



HOW TO ACCESS VACANT LAND TO GROW FOOD

a community guide brought to you by



www.foodinneighborhoods.org

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.
 - Call (502) 574-4200
 - Visit <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/community-development/vacant-lots-sale>
- Check ownership using the property tax search tool on the Jefferson Co. Sheriff's website (www.jcsoky.org/property-tax/search)
- Check assessed value at Property Values Administration website (jeffersonpva.ky.gov)
- Do a soil test through Jefferson County Cooperative Extension to evaluate nutrient and lead contents.
 - Vouchers may be available; otherwise, lead test will cost around \$20. Contact Jefferson County Cooperative Extension at (502) 569-2344

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 MATERIALS



- Determine which program you are eligible for and preview everything you will need throughout the application process:
 - Vacant Lot Sales Programs: louisvilleky.gov/government/community-development/vacant-lot-sales-programs
 - Vacant Property App Checklist: louisvilleky.gov/government/community-development/vacant-property-application-checklist
- Anticipate potential issues (e.g., water access, drawings of the site, business or nonprofit incorporation, project financing, business plan) and brainstorm solutions/troubleshoot in advance.
- Email finlouisville@gmail.com for support!

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



- Application: <https://louisvilleky.gov/community-development/document/application-purchase-or-lease-landpdf>
- Turn in completed application to the Office of Community Development

NOTES

- If you do not qualify for the Adjacent Side Lot program or the Cut it, Keep it program, you will have to apply to lease as a special/agricultural project.
- The landbank currently only considers these kinds of applications from groups (non-profits, LLCs, neighborhood associations, churches, etc.), not from individuals.
- For more detailed information and links to resources OR to apply for supplemental funding to assist with the purchase of a vacant lot, visit www.foodinneighborhoods.org/grow/land
- Please reach out to finlouisville@gmail.com if you would like additional support in purchasing vacant land in your neighborhood on which to grow food.

**A version of this guide can also be found online with
links to resources at:**

www.foodinneighborhoods.org/grow/land