

Full title of the subcommittee

Urban Agriculture Subcommittee

Chair of the subcommittee and SAC members of the subcommittee (number and names)

Chair: Scott Kellogg. Other SAC members: Jennifer Ceponis, Lori McQuillen

Any outside members of the subcommittee (number and names, and expertise they bring)

Approximately 40 individuals have attended one or both meetings. They represent a wide array of stakeholders, including representatives of SUNY, Capital Roots, Common Council, and local farmers/gardeners.

Number of times the subcommittee has met

Twice. Once in January and again in February

Projects taken on by the subcommittee, anticipated timeline (can be very vague), and any milestones already reached. More detailed information would include a summary of each project/issue, how it came to light, recommendations or actions taken thus far, and anticipated future activity, as well as any partnership with or impact on correlating city department or program. Given the short timeline we are requesting this initial information, please feel free to send us a brief summary now and provide more detailed information in April.

See below.

Recommendations that the subcommittee would like to make to the city of Albany

The Urban Agriculture Subcommittee supports the increased development of urban agricultural endeavors in the City of Albany. Urban gardens and farms will benefit the city in multiple ways, including increased health, access to nutritious food, job creation and economic opportunities in the form of gardening micro-businesses and farmer's markets, and educational activities related to the biophysical sciences. Albany is poised to be a regional leader as a sustainable, green city. It can utilize resources and infrastructure already in place to achieve this goal.

Below is a list of actions to facilitate urban agriculture in Albany:

1. Legalize Chickens

Hon. Vivian Kornegay has heard from her constituents that they are very interested in having chickens and she is willing to discuss how to reframe and reintroduce the legislation that was previously introduced unsuccessfully in 2011. There is likely support in the Common Council. The Urban Ag. Subcommittee strongly recommends that Common Council support the passage of this particular legislation. The Urban Ag. Subcommittee will work with Councilwoman

Kornegay and the City Planning Department to ensure the proposed legislation is consistent with the large ReZone Albany effort.

2. Access to land – vacant lots

We recommend that the Common Council work with the Albany County Land Bank in whatever capacity possible to encourage it to make vacant parcels available for gardening and farming operations. The City and County should support the assessment and testing of these lots for contaminants prior to use through cooperative programs carried out between cooperative extensions, state agencies, and non-profits.

3. City produced compost/mulch/woodchips

Presently, there is little transparency over which organizations are given mulch or compost produced by the city and/or the rules frequently change. We recommend that the process for determining which organizations receive what be democratized and made transparent, and that Albany gardens/farms receive delivered composts either for free or at a discounted rate.

5. Organic waste composting

The subcommittee recommends that the City of Albany create an independent review of the feasibility of establishing collection and composting of organic waste.

Home-scale composting should be encouraged as a practice among city residents. The Urban Ag. Committee recommends working with the City to create a residential compost pickup pilot.

6. Urban Forestry

As Albany is one of the few local cities with a forester, we recommend that the city engage in reforestation green corridors and incorporate fruit /nut trees where appropriate.

The City can partner with Capital Roots to ensure that neglected crops are harvested for their Squash Hunger program.

The City should work towards increasing the total percentage of tree canopy coverage, especially in areas with no or very little tree cover.

Correlation between subcommittee work and sustainability roadmap.

Google doc shows correlation between proposed ideas and the 2030 plan.

Please follow this link:

<https://docs.google.com/a/radixcenter.org/document/d/19FusaHJLdF5n76x5xDrZ3qIDy7TC2A50wZLFtdtRBwc/edit>