As in many cities around the country, low-income neighborhoods in Boston are burdened with high unemployment rates and limited access to healthy food. Together, these factors contribute to a local food crisis that disproportionately affects the city’s most vulnerable people. To help bring fresh food back to these communities, The Trust for Public Land and our partners are transforming a collection of the city’s vacant lots into a network of self-sustaining urban farms. With your help, we can put more of Boston’s unused land to work to benefit those who need it most.

Why urban farming?
In Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, affording and accessing healthy food can be challenging. In these neighborhoods, unemployment rates hover at 15 percent, and one out of four families live on $280 or less per week. At the same time, supermarket availability in Boston is 30 percent below the national average, making the challenge of accessing healthy food even more difficult.

Together, we can change this. With 2,600 vacant lots in the city totaling 500 acres of potentially arable land—and enthusiasm for locally grown food at an all time high—Boston’s most vulnerable neighborhoods have the real estate and demand needed to support a local food revolution right in their backyards.
How we’re helping
The Trust for Public Land and the Urban Farming Institute of Boston (UFI) are working together to develop five farms in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury—an effort that is helping to increase access to healthy food for Boston residents and catalyze a new urban greening at the same time.

For each farm we develop, our scope of work includes transforming vacant lots, leading a robust public engagement process, managing farm design with landscape architects and civil engineers, permitting the land for farming, and preparing the farm for production. The Urban Farming Institute of Boston then takes over daily management of the farm, including maintenance, harvest, and sales. Most farms host a local farmers market and community farming programs.

With one farm already complete, we are currently working to complete four additional farms in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan—the first step to creating a sustainable urban farming economy in Boston.

What will it take to build five farms?
While funding from public agencies, such as the City of Boston’s Department of Neighborhood Development and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, have been key to launching our program, private philanthropy is crucial to reaching our goal to develop five urban farms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction and site improvements</td>
<td>$808,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land acquisition</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,237,700</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sowing our seeds:
**Garrison-Trotter Farm—Dorchester:** We transformed this once vacant lot into 12,669 square feet of working farmland. Production began in August 2014 and has since yielded hundreds of pounds of fruits and vegetables.

**Tommy’s Rock—Roxbury:** Design and construction of this 13,500-square-foot farm is underway. Production will begin in 2017.

**Fowler Clark Epstein—Mattapan:** With Historic Boston Incorporated and UFI, we will bring 21st century agriculture practices and Boston’s Center for Urban Farming to this historic property. The farm will open in 2018.

**Astoria Quarter Acre Farm—Mattapan:** We are working to acquire this 13,821-square-foot lot from the city. It is within a two-minute walk of the Fowler Clark Epstein property and will help us maximize productivity.

**Glenway—Dorchester:** The farm has been in production for two seasons through a license agreement. We are working with the city to acquire, permit, and redevelop the farm to comply with city regulations and provide critical farm tenure to current farmers.
**Fundraising campaign**
The Trust for Public Land’s urban agriculture program is a $1.2 million investment that is helping to ensure a healthier, more resilient future for people living in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury.

To date, we have raised more than half of what we need to reach our goal. Our top five private funders are individuals, Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, Anonymous foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

**Matching gift challenge**
Thanks to an anonymous foundation’s matching gift challenge, every gift to our Boston Agriculture Partnership will now be doubled or tripled, up to $250,000.

**Match details:**
• 3:1 match for gifts from new donors to The Trust for Public Land
• 2:1 match for gifts from current or past donors to The Trust for Public Land
• Deadline for match is December 31, 2017

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
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