2021 Water Access

Info Session for Chicago Urban Growers
February 4th at 6:00 PM
INTRODUCTIONS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
MARGOT PRITZKER AND FRANCIA HARRINGTON, CO-FOUNDEES OF THE URBAN AG RESOURCE NAVIGATOR, A PLATFORM CURRENTLY IN FORMATION.
Presentation Guidelines

Closed Captioning
Interpretation
Q+A

This info session will be recorded for those unable to attend.
Water Access
A Brief History

Prior to 2020: Community groups and stakeholders were meeting regularly to assess water access needs and establish an urban ag. water rate (including farms).

February 2020: Policy originally updated by DWM.

WHY THE CHANGE IN POLICY?

March 2020: Began hearing from growers around the City about this issue.

May 2020: Met with DWM and other City leaders to address the updated policy and offer proposed solutions.

June 2020: Policy is updated

August 2020 to Present: Continued working with DWM and City leaders to address challenges with the updated policy, in order to make the permitting process more equitable.
Water Access

Changes Made to the Updated Hydrant Permit

1. You no longer need to be a non-profit to apply for a hydrant permit.
2. Community gardens can make incidental sales (zoning and water policies aligned)
3. RPZ valves only need to be certified once/year
4. Urban farms are now included in annual water rate
The Department of Water Management and the City of Chicago have been updating the 2021 hydrant use permit application process for community gardens and urban farms to access water more easily from Chicago hydrants.

The program has been created with cooperation and input from urban agriculture partners, including Advocates for Urban Agriculture, NeighborSpace, Chicago Food Policy Action Council, Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Food Navigator Project and Grow Greater Englewood.

These urban agriculture partners have also developed a technical assistance pilot program to help growers navigate the application process.
Water Access

Current Options Available

1. Permanent Water Line
2. Water from a Neighbor's House
3. Stored Rain Water (Rain Water Barrels/ IBC Totes)
4. Hydrant Use Permit Application
FAQ

1. Where and how do we fill out the application for hydrant use permit access? Should we do this now?
2. Why are there so many changes to access water that unexpectedly started last year?
3. Why are we required to purchase a 3/4 inch RPZ rather than a 2 inch RPZ? Is this enough water pressure?
4. We have permission from our alderman to use the land we are gardening/farming on. Are we good to go?
5. Our garden is aware that there is an insurance requirement for hydrant use, but we are not a non profit. How do we access insurance?
6. Can we use water from a neighbor's house?
7. Do you recommend a plumber to help us test our RPZ unit?
8. What kind of support can we ask for in 2021?
9. How do we measure our square footage of our growing space?
BEGINNING THE APPLICATION
1. Read & Review the Application Guide
2. Technical Assistance
3. Office Hours
4. Gather/Prepare supporting documentation
5. Complete online application
6. DWM Site Visit
7. Acquire and certify RPZ
8. Submit RPZ Certification, Legal Agreement, & Insurance
9. Submit payment
10. Receive permit
Before applying, we strongly encourage each of you to reach out to NeighborSpace and AUA staff members for support navigating the process by registering for the following office hours available this February & March:

*Mondays from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*
*Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:00 PM*

auachicago.org/wateraccess
neighbor-space.org/wateraccess
Updated Hydrant Permit

February 22 - March 22, 2021

We recommend submitting your Hydrant Use Permit application between February 22 and March 22.

Why Wait?

- Updated Language: More Transparent & Accessible
- Technical Assistance from AUA & NeighborSpace
- Translated documents will become available, including the Application Guide & FAQ.
- Payment Options: Finance Centers Available
Before June 2020:
- Community gardens paid $106/year
- Urban farms were not included in any special water rate
- Urban farms paid the festival fee — $83/day per side of the hydrant

Now:
- Both Urban farms and community gardens pay $117.81/year if under 3,000 square feet
- For each additional 3,000 square feet, pay an additional $50.68 (garden with 8,000 square feet of cultivation space pays $219.17/year)
- Square footage determined by square footage under cultivation, not total square footage

*Water rates will be reassessed in June 2021 (annual)*
Updated Hydrant Permit

RPZ Valve

- Purpose of the RPZ Valve
- How do I acquire one?
- How do I get it tested/certified?
  - Original Test
  - Recertification
- How often does it need to be certified?

*Save the date for RPZ distribution or recertification on March 27th, 2021. Registration will be required and made available soon.*
Updated Hydrant Permit

Additional Hydrant Equipment

- Hydrant Caps
- Hydrant Key
- Adapters
Updated Hydrant Permit

Custodian Caps

- Why custodian caps?
- What is the cost to remove one?
- Which hydrant do I choose? (Kuumba-Tre-Ahm)
- If the most accessible hydrant has a cap, ...

**CUSTODIAN CAPS**

- Without Custodian Cap
- With Custodian Cap
Legal Agreements

Updated Hydrant Permit

LEGAL AGREEMENT

- Policy Agreement
- Hydrant Water Use Agreement
  - Why was it added?
  - What does it require?

INSURANCE

- Why get insurance?
- General Liability & other forms
- What if we are an unincorporated group?

*Because of the specific details needed for each site, we recommend registering for office hours for any questions related to the required legal documents*
TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Navigating the Application Process
- Financial Assistance, including Hydrant Equipment, Insurance, and Custodian Cap
- RPZ Certification
- Legal Support
- Water Conservation Methods & Best Practices
NEXT STEPS

1. Sign up for Technical Support
2. Sign up for Office Hours
3. Fill out the Survey for Chicago Farms & Gardens
4. Stay informed by joining us for the next info session and by checking updates at auachicago.org/wateraccess and
5. neighbor-space.org/wateraccess