

## Urban Ag Ordinance Summary - July 2011

1. Establishes a definition for Community Gardens under the Parks & Recreation use category.

**17-17-0103-F Parks and Recreation.** Recreational, social, or multi-purpose uses typically associated with public parks, public open spaces, public play fields, public or private golf courses, or public recreation areas or buildings.

1. Community Garden. A neighborhood-based development with the primary purpose of providing space for members of the community to grow plants for beautification, education, recreation, community distribution or personal use. Sites managed by public or civic entities, nonprofit organizations or other community-based organizations that are responsible for maintenance and operations. Processing and storage of plants or plant products are prohibited on site. Gardening tools and supplies may be stored within an accessory building that is in compliance with Section 17-9-0103.5-B of the Municipal Code.

2. Establishes a definition for Urban Farm as its own use category.

**17-17-0104-H Urban Farm.** Growing, washing, packaging and storage of fruits, vegetables and other plant products for wholesale or retail sales.

1. Indoor Operation. All allowed activities must be conducted within completely enclosed buildings. Typical operations include greenhouses, vertical farming, hydroponic systems and aquaponic systems.
2. Outdoor Operation. Allowed activities are conducted in unenclosed areas or partially enclosed structures. May include indoor operations in conjunction with outdoor operations. Typical operations include growing beds, growing fields, hoopouses and orchards.
3. Rooftop Operation. All allowed activities occur on the roof of a principle building as a principle use or accessory use. Typical operations include growing beds and growing trays.

3. List each use and establishes how each use is allowed in the various use tables.

**Community Garden:** (Permitted) all R, all B&C, all D, POS 1&2

**Urban Farm:**

Indoor: (Permitted) B3 - C3, DS, all M, all PMDs

Outdoor: (Permitted) C1 - C3, DS, M2&M3, PMD 9,10&13

Rooftop: (Permitted) (S) B3, C1-C3, all D, M1-M3, all PMDs

Zoning districts:	Residential (R)	Business (B)
	Commercial (C)	Downtown (D)
	Manufacturing (M)	Parks and Open Space (POS)
	Planned Manufacturing District (PMD)	

4. Creates limited use standards for Urban Farms.

**17-9-0103.3 Urban Farm.** *Urban farms* are subject to the following standards:

**17-9-0103.3-A** *Urban farms* shall be exempt from the landscaping and screening requirements of vehicular use areas of **17-11-0200**.

**17-9-0103.3 B** Parkway vegetation that is complementary to allowed activities and that is acceptable to the Department of Housing and Economic Development shall be allowed in lieu of the Parkway Tree requirements of **17-11-0100**.

**17-9-0103.3-C** Fencing and screening that is complementary to allowed activities and that is acceptable to the Department of Housing and Economic Development shall be allowed to comply with the requirements of **17-0-3-0304** and **17-5-0601**.

**17-9-0103.3-D** Composting is limited only to the materials generated on site, and must comply with the standards of Section **7-28-715** of the Municipal Code.

5. Revises the parking standard for Urban Farms

**17-10-0207-U** Parking Group U. (Urban Farms, Electronic Data Storage Centers, Industrial)

B, C, M dash 1, 1.5, 2, 3

1 space per 4 employees

B, C, M dash 5

None for first 35,000 square feet or 2 × lot area, whichever is greater, then 1.33 spaces per 1,000 square feet

Bicycle parking required

1 per 10 auto spaces

6. Creates limited use standards for Community Gardens.

**17-9-0103.5 Community Garden.** *Community gardens* are subject to the following standards:

**17-9-0103.5-A** *Community gardens* shall not be larger than 25,000 square feet, except in POS districts. There is no size limit for community gardens in the POS1 and POS2 districts.

**17-9-0103.5-B** *Accessory buildings*, such as sheds, greenhouses, hoopouses or farmstands shall comply with the requirements of **17-9-0201-D**. Hoopouses or other fabric based shelters, which are not required to obtain a building permit shall not be considered accessory buildings. Hoopouses or other fabric based shelters shall be securely attached to the ground and designed and constructed to comply with appropriate standards in Title 13 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

**17-9-0103.5-C** Composting is limited only to the materials generated on site, and must be used on site, and must otherwise comply with the standards of Section **7-28-715** of the Municipal Code.

**17-9-0103.5-D** Sales on site are limited to incidental sales of plants or produce generated on site.

7. Defines allowed activities that can occur on Urban Farms

**17-17-0270.5 Hydroponic system.** Propagation of plants using a mechanical system designed to circulate a solution of minerals in water with limited use of growing media.

**17-17-0270.6 Aquaponic system.** The symbiotic propagation of plants and fish in an indoor, constructed and recirculating environment.

8. Defines apiary as an accessory use

**17-17-0270.7 Apiary.** Keeping or propagation of honeybee colonies for collection of honey or other bee products. Up to five (5) colonies may be kept as an accessory use to the primary activity on the site.