

Farming in the City

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Image Credit: Ron Cogswell

Image Caption: Rooftop Urban Farm (IL) — “Farms Around the World” Outdoor Exhibit at the U.S. Botanic Garden SW Washington (DC) (November 29, 2021 — Flickr) CC-BY 2.0

Did you know that CCC has an Urban Agriculture Program and also a Horticulture Program where students can hone their farming and gardening skills?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines Urban agriculture as providing fruits and vegetables and other food to urban dwellers. From GlennArt Farm in Austin to South Chicago Farm to The Talking Farm in Skokie, urban farms provide experiences and teaching to interested people with green thumbs. Climate changes affect everyone and urban farms help to mitigate extreme temperature changes. Urban agriculture provides gardeners with opportunities to grow new crops for their families and neighbors.

Food deserts and food swamps in Chicago will be dented by Urban Agriculture. Fresh fruits and fresh veggies will be loved by residents. Food deserts are where fresh food is not available. Urban agriculture can help.

A good example of Urban Agriculture is the Urban Growers Collective (UGC), based on Chicago’s South Side. UGC, a Black and woman-led non-profit, has eight urban farms on 11 acres of land, mostly on the South Side, according to their website. “New pathways to health [are being made] that empower neighbors and communities to shape their own wellbeing...23,000 pounds of crops [were] harvested across UGC’s farm sites [in 2023].” UGC is on the CCC Urban Agriculture Advisory Board.