



IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN GARDENS IN ROME

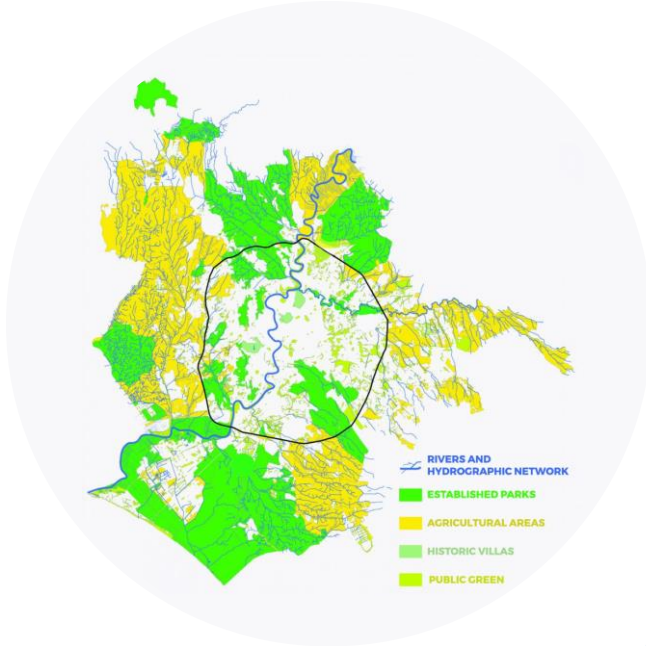
Rome: City To be cultivated

"Public Land for Young Farmers"

Rome is the municipality with the greatest quantity of green hectares in Europe. It preserves a heritage of historical-archaeological, landscape, and architectural value, but also a variety of green areas which account for 67% of the municipal territory or 85 thousand hectares (out of the 129 thousand).

Rome is also Europe's largest agricultural town with 50,000 cultivated hectares. The Capitoline Administration itself directly manages two farms: the "Tenuta del Cavaliere" and "Castel di Guido" for a total of 2,300 hectares.

The public green areas within the **urban fabric** is made up of urban parks, historic villas, public gardens, and flower beds for a total of 3,932 hectares.



One of the most interesting environmental and social challenges in Rome is the emergence of urban gardens. Currently there are more than **150 municipal urban gardens**, providing citizens with the opportunity to grow their own food and create green spaces in the city. Despite their benefits, urban gardens face challenges such as limited space, lack of resources and funding, and difficulty in coordinating multiple stakeholders.

The **Urban Gardens Regulation** was approved in 2015 to improve governance while maintaining the freedom of initiative for community gardens. The new administration is now reviewing the regulation with the help of associations to further improve it as a community space. **The goal is to integrate it into the overall system of greenery and landscape of the city and recognize the relationship of subsidiarity between those who regenerate public spaces and the administration**, so that both honors and burdens are shared equally.

The multi-purpose mission of UA through Urban Community Gardens

Urban agriculture (UA) contributes to the well-being and wealth of the city. The characteristic of most of the urban gardens in the city of Rome is that they were born from an occupation of public land, with **the aim of protecting it from speculation and recovering it from a state of degradation**. UA through urban gardens, is to be considered a **common good**, characterized by different histories and purposes in addition to environmental protection and the recovery of the territory. It has the function of creating social capital and developing the resilience of the community; it offers the opportunity to create multifunctional cultural spaces and paths for active citizenship while enhancing biodiversity.

Related SDGs & Urban Agenda for EU & Green Deal Topics



URBAN GARDENS TYPOLOGIES

Urban gardens are becoming increasingly popular as a way to bring nature into the city. They can take different forms, from home, school, and community gardens to rooftop, vertical and indoor farm solutions. It is important to **distinguish urban gardens between areas of individual production**, such as allotments and family gardens, and areas where more collective actions are carried out, such as educational, therapeutic and community gardens.

According to a recent study conducted by Risorse per Roma in synergy with the RU:RBAN project, as part of the "European Forum on Urban Agriculture" (EFUA) project (<https://www.efua.eu/>), funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, an accurate survey led to identify **6 types of Urban Agriculture**:

1

The Urban Farm: generally characterized by its relatively high acreage and its predominately commercial production, within an urban or peri-urban space.

2

The Community Park: it combines food production in a public and accessible space with a diversity of activities and services. This type is diverse and ranges from public parks with food facilities, to fully-fledged urban food forests.

3

The DIY Garden/Farm: Do-It-Yourself Gardens or Farms can include allotment gardens and pick-your-own farms. These initiatives usually focus more on food production and offer fewer activities or leisure services. It is about the individual effort in food.

4

The Zero Acreage Farm: characterized by a different range from high-tech to low-tech, and from non-profit to commercial farming. The key characteristics of this Urban Agriculture type are space efficiency, circularity, resource efficiency, and integration within (or on top of) buildings. Examples include vertical and floating farms, raised beds on rooftops (or in underutilized industrial areas), green facades, and production systems in cellars that rely on artificial lighting.

5

The Social Farm: Social Farms combine Urban Agriculture with social care and/or health care. The initiatives provide therapeutic services, intercultural and social integration or support the socially disadvantaged. Social farms are usually located within the outdoor urban space and range from a medium to low acreage. These farms grow a diversity of products normally sold or gifted directly to consumers. Some initiatives produce for their own consumption. The maintenance can be organized by a farmer/farming family, the owner, an NGO or a non-profit organisation.

6

The Community Garden: generally maintained by NGO's at a local level and characterized by the growth of a sense of community. Significantly, this is generally more important than food-growing, although production is still very much a core element of the garden. Generally, the produce is diverse and the initiatives within this type mostly produce for their own consumption, whilst also undertaking other diverse additional activities.

Keys for Success:



The location of community gardens can be an element of success, as they must be in proximity to densely populated areas.



Involve different municipal areas (environment, education...)



Guarantee Social inclusion.



Determine the Governance Model from the very beginning.



Evaluate the convenience of involving the figure of a Gardener.



Emphasize the importance of maintaining organic production, no pesticides and encourage self-consumption gardens.



Training workshops on community management should be considered.



Provide technical assistance, seeds, and materials to gardeners.



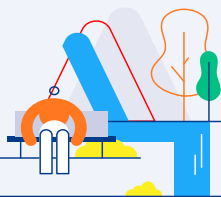
Good spirit, sharing, learning, helping, patience...and love.

URBAN GARDENS TIMELINE



2017

Rome was awarded in 2017 "URBACT Good practice city in Resilient urban and peri-urban agriculture".



New model of urban governance, through three pilot urban gardens in Rome.



2015

The Administration approved the first Regulation of urban gardens, in 2015.



Objectives: urban agriculture to combat social exclusion and poverty, support the regeneration of abandoned and degraded urban areas, put a limit to urban expansion.



2013 - 2016

The Office of Urban Gardens of the City Council of Rome promoted SIDIG_MED, financed by ENPI CBC MED, with the Royal Botanical Garden of Jordan, Mahdia, and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.



Rome's human capital organized into associations is another remarkable heritage of the city. These citizens work to oversee and enhance the common good of the city, including degraded or abandoned public urban spaces.



2008

After the economic crisis of 2008, numerous citizen associations took up the task of managing community gardens as urban and ecological spaces that blend with the city's remarkable rural heritage.

