



Promoting and Supporting Urban Agriculture in New York City

Urban Agriculture World Summit

Nerima City, Tokyo
November 30, 2019

Bill LoSasso
Director, NYC Parks GreenThumb

Parks



New York City's Agricultural History





Agriculture across New York City

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)

95% on government property

170+ farmers markets

Agriculture in New York City





GreenThumb Community Gardens

GreenThumb Community Farms



Community Gardens and Farms



Typical small garden (0.02 ha)



Mid-sized gardens (0.25 ha)





Evergreen Community Garden

© 2018 Google

Goo

Largest GreenThumb Garden (2 ha)

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



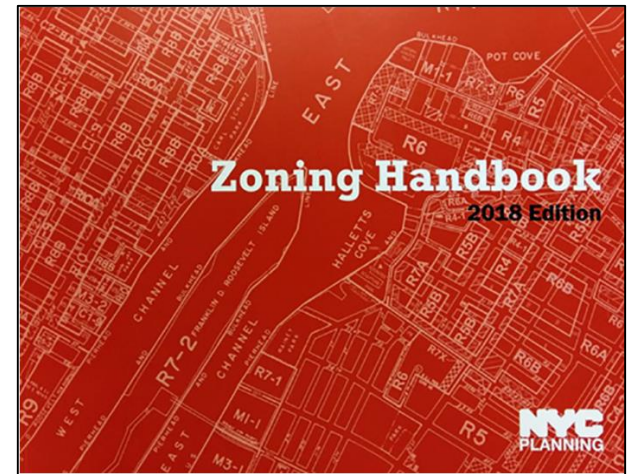
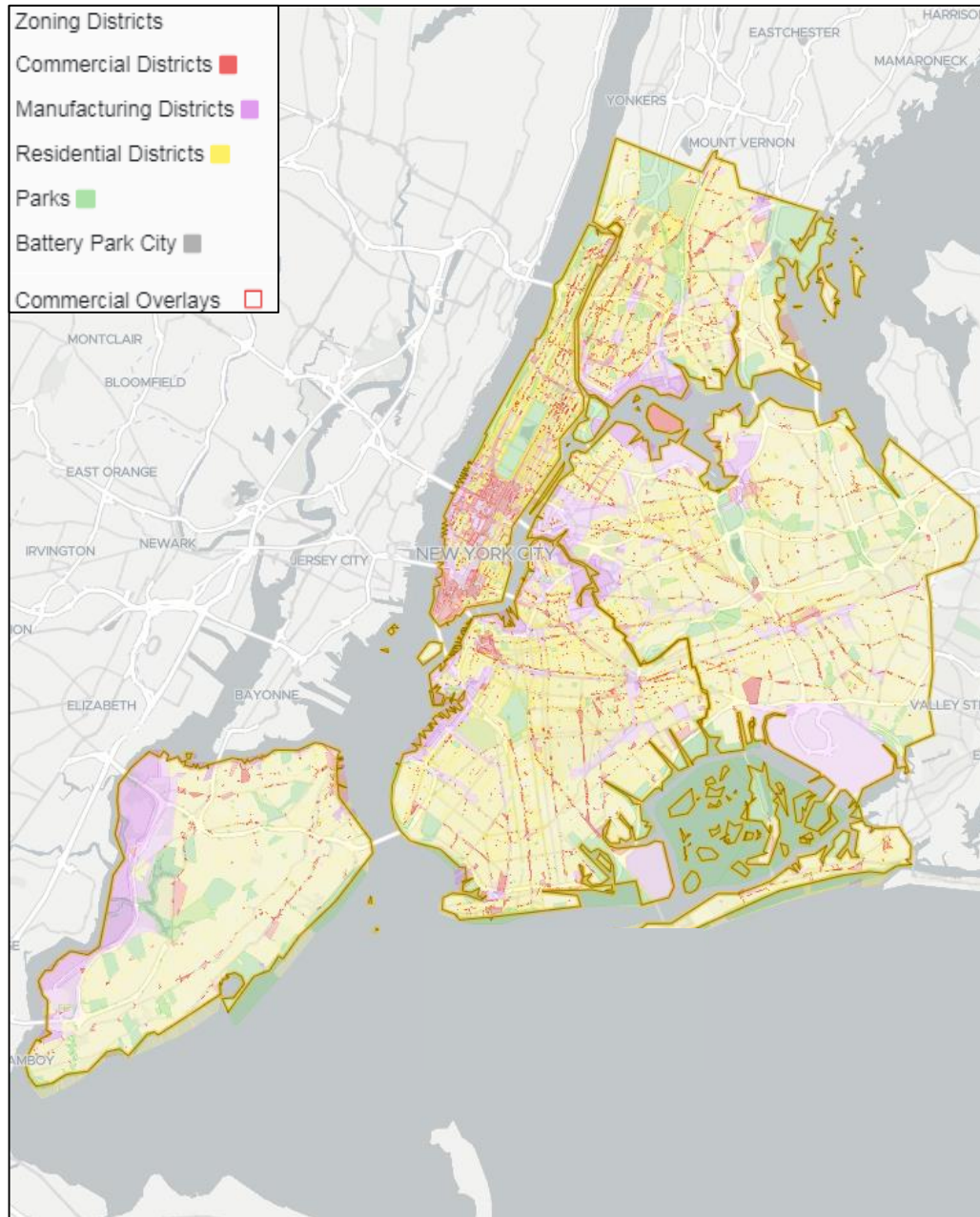
Agricultural Demonstrations



Agricultural Demonstrations

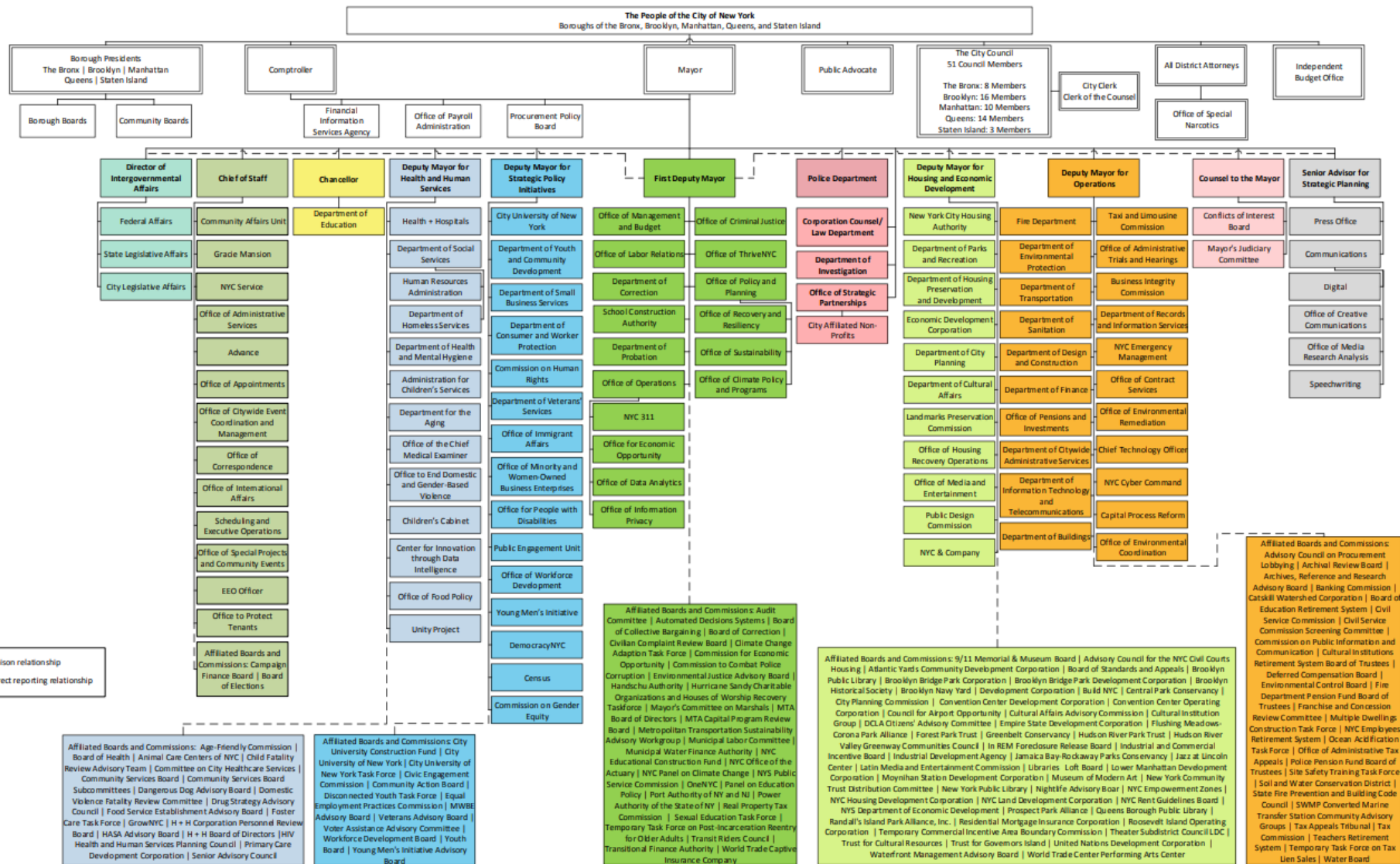


Land Use in New York City



Agriculture in NYC

- Very permissive via zoning
- Allowable use in all zoning districts
- No dedicated “agricultural district”
- Permitted on 99.9% of zoned land in NYC



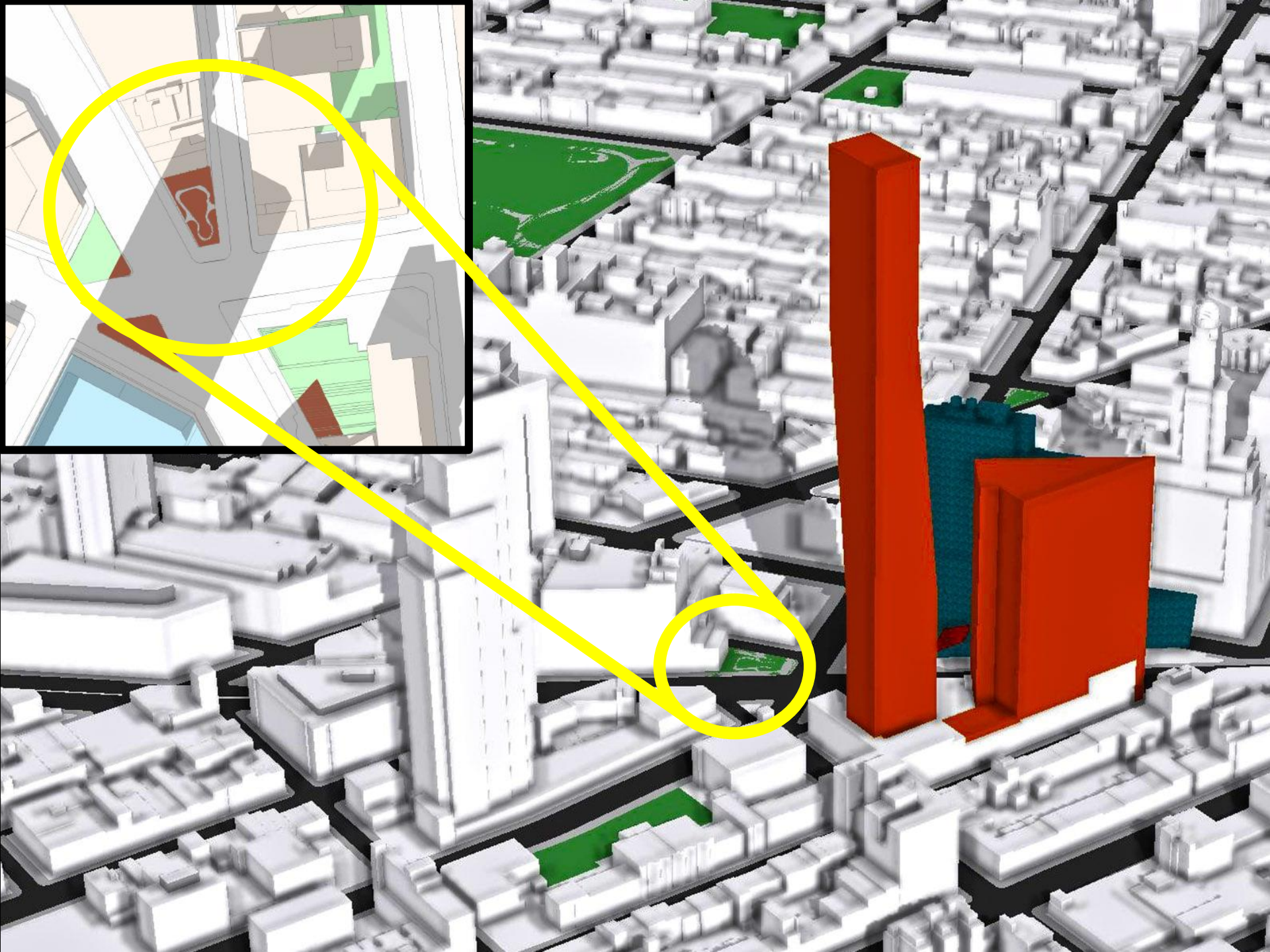
- Building codes
- Health codes
- Financial regulations

- Fire codes
- Environmental codes
- Sanitation regulations

- Parks rules
- New York State regulations

Land Use Compromises







About Urban Agriculture

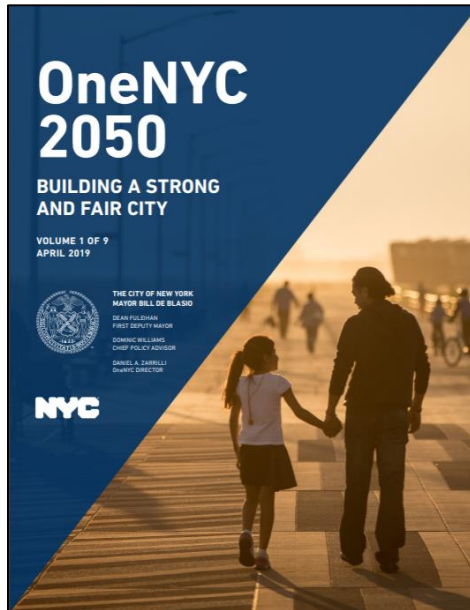


For Illustrative Purposes Only. Prepared by NYC Department of City Planning. Urban Design Office. June 2018.

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

Policies and Initiatives Supporting Agriculture



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City-owned sites that are available and potentially suitable for urban agriculture (Local Law 46 of 2018) [Environment](#)

This dataset contains a list of City-owned spaces that are available and potentially suitable for community urban agricultural use, including community gardens and urban farms. This dataset is created and maintained as per Local Law 46 of 2018. While this list is updated periodically, anyone seeking to use the online roster should go to [community urban agriculture](#) More

Updated: October 5, 2018

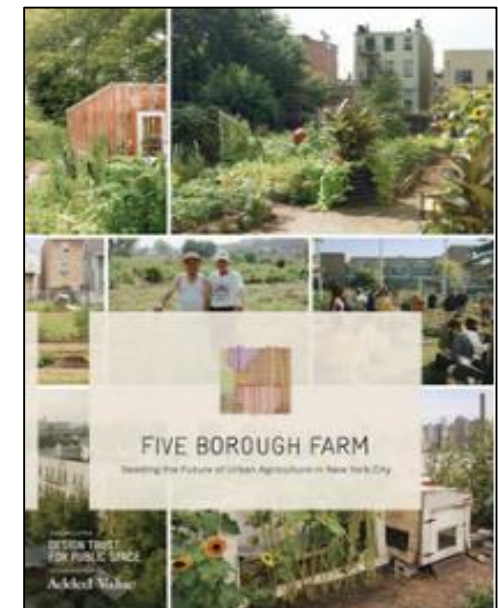
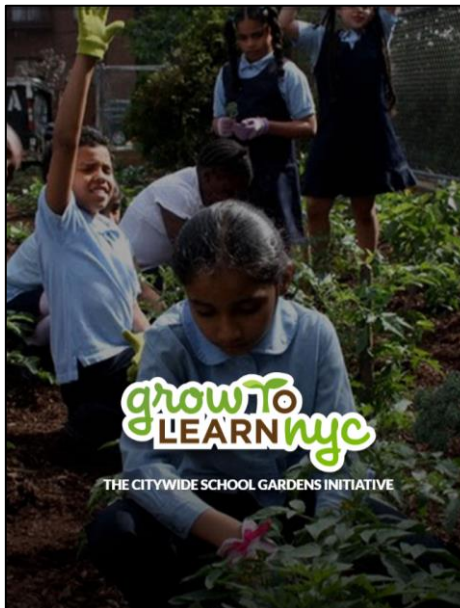
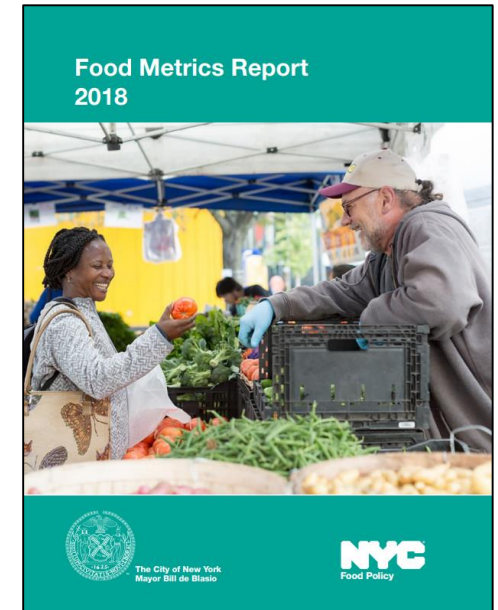
Views: 2,947 Downloads: 474

What's in this Dataset?

Rows: 29 Columns: 17

Columns in this Dataset

Column Name	Description	Type
Date Created		Date & Time: BB
Borough		Number



Planning for Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture Plan (proposed)

Int. No. 1058

By Council Members Espinal, Ampry-Samuel, Torres, Cornegy, Brannan, Levine, Powers, Constantinides, Miller, Holden, Rose, Ayala, Koo, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Rodriguez, Dromm, Cabrera, Grodenchuk, Yeger, Richards, Lancman, Van Bramer, Kallos, Cohen, Gibson, Reynoso, Vallone, Rosenthal, Moya, Koslovitz, Deutch, 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

GreenThumb Community Gardens: More than Food





Citizen Activism and Neighborhood Reclamation



GreenThumb's Decentralized Stewardship Model



2019-005483

City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation GreenThumb Community Garden License

This License Agreement ("License"), dated _____, 2019, by and between the City of New York ("City"), acting by and through its Department of Parks & Recreation ("Parks"), and

("Licensee"),

for the operation of a GreenThumb community garden located at

("Address"),

on Block _____ and Lot(s) _____

in the Borough of _____ ("the Garden" or "Site").

This License shall be administered by Parks through the GreenThumb Program Office ("GreenThumb"), which is currently located at 100 Gold Street, Suite 3100, New York, NY 10038.

1. Term. This License is issued to Licensee for a term (the "Term") beginning on the date written above and ending December 31, 2022, unless earlier terminated. The License may be



Community Development
through
Community Gardening

Community Development through Community Gardening



Food From Around the World, Homegrown in New York



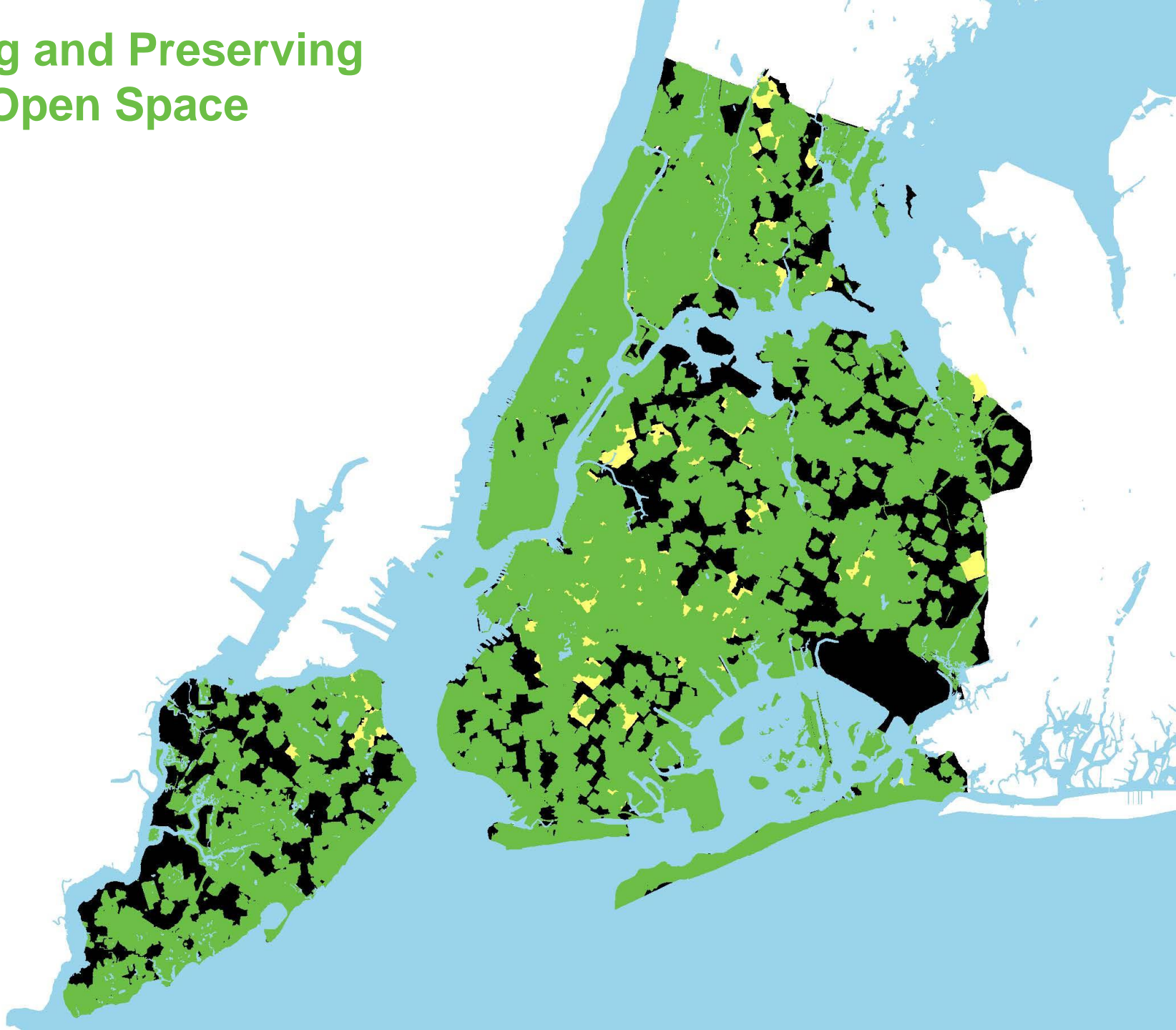
Maximizing Access to Open Space



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

Creating and Preserving Public Open Space





East River Park

From Vacant to Vibrant



From Vacant to Vibrant

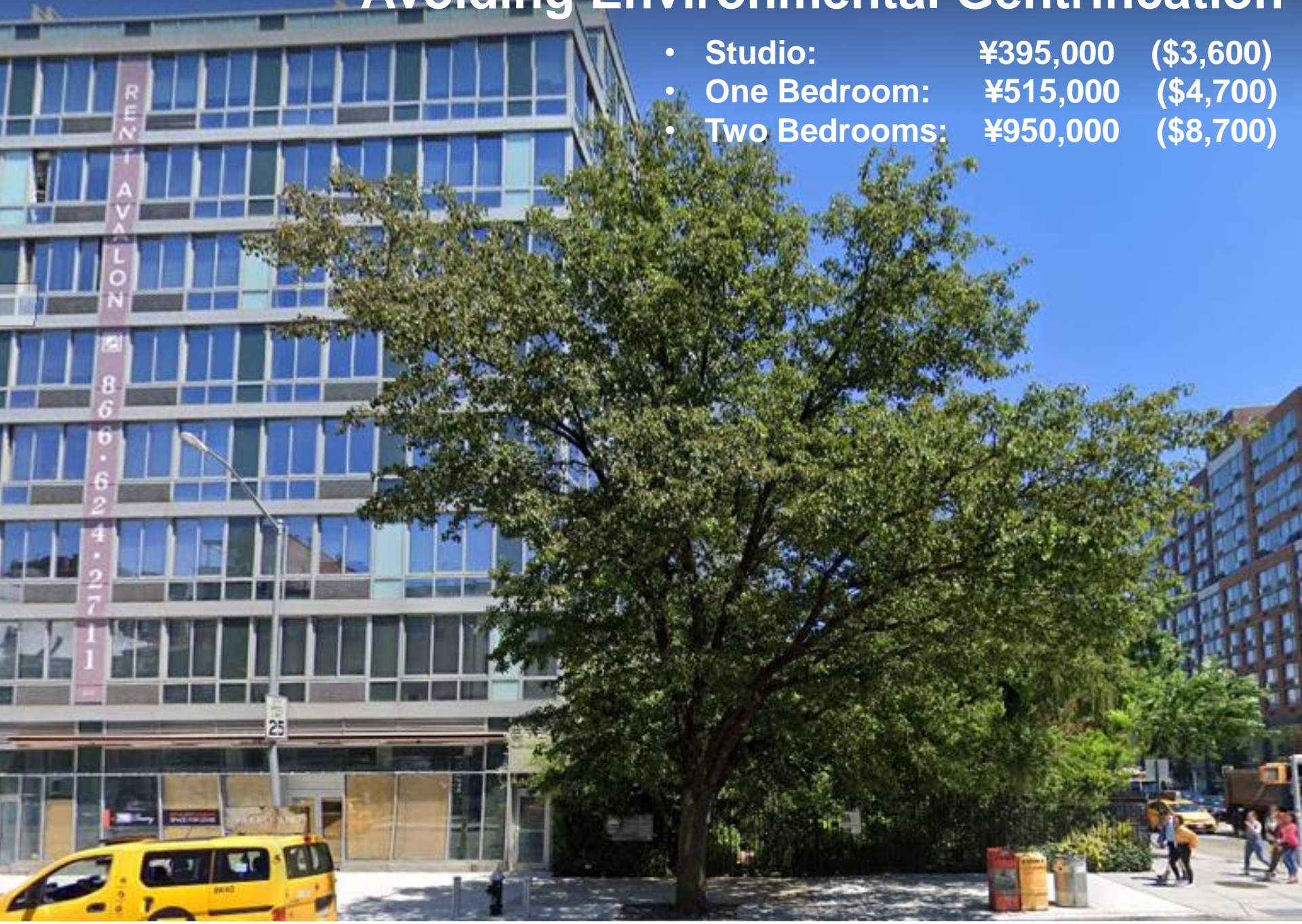


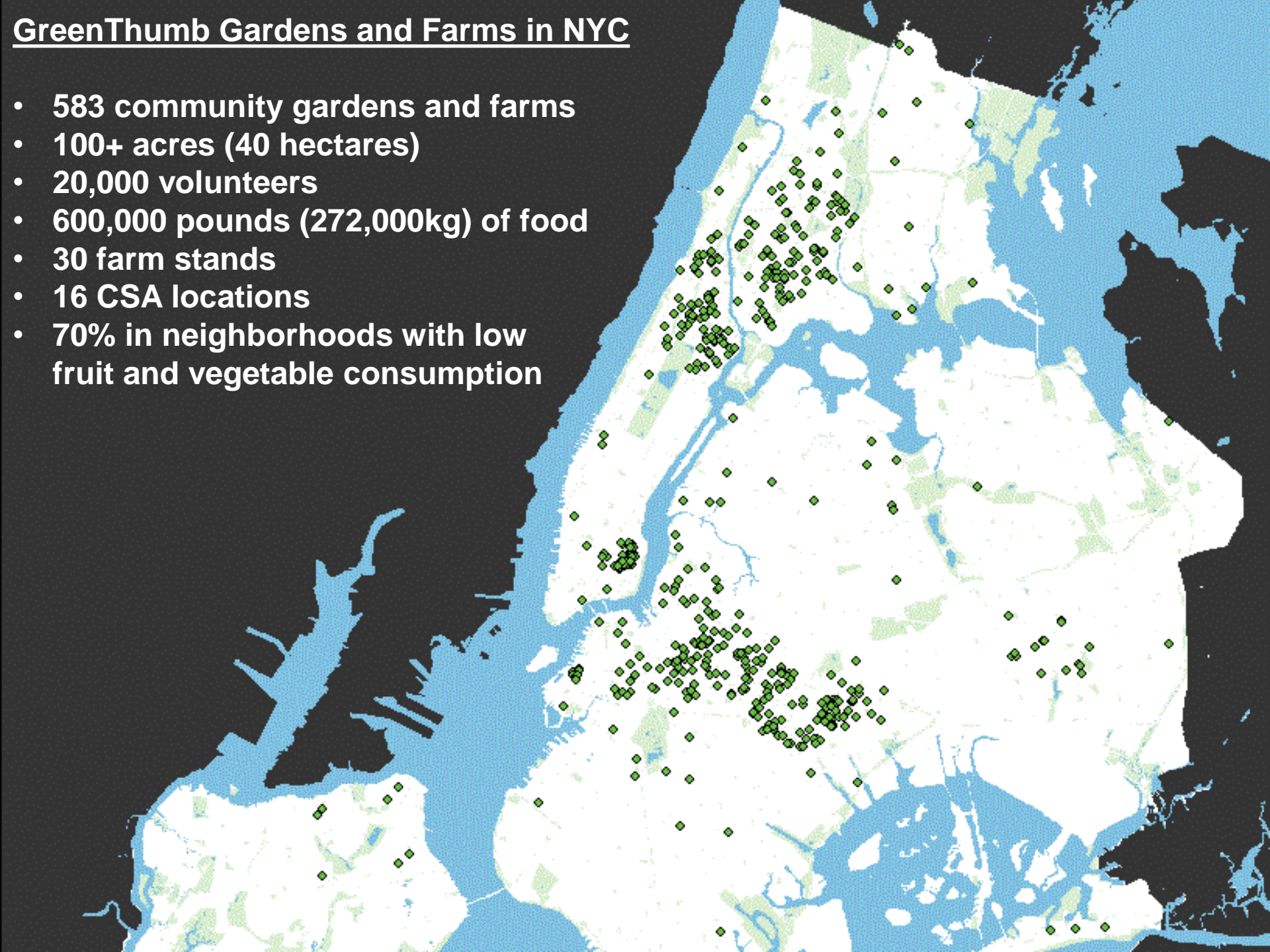
From Vacant to Vibrant



Avoiding Environmental Gentrification

- Studio: ¥395,000 (\$3,600)
- One Bedroom: ¥515,000 (\$4,700)
- Two Bedrooms: ¥950,000 (\$8,700)





GreenThumb Gardens and Farms in NYC

- 583 community gardens and farms
- 100+ acres (40 hectares)
- 20,000 volunteers
- 600,000 pounds (272,000kg) of food
- 30 farm stands
- 16 CSA locations
- 70% in neighborhoods with low fruit and vegetable consumption

Walk to a Garden

10-minute walk area

NYC Parks GreenThumb
Walk to a Garden Scoring Rubric

	COMMUNITY BOARD	Building Height Residential In-Mid	Community Parks Initiative In-Mid	Fair and Vibrant Conversations	Food courts	Ment G.O.	Self Reported Health Rank	Open Space	SLR
INDIANA	Alton Heights and Midtown	2	3	3	5	4	5	5	28
	North Point and Longwood	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	28
	Mountains and Crittens	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	4
	Highland and Conestoga	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Franklin and University Heights	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Baltimore and East Trenton	4	0	3	5	5	5	5	4
	Knightsdale Heights and Bedford	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	4
	Riversdale and Fairbanks	0	0	0	4	7	2	3	3
	Park Heights and Stratford	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Therm Park and Caring City	10	0	0	4	7	3	4	1
INDONESIA	Alston Park and Brookside	11	0	0	5	4	5	4	5
	Wilkesburg and Elmwood	2	0	0	5	4	5	5	28
	Greenwich and Prospect Heights	2	0	0	2	4	4	4	5
	East Green and Riverside Heights	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Bedford University	2	3	3	5	5	4	5	28
	Richfield	4	0	3	4	5	4	5	28
	East New York and Street City	2	0	0	5	4	5	5	4
	Park Slopes and Central Gardens	4	0	0	2	1	2	3	4
	Summit Park	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	South Green Heights and Prospect Heights	8	0	3	5	4	5	5	4
JAMAICA	South Green Heights and Jeffers Gardens	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Bay Ridge and Outer Heights	10	0	0	2	1	3	4	2
	Brooklyn Park	11	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Borough Park	12	0	0	3	2	5	4	5
	Central Heights	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Farbrook and Midwood	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Sheepshead Bay	10	0	0	2	1	3	5	4
	Brooklyn Park	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	East Farbrook	17	0	0	5	4	4	5	5
	Farbrook and Central	17	0	0	5	4	4	5	5
MANHATTAN	Financial District	2	0	0	1	2	3	3	5
	Greenwich Village and SoHo	2	0	0	1	1	3	3	5
	Lower East Side and Chinatown	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Chelsea and Chelsea	4	0	0	1	2	3	3	4
	Midtown	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Stuyvesant Town and Turtle Bay	2	0	0	1	1	3	3	4
	Upper West Side	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Upper East Side	4	0	0	2	4	4	5	5
	Manhattan Heights and Inglewood Heights	11	0	0	5	5	4	5	4
	Central Harlem	2	0	0	5	4	4	5	4
MICHIGAN	East Harlem	11	3	3	5	4	4	5	4
	Washington Heights and Inwood	2	0	0	2	2	2	5	3
	Long Island City and Astoria	2	0	3	2	2	4	3	5
	Washington and Sunnyside	2	0	0	1	1	2	4	5
	Jackson Heights	2	0	0	1	1	2	4	5
	Flushing Meadows and Corona	4	3	3	2	2	3	5	5
	Relaywood and Inglewood	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Regin Park and Forest Hills	4	0	0	2	1	2	2	4
	Flushing and Inglewood	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Midtown and Fresh Meadows	2	0	0	2	2	3	2	2
MINNESOTA	Kew LaSalle and Woodhurst	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	South Green Park and Inwood Branch	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	Bayville and Little Rock	13	0	0	1	1	1	2	1
	Lanette and Woodhurst	0	0	0	3	4	5	5	2
	Quinn's Village	2	0	0	2	2	5	5	3
	Midtown and Grand Channel	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	St. George and Stratford	2	3	3	4	3	4	2	1
	South Beach and Woodbrook	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	1
	Tonyville and Gray Hills	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
	NEW YORK	East Harlem	11	3	3	5	4	4	5
Washington Heights and Inwood		2	0	0	2	2	2	5	3
Long Island City and Astoria		2	0	3	2	2	4	3	5
Washington and Sunnyside		2	0	0	1	1	2	4	5
Jackson Heights		2	0	0	1	1	2	4	5
Flushing Meadows and Corona		4	3	3	2	2	3	5	5
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Flushing and Inglewood		2	0	0	5	5	5	5	28
Midtown and Fresh Meadows		2	0	0	2	2	3	2	2

Prioritized by

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



THANK YOU

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