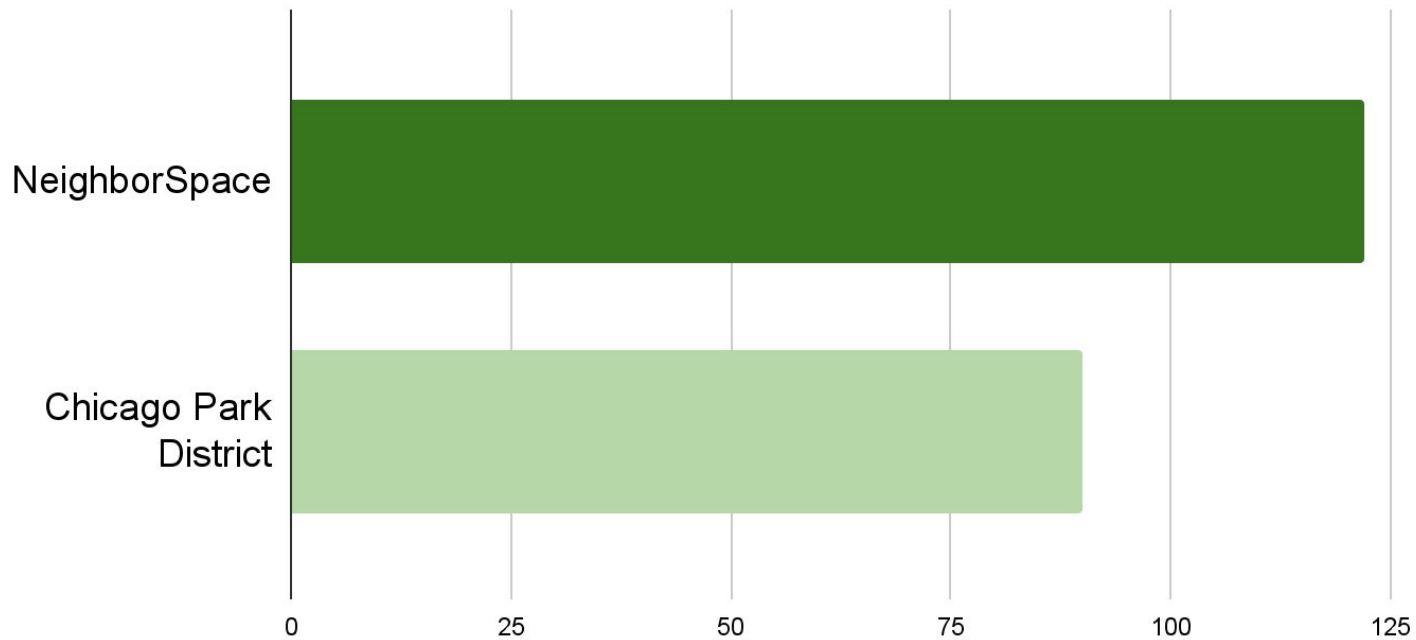
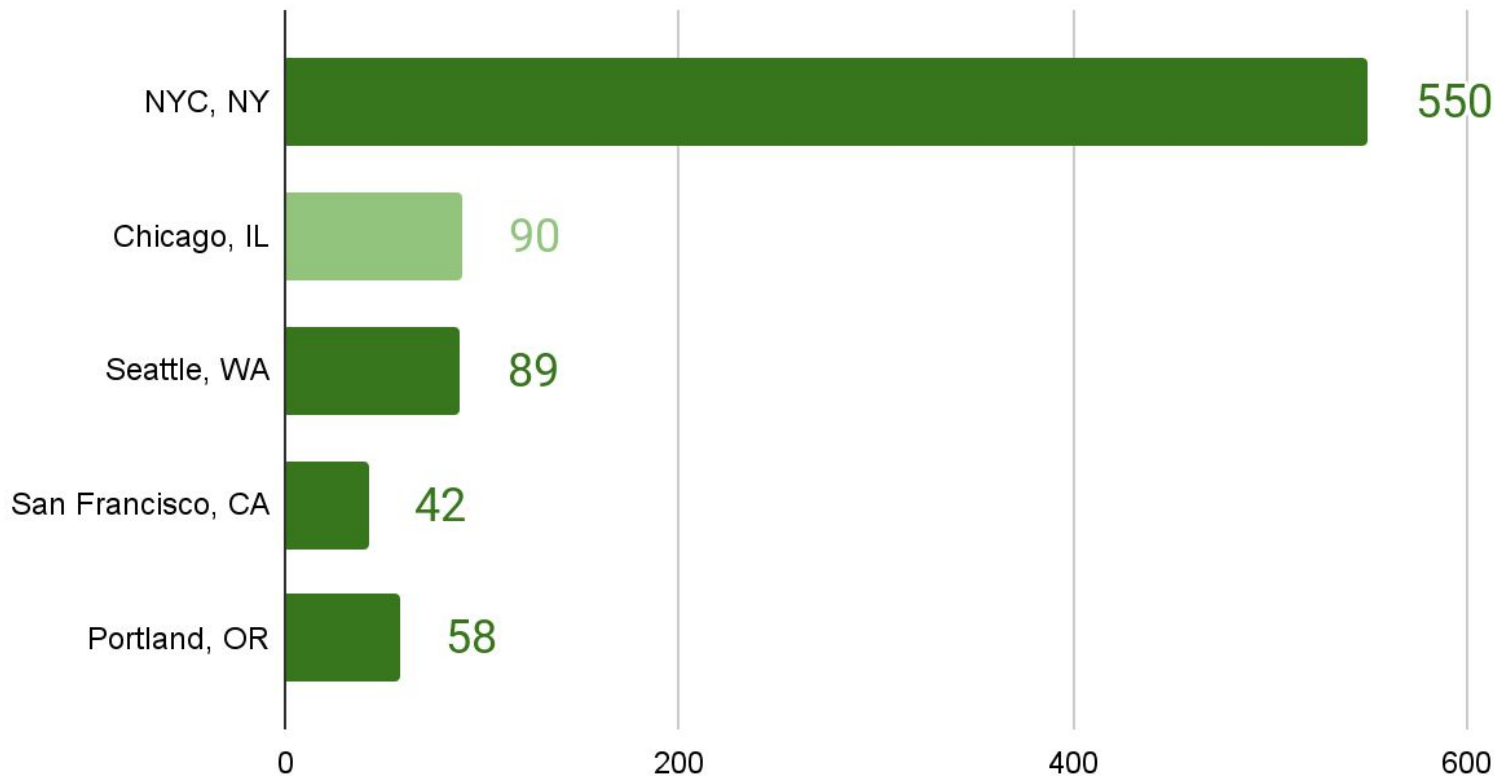




Community Gardens

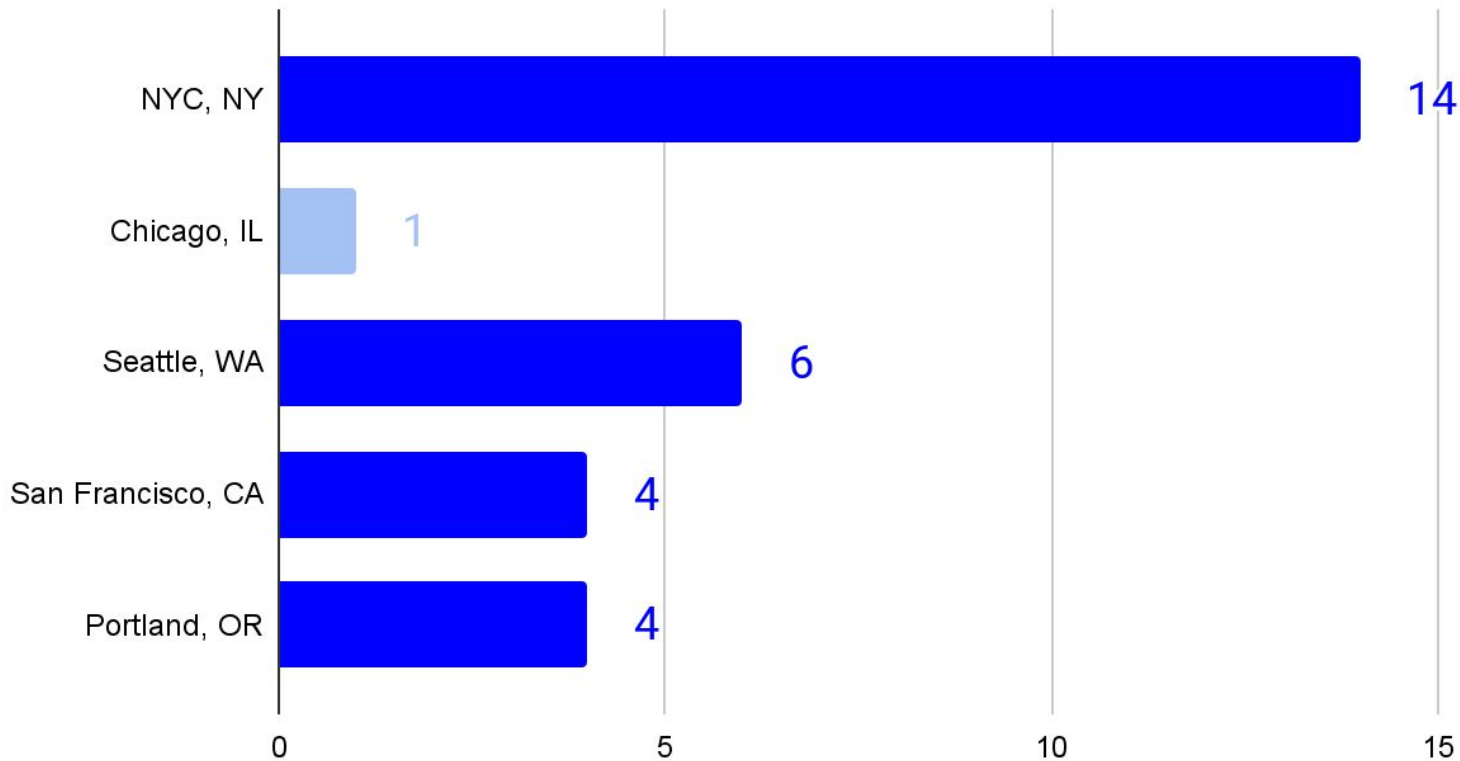


Parks: # Community Gardens



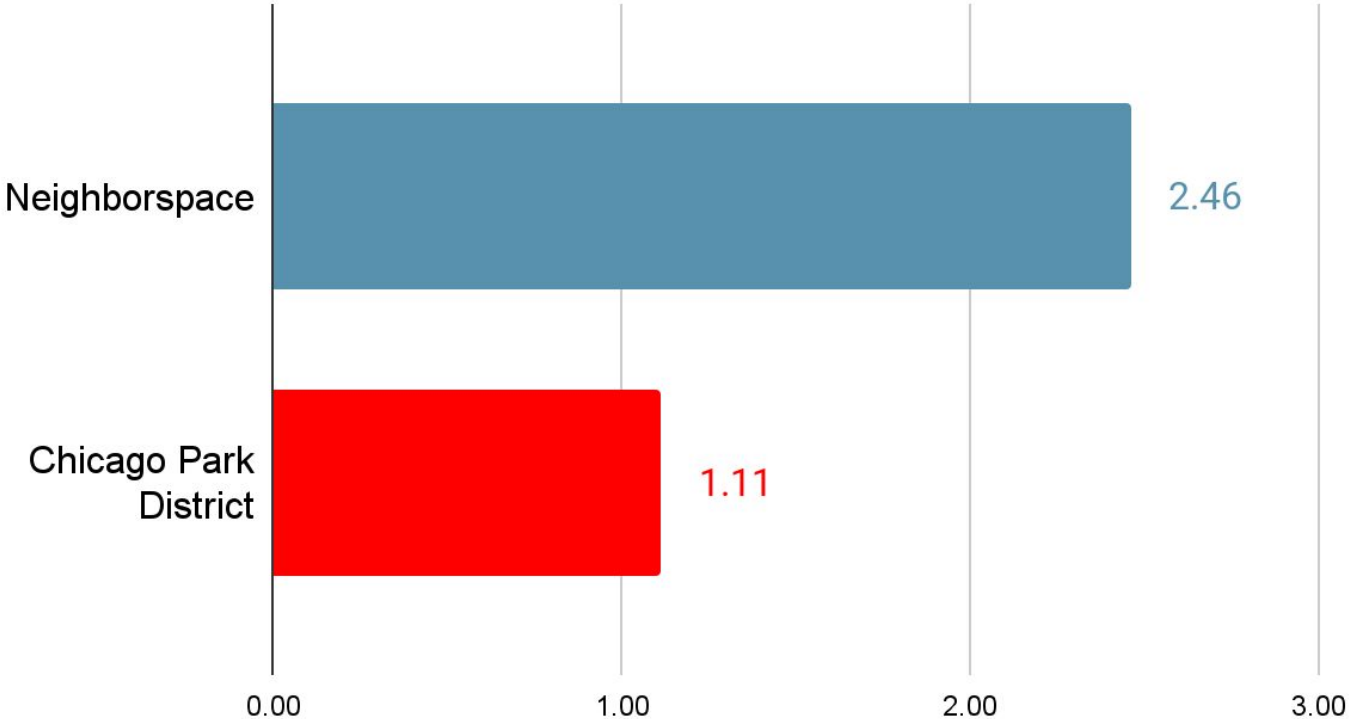


Community Garden Staff : FTE

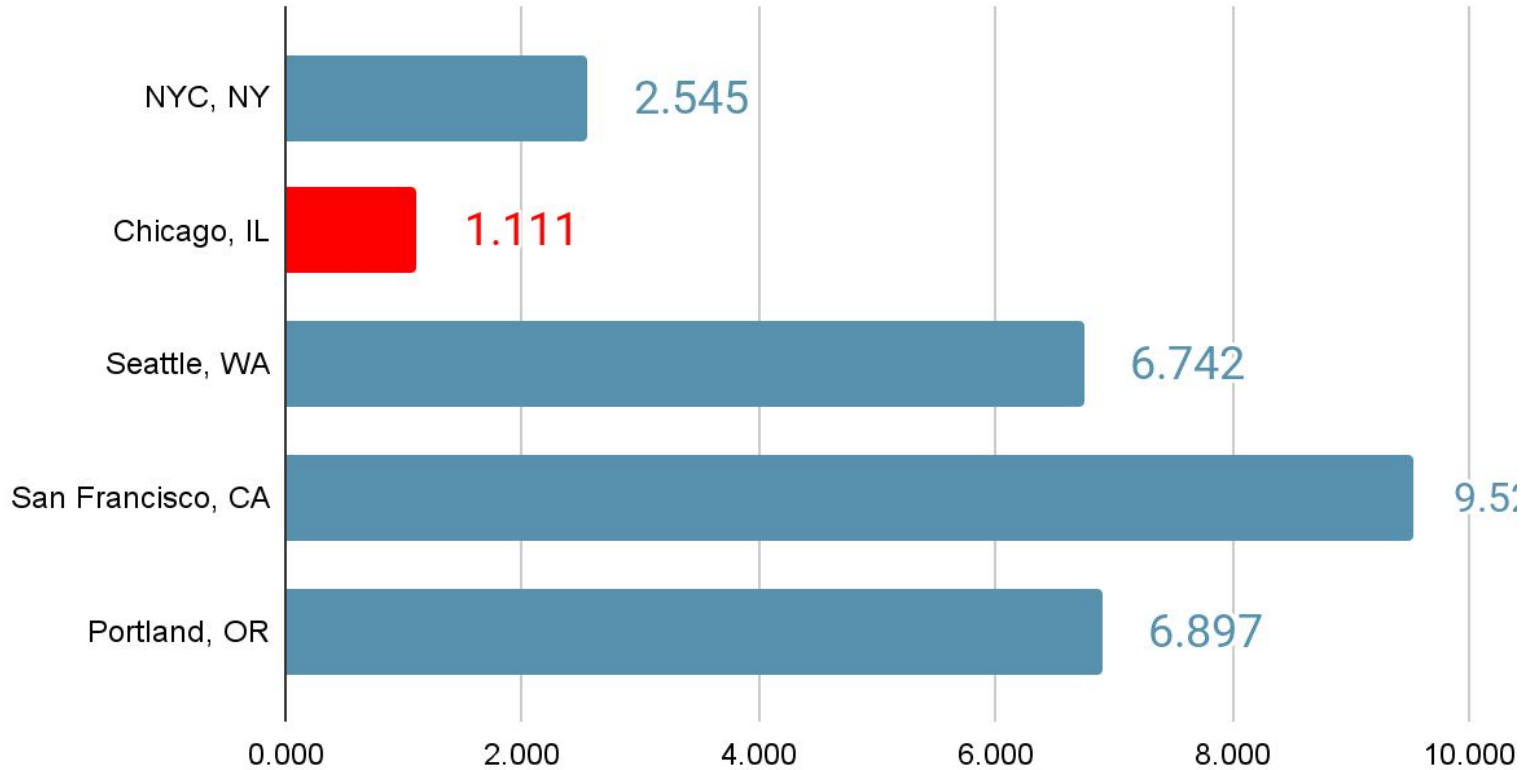




Index: Support for Park Community Gardens (Staff per 100 CGs)

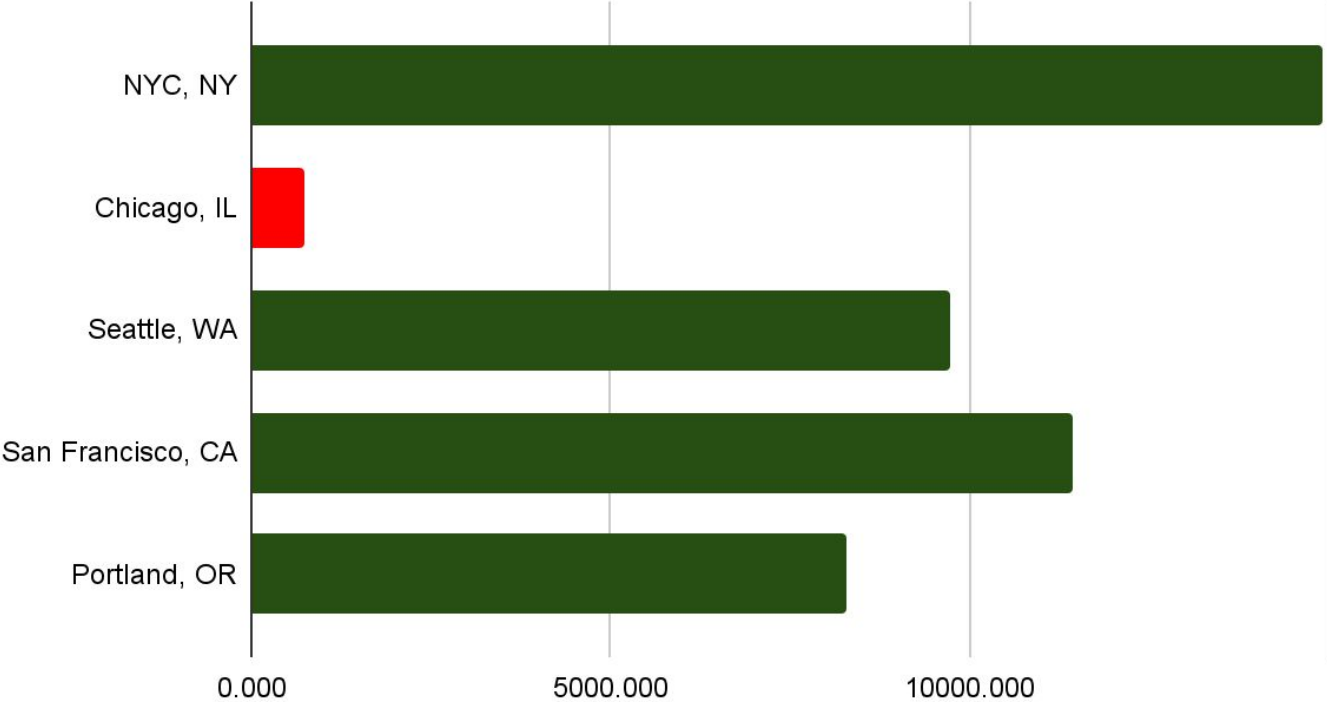


Index: Support for Park Community Gardens (Staff per 100 CGs)





Index : Total Budget Per Garden (Includes Staff)





Most Cities in Study: Baseline of support without cost to community gardens annually

Materials :

- Lumber
- Soil
- Compost
- Wood Chips

Chicago does not provide baseline support.

Chicago Park District has reinstated its grant program but only \$5,000 is budgeted for 90 gardens. Only \$500 grants for 10 gardens per year.



Baseline of support

=

Equitable

=

Safe Materials

=

Healthy



Neighborspace Community Gardens

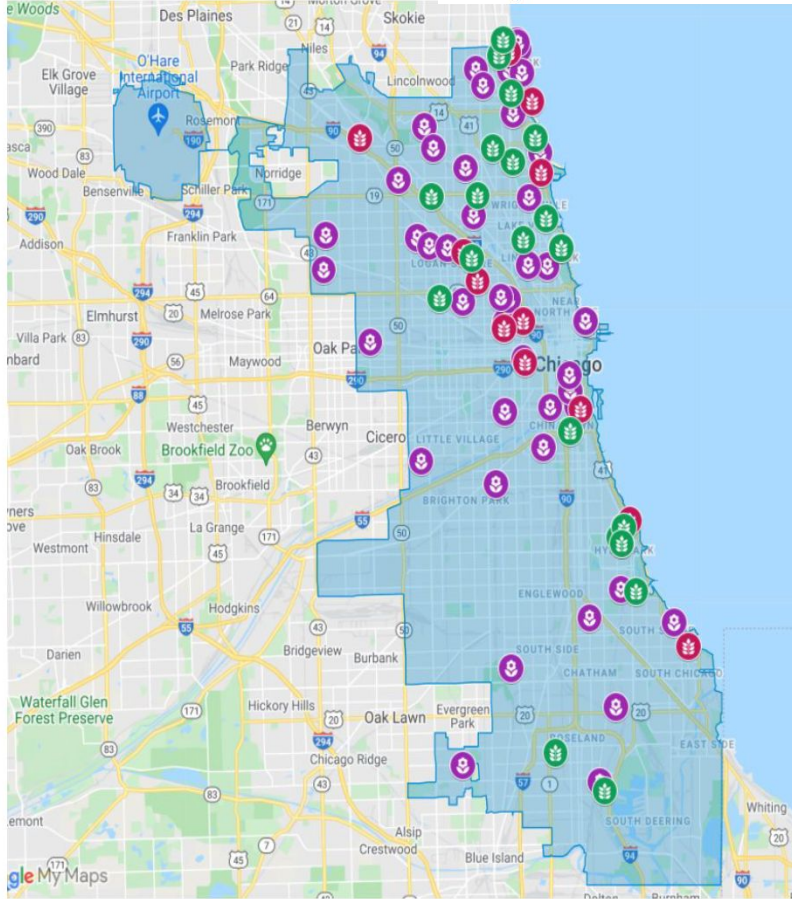
- **City of Chicago provides land or lease agreement**
- **Initial Buildout**
 - For many gardens, City of Chicago funded construction costs via Open Space Impact Fees, TIF
- **Operating Cost**
 - Self Funded



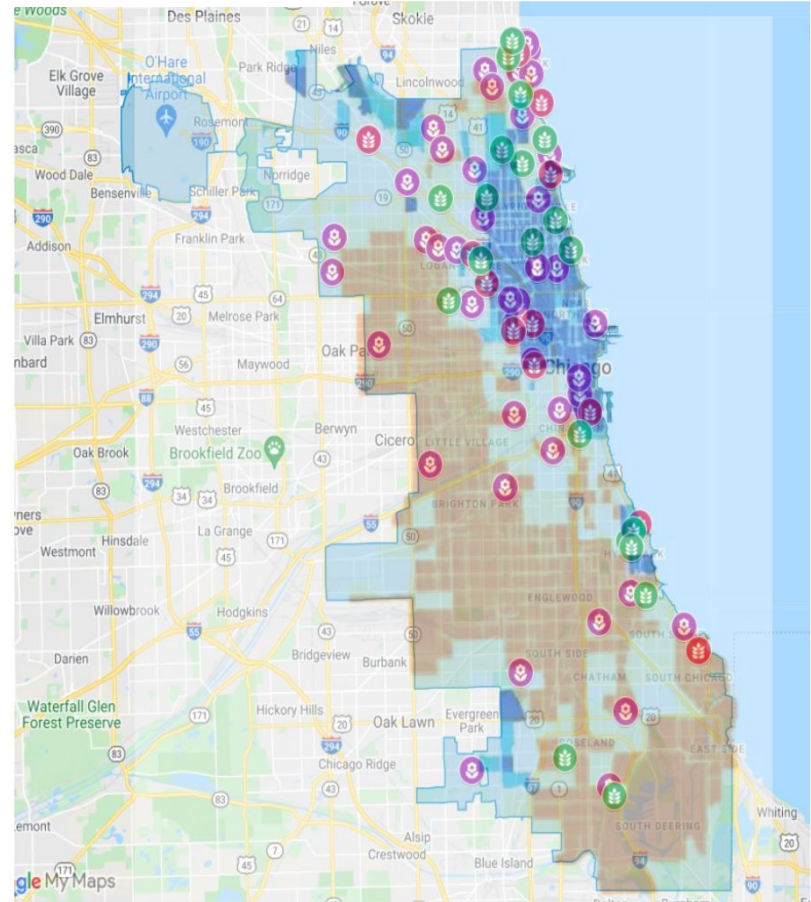
Chicago Park District Community Gardens

- **Provides land**
- **Initial Buildout**
 - **Self-Funded Generally**
 - **Small number of gardens able to access Aldermanic Menu funds.**
- **Operating Cost**
 - **Self Funded**

Equal but Inequitable Policies



- Ornamental
- Edible
- Combined



Community Gardens in the Parks

Park District provides land but community garden groups are required to be self-funded, paying for everything from garden construction to ongoing maintenance .

There are three types of community gardens:

- Edible - food producing
- Ornamental - Park Beautification
- Combined - food producing and flower garden

Most people think of community gardens as only edible-food producing gardens but more than half of CPD community gardens are ornamental.

The edible and combined community gardens have a path to fund themselves for ongoing maintenance because most charge an annual fee per plot. People are more willing to pay the fee because they get a personal direct benefit like someone who pays a permit fee.

ORNAMENTAL COMMUNITY GARDENS

For ornamental community gardens where residents come together for park beautification as a benefit to their community, there is not a easy funding model.

Ornamental community gardens by it's concept to beautify the neighborhood and park cannot charge fees for people to use and enjoy the garden. Garden groups must rely 100% on fundraising. Many ornamental community gardeners pay for flowers and materials out of pocket. This is especially a hard burden for lower income communities to carry.

The current model for park beautification favors parks in wealthier neighborhoods because the Park District puts all the responsibility from fundraising, installation and maintenance on the community members themselves.

Why Change in Funding Model is needed

- The Park District should allocate some funding to support installation, and maintenance for support because these communities have historically been disinvested, and they do not have as much neighborhood wealth to draw from.
- Investment in community gardening - park beautification is better for communities because it promotes neighborhood stewardship and community engagement.
- It's important for people to be vested in their parks. The Park District should value the sweat equity that neighbors can bring to the park as partners.

Why Change in Funding Model is needed

- The Park District should allocate some funding to support installation, and maintenance for support because these communities have historically been disinvested, and they do not have as much neighborhood wealth to draw from.
- Investment in community gardening - park beautification is better for communities because it promotes neighborhood stewardship and community engagement.
- It's important for people to be vested in their parks. The Park District should value the sweat equity that neighbors can bring to the park as partners.

- Research have shown that community based beautification in public spaces reduce crime.
- Educates people that parks need people to care about them and not just about usage. Community Gardens not only helps to build community among residents but grows community leaders
- Park Beautification does not have to be expensive. It can take place in existing welcome planters, flower beds that are no longer maintained by the park district or adding new ornamental beds.
- An investment of plant material for community residents to plant, grow, and nurture is not only an investment in the park but in the community itself.



WE WILL CHICAGO

**A framework plan
for the city's future**

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC INPUT
Published July 2022

WE WILL CHICAGO



As a 10-year framework to enhance citywide equity and resiliency, the draft "We Will Chicago" plan includes approximately

- 40 goals
- 150 objectives

to improve Chicagoans' lives, especially individuals impacted by inequities in health, economic stability, neighborhood livability, and other systemic issues.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PILLAR

GOAL 4: Eliminate barriers to accessing City services and supports.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Make City processes touching residents, workers, visitors and businesses more streamlined, accessible and equitable.



**CIVIC & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

POLICIES 4.1.D: Improve and publicly document and publish transparent, easy to understand guidelines for residents and groups to navigate city processes, such as accessing city-owned vacant land or starting an urban farm or community garden.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & ENERGY PILLAR

GOAL 3: Foster public and private partnerships to reduce waste and encourage the reuse of materials, locally produced goods, services, and energy.

OBJECTIVE 3.4: Implement and support the development of urban agriculture.



POLICIES: 3.4.A: Increase neighborhood and commercial growing opportunities within the City by encouraging businesses, residents and community groups in land acquisition, farming operations, community gardens, vertical gardens, backyard gardens, green roofs, aquaculture, animal husbandry, and apiaries through regulatory actions and education.

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS PILLAR

GOAL 3: Attract and retain residents and increase density to strengthen neighborhood vibrancy, especially on the South and West Sides.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: Prioritize redevelopment of vacant land and buildings.



POLICIES 3.3.A: Evaluate City-owned vacant land and identify priorities for parcels: community open space (including community gardens), residential, commercial/mixed-use.

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS PILLAR

GOAL 4: Invest in Black, Latino, Native American, Asian and immigrant community areas to create safe, healthy and livable neighborhoods that provide basic needs, amenities, services and jobs.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Increase access to healthy food and health care in Black, Latino, Native American, Asian and immigrant community areas.



POLICIES 4.1.A: Support community gardens and the urban agriculture system by identifying City- and Cook County-owned sites and providing resources to establish and maintain gardens over the long term.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY PILLAR

GOAL 3: Establish and maintain the necessary governmental public health and emergency management capacity, staff and infrastructure, and change community conditions to eliminate health inequities and respond to public health emergencies.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: Partner City agencies with community organizations to better meet people's unmet health needs.



**PUBLIC HEALTH
& SAFETY**

POLICIES 3.4.B: Support the development, function, funding, and sustainability of urban farms and agriculture, community gardening, and permaculture through making city-owned land available and making water accessible.

**LACK OF UNDERSTANDING & DOES NOT CAPTURE
THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
COMMUNITY GARDENS & URBAN AGRICULTURE**

TAKE THE SURVEYS!



wewillchicago.com/surveys

Housing and Neighborhoods Survey | We Will Chicago

After reviewing the Housing and Neighborhoods goals and objectives, is there anything you'd like to comment on?