
WASHINGTON PARK**

Roundtable Overview

102

Participants

Participants included grassroots community members, non profit partners, city department staff, and Food Justice Network staff and partners.

125

Comments

Notes were taken on key points of agreement at each table and recorded on newsprint by staff at each table.

8

Roundtables

Roundtables were encouraged to explore their vision for an urban farm site at Booker T. Washington Park - any concerns or benefits.



Vision for an Urban Agriculture Collective Farm at Booker T. Washington Park

When asked about potential benefits, residents said they believe a UAC Farm in Booker T. Washington Park, would:



BUILD COMMUNITY & INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS



INCREASE LAND EQUITY



INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO FRESH PRODUCE



CULTIVATE FOOD EQUITY



PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING - YOUTH & ADULTS



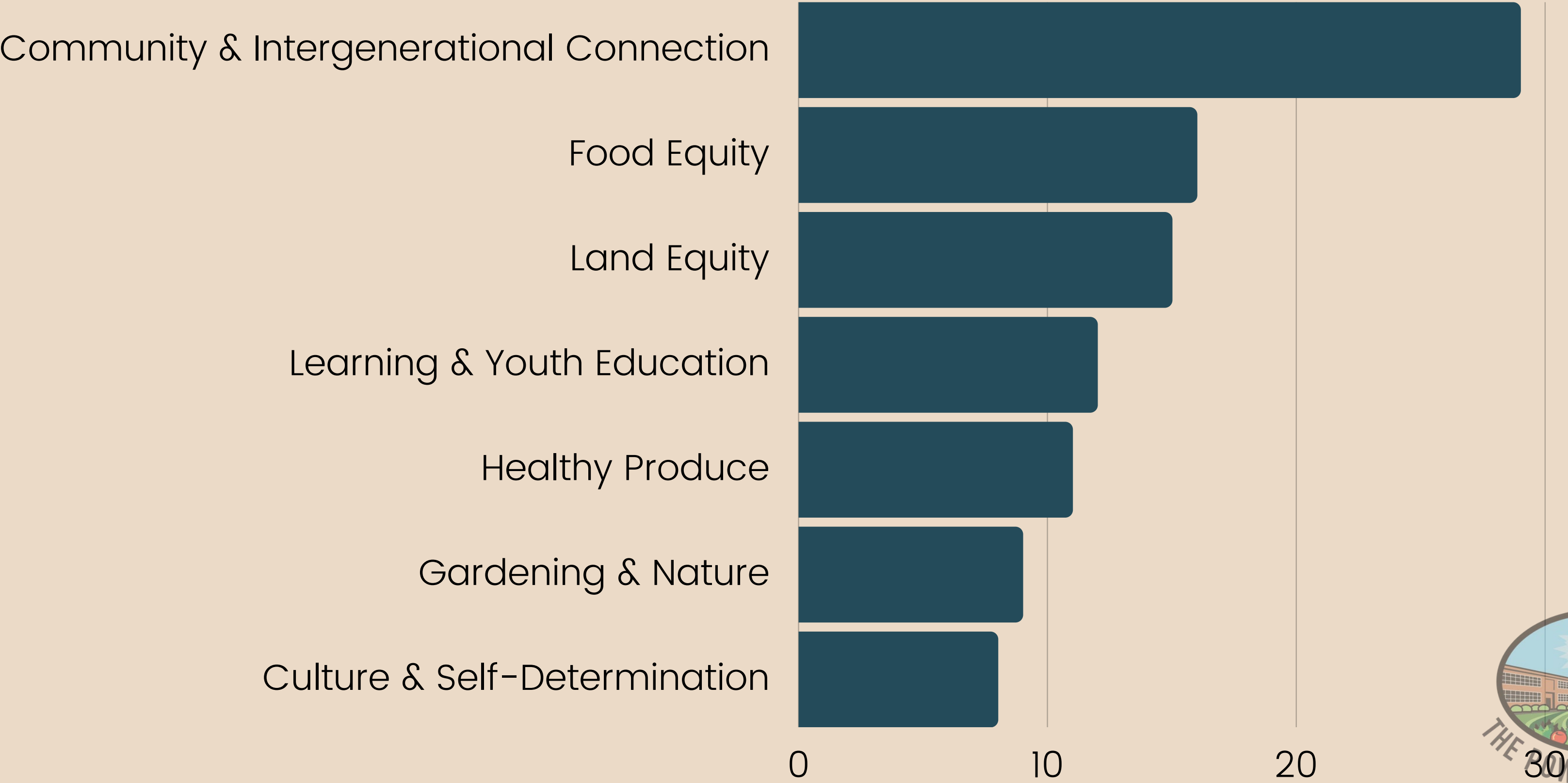
INCREASE GARDENING & CONNECTION TO NATURE



CELEBRATE CULTURE & SELF-DETERMINATION



COMMUNITY VISION FOR AN URBAN AGRICULTURE COLLECTIVE FARM AT BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK



Community & Intergenerational Connection

1

Community coming together around the table to build health and be in nature.

2

Chance to build something here and for community members to build on BTW Park legacy.

3

Bring families together across generations and build community unity.

4

The opportunity to teach the benefits of a community coming together for a common good.



Food Equity Systems Change

1

In the Black Community our heritage includes this tradition of food sovereignty.

2

Addressing Barriers to Good Health: transportation to grocery stores, walkability, accessibility.

3

There aren't many grocery stores in the area. A garden would provide access to healthy, fresh produce.

4

Make visible the story of enslaved people's gardening traditions of and knowledge (i.e. hair braiding to carry seeds across Atlantic).



Land Equity & BTW Park History

1

Land-based connection in face of gentrification and development.

2

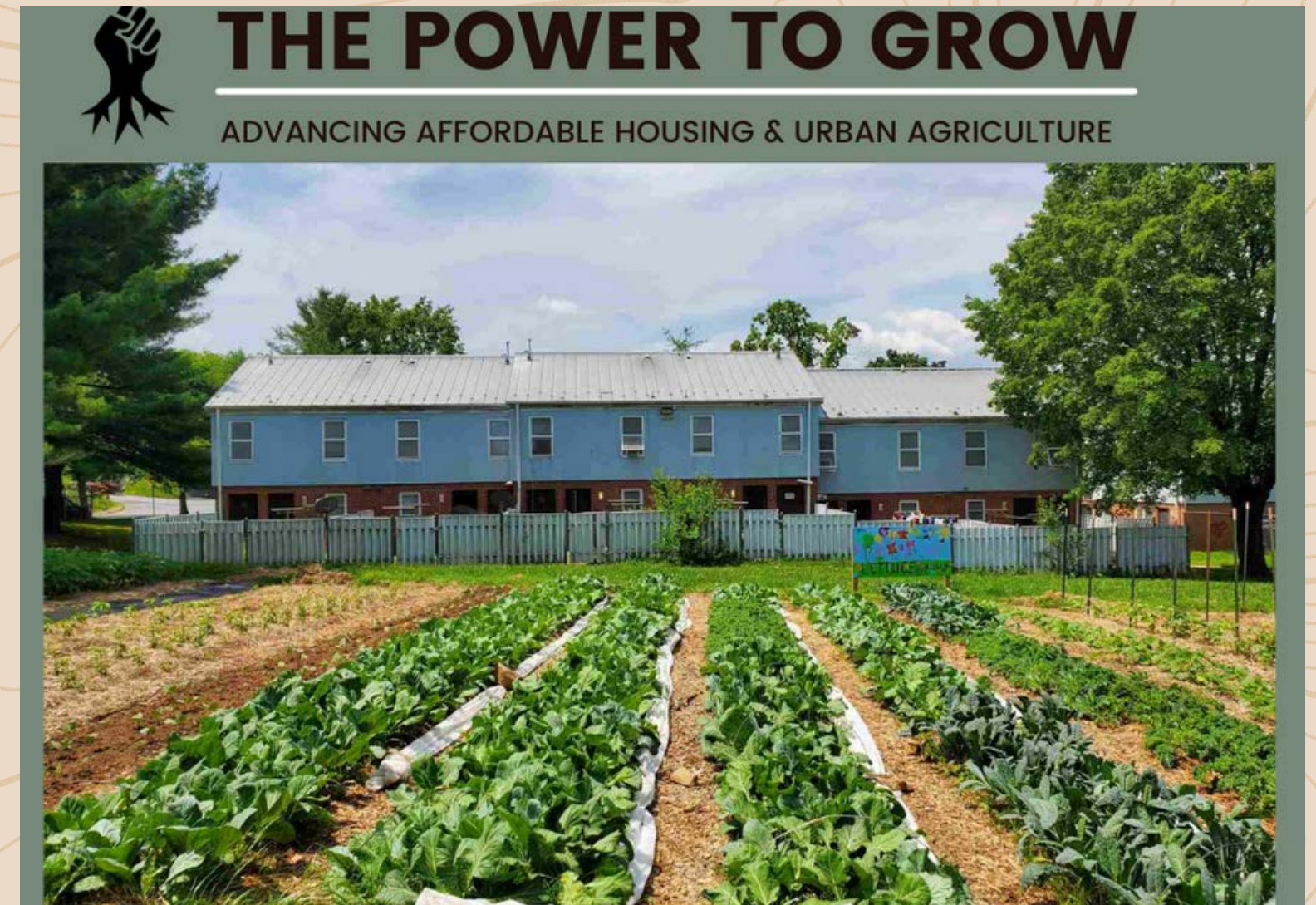
It could provide a place for community discussions about the history of land loss for Black farmers.

3

I am most inspired by the history and idea of a farm that could tie to the past. Those who helped develop the park- to combine that legacy with today.

4

It would be good to partner with Parks & Rec to use public land for public good, especially for Black and brown neighbors.



In pursuit of restoring the power to grow for every community, an equitable investment in urban agriculture is needed to counter impacts of necessary housing redevelopment on decreased food access and environmental health. When families have the power to grow, land is liberation.



Learning & Youth Education

1

The opportunity to teach the youth about nutrition and healthy eating.

2

Regain lost knowledge about correct harvesting, processing of plants.

3

Exposure and education about what growing food looks like.

4

Opportunities to learn how to preserve the surplus.



Increased Access to Healthy Produce

1

Access in the center of the city to fresh food.

2

There aren't many grocery stores in the area. A garden would provide access to healthy, fresh produce.

3

We could have fruit trees and berries and bring back some of the perennials that were at Kindlewood.

4

Jefferson School was where we went to school – they had good food – mashed potatoes and string beans, meat loaf, all made from scratch.



Gardening & Nature Connection

1

My uncle had the most beautiful garden – vegetables, apple, pears, and cherry trees. Everyone would come and he would give something from the garden to each person.

2

If you can work in the same dirt together – the garden can be freedom. Nature can heal.

3

Starting from scratch and building the soil.

4

Building climate resilience by creating a farm at BTW Park.



Culture & Self-Determination

1

Intergenerational community – power of providing for oneself, self-determination

2

Garden as facilitator of community conversations, organizing, networking and cultural celebrations.

3

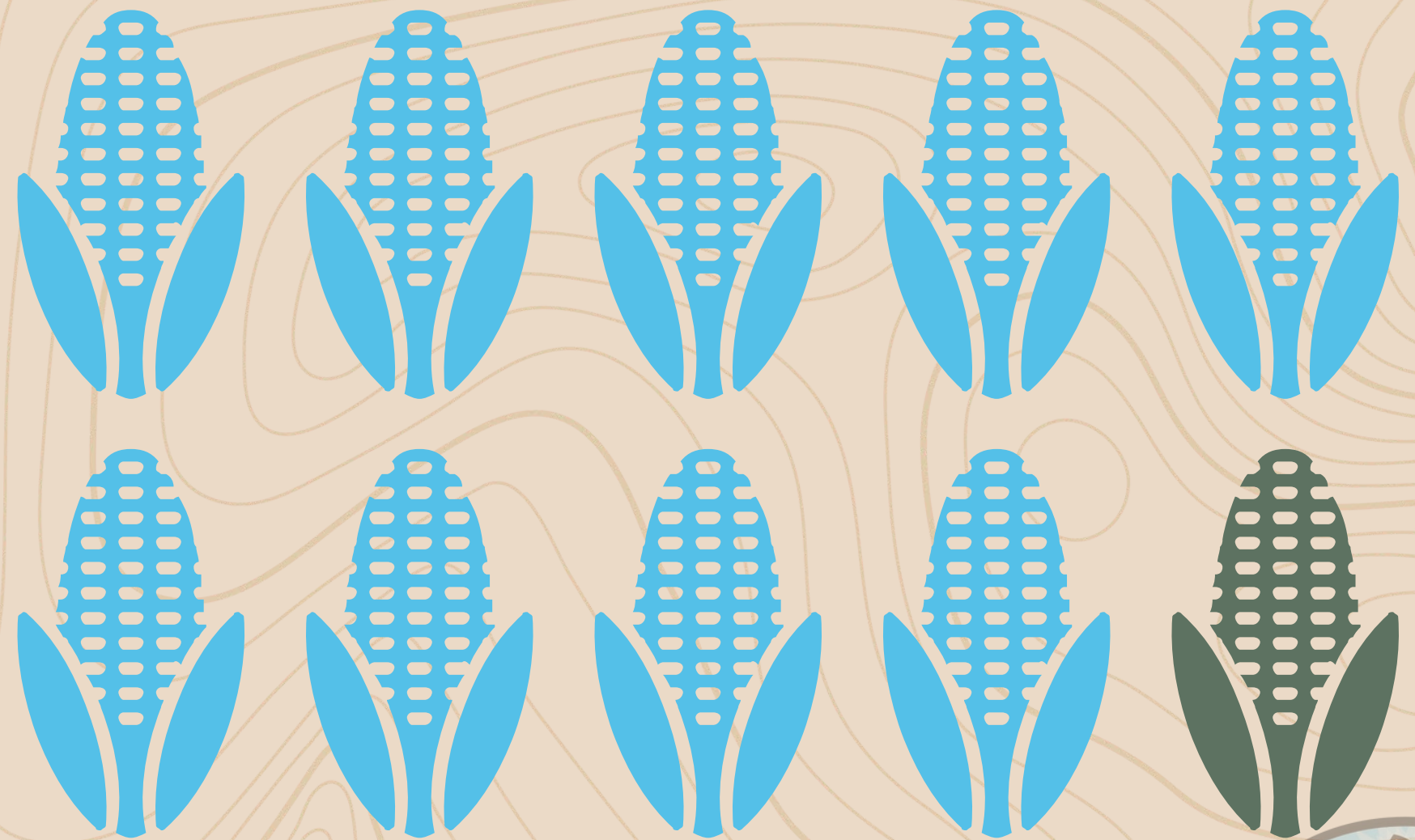
Self-determination around which crops are planted and shared at no cost community markets.



An Urban Agriculture Collective Farm at Booker T. Washington Park

94%

Believe a UAC farm in
Washington Park would
benefit the community.



Survey Highlights

1

74% said that fresh produce is not accessible to all Charlottesville residents

2

23% of residents did experience challenges in getting fresh produce.

3

95% support free and fresh produce to residents of public and affordable housing.

4

93% believe that an Urban Agriculture Collective farm at Washington Park would benefit their community.





"[AN URBAN FARM AT BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK]
WOULD GET PEOPLE HEALTHY FOOD AND GET PEOPLE
TO COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY."

Rose Hill Resident

