19

WARD 19

URBAN AGRICULTURAL REFORM
IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Cities across the country are updating their codes to encourage the expansion of food production within their boundaries. It is more than just a fad — studies have shown that urban agriculture has the potential to bring many concrete benefits to communities large and small.

How will urban agriculture benefit my community?

ENVIRONMENT

- Increases biodiversity, including provision of habitat for pollinators
- Reduces urban heat island effect
- Increases rainwater drainage, reduces flood risk and groundwater contamination, and replenishes depleted groundwater levels

COMMUNITY

- Provides constructive activity for youth, promoting skill development and alternatives to drug and crime economies, including wage-earning opportunities
- Promotes civic engagement, provides opportunities for socializing and increases residents' pride in their neighborhood

ECONOMY

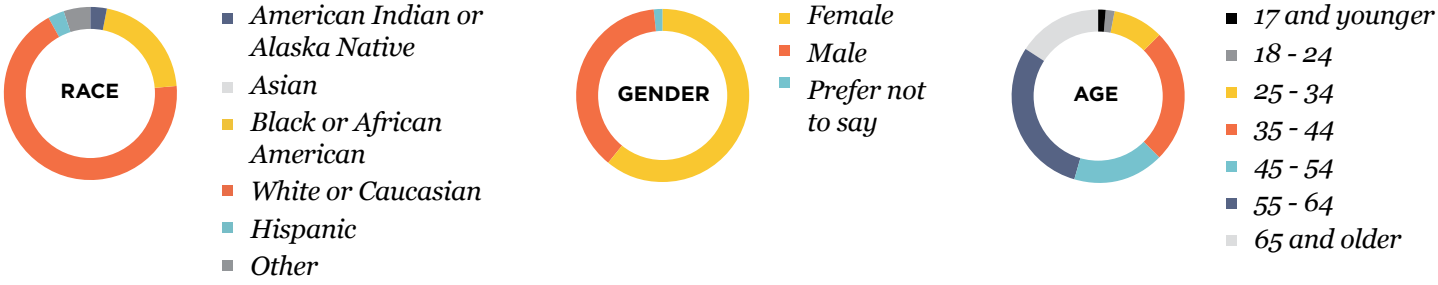
- Has the potential to increase surrounding housing values by as much as 30% through vacant land improvements
- Magnifies community investment: for every $1 "planted" in a garden, the plot will produce $6 worth of harvest in return

St. Louis City Urban Agriculture Survey:

In the summer of 2016, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment conducted a city-wide survey to gauge citizen interest in urban agriculture.

We received 854 responses from 75 of the 79 neighborhoods in St. Louis. 73 of these responses came from neighborhoods across Ward 19.

Who took the survey in Ward 19?



Where do the citizens of Ward 19 stand on urban agriculture?

- **51% OF RESPONDENTS** reported growing vegetables and an additional 15% reported they would like to grow vegetables
- **4 PEOPLE** would like to sell produce from a stand in their yard or a community garden
- **3 PEOPLE** reported raising chickens and an additional 12 people reported they would like to raise chickens
- **1 PERSON** would like to sell eggs from a stand in their yard or a community garden
- **99% OF RESPONDENTS** support using vacant lots in their neighborhood for urban agriculture
- **50% OF RESPONDENTS** are in favor of changing the city code to allow for more chickens. An additional 30% reported they are unsure and want to learn more.
- **59% OF RESPONDENTS** would like to see the city make it easier to acquire land for food production and an additional 31% reported they are unsure and would like to learn more.

What land obstacles did residents report facing?



Contact and affiliation:

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