

Agricultural Renaissance Community (ARC)

Action Guide

How to bring an ARC to your community

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For more information, see:

[ARC Model](#)

[ARC Research Compendium](#)

at edraofmi.org/alternative-development



How to bring an ARC to your community

For local residents

- 1. Share this model with neighbors;** solicit their feedback. What could an ARC look like in your community?
- 2. Share the ARC model with local township and county board members.** Set up a time to sit down with them and discuss.
- 3. Write your township a letter of support for an ARC.** Describe what you like about the model, and what vision you have for what an ARC could do in your community.
- 4. Conduct a simple survey of current agricultural activities** in the area—number of farms, types of products being grown.
- 5. Talk with local farmers.** What would help them make more money and create more jobs?
- 6. Speak with local business owners;** solicit their input on the retail and industrial parks. What do they think the community needs most?
- 7. Conduct a simple survey of local businesses.** What types of retail are missing, or the community needs more of?
- 8. Document all your research and surveys,** including dates. This supporting evidence will be important in swaying officials and drafting zoning.
- 9. Work with the township to hold a series of public town hall meetings** to gather input from the community.
- 10. Form a citizen committee to help draft** a zoning overlay or Planned Unit Development (PUD) for an ARC.
- 11. Consider: does the Master Plan need to be updated or revised?** Does its intended land use reflect the values of the local community, and is its language clear and enforceable?
- 12. Complete an ARC Community Customization form,** including reference materials.
- 13. Work with local boards to adopt a zoning overlay or PUD** for the ARC, according to the community's specifications.
- 14. Continue to work with local boards** to identify good developers and tenants for the ARC.
- 15. Remain engaged in the development process,** to ensure activities are being done transparently, and in the community's best interest.
- 16. Volunteer your time** to assist with the development of the educational and habitat park zones.



How to bring an ARC to your community

For local officials

1. **Read** the full [ARC Model & Research Compendium](#).
2. **Conduct your own research**; speak with local farmers, business owners, and residents.
3. **Discuss the ARC model with the board**. What might this look like in your community? What problems could it solve?
4. **Discuss the ARC model with the local community** through a series of town hall meetings and surveys.
5. **Complete an ARC Community Customization form**, including survey documentation and reference materials.
6. **Identify a site within the community** which would be most suitable for an ARC.
7. **Gauge site property owners' interest** in an ARC.
8. **Adopt a motion** supporting the development of an ARC in your community.
9. **Instruct the Planning Commission to draft a zoning overlay or PUD** for an ARC, according to the community's needs and preferences.
10. **Appoint a citizen committee** to provide the Planning Commission with research and guidance in drafting the new ordinance.
11. **Adopt the Planning Commission's zoning** overlay or PUD for an ARC.
12. **Write a letter of support to legislators**, asking them to develop policy supportive of ARC developments



How to bring an ARC to your community

For Michigan legislators

1. **Have your legislative aide read** the full [ARC Model & Research Compendium](#).
2. **Conduct your own research**; gauge constituents' interest in food security and agriculture.
3. **Research opportunities for industrial entrepreneurship** in the processing of hemp, wool, mycelium, and regenerative livestock, and other agricultural products.
4. **Explore ways to redirect SOAR and other Manufacturing 4.0 corporate subsidies** to small-scale entrepreneurship within ARC industrial parks and local regenerative agriculture.
5. **Explore drafting legislature to:**
 - a) protect and preserve Michigan's farmland,
 - b) provide tax relief for regenerative farmers,
 - c) legalize urban farming practices such as native lawns, composting, and the keeping of chickens and small livestock.
6. **Work with colleagues to set policy** which:
 - a) encourages a transition from industrial to regenerative agriculture,
 - b) refocuses economic development on the agricultural industry, and
 - c) encourages holistic, community-based development



ARC Community Customization Form

For local Agricultural Renaissance Community development

For _____ Township in _____ County, MI

Population: _____

Form completed by: _____ Date: _____

1) Community is primarily:

- ☐ Rural residential & agricultural
- ☐ Commercial, residential, & agricultural
- ☐ Dense residential & commercial/industrial
- ☐ Other: _____

2) Site identified for this project is at _____,
spanning _____ acres.

3) Current # of farms in the area: _____ active, _____ inactive.

4) Description of current agricultural activities in the area: _____

5) Local farms would like to increase production of _____

6) The best opportunities for agricultural and industrial production in the community are: _____

7) Types of housing most needed in the community are:

- ☐ Single family homes
- ☐ Condominiums/multi-unit family housing
- ☐ Apartment complexes
- ☐ Senior living communities
- ☐ Other: _____



8) What are the community's needs for public K-12 education?

- ☐ Affordable preschool
- ☐ A K-5 elementary school
- ☐ A middle school
- ☐ A high school
- ☐ An alternative school
- ☐ A Farm & Nature Learning Center available to all students in the area
- ☐ Other:_____

9) What types of retail does the community need the most?

- ☐ Grocery/food market
- ☐ Durable goods (hardware, furniture, electronics etc)
- ☐ Bars & restaurants
- ☐ Boutique retail
- ☐ Recreation (campgrounds, RV parks, boat/kayak rentals, etc)
- ☐ Other:_____
- ☐ Other:_____
- ☐ Other:_____

10) List current grocers and food retailers in the area (10 mile radius), and rate whether they are very affordable, somewhat affordable, or not affordable:

11) List nearby (10 mile radius) parks and trail systems. Note if any trails are accessible from the proposed ARC site:



12) List current annual community events within the area (10 mile radius), and estimate their attendance:

13) What recreational/outdoor activities does the community lack, or need more of?

In Summary:

Our community's Agricultural Renaissance Community (ARC) should have:

1) An industrial park which prioritizes _____
_____ anchor tenants and _____
_____ commercial tenants.

2) A residential subdivision which provides (types of housing): _____.

3) A New Farm Learning Center which provides (schools/type of center): _____
_____.

4) A retail corridor which emphasizes (types of retail): _____
_____.

5) A _____ acre Habitat and Community Park which will provide space for (types
of events): _____
_____.

