

# D. URBAN AGRICULTURE + COMMUNITY GARDENS [UAG]

## ACTION PLAN

GOAL	STRATEGIES	PARTNERS
<p><b>UAG-1</b></p> <p><b>Support urban agriculture as a valid reuse option for vacant land and vacant buildings.</b></p>	<p>UAG-1a Adopt a comprehensive urban agriculture policy that addresses the environmental, health, social, and economic benefits of urban agriculture and provides a vision for the future of urban agriculture in Rochester.</p>	<p><b>City</b>, Urban Agriculture Working Group, Community Groups/Funders</p>
	<p>UAG-1b Make changes to the Zoning Code that allow urban agriculture as a principle use within specified parameters.</p>	<p><b>City</b></p>
	<p>UAG-1c Market strategic sites for large-scale hydroponic and aquaponics operations to support food production, workforce development opportunities, and employment.</p>	<p><b>City</b>, Urban Agriculture Working Group, Community Groups/Funders</p>
	<p>UAG-1d Build on existing recycling and composting programs, focused on enhancing collection of organic material (yard and food waste) at a community-wide scale for use in a composting program. Some ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Pilot a program at the Rochester Public Market for collecting compost.</li> <li>– Pilot a program of isolating leaf and organic debris at park sites.</li> <li>– Create leaf compost without street sweepings to produce organic material that would be ‘food grade’.</li> </ul>	<p><b>City</b></p>
	<p>UAG-1e Continue and enhance the City’s Flower City Feeling Good series through additional funding and funding sources.</p>	<p><b>City</b>, Community Groups/Funders</p>

**Notes:**

1. Partners listed in bold are recommended to lead the implementation of that strategy.
2. For a list of partner acronyms see [Appendix A](#).

GOAL	STRATEGIES	PARTNERS
<b>UAG-1</b> <b>Support urban agriculture as a valid reuse option for vacant land and vacant buildings.</b>	UAG-1f To respond to community demand, identify and evaluate policy and funding sources for providing water to community agricultural uses.	<b>City</b>
	UAG-1g Pursue grants to support food-based community gardens as well as innovative urban agriculture initiatives that offer workforce development programs and job opportunities.	<b>City, NYS, Community Groups/Funders, Urban Agriculture Working Group</b>
	UAG-1h Sponsor grants to support community gardening as well as other urban agriculture applications.	<b>Community Groups/Funders</b>
	UAG-1i Explore the opportunity to convene a local or regional Food Policy Council or Task Force. The most appropriate entity to lead this effort would need to be identified.	<b>City, Monroe County, Foodlink, RCSD, Education/ Medical Institutions, GFLRPC, GTC, Urban Agriculture Community, Urban Agriculture Working Group, Community Groups/Funders</b>

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GOAL	STRATEGIES	PARTNERS
<p><b>UAG-2</b> Facilitate community gardening on City-owned vacant lots.</p>	<p>UAG-2a Create a long-term (5-10 years) permit/lease arrangement for community garden sponsors who have demonstrated sustainable gardening operations over the course of a full growing season and have support by the immediate neighborhood.</p>	<p><b>City</b></p>
	<p>UAG-2b Convene a meeting with representative gardeners and relevant City staff to assess the garden permit process and garden support to discuss opportunities for improvement and efficiencies.</p>	<p><b>City</b>, Urban Agriculture Community</p>
	<p>UAG-2c Allow gardeners to respond to Requests for Proposals for vacant lot redevelopment in areas where gardens may be a desired amenity and widely supported by the surrounding neighborhood, and particularly within the lower demand housing market.</p>	<p><b>City</b></p>
	<p>UAG-2d Work with refugee service providers to use City-owned vacant land in low-demand market areas for community gardening and programming.</p>	<p>City, Community Groups/Funders</p>

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GOAL	STRATEGIES	PARTNERS
<b>UAG-3</b> <b>Explore innovative urban agriculture initiatives.</b>	UAG-3a Research the feasibility of introducing edible landscaping into public parks, streetscapes, and landscaping around public buildings.	<b>City</b>
	UAG-3b Research the feasibility of using a hydroponic/aquaponics operation as a potential employee owner coop project as a community wealth-building initiative.	<b>City</b> , Community Groups/Funders
	UAG-3c Explore support for installation of high tunnels, hoop houses, and other season-extending production aids on City-owned and private land. Specifically, work with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service New York to extend High Tunnel Initiative to urban farmers.	Urban Agriculture Working Group, City, NYS