The process of selecting a site is extremely important in that it needed to satisfy a number of certain urban criteria. Both programs want to be located adjacent to a major transportation nexus in addition to having a large amount of currently vacant land for farming. This adjacency facilitates the consumption of fresh produce at that multi-modal transfer point. The project is situated above the Sunnyside Rail Yards between Long Island City and Sunnyside, Queens, two growing neighborhoods of Manhattan.

This site connects the urban farm to a larger existing network of food distribution within NYC, specifically City Harvest, which is an organization that collects and redistributes wasted food from NYC’s restaurants. The connection with City Harvest is the exchange of wasted food to be used as compost in the farm—fod for fresh food to be delivered to local markets and enhance food security. The community-based infrastructure centralizes food production in this urban context and creates a continuous productive landscape out of this enormous vacant land.

This project, while designed specifically for New York City, can also be thought of as a prototype for how to build new urban systems of growth and food security in cities around the world. The site chosen in NYC is not much different than what can be found surrounding other large urban areas. Most large cities have so-called public transportation infrastructure, and accompanying that is always a rail yard, a potential farming site.