



Urban Agriculture in New York City

Urban Agriculture World Summit

Nerima City, Tokyo
December 1, 2019

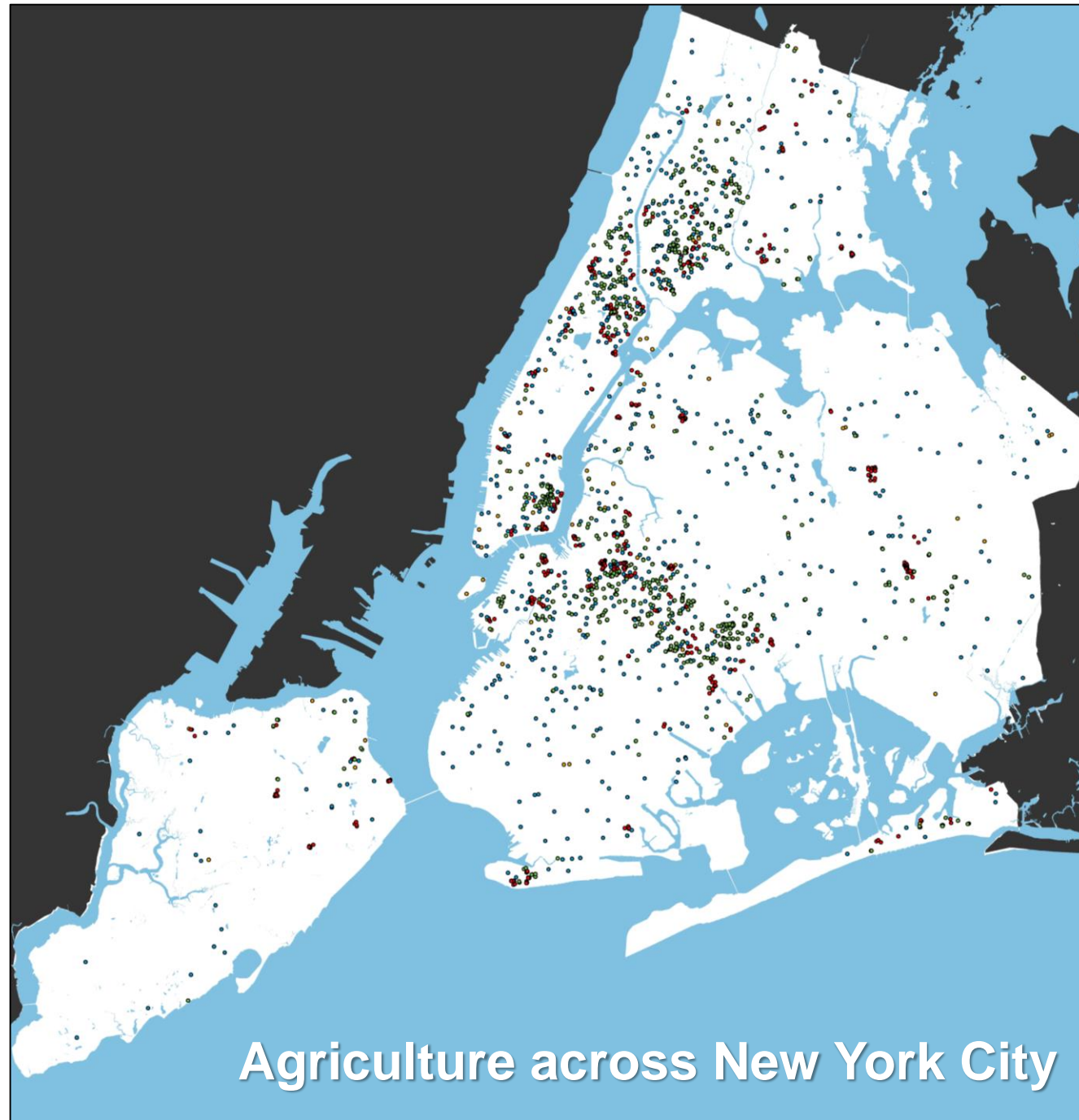
Bill LoSasso
Director, NYC Parks GreenThumb

Parks



New York City's Agricultural History





Agriculture across NYC

583 GreenThumb
Community Gardens/Farms

595 NYCHA Resident
Gardens

780 School Gardens

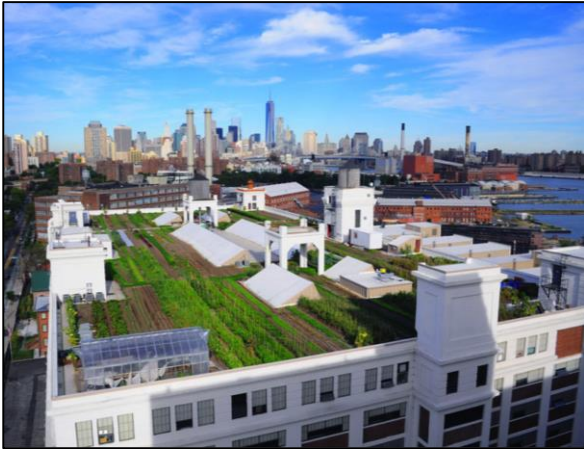
94 Other Agriculture Sites

2,052 total Agricultural
Sites (estimated)

300 acres (121 hectares)
(estimated)

170+ farmers markets

Agriculture in New York City





GreenThumb Community Gardens

GreenThumb Community Farms



Community Gardens and Farms



School Gardens



School Gardens



Rooftop Farms



Rooftop Farms





Workforce Development & Healthy Food Access

Workforce Development & Healthy Food Access



Resident Gardens in Public Housing Developments





Indoor Farming and Ag Tech

Indoor Farming and Ag Tech



Agricultural Demonstrations



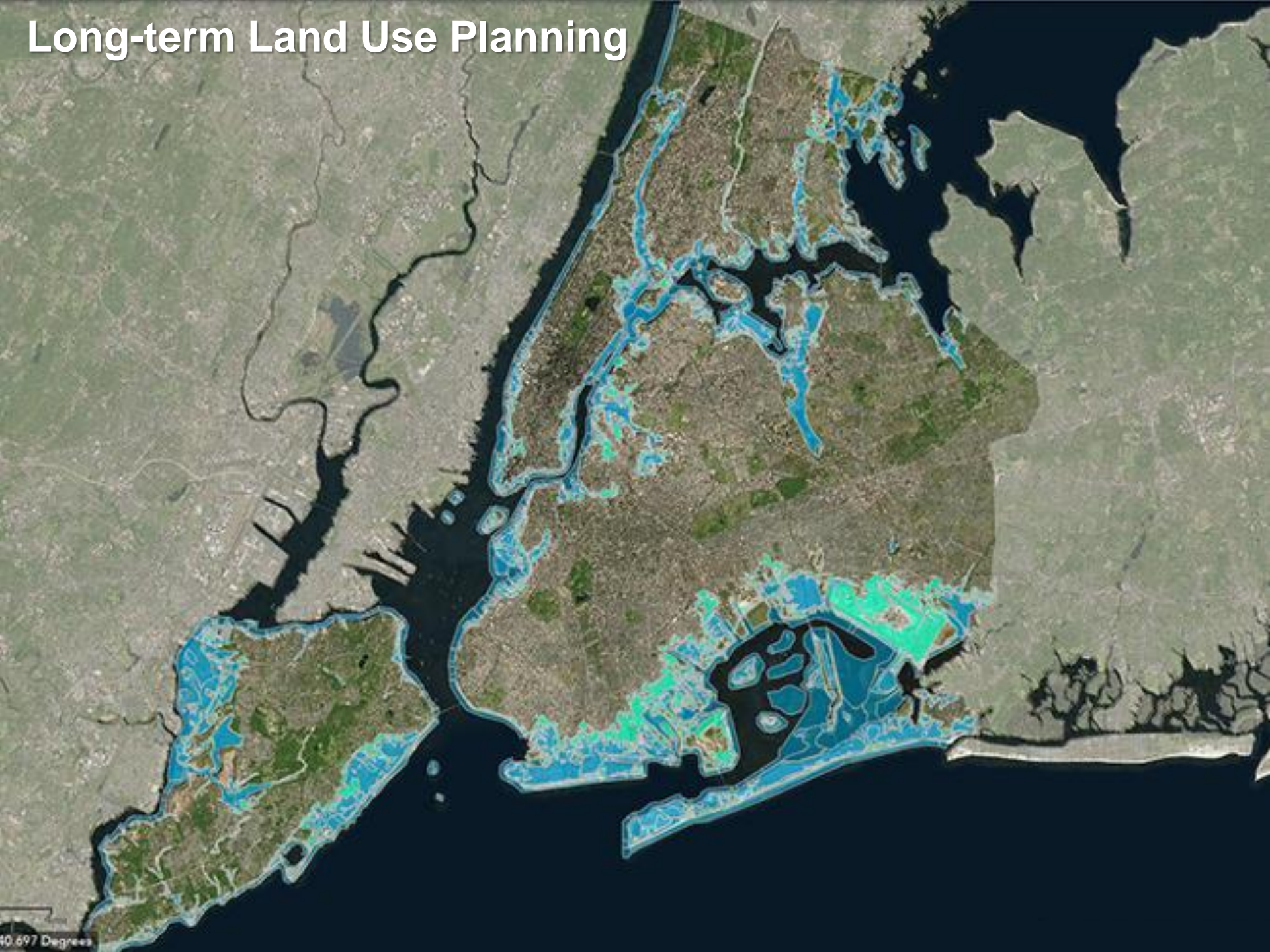
Agricultural Demonstrations



Creative Land Use Decisions



Long-term Land Use Planning





About Urban Agriculture



For Illustrative Purposes Only. Prepared by NYC Department of City Planning. Urban Design Office. June 2018.

Where is gardening and agriculture allowed in New York City?

Zoning allows agricultural uses in all residential districts, the vast majority of commercial districts, and all manufacturing districts. The only area where agriculture is not permitted by zoning is within C7 districts, which are intended for amusement parks. Agricultural uses include personal

Planning for Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture Plan (proposed)

Int. No. 1058

By Council Members Espinal, Ampry-Samuel, Torres, Cornejo, Brannan, Levine, Powers, Constantindes, Miller, Holden, Rose, Ayala, Koo, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Rodriguez, Dromm, Cabrera, Grodenchik, Yeger, Richards, Lancman, Van Bramer, Kallos, Cohen, Gibson, Reynoso, Vallone, Rosenthal, Moya, Koslovitz, Deutsch, Treyger, Perkins, Lander, Eugene, Adams, Levin, Chin, Menchaca, King, Gjonaj, Maisel, Barron, Cumbo, Salamanca, Rivera and Ulrich (by request of the Brooklyn Borough President)

A Local Law in relation to developing a comprehensive urban agriculture plan

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

1 Section 1. Comprehensive urban agriculture plan. a. The department of city planning, in
2 cooperation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including but not limited to food policy
3 educators, representatives from community gardens and urban farming businesses, shall prepare
4 a comprehensive urban agriculture plan. Such comprehensive urban agriculture plan shall
5 address, but not be limited to, the following issues related to urban agriculture: (i) cataloguing
6 existing and potential urban agriculture spaces, (ii) classification and prioritization of urban
7 agriculture uses, (iii) potential land use policies to promote the expansion of agricultural uses in
8 the city, (iv) an analysis of those portions of the zoning resolution, building code, and fire code
9 that merit reconsideration to promote urban agriculture, (v) expanding the availability of healthy
10 food in low-income neighborhoods, (vi) the integration of urban agriculture into the city's
11 conservation and resiliency plans, (vii) youth development and education with regard to local
12 food production; (viii) direct and indirect job creation and impacts from urban agriculture
13 production; and (ix) the feasibility of creating an office of urban agriculture.

14 b. On or before July 1, 2019, the department of city planning shall submit to the mayor
15 and speaker of the council and post on the department's website the comprehensive urban
16 agriculture plan prepared pursuant to subdivision a of this section.

17 § 2. This law takes effect immediately.

- Set priorities
- Identify available land
- Regulatory review
- Healthy food access
- Promote resiliency

Office of Urban Agriculture (proposed)

Int. No. 1663

By Council Member Espinal

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to establishing an office of urban agriculture and an urban agriculture advisory board

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

1 Section 1. Chapter one of the New York city charter is amended by adding a new section
2 20-e to read as follows:

3 § 20-e. Office of urban agriculture. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the
4 following terms have the following meanings:

5 Director. The term "director" means the director of the office of urban agriculture.

6 Office. The term "office" means the office of urban agriculture.

7 b. The mayor shall establish an office of urban agriculture within the office of long-term
8 planning and sustainability. Such office shall be headed by a director who shall be appointed by
9 the mayor and shall additionally employ at least one staff member who has expertise in urban
10 planning.

11 c. Powers and duties. The director shall have the power and the duty to:

12 1. Conduct education and outreach to promote urban agriculture and inform the public
13 about urban agriculture, its benefits and ways to participate;

14 2. Receive comments and respond to inquiries related to urban agriculture;

15 3. Make recommendations to the office of long-term planning and sustainability and the
16 heads of relevant agencies with respect to protecting and expanding urban agriculture for the
17 purposes of sustainability, resiliency, environmental protection, health, community development
18 and small business planning;

- Long-term planning
- Advisory board
- Promote urban agriculture
- Create and implement plan
- Perform research

Supporting Safe Food Production

3. Cut your lumber and build your bed! For one 8 foot x 4 foot raised bed, you will need three boards of 8 foot lumber: two for the long sides, and one to cut in half for the short sides.
 - a. You can remove the stakes/string if you are assembling the bed in place.
 - b. We find that the buddy system works best for bed assembly. One person can hold a corner in place, while the other connects the boards using a hammer and nails or a power drill and screws.
 - i. If using a power drill, pre-drill your holes so that your lumber does not split.
 - c. You should make this a double raised bed if you plan to grow root vegetables or any vegetables with deep roots such as tomatoes, kale, collards, corn, and squash. A single-level raised bed is fine for herbs and baby leafy greens such as arugula.
 - i. Build a second raised bed with the same dimensions as the first one.
 - ii. Place it on top of the first raised bed.
 - iii. Add a 2 inch x 4 inch piece of lumber (or any scrap untreated lumber) to each corner. Make sure the two beds are flush with one another and secure to the corner posts.
4. Once your raised bed is assembled, place it in its final spot if you have not already done so.
5. Use the level to see if it is even. If it's not even, use stones, bricks, or excess soil to raise up a low corner or edge.
6. Fill the raised bed with soil. The soil should be flat and level with the top of the raised bed. One cubic yard of soil will fill one 8 foot x 4 foot raised bed.



Maintenance:

It is best practice to add a few inches of compost to top off your raised bed at the start or end of each season. It is important to keep the soil level full to the top of your raised bed so that your plant roots have enough space to grow and do not grow into the underlying soil. This practice also helps to replenish nutrients in the soil after growing delicious vegetables all season long! If the soil levels in your bed gets too low, it may be necessary to fill it with a soil and compost mix, not just compost.



A group of children in school uniforms are working in a garden. One boy in the foreground is looking down at a plant. Another boy behind him has his arm raised. In the background, other children are visible, some wearing gloves. The garden is filled with green plants and brown mulch. A chain-link fence and a building are visible in the background.

grow to LEARN nyc

THE CITYWIDE SCHOOL GARDENS INITIATIVE

Supporting Land Access for All



Supporting Healthy Food Access



Supporting Healthy Food Access



Maximizing Access to Open Space



GreenThumb gardens and farms are public open spaces stewarded by volunteers

- Open to public 20 hours per week
- Must accept new members
- Must host free events
- Members decide site design and use

Walk to a Garden

10-minute walk area



NYC Parks GreenThumb
Walk to a Garden Scoring Rubric

COMMUNITY BOARD	Building Healthy Communities (HHS)	Community Parks (HHS)	Food and Nutrition (HHS)	Food (HHS)	Health (HHS)	Open Space (HHS)	Score
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Prioritized by:

- Open space access
- Food insecurity
- Health factors
- Historical under-investment



Community Development through
Community Gardening

Community Development through Community Gardening



THANK YOU

