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**THE DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE PUBLISHES  
COMPREHENSIVE USERS GUIDE TO URBAN AGRICULTURE IN NEW YORK CITY,  
WILL LAUNCH THE FIRST PUBLIC DATA COLLECTION TOOLKIT FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS**

NEW YORK (March 2014) —[The Design Trust for Public Space](#) will issue an invaluable ‘how-to’ reference guide to urban farming and gardening in New York City on Thursday, March 27, 2014.

*Five Borough Farm II: Growing the Benefits of Urban Agriculture in New York City*, published in partnership with the [NYC Department of Parks & Recreation](#) (“Parks”), will coincide with the launch of *Five Borough Farm III*, the third phase of a six-year-long urban farming initiative undertaken by the Design Trust. The Design Trust will implement key recommendations cited in this new publication.

“We found tremendous growth in the number of food-producing gardens and farms in New York City, from 700 in 2012 to 900 in 2014,” says Susan Chin, FAIA, executive director of the Design Trust. “This increase is due in part to expanded interest in urban agriculture, but also is attributable to the scarcity of coordinated data on NYC’s farms and gardens at the time. With *Five Borough Farm III*, the Design Trust will tackle both challenges: equipping a large number of farmers and gardeners with the first, publically accessible Data Collection Toolkit to measure the great things growing from their work, while also forging connections with the City and funding institutions to develop sustainable models of support for urban agriculture.”

*Five Borough Farm II: Growing the Benefits of Urban Agriculture in New York City* shares insights the project team gained from extensive engagement with farmers and gardeners, support organizations, policymakers, and funders. The new book builds on a 2012 publication, produced by Design Trust in partnership with Brooklyn-based nonprofit Added Value, titled *Five Borough Farm: Seeding the Future of Urban Agriculture in New York City*, which proposed key recommendations to strengthen and expand urban agriculture citywide.

*Five Borough Farm II: Growing the Benefits of Urban Agriculture in New York City* will be available on [designtrust.org](#) on March 27, 2014 for \$25. The Data Collection Toolkit will be available in May 2014 free of charge on [farmingconcrete.org](#).

The 147-page book—part how-to and part reference—provides resources for all stakeholders to expand urban agriculture in NYC:

- **Part I: Understanding the Benefits:** Outreach Fellows [Liz Barry](#) and [Phil Silva](#) designed a participatory process to develop a unique toolkit for collecting urban agriculture data with a team of 30 farmers and gardeners. Stemming from the *Five Borough Farm Metrics Framework*, the group selected five topics in critical need of data: food production, compost, participation, skills and knowledge, and health and wellness. Over the 2013 growing season, the group created and field-tested 12 protocols, or methods, for filling in these data gaps (See “The Design Trust for Public Space launches *Five Borough Farm III*” below)
- **Part II: Maximizing the Benefits:** Urban Planning Fellows [Lee Altman](#) and [Kaja K uhl](#) designed scalable recommendations for expanding the opportunities farms and gardens offer their surrounding communities for youth development, food entrepreneurship, and integrated aging, and for incorporating agriculture into the City’s compost and stormwater management systems
- **Part III: Scaling the Benefits:** Green Infrastructure Fellows [Barbara Wilks](#) and [Martin Barry](#) proposed strategies for establishing community gardens in city parks and networking urban agriculture along greenways, as well as methods for farmers and gardeners to incorporate native landscapes, butterfly gardens, permacultures or foraging opportunities into their farms and gardens as a means of expanding the City’s green infrastructure network

**The Design Trust for Public Space announces *Five Borough Farm III* to launch and distribute the first publicly accessible urban agriculture data collection toolkit to 500+ farmers and gardeners to measure the impacts of their work, and the expanded web-tracking tool at [farmingconcrete.org](#) in collaboration with Farming Concrete.**

A kickoff event will be held in May during [NYCxDesign](#). Phase III will also identify sustainable funding models for urban agriculture with key stakeholders. Efforts will include:

- **The *Five Borough Farm* data collection protocols:** Detailed instructions and equipment lists for collecting data on a newly expanded set of methods will include ways of tracking rainwater harvesting, market sales, and donated goods. The manual will be designed by [Kiss Me I’m Polish](#), the graphic design firm who created the *Five Borough Farm* identity, to be easily downloadable and printed on a home computer
- **Expanded [farmingconcrete.org](#):** Design Trust will collaborate with Farming Concrete to expand [farmingconcrete.org](#), the only data aggregation site for food production in NYC, equipping the site with capabilities for farmers and gardeners to download the *Five Borough Farm* PDF protocols and track data, generate reports with features including data analysis and photos, and create groups to share data, knowledge, and assets. The site will be re-designed by Kiss Me I’m Polish, and feature the first-ever public urban agriculture data interface for researchers and policymakers, with expanded aggregation and reporting capabilities
- **A mini-series of instructional videos:** Video Fellow [Chris Englese](#) will create videos for how to use each protocol to collect data in the field and then input the information into [farmingconcrete.org](#)
- **Technical support:** Design Trust will award a new Metrics Fellowship to train more farmers and gardeners on how to use the Toolkit and provide ongoing technical support from May to December 2014

Simultaneously, the Design Trust and Parks will reconvene the Urban Agriculture Task Force for practitioners to share findings with City officials and support organizations, and to strategize ways of creating sustainable funding models for urban agriculture in NYC.

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### **About the Design Trust for Public Space**

The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City. Our projects bring together city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to make a lasting impact—through design—on how New Yorkers live, work and play.

### **About the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation**

NYC Parks is the steward of approximately 29,000 acres of land—14 percent of New York City— including more than 5,000 individual properties ranging from Coney Island Beach and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. Parks operates more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds, 550 tennis courts, 66 public pools, 48 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 13 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches. Parks cares for 1,200 monuments and 23 historic house museums, looks after 650,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. Parks is New York City’s principal providers of recreational and athletic facilities and programs, and is home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.

### **About Farming Concrete**

Launched in 2009, Farming Concrete is an open, community-based research project started by gardeners to measure how much food is grown in New York City’s community gardens and school gardens. Farming Concrete is fiscally sponsored by the Open Space Institute, Inc. as part of their Citizen Action Program.