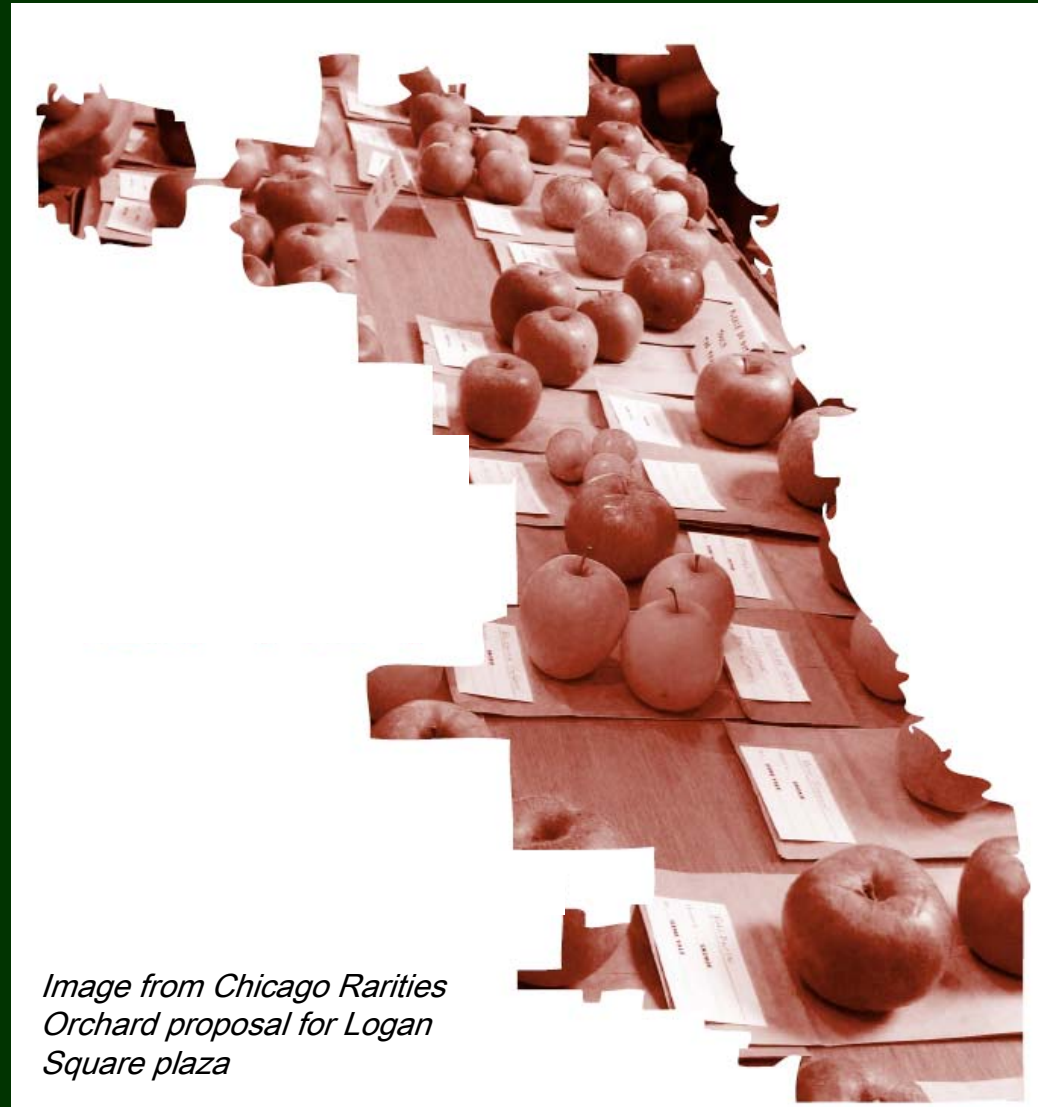


# Implementing Urban Agriculture in Chicago

City of Chicago  
Department of Zoning and  
Land Use Planning –  
Sustainable Development  
Division

Kathleen Dickhut, Deputy  
Commissioner

Brad Roback,  
Coordinator of Economic  
Development



*Image from Chicago Rarities  
Orchard proposal for Logan  
Square plaza*

# Cook County Sheriff's Garden - 1989



# Cook County Sheriff's Garden

Owner: Cook County Jail

Uses: 4000-6000 pounds of produce for senior centers and food pantries

Farmer: 10-15 detainees

Size: 10,000 square feet



# Department of Environment - 1994

- GreenCorps provides training, technical assistance and materials
- Over 600 sites developed, most for beautification, but some for food growing
- Policy for growing food has been to import about 18 inches of new soil for growing beds



# NeighborSpace - 1996

Artist's Garden

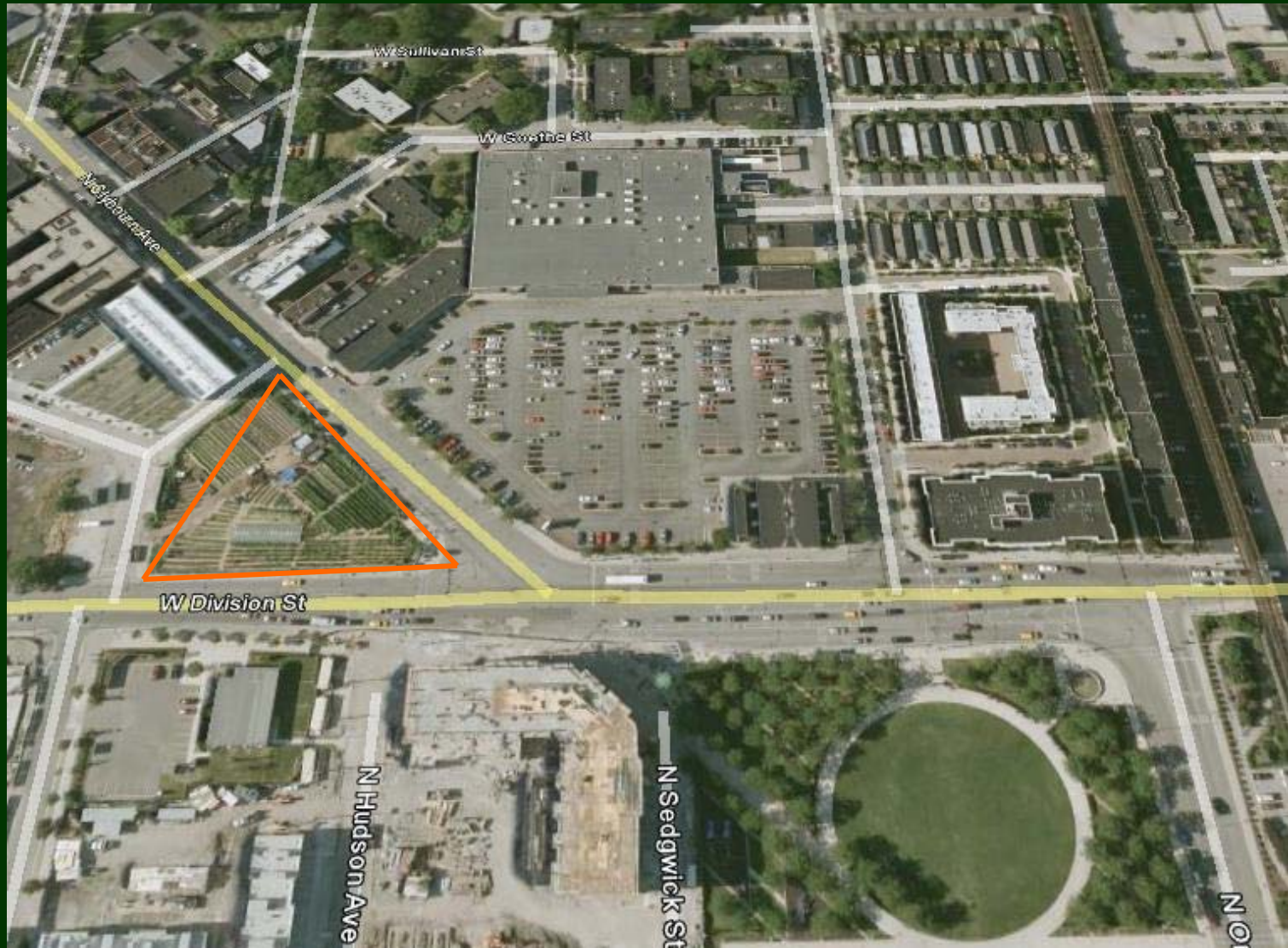
Uses: fruits,  
vegetables,  
herbs

Farmer:  
neighborhood  
youth and  
adults

Size: 5  
residential lots



# City Farm – 2003





Model for barrier

Owner: City leased in 2003

Uses: produce for direct sale

Farmer: Ken Dunn

Size: 1 acre commercial lot

# The Peninsula Hotels

*“A great meal starts  
with the right  
ingredients”*

The New Yorker  
March 2009





# Chicago Park District - 2005

Grant Park, City's front yard

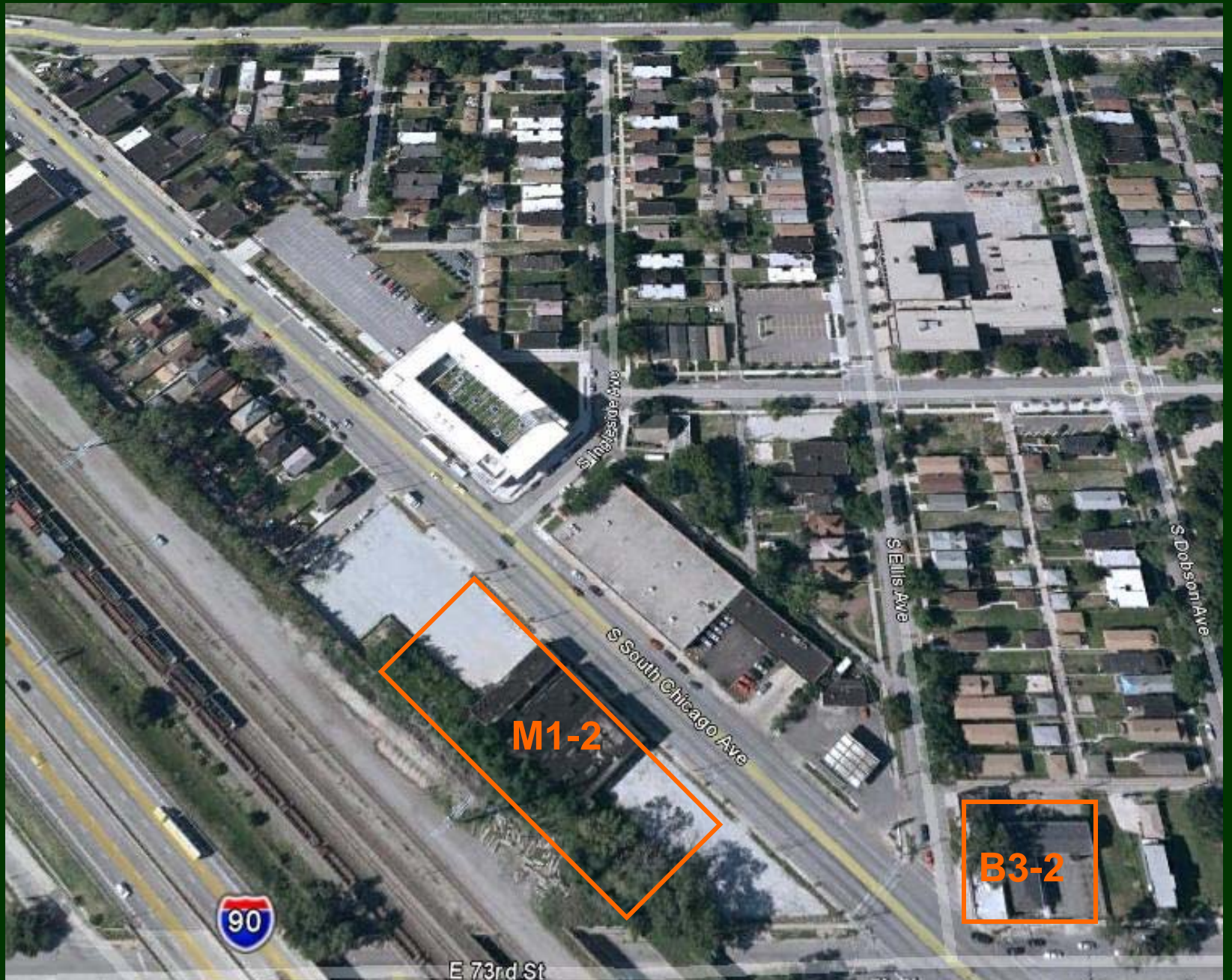
Uses: kitchen garden demonstration with 150 varieties of heritage and heirloom plants

Farmer: Growing Power, non-profit organization



# Gary Comer Youth Center Youth Farm - 2007





M1-2

B3-2

# Rick Bayless' Urban Edible Garden - 2008



# Rick Bayless' Urban Edible Garden

Owner: private

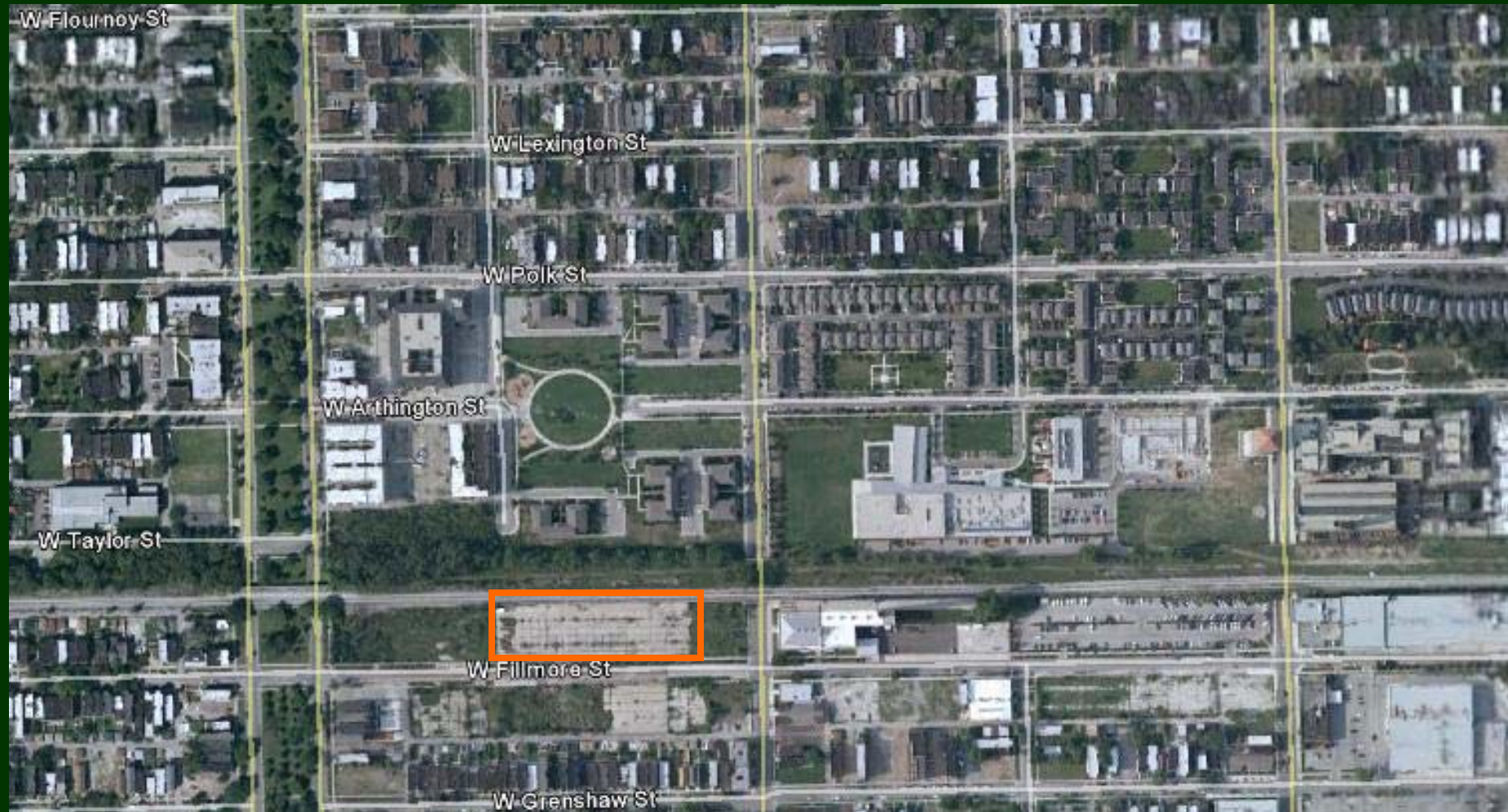
Uses: \$20,000 worth of crops used in Mr. Bayless' restaurants

Farmer: Rick Bayless' full-time gardener

Size: residential lot



# Chicago Honey Co-op - 2004



# Chicago Honey Co-op

Owner: abandoned Sears & Roebuck parking lot, TBD

Uses: 80 beehives for honey products

Farmer: Michael Thompson



# CHICAGO HONEY CO-OP

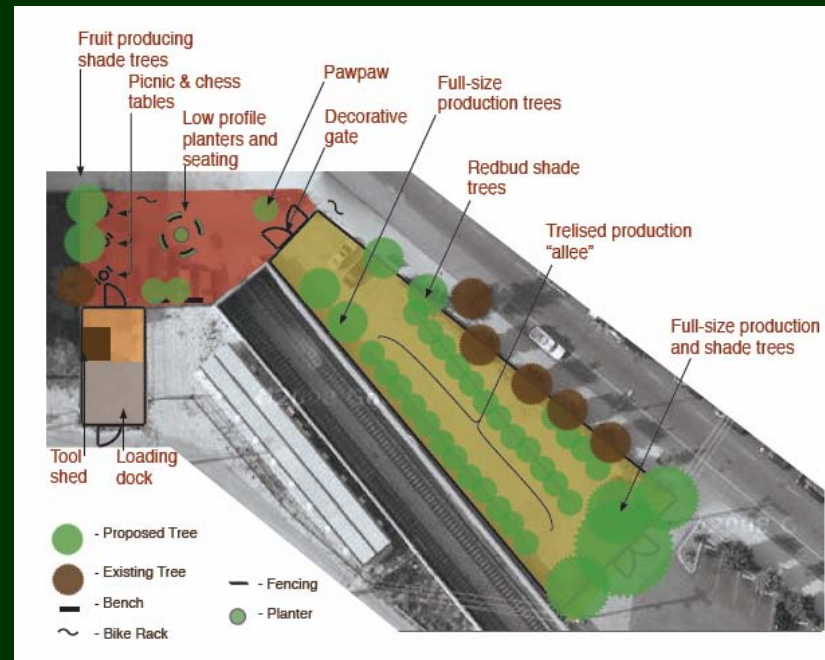




# 2010 - Definitions for the Zoning Code

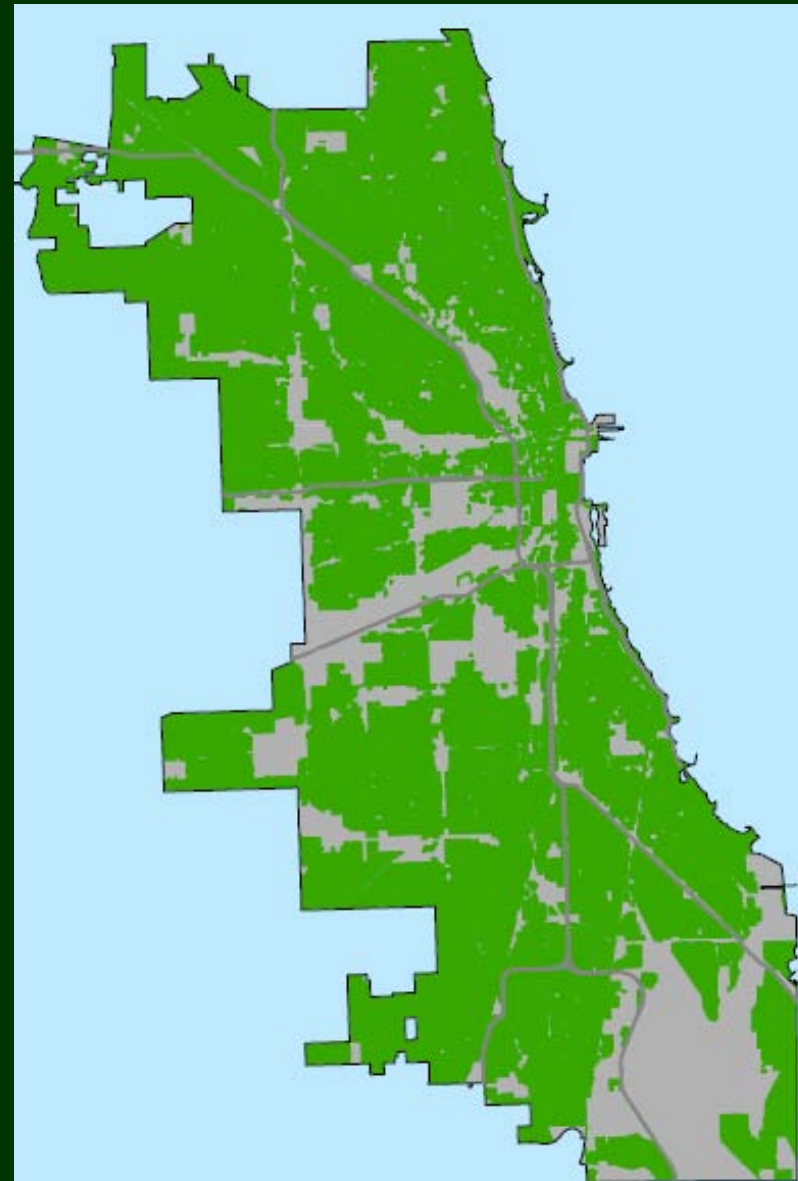
## Community garden

Primary use is open space for community to grow plants for beautification, education, recreation, community distribution or personal use. Processing, storage and sale of plants or plant products are prohibited on site.



# Community Gardens in the Zoning Code

- Permitted uses in:
  - Parks and Open Space (POS) 1&2
  - Residential (R)
  - Business (B)
  - Commercial (C)
  - Downtown (D)
- Use standards:
  - Site area – max. 18,750 square feet
  - Accessory structures – max. 10% of site area or 100 square feet (whichever is greater)



## Commercial gardens/greenhouses

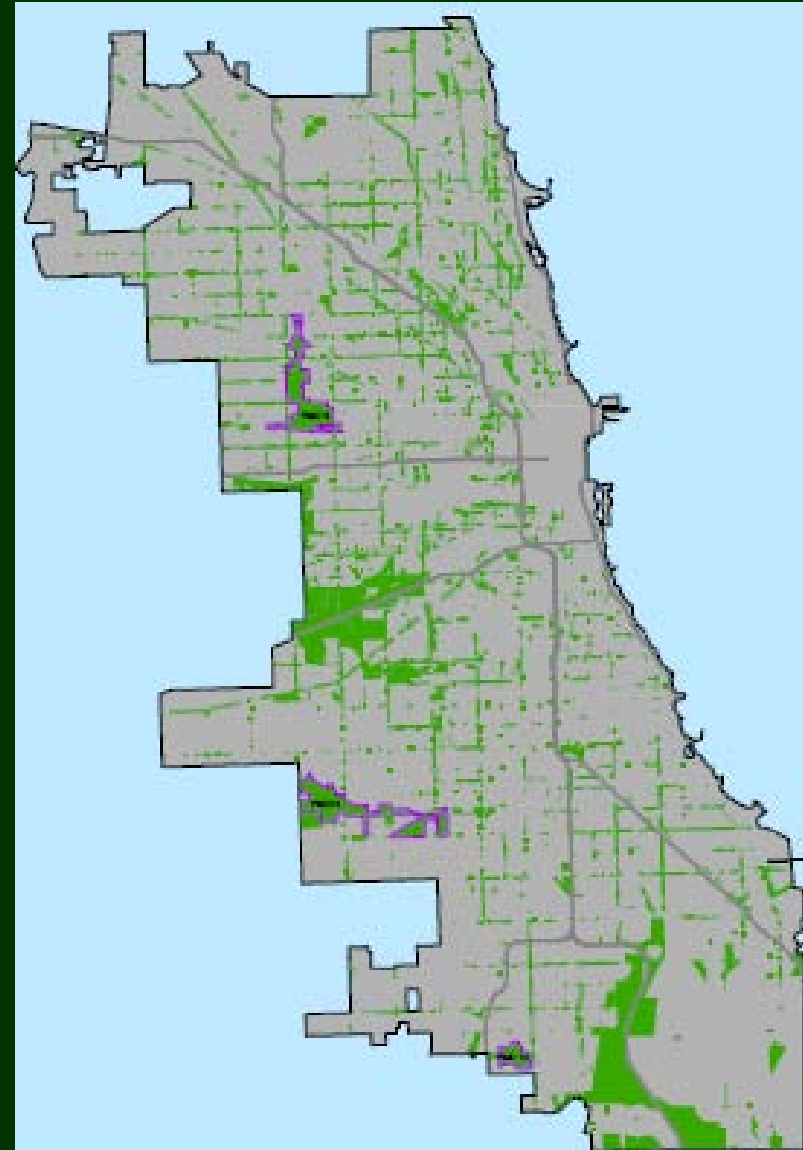
Propagation, processing and storage of plants and plant products for wholesale or retail sales. Typical uses include growing beds, hoop houses, greenhouses and hydroponics systems.



VertiCrop™ Week 2 - Red Lettuce

# Commercial gardens/greenhouses in the Zoning Code

- Permitted uses in:
  - Business (B3)
  - Commercial (C1, C2 & C3)
  - Manufacturing (M2 & M3)
  - Planned Manufacturing District (PMD 9, 10 & 13)
- Use standards:
  - Accessory retail sales of goods produced on site – max. 3000 square feet (In M and PMD)
  - Parking requirement of 1 space per 3 employees or more by parking determination
  - Existing screening and corresponding district standards and landscape ordinance requirements apply



# Composting

- Composting
  - Composting of materials generated on site must comply with 7-28-715
    - Health and Safety Code
  - Applies to community and commercial gardens



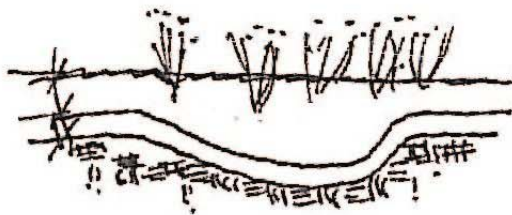
# Protocols for City Owned land

- Applies to projects involving the lease, sale or temporary use of city owned property
- Know the environmental condition
  - Phase I & II
- Remediate and/or install an agricultural growing barrier

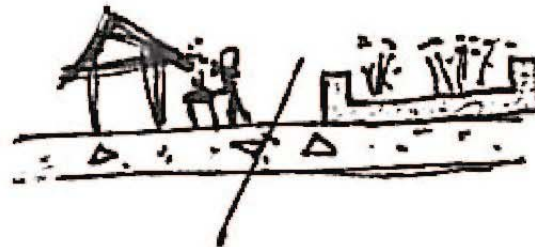
# Agriculture Growing Barrier

Best growing practice avoids direct contact with urban soil

Install geo-textile fabric on surface (visual demarcation of old and new material) and 6" clay to isolate growing medium from any potential contamination in the ground



CLAY



CONCRETE



RUBBER-MAT  
MEMBRANE

# Site Design Issues

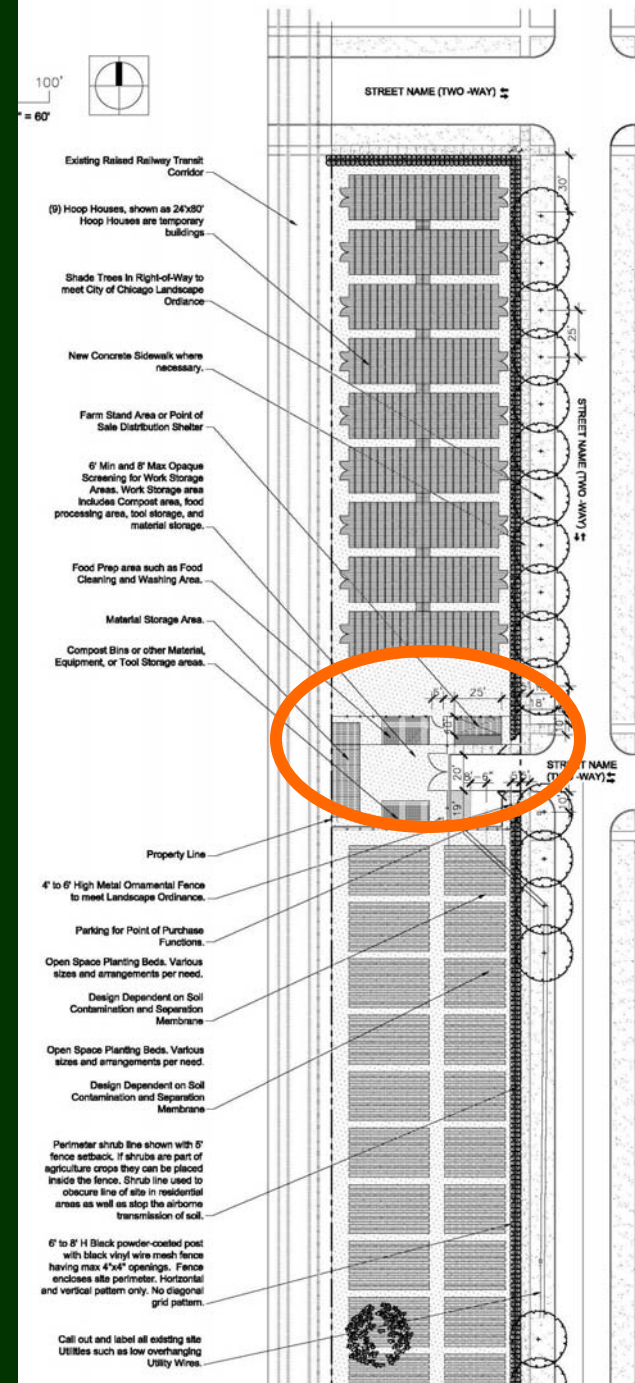


Example enclosure types.

## Fencing Types

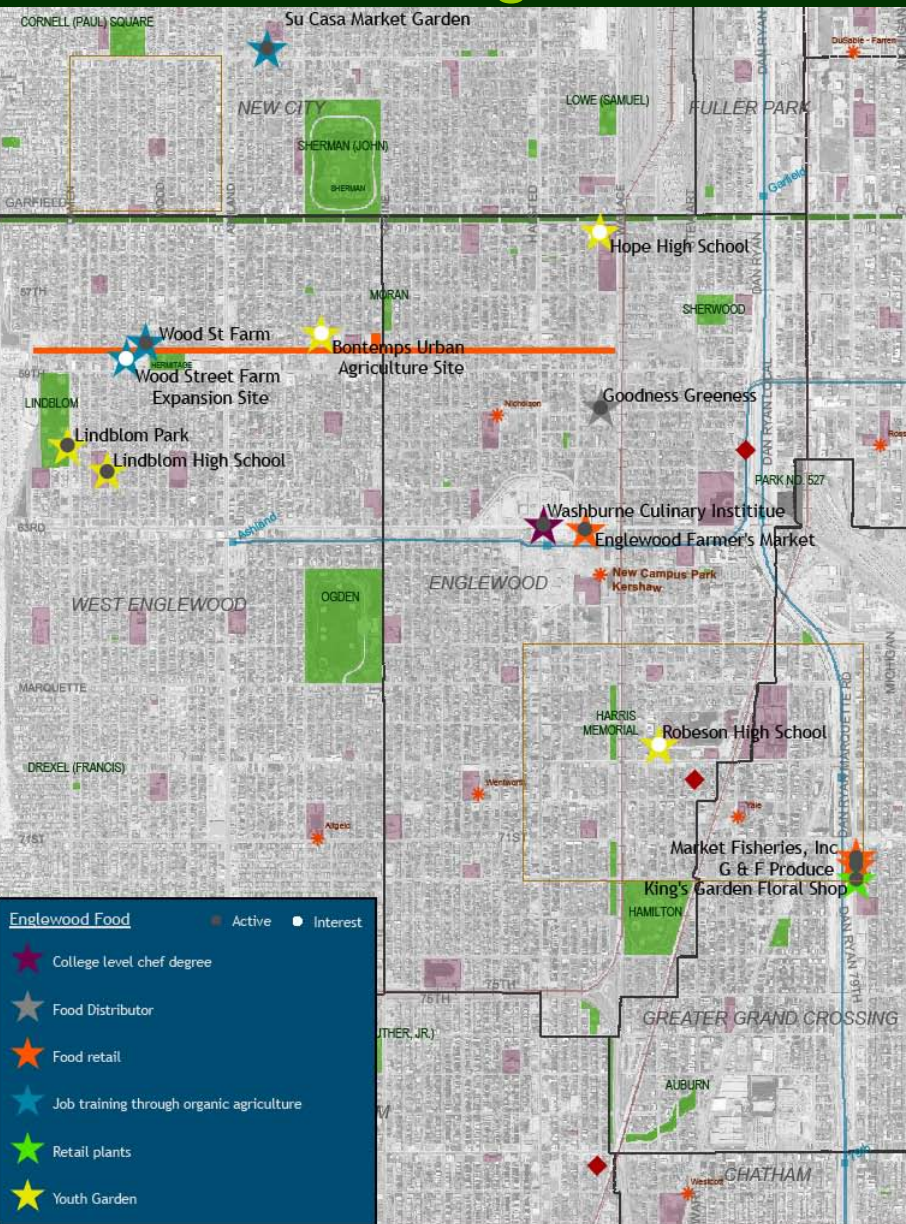
6' High to 8' High black power-coated post with black vinyl wire mesh fence having max 4"x4" openings. Horizontal and Vertical mesh only. No Diagonal grid pattern. No standard chain link fence allowed.

Recommendations for locating loading areas, parking, outdoor storage, sales and fencing requirements





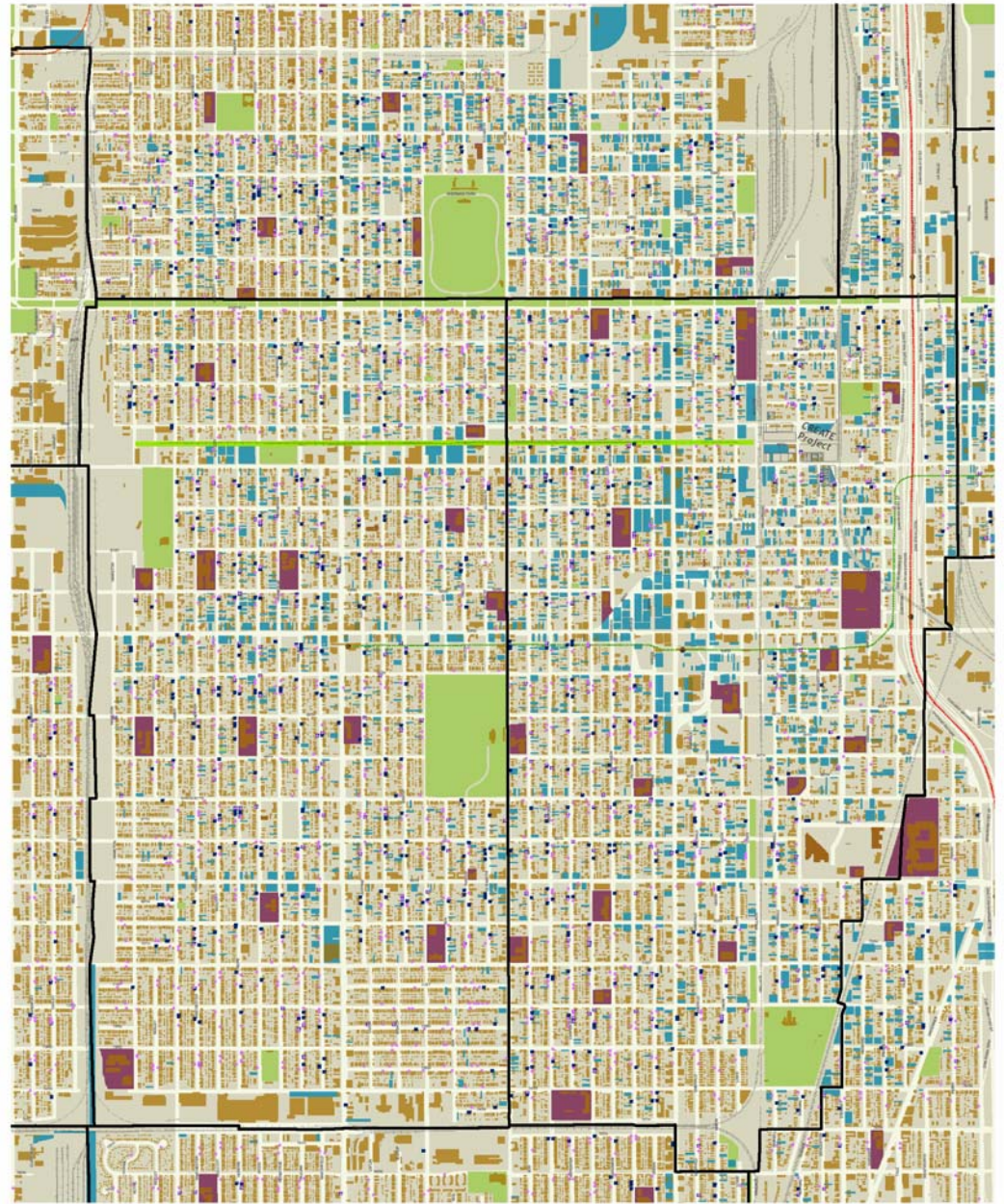
# Greater Englewood



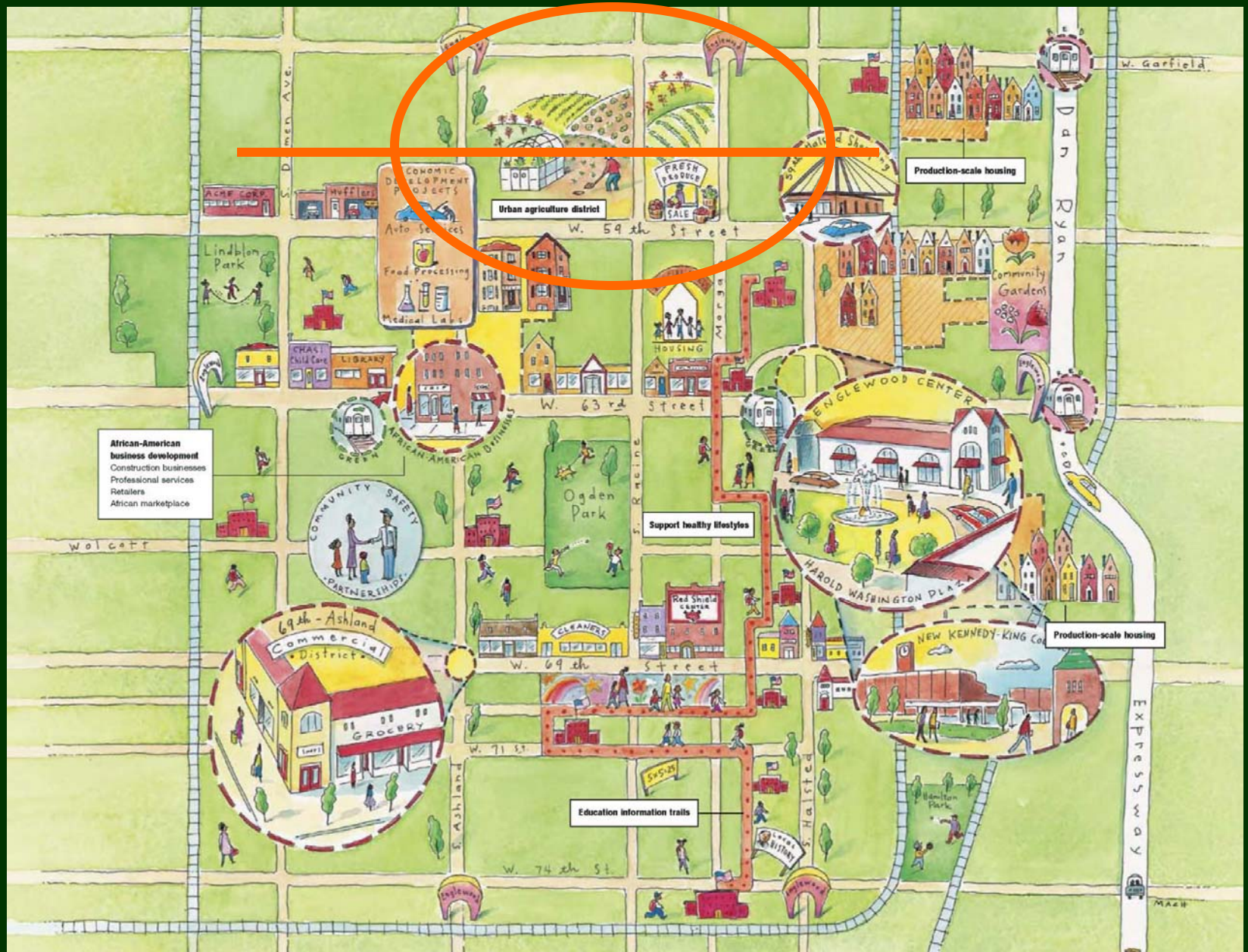
2010 - Planning for Food  
A Green, Healthy Neighborhood

# Greater Englewood Land Resources

City-owned vacant  
2009 Demos  
2008 Foreclosures



# Englewood Quality of Life Plan - 2005





2003

Providing job training through a non-profit organic agriculture business.



Su Casa Catholic  
Worker House

51<sup>st</sup> & Laflin-New City

# Englewood Line





1945 west race  
chicago, il 60622  
773. 251. 6396

newman  
ramaswamy

## Growing Home

Community Supported Urban Agriculture

2

"Big Idea" Site Plan

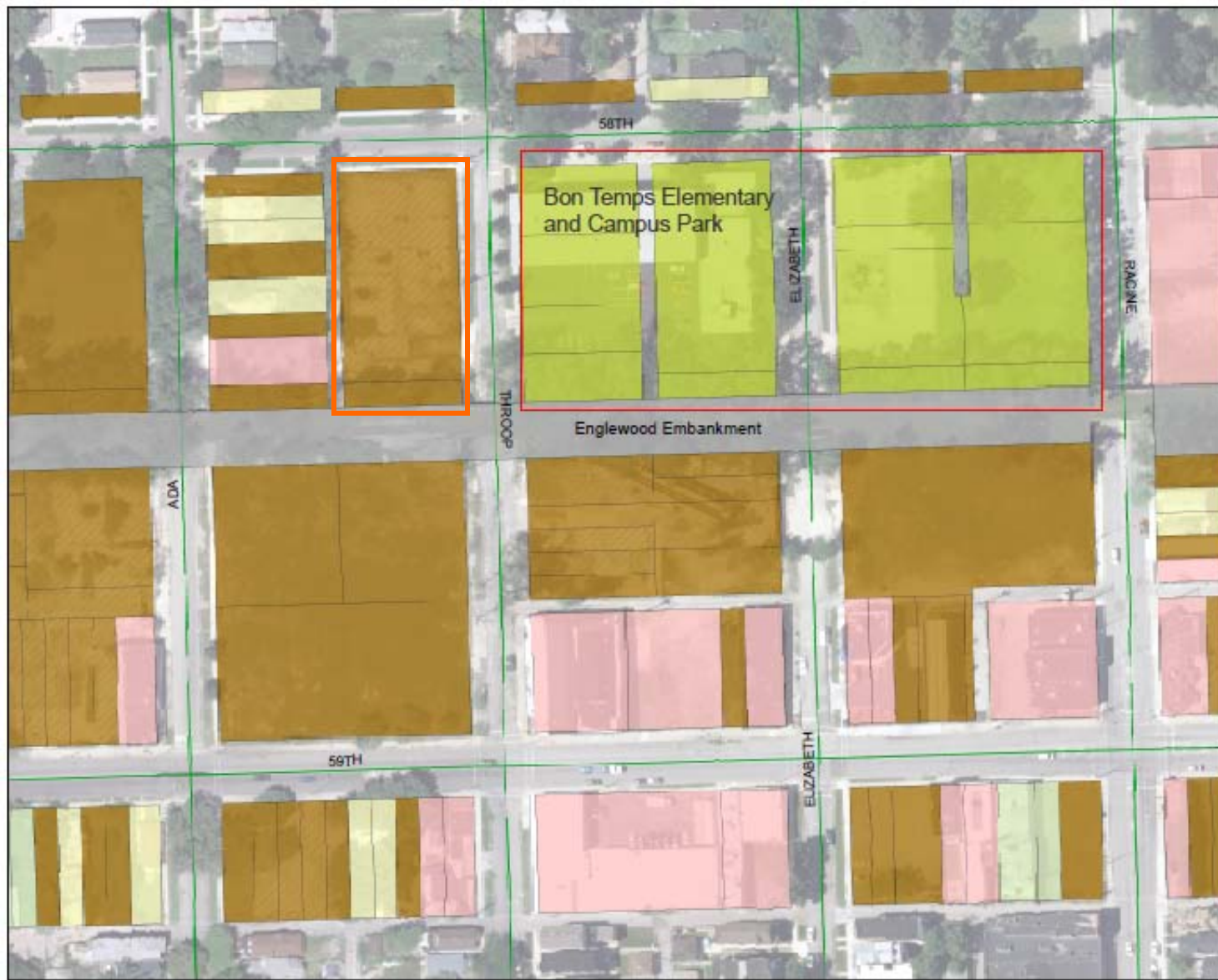


MOBILE STORAGE  
932-5675

# Existing land use along the Englewood Line







- Commercial Greenhouse
- Business/Commercial/Mixed Use
- School
- Manufacturing
- Park
- Residential
- ROW
- Vacant Land
- City Owned Parcels

# Trends impacting urban agriculture

- Overweight & obesity epidemic
- Local and organic food preferences
- Lack of fresh produce in some communities
- Job training opportunities, esp. for the hard-to-employ
- Large and expanding inventories of vacant land

“New” look for local grocer

