



City Hall Farmer's Garden

Christine Hale
Director of Education & Outreach
Florida Organic Growers





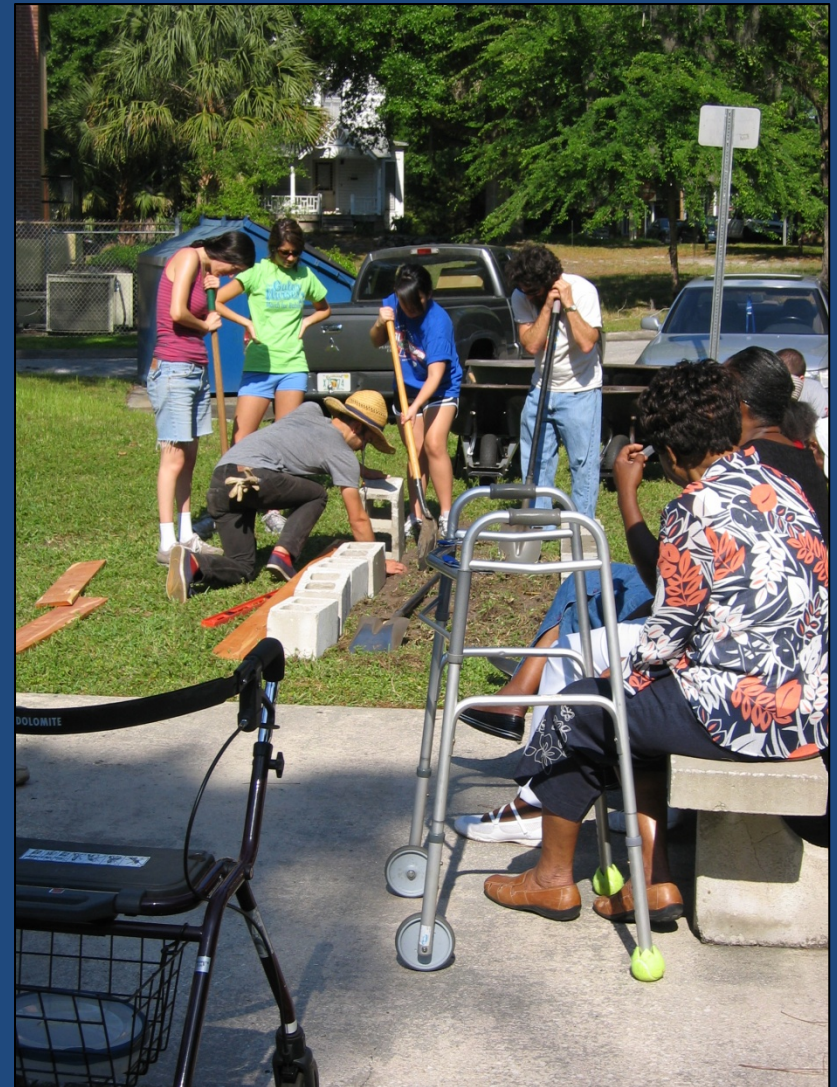
FOG was established as a non profit in 1989

Mission:

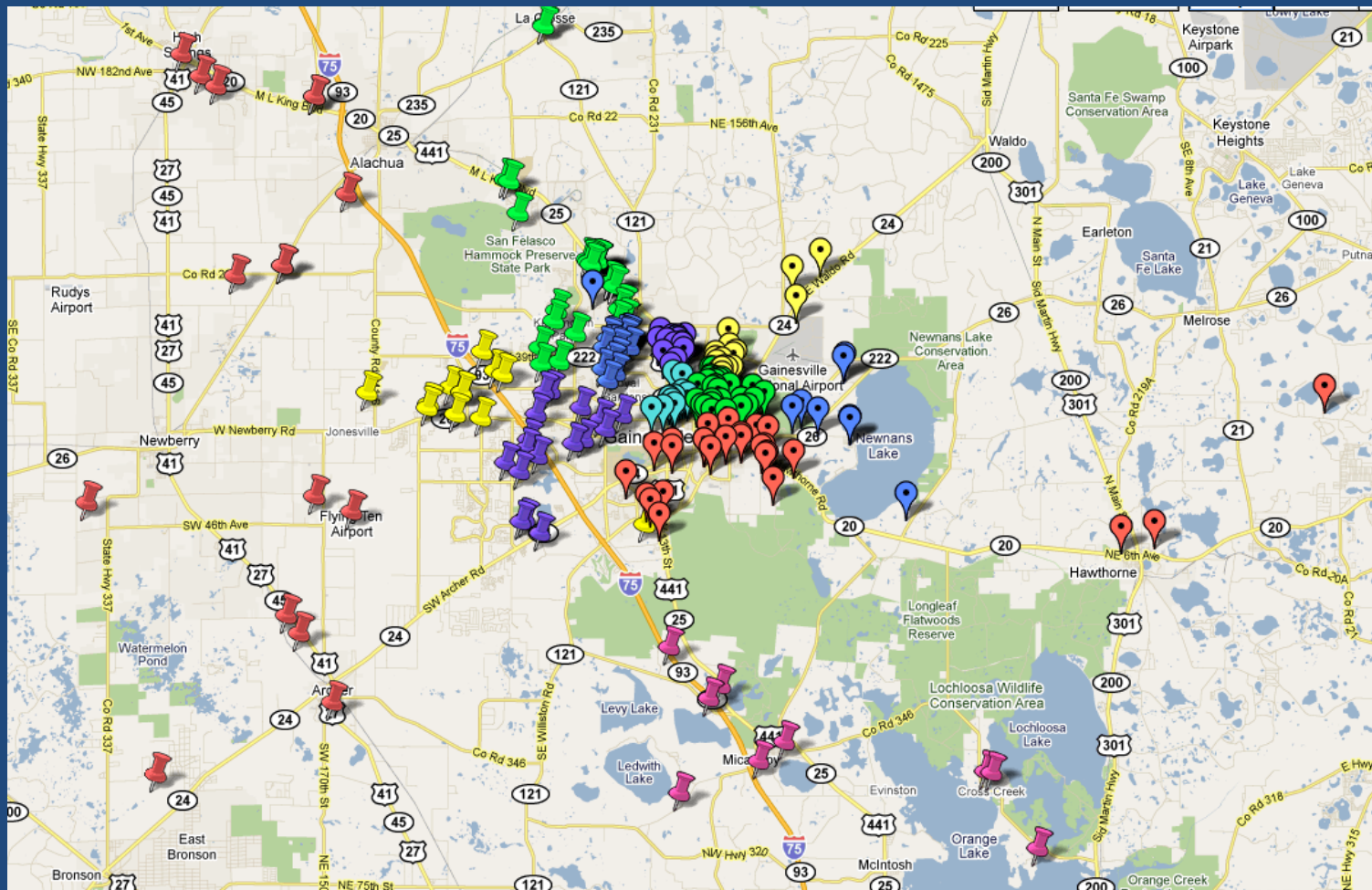
To support and promote organic and sustainable agriculture, wherein; we educate consumers, farmers, future farmers (children & youth), businesses, policy makers and the general public.

Gainesville Initiative for Tasty (GIFT) Gardens

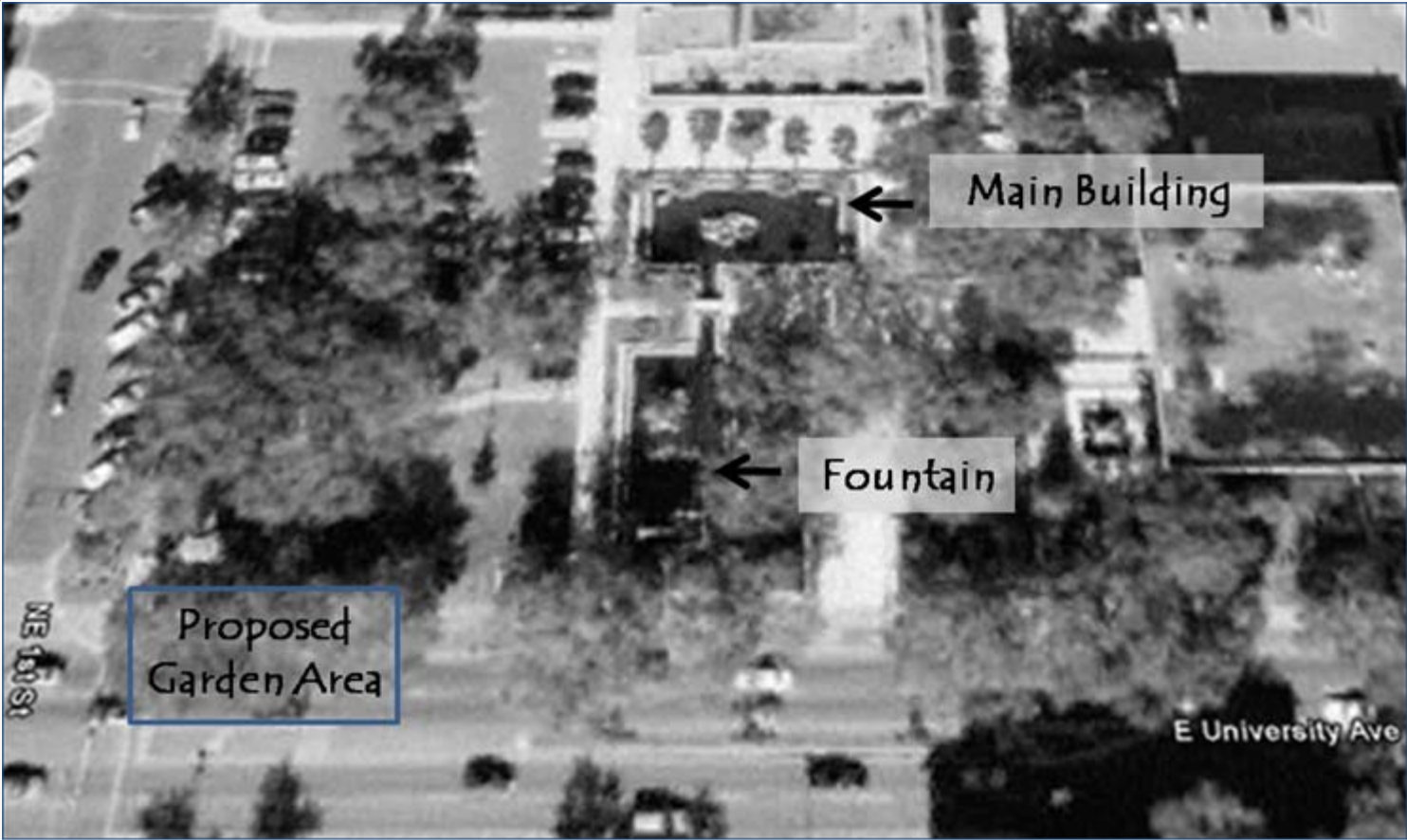
- Started May 2008
- Free gardens to low income Alachua County residents and organizations that serve them
- Installations at Thelma Boltin Center and Alachua County Administration Building
- Large volunteer force



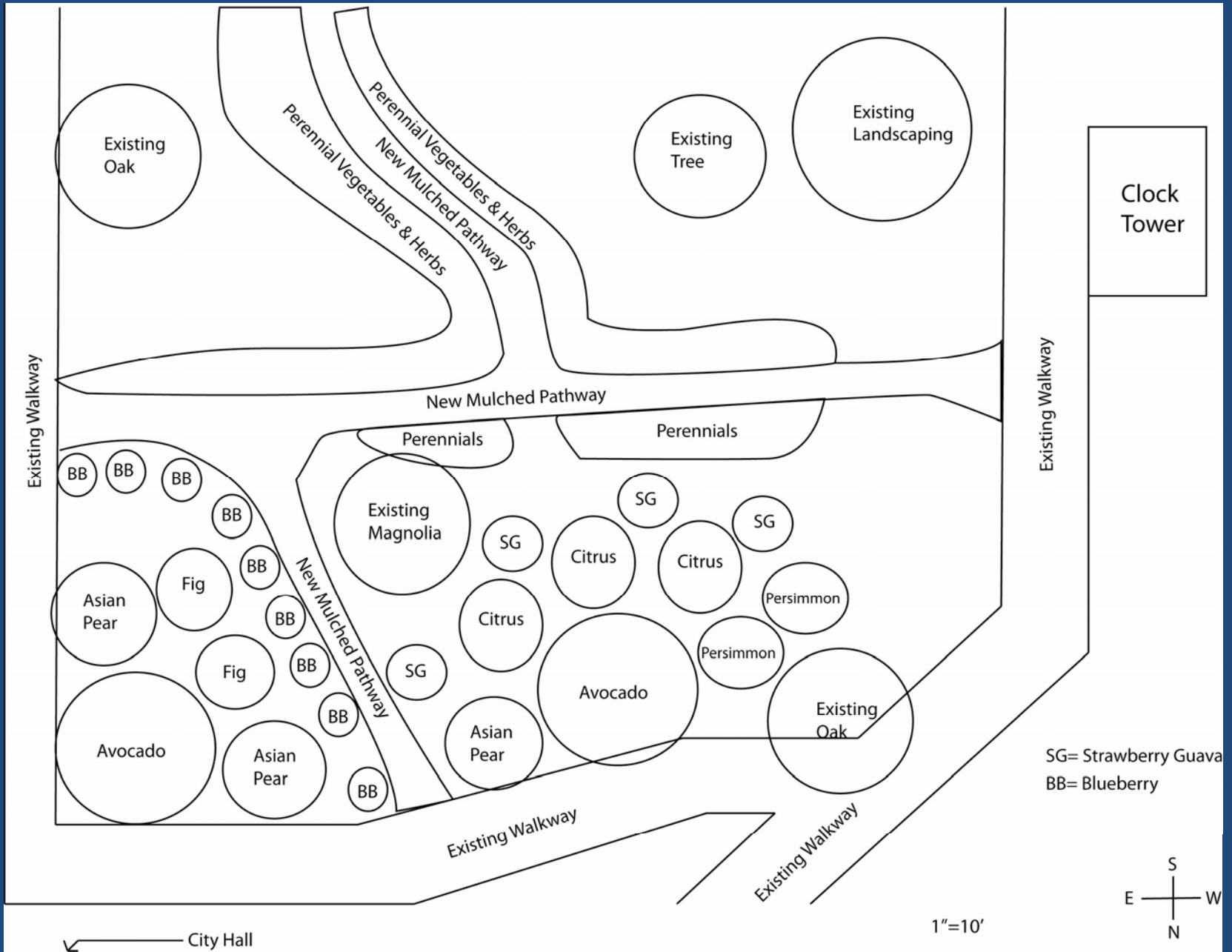
209 recipient sites, including schools, churches, group homes, nursing homes, youth organizations, and more



Proposed Edible Garden in Front of City Hall



Proposed Edible Garden in Front of City Hall



Edible Fruit Trees

Cold Hardy Avocados

Asian Pears

Satsuma Tangerine

Highbush Blueberries

Brown Turkey Fig

Asian Persimmon

Strawberry Guava



Edible Perennial Vegetables & Herbs

French Sorrell

Italian Dandelion

Okinawa Spinach

Surinam Spinach

Daylilies

Sweet Potato

Arugula

Basil

Callaloo



How Will Residents Benefit?

Food The fresh, healthy and organic fruits and vegetables will feed those in need, and donated to food assistance organizations when harvested.

Education The park can be used as an educational and demonstration area to teach people how to grow their own food and plant similarly in their own yards. The garden design will provide inspiration for what can be done in one's own yard to beautify their community while providing fresh, healthy food.



How Will Residents Benefit?

Plant Bank Plant material from pruning can be used to propagate more edible plants by cuttings, grafting, air layering, and seed saving. These inexpensive plants can be made available to low income citizens to plant in areas close to their neighborhoods.



How Will Residents Benefit?

Community Opportunity to organize citizens around a positive and important aspect of daily living-local food, giving people who work in the garden something to take pride in and be committed to as these types of activities give people a sense of accomplishment and also help citizens make lasting connections and relationships in the community.



Maintenance

It is estimated that once a month for approximately 6 hours a volunteer group will be needed to perform any of the following tasks.

Mulching- Every spring the planting areas should be re-mulched to help build soil, conserve water and smother weeds. Mulch is available free from the City Public Works Department. Mulch can be added in the fall as needed.

Pruning- Fruit trees will require some pruning to aid in optimum production and ease of harvest. This is done in the winter. Some of the perennial vegetables and herbs will need dead material cut back after winter freezes. These plants will re-emerge in the spring.



Maintenance

Fertilizing- Fertilizing should be done 2-3 times per year using organic soil amendments. These fertilizers can be purchased in bulk through Abundant Edible Landscapes Inc.

Weeding- Will be done routinely by volunteers to keep the park aesthetically pleasing. With the use of corrugated cardboard, thick wood mulch, ground covers and cover crops, weeding can be kept to a minimum.

Harvesting- Once the plants and trees reach bearing age, fruit and vegetables will need to be harvested and fallen fruit removed to make the best use of the food and keep the area tidy. This will need to be done often through the year as plants were carefully chosen to provide fruit from spring to late fall.

