

Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local

A vibrant still life of fresh local produce. In the foreground, a wooden crate is overflowing with various vegetables and fruits. On the left, there are several bunches of radishes with their roots still attached, along with leeks. In the center, there are artichokes, red and green bell peppers, and a yellow squash. On the right, there are green and red grapes, a pear, and a small melon. The background is dark, making the colors of the produce stand out.

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A close-up photograph of a wicker basket overflowing with fresh, vibrant vegetables. The basket is woven from light-colored, natural fibers and is filled with a variety of produce. Visible items include several bright orange carrots with their green tops, a large purple onion, a head of white garlic, a dark purple eggplant, and several leafy green vegetables like spinach and chard. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting the basket is sitting on a bed of green foliage. The overall scene conveys a sense of freshness and local agriculture.

Establish Baltimore as
a leader in sustainable
local food systems

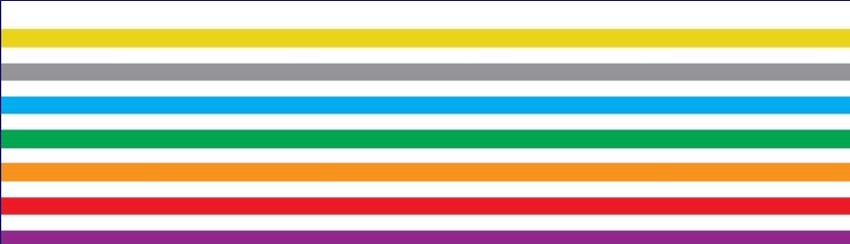
BOS Greening Goal #2

Plans to Support Urban Agriculture



Sustainability Plan: Greening

Goal # 2



The Baltimore Sustainability Plan

- A. Increase the % of land under cultivation for agricultural purposes
- B. Improve the quantity and quality of food available in food outlets
- C. Increase demand for locally produced and healthy foods by schools, institutions, supermarkets, and citizens
- D. Develop an urban agriculture plan
- E. Implement Food Policy Taskforce Recommendations
- F. Compile local and regional data on components of food system



Agricultural Plan



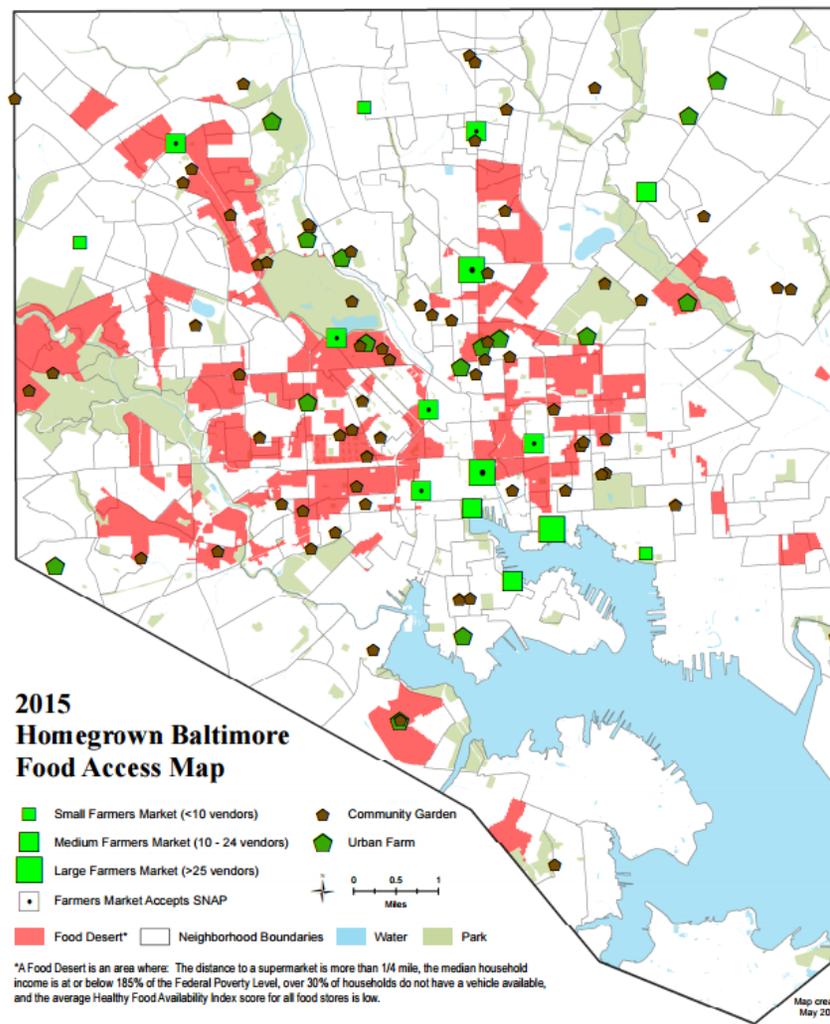
Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local

Baltimore City's Urban Agriculture Plan

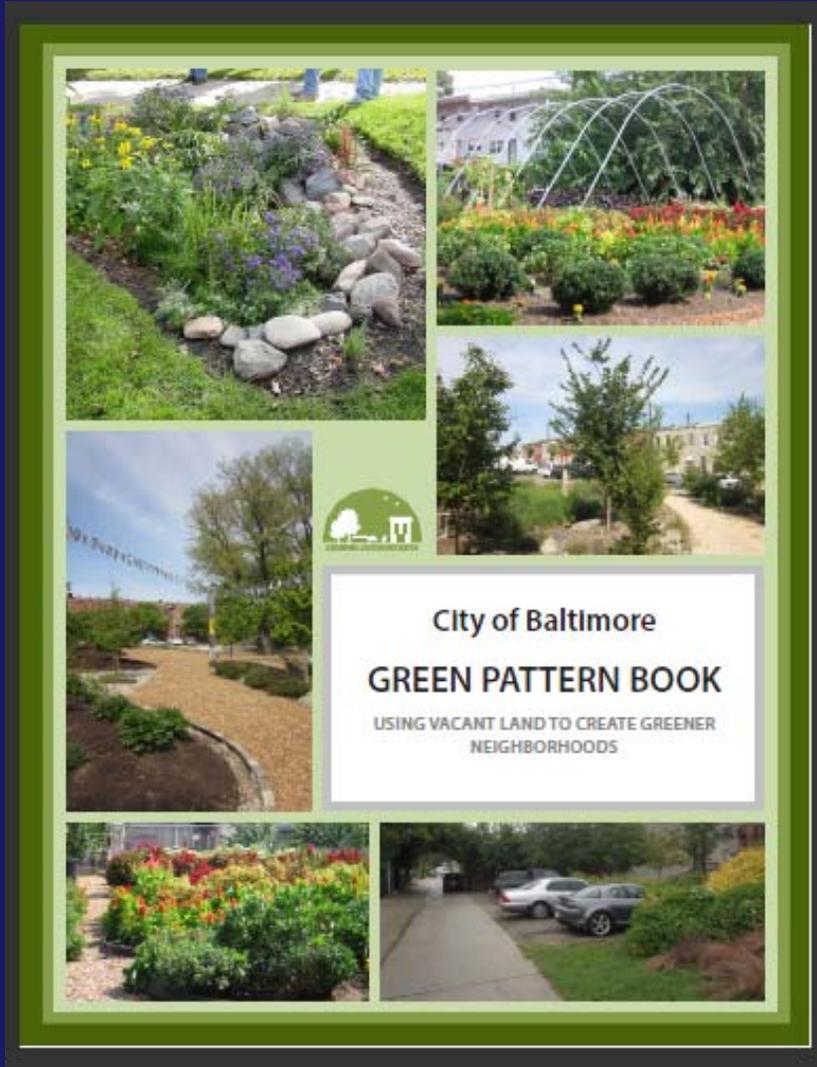


STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
MAYOR

Adopted November 2013 by the Baltimore City Planning Commission



Green Pattern Book

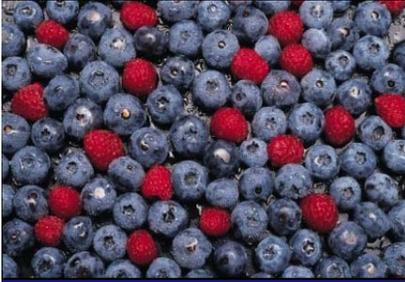


Promoting eight green “patterns” for re-using vacant land:

- Urban Agriculture
- Clean and Green
- Community Managed Open Space
- Green Parking
- Stormwater Management
- Urban Forests
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mixed Greens

Types of Urban Farms





Farming in Baltimore City

Farms

- 17 Urban Farms (For-Profit & Non-Profit)
- 50+ hoop houses in the city

Outlets:

- Farmers Markets, City Supported Agriculture (CSA), Farm Stands, & Restaurants



Farm Alliance of Baltimore City

- 10 Farm Alliance urban farm members
- Abide by Urban Farm Standards
- Completed the Beginning Farmer Training Program
- Accepts SNAP, FMNP, FVC and Double Incentive Dollars



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Grow Local





Urban Agriculture in Zoning Code

Definition:

- The cultivation, processing, and marketing of food, with a primary emphasis on operating as a business enterprise for income generation.
- Urban agriculture includes:
 - animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry, vineyards and wineries, and horticulture, and might involve the use of intensive production methods, structures for extended growing seasons, on-site sales of produce, and composting.





Soil & Water

Soil Safety Management:

- Under the new Zoning Code, Urban Agriculture sites using existing soils will be required to submit a Soil Safety Plan.
- Farms that gross over \$2,500 per year are required by the State to create Nutrient Management Programs

Water Access:

- \$120/Year through the Adopt-a-Lot program





Policies to Support Grow Local

- **2015 Urban Agriculture Tax Credit:**
 - Credit gives farmers 90% off of real property tax
 - Land must be farmed at least 5 years
 - Guidelines for credit will be available in January 2016
- **City Owned Land Leasing Initiative:**
 - 3 urban farms have 5 yr leases on 4.5 acres of city-owned land (20 acres available)
 - 5 year leases at cost of \$100/year
- **Updated City Building Code – hoop houses**
 - No building permits required for hoop houses





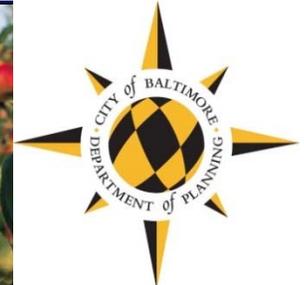
Animal Husbandry

- The “Regulations for Wild, Exotic, and Hybrid Animals” were updated in September 2013
- Allows for Miniature Goats, Bees, Rabbits and Chickens
 - Urban Farms can have up to 50 chickens with management plan
 - 2 bee hives on most properties, scales up with land size, no upper limit
 - 2-24 rabbits on most properties
 - 2-6 dwarf, miniature, and pygmy goats on most properties



Buy and Eat Local





Employee Wellness CSA

- **Policy:** Changed Labor Union MOU to allow for CSA's to be an approved use for the \$250 Wellness Reimbursement
- **Participants:** 100 employees participating
- **Farms:** Real Food Farm and One Straw Farm
- **Logistics:** 7 city drop offs w/ site coordinators receive free CSA share



BEHAVIOR CHANGES	PERCENTAGE
Increased Fruit & Vegetable Intake	82%
Tried New Fruit & Vegetables	90%
Cooked More Meals at Home	60%
More likely to Buy Local Produce	80%





Farmers Markets

- 17 farmers markets in Baltimore City
- 7 markets accept SNAP and double incentive dollars
- 25+ vendors piloted SNAP and Double Incentives through smartphone technology
- Maryland Farmers Market Association
 - Coordinate Maryland Market Money matching incentives





Farm To School: Great Kids Farm

School Food:

- Served +1 million pounds of local produce in SY2015
- Serves Great Kids Farm produce in salads and salad bars



Great Kids Farm:

- 33 acre working farm owned by BCPSS
- Provides education and supplies salad bars
- Learning Journey for every 7th



Barriers & Opportunities





Challenges

- **EQIP-funded high tunnels:**
 - Can only be placed on existing farmland, which limits new and beginning farmers on land that is partially paved or developed.
- **Insurance:**
 - Liability insurers are largely unwilling to insure on a small urban scale
 - Small scale crop insurance is often unavailable for urban farmers.
- **Aggregation:**
 - Need for local food aggregation/hub in the city



Conclusion





Thank You

For More Information Please Contact:

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