

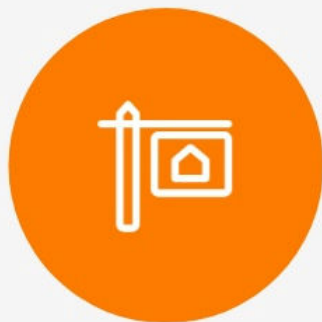


The Farm-a-Lot Program

In Partnership with the City of Toledo

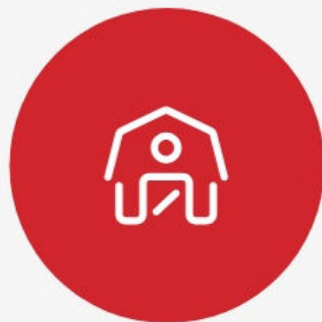


What is the Farm-a-Lot Program?



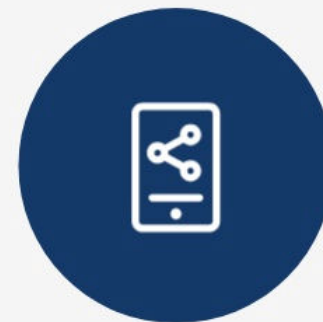
Vacant lot ownership

Vacant lots owned by the Land Bank or owned by the City of Toledo are an opportunity for farming.



Farming opportunities

Partners can build and operate farms on the vacant land to grow crops, raise animals, or keep bees.



Community-driven

The program empowers individuals to transform underutilized spaces into thriving urban farms.

The Farm-a-Lot program provides community members with the opportunity to cultivate their farms on public, vacant land. This helps to build their business, promote sustainable food production, and revitalize underutilized spaces.

Farm-a-Lot Opportunities

Farming creates a product for sale or donation – it's a business.

- **Grow Crops**

Participants can cultivate a variety of crops, including vegetables, fruits, herbs, and grains, for commercial sale or donation.

- **Raise Animals**

Participants can raise livestock, such as chickens & goats, to produce and sell food and animal-derived wellness products.

- **Keep Bees**

Participants can maintain beehives to produce and sell honey and other bee-derived products.

Common Sense Expectations

Zoning Flexibility

Farm-a-Lot properties can be located in residential, commercial, or industrial areas.

Minimum Lot Size

Farm-a-Lot properties are typically at least 0.5 acres in size and lots may be consolidated.

Thoughtful Approach

Some lots may not be available because they are targeted for new housing or have brownfield concerns.

Residential Neighborhood Support

For residential lots, the Land Bank will engage nearby residents with the applicant to build lasting community support.

Building to Ownership

Farm-a-Lot participants will be given a clear path to ownership, along with sufficient time to ensure that their business can mature and meet its costs.

Agriculture First

The focus of this program is agriculture. Other uses, such as storage, processing, or composting, will be reviewed through our regular commercial program to identify suitable sites.



Land Bank **Incentives**

- Leasing the public land to the Farm-a-Lot participant **defers the cost of property taxes & assessments** until the business is more mature.
- Soil investigation & soil remediation **matching grants** will be available to help a Farm-a-Lot applicant safely invest in the site.
- Land Bank coordination with local government partners can help the Farm-a-Lot participant break through **red tape** (water taps, permitting, hoop houses, grant opportunities).

Five Steps to Get Started

Submit a Farm-a-Lot Application

Interested individuals must submit a Farm-a-Lot application to the Land Bank. This application will allow you to provide details about your farming plans, including the type of crops, animals, or bees you intend to cultivate, as well as any structures you plan to build.

Identify the Public Land

As part of the application process, you'll need to identify a specific vacant lot that you'd like to farm. The Land Bank's vacant lots map can be a helpful resource in finding a suitable property that meets the program's eligibility requirements, such as a minimum size of 0.5 acres.

Conduct Environmental Testing

Before you can start farming, you'll be responsible for testing the soil on the lot to ensure it is safe for agricultural use. The Land Bank can provide guidance and connect you with resources to help you understand the results and develop a plan to address any environmental contamination.

Engage the Neighborhood

The Land Bank will work with you to engage with residential neighbors, share your plans, and build consensus on your essential business project. In commercial and industrial areas, we'll still work to keep people informed, but the engagement expectations will be lower.

Sign the Lease Agreement

Once your application is approved, you'll enter into a lease agreement with the Land Bank. This agreement will outline the terms of your lease, including the annual fee of \$100 per lot and the option to purchase the land for the tax assessed value after the initial 3-year lease period.

Build Your Farm!