

Illinois Food Security Summit 11/15 2002  
**Urban Agriculture: City Farmers**  
**Mission: To Promote and Support Urban Agriculture**

**Initial Goals**

1. **Resource Guide**
2. **Networking opportunities**
3. **Research and Surveys of community residents to assess needs and commitment**

It was recommended that we need to list within a matrix the selection of urban agriculture models that represent best practices on a continuum from backyard gardens to the multi-city lot (from a few hundreds square feet to 10 acres) Within this matrix, a description of risks, benefits pros and cons of each model that presently exists.

Ecological and environmentally sound practices of cultivation and land use is the recommended method for creating and sustaining urban agriculture models.

**The list of models includes:**

1. Community garden
2. Community garden with less membership that begins to sell produce for \$
3. **Urban farm (as differentiated from a community garden by a set of standards that include quantity, consistency, economic responsibility to maintaining crops)**

\*\*\*\* These two examples are determined in part by the source of financing and the destination of the agriculture product

- a. Sold or distributed locally (e.g. on site, local business, churches, schools, pantry, soup kitchen, farmers markets, value added products, WIC, Senior building and centers, school lunches, YMCA, day care, Head Start, After-School programs, Home Schools, Meals on wheels)
  - b. Sold outside of community it is grown (e.g. restaurants, specialty markets, whole sales,)
4. School gardens used as a tool and connected in curriculums and consumed in school food programs
  5. Demonstration urban agricultural site as display or interactive opportunities e.g. Demo garden at the Garfield Park Conservatory

6. Community Food Center
  - a. Which combines multiple aspects of food production and distribution
    - i. Through: training, access to food, growing
    - ii. Connecting rural growers to urban populations
    - iii. Direct Marketing outlet for regional food producers
    - iv. Planned and implemented for and by the communities they serve
    - v. E.g. The Growing Power Model
7. Back yard gardens
8. Institutional gardens (e.g. hospitals, prisons and horticulture therapy programs)
9. Training gardens
10. Indoor and Hydroponics (vertical aqua-ponic systems) and roof gardens and intensive back porch and Mushroom farming
11. Year round and extending growing season growing spaces
12. Ecological and environmental sustainable practices
13. City farmer coop

Also of great need is a comprehensive **Resource guide, handbook and manual** that covers the following topics in relation to urban agriculture:

1. Model Matrix
2. Funding sources
3. Access to whole sale supplies such as seeds.....
4. Land acquisition contacts
5. Map of existing projects and urban agriculture models
6. Urban agriculture technical assistance
7. Fact sheets on subjects such as composting, vermi-compost, seed saving, etc.....
8. Materials and supplies
9. Training and Education: technical and basic horticulture
10. How to of Marketing
11. How to of Distribution
12. How to of Processing (value added product development)
13. Sources of accessing locally grown food

First general meeting: February 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-1pm

At: Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

**Interim Steering Committee**

Amelia Baxter, Coordinator

Erika Allen, Growing Power

Barbara Watkins, United Block Association of Humboldt Park

Mark Shipley, Resource Center

Sundee Wislow, Heifer Project International

Carl Grimm, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Julie Samuels, Open Lands

Agenda for this meeting

Introductions

**Panel of model projects**

Suggested panel members: Will Allen, Ken Dunn, God's Gang, Ginkgo Organic, Waters and Marshal schools, Quincy Youth Garden Tom Spaulding, Ecovida, Aggie 'tomato lady', Tracy Redmond, Growing Home, Kilbourn Park, Jail Garden, Stephanie..?

☂ Break out sessions

(grouped issues-actions-timeline)

☂ Report Back/Discussion

**Break**

☂ Mission and Structure

☂ Next Steps

☂ Establish work groups

**Materials: Profiles of participants, MOD – CCT Grant to support salary to organize this meeting**

**Who: All urban growers and resource groups**

**Goals for meeting**

- 1. Getting to know everyone**
- 2. Working groups to work on actions**
- 3. Steering Committee to coordinate mission and task coordination**

## **Subjects for break out groups**

- 1. Sharing experience of growers**
- 2. Presenting information on technical assistance and training opportunities (U-GROW)**
- 3. Start compiling information for manual/guide (surveys)**
- 4. Coordinating efforts for funding (funding coop) list projects, start-up, resource support**
- 5. Role of urban growers with emergency food systems**
- 6. Licensing /Link/Co-op/Community Food Center/**
- 7. Define mission and structure of this group**
- 8. Market for urban growers and food pantries**
- 9. Home gardener education**
- 10. Integrating professional services**
- 11. Youth link (as growers, in schools, to receive knowledge of elders)**
- 12. Local food systems- market development**
  - a. Bringing food from closer than California and small farm support)**
  - b. Infrastructure development**
  
- 13. Winter food production (vertical intensive season extenders)**
- 14. Value Added Production Development**
- 15. Subsidies for local food distribution vs. profits out of the neighborhood**
- 16. Identifying Markets for food distribution in the city, including bartering and sweat equity**
- 17. Land acquisition, ownership and use**
- 18. Soil remediation and testing**
- 19. Ecological and sustainable growing practices**
- 20. Micro enterprise and entrepreneurial opportunities, business incubator**
- 21. Elderly and senior programs**
- 22. High quality, affordable, accessible and reliable compost as well as potential micro-enterprise**