



You hear the term more often now: urban farming or gardening, in other words city gardening. Growing your own vegetables, fruit and herbs in your city garden, on your balcony or even on your roof. And, if possible, together, as there are more and more initiatives to create allotments on undeveloped pieces of land between buildings or on the roof of an apartment building. The trend started in the United States and has blown over to Europe. In cities much space remains unused while there are many possibilities to grow vegetables and fruit. These urban farming projects have become important social meeting places in the city. Hans and Nuno Clauzing started their photographic search for urban farming in New York and became so enthusiastic that they went to the most beautiful places afterwards: London, Antwerp, The Hague, Gent, Rotterdam, Haarlem, Manchester and even Zaltbommel.

'This amazing book is a tribute to all those people who have the courage to dig and keep digging on public land. I hope it will inspire many new initiatives and provide policymakers with new insights. This book is an open invitation to get involved with one of the projects in the book, or other projects. Rest assured, you will be welcomed with open arms. And the harvest of all this dabbling? You'll not only get green beans, sweet peas or potatoes, but also pure happiness!'

- Carien van Boxtel, Garden and landscape designer

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URBAN FARMING

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Aerial



New York (United States)

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Eagle Street Rooftop Farm



Eagle Street Rooftop Farm is on the roof of a large warehouse on the East River in northwest Brooklyn. It is one of the few places in New York where lettuce beds can be seen against the background of the Manhattan skyline. It has a mixed harvest of biological vegetables and there's even room for a colony of Italian bees. The market – which is open to the public on Sundays – sells freshly picked vegetables and gives people the opportunity to learn about the process of organic farming in an urban environment.

Annie Novak and Ben Flanner planted the first seeds in Eagle Street in April 2010. Since then the company has become an exemplar for the urban agriculture programme. Their farm also works with a small Community Supported Agriculture programme (CSA). Additionally Rooftop Farms takes part in Growing Chefs (Food education from the soil to the kitchen). Novak and Planner want to promote their vision and business by educating the public

and offering free workshops. Topics include: bees and beekeeping, fertilising in the city and growing vegetables. Every Sunday Eagle Street Rooftop Farm is open for anyone who is interested in voluntary work and who wants to learn more about managing an urban farm from sowing to harvesting. Goode Green originally designed the roof, and installed both the basic system and the growth medium. The farm uses a mixture of compost, fragments of rock and shale (rock composed of clay materials). The combined materials are light in weight, providing good air circulation and water transmission. A secondary benefit is that the system keeps the warehouse below cool.

<http://rooftopfarms.org>

Location: 44 Eagle St, Brooklyn, NY 11222, United States





The Eagle Street Rooftop is one of the few places in New York where you can see lettuce beds against the background of the Manhattan skyline!