

Sustainability & Resilience

Residential Backyard Chicken Program

Healthy Foods Initiative

March 9, 2021



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Program Overview
- Summary/Next Steps





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Purpose

- Discussion about residential backyard chicken program
 - Part of the County's healthy food initiatives underway
- Direction for development of an ordinance





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Background

- **National urban agricultural movement**
 - FY/BY gardening/Community gardens
 - Farmers Markets
 - Beekeeping/Backyard chickens
 - Innovative growing techniques
- **Striving for**
 - Healthier/local foods
 - Quality of life/Education
 - Resilience/food access



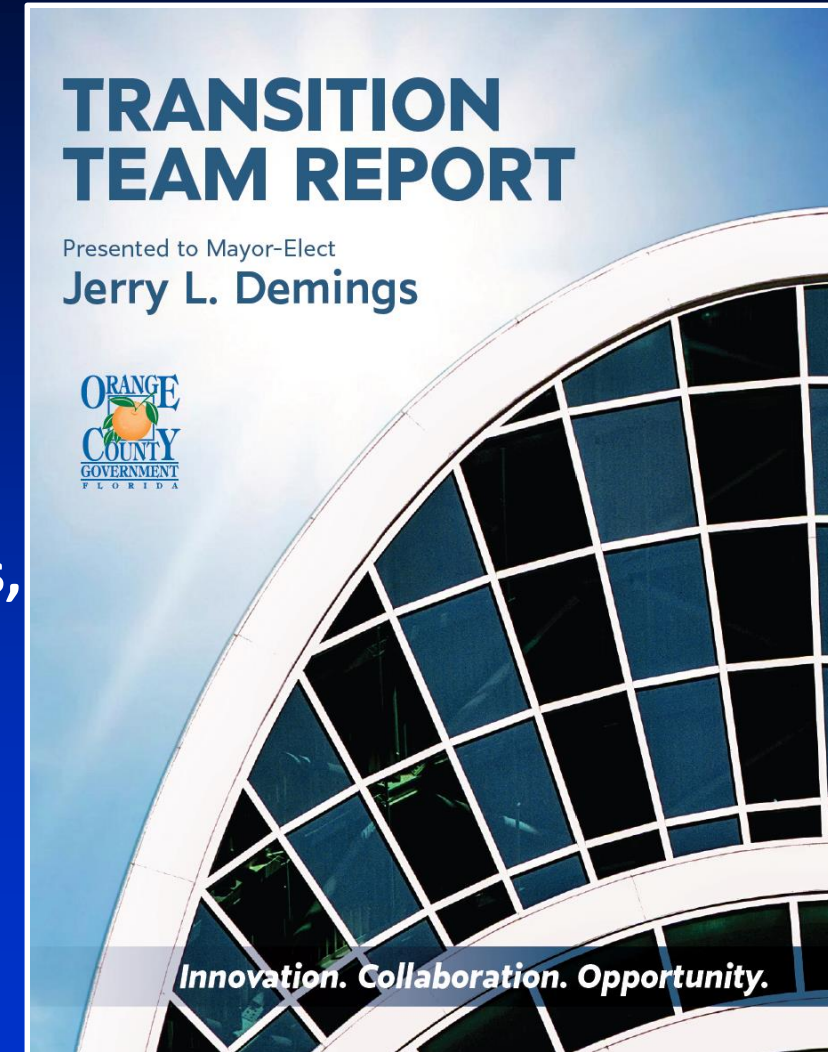


Background

■ Transition Team Report

—Cultivate a Local Food Economy through promotion and reduction of regulatory barriers

- Holistic approach to meet community needs
- Collaboration among educational institutions, residents, businesses, and entrepreneurs
- Participation in the Good Food Central Florida Policy Council
- Defined Urban Agricultural standards
- Long-term plan for healthy food initiatives





Background

▪ Orange County Commitments

–Comprehensive Planning

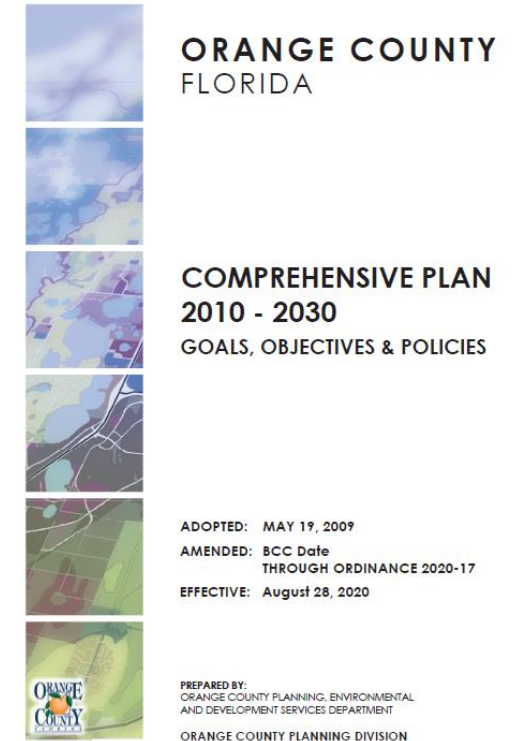
- Support the creation and availability of fresh food initiatives

–Community Sustainability Goals

- Healthy food choices
- Local food production
- Student learning

–UF/IFAS

- Informational classes
- Hands-on learning



Background

- Existing Local Programs

- City of Orlando
- Maitland
- Winter Garden
- Winter Park
- Longwood
- Seminole County

- Run smoothly with few issues



Background

■ Definitions

- Poultry (Ch. 38) refers to chickens, roosters, turkeys, ducks, geese, and pigeons
 - Chickens refers to female chickens and are also called Hens
 - Roosters are male chickens
- Hen Coop – is an enclosure designed for roosting of hens and protection from sunlight and effects of weather
- Pen Area – area used by hens for foraging (excludes the hen coop)



Background

▪ Currently Allowed Uses - Chapter 38 – Zoning

– Agricultural Districts (A-1, A-2, A-R)

- Domestic and commercial operations
- Up to 5 acres: ≤ 30 poultry
- 5-10 acres: ≤ 100 poultry
- > 10 acres: no limit

– Rural Country Estates (RCE) Area (RCE, RCE-2, RCE-5)

- Domestic use only
- Limit of ≤ 12 poultry (no roosters)

– Prohibited in all other zoning districts

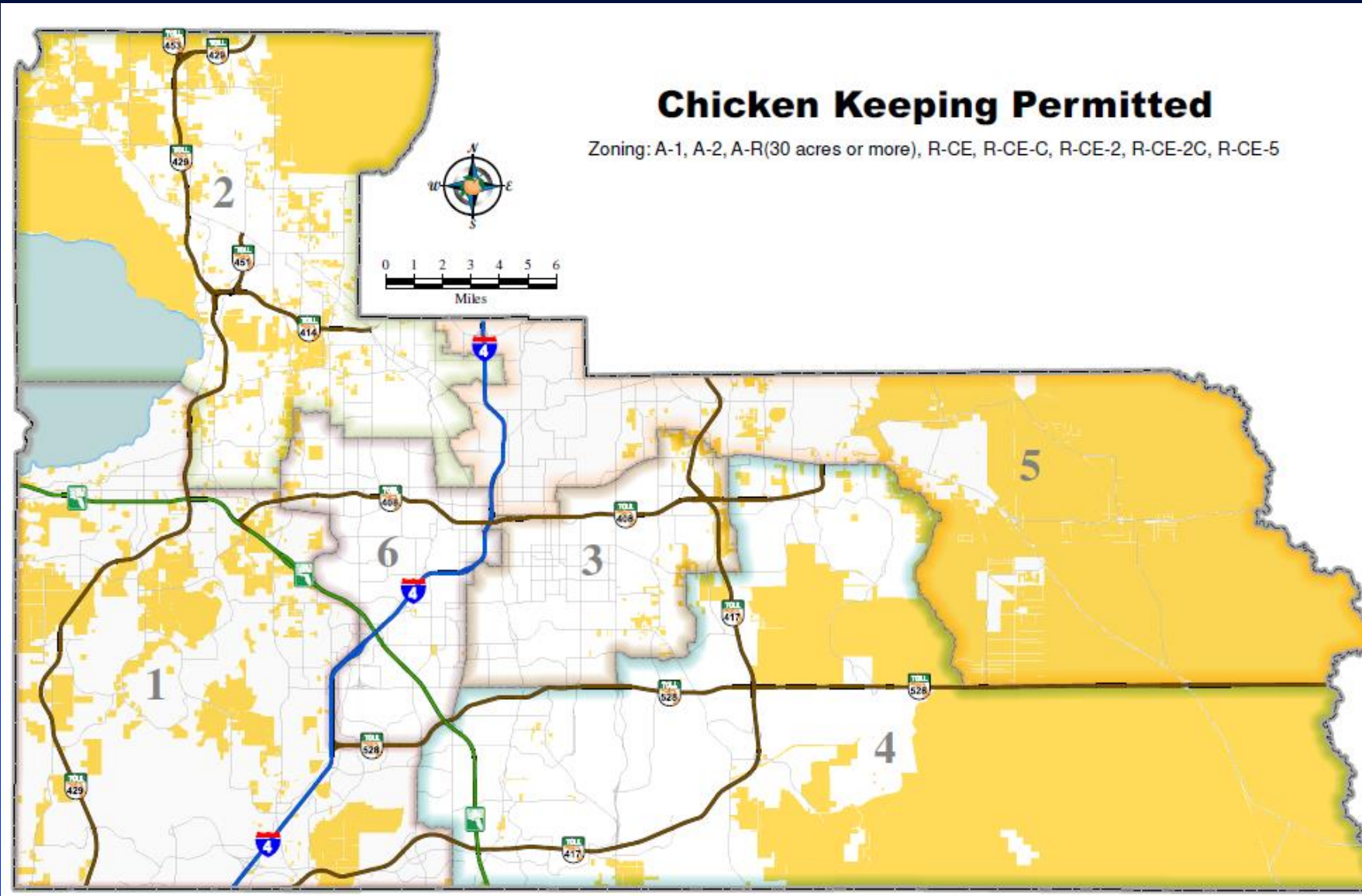




Zoning: A-1, A-2, A-R(30 acres or more), R-CE, R-CE-C, R-CE-2, R-CE-2C, R-CE-5



Background



Background

■ Previous Board Actions

- 2013 – Decided not to move forward based on public testimony
- 2016 – Board directed staff to prepare draft code
 - Advisory Board reviews: AAB / PZC / ASAB / Sustainability
 - Public Engagement – HOA and Community Association Notices
- 2017 – Board work session scheduled but canceled due to Hurricane Irma
 - Draft Ordinance placed on hold due to local news about coyotes and CDC advisory on salmonella



Background

- Recent Inquiries by residents
 - Commissioners : 50+ (includes petition signatures)
 - Mayor's Office: 12
 - UF/IFAS: Increased from 1-2 per week to 3-5 per week during pandemic (2020)

Orange County- Backyard Chicken Proposal Fall 2020- Winter 2021

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OVERVIEW

My request is to allow a limited number and hygienically controlled backyard chickens in unincorporated Orange County which would follow suit like the *City of Orlando, Winter Park, Maitland, Winter Garden, Lake Mary, Altamonte Springs, Sanford, Longwood, Oviedo, Clermont, Lady Lake, Leesburg, Mount Dora, Edgewood* and other municipalities.

GOALS

1. To have fresher and more nutritious foods.
2. tTo foster healthy and sustainable lifestyles that invest in the well being of children and families.

SUPPORT

Last Name	First Name	Signature/Email Address	Phone Number	Address



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Program Overview

■ Framework of Existing Local Programs

County/City	Allowed In	Permit Required /Pilot	Max # of Permits/# Issued	Max # of Hens	Training Required	Coop Standards
Maitland	SFR	Yes/ordinance 2014	50 - 10 issued	4	Yes	Yes
Orlando	SFR	Yes/ordinance 2016	100 - 75 issued	4	Yes	Yes
Winter Garden	SFR & PUD	Yes/ordinance 2018	25 - 8 issued	4	Yes	Yes
Winter Park	SFR	Yes/ pilot October 2020	25 - 2 issued	4	Yes	Yes
Longwood	SFR	Yes/ordinance 2018	50 - 7 issued	4	Yes	Yes
Seminole County	SFR	Yes/ ordinance 2018	100 - 8 issued	4	Yes	Yes
Lake County	SFR	No	n/a	5	No	setbacks only
Osceola County	SFR	No	n/a	6	No	setbacks only



Program Overview

- **Status of other Florida Counties**
 - Jacksonville/Duval – ordinance for SFR in 2015
 - Hillsborough – proposed ordinance for SFR in draft
 - Palm Beach – not allowed in residential districts
 - Broward – Ag and RCE permitted, select municipalities
 - Miami-Dade - Ag and RCE permitted, select municipalities





Program Overview

■ Proposed County Ordinance

—Allows permit for chickens in SFR and Mobile Home districts

- R-1AAAA, R-1AAA – residential urban
- R-1AA, R-1A –larger lots, low density
- R-1, R-2, R-3 –smaller lots, low/medium density
- RT-1, RT-2 – SFR and Mobile Homes (owned)
- R-L-D, NR – higher density

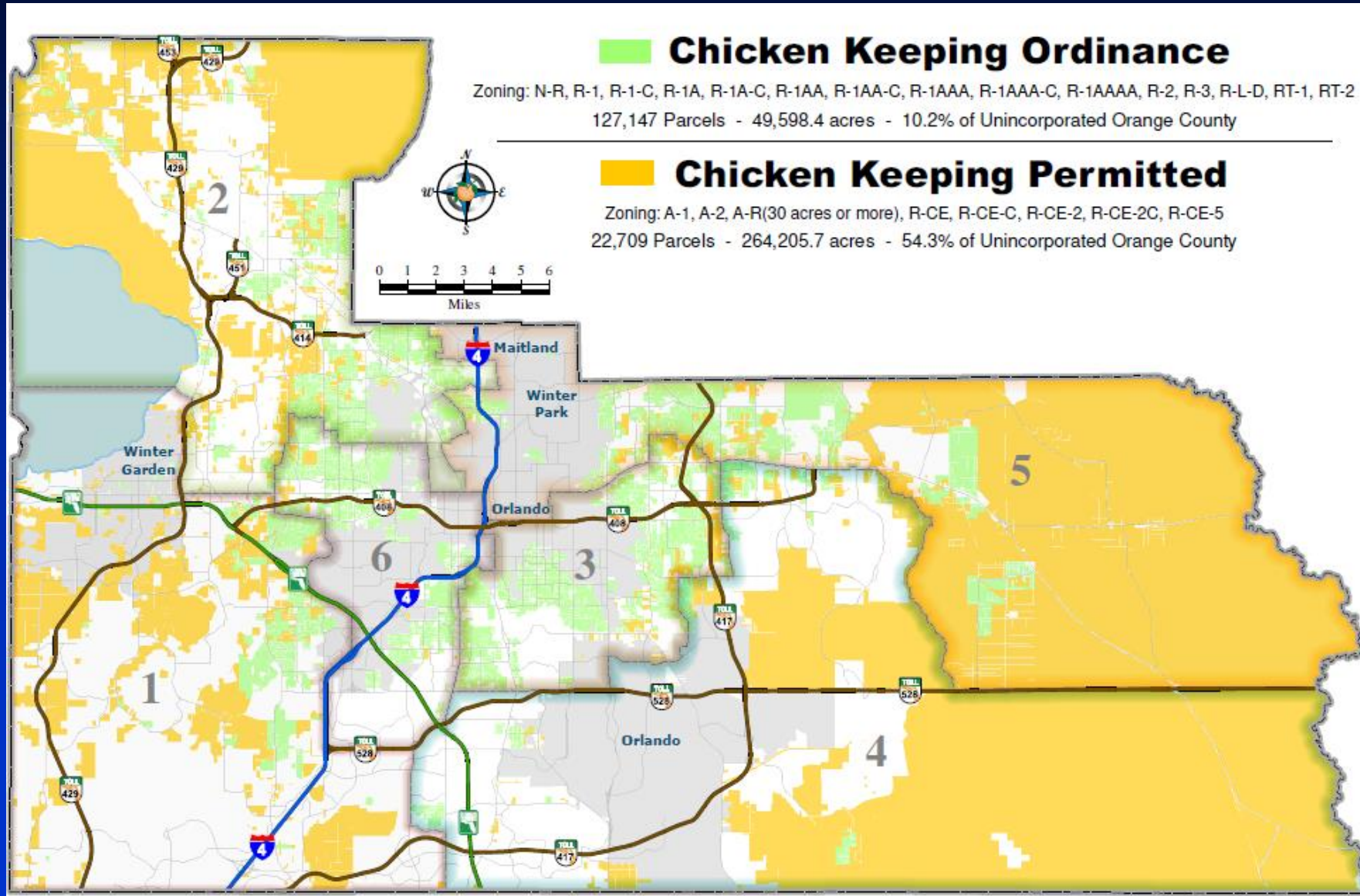
—Ordinance will not override private covenants and restrictions

- PDs or HOAs



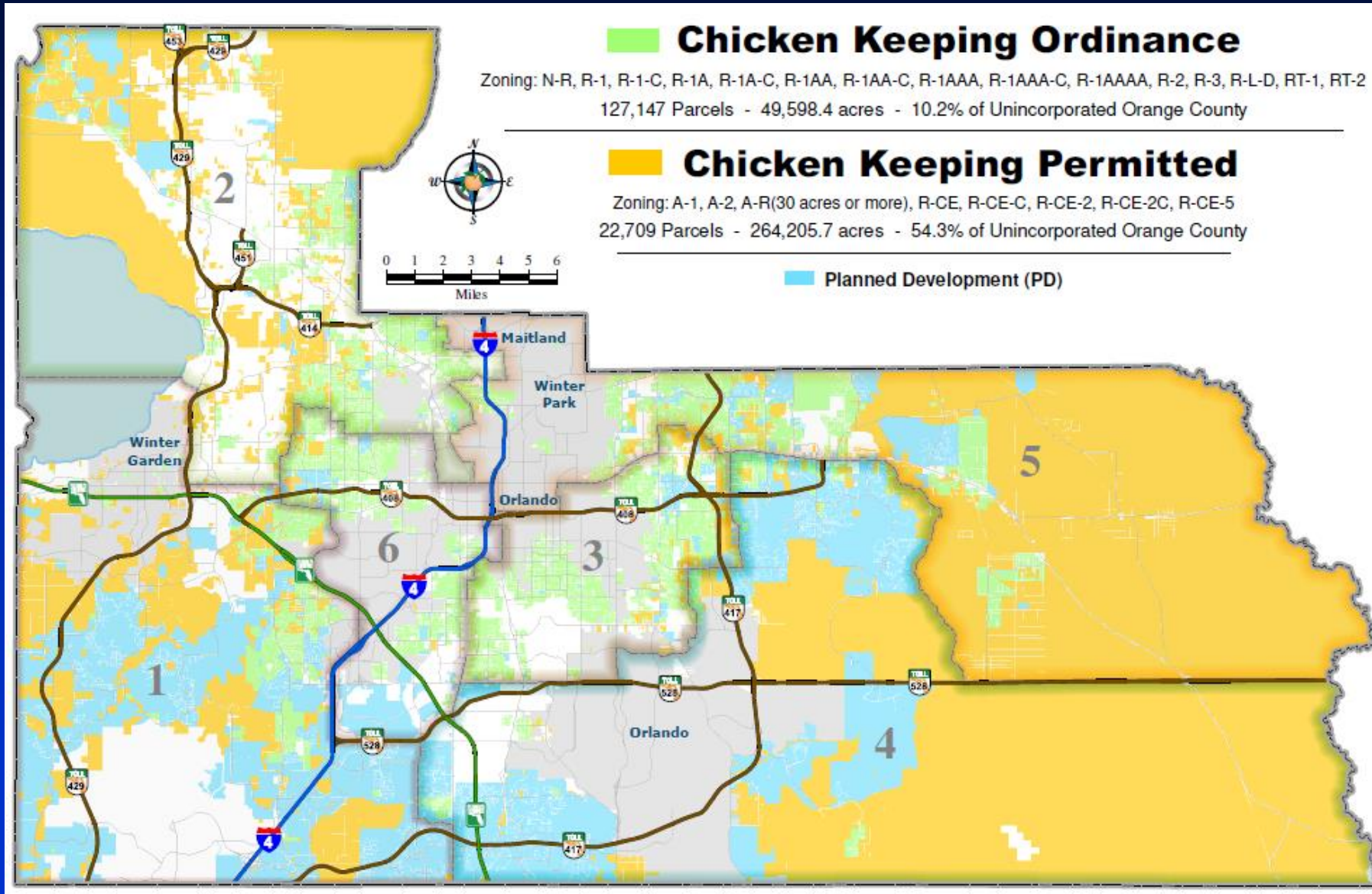


Program Overview





Program Overview

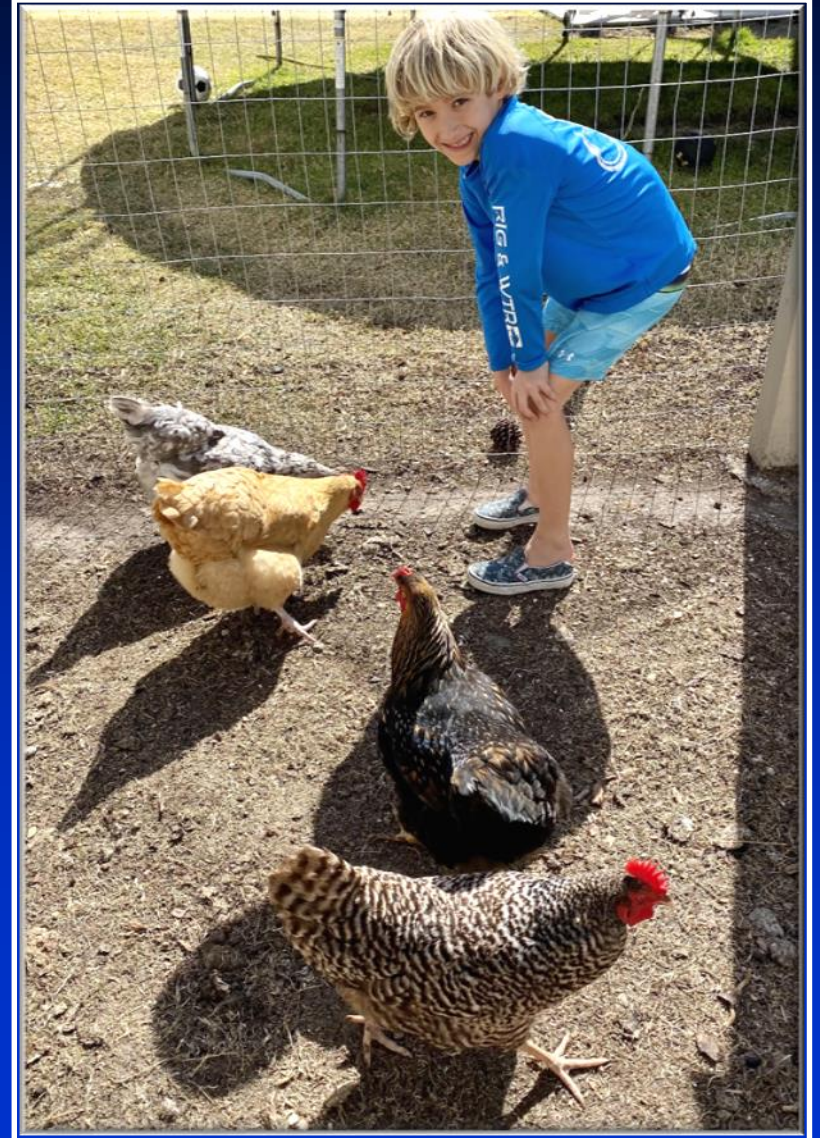




Program Overview

■ Basic Criteria

- Permit required, small fee
- Up to 4 hens for personal egg consumption
- No sales
- No roosters or other poultry allowed
- No onsite slaughtering
- UF/IFAS Extension Orange County training required
- Coop and pen standards
- Care and keeping standards





Program Overview

- **UF/IFAS Extension Course Highlights**
 - Ordinance basics – commonalities among counties/municipalities
 - Chicken Breeds & Anatomy
 - Chicken Nutrition & Egg Production
 - Basic Coop Construction & Best Practices
 - Biosecurity (keeping you and your hens healthy)
- **Virtual sessions & Online (self-paced) Version**
 - Certificate issued after Quiz for course completion
- **In 2020, 985 course completions**





Program Overview

■ Coop and pen area standards

— Size

- Coop and pen area - 100 sq. ft. maximum
- Coop – 4 sq. ft. per hen minimum
- Pen area - 10 sq. ft. per hen minimum

— Height

- Coop and pen area - 6 ft. maximum

— Property boundary setbacks

- Side/Side Street yard – 15 feet
- Rear yard – 10 feet
- High water line – 50 feet





Program Overview

- **Coop and pen area standards**
 - **Must be completely enclosed**
 - Wire Mesh/similarly strong material – no “chicken wire”
 - Fencing must be buried to defeat digging predators
 - **Must include tie-downs for wind resistance**
 - **Opaque fencing or vegetation for visual barrier of the coop and pen area**
 - Match height of coop/pen
 - Maximum 6 feet
 - **Must be kept clean and maintained**





Program Overview

- Other standards and requirements
 - Access to food and water at all times
 - Feed kept in rodent proof feeder and container when stored
 - Composting allowed with 20 ft setback
 - Chickens kept under custody and control of resident if outside pen area
 - Unwanted hens must go to a farm or agribusiness accepting chickens
 - Follow FL Statute for deceased chickens
 - If ordinance repealed, 10 year allowance for permittees to remove chickens, coop and pen area





Program Overview

■ Implementation

- Zoning issues permit based on submitted plans/drawings
 - Permit is revoked if two violations
 - Permit is not transferrable
- No Building inspection
- Neighborhood Services (Code Compliance) will address complaints/violations per normal process
 - Permit allows for backyard access
- Animal Services and Sheriff's Office only respond to animal cruelty or public safety issues





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Summary

- Nationwide trend – especially in light of pandemic
- Neighboring programs are successful
- Satisfies County Goals and recommendations from Transition Team
- Education/Standards are keys to success
- Effective Communication Plan



Next Steps

- Receive Board direction to draft ordinance and develop program
 - Solidify internal processes
 - Complete updates to Ordinance/Use Table
 - BCC Discussion Item (?)
 - PZC/LPA Process
 - 2 BCC Adoption Hearings

