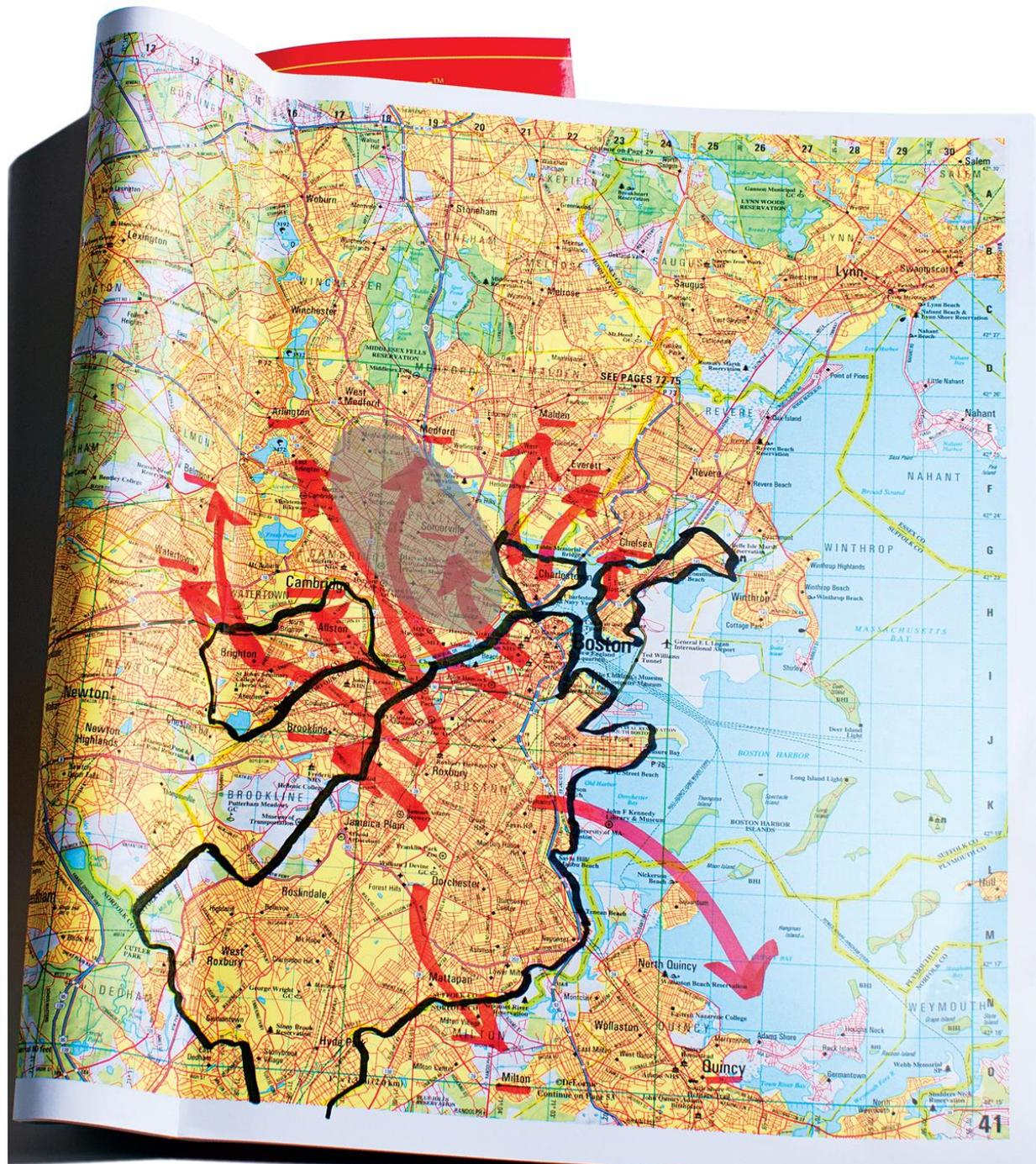


# Somerville, MA

“ No ammunition necessary: We’ll simply direct Inspectional Services to quarantine all shipments of organic produce on suspicion of potato blight or boll-weevil infestation, and see how long the locavores last when they’re forced to subsist on chain restaurants. “

Boston Magazine  
November, 2013



1918

### Uncle Sam Expects You To Keep Hens and Raise Chickens



**Two Hens in the Back Yard for Each Person in the House Will Keep a Family In Fresh Eggs**

**E**VEN the smallest back yard has room for a flock large enough to supply the house with eggs. The cost of maintaining such a flock is small. Table and kitchen waste provide much of the feed for the hens. They require little attention—only a few minutes a day.

An interested child, old enough to take a little responsibility, can care for a few fowls as well as a grown person.

Every back yard in the United States should contribute its share to a bumper crop of poultry and eggs in 1918.

**In Time of Peace a Profitable Recreation  
In Time of War a Patriotic Duty**

*For information about methods of Back-Yard Poultry Keeping suited to your location and conditions, write*

**Your State Agricultural College  
or  
The United States Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.**

1918 Eggs Distributed by the Publisher



1920's the Marchi "family cow" on Derby Street, Somerville, MA



Victory Garden in front of San Francisco City Hall, 1943



Silverio and Maria Pereira, since 1967



## URBAN AGRICULTURE/LOCAL FOOD

Eliminates fossil fuels used in transportation

Eliminates chemicals

Healthier

Tastes better

Preserves open space

Supplements food budget

Provide jobs and opportunities

Food Technology

Food Security

Creates opportunities for learning for children



The global population is projected to reach **nine billion** by the year **2050**, and **urban areas** are expected to absorb the majority of this growth, expanding by **72 percent over the next 40 years**.



SHAPE UP  
SOMERVILLE



## Mayor at White House forum to explain healthy Somerville

Posted by Alb Roy February 10, 2010 11:00 AM

[E-mail](#) | [Print](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)



J. Scott Applewhite/AP

Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone speaks in the State Dining Room of the White House.

# Backyard chickens dumped at shelters when hipsters can't cope, critics say

JoNel Aleccia NBC News

July 7, 2013 at 12:19 PM

Follow us: Facebook | Twitter | Hot Links | Cambridge Salaries | Bridging the Gap blog | Right of Way | Pink |



COUNT US IN!



Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare  
CLICK TO LEARN MORE

**ELECTION 2013:** Click here for complete coverage of Cambridge's election

### Cambridge board denies appeal to keep chicken and ducks

Photos Zoom

By Jillian Fennimore  
Wicked Local Cambridge  
Posted Feb 11, 2010 @ 11:26 PM  
Last update Feb 16, 2010 @ 01:05 PM

Recommend 19 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

**Related Stories**  
Cambridge woman angry over neighbor's ducks, ...  
Cambridge — The city's Board of Appeals has decided that keep and ducks in Cambridge is not a quacked up to be.



## The Washington Post

### Backyard hens have residents clucking

By Patricia Sullivan and Julie Zauzmer, July 12, 2013



Henny Penny clucked happily as she pecked for grubs near the compost pile of an Arlington back yard. The girls from next door helped Margaret scrape nearby dirt to unearth wriggling insects, and then fed them to her,

## Food Safety News

Breaking news for everyone's consumption

### Should backyard chickens be allowed in urban parts of California? (Poll)

ArTak | February 6th, 2013, 10:44am

## Nation's Cities Debate Backyard Chickens

BY DAN FLYNN | JUNE 22, 2010

In cities and towns across America, there is one common topic being debated. That subject is backyard chickens.

Oklahoma City is considering allowing people to raise chickens in residential areas, but it first wanted to know how its action might line up with its "peer cities." After all, Oklahoma City doesn't want to be out there alone looking like a bunch of rednecks.

When city staff came back with their report on Austin, El Worth, Nashville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Wichita, ... City elected officials learned that only ... chickens. ... NV and



## The New York Times

### Real Estate

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION

### IN THE REGION | WESTCHESTER

## Poultry Proximity: Plus or Minus?



**MASS LIVE** Powered by The Republican.  
Set Weather Search Sign in | Join

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS H.S. SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIVING  
brought to you by: **BALISE**

Boston | Casinos | El Pueblo Latino | Holyoke | Opinion | Photo Galleries | Police & Fire | Politics | Springfield | Towns | Videos | Weather | Worcester

## 37 Controversy continues over proposed ordinance to allow keeping of backyard chickens in Holyoke

By Mike Plaisance, The Republican  
Email the author | Follow on Twitter  
on April 20, 2010 at 5:00 AM, updated April 20, 2010 at 7:25 AM



April 14, 2010 - Holyoke -

xfinity  
**XFINITY TRIPLE PLAY + ALL-NEW KINDLE FIRE HD**  
EXCLUSIVE ONLINE OFFER  
GET STARTED AT **\$89** a month for 12 months  
TV, INTERNET & VOICE  
OFFER ENDS 10/22/13

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**  
ST. LOUIS' #1 SOURCE FOR NEWS | PRINT EDITION | E EDITION | APPS  
News Opinion Business Sports High Schools Entertainment Lifestyles Photos  
**Town and Country aldermen say no to backyard chickens**

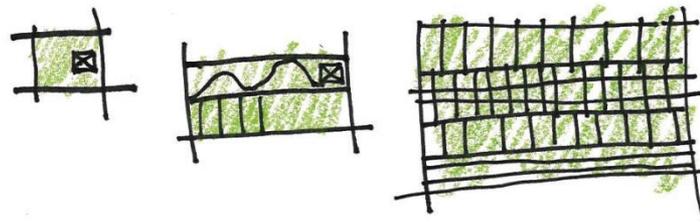
- Chickens
  - Urban Soils
  - Rats
- Composters  
Gardens
- Bees



# Somerville Urban Agriculture Ordinance

## Agriculture by Scale:

- Yard,
- Community Garden
- Farm



Where you can grow, sale of crops (soil tests, farm stands, growing)

## Bees:

Limit to 2 hives, setback requirement, requires PERMIT, watching a video, encourages taking a class

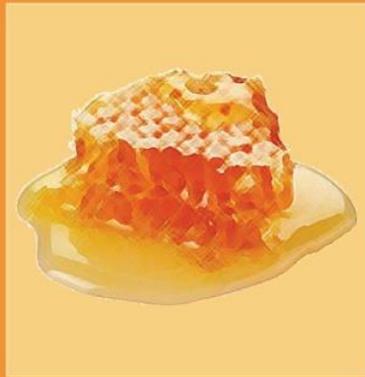


## Chickens:

Limit of 6 chickens, no roosters, setback requirements, requires a PERMIT, watching video, encourages education



# THE ABC'S OF URBAN AGRICULTURE



**Somerville, MA**

## Communication of the Ordinance

**A: Agriculture**

**B: Bees**

**C: Chickens**

**Did you know?**

**Requirements**

**Recommendations**

<http://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/SomervillesABCs-Of-UrbanAgriculture.pdf>

# BEE KEEPING



Honeybee: A common domestic honeybee, *Apis mellifera* species.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Agriculture depends on the honeybee for pollination.
- Honeybees account for 80% of all insect pollination
- “Yellow jackets” are not honey bees. Honeybees are worker bees and will not usually sting.
- Bees need a constant supply of fresh water.
- A new bee colony needs time to build a hive and honeycomb. You may not have honey the first year.
- Beekeeping is a year-round commitment.
- You cannot surrender your bees to Somerville Animal Control.
- The best way to learn about bee keeping is to take a class and connect with other beekeepers.

## REQUIREMENTS

There are Massachusetts laws that govern the keeping of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). They can be found in 330.CMR 8.00 Chapter 128, Sect 30-36a, 38 *Regulating Apiaries*. All colonies must register with the Commonwealth in accordance with 330 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. c.128, § 35. See the *Resources* section of this guidebook for weblinks to State laws and inspectors. In addition to following MA state laws, these are the rules for the keeping of honey bees in Somerville:

### General:

1. Per MA laws, you must notify the State of your hives within 10 days of getting your bees. You are also required to mark all hives with your name, either inside or outside, to be easily found by the inspector. When moving hives or bees, you are required to cover bees with wire mesh, screen or netting. (S)
2. A “Bee Permit” is required for keeping bees in Somerville. You can find the permit in the Forms section of this book. Watching the Board of Health video about bee keeping in Somerville is a requirement of the permit. (H)



(O): Somerville Urban Agriculture Zoning Amendment (H): Board of Health Policy Regulations for the keeping of Honey Bees (S): State of Massachusetts

8

3. Beehives need to be kept in a way that they do not become a nuisance. (H)
4. You can keep a maximum of two (2) hives per property. (O) If you are rescuing a swarm, you can have more than two hives for a period of ten (10) days. (S)
5. Bees need a constant supply of fresh water, but it cannot be stagnant (still) water, because that breeds mosquitos. (H) If you are selling honey, read Requirements for the Sales of Farm Products. (Pg 11)

### Site specific:

6. Honeybees are allowed on residential lots. Honey bees on a commercial property will be evaluated based on the primary use of the property and may require a special permit. (O)
7. You must inform your neighbors if you are keeping bees. (H)
8. Since you are responsible for them, you must live at the residence where you are keeping bees. If you are a tenant, you will need written permission from the property owner. (O)
9. Hives cannot be located closer than three (3) feet from any property line. (O)
10. Hives and beekeeping materials are not allowed in front yards or on side yards next to the street. (O)
11. If your hive is closer than twenty (20) feet from your neighbor’s house, or on a side yard, you must provide a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height to shield any part of a property line. This flyway barrier can be a wall, solid fence, dense vegetation or a combination of these for a minimum of twenty five (25) feet long. (H)
12. Hives can’t be taller than five (5) feet in height and twenty (20) cubic feet of total total area. (For example, it can measure 2’x2’ and be 5’ tall.) (H)

### More...

13. Massachusetts Department of Public Health Food Protection Program allows for the sale of unprocessed honey. (S)
14. Existing beekeepers must apply for a permit. An exemption may be made for existing hives which, at the time of passage of the ordinance, exceed the two-hive limit. Once the exceeding hive has died or is otherwise removed from the property, replacements are not allowed if there are more than 2 hives.
15. The City reserves the right to refuse to allow the keeping of honeybees if they are deemed a nuisance.
16. Application fees of \$50 for the first year and \$25 for annual renewal with no modifications to the plan or keeper. (H)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Before you invest in hives, please connect with other other beekeeper groups, such as the Middlesex County Beekeepers Association. They have great resources, classes and discussion groups for beekeepers. See the *Resources* section of this guidebook.



yellow jacket



paper wasp



honey bee



hornet



bumble bee

**Honey bees are often blamed for all bad behavior attributed to “bees.”**

(O): Somerville Urban Agriculture Zoning Amendment (H): Board of Health Policy Regulations for the keeping of Honey Bees (S): State of Massachusetts

9

# LET'S GROW!

## The Mayor's Urban Agriculture Initiative

Kick off the growing season with a series of events promoting local agriculture and inspiring a city.

**APRIL 21**

### Let's Grow Somerville!

10am-noon. Learn about growing your own food.  
Mudflat Studio, 81 Broadway

### Groundwork Earth Day Farm Raising

10am-2pm. Build the first city farm.  
111 South Street

### Somerville Reads Potluck

1-3pm. Celebrate reading & growing food.  
Central Library, 79 Highland Ave

**MAY 5**

### Spring Garden Day!

9am-12pm Celebrate gardening & community.  
Somerville Community Growing Center  
22 Vinal Ave



For more information, including event details:

[www.somervillema.gov/urbanag](http://www.somervillema.gov/urbanag)



**Somerville, MA**

2012



## 2012 Let's Grow Series

# Education

## 2013 Urban Ag Ambassadors





**GROUNDWORK**  
**Somerville**

100 South Street - Before



**GROUNDWORK**  
Somerville

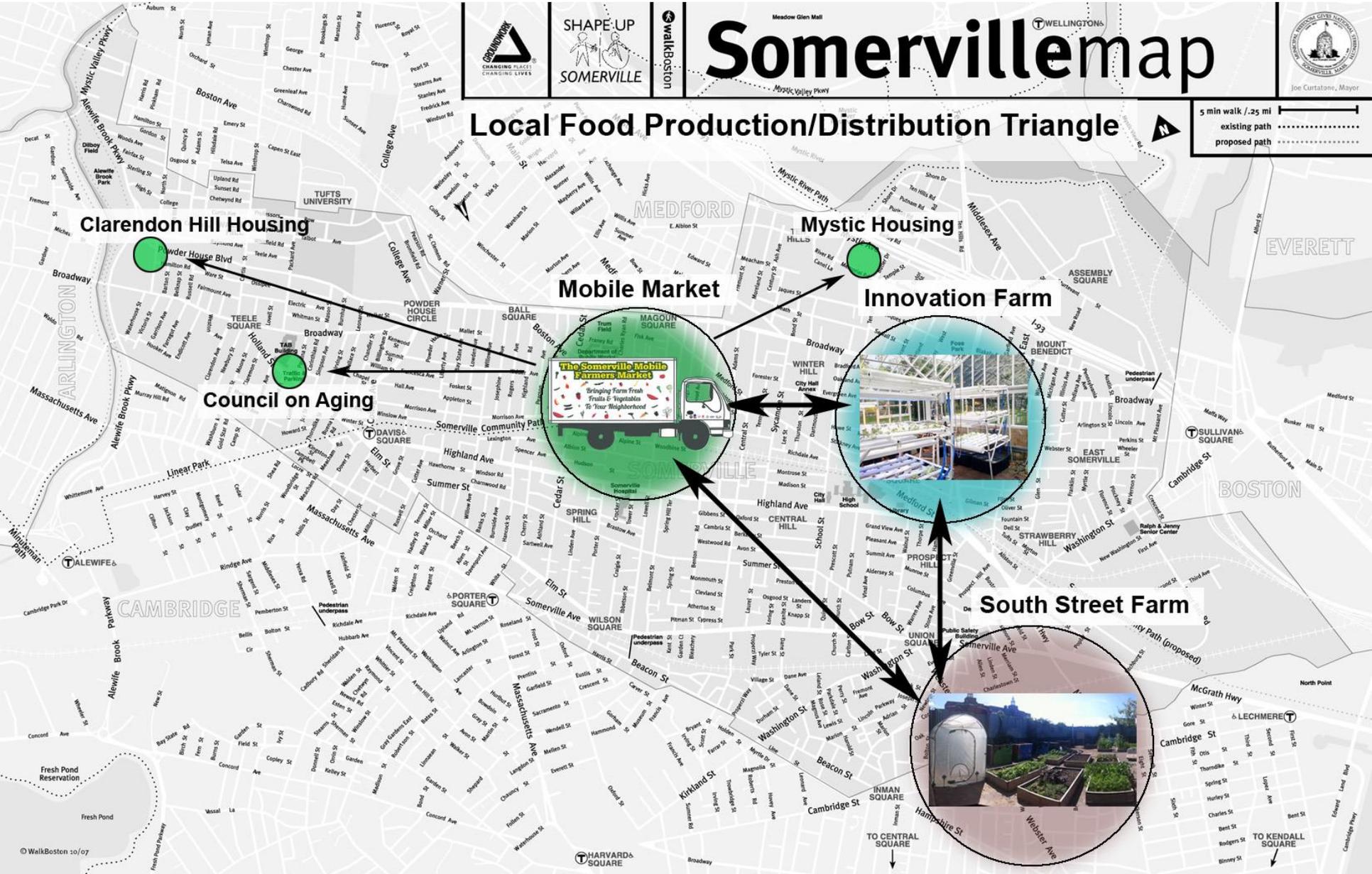
100 South Street - After



April 2012



2013 MDAR Grant: \$36,877



### Local Food Production/Distribution Triangle

5 min walk / .25 mi  
existing path  
proposed path

**Clarendon Hill Housing**

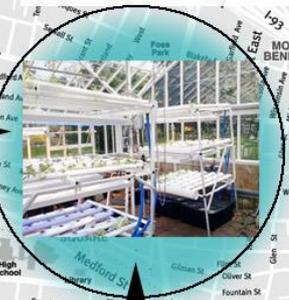
**Mystic Housing**

**Mobile Market**

**Innovation Farm**

**Council on Aging**

**South Street Farm**



2013 MDAR Grant: South St Farm 2







SOMERVILLE

# 2013 MDAR Grant: Innovation Farm



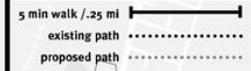
2014 MDAR Grant: \$39,946



# Somerville map



## Local Food Production/Distribution Network



**Clarendon Hill Housing**



**Council on Aging**



**Existing Mobile Markets**

**Expansion Mobile Markets**

**Proposed Restaurant Markets**

**Mobile Market Microfarms**

**Satellite Mobile Market**



**Mystic Housing**



**Innovation Farm**



**South Street Farm**





White House Garden 2013



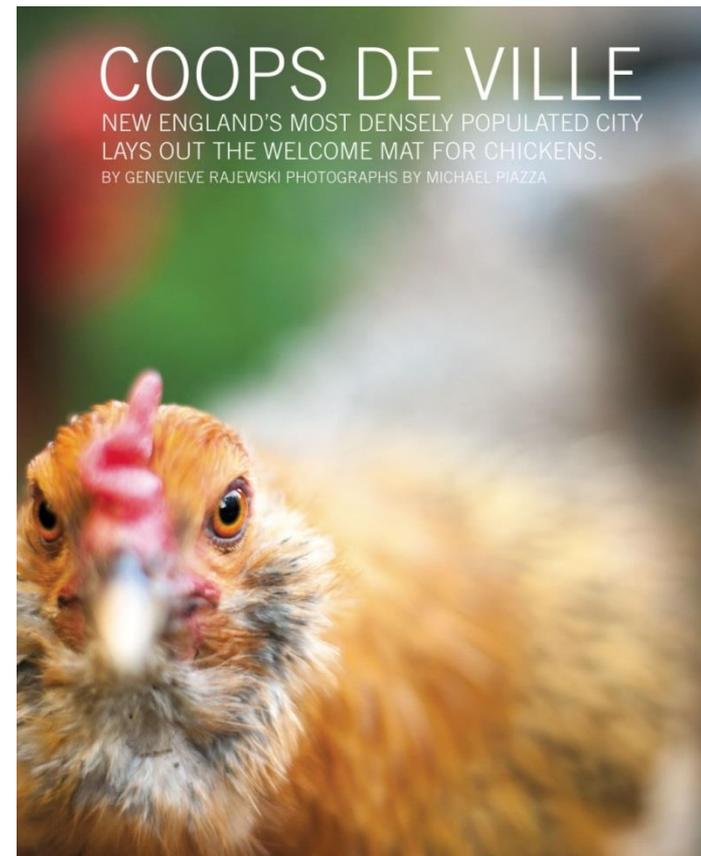
League of Urban Cannors



City Hall Demonstration Garden



Rainbow Growers



COOPS DE VILLE

NEW ENGLAND'S MOST DENSELY POPULATED CITY LAYS OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR CHICKENS.

BY GENEVIEVE RAJEWSKI PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL PIAZZA



Ralph & Jenny Senior Center



# My City Gardens



Login / Sign up

Find Land

Offer Land

Lend a Hand

## Space to Grow

Matching gardeners to people with access to space.



We connect gardeners, mentors, and people with access to space, to neighbors who want to roll up their sleeves and dig in. Check our listings, create your own, or lend a hand.



- Lawrence is sharing a plot. 6 days ago [View](#)
- Kate is sharing a plot. 13 days ago [View](#)
- Joe is looking for a plot. 20 days ago [View](#)
- Peter is sharing a plot. 20 days ago [View](#)
- Jess-Testing is looking for a plot. about 1 month ago [View](#)
- Jessica is sharing a plot. about 1 month ago [View](#)
- Galen is looking for a plot. about 1 month ago [View](#)
- Brian is sharing a plot. 1 month ago [View](#)
- Patricia is looking for a plot. 5 months ago [View](#)
- Jess is looking for a plot. 5 months ago [View](#)

Eventbrite Create an event Find events

Share Tweet Like 141 Questions? Contact the organizer

## relish center for urban agriculture

### Featured



Chicken Keepers Social at Relish!  
Somerville  
View Map  
Multiple Dates

Attend

### Info

Website:  
<http://www.relishurbanag.com>

### Relish: Center for Urban Agriculture

Relish, located in the heart of Union Square, Somerville, MA, offers hands-on classes and workshops from experienced instructors on all topics related to urban farming and food production, as well as providing high quality supplies and equipment.

We host programs every Saturday and on weekday evenings. Typical workshops are 2-3 hours long. Topics include backyard chickens, beekeeping, raised beds and cold frames, mushrooming, canning, herbal remedies and more. Relish Kids! is a series of week-long classes for kids over summer vacation and school breaks.

Relish classes emphasize hands-on learning and in-class projects. Participants gain direct experience in urban agriculture and typically will have completed a project to bring home after class.

### Events

Current Events Past Events



Chicken Keepers Social at Relish!  
Multiple Dates  
Somerville | View map

Attend

This is a regular social event for local backyard chicken keepers or folks interested in urban poultry, coordinated jointly by Relish and...



Crafting Herbal Remedies: Tea Blending  
11/6/13 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Attend

Somerville | View map

Join Steph Zabel for a fun, tasty and informative evening at Relish. Tea Blending Basics Move beyond the commercial teabag, and learn...

Facebook Twitter

relish center for urban agriculture  
Like

relish center for urban agriculture  
Relish: Center for Urban Agriculture for Boston c om wants you to visit the Chicken Keepers Social tonight!



Relish: Center for Urban Ag

Carmello Aria

# COOPS DE VILLE

NEW ENGLAND'S MOST DENSELY POPULATED CITY  
LAYS OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR CHICKENS.

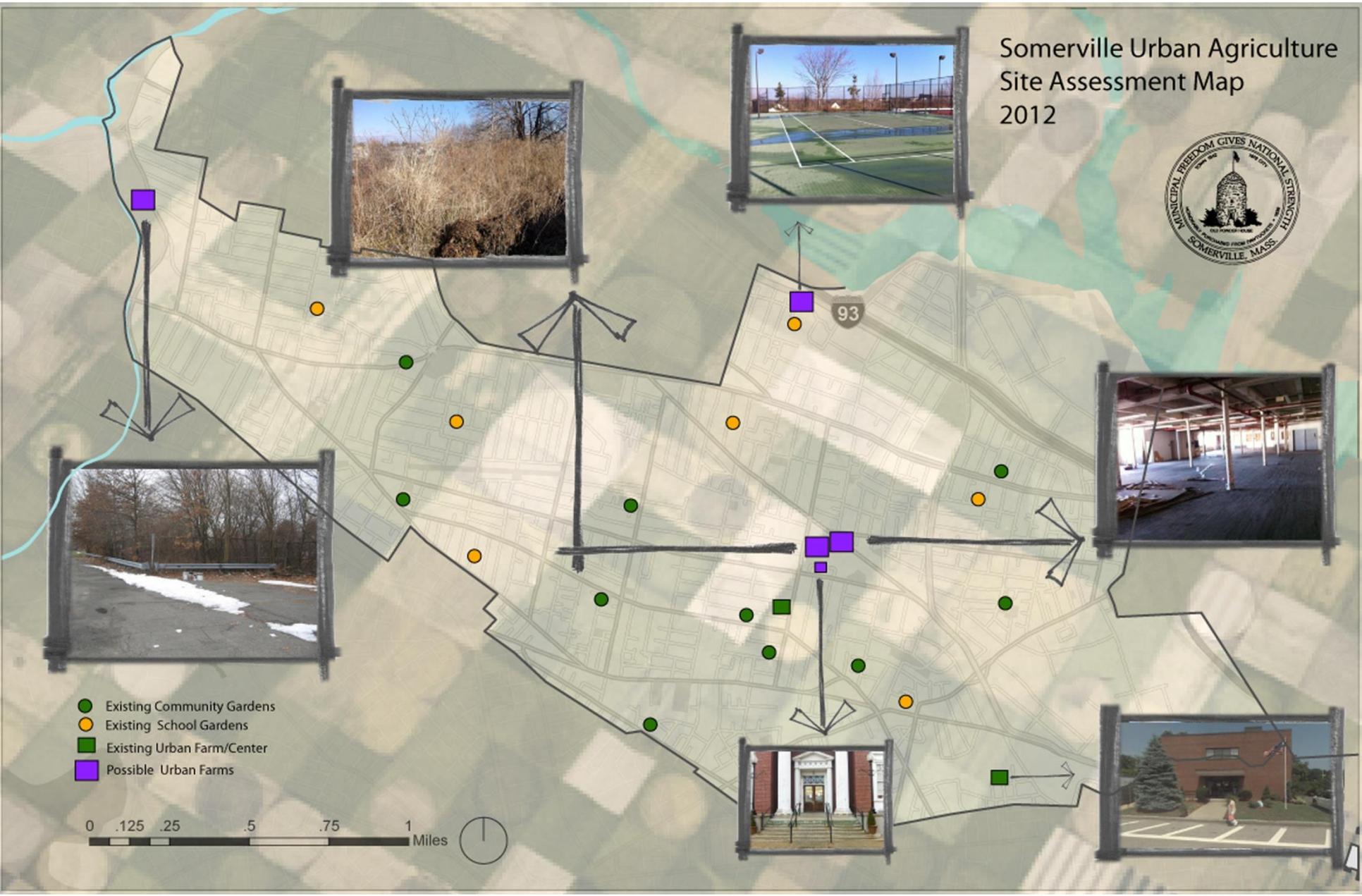
BY GENEVIEVE RAJEWSKI PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL PIAZZA



# Somerville Urban Agriculture Site Assessment Map 2012



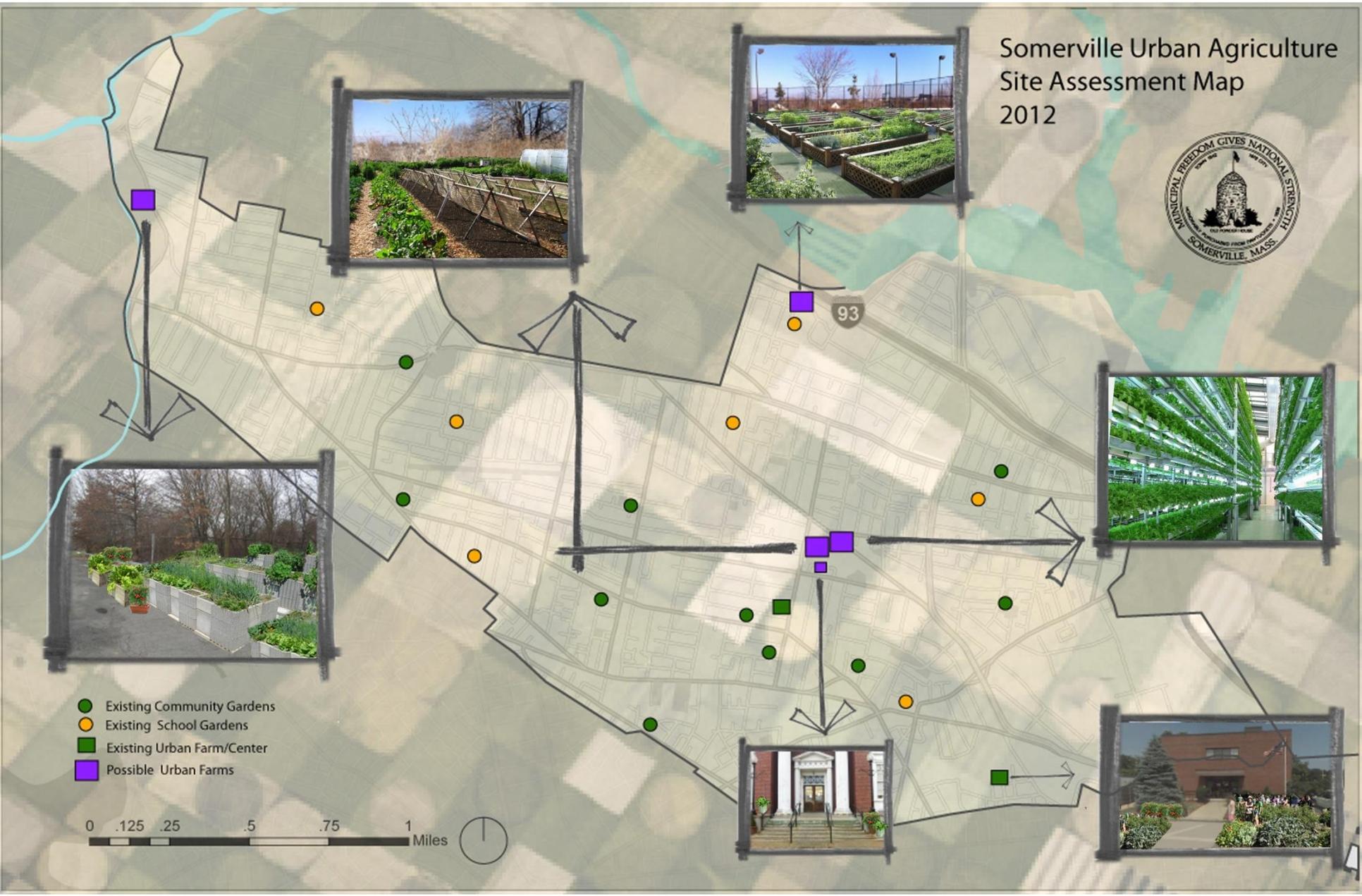
- Existing Community Gardens
- Existing School Gardens
- Existing Urban Farm/Center
- Possible Urban Farms



# Somerville Urban Agriculture Site Assessment Map 2012



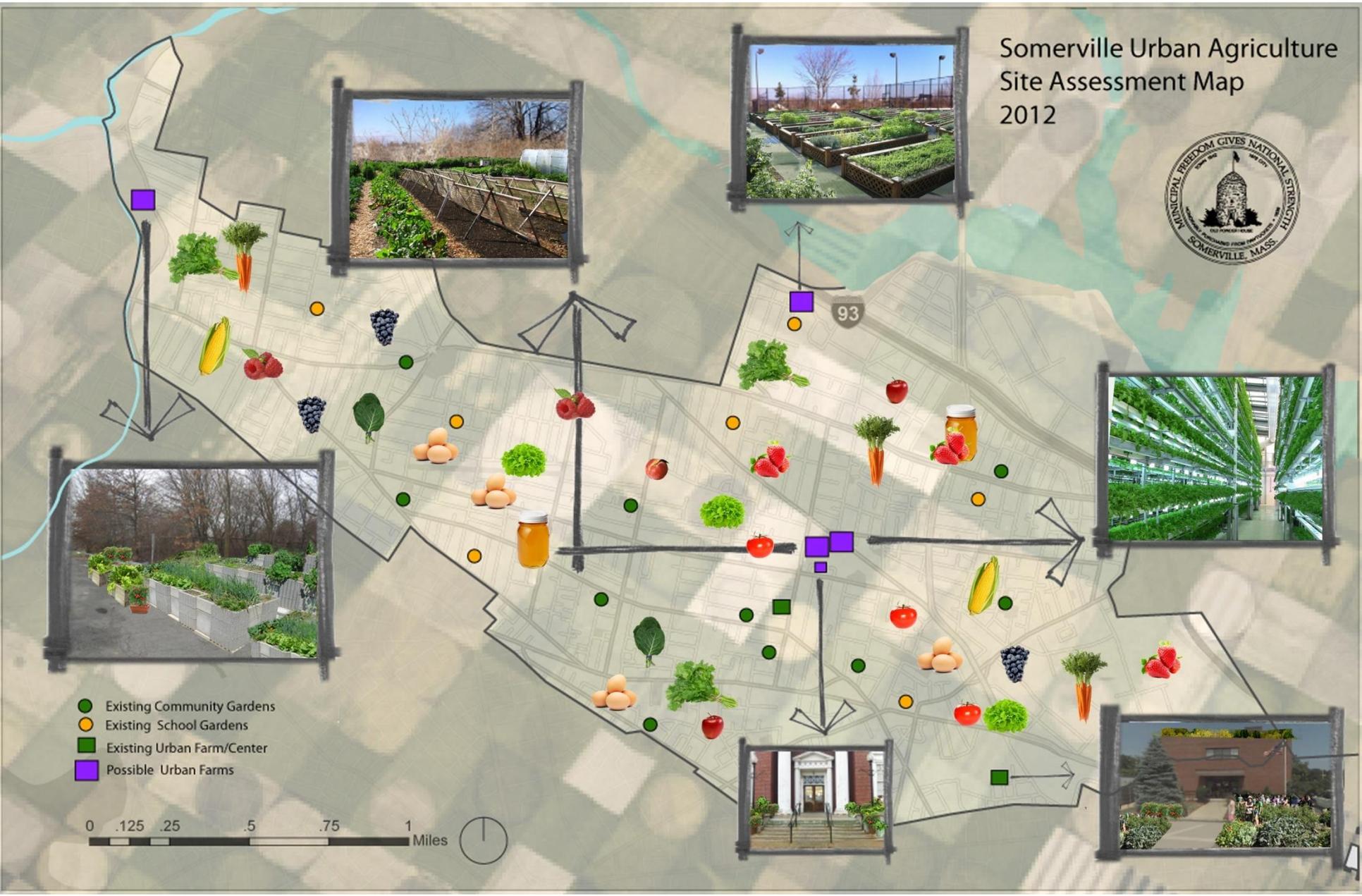
- Existing Community Gardens
- Existing School Gardens
- Existing Urban Farm/Center
- Possible Urban Farms



# Somerville Urban Agriculture Site Assessment Map 2012



- Existing Community Gardens
- Existing School Gardens
- Existing Urban Farm/Center
- Possible Urban Farms





City of Somerville Website:  
<http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/parks-and-open-space/urban-agriculture-initiative>

Facebook: SLUG  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SomervilleGardeners/>

Tumblr: Somerville Urban Ag  
<http://somervilleurbanag.tumblr.com/>