A Farmer and Librarian’s Perspective on Urban Agriculture: What the Urban Farmer Needs from Public Policy

Barbara J. Strauss
Cleveland State University, b.strauss@csuohio.edu

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A Farmer and Librarian’s Perspective on Urban Agriculture: What the Urban Farmer Needs from Public Policy
• Finding land in the city is a daunting task
• Finding the owner and getting permission to use the land is a challenge
• It takes a lot of imagination

• DSCDO helped us navigate the process of getting permission to use abandoned and land bank lots
• We supported DSCDO’s effort to get land zoned as urban garden district
• DSCDO supported our application to apply to the Reimagining Cleveland program
• We improved the condition of the land as a sign of our stewardship
• County-wide efforts explored use of vacant land
• How many years will the land be available?
• How many years will it take for the garden to mature?

• We started using vacant land in 2006, by 2010 we signed a 5 year lease with the City for agricultural use.
• We have reconfigured the garden every year. This is the last year!
LICENSE
FOR USE OF CITY PROPERTY
Re-imaging Cleveland Project Number: 44, Agriculture

THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into this 30th day of June, 2010 ("Effective Date") by and between the City of Cleveland, a municipal corporation and political subdivision duly organized and validly existing under the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio ("City"), and

Barbara Strauss

his/her/their employees, agents, contractors, successors and assigns (Collectively the "Licensee").

RECITALS:

A. Section 183.16 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976 authorizes the Director to issue a license to enter upon and to perform limited activities on certain City-owned property.

B. Licensee has submitted a grant application (attached as Exhibit A) to the Re-Imagining Cleveland Grant Program (the "Program"), a collaborative grant and technical assistance program of the Cleveland Community Development Department and several partnering non-profit organizations aimed at increasing land reuses on vacant Cleveland Land Bank lots.

Licensee's grant application has been approved, and Licensee has made a five year commitment
• Is the soil safe?
• What is the condition of the soil?
• What is beneath the top few inches?

• Testing the soil is an essential step
• Building up the soil through composting was our strategy – composting from local restaurants (every week, year round for six years)
• Using a raised bed strategy provides efficiencies
• The result? Lovely, friable soil! Priceless!
Where is the access to water?
What are the seasonal constraints to using city water?
What will water access cost?
How much equipment is needed to access the water?

Progress was made to allow market gardener to get a permit to use a hydrant
The season is May through October
In the past the permit was $92
• What are the market goals for the business?
• Where is the market?
• What are the constraints imposed by the government?

**Mission Statement:** EcoVillage Produce brings the bounty of fresh vegetables and herbs from the urban garden to your kitchen.

**Business Philosophy:** This business is based on the notion that people in our urban neighborhood can produce quality food products, use and improve the quality of neighborhood land, create personal relationships in the neighborhood, and increase personal financial well-being. It’s all about people and food!
Sustainability Research Guide for the CSU Community
Sustainability Research Guide for the CSU Community

Accessible from the Library’s homepage:

http://library.csuohio.edu/

Or, through the list of Research Guides:

http://researchguides.csuohio.edu/sustainability

This Sustainability Research Guide has been developed by librarians Diane Kolosionek and Barbara Strauss to support Cleveland State University's initiative to incorporate sustainability into teaching, learning, and research.
Common Reading selection at CSU for the 2012/2013 academic year

Michael Pollan’s
*In Defence of Food: an Eater’s Manifesto*