



June 11-13, 2024
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Columbus, OH

Urban Food System Symposium Educational Tours Wednesday, June 12, 2024

The 2024 Urban Food Systems Symposium includes a variety of tours featuring Ohio's urban food system communities. All symposium participants can select from one of the following tours – with limited space available on first-come basis. All tours include transportation, lunch, snacks, and educational experiences. All participants will come together for dinner and tours at Waterman on Ohio State's Columbus campus.

To start the day, coach buses will pick up at a designated area at the Hyatt Regency. Local hosts will provide guidance throughout the day. Early registration for the tours is \$25. Regular registration price (as of April 13) is \$50.

Please note that the tours are subject to participation numbers and may unfortunately be canceled if minimum attendance requirements are not met. If this should happen, you will be notified and have an opportunity to change tours.

Half-Day Tours

Tour #1 – School Gardens of Central Ohio – This half-day tour will showcase some of the most impactful school and youth gardens in Central Ohio. It includes a visit to an award-winning inner-city youth garden which grows year-round in their large high-tunnel and partners with an elementary school across the street. See a large school garden in a peri-urban setting which includes fruit trees, aquaponics, a high-tunnel, and a land lab. This tour will also visit several inner-city schools that use low tunnels to grow vegetables during the school year. Tour departs at 7 a.m. from the Hyatt Regency and returns at 12:30 p.m. to the Hyatt Regency.

Tour #2 – Community Gardens of Columbus – This half-day tour will feature a diverse group of community gardens in the Columbus metropolitan area. It will visit community plot gardens, communal gardens, an award-winning year-round youth garden, and other community garden projects developed to meet the needs of specific populations in an urban environment. Tour departs from the Hyatt Regency at 1 p.m. and returns to Waterman Farm on the Ohio State's Columbus campus at approximately 5 p.m. for dinner and an evening program.

Full-Day Tours

Tour #3 – Urban Farms and Kitchen Incubator in Cleveland – This tour will feature urban farms in Cleveland, including Ohio City Farm, the largest urban farm in Cleveland, which at one time was the largest urban farm in the United States. Refugees and new American farmers produce more than 40 different fruits and vegetables and in an unexpected urban landscape. Another stop will be Case Western Reserve University's Squire Valleevue and Valley Ridge Farm. This site has several buildings designed for educational, research, and recreational purposes and hosts the University's Farm Food Program which aims to provide new educational opportunities to faculty and students to study local food production in a sustainable way and deliver the produce to the campus and local restaurants. The tour will also visit a shared community kitchen and food business incubator designed to increase the success of food businesses in Northeast Ohio. Tour departs from the Hyatt Regency at 8 a.m. and will return to Waterman Farm on Ohio State's Columbus campus at approximately 5 p.m. for dinner and an evening program.



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Tour #4 – Urban Farms of Columbus – Columbus is Ohio’s largest city and one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, and the number of urban farms in the city is also growing. Visit a diverse group of urban farms operated by individuals, businesses, and non-profit community organizations. See two new urban farms operated by Mid-Ohio Food Collective, a regional foodbank based in Columbus. This tour will also visit a successful residential micro-farm. Tour departs from the Hyatt Regency at 8 a.m. and will return to Waterman Farm on Ohio State’s Columbus campus at approximately 5 p.m. for dinner and an evening program.

Tour #5 – Urban Farms of Dayton – The city of Dayton has blossomed into a phenomenal urban food location filled with many urban farms, urban gardens, and community gardens where you will see the teamwork of the community on display. On this tour you will see the urban teamwork of the Dayton community by touring urban farms, community gardens, and the sites that are utilizing the excess produce from these farms and gardens. You will meet the backbone of the community’s urban agriculture sector and learn about the impact it has on the community. Tour departs from the Hyatt Regency at 8 a.m. and will return to Waterman Farm on Ohio State’s Columbus campus at approximately 5 p.m. for dinner and an evening program.

Tour #6 – Urban Farms and Aggregation in Akron and Mansfield – This tour will explore urban farms and aggregation efforts in North Central and Northeast Ohio. Mansfield, Ohio and The Ohio State University have partnered to build a local food system based on urban agricultural commercial production. It is organized into a cooperative aggregation and sales business. In Mansfield, the tour will include urban farms and Richland Gro-Op Aggregation Kitchen. In Akron, the tour will visit Let’s Grow Akron’s headquarters which is home to a production garden and their brick-and-mortar Farm Market and Kitchen, located on the beautiful Summit Lake. The tour will also visit the Akron Cooperative Farm which includes 4 acres divided into plots rented by 140 gardeners, many of whom are new Akron residents due to displacement, refugee resettlement, and immigration. Tour departs from the Hyatt Regency at 8 a.m. and will return to Waterman Farm on Ohio State’s Columbus campus at approximately 5 p.m. for dinner and an evening program.