

Media Advisory
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New Report: Under-resourced parks and public land create unique opportunity for Oakland to grow its own food.

City Slicker Farms, City of Oakland Parks and Recreation, and the West Oakland Community to break ground on Community Market Farm at Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Parks

Oakland, CA—On Sunday, November 1, cosponsors City Slicker Farms and the HOPE Collaborative will release “Cultivating the Commons: An Assessment of the Potential for Urban Agriculture on Oakland’s Public Land”. The report is the first to research and identify vacant and underutilized public land in Oakland, California, that could potentially be used for food production.

“We have identified 1,200 acres of underutilized land. If only half of this land were cultivated using intensive ecological farming methods these ‘commons’ could contribute at least five percent of the city’s recommended vegetable needs to the local food system, a significant step towards Oakland’s goal sourcing a third of its food locally,” said report author Nathan McClintock, doctoral candidate in geography at the University of California, Berkeley.

The report will be released at a special groundbreaking event for the Community Market Farm at Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Parks in West Oakland. In 2007, the Councilmember Nancy Nadel invited City Slicker Farms to convert these two under-resourced neighboring parks into a Community Market Farm. City Slicker Farms has spent two years planning and fundraising with Oakland Parks and Recreation, neighbors of the park, and the larger West Oakland community to make this Farm possible.

Once completed, the Farm will provide organically grown fruits, vegetables, and eggs to West Oakland, prioritizing low-income and homeless community members. In addition, the space will be used for urban gardening workshops, internships for youth and adults, and recreation.

“Healthy affordable food is hard to find in much of the Oakland flatlands.” says Barbara Finnin, Executive Director of City Slicker Farms. “This Community Market Farm is a model for our City to replicate in under-resourced public land, creating the needed spaces for low-income residents to grow their own food.”

Event Details:

What: New Community Market Farm Groundbreaking at Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Parks

Date: Sunday, November 1, 2009

Time: 11am to 3pm

Where: Fitzgerald and Union Plaza parks (corner of 34th and Peralta), Oakland

Highlights:

- Opening ceremony and remarks by representatives from City of Oakland, park neighbors, City Slicker Farms, and Nathan McClintock, author, “Cultivating the Commons: An Assessment of the Potential for Urban Agriculture on Oakland’s Public Land” (2009)
- Community build day: neighbors and volunteers constructing raised garden beds

To download a copy of “Cultivating the Commons: An Assessment of the Potential for Urban Agriculture on Oakland’s Public Land”, go to www.urbanfood.org. For questions about the report, contact Nathan McClintock at 510-552-4825

To RSVP for the groundbreaking, contact Barbara Finnin

About City Slicker Farms

City Slicker Farms increases food self-sufficiency in West Oakland by creating organic, sustainable, high-yield urban farms and backyard gardens. These spaces provide healthy, affordable food and improve the environment. We seek to serve all West Oakland residents, prioritizing people who have least access. Our farms and gardens demonstrate the viability of a local food-production system, serve as community space, empower children and adults who want to learn about the connections between ecology, farming and the urban environment, and give West Oakland residents tools for self-reliance. www.cityslickerfarms.org