

10.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

10.1 Collaborate within your community to implement a sustainability action

In 2015, the city government granted a farmer, Gabriel Russo, 4 city-owned parcels of land in exchange for him providing reduced cost CSA shares to low- and moderate-income folk. Increased access to healthy and affordable food benefits the municipality immensely. Forest City Farms also hosts annual community events like Pick Day. Middletown residents, including the mayor, have a lot of pride in the program because it is unique to Middletown. In addition to donating produce to St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen and Amazing Grace Food Pantry, the farm also sells its produce to several local restaurants: Herd, OSA, ION, and Café 56. This information has been confirmed by Middletown’s mayor.

This submission goes beyond Sustainable CT action 4.3.2 “allow active agricultural use of municipal land” because the allowance is *only on the condition* that the farm meet certain requirements: i.e., partnering with local soup kitchens and food pantries.

See the following hyperlink to Forest City Farm’s “About” web page:

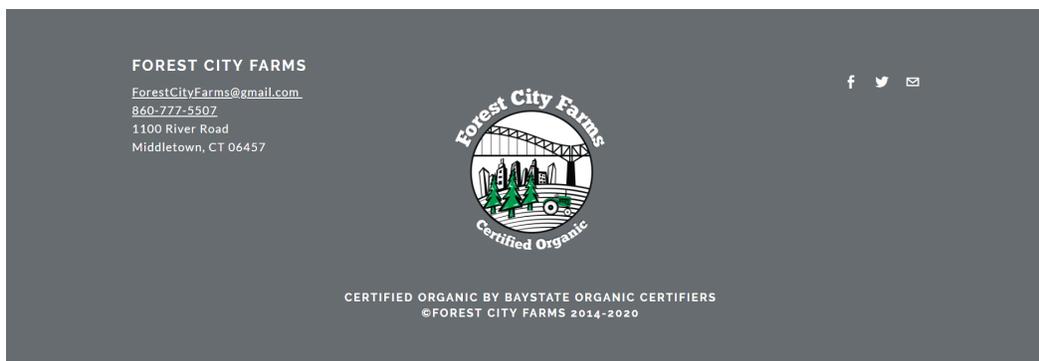
<http://www.forestcityfarms.com/about.html>

See the following hyperlink to their homepage, which includes an informative video highlighting the above information:

<http://www.forestcityfarms.com/about.html>

Evidence of ongoing activity of the farm can also be found on their website. At the bottom of the homepage, it is shown that their organic certification currently applies until 2020.

See the below screenshot:



Further evidence of continued activity can be found on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s website, which is kept up to date:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Marketing/Marketing/CSA-Listing>

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Forest City Farms

1100 River Road
Middletown, CT 06457
860-777-5507
forestcityfarms@gmail.com

Products Offered: **V FP O - herbs**

Early Sign-up Discounts: **No**

Half Shares Offered: **Yes**

Season Shares Available: **Summer Fall Winter**

Organic Certified: **Yes**

Phoenix Farm

76 Nooks Hill Road
Cromwell, CT 06416

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A final piece of evidence for continued activity is its actively maintained Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/forestcityfarms/>



See the following hyperlinks to a variety of articles written about Forest City Farms and its establishment:

<https://www.middletownpress.com/news/article/City-of-Middletown-partners-with-Forest-City-11765986.php>

<https://www.courant.com/community/middletown/hc-middletown-forest-city-farm-csa-0809-20170810-story.html>

See the following hyperlink to a posting about a 2017 event with the farm's supervisor:

<https://www.rockfallfoundation.org/event/meet-your-greens-with-gabe-russo-of-forest-city-farms/>

See the following Forest City Farms photo slideshow:

<https://www.courant.com/community/middletown/hc-forest-city-farms-in-middletown-20170818-photogallery.html>