

## CHAPTER 2: SEED OF AN IDEA

DID THE PEOPLE YOU WERE NAMED AFTER INSTALL THIS ENTIRE ORCHARD?

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT!

NO, BUT THEY WERE ESSENTIAL IN THE PROCESS. LOTS OF PEOPLE WORKED ON THIS: TEACHERS, STUDENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, RESIDENTS, AND EVEN SOME FROM OUTSIDE OUR LITTLE COMMUNITY.

HEY, HARTMAN! WHO'S YOUR NEW FRIEND?

THAT'S MRS. HARTMAN, YOINK. SHOW SOME RESPECT.

YOU HAVE MY APOLOGIES, MRS. HARTMAN.

UMM...

I'M BOINK. MY ROWDY TWIN HERE IS NAMED YOINK.

NICE TO HAVE YOU VISIT US!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MADDOX.

IS EVERY TREE NAMED AFTER A PERSON?

OH NO! THE STUDENTS THAT PLANTED ALL OF US GAVE EACH OF US OUR NAMES. I WAS GIVEN MY NAME BY ONE OF MRS. HARTMAN'S STUDENTS.

HEY, MADDOX! I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOUR CHESS SET.

FANCY A GAME?

MAYBE.

STRONG TALK! I'LL BET YOU EVERY APPLE ON YOINK'S BRANCHES THAT WE CAN TAKE YOU!

HEY!!

I HAVE TO WARN YOU. I'VE NEVER BEEN BEATEN. THAT'S WHY I CAME DOWN HERE TO PLAY A SOLO GAME.

WE'RE ONE BIG COMMUNITY, SO TO SPEAK. THINK YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE US?

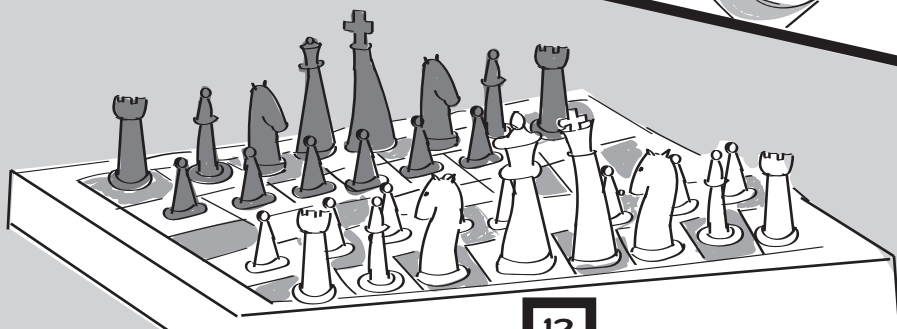
GAME ON!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'WE'?

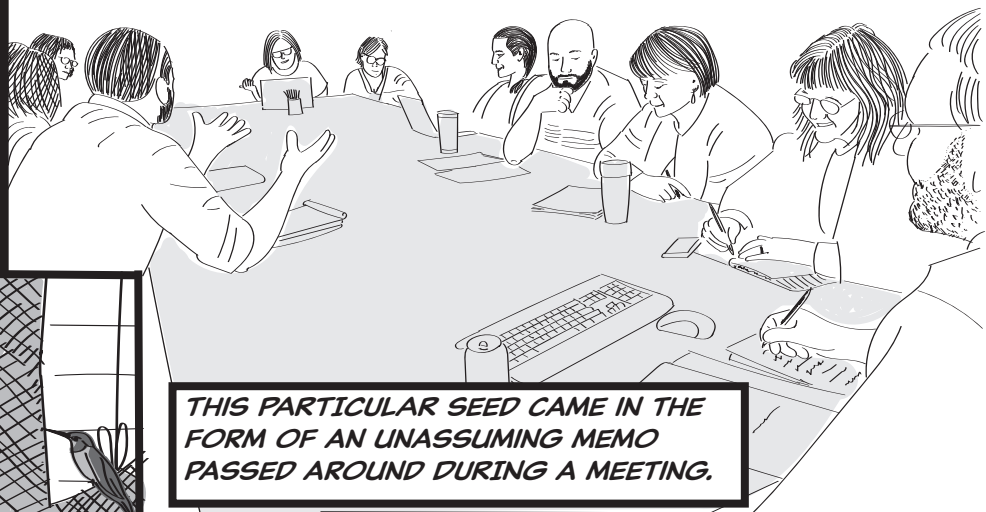
MRS. HARTMAN, I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR THE STORY OF THIS PLACE. WOULD YOU MIND SHARING WHILE WE PLAY?

WHY SURE! I MIGHT EVEN CONTRIBUTE A MOVE, OR TWO.

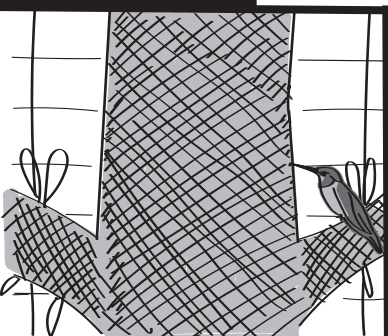
PAWN TO QUEEN'S FOUR.



**THIS ORCHARD HAS A HUMBLE BEGINNING. THANKS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, A SEED OF AN IDEA IS PLANTED TO GROW.**



**THIS PARTICULAR SEED CAME IN THE FORM OF AN UNASSUMING MEMO PASSED AROUND DURING A MEETING.**



# • Community Orchards

The Richmond Parks Department is exploring ways to increase the use of our parks facilities for the public. Listed below are several ideas we are exploring. Please contact us if you are interested in these or other ideas to make our city spaces more...



I WANT TO LOOK INTO THIS.

OKAY...



I'M VERY SERIOUS! I'M GOING TO LOOK INTO THIS FURTHER. CAN WE TALK MORE AFTER THIS MEETING?

SURE.

LEE ANN

JERRY

JAY

JERRY WAS THE DEAN OF JAY'S SCHOOL. THEY TALKED MORE AFTER THE MEETING AND JAY TOLD HIM WHAT HE WANTED TO DO AND HOW HE PLANNED TO DO IT.

HE WENT HOME AND TALKED WITH HIS WIFE, KIERSTAN ABOUT THE IDEA OF A COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND ASKED FOR HER THOUGHTS. SHE HAD LOTS OF QUESTIONS.

I WANT TO DO THIS. I'M NOT SAYING IT'S A DONE DEAL, BUT I WANT TO CHECK INTO IT FURTHER.

I THINK YOU SHOULD!

SOMETIMES HE HAD AN IMPETUOUS SIDE AND SHE KNEW THIS. BOTH BELIEVED THAT IRON SHARPENS IRON AND SO TALKED ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE AND WEIGHED THE PROS AND CONS.

HOW ABOUT THIS: I'LL CHECK FURTHER AND IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL WORK, WE'LL PUT IN \$100.00 AND SEE WHERE IT GOES. WOULD THAT WORK?

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

LATER THAT EVENING, HE WAS WITH FRIENDS LISTENING TO SOME LOCAL MUSICIANS, SO HE VENTURED THE CONCEPT OF A COMMUNITY ORCHARD.

Look up child, the world is born  
Shoe's untied, and your soles are worn.

Windows are Rolled Down  
Lyrics by Amos Lee



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IDEA OF INSTALLING A COMMUNITY ORCHARD HERE IN TOWN? DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?



I THINK IT'D BE GREAT!

I LIKE IT! MOST PLACES DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I THINK PEOPLE WOULD ENJOY IT!



OH, I LIKE THAT!

OH, THAT WOULD BE FUN!

I'D LOVE TO TAKE MY KIDS TO A PLACE LIKE THAT!

ONE WEEK LATER...



RICHMOND PARKS DEPARTMENT  
RICHMOND, INDIANA

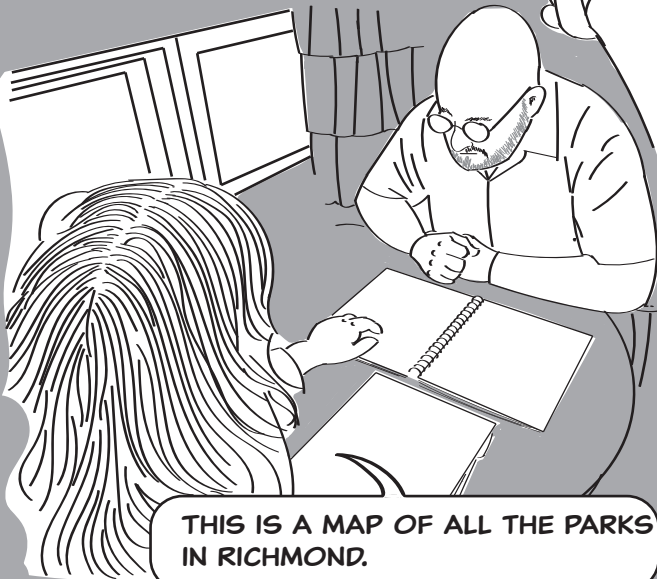
HI THERE! CAN I HELP YOU?

HELLO, MY NAME IS  
JAY AND I'D LIKE TO  
TALK WITH YOU ABOUT  
THE PARKS MEMO  
YOU SENT OUT.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

THE PART THAT I'M  
INTERESTED IN ARE  
THE COMMUNITY  
ORCHARDS.

\*Denise: Parks Superintendent



THIS IS A MAP OF ALL THE PARKS  
IN RICHMOND.



FOR WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT,  
I THINK MARY SCOTT PARK IS  
THE BEST FIT. ARE YOU FAMILIAR  
WITH THE SPACE?

## MARY SCOTT PARK

THERE ARE SCHOOLS CLOSE BY!  
ANOTHER CONNECTION!

I LOOK FORWARD TO IT! I'LL SEND YOU A  
COPY OF A PARKS STUDY WE HAD DONE.  
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A FOOD DESERT?

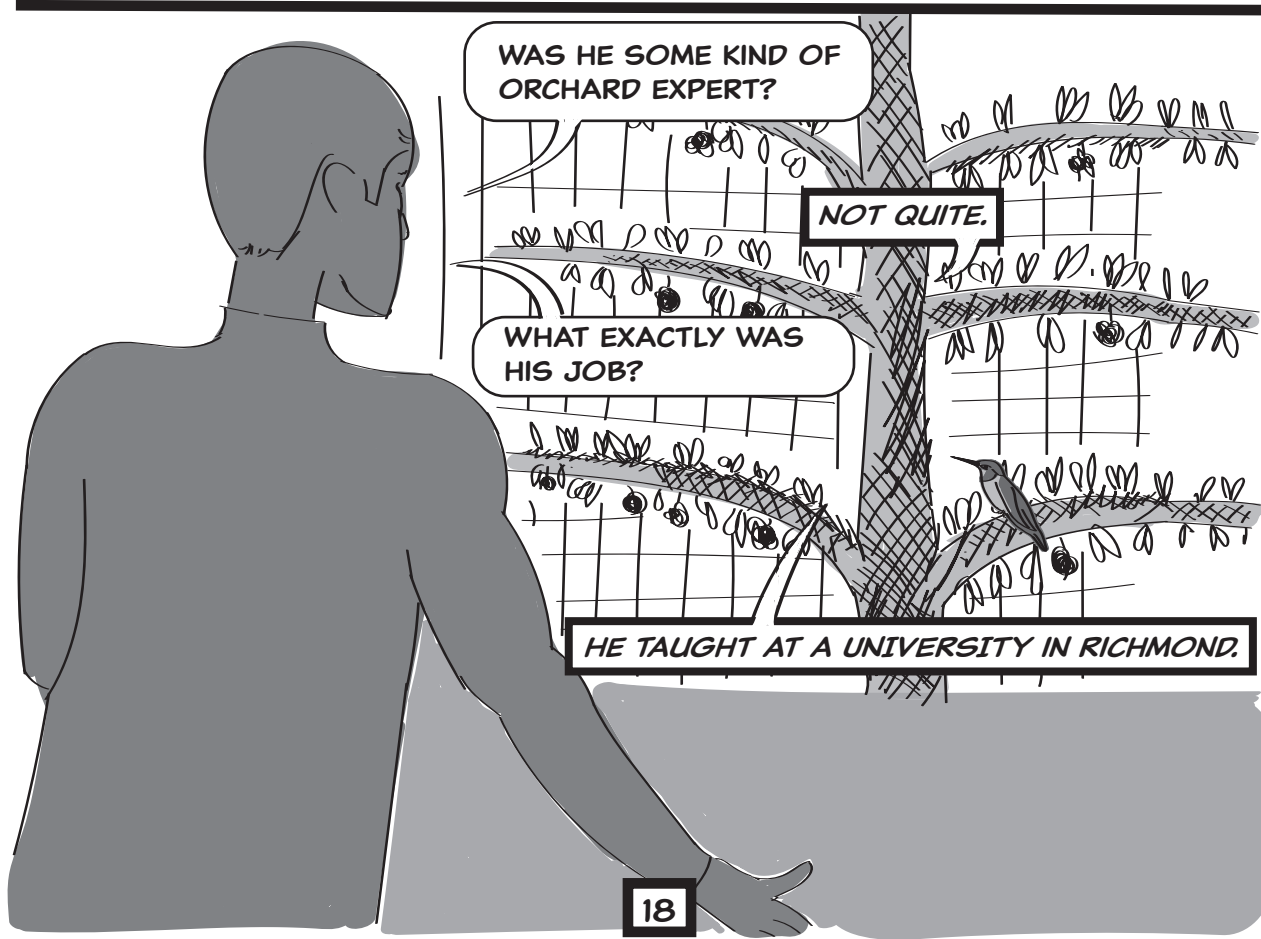
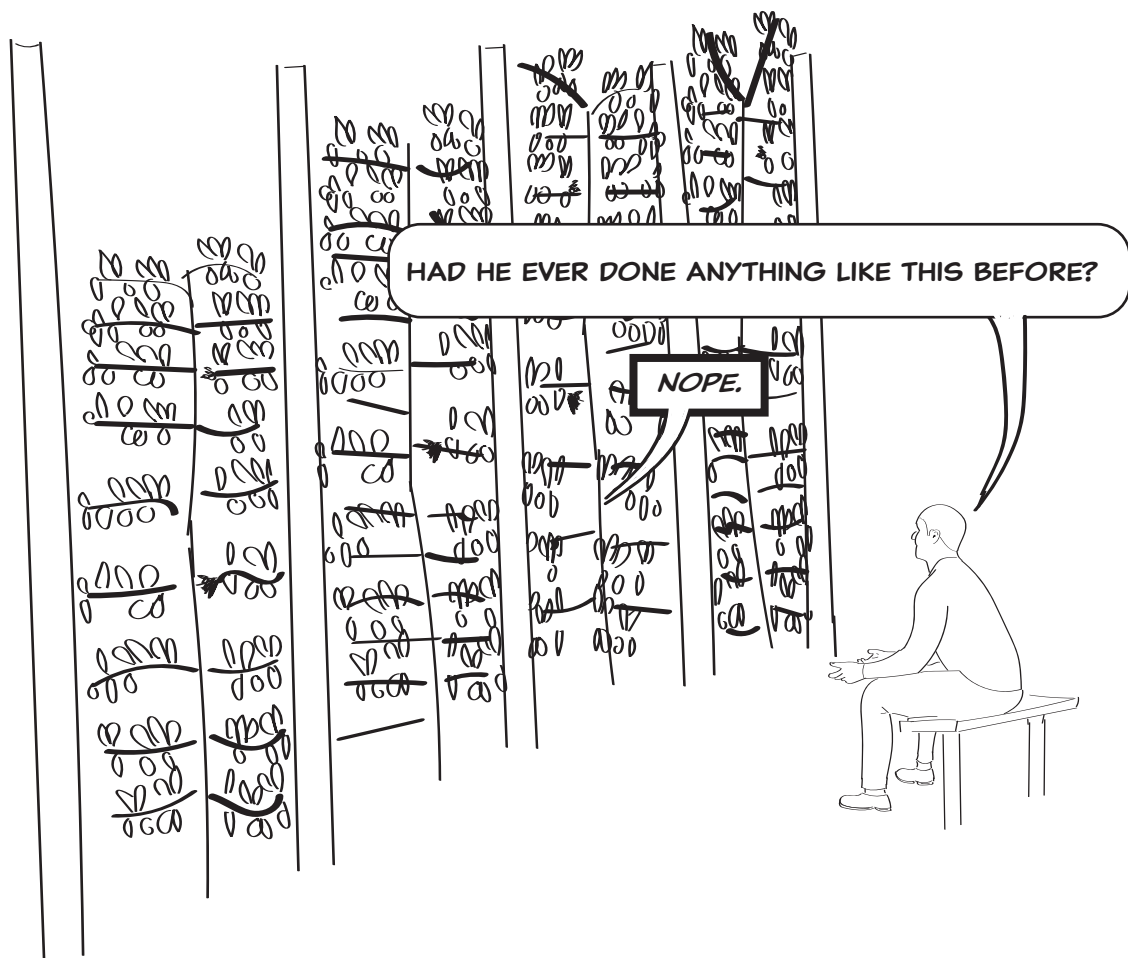
THANKS, AND NO, I HAVEN'T  
HEARD OF A FOOD DESERT.

THIS IS ONLY A PRELIMINARY MEETING.  
CAN WE MEET IN A FEW WEEKS WHEN  
I'VE DONE SOME MORE RESEARCH AND  
TALKED TO SOME PEOPLE AND FLESH  
OUT A PLAN?

I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE LOTS  
TO TALK ABOUT!

SO THAT'S HOW THIS  
ALL STARTED?

THAT'S HOW IT STARTED!








HOW DOES THAT QUALIFY ANYONE  
TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

HE HAS A PARTICULAR  
PHILOSOPHY ABOUT  
COMMUNITY.



LIKE WHAT?

THAT BEING PASSIONATE ABOUT  
COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT.



PEOPLE BECOME BETTER BY  
CONTRIBUTING OR VOLUNTEERING  
FOR SOMETHING GREATER THAN  
THEMSELVES.

HE BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE HAS A LOT  
TO OFFER THEIR COMMUNITY AND BELIEVES  
THAT YOU LEARN BY ASKING QUESTIONS  
AND LISTENING INTENTLY.



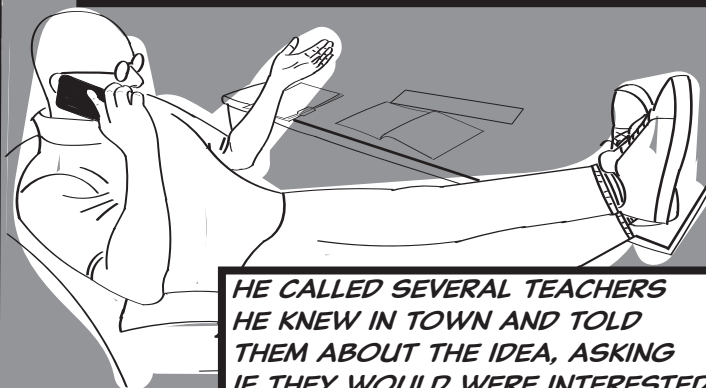
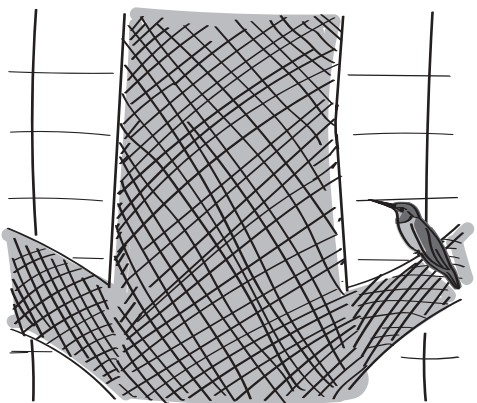
WHEN PEOPLE COME TOGETHER AND  
HELP EACH OTHER OUT OR WORK  
TOWARD A COMMON GOAL, THIS ADDS  
UP QUICKLY TO SOMETHING WONDERFUL!



HE TOOK THE REPORT DENISE PROVIDED AND STUDIED IT CAREFULLY.



HE LOOKED AT GOOGLE EARTH AND GOOGLE STREET MAPS TO STUDY THE SITE AND NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE IT WAS LOCATED.

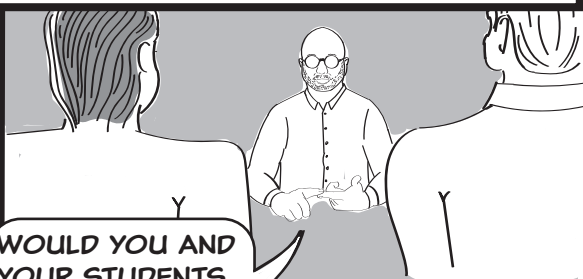


HE CALLED SEVERAL TEACHERS HE KNEW IN TOWN AND TOLD THEM ABOUT THE IDEA, ASKING IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED.

WITH THAT INFORMATION, HE SCHEDULED A MEETING WITH ONE OF THE TEACHERS, AND THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.



Richmond High School

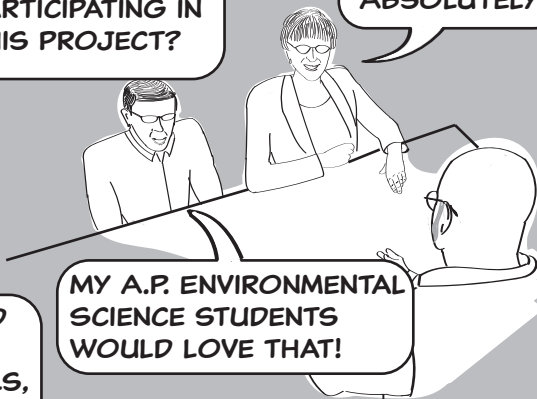


WOULD YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT?

ABSOLUTELY!



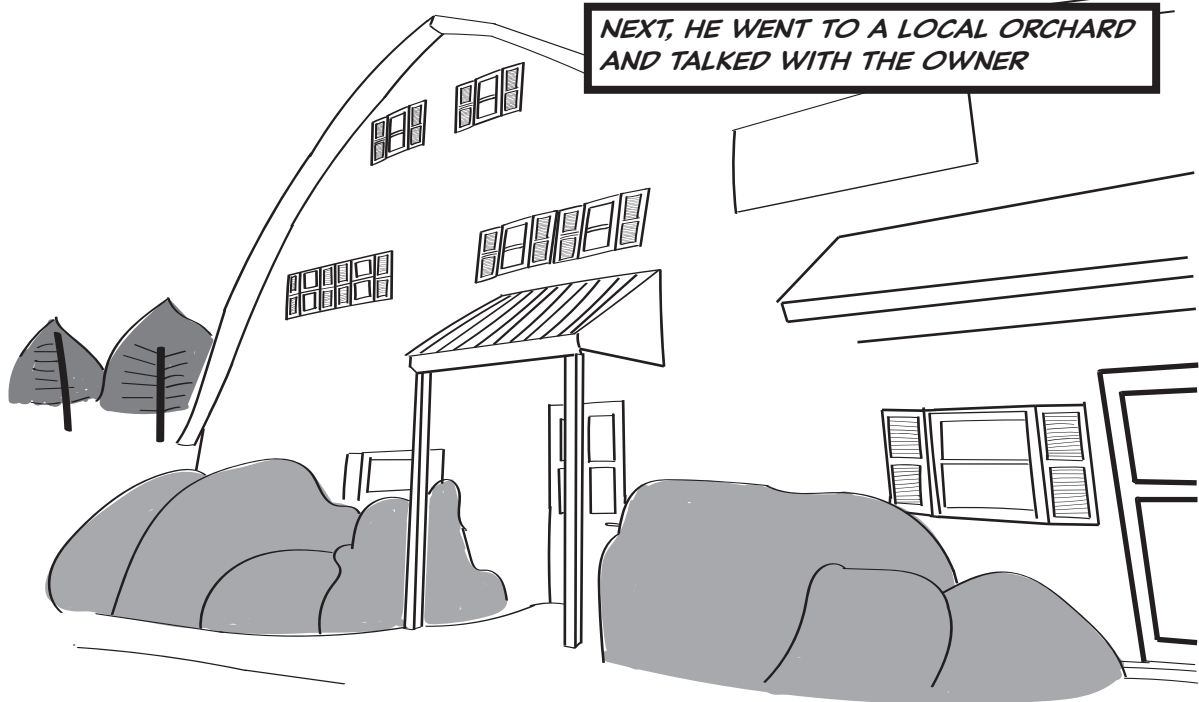
THIS WOULD BE A COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND OPEN TO EVERYONE. THE SITE IS LOCATED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF FOUR SCHOOLS, SO IT COULD ALSO BE USED AS A PLACE TO TEACH.



MY A.P. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS WOULD LOVE THAT!

HE WOULD MAKE A LOT OF PHONE CALLS OVER THE COMING DAYS, SOMETIMES WITH TOUGH QUESTIONS BEING ASKED ABOUT THIS IDEA.

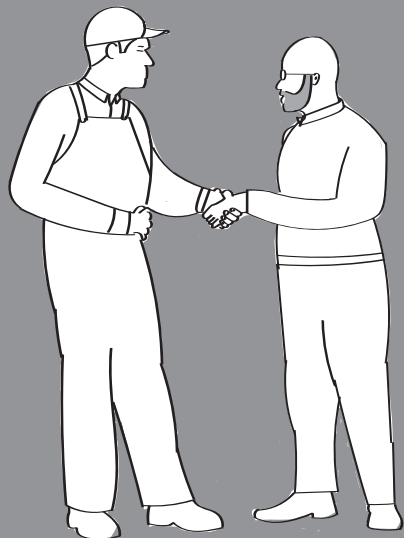
NEXT, HE WENT TO A LOCAL ORCHARD AND TALKED WITH THE OWNER



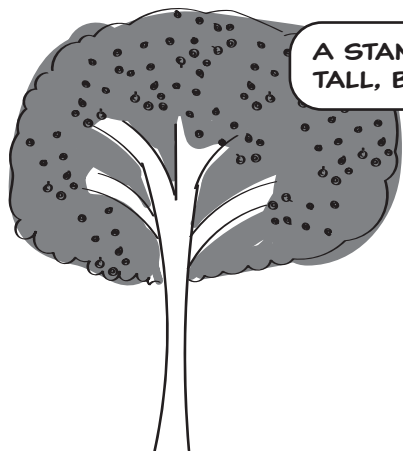
THE OWNER WAS FRIENDLY TO THE IDEA AND OFFERED AN EXPERT OPINIONS ON DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE PROJECT.

SO WHAT KIND OF FRUIT AND SPACE ARE YOU THINKING?

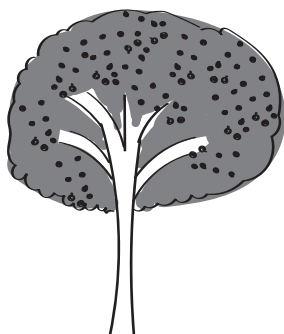
I'M THINKING ABOUT APPLE TREES. THEY WOULD BE ON ABOUT 1/4 ACRE IN A PUBLIC PARK. NOT SURE WHICH VARIETY WOULD BE BEST.



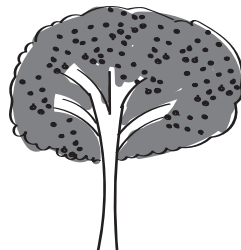
A STANDARD APPLE TREE CAN GROW UP TO 25 FEET TALL, BUT THEY NEED A CERTAIN SPACE AROUND EACH.



Standard Apple Tree  
15-25 feet tall



Semi-Dwarf Apple Tree  
10-15 feet tall



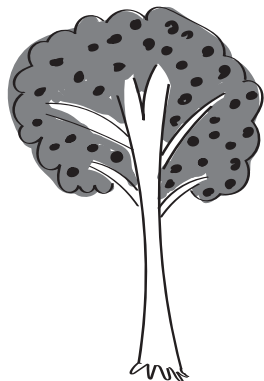
Dwarf Apple Tree  
8-12 feet tall

WELL...

YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO LOOK AT DWARF OR SEMI-DWARF TREES. THEY CAN BE PLANTED CLOSER TOGETHER.



YOU'RE ALSO GOING TO HAVE TO PLANT THEM NORTH TO SOUTH. APPLE TREES NEED A LOT OF LIGHT,



NO APPLE TREE WILL STAY HEALTHY FOR LONG WITHOUT CARE, SO YOU'LL NEED A DRIP IRRIGATION FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS AND FOR TIMES OF DROUGHT. YOU ALSO NEED TO DEVELOP A SPRAYING AND PRUNING SCHEDULE EACH YEAR.



THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF APPLES, SO YOU NEED TO DECIDE THE PURPOSES OR USES. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

THE ORCHARD IS GOING TO BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, SO ANYONE CAN COME AND PICK ONE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE OTHER PLANTS. WE'RE THINKING ABOUT BLACKBERRIES AND RASPBERRIES.

WHAT ABOUT POLLINATORS? ARE THERE GOING TO BE BEE HIVES? NO POLLINATORS EQUALS NO FRUIT!

THIS IS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS, SO I DON'T THINK SO. WE'RE THINKING IN THE DIRECTION OF SOME SORT OF POLLINATOR GARDEN.



SINCE YOU'RE INSIDE CITY LIMITS, YOU'LL NEED ORGANIC SPRAYS AND NOT THE COMMERCIAL KINDS THAT GROWERS USE.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO PLANT SEMI-DWARF OR DWARF APPLE TREES, YOU'LL NEED TO SUPPORT THE TREE FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS. THEY CAN'T BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THE APPLES UNTIL THEY GET MORE ESTABLISHED.

WELL, I THINK I'VE GOT MORE QUESTIONS THAN WHEN I CAME IN. WOULD YOU MIND IF I ASKED FOR YOUR EXPERTISE, AS THE PROJECT PROGRESSES?

I'M HAPPY TO HELP! I'VE GOT SOME INFORMATION I'LL SEND WITH YOU. IT'LL AT LEAST GET YOU STARTED.



NEXT, HE VISITED A LOCAL NURSERY WHERE HE MET FORREST. AGAIN, MORE QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

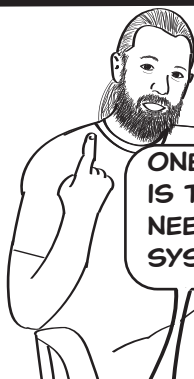


FROM WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING, IT DOES SOUNDS LIKE DWARF TREES ARE GOING TO BE YOUR BEST BET.

THAT SEEMS TO BE THE PREVAILING OPINION. I'M JUST NOT SURE WHICH TO GO WITH.



THE ADVANTAGE OF DWARF TREES IS THAT THEY ONLY GROW SO TALL. IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO PICK WITHOUT A LADDER, THAT'S THE WAY TO GO.



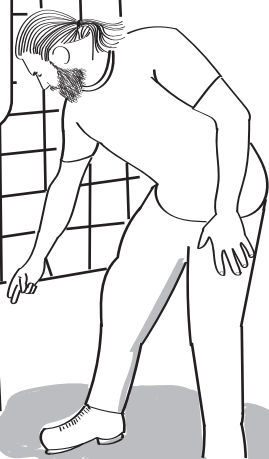
ONE THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT DWARF TREES NEED A SOLID ANCHOR SYSTEM IN THE BEGINNING.

ANY SUGGESTIONS?

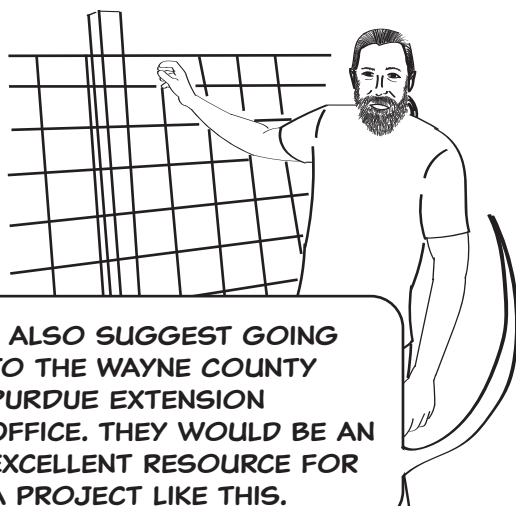
COME OUTSIDE WITH ME. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

ONE SOLUTION WOULD BE A 4X4 POST WITH MODULAR FENCING TO SUPPORT THE APPLE TREE.

IF YOU ANCHOR THE POST PROPERLY, THIS PANEL WILL SUPPORT THE TREES AS THEY GROW.



I ALSO SUGGEST GOING TO THE WAYNE COUNTY PURDUE EXTENSION OFFICE. THEY WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE FOR A PROJECT LIKE THIS.



Wayne County Extension  
Office-Purdue University

LET ME TAKE SOME NOTES HERE. WE HAVE SOME EXPERTS IN THIS AREA THAT I'D LIKE TO CONNECT YOU WITH.



ONE MATTER TO ATTEND TO DIRECTLY IS TO CHECK THE ELEVATION AND SLOPE OF THE AREA FOR THIS ORCHARD. YOU CAN ACCESS THIS INFORMATION THROUGH THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DATABASE.



LET ME SEND YOU THE LINK FOR IT AND I'LL BE IN CONTACT WHEN I HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS AT PURDUE.

ONE DAY HE WAS TALKING WITH A COLLEAGUE NAMED LISA ABOUT THE ORCHARD WHEN SHE MADE A PASSING SUGGESTION.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF 'ESPALIER'?

I'M AFRAID NOT. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?



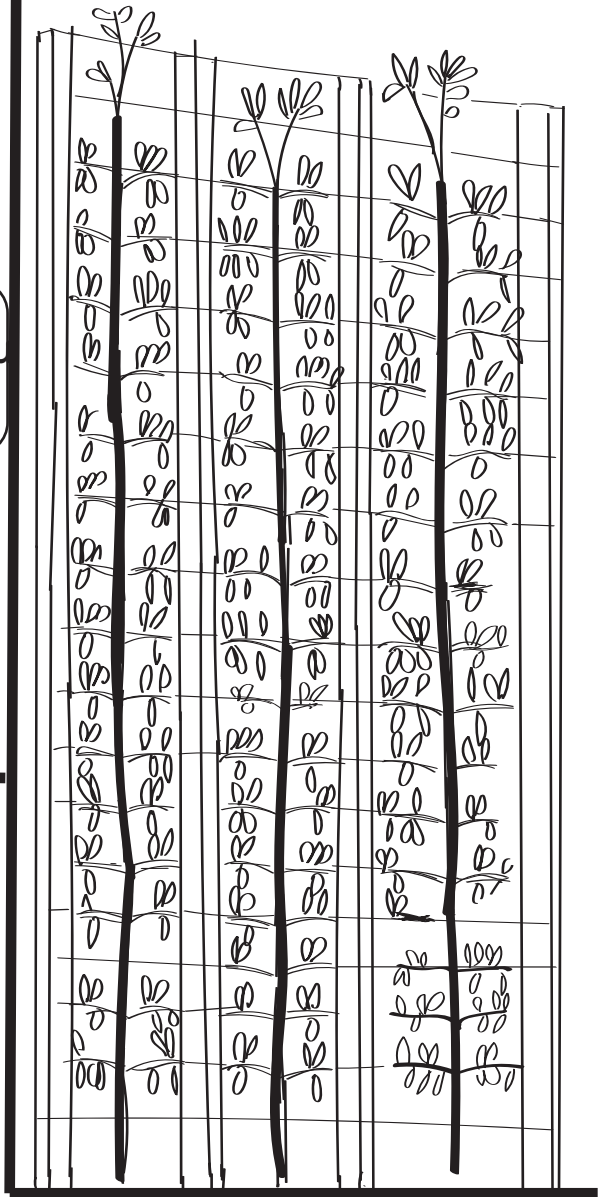
THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE ARE TIED TO A FENCE, SO THEY GROW IN A SPECIFIC DIRECTION. THIS INCREASES THE SUNLIGHT ON ALL PARTS OF THE PLANT AND FORMS A KIND OF WALL. THAT MIGHT BE EASIER TO TAKE CARE OF AND EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO COME AND PICK THE APPLES.

HMM...



MAYBE THAT'S SOMETHING TO CONSIDER HERE.

THIS PASSING SUGGESTION WOULD PROVE PIVOTAL TO THE DESIGN OF THIS SPACE AND CHANGES WERE MADE.



Espalier is pronounced "eh-spal-yr"





Dennis Intermediate School

HE WENT TO THE SCHOOL CLOSEST TO THE ORCHARD SITE AND SPOKE WITH THE PRINCIPAL AND THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ABOUT THE IDEA OF HAVING STUDENTS BE CENTRAL TO THE INSTALLATION.



I REALLY LIKE THE IDEA, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD COME AND TALK WITH THE FACULTY ABOUT IT AND EXPLAIN IT FURTHER. YOU GOING TO NEED LOTS OF BUY-IN FOR A PROJECT LIKE THIS.



I'D ALSO LIKE FOR YOU TO TALK WITH ONE OF OUR FACULTY, ADAM. HE HAPPENS TO BE AN APPLE CULTIVAR, HIMSELF. I'M SURE HE CAN HELP.


THE PLAN IS FOR THIS TO BE AN AVAILABLE OUTDOOR SPACE FOR TEACHERS TO USE.

OH, I'M SURE THEY'D LIKE IT. I KNOW I WOULD.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE?

ABSOLUTELY! COUNT ME IN!

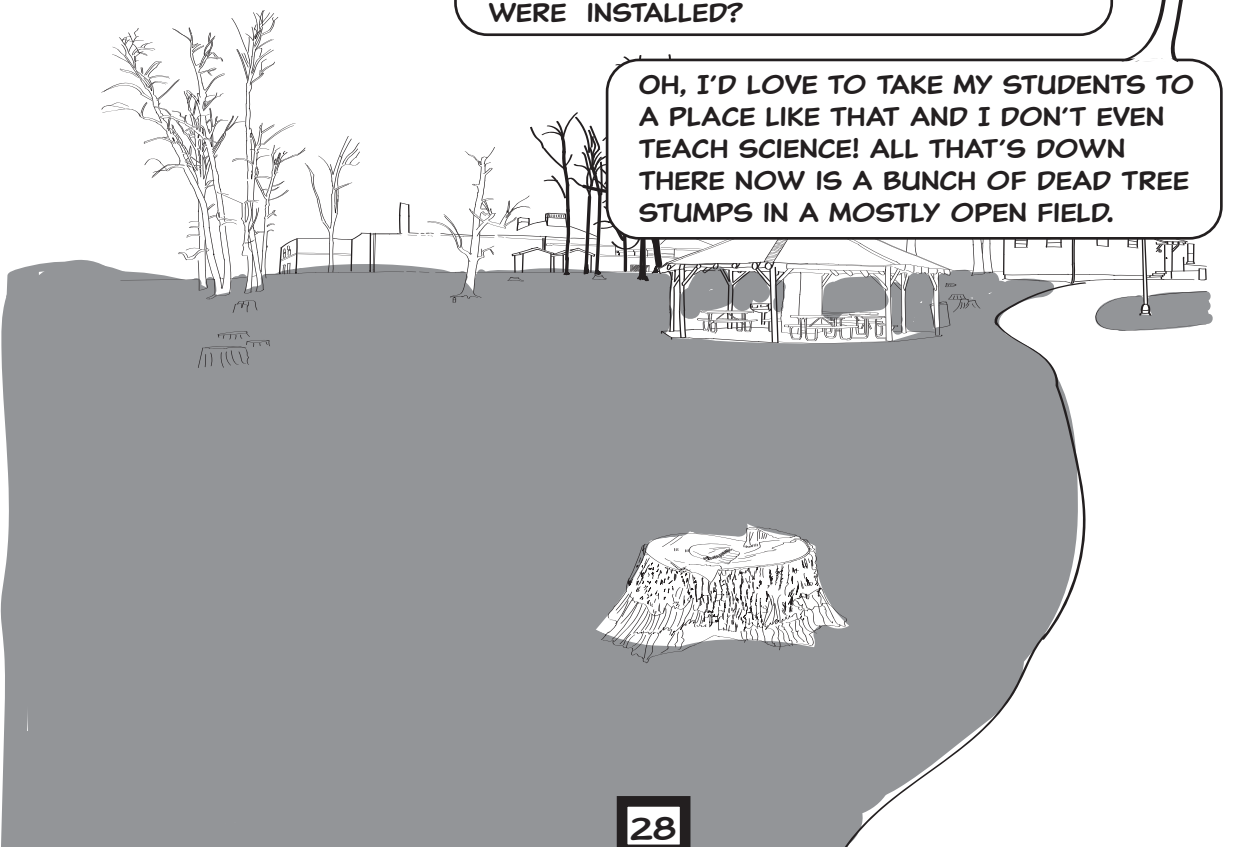
JAY ATTENDED THE FACULTY MEETING AT THE SCHOOL, ALONG WITH GOING TO A FEW OTHER SCHOOLS. THIS WAS PARTLY A PRESENTATION, BUT ALSO A TIME FOR QUESTIONS.



I'M HERE BECAUSE THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO INVITE PEOPLE INTO PUBLIC SPACES, AND THE IDEA BEHIND THIS PROJECT IS TO INSTALL A FRUIT ORCHARD ON THAT SPOT.

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

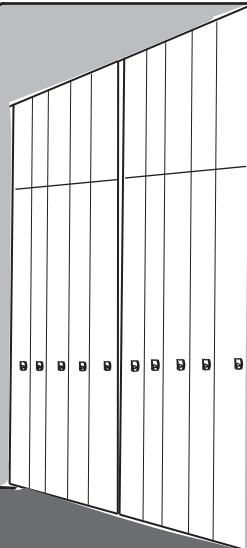
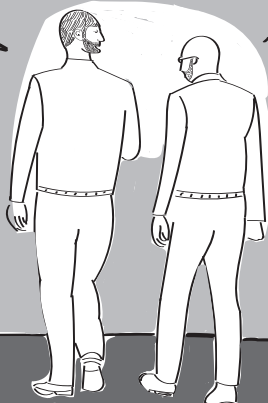
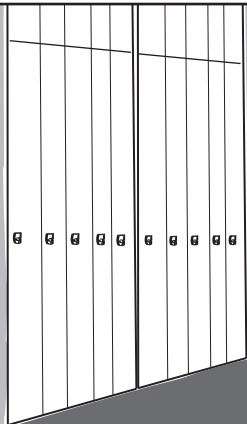
DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF APPLE TREES, ROWS OF BLACKBERRY AND RASPBERRY PLANTS, AND A POLLINATOR GARDEN. A SCIENCE CLASSROOM DELIGHT! THERE WOULD BE BENCHES, AND A NICE PLACE TO TAKE YOUR CLASSES. COULD YOU MAKE USE OF AN ORCHARD FOR TEACHING IF IT WERE INSTALLED?



OH, I'D LOVE TO TAKE MY STUDENTS TO A PLACE LIKE THAT AND I DON'T EVEN TEACH SCIENCE! ALL THAT'S DOWN THERE NOW IS A BUNCH OF DEAD TREE STUMPS IN A MOSTLY OPEN FIELD.

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF WAYS THAT AN ORCHARD WOULD FIT DIRECTLY INTO THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM, NOT TO MENTION A SOLID CONNECTION TO OTHER SUBJECTS. THERE ARE SEVERAL EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS THAT ADDRESS WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, NOT TO MENTION GENERAL TEACHER CREATIVITY.

COULD WE TALK MORE ABOUT DEVELOPING A CURRICULUM? I'LL WRITE A GRANT FOR SCIENCE MATERIALS FOR THE STUDENTS.



I'VE TALKED WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE, BUT MAINLY TEACHERS. THEY SAY THAT THEY COULD USE A SITE LIKE THIS. SOME ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED IN THE INSTALLATION. ALONGSIDE THE REPORT YOU GAVE ME, I BELIEVE THAT THIS ORCHARD CAN SERVE A VARIETY OF PURPOSES.

THERE HE IS!

HERE I AM!



TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.



THE PLAN IS FOR VARIETIES OF APPLE TREES, BERRY PLANTS, AND A POLLINATOR GARDEN. THIS CONNECTS TO SCIENCE AND OTHER AREAS OF EDUCATION AND OFFERS AN ENJOYABLE FOOD SOURCE TO COMMUNITY RESIDENTS. AT THE END OF THE HARVEST SEASON, THE REMAINING FOOD STUFFS WOULD GO TO FOOD PANTRIES.



I LOVE IT! LET'S GET IT MOVING FORWARD. JUST LET ME KNOW HOW I CAN HELP!

SO HE HAD IT ALL FIGURED  
OUT, THEN?

HA HA!

HAHA!

HAHA!

*SORRY, DEAR. WE DON'T MEAN TO  
TEASE. THIS WAS ONLY THE  
BEGINNING OF A PLAN. THERE WERE  
STILL A LOT OF PEOPLE TO TALK TO  
AND EVEN MORE QUESTIONS TO ASK.*

SO WHAT HAPPENED  
AFTER THAT?