

An aerial photograph of an urban farm. The foreground shows several rectangular plots of land, some with rows of young plants and others with black plastic mulch. The farm is surrounded by a dense residential neighborhood with many trees. In the far distance, a city skyline is visible under a clear blue sky. The text "URBAN AGRICULTURE" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular border.

# URBAN AGRICULTURE



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# Urban Agriculture...



**WHAT IS URBAN  
AGRICULTURE?**

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**WHY WE SHOULD  
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**WHY WE SHOULD  
DO IT?**

**WHAT MAKES IT  
CHALLENGING?**

**HOW CAN CDS  
SUPPORT URBAN  
AG.?**



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# URBAN AGRICULTURE IS...

**CREATIVELY AND RESPONSIBLY  
STEWARDING SMALL PARCELS OF  
UNDERUTILIZED LAND IN POPULATED  
AREAS, TO GROW FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WITH AND FOR  
THE PEOPLE LIVING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.**





# LOST CITY FARM, DOWNTOWN RENO



# URBAN AG PROFILE

**WHO:** LOST CITY FARM

**WHAT:** FOR-PROFIT URBAN FARM

**SIZE:** 1 ACRE

**WHERE:** DOWNTOWN RENO, VACANT LOT  
LEASED FROM PRIVATE OWNER

**WHY:** TO BE FARMERS, GROWING WITH A SMALL  
CARBON FOOTPRINT, DISTRIBUTING WITHIN 2  
MILES OF FARM BY BICYCLE





# URBAN AG PROFILE

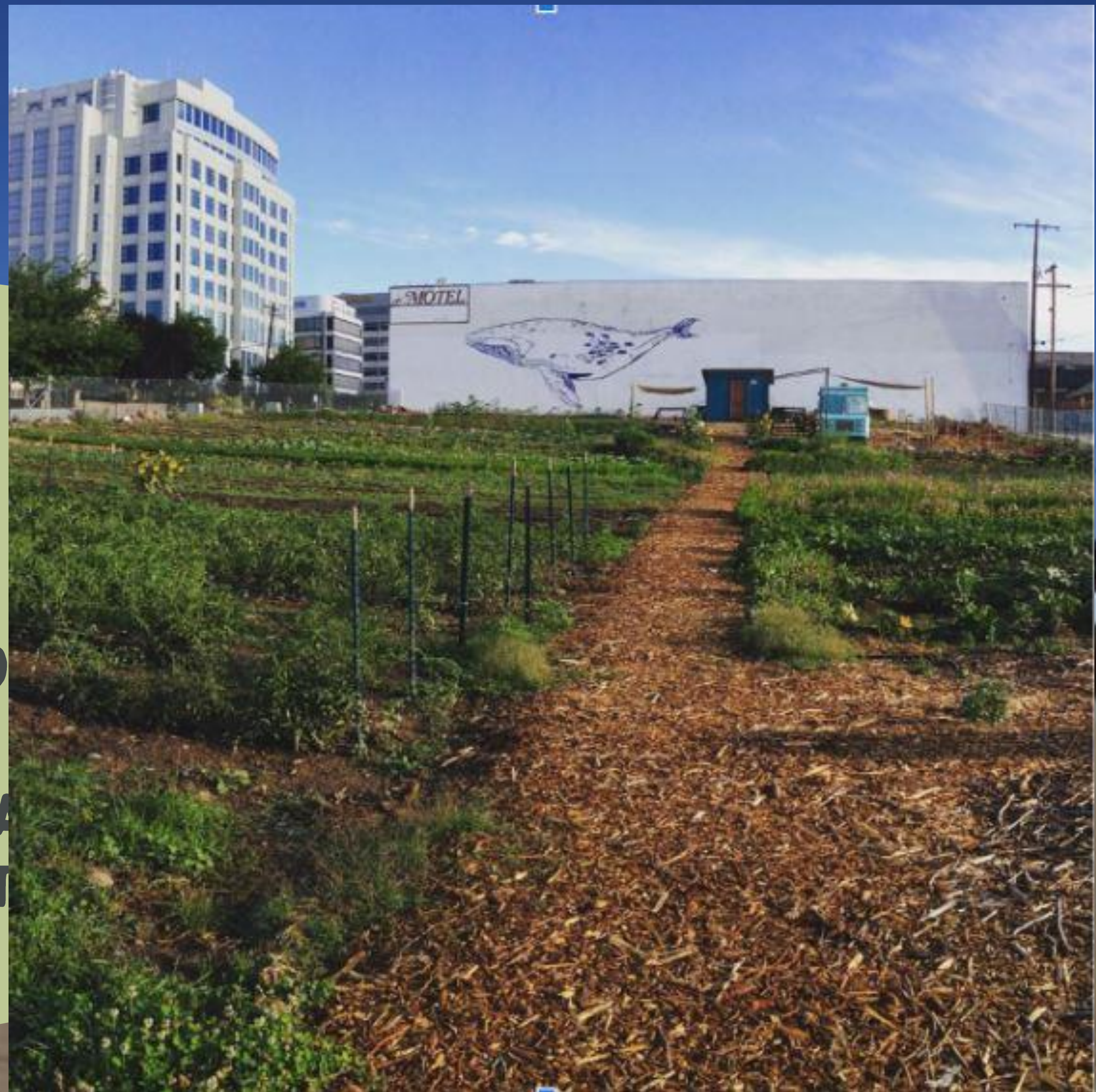
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**SIZE:** 1 ACRE

**WHERE:** DOWNTOWN RENO, VACANT LOT  
LEASED FROM PRIVATE OWNER

**WHY:** TO BE FARMERS, GROWING WITH A  
LOW CARBON FOOTPRINT, DISTRIBUTING WITHIN  
MILES OF FARM BY BICYCLE





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# URBAN AG CAN LOOK LIKE...

- **A SMALL FARM IN A SUBURB**
- **A BACKYARD COMMUNITY GARDEN**
- **A HYDROPONIC GROWING OPERATION IN A GARAGE**
- **A MUNICIPAL PARK GROWING FRUIT TREES INSTEAD OF SHADE TREES**
- **A GUERRILLA GARDEN IN A MEDIAN**
- **EDIBLE LANDSCAPING IN AN HOA**
- **A SCHOOL GARDEN**





# URBAN AG CAN LOOK LIKE....

**WHO:** URBAN ROOTS

**WHAT:** SCHOOL GARDENS AND YOUTH  
EDUCATION

**SIZE:** ~1 ACRE

**WHERE:** RENO, VACANT LOT LEASED  
FROM RENOWN HOSPITAL

**WHY:** TO CHANGE THE WAY KIDS EAT AND  
LEARN





Why do it...





# Why do it...

- **HAVE A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE**
- **HAVE A MEANINGFUL SIDE HUSTLE**
- **TO SHARE YOUR VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**





# Why do it...



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- **HELP REDUCE FOOD WASTE BY USING ORGANIC WASTE AS COMPOST OR ANIMAL FEED, CLOSING THE LOOP ON THE FOOD SYSTEM.**



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- **REDUCE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT, IMPROVE AIR QUALITY, MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE BY SEQUESTERING CARBON AND REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD TRANSPORTATION.**



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- **BUILD A TRUE COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM**
- **TRANSFORM A LANDSCAPE**
- **MAINTAIN A CONNECTION WITH THE LAND AND BE ABLE TO SHARE THAT**



# Why do it...

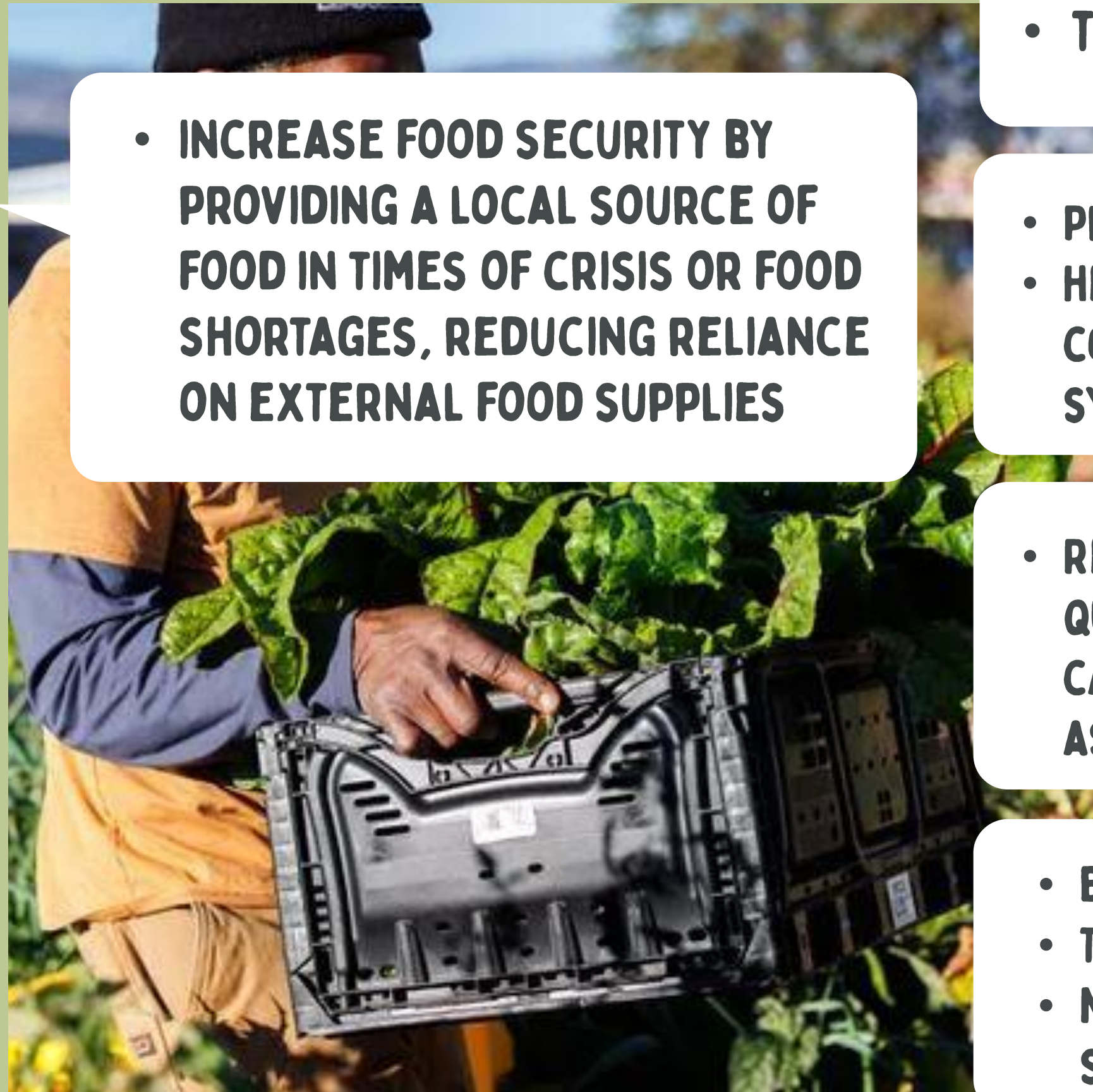
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- **FEED THE WORLD! WITH LESS OF A DAMAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.**

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**CAN URBAN AG  
REALLY MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE?**



## URBAN AG PROFILE

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a bright yellow short-sleeved shirt and a black skirt, stands smiling in a vibrant urban garden. She is positioned in front of a metal trellis archway covered in green climbing plants. The garden is filled with various green leafy vegetables and herbs. In the background, there's a wooden fence and some laundry hanging on a line, suggesting a residential setting. The overall scene is bright and full of life.

**WHO:** LILY AND HAMPTON HOUSE GARDEN

**WHAT:** COMMUNITY GARDEN

**SIZE:** RESIDENTIAL YARD,

**WHERE:** DOWNTOWN RENO,  
RENTED FROM SUPPORTIVE  
LANDLORD

**WHY:** TO ENSURE AT LEAST  
HER STREET CAN BE FOOD  
SECURE AND MORE SELF  
RELIANT.



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# WHAT MAKES IT HARD...

- **HAVING A DETAILED VISION**
- **FINDING LAND**
- **FINDING THE BUCKS - WILL LOOK DIFFERENT  
BASED ON YOUR VISION**
- **UNDERSTANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS**
- **FIGURING OUT HOW TO DO IT...REGARDLESS  
OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS**





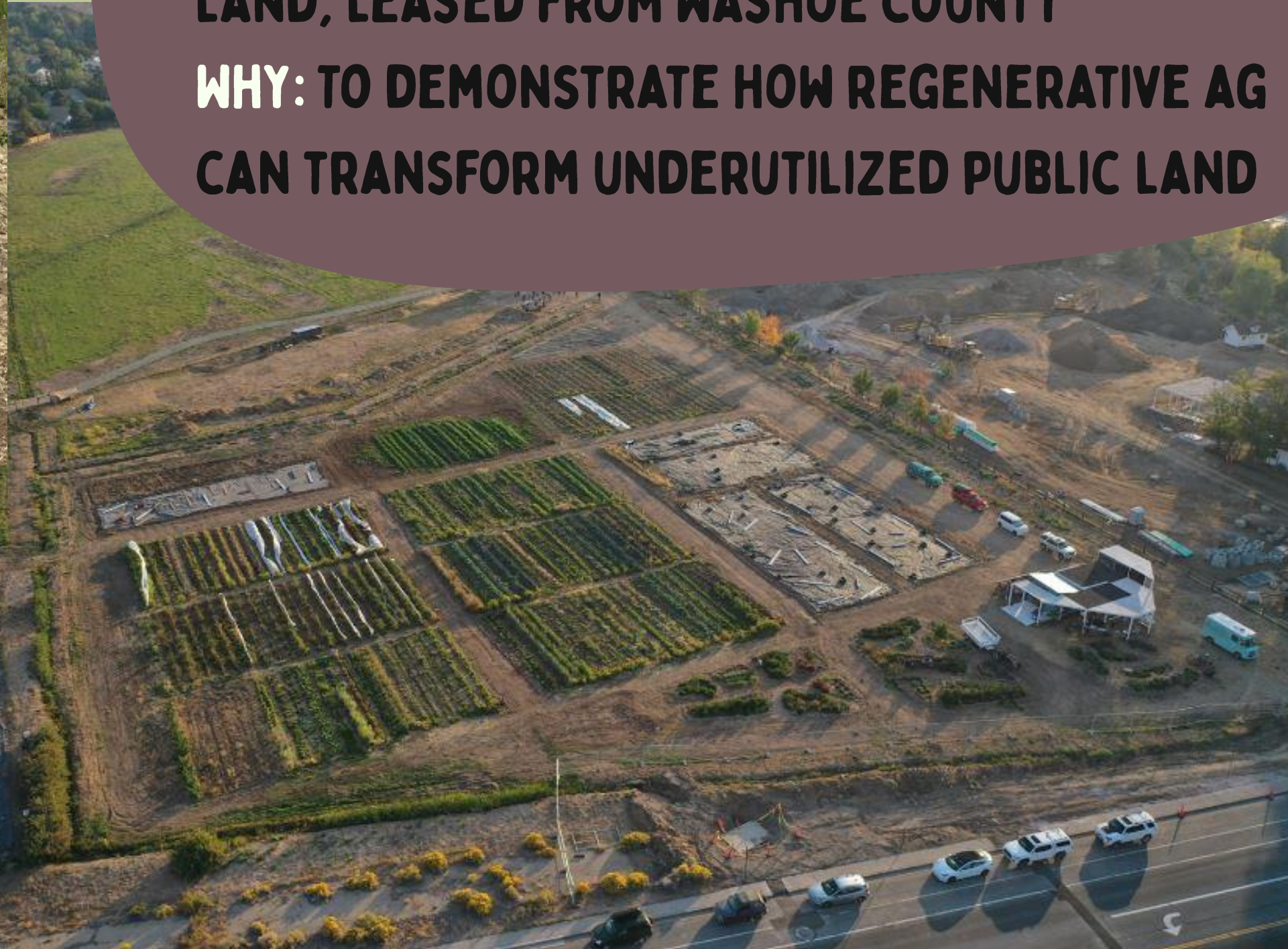
**WHO: RENO FOOD SYSTEMS**

**WHAT: URBAN NON-PROFIT DEMO AND PRODUCTION FARM**

**SIZE: 5 ACRES**

**WHERE: RENO - SUBURBAN, PROTECTED AG LAND, LEASED FROM WASHOE COUNTY**

**WHY: TO DEMONSTRATE HOW REGENERATIVE AG CAN TRANSFORM UNDERUTILIZED PUBLIC LAND**



**URBAN AG PROFILE**



# HOW CAN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS SUPPORT URBAN AG.?

“Conservation districts develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, prime and **unique farmland**, rangeland, woodland, wildlife, energy, and other renewable resources on non-federal lands..”



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**“NvACD serves as a state voice for conservation districts on state policy, legislation, communication, and funding for conservation activities. As such, NvACD is the lobbying voice for conservation and funding.”**



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- **EDUCATING OURSELVES ON AND ADVOCATING FOR SENATE BILL 297 AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVES FOR LANDHOLDERS**





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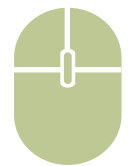


- PRIORITIZE ADDING AN UA PROJECT TO YOUR CD'S 2025 WORK PLAN.



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# Thank you!



**WWW.RENOFOODSYSTEMS.ORG**



**LYNDSEY[AT]RENOFOODSYSTEMS.ORG**





# Digging In

Local Policies to Support Urban Agriculture

## Schools



**SCHOOL GARDENS** provide outdoor education and fresh produce



**GARDEN PRODUCE** can be served in the school cafeteria



**COMMUNITY ACCESS** to gardens on school property gets community members involved in sharing the bounty

## COMMUNITY Garden

## Homes



**LANDSCAPE ORDINANCES** can permit front-yard gardens, which look good and taste great



**URBAN LIVESTOCK** such as bees and chickens, can also provide healthy food



**SALES** of home-grown fresh produce can be allowed through zoning and permitting



**GARDENS FOR APARTMENTS DWELLERS** can be designed into new residential developments

## Public Space



**COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAMS** activate underused park or public land



**FRUIT TREES** and edible landscaping provide greenery and food for people to harvest



**MAKE A LIST** of available public land that is suitable for growing food



**LEASE PUBLIC LAND** to community groups who can create and maintain urban farms and gardens

## Private Property



**CHURCHES & COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS** can make land available to farms and gardens through leases or other agreements



**PRODUCE SALES & FARM STANDS** improve community food access and enhance economic sustainability



**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS** and land trusts can protect historic and current urban farm land and preserve valuable green space in cities

## Underutilized Lots



**GARDENS AND URBAN FARMS** can fill neglected lots with food when they are permitted in local zoning code



**POP-UP GARDENS AND FARMS** are moveable or temporary, and take advantage of vacant property until future development occurs



# HOW TO GET THROUGH THE RED TAPE

**WHAT IS  
YOUR  
VISION**



**EXPECT NO  
ONE TO HAVE  
ANY  
ANSWERS**



**WRITE YOUR  
OWN RULES**



**FIND A  
CHAMPION**

