The Johnson County Food Policy Council (FPC) serves as an advisory body to the Johnson County, Kansas Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and other decision makers in Johnson County.

The Vision of Johnson County Food Policy Council is to improve the health and well-being of citizens, communities and the environment of Johnson County.

The Mission of Johnson County Food Policy Council is to create a just, equitable and sustainable food system accessible to all in Johnson County through policy recommendations, education and collaborative work.

The Benefits of Gardening at Home

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**
Food consumed closer to its harvest date is more nutrient dense. Gardening helps youth and adults meet recommended physical activity levels.

**CHOICE**
Food grown at home have a more controlled level of fertilizers and pesticides, if any.

**YOUTH**
Youth who garden are likely to eat more vegetables, learn translatable academic skills, and share quality outdoor time with their family.

**ECONOMICS**
Home vegetable gardens produce an average $677 worth of fruits and vegetables annually, beyond the average $238 for materials and supplies.

HOME GARDENING benefits you and your family, our society and community, and our environment.

HOME GARDENS TAKE MANY FORMS, come in an array of styles, types and sizes, and may be located anywhere from walls to roofs, patios and backyards. Important factors to consider when planning your home garden include sunlight, water, convenience (or nearness to home), air, drainage and soil.

Johnson County has potential to grow food in over 233,000 homes.
Resources for Learning How to Grow at Home

• Garden with recommended fruit and vegetable varieties which have been proven to produce. Johnson County K-State Research and Extension has the practical information needed for success. Crop specific fact sheets, educational classes, and experts ready to answer your fruit and vegetable questions. Just contact the gardening hotline at garden.help@jocogov.org or 913-715-7050 or on the web at johnson.k-state.edu.

• Learn to grow food in your garden or on a small farm at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) using sustainable practices. They offer individual classes as well as a certificate program, for more information visit, www.jccc.edu and search “sustainable agriculture”.

• Attend a free garden workshop at the Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) or visit www.kccg.org for instructional materials on low cost gardening, composting, watering and more.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GARDENING AT HOME

1. Ask your HOA for a copy of their by-laws and restrictions
   • Getting a copy of your HOA by-laws and restrictions is the first step in understanding what you are allowed to do in your yard. If your HOA does not provide you with access to their by-laws and restrictions, or if you need help creating by-laws, contact the FPC.

2. Understand your city’s gardening codes and ordinances
   • Codes and ordinances can be confusing or highly dependent upon your property, zoning and lot location/size. Call your city’s zoning department for the clearest guidelines that affect your personal land restrictions.
   • Make sure you are gardening on your property. For example, if a piece of land on your property falls within an easement or utility line, it can be subject to disruption or removal.