

FROM	NAME & TITLE	LISA MCNEILLY, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR <i>Lisa McNeilly</i>
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #21-0070R / INFORMATIONAL HEARING – SOIL CONSERVATION IN BALTIMORE CITY

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

DATE: November 8, 2021

The Office of Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #21-0070R, which is for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Sustainability, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Control Board to address their current roles in soil conservation and urban agriculture and servicing Baltimore City's farmers.

The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan (formally adopted on April 22, 2019) includes strategies and actions to advance urban agriculture, green infrastructure and nature in the city. The Urban Agriculture and other chapters of the plan include the following strategies related to the soil erosion and conservation goals outlined in the resolution:

Urban Agriculture:

- Strategy #1: Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production.
- Strategy #2: Ensure farmers and gardeners can produce food, flowers, fiber, and fuel in ways that are safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible—and educate residents on opportunities to support and engage with them.
- Strategy #3: Support growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

Trees and Forests:

- Strategy #1: Plant and establish more trees ensuring equitable planting distribution.
- Strategy #2: Assess and manage the city's tree canopy for long-term health.
- Strategy #3: Preserve the city's existing tree canopy.

Green Infrastructure

- Strategy #1: Increase green infrastructure throughout the city.
- Strategy #3: Increase awareness of stormwater runoff and the benefits of green infrastructure.

The Office also oversees the [Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local](#) plan, an ambitious roadmap for supporting and expanding the production of locally grown food in Baltimore City, as well as [soil safety standards](#) for the city and partnered with Johns Hopkins University to conduct [the Safe Urban Harvests Study - An Assessment of Urban Farms and Community Gardens in Baltimore City](#).

The Office of Sustainability supports City Council Bill #21-0070R and appreciates the opportunity to explain further our work in this important area.

cc: Ms. Natasha Mehu, Mayor's Office
Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
Mr. Matthew Stegman, City Council President's Office
Ms. Nikki Thompson, City Council President's Office
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
Ms. Marcia Collins, DPW
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Liam Davis, DOT
Ms. Rebecca Woods, ECB
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Chris Ryer, DOP