

Building the Foundation for a Healthy Food System in Gainesville



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Mission:

To support and promote organic and sustainable agriculture, wherein; we educate consumers, farmers, future farmers (children & youth), businesses, policy makers and the general public.



Education & Outreach Research Food Systems
Social Justice Policy Evaluation & Development
Certification





History of Success in Alachua County

- **Neighborhood Nutrition Network:** Youth Entrepreneurial Farm and Food Preservation Project; School Gardening Curriculum; Community/School Gardens; Food Gleaning and Recovery
- **North Florida Local Food Partnership:** Buy Local Campaign; Growing Farmer's Markets
- **Agriculture Awareness Week**
- **Current Projects:** GIFT Gardens & Community Food Systems Planning Project





GIFT Gardens (Gainesville Initiative for Tasty Gardens)



Impact on Poverty Reduction

• BASIC ASSISTANCE

-Food Assistance

- Sustainable, long-term solution to hunger
- Partnerships and referrals with like-minded organizations

• HOUSING/SUPPORTIVE LIVING

-Promotes Self-Sufficiency

- Individual empowerment
- Community development
- Neighborhood beautification



• YOUTH SAFETY, EDUCATION, GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- ### -Prepares children/youth for attaining self-sufficiency as adults
- Job training
 - Self-esteem building



2010 GIFT Gardens Scope



- 450 raised beds vegetable gardens in Alachua County, majority in Gainesville
- 100 households, 15 institutions/community centers – ~1,000 participants served
- Low-income residents & institutions serving these populations
- Includes fertile soil, seeds, veggie starts for 1 yr., garden guide, ongoing advice, help and follow-up
- City of Gainesville support: \$8,000 CDBG grant (\$22,250 request)



Community Food Planning Project



Community Food Assessment

Public Meetings – Sept. 21 and Sept. 29, 6-8 p.m.

Food Systems Planning Committees and Local Food Systems
Working Groups

Final Product: Local Food Action Plan



What can the City of Gainesville do?



- Community gardens on vacant and under-utilized city plots. Prioritize edible plants in landscaping projects.
- Mandate healthy food options be available at city venues, meetings and in vending machines.
- Food Policy Council made up of a diverse array of food system stakeholders to develop food and agriculture policy recommendations.

What can the City of Gainesville do?



- Purchasing preference for businesses, farmers, etc. within 200 miles of Gainesville – keep \$ in the community and improve economy while creating jobs.
- Lend assets to those working on food access projects to increase capacity.

Contact FOG



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