

# Starting a New Farm in East New York



Young Farmers Conference  
December 14th, 2012

# East New York Farms!



The mission of the East New York Farms! Project is to organize youth and adults to address food justice in our community by promoting local sustainable agriculture and community-led economic development.

*East NY Farms! is a project of the United Community Centers Inc.*



# What we do:

- Grow food
- Grow leaders
- Grow community

# ENYF! Program Areas



- Youth Program
- Gardener Support
- Farmers Market
- 3 Urban Farms
- Community Building:  
Micro-grants, Community  
Educators



# Youth Program



- 33 Youth who live or go to school in East New York on more responsibility
- Full-season paid internship
- Youth work on the UCC Youth Farm, at the farmers' market, and in other gardens.
- 12 Positions are for Returning Interns to take

# Gardener Support



- Practical workshops
- Seeds and seedlings
- Growing supplies such as compost, row cover and trellis
- Technical assistance
- Youth program assistance
- Supported 80+ gardeners in 2012

# 1998: First Farmers' Market





# Saturday Market Today





# Land in the City: East New York Farms! Sites

- UCC Youth Farm--1/2 acre, established 2000  
*Production, experimentation, demonstration*
- Hands and Heart Garden--1/2 acre, established 2007  
*Community run farm*
- Fresh Farm--1/4 acre, established 2012  
*Intergenerational farm incubator*

# Land in The City: By the Numbers

- 390+ Community gardens
- 245 NYCHA gardens
- 117 school gardens
- Public land administered by NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), MTA, Dept. of Transportation
- Private land administered by land trusts
- Almost 600 acres of vacant public land in Brooklyn alone!

# 596 ACRES

Get The News From The Acres

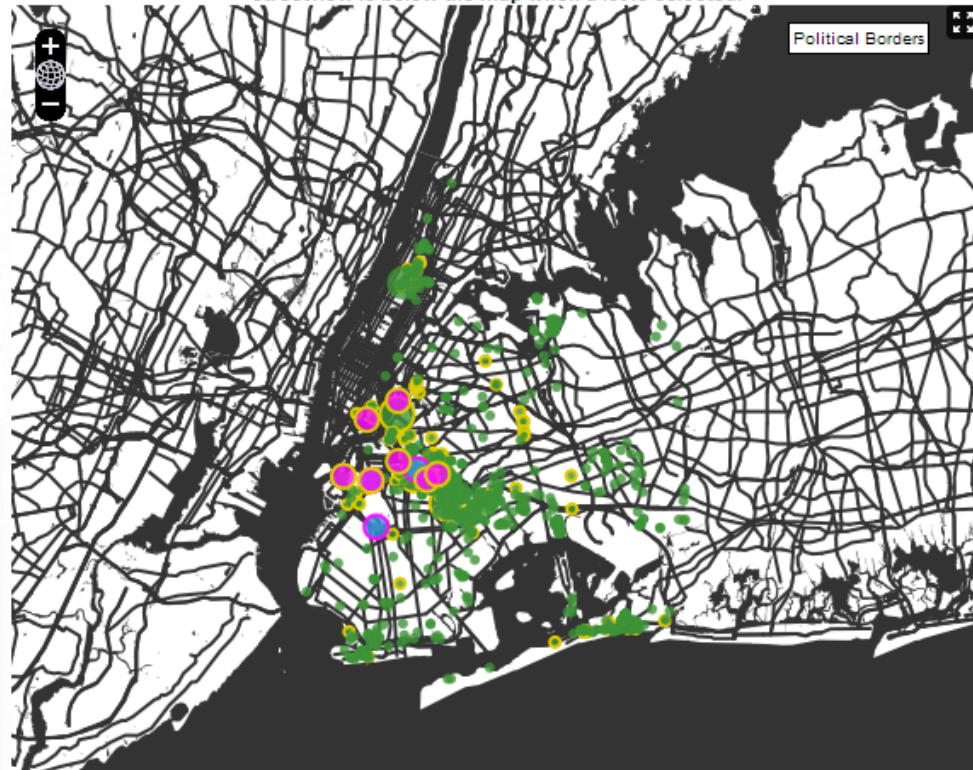
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Lot size: 0 to 3+ acres

Streetview is below the map when a lot is selected.



This map shows sites of potential community projects. We have taken several different sources of information about vacant publicly owned land, chosen the most accurate information from each and shared them here. This is our commons. We also add few private lots whose owners have volunteered their land for community use.

- public vacant lots
- public vacant sites being organized around (85)
- public vacant sites where groups have access (7)
- private vacant sites being used by community (3)
- community gardens on public land
- gutterspaces

## Upcoming Events

**Lots of Land/Land of Lots Book Reception**  
Friday, January 11 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

[view all upcoming events](#) | [view past events](#)

## Recent news

**New From the Acres - December 5, 2012**  
December 06, 2012 in news from the acres

**News From the Acres - November 29, 2012**  
December 04, 2012 in news from the acres

**Lots of Land/Land of Lots**  
November 26, 2012 in announcements



# UCC Youth Farm

-Parks and HPD Land



# UCC Youth Farm Usage

- Primarily for use of Youth Internship Program to grow produce for market
- Raised beds using topsoil and municipal compost
- 6 community members have beds, mostly growing for market
- Also used for education and research—tours to 700+ visitors and volunteers a year, crop trials, weather station, SARE grants.

# Hands and Heart Garden

-HPD Land, transferred to Parks







# Hands and Heart Garden Usage

- Approximately 30 members, about half of whom are growing and selling for the market.
- Youth Interns have small number of beds
- Maintained by gardeners, youth, and volunteers
- Wednesday farmers' market is located outside of the gate



# Fresh Farm

HPD land transferred to Parks in 2012





# The Beginnings of Fresh Farm

FW: East New York Farms - david@eastnewyorkfarms.org - East New York Farms/United Community Centers Mail - Google Chrome

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ui=2&view=btop&ver=lsvjwajrtlp4&q=Edie.Stone%40parks.nyc.gov&psize=20&pmr=100&pdr=50&search=apps&th=130d2e1369811432&qt=edie.stone>

**From:** Marcus, Charles  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2011 5:36 PM  
**To:** 'Stone, Edie'  
**Cc:** Hammer, Jack; Sherard, Diane; De La Torre, Beatriz  
**Subject:** RE: East New York Farms

There is also a small site on the next block, on the corner of Livonia Avenue and Hendrix Street (Block 4088, Lots 22, 23 and 24 – see attachment). It's too small for us to develop. Would you like that one too, for East New York Farms?

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**From:** Stone, Edie [mailto:[Edie.Stone@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Edie.Stone@parks.nyc.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 2:50 PM  
**To:** Marcus, Charles  
**Cc:** Hammer, Jack; Sherard, Diane; De La Torre, Beatriz  
**Subject:** RE: East New York Farms

Sure I will take them. I didn't realize that there were non-Parks lots on that property either.

---

**From:** Marcus, Charles [mailto:[MARCUSC@hpd.nyc.gov](mailto:MARCUSC@hpd.nyc.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:03 PM  
**To:** Stone, Edie  
**Cc:** Hammer, Jack; Sherard, Diane; De La Torre, Beatriz  
**Subject:** FW: East New York Farms

Edie,

As you know, East New York Farms is located on two sites, and one of the sites is at the corner of Livonia and Schenck Avenues (Block 4089, Lot 13). This is the site that we transferred to Parks jurisdiction in 2005, through one of the swaps. We recently found out that the gardeners have spilled over on to two adjacent HPD lots on Schenck Avenue between Livonia and New Lots Avenue, Lots 21 and 22, adding about 7000 square feet to the original 15,500-square foot garden. Maybe they didn't realize that the additional area didn't belong to Parks. In any case, we are considering transferring the two lots to Parks jurisdiction. Would you be interested in this?

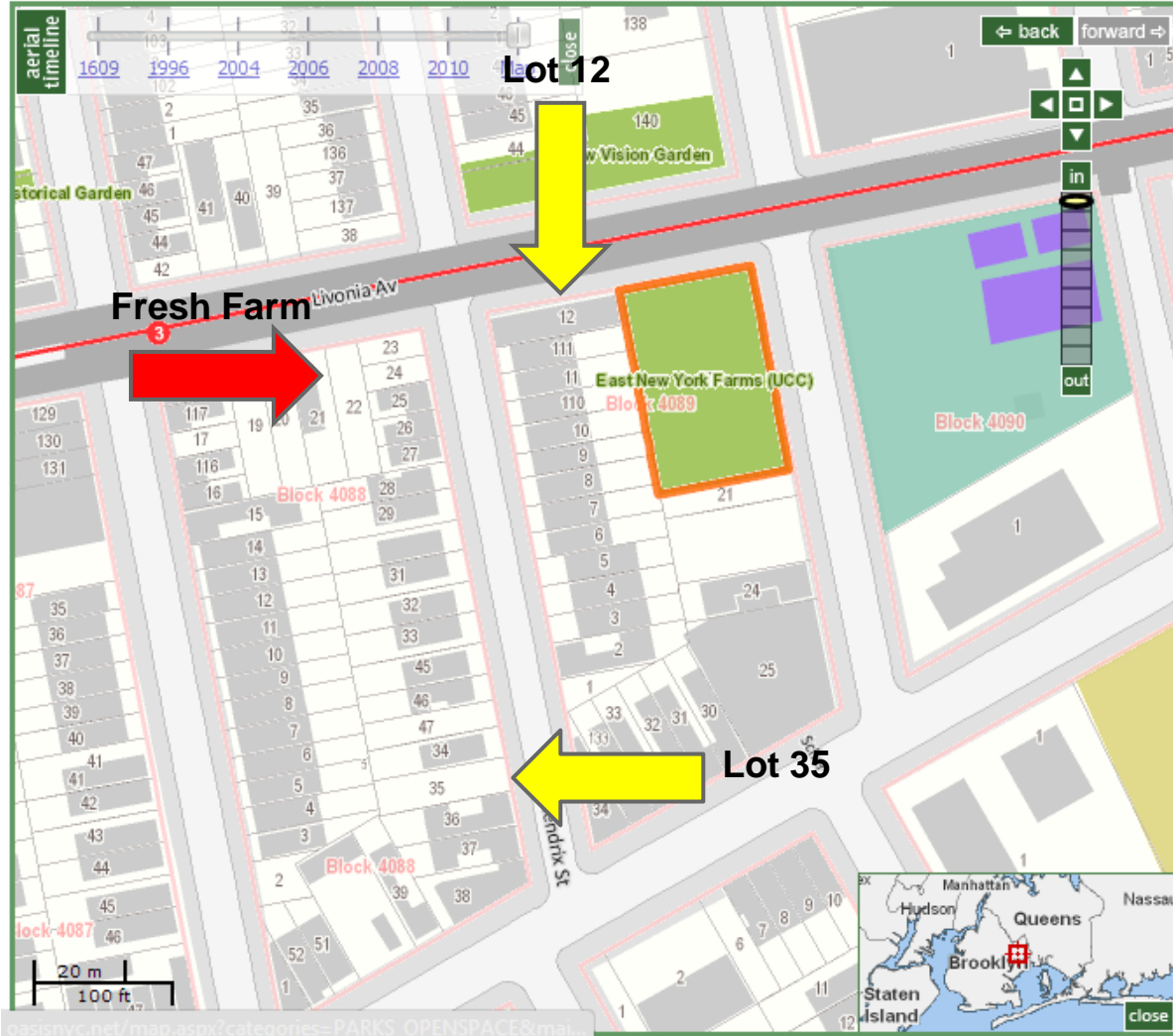
Thanks,  
Charlie

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**From:** Sherard, Diane  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 1:17 PM  
**To:** Marcus, Charles

# Transfer from HPD to Parks

- Initiated in June of 2011
- Contacted by GreenThumb about whether we would be interested in multiple sites near the UCC Youth Farm
- The initial offer included two additional lots, one adjacent to the UCC Youth Farm (Lot 12), and one down the street from the Fresh Farm (Lot 35)
- We also found out that 1/3 of the Youth Farm was still in HPD!



Legend | 
 Location Report (1) | 
 Site Search | 
 Community Data

Turn map layers on & off by clicking in the checkboxes

- Transit, Roads, Reference Features [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Parks, Playgrounds, & Open Space [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
  - Parks & Public Lands
  - Open Space (NYC Dept of City Planning)
  - Forested Areas (NJ)
  - Federal Land
  - Community Gardens
  - School property with garden
  - Playgrounds
  - Green Spaces Along Streets
  - Golf Courses
  - Baseball/Soccer/Football Fields
  - Tennis/Basketball/Handball Courts & Tracks
  - Cemeteries
- Environmental Stewardship Groups [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Environmental Characteristics [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Environmental Impact/Cleanup [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Zoning & Landmarks [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Food Systems [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Land Use [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Community Maps (beta) [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Social Services, Education, Housing [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Population Characteristics [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)
- Historical Land Use [Show All](#) [Hide All](#)



# Fresh Farm, pre-ENYF



# Planning for the new farm

New Space Ideas.doc ☆

david@eastnewyorkfarms.org

Comments

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Last edit was made on April 25 by sg35

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## New Space Ideas

New or unique aspects have a \*

Meeting & Event space:	Pros	Cons
Outdoor classroom	Good for teaching More available space	Too loud Not that big
* Outdoor cooking space (BBQ, propane camp stove, table)	Perfect for gatherings Cooking right on site	No electrical hook up or easy potable water hook up; loud
Wash station	Less traveling to another wash station, fresher produce good for other garden members	
movie screenings	Big blank wall	Very loud Not well lit under train
Stage/Spoken word		New Visions already has a stage Loud Uses a lot of space
Gazebo/ place to relax in shade	Good for people and vegetables Could be multifunctional with trellising Would go well next to building, shade	
Meeting/gathering space in rear (seating for about 10 ppl, white board)	Would go well in shady area	
Area to have celebrations/parties/weddings etc.	Would be cool to see alumni get married	Takes a lot of space
<b>New Products/Growing Areas:</b>		
Double high beds for older adults w/ small seats	Aging ppln of gardeners Inclusive A few models exist	Could be at other gardens instead
* Chicken coops	New teaching element	Figuring out feeding schedule and who

# Considerations when planning the new site

- Prior use by community resident
- Community involvement, including youth and adults
- Community ownership of the project
- Filling needs and not replicating existing resources
- Simplicity/affordability/time constraints



# Fresh Farm

- Youth-adult entrepreneurial farm
- 6 members, two of whom are youth
- Representing Jamaica, Nigeria, Bangladesh
- All members must sell at market
- All members must submit crop plan and record harvest
- Currently there is no limit on number of years one can be involved

# Site Development









# First Year Successes

- Multi-year funding from the DEC for development
- Diverse member base
- Expedient site construction thanks to local contacts.
- Free and low-cost materials
- Low-maintenance design

# First Year Challenges

- Timely access to the site
- Growing media
- Irrigation system/water access
- Language barriers
- School schedules with youth growers
- Group formation

# "New" Farmers





## East New York's Bounty

3 of 21



Marlene Wilks, 60, with several seasoning peppers.

“Last year, we had 42 different kinds of peppers,” she said. “They were all sitting on my table, and none looked alike.”

Credit: Robert Wright for The New York Times

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*Wendy*



10/18/2012 00:55







# 2012 Fresh Farm Crop List

- Tomatoes
- Scotch Bonnet Peppers
- Eggplant
- Bitter melon
- Long squash
- Seim beans
- Lima beans
- Long beans
- Red beans
- Callaloo
- Jute (greens)
- Bok choy
- Taro (dasheen leaf)
- Malabar spinach
- Cabbage
- Collards
- Kale
- Broccoli
- Swiss chard
- Scallion
- Cilantro
- Celery
- Cucumber
- Pumpkin

# Specialty Crops













