



SIGNATORY PARTNERS

- Too Tall Farm & Nursery
- Green Pepper Solutions
- Faubourg St John Neighborhood Garden
- Garden Gnome Plantscapes
- LSU AgCenter Greater New Orleans
- River Queen Greens
- Recirculating Farms
- Market Umbrella/CCFM
- All You Need Institute
- Fund 17
- Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center
- Birthmark Doula Collective
- Mississippi Farm to School Network
- I Dig It, LLC
- National Black Food & Justice Alliance
- Sunrise Movement New Orleans
- Dig Easy Compost
- For the HortiCulture
- Thrive New Orleans
- Longue Vue House & Gardens
- Common Ground Relief
- New Orleans Youth Alliance
- Carmo
- Mobilizing Millenials
- Together Baton Rouge
- SelfcareU
- Son of a Saint
- Alliance for Affordable Energy
- Grow Dat Youth Farm
- Sugar Roots Farm
- Catalyze Consulting & Productions
- Greengenuity LLC
- Red G's Rock N Tea
- Schmelly's Dirt Farm
- LifeCity, L3C
- The Descendants Project
- Algiers Economic Development Commission
- Popsie and Vivian's

PARTNERS, CONT.

- Louisiana Progress
- Better Future Program
- Sageville Services
- Cicada Calling Farm
- Xavier University of Louisiana
- Grow for Food
- Agile Learning Center of New Orleans
- Tulane Nutrition
- Poche Family Farm
- Healing Nature Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine
- Crown Community Garden
- Delta Flora Native Plants
- Epiphany Throws
- Food Law Counsel
- Policy Films, LLC
- New Orleans Trap Kitchen
- Farming NOLA
- Bell Floricultural Service
- Emily Posner, Attorney at Law
- NewCorp, Inc.
- Ponchatrain Network
- Farmers Market Coalition
- Plant based buddy llc
- The Water Collaborative



LET'S CONNECT



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A
 GREENER
 NEW
 ORLEANS
 POLICY PLATFORM



OUR PLATFORM



On behalf of the Food Policy Action Council of New Orleans, Sprout NOLA, the Greater New Orleans Growers Alliance, our signatory partners, and well over 500 supporters, we have identified the following priority areas for increasing accessibility of urban food production:

- d) Decision matrix for continuation of leases and application acceptance
- e) Allowing the leases to be recorded legally
- f) Allowing appraisal of property value as an agriculture use rather than the highest and best use
- g) Clarifying the process for blight citations and violations

Opportunity for Improvement: The code itself lacks clarity around what is and is not blight, which limits opportunities to reduce infractions pre-citation. This is a particularly salient issue for growers engaging in sustainable and regenerative practices, such as cover cropping, that might look like blight to untrained but well-meaning onlookers. Large amounts of federal funds are being accessed locally to support such practices; we need better alignment between agencies to create a healthy and vibrant urban ecosystem.

Solutions:

- a) Relying on relationship with Urban Agriculture Liaison to help inform when a property is genuinely causing blight or when it looks different than city officials are used to (i.e., cover cropping)
- b) Creating a more fair and transparent process for requiring the removal of blight from urban farms and gardens

URBAN AGRICULTURE LIASON

Current Strengths: We have a vibrant and connected community of farmers and gardeners in New Orleans.

Opportunity for Improvement: Those farmers and gardeners struggle to get the help they need when it comes to interacting with city government and departments. In turn, city departments often do not have policies and procedures in place that would allow staff members to quickly and clearly provide support and answers to growers.

Solutions:

- a) Allowing access for one person to ask questions directly, create recommendations and attend meetings with city officials (such as blight hearings)
- b) This person can be a point of contact for both growers or the city



PLANKS

LAND ACCESS

Current Strengths: NORA's Growing Green Lease program, our flagship public lease-to-own land access program for greenspace, is theoretically a great idea BUT....

Opportunity for Improvement: After 8 years in practice, it is clear that the program is ineffective and needs to be redesigned to work for local growers. We need programmatic changes to help growers move through the process in a timely fashion, secure affordable and reliable long-term land access, and do what they do best- grow food and beauty for our city!

Solutions:

- a) Publishing the steps of the process with clear timelines and additional resources
- b) Harmonizing the lease restrictions with what's allowed under the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance
- c) Allowing the lease payments to be subtracted from the sale price



WATER ACCESS

Current Strengths: Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) does not charge agricultural producers for sewerage on lots/meters used exclusively for irrigation. This prevents growers from paying for sewerage services that they do not access and, ultimately, results in significant cost savings for farmers and gardeners.

Opportunity for Improvement: Unfortunately, this policy is unevenly applied and largely unknown to growers. Many growers do not know how to secure a dedicated meter. Those who do have an agricultural meter are frequently charged for sewerage with no clear process to permanently remove charges.

Solutions:

- a) Having a clear and consistent way to speak to SWB about agricultural meters
- b) Training SWBNO staff on the process of putting in and billing for an agricultural water meter
- c) Having public documentation for the process, including a step-by-step form for getting a dedicated meter

BLIGHT CITATION

Current Strengths: Code Enforcement has a straightforward process and public website for understanding the blight citation process post-citation.