



# MONON ACRES URBAN FARM

## A FRESH IDEA FOR INDIANAPOLIS

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# GROWING IN THE CITY BENEFITS



# WHAT IS AN URBAN FARM?

COMMUNITY-MANAGED PLOTS

NONPROFIT-MANAGED PROGRAM

MARKET-ORIENTED FARM ENTERPRISE

# COMMUNITY-MANAGED PLOTS

The site would largely consist of garden plots operated by community residents, with some coordination from City departments and/or nonprofit delegate agencies.



<http://www.ethicurean.com/2009/01/28/the-garden/>

# COMMUNITY-MANAGED PLOTS

## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDEN - Seattle

- Gardeners have access to garden plots
- Program provides tools, water, fertilizer
- Organic gardening education
- Program staff provides administrative support



<http://lettucelink.blogspot.com/>



<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/locations/36.htm>

# COMMUNITY-MANAGED PLOTS

## BENEFITS

- Minimal administration and cost
- Large potential for community participation
- Affordable produce for residents
- Could be done at large scale quickly
- Can be easily adapted to local preferences

## ISSUES

- Dedicated community association likely necessary
- Securing funding may be difficult
- Supply and training sources need to be identified
- No direct job creation
- Lacks formal food distribution system
- Quality and quantity of food depends on individual growers

# NONPROFIT-MANAGED PROGRAM

An established nonprofit organization would manage all aspects of farm operations, with a primary focus on training and community involvement.



[http://www.mindfulmetropolis.com/Archive/August\\_2009/  
Article/Back\\_to\\_School\\_to\\_Learn\\_Green\\_Jobs/33](http://www.mindfulmetropolis.com/Archive/August_2009/Article/Back_to_School_to_Learn_Green_Jobs/33)

# NONPROFIT-MANAGED PROGRAM

## WINDY CITY HARVEST – Chicago, IL

- Administered by the Chicago Botanic Garden since 2006
- Focused on training young adults in neighborhood
- 6-months of staff instruction, 3-month paid internship
- Produce sold at local markets & various retail outlets
- Some program graduates stay on to teach and grow year-



# NONPROFIT-MANAGED PROGRAM

## BENEFITS

- Nonprofit status can help with grant support
- Ability to leverage in-kind resources from existing supporters
- On-site training builds local capacity for scaling up operations
- Informal distribution methods can encourage innovation (e.g. testing new crops or techniques as part of training)

## ISSUES

- Dependence on grants
- Long-term job creation not guaranteed
- Scale of food production depends on ability to support trainees
- Operating overhead may reduce resources for farm operations

# MARKET-ORIENTED FARM ENTERPRISE

A nonprofit or for-profit venture focused on formal market channels, with primary goals of supporting itself financially and improving community food security.



Chris Anderson, BuildingGreen.com

# MARKET-ORIENTED FARM ENTERPRISE

## GROWING POWER - MILWAUKEE

- Provides produce, eggs, and fish for 2,000+ from 2-ac site
- Intensive cropping yields \$5/sf (\$218k/acre) average revenue
- Generated 5,000+ tons of marketable compost from food scraps
- Indoor methane digester & outdoor piles supply year-round heat
- 10 satellite farms employing 40 and providing food for 10,000+



Ryan Anderson



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/27761309@N04/2590098359/in/set-72157605691663139/>



Ryan Anderson

# MARKET-ORIENTED FARM ENTERPRISE

## BENEFITS

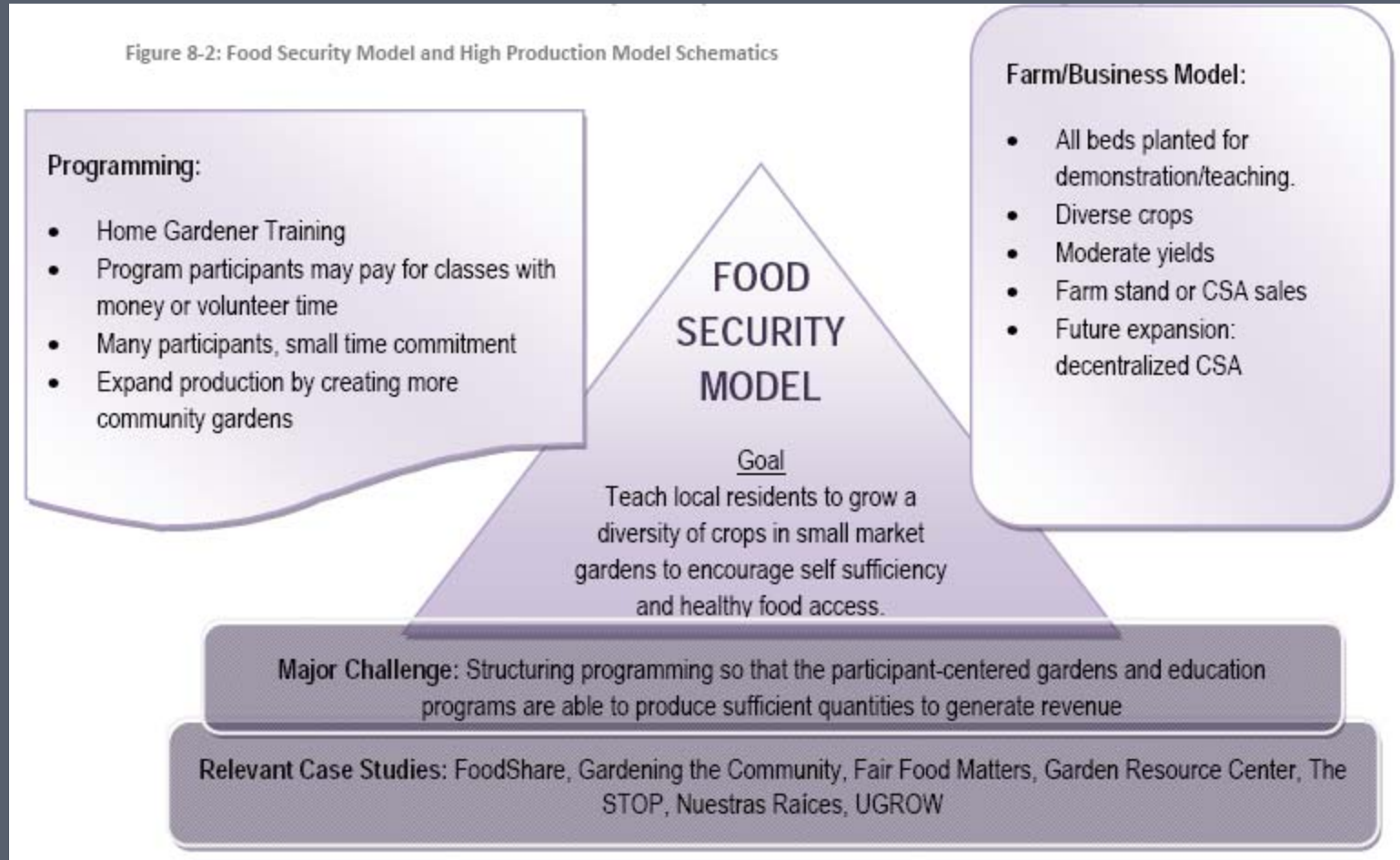
- Clear potential for job creation
- Balances grants & ability to generate own revenue for programs  
(e.g. job training or youth education)
- Co-production systems can be developed to close resource loop  
(e.g. aquaponics and composting)
- Able to attract distribution partners & develop satellites or spin-offs from same infrastructure

## ISSUES

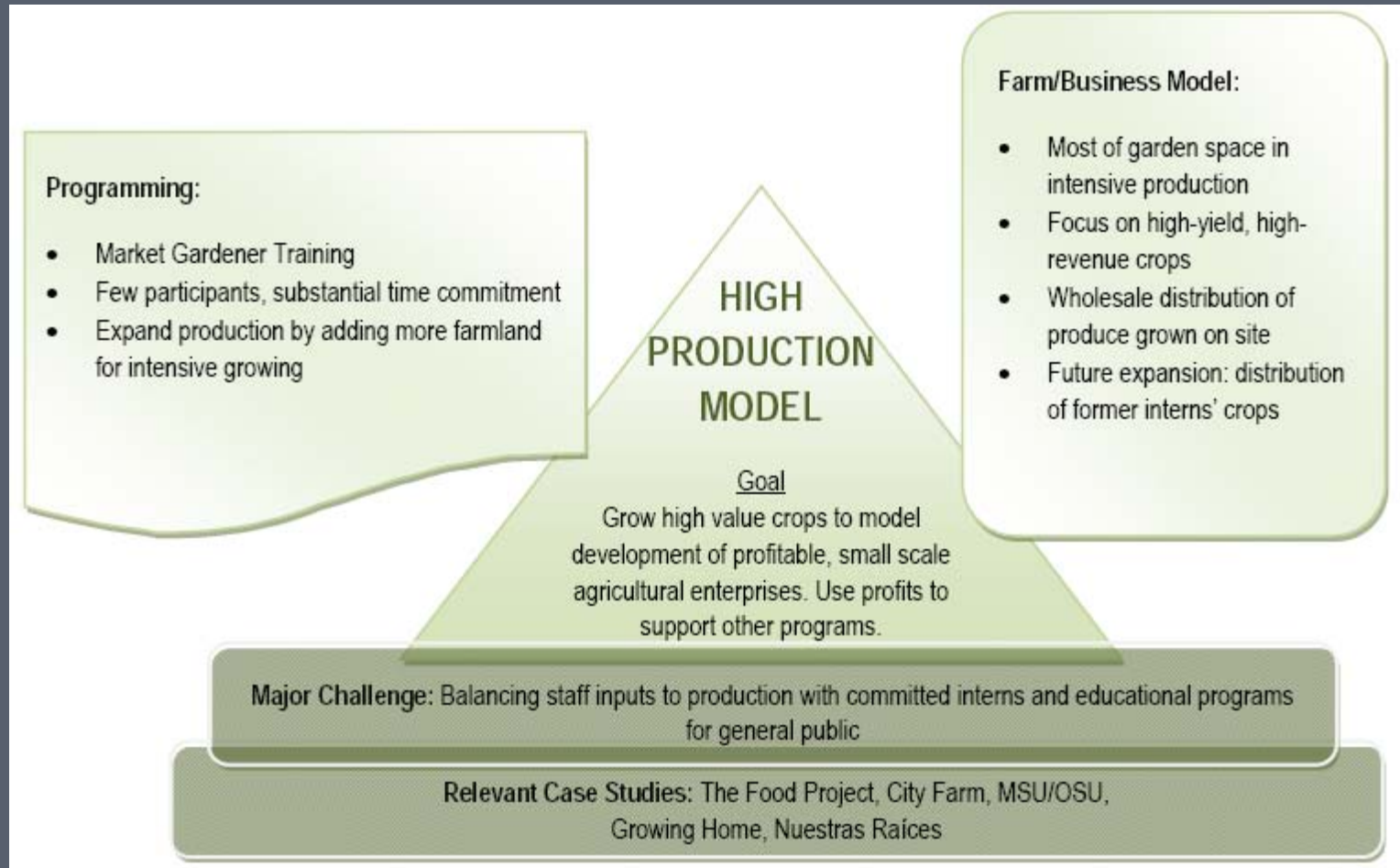
- Market focus may decrease supply of affordable food for community
- May need fencing to restrict access to site
- Requires time & resources to build programs
- Lack of local precedent for large-scale urban farm development

# SUMMARY VIEW – OPTION 1

Figure 8-2: Food Security Model and High Production Model Schematics



# SUMMARY VIEW – OPTION 2



# POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

## GOVERNMENT

- USDA Community Food Project Competitive Grant Program
- Tax-Increment Financing
- Community Development Block Grants
- DOL workforce development/job training grants
- HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainable Communities Planning Grant
- Municipal or state grant/low-interest loan
- Special levy (e.g. Seattle Parks and Green Spaces, ~\$80/year)

## PRIVATE/OTHER

- Local philanthropy
- Foundation program or general operating support
- Land trust/open space protection
- Foundation or bank PRI (Program-Related Investment)
- New Markets Tax Credit allocations

# WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DEVELOP?

Community gathering space

Access to affordable fresh food

Community garden plots

Large farm plots growing produce for retail

Youth education

Gardening classes

Cooking and processing skills

Distribution links with local farms

Farmers market

Job training

Year-round production

Farmstand/healthy corner store

Recreation space

Job creation