Urban Agriculture in Cincinnati
City of Cincinnati
Urban Agriculture Program

Converts vacant city lots and property into community-based gardens and farm market gardens

17 active sites as of summer 2014
Program funded by City Council
Administered by the Office of Environment and Sustainability
Cincinnati Health Department
Urban Farming Program

We recognize urban agriculture as an innovative and comprehensive approach to improving the health of social, ecological, and economic systems.
Working in 7 Gardens around the City
Produce Perks 2014

Financial Incentives for EBT customers

$1 for $1 match (up to $10/day)
on fruits, vegetables,
and edible plants

at 6 local farmers markets

Findlay Market & Robert’s Farm Stand
College Hill Farmers’ Market
Northside Farmers Market
Wyoming Farmers’ Market
Lettuce Eat Well Farmers’ Market
2013 SNAP Sales at Midwest Farmers Markets

- Illinois: $307,507
- Indiana: $47,644
- Michigan: $226,877
- Minnesota: $224,395
- Ohio: $215,708
- Wisconsin: $1,701,926

Resource: Fair Food Network, 5 Year Report
Educational Institutions

• Training
• Internships
• Job Opportunities
Employment Outlook: POSITIVE
The local food industry is booming, and there is an increasing need for entrepreneurs and workers in this area. Traditional horticultural businesses are adding agricultural products and services to meet consumer demand.

Representative Job Titles For Graduates:
- Horticulturist
- Farm Manager/Farmer/Producer/Grower
- Business Owner/Entrepreneur
- Food Production

Graduate Starting Salary Projections
-$25,000–$40,000 annually
Xavier University

Bachelor in Land, Farming, & Community Degree

Sustainability Department

- Edible Forest Garden
- Farming (Urban Greens)
- Community Garden
- Composting in Cafeterias

Edible Forest Garden Proposal

This Garden was designed by community members and students ranging in age from 20-90 during last winter. It is designed to produce low maintenance, high yielding food year after year through by being designed after a forest. It

Overstory:
- BW - Black Walnut
- NP - Northern Pecan
- KH - Hickories Kingnut
- AHC - American hybrid Chestnut

Understory:
- AP - Apples
- PP - Pears (Asian)
- PM - Persimmon
- BC - Cherries – Black
- PP - Paw Paw

Vines:
- GP - Grapes
- HK - Hardy Kiwis
Ohio State University Extension
Master Gardeners

OSU Extension trains and coordinates the Master Gardener Volunteer program

Numerous Project Sites
Educational Classes
Civic Garden Center
Neighborhoods Garden Program

34 Years of Building Community Through Gardening…
One of the longest running community gardening programs in the nation.
Provides technical assistance, leadership training, and horticulture education.
Some Statistics…

- 65 Gardens Projects
- Served over 1,300 Gardeners and their family members
- An estimated 14,000 Pounds of Food Grown annually
- 6,000 Pounds of Food Donated
- Over 11,000 Volunteers Hours
Our mission is help our neighbors of Avondale reclaim health, self, and, sense of community through the language of food.
Gabriel’s Place
3618 Reading Road,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

¼ acre organic vegetable garden & hoop house producing 1000+ lbs of food for Avondale residents
Community kitchen serving 8000+ healthy meals annually
Junior Culinary Institute
Health programming in partnership with local health institutions
Our Harvest Cooperative

300 CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture Shares)

700 pounds of produce to retail and wholesale buyers each week

Aims to give local farmers a living wage
Our Harvest Farms
Bahr Farm: North Bend Road- 30 acre in the City
Wooden Shoe Hollow- within the City & Morrow, OH.
ECO Garden - Permaganic

Permaganic's Mission:
Growing Urban Habitats which are Educational, Empowering and Enriching, through Gardening and Art with Underserved Communities.
The Eco Garden is located at 1718 Main Street in OTR. Created in 1998 & has trained 100’ s of inner city Youth Interns who work in our job-readiness program. It has been supported by 1000s of volunteers over the years. Each year they pull over 2000 lbs off of ¾ of an acre. Most is sold at Findlay Market or donated to the Needy Family CSA.
Urban Greens LLC.

Locations:
- ½ acre East End
- ½ acre in Newtown
- 4 acres in Hamilton, OH
- Manage plots for XU on their Campus

80 person CSA after 3 years
Supplies local Restaurants

Employees:
- 3 full time,
- 3 part time- one is an Eco-Garden trainee
Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage Farm Project & CSA

Located in Price Hill
CSA memberships
Greenhouse (old Florist Shop)
Findlay Market Farms!

Liberty & Elm Streets
This-Land.org

• Trained 100 people in Sustainable Design and Agriculture
• Growing Value Edible Landscaping Nursery working with Building Value
Keystone Flora, LLC is a plant nursery located in the historic Wooden Shoe Hollow, home to agricultural production of various types for 150 years.
Homemeadow Song Farm

7 Acres on Gray Rd.
Education
Community
Farming
Summer Camps
Edible Forests & Landscaping

Several Edible Landscaping companies

– Flourish Design
– O.M. Valley Permaculture
– Marvin’s Organic Gardens
– Barefoot Design
– 10th Acre Farm

Mill Creek Edible Forest

Madisonville Foraging Site
Price Hill Will
Grow It Forward

Grow it Forward Gardens and the Robert’s Academy Garden are collaborative community gardens in Price Hill that have been active for 4 years. Everyone works together to grow food and flowers.
Other Agriculture Initiatives

Lighthouse Community Youth Services: Madisonville

Rothenberg school programs

Rothenberg School OTR Main Street
OSU 4 H Agri-Science partnership
Rooftop Gardens
The Gardens at Village Green

20 garden plots
Commitment to community building, urban organic agriculture and access to healthy food.
Programs on composting and container gardening
Destination for neighborhood elementary school field trips
Farmers Markets

An average of 5 Farmers Markets per day in our region

- Findlay Market *
  - Walnut Hills produce stand
  - Price Hill produce stand
- Northside *
- Hyde Park
- Clifton
- College Hill*
- Pleasant Ridge
- Lunken Airport
- Saylor Park
- Gabriel’s Place*
Restaurants Sourcing Local Food

Orchids at Palm Court

Nectar in Mt. Lookout

Fresh Table at Findlay

Park + Vine in OTR

Melt Eclectic Deli & Picnic & Pantry in Northside

Sleepy Bee Café in Oakley
Farms Supporting Local Restaurants

- Waterfields
- Carriage House Farm
- Greensleeves Farm
- Bear Creek Organic Farm
- Eco Garden on Main
- Urban Greens
- Grailville
- Gorman Heritage Farm

& many more….

• Also including value-added products sourced from local ingredients:
  – Fab Ferments
  – Blue Oven Bakery
Green Bean Delivery

Organic Produce & Natural Groceries
Free Year-Round Home Delivery

Ohio: Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Harrison
Indiana: Batesville/Oldenburg, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Muncie, Anderson, Columbus
Kentucky: Louisville, Lexington
Missouri: St. Louis
Edible Ohio Valley Magazine

• Other Media:
  – CORV Guide
  – Enquirer
  – City Beat
Farm to Family Program
Increasing food literacy skills (meal planning, food preparation) and access to fresh produce for 150 families a year.
MOVING FORWARD

• Preserving current agricultural land and green space, increasing property values in the City

• Extending Leases for long term investment & Job Security, preserving current agricultural land

• Continuing to work with policies and planning that support Urban Agriculture

• Ensuring job outlets here in the City

• Training Youth to replace Aging Farmers
Economic Impact

If only 10% of the region’s population used only 10% of their food spending dollars to purchase locally produced food it would have a $49 million impact on the local economy!