

## David Park

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**From:** news  
**Sent:** Friday, May 02, 2014 12:37 PM  
**To:** Kimiko Gilmore  
**Subject:** News from City Hall: City's KC Grow program waters urban crops



### News from City Hall

City Communications Office  
City of Kansas City, Missouri

[www.kcmo.gov](http://www.kcmo.gov)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 2, 2014

## **City's KC Grow program waters urban crops**

### ***City helps local farms and community gardens install water systems***

A new program to help make water accessible for community gardens and city farms starts this month. Called "KC Grow," the program provides grants funded by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and administered by Kansas City Community Gardens with technical assistance to farmers provided by Cultivate Kansas City.

The purpose of this program is to make it easier to grow nutritious food for the community. As vacant lots and lawns are increasingly turned into productive growing space, accessing water for growing can be difficult.

"We've recognized that urban agriculture provides an opportunity to make our vacant properties more productive, so by removing a barrier to water access, my hope is that we will see much more activity for these properties," said First District At Large Councilman Scott Wagner.

Requests may include funding to establish water service to the plot, installation of a system to catch rainwater/storm water, water pumping systems, drip irrigation systems and various irrigation tools.

To participate, community gardens must be registered as—or sponsored by—a 501c3 organization. Farmers must have a State Retail Sales Tax License. Individual home gardens are not eligible.

A water audit performed by a KC Grow team member is mandatory before applying for funds. The free audit provides an estimate of water needs based on plot size and local rainfall averages. The audit will provide specific recommendations for how best to access water for growing needs on that site. It also includes site-specific tips for soil improvement/conservation, mulching and budgeting. Community groups and commercial farmers located within the city limits can schedule an audit at [www.tinyurl.com/kcgrow](http://www.tinyurl.com/kcgrow).

“The KC Grow program is going to be a huge help to community garden groups trying to grow food for city residents,” said Ben Sharda, executive director of Kansas City Community Gardens. “We’re so excited that the City has made this opportunity available and that they invited us to partner with them on this initiative.”

The City will distribute about \$100,000 in KC Grow small grants between now and April 2015.

Grant applicants should limit their request to only one audit recommendation at a time. See further rules and restrictions at [www.kccg.org](http://www.kccg.org).

For more information, contact Kimiko Gilmore, assistant city manager, at 816-513-6558.