



# Analyze Your Location

## Checklist for Landowners

There are several considerations when determining whether your site is the right fit for an urban agriculture project. Here is a checklist of some of the main criteria to consider and questions to ask.

### Considerations for all sites:

- Size:**
  - Does the size of the site meet the requirements of this potential project (space for cultivation, harvesting, sorting, keeping, cleaning, packaging, & managing compost)
  - Does the vision of what you would like to see match what is possible in the space?
  - Is there space for storage of the gardening tools?
  - Can the farmer construct outbuildings or greenhouses?
  
- Sun exposure:**
  - A minimum of six to eight hours of sun a day is required to grow food
  - Are there any proposals for future development that may limit sun exposure?
  
- Site access:**
  - Is there vehicle access at the site and what is the size of the access?
  - Will larger vehicles such as delivery trucks need to access the site?
  - Are there limitations on days & times when a farmer can access the site?
  - Any restrictions on site access? Will volunteers, employees and/or customers be able to come on site if needed?
  
- Water access:**
  - Is there a reliable source?
  - Is there an opportunity to capture rainwater to minimize water use?
  
- Slope:**
  - Is the proposed space flat & well drained?
  
- Accessibility:**
  - Do you have any specific accessibility needs? Will anyone else visiting the site have specific accessibility needs (wheelchair access, senior access, etc)?
  - For more information on making your site more accessible, see the City of Vancouver's [Accessible Community Garden Guidelines](#)
  
- Organic Waste:**
  - How will this be handled?



**Initial Investment:**

- To what point are you willing to invest in helping to get the site ready? There are a range of materials and infrastructure you may need to start the urban agriculture project. Get clear with your grower on what is expected of them and what you would be willing to help provide (fencing & security, water access, soil, greenhouse(s), etc.)

**Permit Process:**

- Will any structures be built that will require a permit?
- See page 76 for more information on permits

**Community Engagement:**

- Be sure to consult with existing site users, if applicable
- It is important to contact the Community & Business Associations in your neighborhood to get their feedback and support. Speak with the lessee of the space to determine whose responsibility this should be for your site. You may wish to lead this process as a part of an overall development plan

**Specific considerations for ground sites:**

**Fencing:**

- What type of fencing is required to avoid theft, vandalism and deer?
- The Fence Bylaw regulates fence height and material in Victoria. For more info on fencing contact Development Services at [zoning@victoria.ca](mailto:zoning@victoria.ca) or 250.361.0382

**Site Remediation:**

- What has the site been used for in the past? See the City of Vancouver's [Guide for Planting, Growing and Harvesting Fresh Produce to Reduce Health Risks](#) to determine indicators of concern and best practices to ensure the health and safety of the produce grown on your site

**Aesthetics of the Site:**

- Be clear with the farmer if you expect the site to meet certain aesthetic requirements beyond keeping a tidy, organized and well-managed site

### Specific considerations for rooftops:

- Structural integrity of the roof:**
  - How much weight per square foot can be supported?
  - What is the beam and column spacing and strength?
  
- Roof deck material and membrane:**
  - You will need a durable roof membrane that cannot be easily punctured or damaged, as this will be very costly to repair
  - Some examples of good membranes include cement, raised cement tile and gravel
  
- Rooftop access:**
  - What type of access is there?
  - Elevator access is ideal. Stairs can work, but can add complexities to getting the right infrastructure and materials to the site
  
- Building codes:**
  - Does the rooftop have an existing railing system or protective wall that meets building codes to allow people to access the area?
  - Does the building require a garden or structure to be set back from the edge of the roof? This could reduce your growing area by a few meters on each side
  
- Wind exposure:**
  - All farming infrastructure will need to be adequately anchored to the rooftop
  - Crop consideration for windy areas: avoid tall crops or crops that need trellis' or high stakes