Mill City Grows fosters food justice by improving physical health, economic independence and environmental sustainability in Lowell through increased access to land, locally-grown food, and education.
LOCAL FOOD IS FOR EVERYONE

In 2019, we created new ways for Lowell residents to grow, eat and learn about fresh, local food and our urban ecosystem.

GROW

4 FARMS, 7 COMMUNITY GARDENS, and 13 SCHOOL GARDENS produced over 40,000 pounds of fresh produce.

EAT

- Our Mobile Market sold $83,000+ of produce. 60% of sales were to low-income families using SNAP, WIC, and Senior Coupons.
- We provided a medically tailored farm share to 20 cardiac rehab patients at Lowell General Hospital.
- 44% of our 250+ community gardeners reported eating more produce as a result of gardening with Mill City Grows.

LEARN

- 40 people completed the Gardener Training Program and Garden Leadership institute - 4 are now serving as volunteer garden leaders.
- 31 families attended our Farm to Table cooking classes, and made a commitment to eating more scratch cooking at home.
- 6,681 students across Lowell had access to a garden bed, and 3,000+ participated in in-school, afterschool, or cafeteria based programming in gardening and nutrition. 150 youth joined us for summer farm-based learning, and 4 youth were employed.
In 2019, Mill City Grows moved to a new location, doubling the size of its headquarters. Our dream was to establish a space for food justice and food education in Lowell. We began raising funds, to establish a commercial kitchen and classroom space, known as Raising Organic Opportunities Together (ROOT). Set to open in 2020, this in-house facility will allow us to process more crops for storage and sale, hold Farm to Table cooking classes onsite, and conduct other food education trainings and community events in a fully-accessible downtown location.

"I loved seeing everyone come in and pick up their veggies. The camaraderie and community around food, especially other cultures [can really] change your mindset. Everyone should do this!"

**BETSY, FARM SHARE RECIPIENT, AND CARDIAC REHAB PATIENT**