



# Brownfields and Urban Agriculture Reuse *Special Webinar Series*

As cities across the Midwest seek strategies to revitalize urban neighborhoods, local governments and community non-profits have begun working with residents to reuse infill properties for growing plants and food. This work is providing multiple benefits and helping to stabilize neighborhoods.

The US EPA has worked with a wide range of urban agriculture stakeholders, including partners within federal, state and local governments, community-based non-profits and university researchers to create **two free webinars** that will present a snapshot of the state of knowledge regarding the issues surrounding the reuse of brownfield sites for urban agriculture projects.



Urban Oaks Farm  
New Britain, CT

## ***The State of Scientific Knowledge and Research Needs***

This webinar will present the answers to many of the scientific questions faced when beginning an urban agriculture project at a brownfield site, including:

- What are the common contaminants found in the air, water, and soil of an urban infill lot? How does this affect the decision process when developing an urban agriculture project?
- What kinds of historical land uses should trigger deeper investigation?
- Can amending urban soils with compost or other additives make the soil “healthy”?
- What do we know about plant uptake and bioavailability? Is phytoremediation appropriate?

Presenters will discuss the current understanding of these questions and identify areas where more research is needed.

Scheduled speakers include: Steve Rock and Kirk Scheckel, USEPA Office of Research and Development; Dr. Nicholas Basta, The Ohio State University; Bobbi Reichtell, Neighborhood Progress Inc.; Dave Behringer, Behr Geo Environmental LLC.; Karla Aufer, USEPA Region 5; and Michele Mahoney, USEPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation.

**September 21, 1-3PM Central**, space is limited.

Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/641743560>

## ***Policy Barriers and Incentives to Reusing Brownfields for Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture***

This webinar will explore policy issues surrounding the growing of plants and food on urban infill lots, including:

- How do existing state Voluntary Clean-up Programs address urban agriculture issues?
- How does urban agriculture fit in to existing programs for land use determination?
- What are the property control and ownership considerations for urban agriculture projects?
- How should economic development drivers influence decisions for using urban agriculture as a revitalization strategy?
- How are innovative cities working within or changing their policy structure to make urban agriculture work for them?



Waters Elementary School  
Chicago, IL

Scheduled presenters include: Marcia Caton Campbell, Center for Resilient Cities; Amy Yersavich and Vanessa Steigerwald, Ohio EPA; Kathy Dickhut, City of Chicago; and Jenn Bilderssee, City of Portland, OR.

**October 7, 1-3PM Central**, space is limited.

Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/550419753>

### **Special thanks to our Partners at:**

USEPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, USEPA Office of Research and Development, Kansas State University, Environmental Finance Center at The University of Louisville, The City of Chicago, The City of Indianapolis, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Urban Ag Design, and Illinois EPA.

More information about Urban Agriculture at the USEPA on the *new website* coming soon: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urbanag/>