

Urban Agriculture Working Group – Agenda

June 24th, 2026

Location: Imbue Farm

11am - 1pm

Goals:

- Land Assessment and Access Updates
 - NORA Non-Housing Development Option (NHDO) Auction
 - CORET - meets July 20
 - Leading Training on July 13 on Land Disposition Process (for city-owned land)
 - Adjudicated Property Task Force - meets July 21
- Urban Agriculture & Food Plan Exercise

Agenda & Notes:

1. Welcome & Intros

- a. Names, pronouns, farm/organization, neighborhood
- b. [Imbue Farm story](#)

2. Land Assessment and Access Updates

a. NORA Non-Housing Development Option (NHDO) Auction

- i. NORA Auction - late September (date tbd)
 1. The final list of lots included in the auction will be made public in mid-August. Keep on eye on NORA's website: <https://noraworks.org/opportunities>
- ii. Auction Guide in process
 1. Sprout and the CPC Urban Agriculture Program is going to publish an auction guide to support farmers & gardeners in early July

b. CORET (City Owned Real Estate Team)

- i. Next meeting: July 20th
- ii. CPC leading a training on the Land Disposition Process for city-owned land (July 13th)
- iii. Consists of various city departments as well as NORA

c. Adjudicated Property Task Force (new)

- i. First meeting: July 21st
- ii. Consists of various city departments as well as NORA
- iii. Adjudicated property: tax delinquent property

3. Urban Agriculture & Food Plan Exercise - Land Access

a. Urban Agriculture & Food Plan Overview

- i. This will be the city's first plan focused on developing policies and programs to support a stronger local food system, with a focus on food production.
- ii. It's a 2 year process that involves lots of community input and policy analysis.
- iii. Food plan categories: Land, Water, Food Production, Preparation & Distribution, Consumption, Food Waste & Recovery, People, Disaster & Disaster Recovery
- iv. Core Planning Committee:
 - 1. City Planning Commission Urban Agriculture Program
 - 2. New Orleans Health Department - food access lens
 - 3. Sprout - focused on community engagement
 - 4. New Orleans Food Policy Council - focused on policy analysis, research, and writing the plan

b. UAFP website should be live by the end of summer

c. Planning Activity

i. Land Leasing

1. How is your current lease agreement?

a. What are good aspects?

- i. Leasing from a non profit that isn't trying to profit (just paying the taxes, \$350/year) - requires liability insurance
- ii. Affordable options
- iii. Leasing from family

b. What needs to be improved?

- i. Lease to own options where sweat equity is considered

- ii. Offering longer term leases for farms/gardens (minimum 10 years). It takes at least 3 years to improve soil quality.
 - iii. Including a requirement that lessor provide notice to vacate at least 1 year before
- 2. Leasing overall is not a secure option for growers because even if it's affordable in the short term. It takes lots of money and labor to install infrastructure (greenhouses, water meters, sheds, etc...) and if you don't own the land, you can invest and then lose it.

ii. Land Ownership

1. Who did you purchase from?

- a. From a private landowner - 6
- b. By tax sale - 3
- c. From city's blighted property program - 2
- d. From Habitat for Humanity - 1

iii. Land Access Program Ideas - what would you be willing to do to participate in a city run land access program?

1. Mow a lot for 12 months before purchase (similar to Mow to Own)

- a. Yes - 116
 - i. Would prefer the name "Grow to Own" or "Beautify to Own"
 - ii. Yes, if the lots were sold for a low enough price.
- b. No - 2

2. Submit a comprehensive business / farm plan

- a. Yes - 14
 - i. As long as it's a simple farm plan that's not binding because plans change once you start stewarding a lot.
 - ii. If it's not an "official business plan" but a basic document stating how I'd intend to use the lot.
 - iii. Within reason because plans/goals change.
 - iv. Would depend on what's required, need more info.

b. Maybe - 1

3. Show proof of funds to develop your project (~\$10k)

a. Yes - 13

- i. \$6k sounds more reasonable.
- ii. Depends on what all you need to show but I do understand the general purpose of this. \$10k is reasonable.
- iii. Recommend a lower threshold, closer to \$5k.
- iv. Yes, if given enough time.
- v. Yes, if funds are correlated to farm plans and not arbitrary.
- vi. Maybe - want to lower the financial barrier to entry.

b. No - 5

- i. No, because I don't grow for profit.
- ii. No, but there should be full transparency about how much it will all cost.
- iii. Should only be required if selling to a business or a for-profit organization, not for community groups.

4. Sign a 10 year lease (rather than a purchase program)

a. Yes - 7

- i. A 10 year lease would be the minimum most growers would be interested in because it takes at least 3 years to start to build healthy soil and lots of investments to get to a good point.
- ii. Only if it includes protections to maintain 2 year notice to vacate and option to extend. It also depends on the cost provisions to not allow developers to come in and buy. It depends on the property.
- iii. Yes, if I had first right of refusal and at least one year to vacate.

b. No - 9

- i. Would want at least a 50 year lease because establishing culturally significant plants requires time to flourish.
 - ii. Only with a lease to own option where I have the right of first refusal *plus* several years notice before ending. A 99 year lease is also ideal.
 - iii. I would like a 99 year lease.
 - iv. Maybe if it was low/no cost with minimal restrictions.
 - v. Would need to be a lease to own program.
 - vi. Would need at least a two year notice of lease termination and ability to transfer lease.
 - vii. Not investing on land I don't own.
- c. Maybe - 2
 - i. Depends on terms (termination, cost, lease length)

5. Require proof of liability insurance (if a leasing program)

- a. Yes - 16
 - i. After / upon signing the lease.
- b. No - 2

6. Show neighborhood support

- a. Yes - 15
 - i. Only for neighbors who live adjacent to the lot.
- b. No - 2
 - i. No, that's a debacle waiting to happen.
- c. Not sure - neighborhood support could be tricky.
Unanimous? A percentage? How do we quantify this?
- d. Maybe - 1

4. Next Steps

- a. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 9th 11am - 1pm