

# Greening Kansas City with Urban Agriculture: Improved Rules for Growing Local Food



KANSAS CITY  
Center for Urban Agriculture

Greater KC  
Food Policy Coalition

# What is Urban Agriculture?



Urban Farms & CSA Farms



Charitable & Educational Gardens



Community Gardens



Home Gardens

# Urban Agriculture is happening around Kansas City, the Country, and the World!



Kansas City



St. Louis, MO



Philadelphia, PA



Frankfurt, Germany



London, England



Des Moines, IA

Why are people talking about Urban Agriculture?

Because Urban Agriculture addresses some of today's most pressing challenges.

# Enhanced Individual Health

- Provides access to nutritious, fresh foods as part of healthy diet
- Teaches children healthy eating habits early on
- Provides space for outdoor recreation and regular exercise in fresh air



# Increased Local Economic Activity

- Circulates local dollars (multiplier effect)
- Draws from community residents for employment needs
- Small farm businesses are relatively easy to start and well-managed market gardens can be successful
- Educates youth in entrepreneurial aspects of market gardening and provides the opportunity to learn small business management skills



# Improved Environmental Health

- Increases energy savings from reduced processing, transporting, packaging and refrigerating food
- Creates opportunities for “closing material cycles;” yard and food wastes are turned to compost & mulch for gardens
- Returns underused & degraded urban spaces to productive use
- Provides the opportunity for using farms and gardens as outdoor classrooms



# Improved Community & Quality of Life

- Creates a sense of place
- Fosters opportunities for neighbors, parents, children & grandparents to work together and enjoy healthy food
- Enhances beauty, improves quality of life, and adds value to neighborhoods



# From Understanding to Caring

Connecting to nature first creates understanding and then fosters a desire to help ensure the survival of all species inhabiting the earth.



# Kansas City Zoning Ordinances Concerning Urban Agriculture



## Current Code:

- (1) Residents can grow vegetables in their front and back yards for their own consumption.
- (2) Residents can sell produce off-site (at farmers' markets, through subscriptions, etc.) but NOT at their residences, and they can't have subscription (CSA) members come to their home to pick up produce.
- (3) Residents who sell their produce can't have non-residents (including friends, family members, volunteers or employees) participate in the growing by helping with planting, weeding, harvest or any type of growing activities.

# Kansas City Zoning Ordinances Concerning Urban Agriculture

## Proposed Code:

While preserving the food growing activities currently permitted, the proposed code will:

- Define three categories of urban agriculture
  - Home gardens
  - Community gardens
  - Community supported agriculture (CSA) farms
- Allow sales and donation activities on-site for home gardens and community gardens.
- Allow CSA shareholders to work on site and pick up their produce at CSA sites in any zoning district.
- Require CSA farms in single family districts to apply for a special use permit to sell produce on site.
- Require CSA farms in all residential districts (other than single family) to apply for a temporary use permit to sell produce on site.
- Specify design standards for certain types of Urban Agriculture.



# Urban Agriculture: Bringing People Together

2007 & 2009 Kansas City Urban Farms Tour



# Questions?

