

This template was created to provide a sample resource for small communities to address urban agriculture-related municipal code questions in a resident-friendly format. The areas highlighted in yellow are those that must be edited by the City Clerk or other staff member who is familiar with interpreting these code areas. Delete these instructions and edit any information in the guide to make it more relevant for your community before publishing.

Urban Agriculture Guide for the City of _____

The City of _____ in collaboration with the Dubuque County Food Policy Council have developed a guide to local regulations around food production. Common terms that are used in this guide are defined below:

Property Line: The legal, platted boundary of a lot or parcel of land. Review your property record for approximate property lines. [Dubuque County Property Records](#)

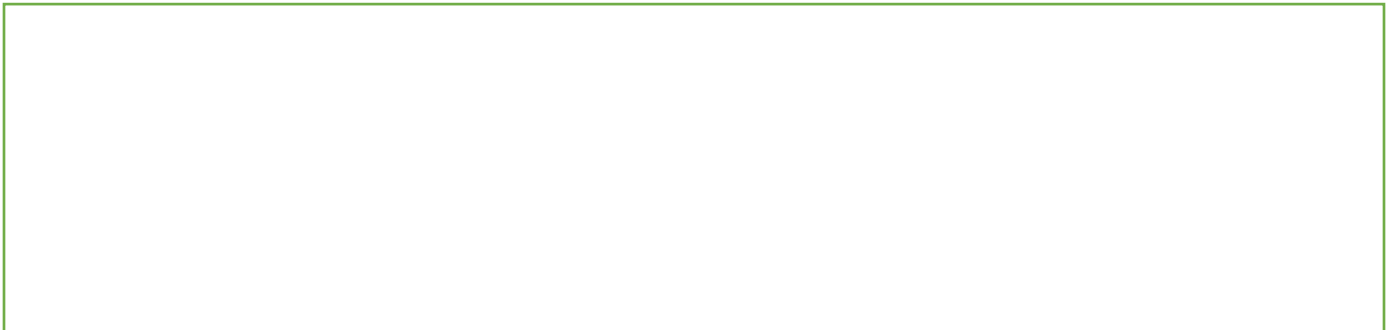
Right of Way: An area or strip of land, either public or private, on which an irrevocable rite of passage has been dedicated, recorded, or otherwise legally established for the use of vehicles, utilities and/or pedestrians. See illustration.

Visibility Triangle: A triangular shaped portion of a lot located at a street, alley or driveway intersection in which nothing can be placed, planted or constructed that will materially impede vision from within vehicles between a height of two feet (2') and eight feet (8'). The visibility triangle is formed by lines that join points placed ten feet (10') from the property corner along both frontages. See illustration.

Setback Requirements: The distance required between a property line or roadway easement line and the buildable area on a lot. See setback requirements below for detached accessory structures:

Class	Front	Side	Rear
R-1, R-2			
R-2A			
R-3, R-4			
OR			
AG			

-----INSERT ILLUSTRATION SHOWING COMMON TERMS DEFINED ABOVE IN ONE IMAGE-----



This guide is not intended to cover every aspect of urban agriculture regulations and should not be considered the final or definitive authority. Residents living in areas with Homeowner's Association Agreements, should reference their agreements in addition to this guide. Questions about the contents of this guide or in addition to the material it covers should be addressed to:

Staff Contact, City of _____

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone:

Email:

I Want to Grow Food for Myself

If you are renting your home, you need permission from the property-owner to conduct gardening activities on the site.



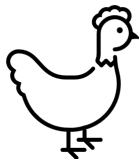
In-ground and raised bed gardens where fruit, herbs, flowers, vegetables or other plants are grown are allowed in all property classes except _____.

Step 1: Check to see if gardening is allowed in your area. Enter your address on the [Dubuque County interactive zoning map](#). Property Classes labeled R-1, R-2, R-2A, R-3, R-4, OR, A, and _____ allow gardening.

Step 2: If gardening is allowed, review the property lines and right of way restrictions on your site to understand where a garden can be located. The Interactive zoning map provides an approximate location of the property lines and right of way restrictions. Gardens must be located on your property and cannot be located in the right of way.

Step 3: Choose your garden location for optimal sun exposure and access to water. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides a [basic guide for selecting your garden location](#).

The following garden-related structures are subject to additional requirements: pergolas, fences...



Chickens and ducks (hens only) are allowed in the following property classes: _____. Hens are only allowed for egg production.

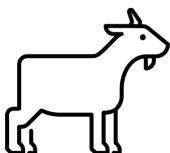
Step 1: Check to see if owning chickens or ducks is allowed in your area. Enter your address on the [Dubuque County interactive zoning map](#). Property Classes labeled _____, allow chickens and ducks.

Step 2: Speak with your immediate neighbors to share your plans to avoid future conflicts. As with any type of pet, the City of _____ has nuisance and sanitary regulations in place to address instances of improper care or code violations such as accumulation of waste, odors, noises, or unsanitary conditions.

Step 3: Hens must be provided with adequate shelter to protect them from the elements and contained in an enclosure that keeps them from leaving your property. Hen shelters or coops should be located in your backyard and the location must meet setback requirements. Coops that have a "footprint" of _____ square feet (length x width) or larger require a permit from _____ before construction.





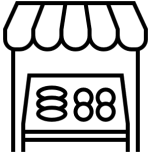

Residents can keep bees for personal enjoyment and/or honey gathering in the following property classes: _____.



Goats, sheep or other small livestock are allowed in the following property classes: _____.

Step 1: Check to see if owning small livestock is allowed in your area. Enter your address on the [Dubuque County interactive zoning map](#). Property Classes labeled _____, allow small livestock.

Step 2: Speak with your immediate neighbors to share your plans to avoid future conflicts. As

	<p>with any type of animal, the City of [redacted] has nuisance and sanitary regulations in place to address instances of improper care or code violations such as accumulation of waste, odors, noises, or unsanitary conditions.</p>
	<p>Fruit trees and shrubs are allowed in all property classes and on any private property.</p> <p>Step 1: Review the property lines and determine whether your site is subject to right of way and/or visibility triangle restrictions. The Dubuque County interactive zoning map provides an approximate location of the property lines and right of way restrictions. Trees and shrubs must be located on your property and cannot be located in the right of way without permission from [redacted].</p> <p>Step 2: At least 48 hours before planting, request a utility location to ensure you are digging in an area away from buried utility lines. Call 811 or submit a residential online service ticket.</p>
	<p>Greenhouses are allowed in the following property classes: [redacted].</p> <p>Step 1: Check to see if a greenhouse is allowed in your area. Enter your address on the Dubuque County interactive zoning map. Property Classes labeled [redacted] allow greenhouses.</p> <p>Step 2: If a greenhouse is allowed, review the property lines, setback and right of way restrictions on your site to understand where a greenhouse can be located. The Interactive zoning map provides an approximate location of the property lines and right of way restrictions. Greenhouses must be located on your property, cannot be located in the right of way or the setback areas.</p> <p>Step 3: Greenhouses over 100sqft must also be reviewed by the [redacted].</p>
 	<p>Extra Produce?</p> <p>Share It! Your neighbors have watched your garden grow; share your extra produce and make some neighborhood connections!</p> <p>Sell It! Sale of foods produced on residential property is allowed at Farmer’s Markets and can be supported through CSA-type memberships but items must not be distributed from a site in a residential district. Sale of produce on-site is only allowed in the following property classes [redacted].</p> <p>Donate It! The St. Stephen’s Branch of River Bend Food Bank and many other local hunger outreach organizations accept donations of fresh produce.</p>