

September 9th, 2026

Location: Okra Abbey Community Garden (corner of Hickory and Eagle St)

Time: 10am - 12pm, followed by Okra Abbey community lunch

Goals:

- Survey Opportunity: Role of Urban Agriculture in New Orleans' Disaster Food System
- Discuss Citywide Garden Day and Eat Local
- Share updates on the Animal Husbandry Ordinance
- Review Urban Agriculture Purchase Program pitch
- Share updates and generate feedback on Food & Agriculture Plan

Agenda & Notes:

1. **[10:05 - 10:15am] (10 min) Welcome & Intros**
 - a. Names, pronouns, farm/organization, neighborhood
 - b. Okra Abbey history
 - c. Urban Ag Program
2. **[10:15 - 10:20am] (5 min) Survey Opportunities**
 - a. **Role of Urban Agriculture in New Orleans' Disaster Food System** (Maria)
 - b. [Vendor Kitchen Equipment & Facility Needs Survey](#) (Michael)
3. **[10:20 - 10:30am] (10 min) New Orleans Garden & Farm Fest**
4. **[10:30 - 10:40am] (10 min) Animal Husbandry Ordinance Updates**
 - a. Ordinance
 - b. GNOGA outreach effort
 - c. LSU Ag Certification - Small Animal Husbandry (not live yet)
5. **[10:40 - 11:10am] (30 min) Land Access Updates & Discussion**
 - a. **NORA Non-Housing Development Option (NHDO) Auction**
 - i. Auction: Sept 29 8am to Sept 30 12pm
 - ii. Buyers' Session at Dryades YMCA - September 17th 6 - 8PM
 - iii. Sprout hosted NORA Auction Community Conversation on Sept 2
 - b. **Urban Agriculture Land Purchase Program**
 - i. *Sale of Adjudicated Properties (SOAP)*
 - ii. Overview pilot land purchase program
 1. ~10 lots total in the Lower 9, New Orleans East, and Lower Coast Algiers (or possibly Central City)

2. Purchase for title research and clearing costs (~\$5k - 7k)
 3. Application requirements
 4. Compliance and reversion clause
6. **[11:10 - 11:40am] (20 min) Food & Agriculture Plan**
 - a. Website should be live by end of September
 - b. Sprout is hosting focus groups and individual interviews with stakeholders
 - c. **Food system categories - brainstorm stakeholders**
 - i. Preparation & Distribution
 - ii. Land
 - iii. Water
 - iv. Production
 - v. Consumption
 - vi. Food Waste & Recovery
 - vii. Disaster & Disaster Recovery
 - viii. Relational Networks
 - ix. People
7. **[11:40 - 11:55am] (15 min) Soil Health Workshop**
 - a. Collaboration between LSU AgCenter, CPC Urban Agriculture & Brownfield Programs
 - b. **Date: Monday, October 5th 4 - 6:30pm (location tbd)**
8. **[11:55am - 12pm] (5 min) Next Steps**
 - a. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 9th 10am - 12pm

NOTES:

- **Survey Opportunities**
 - Role of Urban Agriculture in New Orleans' Disaster Food System & Response (10 min survey):
https://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9KB6QFCwp3lzk9g
 - If you have questions, email mmunoz6@tulane.edu
 - Growing Local Collaborative (Recirculating Farms, Market Umbrella, NOFPC, Sprout) has gained access to part of the former Dryades Market to use as a commissary kitchen and cold storage.

- **Complete the survey** to help determine how the space is developed to meet growers' needs: [Vendor Kitchen Equipment & Facility Needs Survey](#)
- **New Orleans Garden & Farm Festival (Amy Amos)**
 - **Save the date: Saturday, November 21st all day**
 - Any farms or gardens that want to participate decide the hours they want to be open and any planned activities (food distribution, seed starting, work day, cooking demo, etc...)
 - Amy is creating an app/website that will have a map of all participating gardens/farms, open hours, and activities
 - This will be done in partnership with the Eat Local Campaign (NOFPC), CPC Urban Ag Program, Health Dept, and likely others
 - This is an opportunity to uplift the urban ag community, engage elected officials, and build momentum for city support of urban ag projects
 - Opportunity to have a simple community engagement activity for the City's Food & Agriculture Plan
- **Eat Local Campaign (Samantha)**
 - New Orleans Food Policy Council's local food promotion program
 - Will be collaborating to support the Garden & Farm Fest
- **City Budget and Urban Ag / Food Funding**
 - NOFPC is engaging with Councilmembers and the Mayor's Office to protect funding for both food access programs and urban agriculture
 - Reach out to samantha@nolafoodpolicy.org if you'd like to get involved or learn more
- **[GNOGA - Greater New Orleans Growers' Alliance](#)**
 - **Next meeting: Saturday, October 3rd 1 - 2:30pm at Press Street Gardens**
 - They are actively seeking new people for leadership positions, which are 2 year terms
 - **Email gnoqa.org organizers to get added to the GNOGA listserv!**
 - This is a great community resource. Use the email list to make any garden/farm announcements, make asks for resources for your growing space, or share your extras (mulch, seeds, etc...).
- **Land Access**
 - **NORA Non-Housing Development Option (NHDO) Auction**
 - Find all auction info here: tranzon.com/nora

- [Click here for the NORA Auction Guide for Farmers & Gardeners](#)
 - Map of all available properties for *Non-Housing Development*:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZwSmszLWRjvRV3D27>
- **Urban Agriculture Land Purchase Program**
 - Find the draft program proposal attached and email urbanag@nola.gov with any additional feedback.
- **City Food & Agriculture Plan**
 - There will be a website live in the next month or two!
 - Food system categories - send urbanag@nola.gov any additional stakeholders you think of that we should be engaging for the city's first Food & Agriculture Plan
- **Upcoming Meetings & Events**
 - **NORA NHDO Auction:** <https://tranzon.com/nora>
 - **Buyer's Session**
 - Thursday, September 17th 6 - 8pm at Dryades YMCA
 - **Auction**
 - Opens Tuesday, September 29th at 8am and closes Wednesday, September 30th at 12pm (ONLINE)
 - **SU Ag Extension Breaking the Lending Code Program**
 - Saturday, September 19th 9am - 2pm at Southern University New Orleans Natural Sciences Building (Room 101)
 - Email asha_mcintyre@suagcenter.com for more info
 - **GNOGA Meeting**
 - Saturday, October 3rd 1 - 2:30pm at Press Street Gardens
 - **Edgewood Heights Community Meeting**
 - Saturday, October 10th 2:30 - 4pm at Edgewood Heights Community Garden (2777 Sage St)
 - **New Orleans Garden & Farm Festival**
 - Saturday, November 21st all day at gardens and farms all over the city
 - **Urban Agriculture Working Group Meeting**
 - Wednesday, December 9th 10am - 12pm (location TBD)