



WHAT DOES URBAN AGRICULTURE MEAN FOR KANSAS CITY?

Urban agriculture, or the production of food within the bounds of a city, is not a new activity in the Kansas City area. From potted tomato plants in a downtown window box to “truck farms” growing at a larger scale, Kansas City has a long history of producing significant amounts of fruits and vegetables within city limits to feed its own residents.

URBAN FARMING BENEFITS KC NEIGHBORHOODS AS A WHOLE BY PROVIDING

INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Rebuilds local food chains and creates the means for micro-enterprise opportunities, especially in low-income areas
- Creates employment opportunities
- Educates youth and adults in the entrepreneurial aspects of market gardening, providing them with a realistic and healthy opportunity to provide income for themselves while learning small business skills
- 100% of products grown on small-scale urban farms are consumed locally
- Studies have shown that a well-managed market garden can gross up to \$90,000 per acre

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Reduces the need for transportation, processing, packaging and refrigeration and creates opportunities for recycling urban organic wastes in the form of compost and mulch
- Offers many opportunities for urban residents, especially children, to learn about the principles of environmental sustainability, ecology, biology, plants, and insects
- Uses less energy-intensive, more sustainable farming methods, fewer machines and more hand labor
- Makes underused urban spaces productive, turning neighborhood liabilities into assets

ENHANCED INDIVIDUAL HEALTH

- Provides access to nutritious, healthy foods at affordable prices
- Addresses the current obesity epidemic by providing urban residents opportunities to learn about human health, diet and our food system as well as providing space for outdoor recreation and exercise
- Locally produced organic food reduces consumer and farmer exposure to toxic chemicals

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Beautifies neighborhoods and fosters positive interaction amongst neighbors
- Provides open eyes and ears, improving neighborhood security and public safety
- Empowers communities through income generation and educational opportunities

Cities everywhere are striving to become greener and more sustainable, and urban agriculture can help. By revising City Codes so that they are supportive of urban agriculture, Kansas City has the opportunity to become a leader in cultivating safe, healthy neighborhoods while establishing sustainable economic growth. For more information on this initiative please contact Katherine Kelly, Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture at katherine@kccua.org.