

An Exploration of Urban Agriculture in Everett, MA

Project Description and Goals



This project explores the possibility of expanding urban agriculture (UA) in Everett, MA, by analyzing suitability of potential sites for three types of urban agriculture: community gardens, large community gardens (market gardens), and urban farms. This project creates a baseline inventory of potential sites, which will inform a more extensive urban land inventory and assessment that will be conducted through thesis research focused on community participation. The goal of this project is to support the expansion of urban agriculture in the City of Everett through planning and policymaking. The impetus for this project stems from community members' desire to access more land for personal and community food growing, as well as land for commercial food growing. It also stems from the local, regional and national movements for more sustainable food production in and around cities.

Criteria

Land Use

- developable residential
- developable commercial
- institutional/exempt parcels with complimentary uses

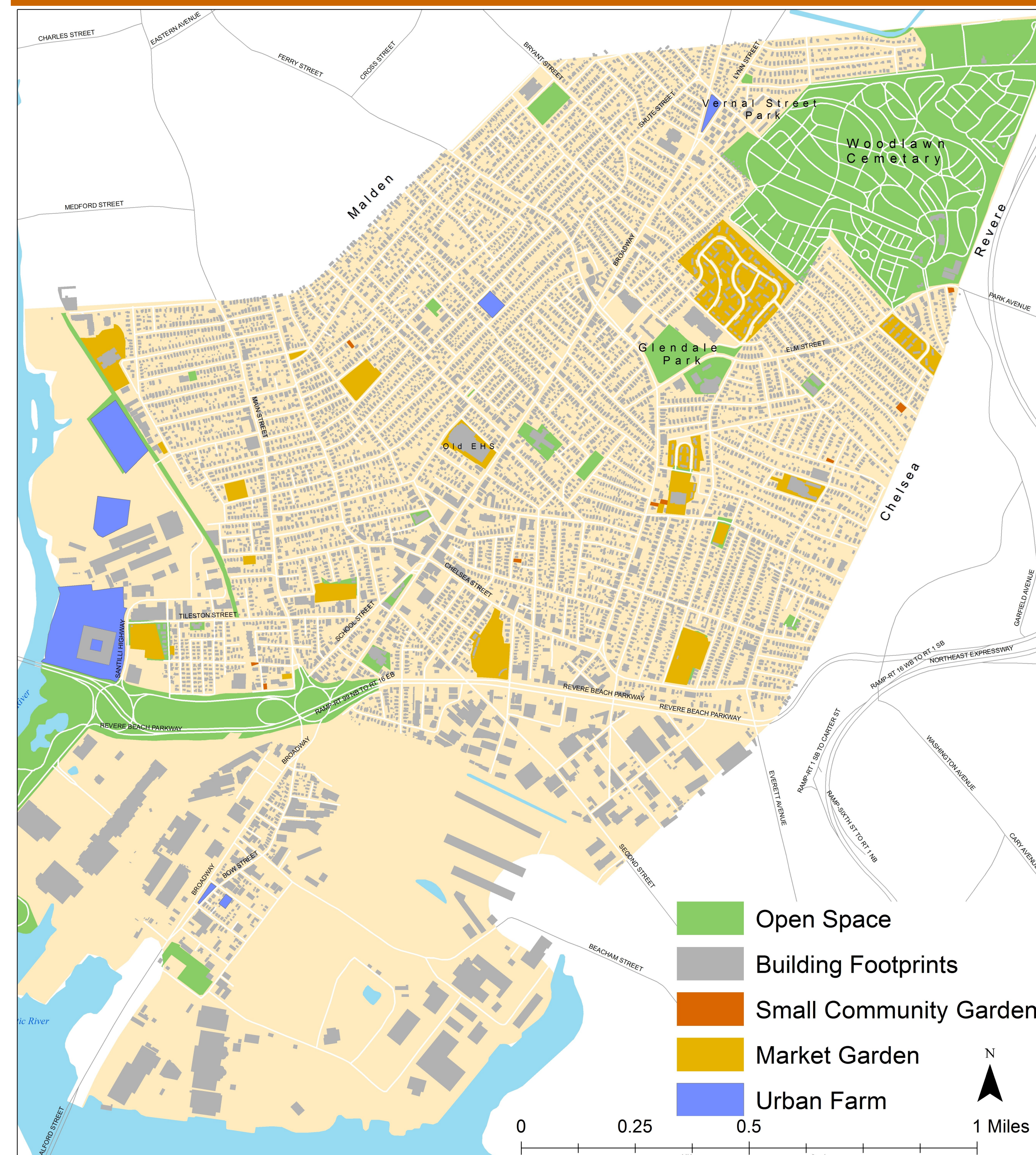
Size

- Community gardens: 2,500 – 5,000 sq. ft.
- Market gardens: 5,000 – 10,800 sq. ft.
- Urban farms: 10,800 sq. ft. or larger

Equity

- ¼ mile of a bus stop
- Census block groups deemed as Environmental Justice (EJ) populations
- Census block groups with a high percentage (greater than 40%) of renters

All potential urban agriculture (UA) sites in Everett, MA, by UA category



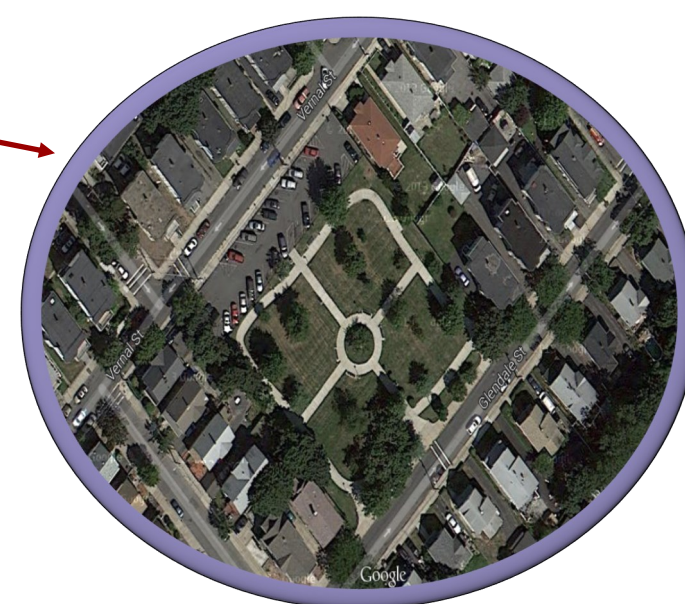
Findings and Conclusion

After applying the aforementioned criteria through a combination of spatial analysis and aerial verification, 53 potential parcels were found to be potentially suitable for urban agriculture in Everett. The tables below summarize these findings, and a more detailed list of site characteristics is available in the final GIS report. The next step for this project is to “ground truth” (physically visit and analyze) the 53 sites with residents, and develop a revised list and maps of potential sites. The process of creating this urban land inventory and assessment will inform recommendations for an urban agriculture ordinance in the City of Everett.

Current Land Use of UA Sites	Count of Sites	Total Area of Sites (acres)
Developable Residential	10	1.22
Developable Commercial	1	0.15
Institutional/Exempt	42	78.94
Totals	53	80.31

UA Site Categories	Count of Sites	Total Area of Sites (acres)
Community Garden	10	.85
Market Garden	36	51.10
Urban Farm	7	80.31
Totals	53	80.31

Potential UA Sites in Northwestern Everett

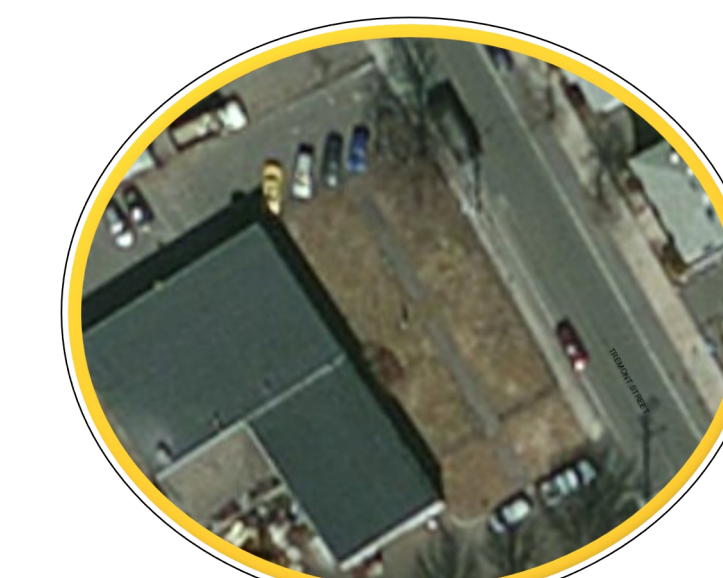


Potential urban farm site, on an exempt parcel in between Vernal St. and Glendale St. This site could be used as one large urban farm or multiple

Potential UA Sites in Northern Everett



Two potential market garden sites, and one potential community garden site, all on developable commercial parcels, on the corner of Ferry St. and Nichols St.



Potential market garden site on an exempt parcel on Tremont St., near the entrance of the Northern Strand Community Trail.



Potential urban farm site on a developable residential parcel on Thorndike St.



Cartographer: Kathleen R. O'Brien
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Data Sources: Mass GIS and American Community Survey
Name: NAD_1983_StatePlane_Massachusetts_Mainland_FIPS_2001