

## Food Forest visioning, september 30 - Notes

### What are steps to get the Food Forest initiative going?

- Identifying a steering team
- Setting goals and creating measurement tools to show success
- Presentation to sell food forest
- FAQ
- Campaigning private prop to have us utilize current food sources
- Site selection where can we collaborate with others
- Close to people and visible
- Creating clear plan
  - Including community stakeholders-food pantries could educate here - year-round?
  - What does this look like exactly?
- Start by learning from other successful food forests
- Identify biggest impacts and needs
  - Starting small
- Mapping out involvement
  - Collaborators
- Create educational programming
  - Provide consulting – network of educators
- Getting legal advice
  - pull from local universities

### Steps for a food forest

- Make a plan
- Find a location
- save Seymour park food
- Offer fruit & nut trees through garden blitz
- Find out what has stopped a food forest and address those hurdles
- find funding
- spread information around the city
- getting press and politicians involved
- create coalition of interest organizations
- skilled management

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- train from community
- hired/stipend
- project manager
- centralized city to train and start
- have an ask

### What education do we need?

- Connections with existing food forest
- Showing previous success
- Post-harvest processing > how to?
- Harvesting education-when are things ripe – what can you eat and how?
- How to grow produce successfully
  - Watering
  - pest management
  - soil health ect.
  - Plant identification
- Legal structures
  - Land trusts
- Civics knowledge
  - politics & how to navigate
- Educating county, city boards & politicians about why we should have food forests
- Teach about the **why** / history on food forests
  - Organizations that could be involved
    - ✓ Health care orgs
    - ✓ Bellin foundations
    - ✓ GB packers give back
    - ✓ Schools
    - ✓ Local government-panty city
    - ✓ Restaurants (Black cat café)
    - ✓ Salvation army churches
    - ✓ Neighborhood associations
    - ✓ Neighbor works

### What are the benefits of a food forest?

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- Plant stock – open sourced
- Healthy eating
- Less dependence on fossil fuels
- Awareness of ecological relationships (humans included)
- General ed
- Mental health
  - Connection outdoors
  - Activities sense of purpose
- Sense of the sacred + worth (connection)healing trauma
- Cost burden
- Disrupt the conventional transactory relation with food
- Sense of community skills for personal resilience
- Habitat for pollinators
- Address heat island effect
- Soil more diverse + additive
- Solution to water shed challenges
- Make Green Bay a desirable place to be – economic development
- Filter air pollution
- Climate healing
- Carbon capture
- Human health
- Changes the way we see / vision
- Infrastructure development
- Phys activity
- Intergeneration interactions
- “Economic estuary”
- Scale able forms of “success”

### What are the benefits of a food forest?

- Less disease

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- Save energy – less food travel
- Build community
  - gathering place
  - Bring diverse backgrounds together
- Less dependent on fast foods
- Affordable healthy food
- Educational experience
  - also learning about preparing
  - Growing your own
  - where food comes from
- Could supply a food pantry
- Longer storage/calendar year
- Encourages curiosity with new foods
- Getting kids outside-off streets
- Exercise
- Proudful of their community & food
- Less hunger
- Encourage exploration
  - Food
  - Location
  - Expand palate
- No longer depending on grocery stores
  - No longer a privilege to have access to healthy food
- Could have education courses
  - Canning, seed saving
- Plant material to propagate for free
- Encourages non-monoculture growing

### What would an urban food forest look like?

- Landscaping
- Utilizing vacant lots
- Large nearby & fruit bearing
- Park

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- Composting ex-rental issues
- Residential yards
- Funding
- Community gardens
- Multiple locations – networked
- Culturally inclusive approach
- Public institutions normalize it forestry department
- Centralized-education hub
- Utilities hub
- Foraging
- Medicinal & fiber
- Gathering placed
- Meeting people where they're at ex-library
- Water harvestry
- Schools
- Innovation
- Efficiency
- K-12 programing
- Ex-FFA
- Aggregate what's going on already
- Keep government out of it – control
- X cultural collab

### What would an urban forest look like?

- Accessibility
- Variety
- Maximizing calendar year
- No more pointless front yards
- Colorful

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- Waste reduction
- Sustainable
- Signage-descriptors
- Canning/harvesting
- Community involvement
- Processing food-food storing
- Healthy food
- Diverse selection
- Symbiotic
- Affordable
- Maintenance-volunteers
- Water harvesting
- Involving diverse communities culturally
- Will make people feel good becomes a gathering space
- Food forest-all over!
- Sidewalks with grapes-example
- Be creative with space-unused space
- Public vs private property
- How can you make this more accessible?
- Within park system, there could be food forests
- Collection of private gardens
- Encourage private growing
- Pick-up of produce by van “like greener bay compost”
- Share harvest

### **What happens with public – private ownership changes? Who maintains it?**

- The food forest doesn't exist
- Handout how to maintain
- Memorandum of understanding shared with new owners

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- Clauses when forest is started
- Manage expectations-different roles per property
- Long term lease
- Urban land trust
- What is happening in other places?
- Options private or communal use
- Agreements with landowners out of urban area
- Emit domain use

### Impact of private / public ownership changes-who maintains and food forest plantings?

- Selling point for home buyers
- Re-claim, land > healing land, soil, ecosystems
- Public change of mindset
- A skate park might turn into a food forest
- Follow legal protocol
- Having construction companies develop food forests in landscaping
- HOAs have regulations
- City owned – parks, sidewalks
- Things change-how to minimize change
- Land trust alliance > next gen of ownership has to follow land regulations
- Who maintains?
- Depends > who has accessibility to it
- Is it private or public?

### Challenges

Lack of a plan – group to build the plan-explicit responsibility communication

Organized to make macro & micro decisions – centering experiences of folks closest to the risk/benefit

Lack of institutional trust/buy-in – grassroots organizing & advocacy “land tenure” model “land trust”

Regulations and licenses – find examples and do education civics education

Appearance

Maintenance

Harvesting

Upfront cost

Operational costs

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Who's responsible for what?! – start small and build the model  
Public-private ownership changes and who maintains its.  
Center joy and playfulness – let food be the advocate

### **What are the challenges that a food forest might face? How do you overcome them?**

#### Challenges

- Damages on land
- Vandalism
- Initial funding
- Inexperience
- Participants
- Getting people to commit
- Getting the word out
- Intimidation of change worries about abuse of system
- Animal issues and pests, insects, disease
- Trying to do too much
- Biting off more than we can chew
- Produce waste - objects interfering with mowers
- Many unknown challenges
- Watering
- Handicap accessibility

#### Overcoming

- Plan of action
  - approaching with empathetic point of view
  - increase engagement
- wealthy connections or other corporate entities
- education > high school, colleges also in the garden and in community
- don't reinvent the wheel
  - collaboration, teamwork, buy-in
    - schools
    - restaurants



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- with city
- county boards
- meals on wheels
- marketing, education, involvement
  - FAQ write-up how to overcome potential abuse
- Fencing, more dog parks > zoning
- Partner planting
- Focusing, branding and flexible road map
- Don't mow!
- Learning from successful food forest
- Rain barrels > community connections
  - Brown County gets help from fire department
- Education
- How to water efficiently new gardening techniques > no-till, slopes, avalanching

### **How would we know we're successful?**

#### Short - Term

- How many plantings (Blitz)
- Communal space – amount disbursed
- Utilization of food & forest -are we demand?
- Up creativity
- Down littering
- People showing up for the work
- Shared knowledge peer-to-peer
- Plantings aren't destroyed
- Broad understanding of food forest
- Contribute in any amount of time + feel connected to the initiative

#### Long - Term

- Investments-secured + sustaining
- Incentives
- Cultural of investment supports long term efforts

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- Up Cultural of creativity
- Down violence
- Down littering drug companies out business
- Down medical utilization
- K-12 buy-in/in curriculum
- Down food miles

### **How will you know if the food forest was successful?**

#### Short - Term

- Approval for existing produce
- Usage of trees already existing
- Qualitative > immediate feedback
- Survey could be done before food forest is established and surveyed again after
- Measuring involvement with community
- Quantitative-track pounds of produce
- Tracking involvement
- Many people would attend gatherings etc..
- Many people would be participating in doing the work > long term
- Others become involved - companies
- How often are people searching for program

#### Long – Term

- Mapping > economically
- Food forests are in low-income areas
- Spin of initiatives
- Monitoring the environmental improvements
- Where does produce go?
- Ripple effect mapping of where produce travels
- Measure air quality
- Less vacant property
- Less crime

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- Farms and markets are out of business
- Other communities use model
- More use whole food item
- Free and reduced lunch numbers go down
- Tracking demand for food
- More know how to use different products
- Use of links to recipes
- Number of food entrepreneurs and manage it
- Number of municipal arborists trained about food