

Baltimore City Planning Department, Food Policy and Planning
July 10th, 2025

Project CitySprout (Baltimore Fellows) Presentation

Elizabeth Alene, Lauryn Cooper, Sofia Fleury, Aryah Oztanir



Our team



Elizabeth Alene

I am from Saint Paul, Minnesota, and plan to work in diplomacy and policy implementation in the future. My passion lies at the intersection of international development and public health. I've enjoyed learning about sustainable urban agriculture and helping the urban farm communities thrive in Baltimore.

Global Studies, Public Health,
and Chinese



Lauryn Cooper

I'm from Greensboro, North Carolina, and plan to become a physician and researcher. Having a love for preventive medicine and public health, I've loved working with urban farms and civilians out in the field, learning their stories and missions.

Nutrition Sciences and
Research, Chemistry,
Pre-Med



Sofia Fleury

I'm from Clinton, NC, and plan to pursue pediatric surgery. Coming to Baltimore from a rural town in NC, urban farming and food insecurity were new to me, but this project was so inspiring. It has made me consider ways I can help my own community with accessibility to healthy food.

Biology, Pre-Med



Aryah Oztanir

I'm from San Francisco, California! I'm hoping to work at a startup after graduation.

I've enjoyed working with farmers this summer to solve the challenges they face with urban farming.

Business & Computer Science



Morehead Cain

Civic Collaboration Summer

A summer enrichment program through Morehead-Cain where teams of scholars embark on research on community challenges and propose real solutions across North America.

Scholars get to live independently, work as a team, and tackle real-world problems for 8 weeks of this summer.



Our Dilemma

How can we create *support* for Baltimore's urban farms, which provides them with *prosperous* and *welcoming* land, fit for a blooming community?

Also,

How can we enrich the farms *technical knowledge* and *community engagement*?

Peaches and
Apricots from the
Harlem Park
Community Farm:



8 Weeks, 6 Stages

● **Research**
Conducting interviews and reviewing DOP resources.

● **Feedback**
Receiving feedback through interviews with farms.

● **Project Budget**
Looking at prices and allocating funding.

● **Brainstorming**
Coming up with ideas: any and everything.

● **Choosing a solution**
A two-part solution for farms that is attractive and useful

● **Implementation**
Making our ideas a reality.

Our Research Process

Understanding Baltimore's Food Scene and Urban Farm Presence

- Exploring Baltimore's Urban Farms & Meeting Farmers
- Conversations with Civilians
 - "What's that?"
 - "Where and what do you usually eat?"
- Understanding Knowledge Gaps

"It's a "if you know, you know. If you don't, you don't" situation."

- Bonita Pinkney

Paige, Owner of *The Stoop* -

"We need more green spaces"... "We need to get the conversation started and people involved."

"I think a lot of people maybe think it's like an individual farm space, but people might not know what it is or what we're doing or what it's for."

- Gerilyn, Bon-Secour Urban Farm Co-Lead

Two Parts. One Goal.

Internal

What resource can we provide urban farms that will allow them to continue to exist and tend rich land?

- Communication
 - Communications System
 - Text, Email, and Visits
 - Flyers
- Land/Funding/Grants
 - Resource awareness
 - How to Apply
- Operations
 - Crop Planning & Uses
 - Soil Knowledge

External

What do urban farms need to attract the public and become a flourishing community space for healthier living?

- Awareness
 - Gathering Space
 - Colorful + Inviting
 - Flyers/Publicity
- Lasting Land/Operations
 - Sign + Logo
 - Arch
 - Picnic Tables
 - Clean-Up
 - Crop Labeling

Feedback from Farms

- Acknowledge Existence
 - Appears Private, but is Very Public
 - Unattractive to Common Eye
 - Become a Community Green Space
 - Extend Produce to Community
- Funding
 - Many grants are project-specific
 - A vital, but free, community resource
- The Need for a Team
 - Volunteering is Slow, but Hiring is Slower
 - Seasonal
- Resource Centralization
 - Confusion Navigating City Resource Webpages
 - Water
 - Beyond the Basics of Urban Farming
 - Soil testing, adding nutrients to soil
 - How to Connect with Community



Why we decided on a *two-part plan*

Learning every farm has different needs and requires different kinds of support



One central goal we had was to create both a community centered solution and one urban farmer centered solution

A visible, tangible impact as well as a long-term sustained goal were necessary to us all



Beautification creates a sense of community pride and attracts a larger audience to the farm by making it feel welcoming.

The app helps streamline managing the farm and helps urban farmers bridge the communication channel issue between farms and city residents.



Work we did: Project CitySprout



Beautification

Selecting a local urban farm, sourcing affordable materials, implementing installations through hands-on work, and evaluating the impact.



CitySprout App (CitySprout.org)

Designing templates for flyers and partnerships, developing recipes, allocating grants and resources, incorporating farm technicals, and integrating AI features.

Budget

The feasibility and scope of our project was influenced by the money we were able to allocate

Allocating funding

We focused on solutions that were:

- implementable
- cost-effective
- replicable in other neighborhoods

\$1000 budget
from scholarship

\$650 for
beautification

- Building an arch
- Paint for picnic tables
- Trellises
- Step stones
- Gloves, sealant, painters tape

\$350 for the
app

- server hosting
- domain registration,
- image storage
- database backups
- ssl certificates

Why we chose Harlem Park for Beautification

Passion for Community Impact

The farm is closely connected with its community, and is deeply rooted in local outreach and making fresh produce accessible.

Open-minded and Collaborative Team

The team was eager to work alongside us—welcoming site visits, helping us identify crops, and staying open to ideas like our app, City Sprout

Alignment with Our Goals

They were flexible with our fast-paced timeline, excited to implement every aspect of the project, and appreciative of all contributions.



Harlem Park Community Farm

1314 Harlem Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217

The farm is led by Farmer Salomey Mettle, better known as Sally, who's passionate about urban farming and helping Baltimore residents learn about healthy food and sustainability.

Finding Resources

Step Stones



Home Depot

Measured to place two per step leading to the fire pit. For a welcoming and functional entrance path.

Table & Paint



Home Depot

Table delivered directly to the farm. Paint matched the existing color palette of the farm's front sign.

Arch



Amazon

Included all assembly materials. Great support for climbing plants and added visual appeal.

Crop Labels & Tomato Trellis



Amazon

Made of durable, affordable materials. Trellises supported growing crops and were left with the farm for ongoing use.

Miscellaneous



Amazon & Home Depot

Ensured our work could be implemented smoothly and have a lasting impact.

Installing and Work

Upon getting to the farm, we started with picking up trash all across the land and putting down the stepping stones.

Day 1



The following day, we painted two tables and worked on revitalizing the welcome sign.

Day 2



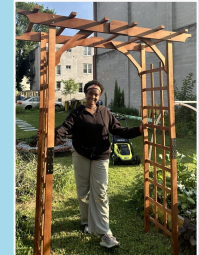
The third day we painted two other tables and finished the welcome sign and added trellises for the tomatoes.

Day 3

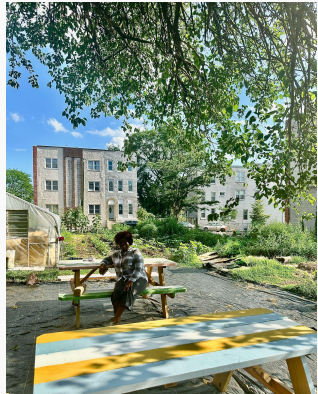
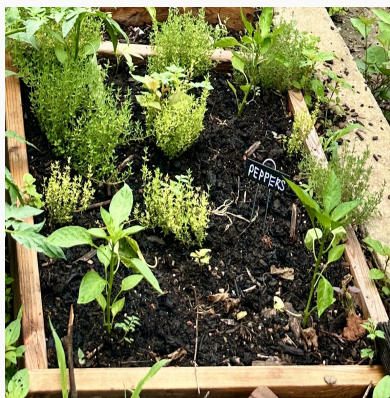


The fourth day we built and installed an arch, put in crop labels.

Days 4 and 5



Outcomes



Quotes



"This is the best farm ever to come back home to"

"This is going to attract many more of our community members to farming"

“

Thank you guys for the hard work you've put into this. The community is going to love it.

"Two people stopped by the farm to take pictures today"

"It already looks so much more welcoming"

CitySprout, the app.

The first AI-integrated urban farm management tool built for Baltimore farms. We give farms a CMS (Content management system) + CRM (Customer relationship management tool) BUILT for THEM.

We wanted to create something that would help farms through every step of the process whether they're starting out or have been doing this for years. We wanted to solve the problem of not having enough manpower without making the solution be more funding.

CitySprout intuitively walks farms through how to start or run an urban farm.

Funding & Land

We help farms find funding through our grant repository and our AI grant finder.

01

Farm Operations

We enable farms to operate in an organized manner with the help of a crop planner, recipe generator, and technical resources.

02

Communications

Through CitySprout farms can communicate with those in their neighborhood effortlessly, through multiple communications channels as well.

03

Sprout

With the help of AI, farms have a ready-to-go assistant that automatically knows details about their farm, and can help them anywhere in the app

04

Funding & Land

Grant Finder

✕ Grant Finder

Let CitySprout help you find grants for your farm, we'll even help you write grant proposals for those we find!

What type of grants are you looking for? Be as specific as possible.

☰ More Details

Select or specify any if they apply to you and your farm.

📌 Write a grant proposal

CitySprout will draft up a professional grant proposal for you for each grant it finds.

✕ Grant Finder Results

Found 2 grants that match your criteria. Click on any grant to see more details and your custom proposal.

Baltimore City Water Quality Improvement Grant 🔖 \$100K - \$100K ★★★★ Moderate

The Baltimore City Water Quality Improvement Grant provides funding for projects that improve water quality in Baltimore City. This grant is a great opportunity for urban farms like Test Farm to implement water conservation and management practices.

[View Grant](#) [Show More](#) [Copy Proposal](#)

Requirements (3)

[Project Proposal](#) [Budget](#) [Timeline](#)

Benefits (1)

[Improved Water Quality](#) [Increased Crop Yields](#) [Community Engagement](#)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grant 🔖 \$100K - \$100K ★★★★ Hard

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grant provides funding for projects that conserve and protect natural resources, including water. This grant is a great opportunity for urban farms like Test Farm to implement water conservation and management practices.

[View Grant](#) [Show More](#) [Copy Proposal](#)

Requirements (3)

[Project Proposal](#) [Budget](#) [Timeline](#)

Benefits (3)

[Improved Water Quality](#) [Increased Crop Yields](#) [Community Engagement](#)

Grant Repository

🔖 City Programs

City Programs & Other Resources

Sub heading

🔖 Project Based Urban Farm Grants

🔖 Supporting Specific Urban Farm Projects

Explore targeted grants that help fund environmental cleanup, food access programs, and other activity-specific efforts across Baltimore.

🔖 \$10K - \$10K Deadline: Typically Ongoing

United Way of Maryland Grant

Funds Baltimore-area neighborhood-focused projects

Eligibility: Baltimore area nonprofits

[Link: Apply Here](#)

🔖 Up to \$15K Deadline: Starts again in 2026

Johns Hopkins University - Neighborhood Fund

Supports community revitalization near Hopkins campus

Eligibility: Baltimore community groups

[Link: Apply Here](#)

🔖 \$100K - \$100K Deadline: Varies

Maryland Environmental Trust

Environmental cleanup and beautification projects

Eligibility: Baltimore nonprofits and citizens

🔖 City Programs & Other Resources

🔖 Supporting various specific things urban farms need

Explore targeted grants that help fund environmental cleanup, food access programs, and other activity-specific efforts across Baltimore.

🔖 Water Access Program

Water Access Program

The Department of Housing and Community Development and the Water Department provide the benefits of both City and privately owned community open spaces (such as urban farms) access to water for a flat rate of \$120 per growing season—March 1st through November 1st.

[Learn More](#)

🔖 Adopt A Lot Program

Adopt A Lot Program

The Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development allows people to search and apply for lots and water access—ideal for urban farms—through an online process. To apply, review the FAQs, and learn how to navigate the application platform.

[Learn More](#)

City Programs/Resources

Project specific grants

- United Way of Maryland Grant

Grants covering urban farm basic needs:


- Abell Foundation

Other resources:

- Land access initiatives
- Water access programs
- information gaps to resources farmers might not already know about

Farm Operations

Crop Planner


 **New crop**

Description

Search Tags

Select a crop type... ▾

399 total.

Time	Action	Amount	Notes
7/8/25	Intake	399	

+ Now

Select ▾

Notes

Update crop +

A list of New crop's intake and outtake

🔧 Crop Planner

Find the best crops for your farm, the current season, the climate around you, and your location.

← Back to Crop Planner

Recommended Crops for Your Farm

Easy



Tomatoes

One of the most popular garden fruits, tomatoes are a warm-season crop that thrive in Baltimore's humid summers.

Market
Value

Medium

Recipes

🔧 Recipe Generator

Create new recipes with the help of AI

What type of recipe are you looking for?

Foods from your farm to include

Recipe Description

Add more crops

More options

How do you want this recipe to taste, look, and feel?

What cuisine is this recipe for? Who are you catering to? Include any other details here. Will this recipe be combined with a post?

Recipe

🍲 Chicken Biryani Recipe

A flavorful and aromatic chicken biryani recipe, made with tender chicken, basmati rice, and a blend of spices.

Urban Farming Technicals

Maintaining Healthy Land

- Soil testing
- Water Access + Irrigation
- Nutrient Supplementation

What and When to Plant

- Seasonal Crop Rotation
- Community Input
- Adjust for Farm Specifics

Importance of Beautification

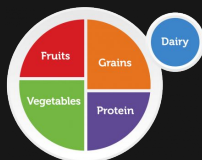
- Welcoming Community Space
- Supporting Biodiversity and Pollinators
- Helps Prevent Vandalism

Record Keeping

- Monitor Farm Performance and Health
- Compare Yield vs Demand
- Track Soil Test Dates and Results
- Map Land for Visitors and Beautification

Recipe Repository

- Aimed to keep recipes nutritionally balanced, aligning with those of MyPlate: having the four main food groups in most recipes.
- The recipes also all feature ingredients that are SNAP accessible and budget friendly.
- Includes prep, ingredients, instructions, and optional customization.
- At the bottom of each recipe, they include nutrition notes about the foods used, giving the chef a glance at the benefits of their healthy choice!



Nutrition Notes:

- 🥬 Kale provides vitamins A, C, K, and calcium, supporting overall health.
- 🥜 Nuts/seeds add healthy fats, plant protein, and magnesium for muscle and nerve function.
- 🍝 Pasta offers carbohydrates for energy; whole grain pasta increases fiber.
- 🥕 Roasted carrots and potatoes supply complex carbs, fiber, and antioxidants.

Customizable Protein

All recipes have customizable and inclusive protein options for different dietary restrictions: chicken, tofu, beans, or none.

Three Levels

Provided three levels: *beginner, moderate, and advanced*

Each recipe is designed to use minimal cookware, adaptable to diverse lifestyles

Produce Care

Instructions on how to care for and prepared the produce once harvested, and how to use in a variety of recipes.

Communications

Echo Post

Create a post

This is my post

my new grape(banana)wheat

Carrot and Zucchini Delight

Remove survey

Remove recipe

my new grape(banana)wheat

Options

BananasP WheatGrapes

Recipe

Carrot and Zucchini Delight
A delicious and healthy recipe that combines the flavors of carrots and zucchini.

Your newest post

Hey! This is your newest post, feel free to include whatever you want in it. Press slash to markup text!

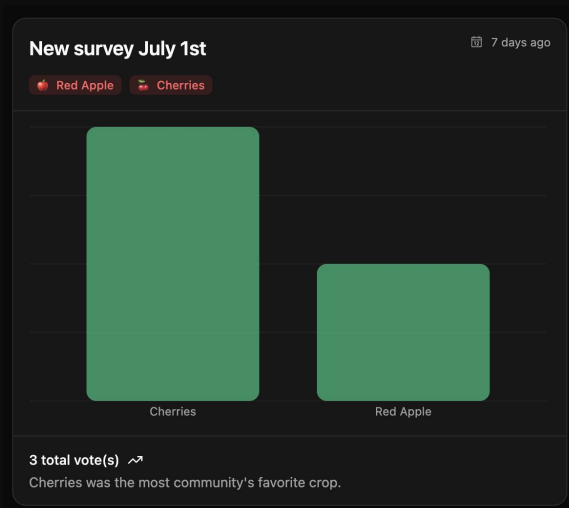
Monthly Urban Farm Highlights

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque efficitur nisi in velit maximus, at facilisis purus vestibulum.

- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet
- Consectetur adipiscing elit
- Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
- Ut labore et dolore magna aliqua

Crop Surveys

Link a crop survey



See the results

Texted to phone numbers, emailed to members, and on the site live! IG coming soon.

Communications Continued

Partnerships and Outreach Templates

Email Templates

Help farms send professional, original emails to build partnerships with local rec centers, churches, and gyms.

Text Templates

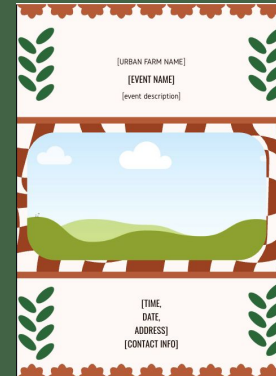
Provide quick follow-up messages farms can send to strengthen partnerships and organize joint events.

Farm Flyer Templates

Ready-to-use templates for promoting the farm, increasing visibility and popularity, and sharing its mission with the local community.

Event Flyer Templates

Customizable designs for advertising events like volunteer days, workshops, or community gatherings—helping boost attendance and engagement.

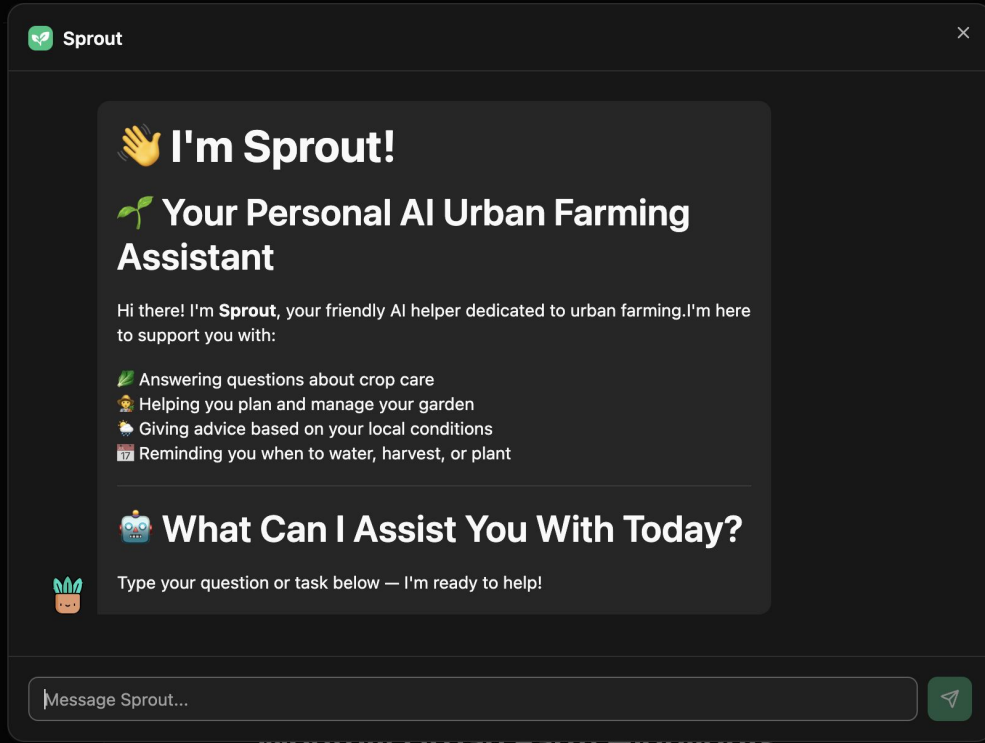


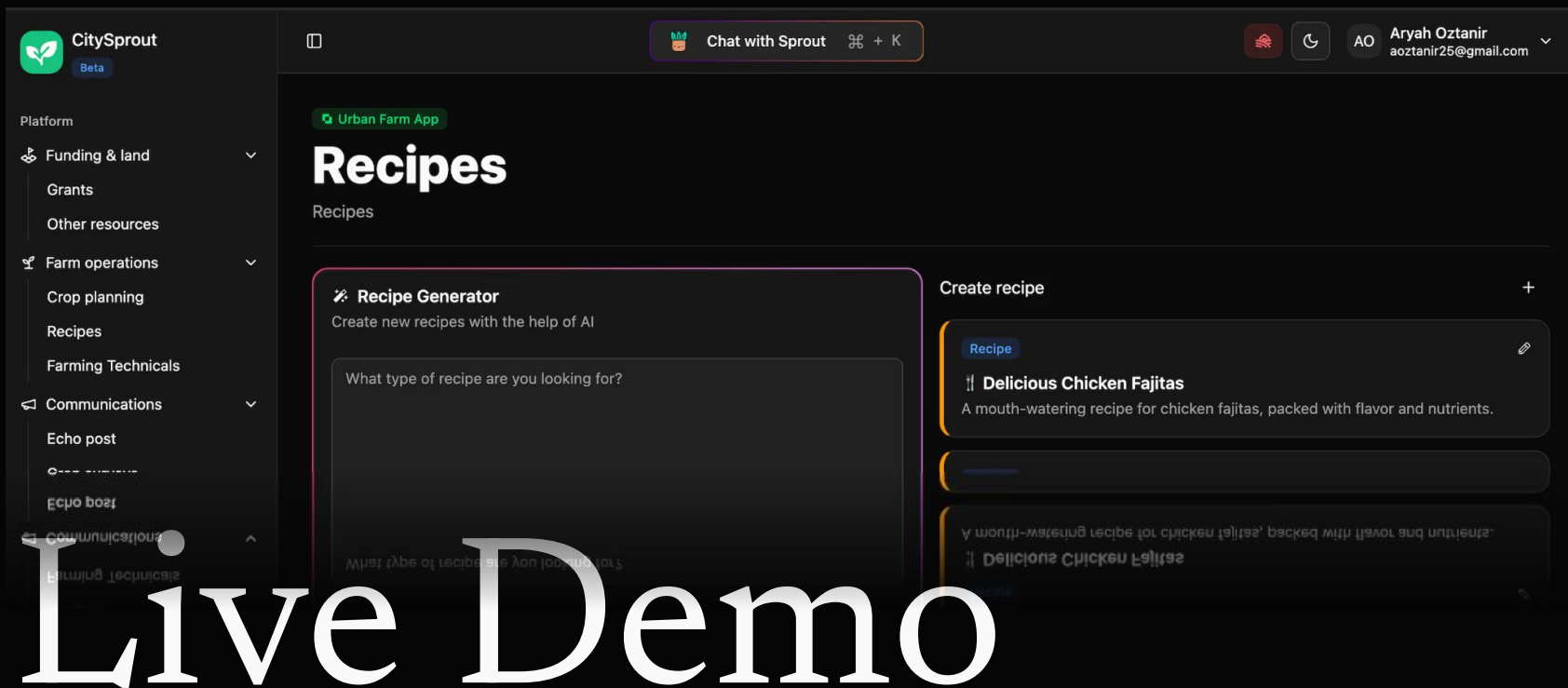
Sprout

Your urban farm's new best friend

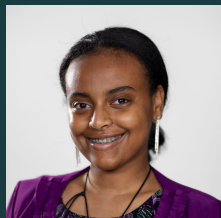


Chat with Sprout





Here is a quick run-through of our app.



Elizabeth Alene
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Lauryn Cooper
lauryncooper06@gmail.com



Sofia Fleury
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Thank you!