“Farming the City”
APA Indiana Professional Development Conference
(April 15, 2011)
J. Galuska
Initial Key Questions:

• How does farming compare with gardening?
• What is Urban Agriculture (UA)?
• What are some types of UA?
• What are some key benefits of UA?
• What are some key challenges of UA?
Farming or Gardening?

• What characterizes a farm?
• What characterizes a garden?
• Why do people farm and garden?
• What are the key benefits and significant challenges facing gardeners and farmers?
Farm:

- **Farm**: A tract of land, usually with a house, barn, silo, etc. on which crops and often livestock are raised for a livelihood (Webster’s Dictionary).

- **Farmer**: A person who operates a farm or cultivates land (Webster’s Dictionary).
Garden: 1. A plot of ground, usually near a house, where flowers, shrubs, vegetables, fruits, or herbs are cultivated. 2. A piece of ground or other space, commonly with ornamental plants, trees, etc., used as a park or other public recreation area (Webster’s Dictionary).

Gardener: 1. A person who is employed to cultivate or care for a garden, lawn, etc. 2. Any person who gardens or is skilled in gardening (Webster’s Dictionary).
Urban Agriculture (UA):

“UA is the growing, processing, and distribution of food and other products through intensive plant cultivation and animal husbandry in and around cities.”

Martin Bailkey and Joe Nasr (2000)
Types of UA:

UA for household food-production and/or commercialized income-earning includes (*but is not limited to*):

- Aquaculture
- Vertical gardening
- Vermiculture
- Viticulture
- Bee-keeping
- Small-scale livestock & fish farming
- Community gardens
- Institutional gardens
- Small-scale (micro) farming
- Community supported agriculture (CSA)
- Neighborhood supported agriculture (NSA)
- Composting operations
- Farmers markets
- Farm stands
- Produce drop-off locations
- Agro-enterprises & value-added processing facilities
A 1996 study by the United Nations estimated that over 800 million people were engaged in various forms of UA worldwide!

**Source:** Agropolis: The Social, Political and Environmental Dimensions of Urban Agriculture (2005)
UA Within the U.S.?

http://growninthecity.com/interactive-urban-ag-zoning-map
Benefits of UA:

- Enhances, strengthens & supports household and LOCAL food security.
- Reuses and recycles urban “wastes” & waste streams
- Reduced pollution
- Increases local biodiversity
- Provides wildlife habitats
- Increases & supports urban greenspaces
Benefits of UA cont.

- Increases neighborhood property values
- Healthy food reduces citizens’ health care costs
- Creates job opportunities & entrepreneurial innovations
- Makes use of “abandoned” or underutilized urban lots
- Makes connections between regional food growers & rural and urban farmers
Benefits of UA cont.

• Makes strong connections between growers & consumers
• Creates relationships between a wide range of additional stakeholders
• Educations citizens (from children to seniors) on food-growing techniques & traditions
• Provides local social and recreational opportunities
UA’s Risks & Limitations

- Health and sanitation concerns
- Water access
- Access to non-GMO seed
- Soil quality
- Lack of knowledge or skills needed for intensive urban & periurban cultivation
- Land ownership/land tenure disputes
- Political & social disputes
- Start up costs
UA’s Risks & Limitations cont.

- Gaining access to local & regional markets
- Difficulties establishing & maintaining farmers’ collectives & support groups
- Start up costs
- Seasonal limitations
- Urban planning (code) limitations/ restrictions
- Threats of on-site vandalism
Examples of UA from the U.S. and Abroad...
Reclaiming Vacant Urban Space In Detroit
Visions for Urban Landscapes In Philadelphia
UA in Chicago
Intensive Urban Farming in Cuba
Large-Scale UA In Venezuela
Small-Scale UA in Taiwan
Large-Scale UA in Switzerland
Rooftop Gardening In Tanzania
Guinea Pig Husbandry in Lima
Community Gardening In Ghana
Bloomington, Indiana
UA Word Cloud
Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening Week

Proclamation

Whereas, for Bloomington, City Council, recently, to adopt the Unified Development Ordinance, which, in Bloomington, IN, on August 8th, 2006, Under the ordinance, urban agriculture and community gardening will be added to the list of allowed uses for the City of Bloomington (IN), including designation of multi-family (MF) and residential high-density (RHD) zoning uses.

Whereas, the City of Bloomington recognizes that affordable and nutritious food is a fundamental human right, and the City of Bloomington appreciates the significant strengthening, local food networks, providing local food security, and ensuring that a diversity of healthful, nutritious and sustainable food is readily available to the residents; and

Whereas, the City of Bloomington promotes an active role in local food networks, community gardens and educational opportunities to enhance sustainable food production; and

Whereas, the City of Bloomington recognizes that increasing the amount of fresh, nutritious and locally grown food within the region will have a positive impact and local economy, while improving environmental conditions and the protection of greenhouse gasses; and

Whereas, the City of Bloomington recognizes that the region maintains the natural resources, land bases, agricultural infrastructure, soil use, and cultural knowledge necessary to provide residents with a healthy, local food system; and

Whereas, the City of Bloomington recognizes the importance of allowing its residents to participate in and help provide this unique culinary and nutritional heritage; and

Whereas, the City of Bloomington acknowledges the common good of the region, to promote, encourage, and support the establishment of urban agriculture activities and community gardening; and

Whereas, the City of Bloomington recognizes that urban agriculture and community gardening activities, when managed appropriately, provide a multitude of benefits to the community, support the use of underused spaces and vacant lots, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases, and create opportunities to improve neighborhood and neighborhood, and provide beneficial social and economic opportunities for residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark So, Mayor of Bloomington, Indiana, do hereby proclaim August 9th, 2006 as Urban Agriculture and Community Gardening Week.

Mark So, Mayor
City of Bloomington
“Grown In Town Farmstead”
869 E. Miller Drive
2005 & 2010 Aerial Comparison
2005
Season Extension Hoop House
“Chicken Palace”
Under Construction (2010)
Heritage Breed Chickens
American Chinchilla Rabbits
Peanuts & Blueberries
Raspberries & Fruiting Rose
Cherry Tomatoes & Strawberries
Garlic & Winter Rye
Heirloom Apple Tree & Flying Dragon Citrus Tree
Sunflowers
Zinnias
Interested in Grown In Town Farmstead?

John Galuska & Family

GROWN IN TOWN FARMSTEAD
869 E. Miller Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 336-6458
grownintown@gmail.com
jgaluska@indiana.edu
The Future of UA?

- Urban Homesteading?
- Permaculture Design?
- Vertical Farming?
- Agricultural Urbanism?
- Ecological Urbanism?
- Zoning Code Innovations?
Vertical Farming In Cities of the Future?
Urban Homesteading on 1/10 Acre

A Homestead on One-Tenth of an Acre

1. **Vegetables**: 8 beds, each with 6 ft. long,
2. **Fruits and nuts**: various fruit trees, grapes, and berry vines, strawberry beds, and mulched soil along the fence line.
3. **Herbs**: fast herbs like tarragon, dill, lavender, and oregano.
4. **Grain**: not enough space to produce a reasonable quantity.
5. **Pasture**: for chickens.
6. **Meat or dairy animals**: rabbits, and enough space to keep large animals.
7. **Wild foods**: 3 beehives.
Urban Homesteading on .5 Acre

... or Half an Acre

By adding a quarter acre of pasture, you'd be able to keep two or three goats for milk in a heat wave to grow through the summer.
Agricultural Urbanism

Building Types Matrix

This study shows the insertion of dedicated agricultural areas into various lot and building types along the Transect. It is an organizing diagram that moves from the more rural to the more urban, using the single acre as a point of reference.

In reality, a hierarchy of thoroughfares would allow several blocks to be joined depending on the location along the transect.

Illustration of four one-acre blocks, Toonwodden, Canada
Agricultural Urbanism

Studies For One Acre Blocks
Suggested Online Resources:

City Farmer News:
www.cityfarmer.info

Permaculture Activist Magazine:
www.permacultureactivist.net

Urban Agriculture Magazine/ Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture & Food Security (RUAF):
www.ruaf.org/node/101