



# Help Atlanta Grow!

**Atlanta is becoming a national leader in urban agriculture. But we need your help again!**

The Atlanta City Council passed the Urban Agriculture ordinance in June 2014 which increases community access to fresh, healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

**The Issue:** A few gardens require a Special Administrative Permit (SAP) to operate, and the permit fees for these gardens are too high. High SAP fees can create a hardship for growers who want to start Urban Gardens in residential zoning districts.

**How this Amendment would help:** The proposed amendment would revise a section of Atlanta's zoning code to **decrease** the **SAP fee** for Urban Gardens in residential districts from **\$250.00** to **\$30.00**.

**When is a Special Administrative Permit required to operate a garden?** The city of Atlanta will only require a SAP for an Urban Garden that is the *principal* use on a lot to ensure the garden maintains the neighborhood's fabric and character. **A permit is needed only if the garden is the sole use on the property. So, if there is a house or structure on-site, you do not need a permit.**

**What is an Urban Garden?** An Urban Garden is a garden where produce is grown for personal use or offsite sale. Produce grown in an Urban Garden cannot be sold onsite. (You can find the official ordinance language describing an Urban Garden [www.gogrowatlanta.com](http://www.gogrowatlanta.com).)

**What are the requirements for a SAP for Urban Gardens as a principal use in a residential zoning district?** When an SAP is required for an Urban Garden, the applicant will have to submit the following documents:

- Site Plan
- Management Plan/Impact Analysis

The SAP will expire 12 months from the date of issuance and requires annual renewal. **We are working with the city to ensure that no renewal fee is required.**

**Will the ordinance require me to pay a fee to grow vegetables in my yard?** Nope!

**What is a Market Garden?** An Urban Garden is a garden where produce is grown for personal use or sale. Produce grown in a Market Garden can be sold onsite. (You can find the official ordinance language describing an Urban Garden [www.gogrowatlanta.com](http://www.gogrowatlanta.com).)

**Are there restrictions on Market Gardens in residential districts?** Yes. Market Gardens are allowed only as an accessory use on lots with schools, churches, or places of worship without a permit. Market Gardens are not allowed as the principal use in residential districts. **A permit is not needed to operate a Market Garden in a residential district on a lot with a school, church, or place of worship.**

**Is a permit required for an Urban Garden or Market Garden in non-residential districts?** No, Urban Gardens and Market Gardens are allowed as a principal or accessory use without a permit in non-residential zoned districts.

**Why is there language about developments, cell towers, and co-location antenna in the amendment?** The zoning code is only being amended to address the SAP fee for an Urban Garden. The remainder of the city code sections will remain the same but needed to be listed because this is how the legislation will read. There will be no change for SAP fees for developments, cell towers, co-location antenna, and related uses.

**BUT I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS!**

**Where can I read the full text of the urban agriculture fee paper amendment?** Visit [gogrowatlanta.org](http://gogrowatlanta.org), then click on the Citizen Feedback tab. You can read the amendment there in full, as well as comment electronically.

**How can I support the amendment?** Let your Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) leaders and Atlanta City Councilmember know you support the amendment. To see a list of NPU meetings, go to [www.gogrowatlanta.org/get-involved/](http://www.gogrowatlanta.org/get-involved/).

**How can I comment on the amendment?** The amendment will go through the NPU process for public comment and discussion. You can attend NPU meetings or contact your NPU leadership.

You can also ask questions and share your input about urban agriculture and the zoning amendment by visiting [gogrowatlanta.org](http://gogrowatlanta.org) and clicking the Citizen Feedback tab – comments on our website are NOT a part of the public record, but a way for the community to share thoughts and questions about the urban agriculture zoning amendment.

**Who's been working on this?** Georgia Organics and the Atlanta Local Food Initiative worked with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, the Office of Planning, the Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory Law School, and local growers for over three years on the urban agriculture ordinance and the urban agriculture fee paper.