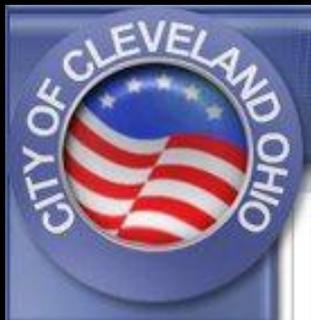




## Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland



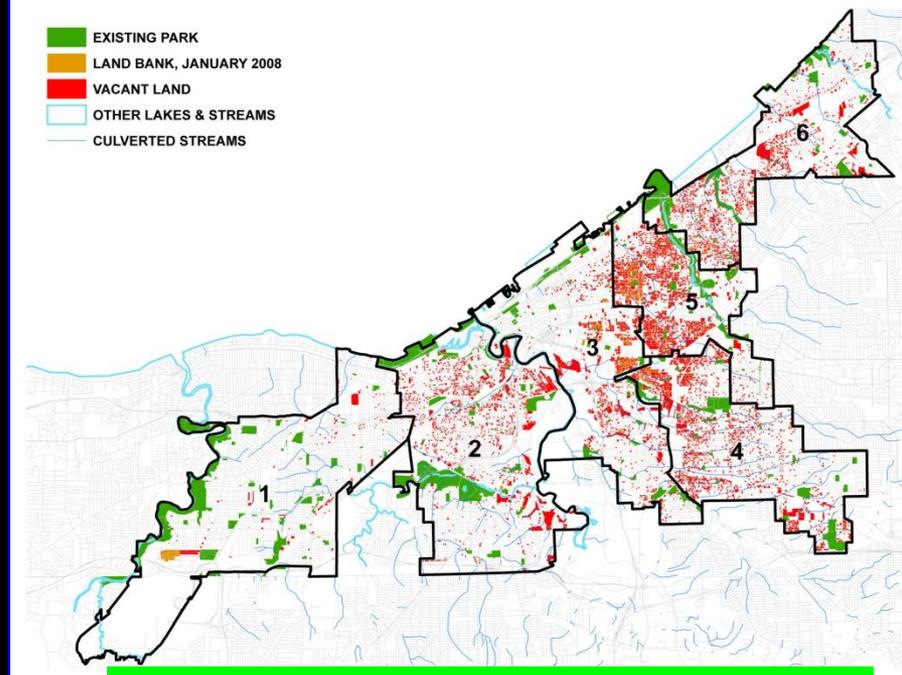
# Re-Imagining Cleveland Vacant Land Study

## Challenge/Opportunity:

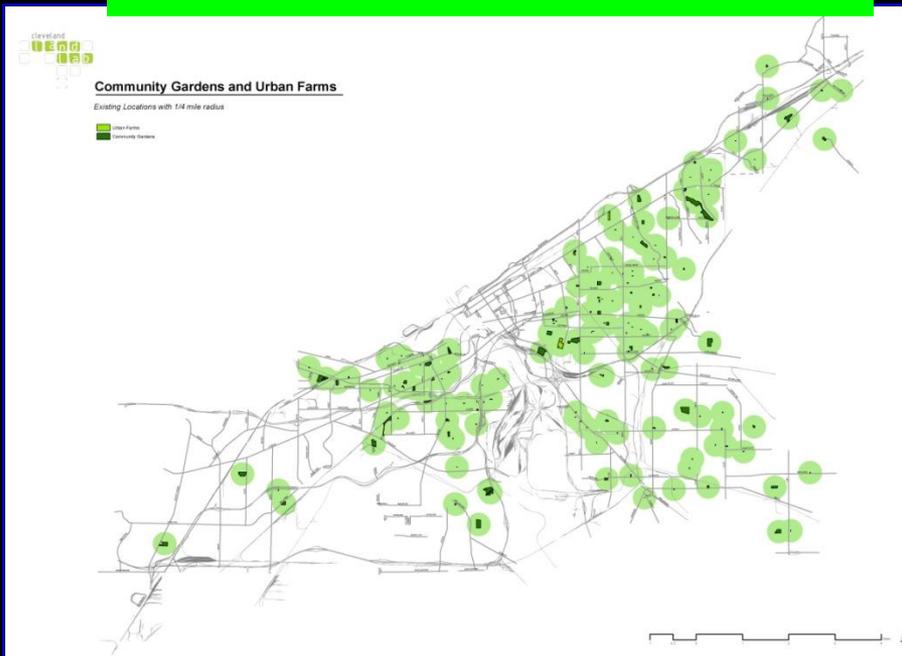
- Over 3,300 acres of vacant land throughout Cleveland
- Growing energy and innovation around the advancement of the regional local food and sustainability agenda

## Study:

- Land reuse strategies that link natural and built systems to improve the quality of life and the long-term health of residents and the environment
- Identified criteria for implementing reuse strategies and developed policy recommendations to support land reuse



**230+ Existing Community and Market Gardens**



# **Re-Imagining Cleveland – Building the Movement through Vacant Land Re-use Pilot Projects**

## **Pilot Projects:**

- 56 projects on 15 acres = 130 vacant lots  
31 Agriculture Projects: Gardens, urban farms, vineyards and orchards
- \$950,000 in City of Cleveland Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funds, Foundation Funds, and In-Kind Services and donations
- Projects planned and implemented by grassroots organizations and individuals

## **Building a movement:**

- Pilot Projects – one piece of the solution
- Big picture solution - many actions by a variety of players over 20+ years
- **Building a sustainable movement means:**
  - Removing policy and operations barriers to land reuse and food production
  - Building capacity to empower individual entrepreneurship and stewardship
  - **Tackling the hard issue of URBAN SOILS!**



# Understanding and using our Urban Soils

## Partnerships! – The key to understanding our soil

- Comprehensive soil testing by the EPA
- Public workshops hosted by NPI and the EPA to educate land (re) users on soil contamination
- Basic guidance from Ohio State University Extension
- Pilot projects to test remediation strategies

## What have we learned?

- There are a range of contaminants of concern – it's not just lead!
- Our sector needs capacity to analyze soil data, advise grassroots urban agriculture leaders and make decisions in regards to soil contamination, remediation and land reuse.
- Need recognized testing protocols and risk assessment standards for urban agriculture to ensure health and safety and build a movement!





# Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland

## Thank You

