



HOW TO ACCESS VACANT LAND TO GROW FOOD

a community guide brought to you by



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1. FIND OWNER & RESEARCH SITE



- Contact the Office of Community Development to find out if the property you are interested in is part of the [Land Bank](#). Or call 502-574-4200
- Check current ownership by typing in the address on [LOJIC Online](#).
- Find past ownership and Assessed Value from [Property Values Administration](#).
- Research your property history in the [Deed Room](#) at the County Clerk's Office.
- [UofL Archives](#) may have historic documents of your property or neighborhood.
- Do a soil test through [Jefferson County Cooperative Extension](#) to evaluate nutrient and lead contents.
 - Vouchers may be available; otherwise, this test will cost around \$20.

2. COMMUNITY VISIONING & PLANNING



- Reach out to your neighbors to share your idea, gauge interest, get feedback, and create a network of support.
- Find other community partners who may support your vision (e.g. religious institutions, neighborhood associations, or local businesses).
- Imagine together what you hope to see/feel/experience in the space (e.g. invite neighbors over and walk around to let them know what you're thinking about)

3. PREPARE APPLICATION MATERIAL



- Preview everything you will need throughout the application process:
 - [Basic Policy for Community/Market Gardens](#)
 - [Process for Accessing Vacant Lots Vacant Property](#)
 - [Vacant Property Application Check list](#)
- Anticipate potential issues and brainstorm solutions in advance
- Create drawings for your site, and water catchment (if applicable)
- [USDA Farm Service Agency](#) will help you obtain a legal Farm ID number.
- Write a business plan (if necessary)

4. TURN IN COMMUNITY/MARKET GARDEN APPLICATION TO PLANNING AND DESIGN



- [Community/Market Garden Application](#)
 - Application must conform to [Louisville Metro Government's Land Development Code](#):
 - Section 4.3.17 (Community Garden)
 - Section 4.3.18 (Market Garden)
- Planning and Design Phone: 502-574-6230

5. TURN IN APPLICATION TO PURCHASE OR LEASE VACANT LAND TO OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



- [Application to Purchase or Lease Vacant Land](#)
- Office of Community Development Phone: 502-574-4016
- Application must include an itemized budget with:
 - Operative costs for initial 3-year term
 - Soil test
 - Insurance
 - Staked survey completed by a licensed surveyor
 - Availability of water
 - Property Taxes (or nonprofit information)