



WAYS TO GROW IN ATLANTIC CITY

Green Space and Urban
Agriculture Guide Book

Volume 1

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Developed by the City of Atlantic City
Planning and Development Department

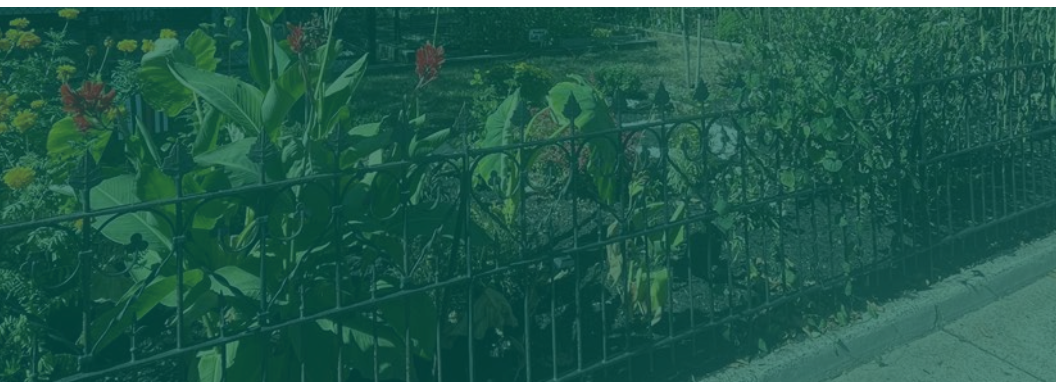


INTRODUCTION



GROWING TOGETHER

The City of Atlantic City encourages the development of green spaces and urban agriculture to improve our ecological resilience, food security, and community building. The Planning and Development Department has created this guidebook for residents, visitors, and community members to use in their efforts to make the GREAT City of Atlantic City greener.



SPECIAL THANKS

Mayor Marty Small
Community partners within the Green Coalition of Atlantic City
(GCAC)
Planning and Development Director Jacques Howard





Why Urban Ag Matters

- **Food Security and Access:** Atlantic City is one of the many food deserts in New Jersey. Urban agriculture offers a sustainable way to provide fresh, healthy produce to our communities, reducing the need for grocery shopping trips offshore or corner store visits
- **Sustainability and Environmental Benefits:** Urban farming utilizes underused spaces that can help reduce flooding, conserve water through hydroponic or rain water collection, and lowers emissions by minimizing transportation that can also cool the air
- **Economic Growth and Job Creation:** Urban agriculture can also play a role in revitalizing economies by creating jobs. By transforming unused urban spaces into productive farms, Atlantic City can stimulate economic growth, foster community engagement, and create green jobs

DEFINING URBAN AGRICULTURE

What is Urban Ag?

Urban agriculture involves the growing of crops in and around urban areas. This practice includes a variety of methods, such as small community gardens, rooftop farms, vacant lot farming, and expansive indoor vertical farming solutions and gardening in your yard.



[See Ways to Get Involved](#)



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



1

Home Gardening

- Start in pots on your patio, porch, or windowsill
- Growing in small gardens in raised, ground beds, or vertical pots
- Grow culinary herbs on your kitchen counter
- Share produce with your neighbors
- Scale up your growing by collecting rainwater or growing in a greenhouse
- Plant flowers that pollinating insects use to enhance your food production

2

Community Gardening

- Volunteer at your neighborhood community garden
 - Check “Community Gardener Connections ” for gardens looking for seasonal volunteers
 - [CLICK THIS LINK](#) TO VIEW ALL AC GARDENS AND PARKS
- Participate in city tree plantings and garden building days
- Join the Green Coalition of AC newsletter to learn about volunteer opportunities

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

3

Start an Urban Ag Business

STEPS

1. Obtain a merchantile license from the City merchantile office under "fruit and vegetable vendor"
2. If growing directly in the ground, contact the GCAC to assist with soil testing
3. Start a small-scale operation growing herbs and special produce items via garden beds, greenhouses, and hydroponics
4. Grow and sell in your community

4

Start a Garden in a Vacant Lot

STEPS

1. Identify a vacant city or a privately owned property. Contact the AC Planning Department for a site review
2. Develop an urban gardening site and maintenance plan
3. Planning Department reviews the plan and initiates the approval process
4. Obtain the necessary permits, licensing, or lease agreements
5. START PLANTING!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



Whether you are just starting your journey or are a master gardener, it is important to know that you can rely on your community members for support and learning opportunities. Below is a list of important contacts to assist any grower in their journey. Click on the “Name” hyperlinks for organization websites.

Community Gardner Connections			
Name	Email/Phone	Address	Specialty
<u>Green Coalition of Atlantic City</u>	green_coalition@ropsnj.org	Atlantic City	Resources, Volunteering and Networking
<u>C.R.O.P.S.</u>	equarton@cropsnj.org	Fishermans Park, Rhode Island Ave	Community Garden, Farmers Market, Workshops
<u>Noyes Art Garage</u>	sarah.lacy@stockton.edu	2200 Fairmount Ave	Garden, educational classes, community events
<u>Sister Jean's Kitchen</u>	(609)-236-8353	108 N Pennsylvania Ave	Pantry, Garden, Soup Kitchen
<u>OUR Garden</u>	glovesontheground@gmail.com	609 Arctic Ave	Heritage vegetables, herbs, and small fruits
<u>Coastal Cousins Heritage Gardens</u>	gfrelon@coastalcousins.org	732 N Indiana Ave	Heritage garden, educational programming
<u>Rutgers Cooperative Extension</u>	bc597@njaes.rutgers.edu	Atlantic County	Master Gardener Training and resources

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Cont.



<u>City of Atlantic City</u>		
Department	Phone/Email	Expertise
<u>City of AC Planning and Development</u>	609-347-5404 aplummer@acnj.gov	Garden site selection and analysis
<u>Code Enforcement</u>	609-347-6450	Property monitoring
<u>City of AC Public Works</u>	609-347-5700	Clean-up, utilities, and infrastructure
<u>City of AC Mercantile</u>	609-347-5315	New business licenses and renewal
<u>Economic Development</u>	609-347-5404 ext. 5544	Small business support
<u>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)</u>	609-347-5330	Potential funding and community partnership
*Atlantic City Green Team	jmrutala@comcast.net	Sustainable actions and collaboration
*Shade Tree Committee	battaglia.fr@gmail.com	City forestry activities

***-Volunteer-based organizations. Email to get involved in these city organizations and the other community gardener organizations**

**See Free Resources, Trainings
and Events**

RESOURCES

bridging the gap

Below are additional resources for growers of all experience levels. Click to view hyperlinks:

Free Resources

[CRDA - ENGAGE AC GIS Map](#) (Use to view all property in AC. Helpful tool for identifying lot information)

[C.R.O.P.S. - Atlantic City Fresh Food Map](#)

[Atlantic City Urban Agriculture District Overlay Zoning District](#)

ACUA

[Monthly Educational Garden Talks](#)

[Community and Education Resources](#)

[Urban Agriculture YouTube Playlist- beginner gardening techniques and examples](#)

Training (fee required)

[ACUA- Master Composter Training](#)

[Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Environmental Steward Program](#)

[Cornell Small Farms Program - Online Course for Growers and Planners](#)

RESOURCES

bridging the gap

2026 Events

June 22nd ACUA Atlantic City Garden Tour

July 16th GCAC 3rd Annual Atlantic City Garden Tour

May to September - C.R.O.P.S. Farmers Market at Fisherman's Park

Every Third Thursday : GCAC Monthly Collaborative Meetings

Calendars

Green Coalition of AC 2026 Calendar

Noyes Art Garage 2026 Calendar

URBAN GARDENING IS FOR EVERYONE.



...because fresh food,
green spaces, and healthy
communities belong to us
all.



URBAN AGRICULTURE

Planning and Development Department
City of Atlantic City

If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in City programs, activities, and services, contact ACHR.gov or (609)347-5374