

## GOAL B: ACCESS & EDUCATION

### B-5: RECOMMENDED ACTION

Grow capacity and enhance viability of civic agriculture to allow more residents to grow food for themselves and their neighbors.

Civic agriculture, both community and home food production, enables residents to grow food for themselves and their neighbors while increasing the health, social and economic well-being of the community. A coordinated network of civic agriculture can provide food system education, increase access to affordable local produce and create jobs. Collaborations

between civic agriculture organizations, local government, institutional partners and neighborhood associations can establish uniform measures, standardized reporting processes, good agricultural practices, and develop funding and shared resource (e.g., water/irrigation, land tenure, volunteers, etc.) strategies to achieve long lasting support and growth of civic agriculture.



**B-5: GETTING STARTED****CURRENT STATUS**

In process but will require addition of new elements

**WHO**

Columbus Department of Development's Green Business & Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan, Columbus Land Redevelopment Office, Columbus Public Health, Franklin County Economic Development & Planning, Franklin Park Conservatory, Greater Columbus Growing Coalition, Local Matters, Mid-Ohio Foodbank Urban Farms of Central Ohio, OSU Extension, OSU Urban Gardening Entrepreneurs Motivating Sustainability (GEMS), The Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC), United Way of Central Ohio's Fresh Foods Here, and Urban Farmers Network

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Residents are safely growing food for themselves and their neighbors
2. City and county zoning and codes clearly support growing food in neighborhoods
3. The City and County are leveraging resources to support civic agriculture (e.g., long-term access to land, potable water source, etc.)
4. Coordinated local funding strategies for long-term support and growth of civic agriculture
5. Increased community-wide understanding and demand for civic agriculture in neighborhoods

**STARTING STEPS**

- Inventory existing civic agriculture assets and conduct a needs assessment of current resources and challenges
- Convene community partners and stakeholders to grow the capacity for civic agriculture
- Establish reasonable uniform measures and standardized reporting procedures to document and describe the benefits and needs of civic agriculture in our community
- Explore alternative ways to leverage existing resources and share common resources to minimize costs for civic agriculture

**POTENTIAL MEASURES**

- Number of residents and volunteers participating in civic agriculture
- Number of gardens producing food to serve more than one family
- Number of gardens participating in direct-to-consumer sales
- Volume and quantity of food produced in civic agriculture
- Estimate of where food grown at civic agriculture sites is distributed
- Rules and regulations related to civic agriculture that clearly support growing food are easily accessible to growers
- Number of coordinated local funding strategies tailored to civic agriculture
- Number of local shared resource systems in place for civic agriculture operations

**RESOURCES**

Existing resources leveraged in new ways

- The City of Columbus has initiated steps for this work through the Department of Development's Green Business & Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan. Current funding is not adequate to meet the needs of civic agriculture in our community. However, innovative approaches to shared resources, City and County in-kind support and reduced cost or free services have the potential to expand the reach of existing resources and better forecast financial resources required to support growth and expansion.