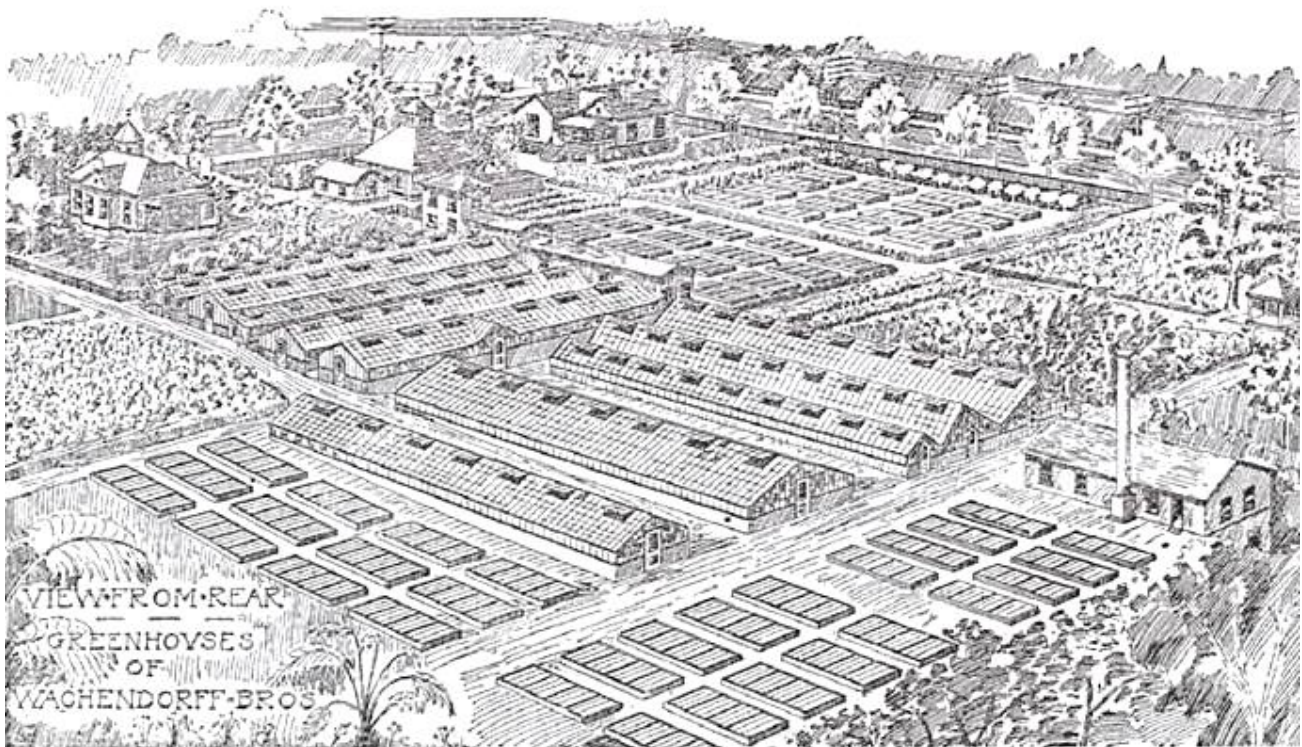


# CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ATLANTA SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD VISIONING WORKSHOP SUMMARY

August 18, 2012

Atlanta Metro Food and Farm Network (AM-FFN ) and Village Habitat Design (VHD) conducted a one day Sustainable Neighborhood Visioning Workshop and post-workshop stakeholder interviews as a preliminary activity of the Choice Neighborhood Food Assessment, a component of the Atlanta Neighborhood Transformation Plan. This activity was sponsored by the Atlanta Housing Authority and Integral Development LLC. The following document provides a summary of the activities. .



Historic Wachendorf Farm - Vine City

# SUMMARY OUTLINE

## Introduction

- Purpose
- Background

## Neighborhood Considerations

- Community Strengths
- Community Concerns
- Community Goals
- Community Requests

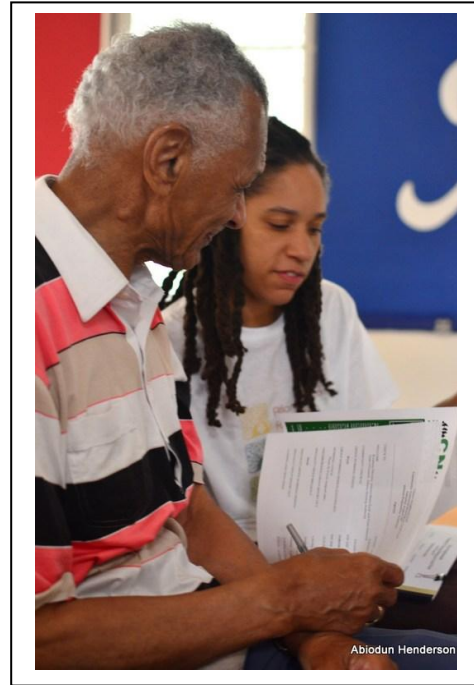
## Mapping Recommendations

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## Appendix

- Charette and Stakeholder Participation



# INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of interactions from the day long charette as well as pre and post charette stakeholder interviews. The charette was conducted on August 18, 2012 at the campus of a local public charter school, Atlanta Preparatory Academy in Vine City. The intent of the charette was to conduct a community visioning session focused on identifying the urban agricultural potential for the Choice Neighborhood Atlanta planning area including three neighborhoods - Ashview Heights, Atlanta University Center, and Vine City.

The day long charette consisted of several educational power point presentations including Choosing to Scale Up, Urban Agricultural Focused Development, Atlanta Preparatory Academy Edible Schoolyards and the Food Commons. The morning work session focused on the Promise and Choice neighborhood areas as a whole while the afternoon session focused on the individual neighborhood sections. Post charette stakeholder meetings were held with key stakeholders that could not attend the charette. The following text provides a summary of these events.

## Purpose

The purpose of this session was to promote urban agriculture and local food systems development (including urban reforestation, farms, gardens orchards and vineyards, edible landscaping and healthy soils and water) as a core foundation of health, quality of life, sustainable local economic development, work-force skill development, celebration of history and culture, relaxation, recreation and general revitalization of the Choice neighborhoods.

## Background

To transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into neighborhoods of opportunity, the public and private sectors must work comprehensively and in concert with the community. The Obama administration's new federal strategy known as the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative is designed to provide the tools to support this, by connecting five agencies to work together.

This unprecedented interagency effort includes the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education (ED), Justice (DOJ), Treasury and Health and Human Services (HHS). At the core of the initiative is HUD's Choice Neighborhoods program, built on the framework of the HOPE VI Program, but focusing on the revitalization of the neighborhood surrounding as a public housing site.

In 2010, the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) was awarded a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to develop a strategy for revitalizing University Homes and the surrounding neighborhoods in West Atlanta. A key element of this plan is the involvement of the four historically black universities that make up the Atlanta University Consortium Center (AUCC) that are located in the heart of this area. These universities include Clark-Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spellman College.

In the same year, Morehouse School of Medicine was awarded a Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the Department of Education to work with the community to develop strategies to improve the quality of education from cradle to career and to improve the community health and wellness.

This community-based initiative depends on the involvement and investment of the City of Atlanta, key agencies, institutions, and partners with the framework built on the community planning efforts through Morehouse School of Medicine's Promise Neighborhoods and Atlanta Housing Authority's Choice Neighborhoods grant programs.

These stakeholders are coming together with students, residents of University Homes and the communities that surround University Homes to re-imagine this distressed neighborhood as a diverse neighborhood for the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

The work has begun in small conversations and in larger public



meetings. Through the Choice Neighborhoods program, AHA, the stakeholders and the community will incorporate the Promise Neighborhood strategies already developed with strategies for neighborhood revitalization that will provide opportunities, resources and an environment that children, youth, and adults need to thrive and lead healthy, productive lives.



The vision will take shape as a Neighborhood Transformation Plan that will become the blueprint for all future

revitalization activities – to create a neighborhood connected by technology and greenways...a neighborhood that includes excellent schools and educational programs; market-quality, safe and affordable housing; thriving commercial establishments; arts and cultural amenities; and parks and other recreational spaces. ([www.cnatlanta.org](http://www.cnatlanta.org)).

The Atlanta Housing Authority has asked Atlanta Metro Food & Farm Network (AM-FFN) along with Village Habitat Design LLC to assess the current and potential range of urban agriculture activity and opportunities within the Choice Neighborhoods Atlanta (CNA) geographic footprint.

The CNA Community Food System Assessment project will provide critical) baseline data for the Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan serving as a tool to:

- assist in building a local food economy,
- improve food security for neighborhood residents,
- provide a source of healthy food,
- create jobs and practical work experience for neighborhood youth
- establish a lasting legacy of sustainability for the CNA initiative.



## NEIGHBORHOOD CONSIDERATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Community Residents who attended the charette and who participated in post-charette interviews indicated the following as their primary considerations for the development of a local food system.

### Community Strengths

- Active civic life and well organized Neighborhoods Planning Units (NPUs)
- Demonstrated wide activity or interest by residents and stakeholder organizations in urban agriculture.
- Significant open land area available for urban gardening and farming.
- Large institutional capacity through wholesale procurement to help support a local food economy (Walmart, AUC & APS schools, senior living facilities, and day care centers).
- High EBT & WIC usage that could support local food based farmers markets.
- Interest by main local developer (Integral Group LLC) and the Atlanta Housing Authority in contributing to the area's urban agriculture network at its property sites.
- Connectivity to the Beltline-based Atlanta Food Commons "Fertile Crescent" local food system development initiative



## Community Concerns

- Lack of fresh food available and as a result there is high incidence of deteriorative diseases including diabetes and cardiovascular disease
- Lack of pedestrian and transit connectivity in the neighborhood, particularly for the elderly and children to facilitate access to fresh foods
- Lack of urban agricultural education that could increase nutritional health awareness and economic development potential.
- Poor environmental health – contaminated water, air and soils
- Public safety concerns
- Universities not connecting well with neighborhoods – minimal communication; Significant historic real estate holdings by colleges and universities not being maintained and are blighted
- Walmart's opening will create a significant traffic impact/congestion due to lack of parking deck and centralized shopping facility
- Not enough business/job opportunities for entry level and mid level (students graduating, raising families)

## Community Goals

After identifying the perceived strengths and weakness of the Choice Neighborhood, residents identified the following goals related to food production. The order in which the goals are articulated here does not reflect a ranking of goal priority by the neighborhood residents.

### Goal 1 - Health

- Improve health for the citizens of the Choice Neighborhoods
  - Reduce the incidence of asthma, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and other diseases
  - Reduce availability of junk food (beer, chips, long shelf life produces), alcohol and tobacco
  - Improve the stability of the family unit through positive community and mentoring influence of gardens and community food programs

### Goal 2 - Food Production

- Create premier gardens the world will want to see



- At full production, the Choice area should be able to produce the majority of vegetables needed by full time residents.
- Improve presence of quality, fresh, affordable food through retail and restaurants. Presently it is difficult for children and seniors to get fresh food access. Seniors are prisoners to garbage food. The lack of fresh foods options accelerates the decline of their health.
  - provide CSA farms and local urban gardens and other fresh food amenities within an easy walking distance.
  - provide neighborhood farmers markets several times per week.
  - provide local neighborhood community dining areas for seniors who don't take the time to prepare fresh food or can no longer prepare food.
  - coordinate with senior centers to make sure fresh foods are used.
  - persuade existing convenience stores to be inclusive of fresh and healthy foods alternatives
  - leverage school, college and church food management facilities for farm/garden food production



### Goal 3 - Food Access

- Improve access to quality/fresh, affordable food from retail and restaurants.
  - provide a “food/farm mobile” particularly for the elderly
  - provide fresh vegetables and prepared foods to the door for seniors that still cook and those that don't cook (example – bicycle cart soup deliveries as a start up business)

### Goal 4 - Pedestrian Connectivity

- Improve walk and shuttle access to community food sources (approximately 65% of residents are dependent on walking and public transportation)
- Create vital walk routes that are beautiful and have historic merit. (Weave gardens, historic places/buildings, parks, neighborhood organizations and value added businesses along walk routes. High profile example - High Line Walk in New York City.)

### Goal 5 - Urban Agricultural Education (“Horticultural Literacy”)

- Increase access to urban agricultural education (from entry level to higher education)
  - Start at elementary schools and it will affect economic development





## **Goal 6 - Neighborhood Assets**

- Support community assets – schools and parks
- Re-enforce historic preservation
- Increase level of personal ownership and pride
- Increase self determination (gardens can offer the “hand back” for self determination)
- Create advocacy focus around parks

## **Goal 7 - Intergenerational Community**

- Maintain an intergenerational community and facilitate aging in place

## **Goal 8 - Inter-community Networking**

- End isolation – connect/volunteer/grandparents to kids
- Connect with Seniors – they are the “backbone” of the community – know many things about gardening,
- Facilitate university and neighborhoods working on projects together – involve students and focus on key urban agricultural projects on college and university campuses – connect with their offices of community services. Residents reach out.

## **Goal 9 - History**

- Respect History
- Restore blighted historic buildings such as Pascal’s
- Play up the history of specific areas
  - Dean Rusk history
  - Civil Rights Streets: Play up concept (only area in the Country. Streets include Abernathy, Lowery, Atlanta Student Movement Blvd., MLK, Joseph E. Boon, Donald Holloway.
  - Streets: Maple, Chestnut, Oak, Elm, Magnolia, etc.

## **Goal 10 - Affordable Housing**

- maintain affordable long term housing
  - form a land trust, land bank properties and reduce long term market rate inflation
  - provide cottage(s) and accessory dwelling units adjacent to gardens and urban farms for farmer and intern housing

## **Goal 11 - Environmental Health**

- Improve environmental health
  - Eliminate and clean up dumping of waste (tires, paint cans, etc.)
  - Improve water quality
  - Improve soil quality (assess brownfield sites)
  - Improve environmental quality of housing (molds, etc.)



## **Goal 12 - Beautification/ Landscapes**

- Increase beautification (beautification affects the subconscious)
  - Increase aesthetic level of homes and landscapes
  - Create aesthetic gardens, edible landscape and plant trees along public path ways

- Develop aesthetic guidelines/education to insure that multiple gardens enhance the beauty and desirability of the neighborhood

### **Goal 13 - Public Safety**

- Increase public safety
- Eyes on the street (urban gardens and farms will create more “eyes on the street”
- Cops interactive program (if you see it tell it)
- Combat drug use – re-enforce healthy habits

### **Goal 14 - Local Economic Development**

For now, many residents need simple help with things like how to develop and manage a small/micro business – how to market themselves, how to deal with liability (how to get “un-stuck” and step up one more level). Lack of these opportunities leads to the criminal justice system. Possibilities include:

- Urban farm, garden production and roof top gardens, (Mims Park has the potential to be a major destination/economic engine/offer entrepreneurship opportunities)
- Value added products
- Small businesses – small engine repair, green building/energy, etc.
- Historic tourism/ecotourism/agri-tourism – Garden/art gallery/information center
- Need a mix of entry level and mid-level businesses/jobs
- Empower students with opportunities before and after they graduate
- When enough farm/garden examples get out there a critical mass will be reached to move the economic food system forward

### **Community Requests**

During the charette, residents requested the following items be addressed through future studies that are part of either the food assessment process or future planning efforts.

- Identify and prioritize properties for land banking and land trust
- Identify several start up projects and participating stakeholders
- Identify zoning and master planning strategies
- Identify brown field sites where gardens cannot be sited or where remediation will be required before agricultural use.
- Identify irrigation strategies
- Identify contractors that work with the Atlanta Development Authority
- Develop an urban agricultural jobs and business promotion program
- Identify potential program funders
- Get substantive plan to the Mayor of Atlanta
- Initiate next steps to develop a curriculum connected to neighborhood projects to take to schools
  - Connect with trade schools
  - Extend to summer internships. Dekalb/Fulton students currently have intern programs available.
  - Identify fellowships where farmers could work with adolescents and young adults
  - Focus on children and young adults 10-20 years old



## MAPPING RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants in the charette and post - charette reviews identified key goals for specific agricultural land applications and locations for opportunity anchor areas to catalyze urban agricultural development. These were refined and are represented in the next sections entitled Food/Land Assessment, Urban Agricultural Opportunity/Anchor Areas and Urban Agricultural Centered Development.



## Preliminary Food/Land Area Assessment

Unused and vacant land within the Choice footprint is the foundation upon which the Community Food system can be built. The yellow areas on the map (undeveloped lots and deteriorated properties) show the locations of greatest opportunities for future community or market gardens and urban farms. The maps also locate existing food system components in four categories: 1) food retail/grocery store, 2) food facility (restaurant or fast food), 3) food facility (university, school or senior development cafeteria) and 4) community gardens/institutional farms. Table 2 indicates there is a total of 168 acres of open land (vacant land and park land) and deteriorated property areas in the Choice Neighborhood Atlanta area. If an average of 20% to 30% of that land is preserved for urban agriculture that would total approximately 30 to 50 acres. This acreage could be developed as a combination of several larger urban farms, greenhouse production areas and a variety of large to small infill gardens. If more land is preserved as greenspace for urban agriculture, this total could be increased.

**Table 2, Acreage of Available Land**

Neighborhood	Vacant Land (Acres)	Park Land (Acres)	Deteriorated/Dilapidated Properties		Total Land (Acres)
			(Parcels)	(Acres)	
Vine City	71	1	35	5	77
Ashview	26	6	36	4.4	36.4
AUC	48	4	15	2	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>167.4</b>

Assessment of vacant and distressed made by Urban Collage windshield survey conducted during Summer 2011

Additional land for cultivation could be available on existing non-deteriorated properties and on institutional properties such as churches, schools and senior centers. As a preliminary estimate, one acre of property can

provide up to 100 persons with the majority of their fresh produce needs. **The needs of 2500 to 5000 residents in the Choice area therefore could be provided through the cultivation of 50 cultivated acres.** This is equivalent to about ¼ to ½ of the population of the Choice area as shown in Table 3. Additional food needs could be met using residential front and back yard areas or through institutional gardens.

<b>Table 3 Population, Households and Household Size<sup>1</sup></b>			
Neighborhood	Population	Number of Households	Average Household Size
Vine City	2818	1200	2.47
Ashview Heights	2266	1085	2.43
AUC	6414	768	2.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>11498</b>	<b>3053</b>	

It is critical to locate the appropriate types of gardens and urban farms in optimal areas in the neighborhoods and manage them so they are aesthetically pleasing and a rich complement to the neighborhoods. An urban agricultural planning overlay can identify appropriate and optimal land use zones and standards to insure that this objective is met.

### Potential Urban Agricultural Businesses and Employment Opportunities

Urban agricultural development of up to 50 acres of urban land in the Choice Neighborhood area will yield direct work opportunities in four main sectors: urban agricultural production, secondary food products (value added), education/Agro-tourism and local food research. The following are very preliminary goals/estimates for part /full time job creation in those sectors based on 50 acres of urban agricultural production. These estimates will required further refinement as the planning process continues.

- Agricultural production: 2 – 4 persons per acre: 100 – 200
- Secondary food products/value added: approx. 20 – 50
- Education/Agri-tourism:  
1.5 persons per major urban agricultural site  
(20 sites): 30
- Local Food Research – secondary food products: 20

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Total: approximately

**170 – 300 employment/work opportunities**

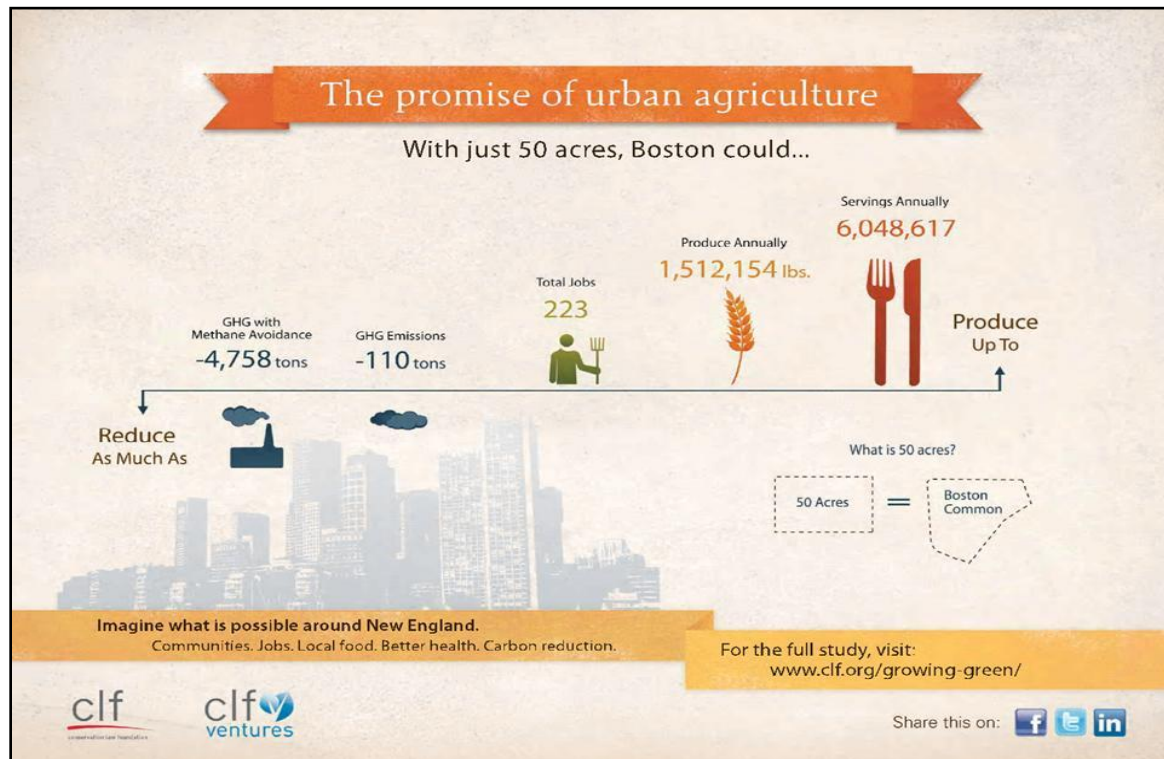
These goals/estimates represent the direct work opportunities. It is difficult to assess the economic benefits stimulated in other sectors as well as the general impact on the community member's well-being in areas such as health, community involvement, crime reduction, and economic well-being. Factors such as a community's

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<sup>1</sup> "2010 Census." *2010 Census*. U.S Census Bureau, n.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2012.  
<<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>>.

increased usage of local transportation, their reduced energy use, and their improved knowledge base (with a specific focus on sustainability issues) are real benefits to the community but are even more difficult to capture scientifically.

The development of an agricultural overlay with an assessment of specific stakeholder categories in the Choice Neighborhoods is the next step towards refining the scope of cultivation and economic development potential for urban agriculture in the Choice Neighborhoods



## Urban Agriculture Opportunity Areas

The Choice Neighborhood was further surveyed to identify potential locations for specific urban agriculture opportunities. During this survey, existing urban agriculture related land uses as well as vacant and park land identified in the previous section were areas of key focus. The first review of existing agricultural land uses focused on four categories: 1) food retail/grocery store, 2) food facility (restaurant or fast food), 3) food facility (university, school or senior development cafeteria and 4) community gardens/institutional farms. These four classifications alone represented the bulk of the current food system uses in the Choice Neighborhood.

In identifying opportunities however, additional classifications we renamed/determined to encompass a greater range of food system components. The following food area classifications will be applied to new opportunities identified in the Choice Neighborhood Atlanta area.

**UA – GEL:** Urban Agriculture - Garden and Edible Landscaping

- Infill community or market gardens and fruiting plants that are designed to permanently or temporarily occupy the many vacant lots and undeveloped parcels that are prevalent throughout the CNA area.

**UA – STPEL:** Urban Agriculture - Street Tree Planting and Edible Landscaping



- Urban forestry features designed to provide shade for pedestrians and street beautification, as well as contributing to the community food shed.

**UA – CD:** Urban Agricultural/Green Space Centered Development

- Development that integrates urban agriculture with mixed use oriented housing community development focusing on the preservation of agricultural and other green space related areas to enhance the activities, health and quality of life of the future residents

**UA – FAS:** Urban Agriculture - Farm at School

- Campus based projects for grade schools that are larger than a typical garden (an acre or more in scale) and designed to serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood as well the school community.

**UA – C/MG:** Urban Agriculture - Community/Market Gardens

- Urban agriculture projects that are typically located on less than an acre of land and designed to be used by residents for household consumption or by entrepreneurs for commercial food production purposes.

**UA – TUF:** Urban Agriculture- Temporary Urban Farm

- Urban agriculture projects that are typically located on an acre or more of land which is designed as a Phase 1, temporary for profit or non-profit commercial food production enterprise until a phase II urban agricultural-centered development occurs

**UA – UF:** Urban Agriculture - Urban Farm

- Urban agriculture projects that are typically located on an acre or more of land and designed for a for profit or non-profit commercial food production enterprise

**UA – CD:** Urban Agriculture - Urban Agricultural-Centered Development

- A development designed with local food production as its focus that preserves 20% - 80% of the green space on the site for a large garden, urban farm, orchard, and/or urban forest.

**UA – FH:** Urban Agriculture - Food Hub

- A multipurpose food processing and distribution center, alternately serving as a micro-hub within a walkable neighborhood foodshed or a larger hub for several neighborhoods with external transportation connections

**UA-FG:** Urban Agriculture - Food Grocery/Retail

- A fresh food retail facility ranging from seasonal farm stands, farmers markets and convenience stores and to larger retail grocery outlets

**UA - FR:** Urban Agriculture - Food Restaurant

- A farm to table café or restaurant

**UA – PCW:** Urban Agriculture - Pond, Cistern or Well

- An irrigation source for gardens or urban farms, particularly designed for drought contingencies.

## Identification of Anchor Areas

In order to help stimulate the imagination of Choice Neighborhood Atlanta stakeholders regarding the possibilities of an improved community food system, “Anchor Areas” were identified.

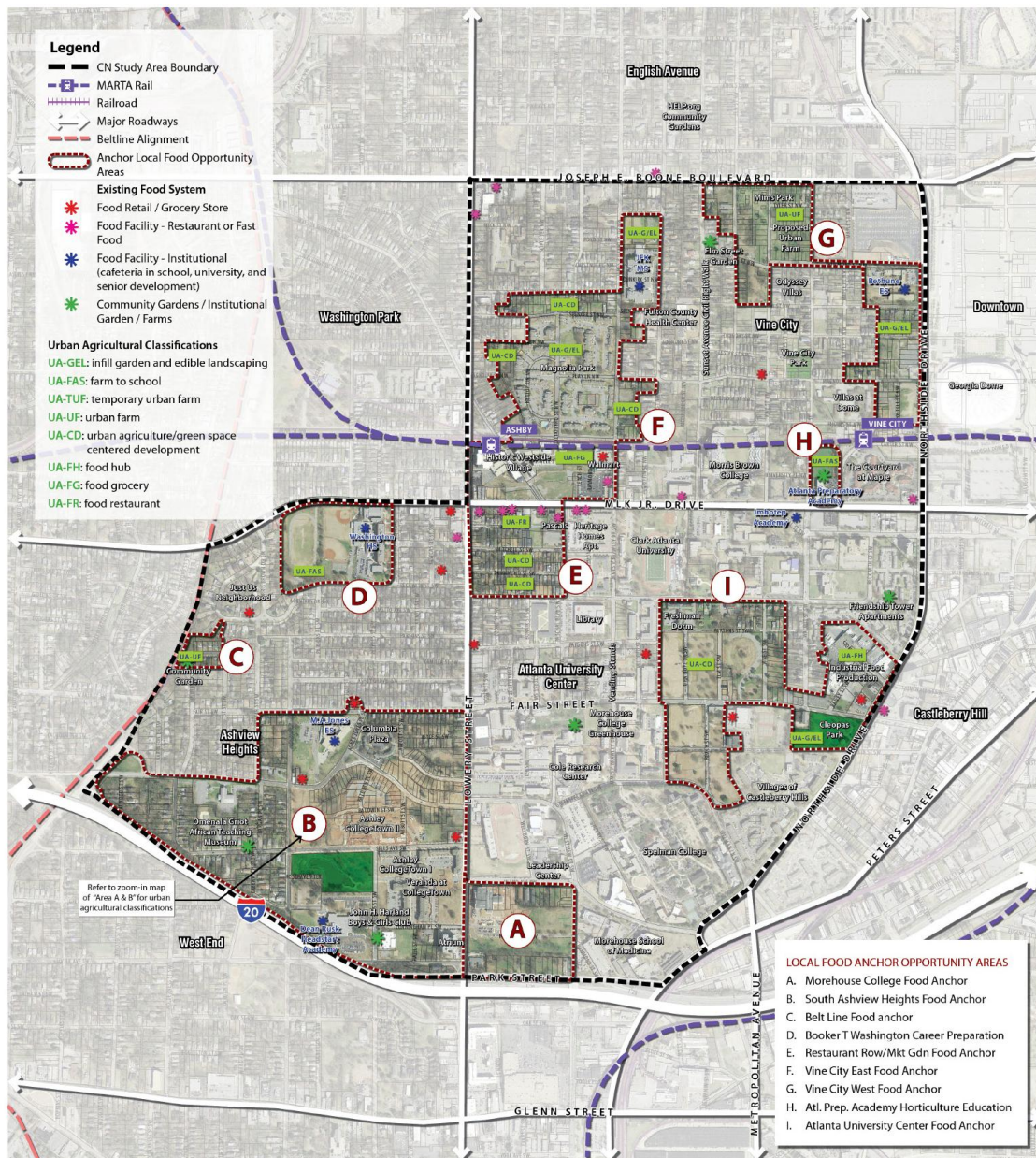


Figure 7

## Choice Neighborhoods Atlanta, Local Food Anchor Opportunities Areas

These anchors concentrate a variety of opportunities in a relatively compact footprint providing a network of key urban agricultural connections and applications within a small space. Within each of these Anchor Areas we found a significant number of parcels to be appropriate sites for urban agricultural uses. These included farms and their supporting infrastructure, institutional gardens that could serve as learning/mentoring opportunities for schools, food facilities and food retailing locations. Many of these Anchor Areas could serve as a node (production, food facility, education or agri-tourism) or food hub in a greater CNA community food system.

These food anchors could also stimulate and connect to other sustainable sectors such as transportation (walk/bike and transit friendly), culture and seasonal celebrations, historic tourism, green space initiatives, street beautification projects. The development of these Anchor Areas can enhance quality of life while providing a full working community food system that celebrates the past and connects it to a sustainable future.

The food area classifications identified above as well specific Anchor Area locations are identified for each of the three neighborhoods in the maps below. Figure 7, Local Food Anchor Opportunity Areas shows the nine proposed anchor areas within the Choice Neighborhood footprint.

### ***Anchor Area A – Morehouse College***

Located to the West of the Morehouse School of Medicine and South of the Morehouse Leadership Center, this anchor area is ideally located to continue the work that the Morehouse College Community Revitalization Initiative has undertaken. We identified the open land to the east of the Morehouse College Center of Arts as an appropriate location for urban agriculture green space entered development. More specific urban agricultural opportunities might include community gardens, urban farm, composting facilities as well as preventative medicine research and education gardens.

The gateway to the Morehouse College Anchor Area is on Joseph L. Lowery at the I-20 access ramp. Gateways provide opportunities for developing garden district themes such as integrated street tree and edible landscaping plantings.

### ***Anchor Area B – South Ashview Heights***

Anchor B provides an intersection of opportunities for urban agriculture; it is veritable neighborhood food hub. We identified the following urban agriculture opportunities for this anchor:

- Ten potential locations for urban agriculture/green space centered development.
- Five potential locations for infill gardens with edible landscaping
- A farm to school site at M.A. Jones elementary school

At the center of the anchor are several large open parcels that are ideal for a temporary or permanent urban agricultural-centered farm. Other advantages are the proximity of these parcels to a park, one or more buildings either vacant or in need of revitalization. Existing institutions such as the Dean Rusk Head Start Academy, the John Harland Boys and Girls Club, the Veranda Senior Center, the Omenala Griot Museum and the M.A. Jones Elementary School are ideal sponsoring organizations for infill gardening, edible landscaping and community gardens. Gateways to the South Ashview Heights Anchor are at the intersection of Sells Avenue and Joseph E. Lowery Blvd, intersection of Atlanta Student Movement Blvd (formerly Fair Street) and Joseph E. Lowery Blvd just north of I-20. We have proposed street planting and edible landscaping along two of main arteries, Sells Avenue and Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. This anchor has the potential to serve as the core of a full neighborhood food system. Figure 8 locates local food opportunities in Anchor Areas A and B.





**Figure 18 Local Food Anchor Areas A & B**

### Anchor Area C. – Beltline

Located on the Beltline; Anchor C is a “farm gateway” into the Choice Neighborhoods. This food anchor is comprised of an planned urban farm site and several, smaller, contiguous vacant parcels. Nearby deteriorated properties can also be converted to beneficial garden/farm initiatives. The figure to the left provides an expanded view of Anchor Area C.

### Anchor Area D – Washington High School

Washington High School has the potential to be the center of the Ashview Heights farm to school activities, providing the foundation for community horticultural education and local food career development for its students. It currently houses a culinary program and has areas on its campus that would be ideal for a demonstration garden and research greenhouse. Links to the AUC schools could be further developed as a pathway to



local food industry professional workforce tracking. The figure to the left provides an expanded view of Anchor Area D.

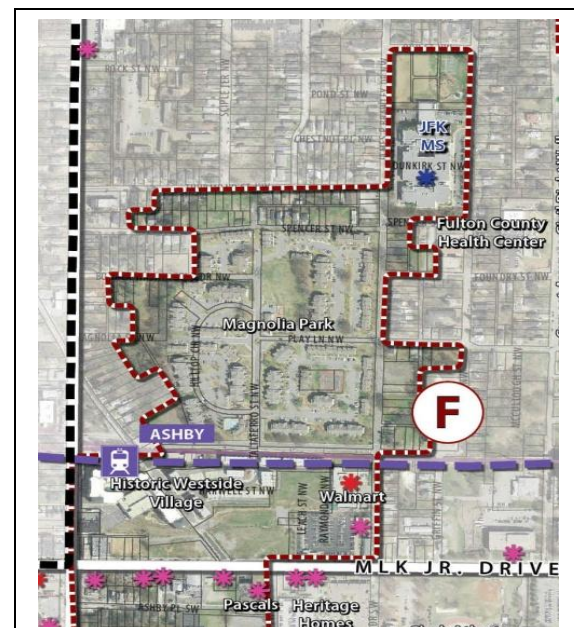
### ***Anchor Area E – Martin Luther King Restaurant Row***

By incorporating market gardens, this Anchor has the potential to provide farm at table restaurant experiences at the numerous eating establishments lining Martin Luther King Drive heading east from the Lowery Street intersection. We have also identified housing south of MLK in this area as locations for potential urban agriculture-centered development.



### ***Anchor Area F – Vine City West***

Food Anchor F is centered on Magnolia Park connected to former JFK Middle School with considerable potential resources to the North and Historic Westside Village to the South with the future Walmart scheduled to come open in January 2013, offering a large scale procurement opportunity for local urban farmers through a neighborhoods food hub that could achieve the necessary economies of scale.



### ***Anchor Area G – Vine City East***

Vine City East has a rich foundation of urban agriculture with the Historic West Side Gardens, the future Planned Mims Park Urban Farm, as well as numerous community gardens in the area. These garden and farm initiatives lie in close proximity to Bethune Elementary School creating an excellent opportunity for educational and mentoring links. See the following page for an expanded view of Anchor Area G.



### **Anchor Area H – Atlanta Preparatory Academy Horticulture Education**

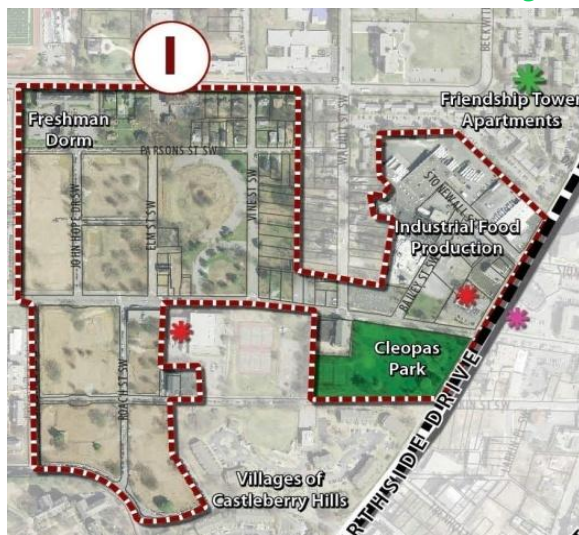
As Washington High School does for Ashview Heights, Atlanta Preparatory Academy has the potential to be the center of the Vine City farm to activities. In this case however, farm to school initiatives will focus on curriculum appropriate to elementary school students through the Edible Schoolyard model. Additionally, Atlanta Preparatory Academy has committed itself to local food system leadership with plans for a Community Urban Farm Permaculture Orchard on its campus. The figure to the right provides an expanded view of Anchor Area H.



school

and  
right

### **Food Anchor I – Atlanta University Center**



The large land area at the heart of the Atlanta University Center has the potential for becoming a state of the art farm/garden centered educational and cultural park centered development. Also, its connection to the nearby industrial food production center creates key possibilities for a neighborhood food hub and gateway to the community food system. The figure to the left provides an expanded view of Anchor Area I.

## **Local Food System Connectivity**

Attendees at the Neighborhood Visioning Workshop estimate that sixty percent of the Choice Neighborhood residents rely on walking, bicycling or public transit for transportation. Youth and the elderly rely even more on these means of transportation. It is critical that connectivity considerations within the Choice Foodshed address these types of access.

It is important to develop a friendly, aesthetic and safe pedestrian and bicycle route and shuttle that circuits through the Choice Neighborhoods. Bicycle routes and a Choice neighborhood shuttle can also be a wonderful tool for historic and agri-tourism threading the walkable food sheds, neighborhood civil rights and historic districts together. Agri-tourism visitors on bicycles or on the shuttle to the Choice Neighborhoods will bolster the demand for local unique food products and cultural, educational and recreational events.



The bicycle, shuttle and transit connections provide linkages that connect the food anchors (see diagrams below) within the Choice neighborhood. Pedestrian, bicycle, shuttle and transit linkages provide the most efficient community transportation infrastructure for food access and urban agricultural connectivity and reduce the cost and impacts of congested automobile usage.



## Bicycle, Shuttle and Transit Linkages

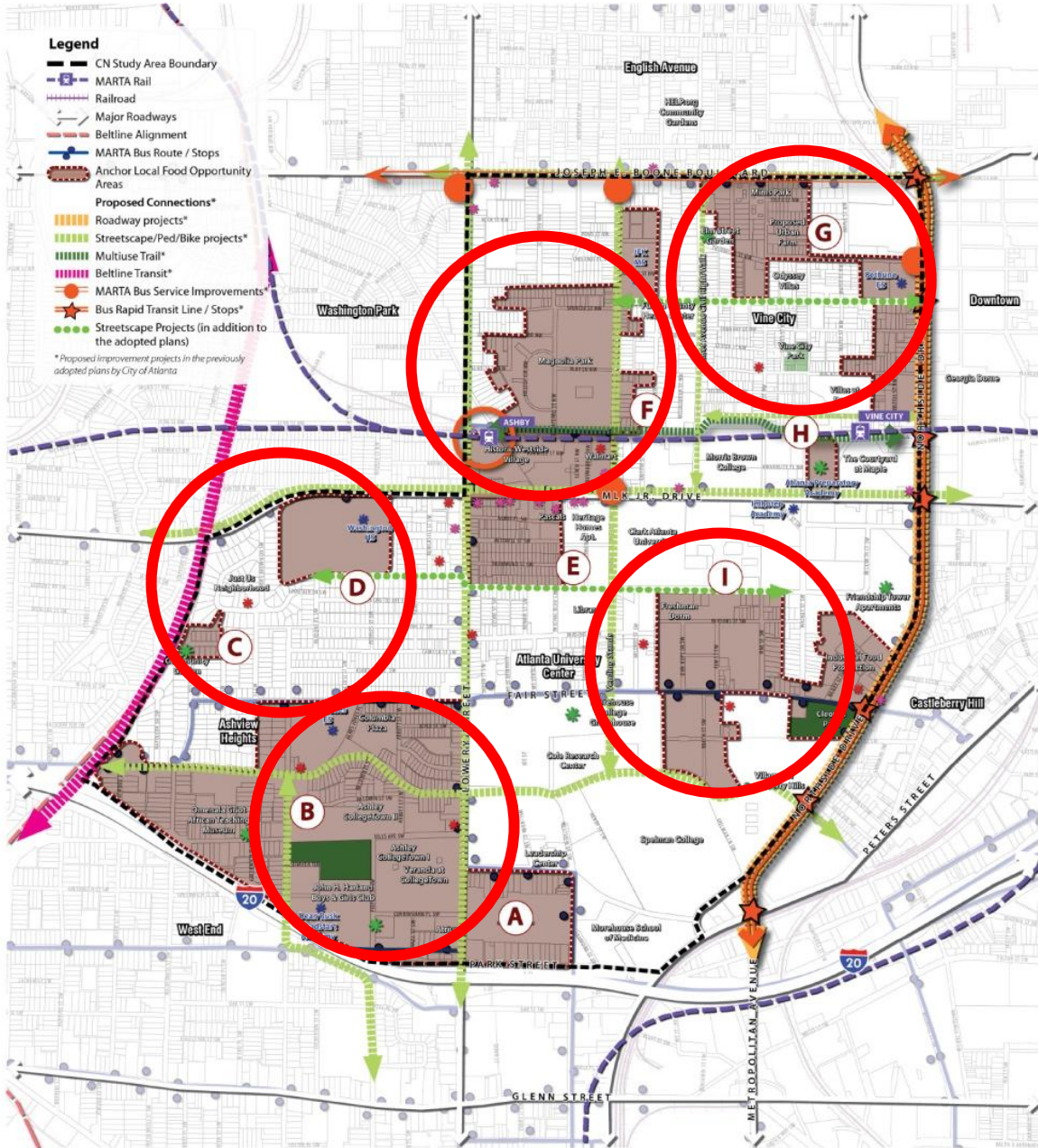
1/2 – 1 mile radius area is suitable for recreational walking, bicycle, shuttle and transit linkages providing food access and urban agricultural connectivity between neighborhood food anchors.

The most convenient and community friendly access within the neighborhood food anchor areas is walking, which requires locating food systems such that residents can reach them within an 1/8 mile to a maximum of ¼ mile walk. This is illustrated in the Choice Neighborhoods Atlanta, Pedestrian Foodshed Diagram. These areas are particularly viable for the development of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiatives in which residents in the walkable food sheds can invest directly in gardens, urban farms and post harvest/food processing facilities. In addition this easy walking access allows residents to become more invested in the gardens and urban farms and to increase the benefits of the gardens and urban farm through regular visits other than for food needs. In addition they benefit from an active walking lifestyle permitting them to walk to urban farm based job opportunities, neighborhood farmers markets, community gathering facilities, cultural, recreational and educational events. These walking access opportunities re-enforce the community participation keeping residents connected on a daily basis and reduce crime and vacancy.



*Adults and Children walk and bicycle in East Lake Commons to pick up fresh vegetables and fruits from the neighborhood farm*

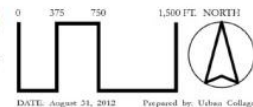




## LOCAL FOOD ANCHOR CONNECTIONS

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS - COMMUNITY FOOD ASSESSMENT

Atlanta Metro Food and Farm Network in partnership with Atlanta Housing Authority



DATE: August 21, 2012 Prepared by: Urban College

### Pedestrian Food Shed

A pedestrian food shed is a 1/8 – 1/4 mile radius walking distance area for children, adults and seniors to have easy walkable access to their neighborhood farm gardens, farm to table café's and restaurants, grocery stores, post harvest/food processing facilities and farm based cultural, recreational and educational events and facilities.





## CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ATLANTA

### Urban Agriculture Centered Development

UA-CD (urban agricultural/green space centered development) is development that integrates urban agriculture with mixed use oriented housing community development focusing on the preservation of agricultural and other green space related areas to enhance the activities, health and quality of life of the future residents. UA-CD development does not necessarily reduce the quantity of housing that may be placed on a site. It simply re-arranges the design priorities so that key areas are preserved for gardens urban farms, ponds and woodland areas first and then the housing is designed to “frame” and focus on those areas.

UA-CD applications can range from small infill applications (3 or more vacant lots) or may be applied to the largest combination of tracts/parcels in the neighborhood. Housing applications may vary from several cottages with a community garden to several hundred units with a mix of housing types and an urban or CSA farm, farm to restaurant and grocery and food hub.

Typical zoning applications for UA-CD development include a cottage community ordinance or planned development ordinance. UA – CD communities hold their value well as the views and access onto the urban gardens, farms and woodlands are highly prized. Pricing of housing can vary though a mixed income approach is recommended. Cottage communities or a mix of cottages is recommended to address affordable housing access.

Management of the gardens, urban farm and other green space resources is integral to the project to maintain long-term aesthetic viability. Green space preserved for urban agriculture, ponds and woodlands may vary from 20 – 80 % depending on the density of housing required and whether the land is owned by a community institution or a private entities





## Cottage Housing and Gardens/Farms

There are an increasing number of examples of Urban Agricultural Centered Development. One local example among others is East Lake Commons (ELC) which was developed in the in late 90's and has operated as a very successful development/urban farm for nearly 15 years. ELC preserved over 50% of the developable green space by offsetting buildings into the areas that were not as conducive for the farm or wildlife habitats. It has a pond as well as a well to fill the pond during drought periods. The farm is operated as a neighborhood CSA (community supported agriculture) enterprise. This means that the residents of the 67 homes in the neighborhood own and

lease the land to a farmer, long term and in return receive farm produce subscriptions during the growing seasons. In addition, the farm hosts numerous festivals as well recreational and educational events such as internships and summer camps. Surplus produce is sold at a local farmers market and restaurants.

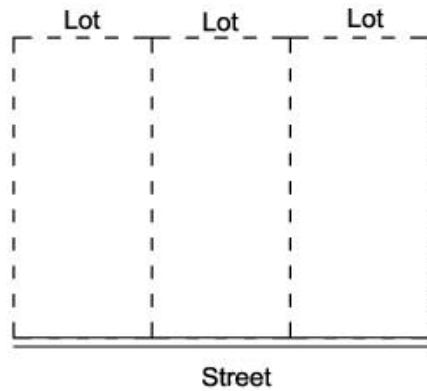


Lampkin Street Cottages – Atlanta Georgia

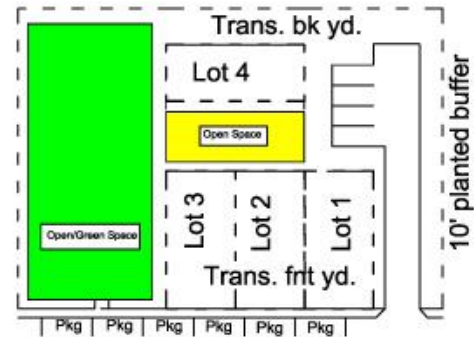


East Lake Commons CSA Farm Garden “Gaia Gardens” – Atlanta Georgia

The following are examples of Urban Agricultural Centered Developments applications ranging from 3 lots to large urban parcels that can be applied to deteriorated properties, existing open parcels and foreclosed

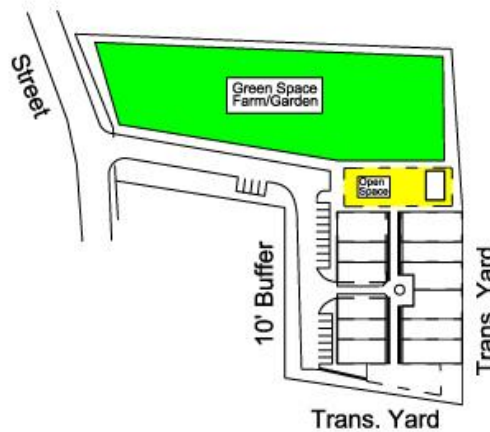
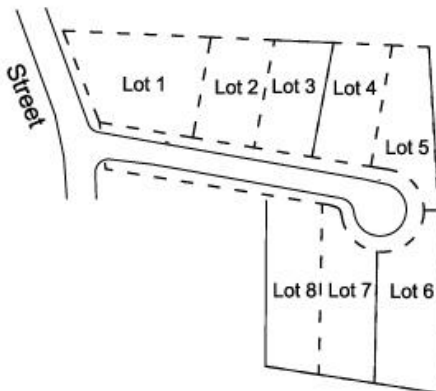


subdivisions.



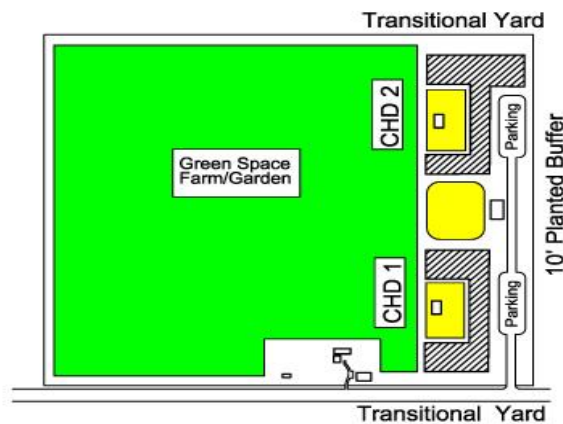
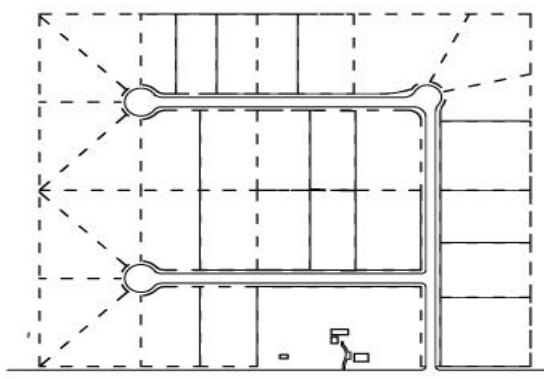
**Conventional Subdivision Layout**

**Cottage Garden Community Layout**



**Conventional Subdivision Layout**

**20% - 50% Green Space/Garden Preserve Layout**



**Conventional Subdivision Layout**

**50% - 70% Green Space/Urban Farm Preserve Layout**