

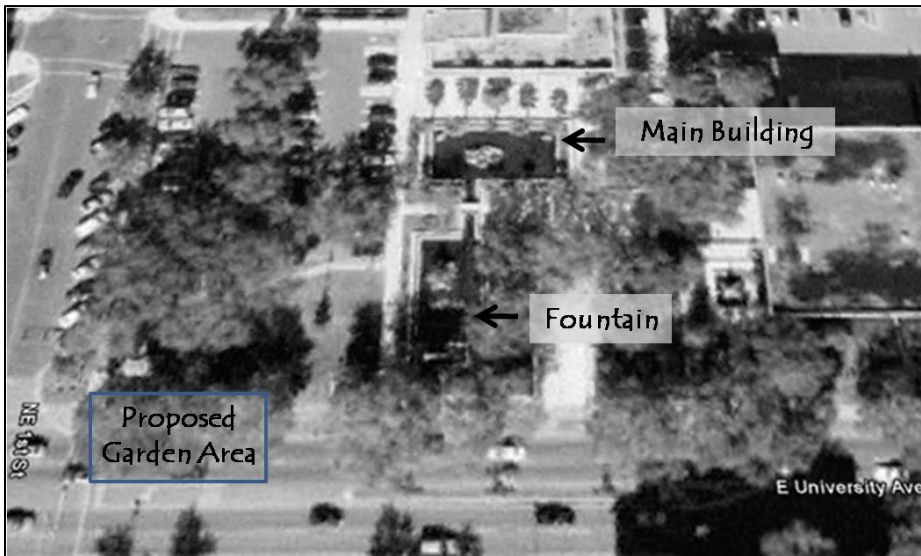


# City Hall Edible Park Proposal

Prepared by Abundant Edible Landscapes and Florida Organic Growers

The overarching goal for gardens located on public properties is to use them as youth education and job training areas that provide fresh, local food for food banks and pantries, the homeless and other low-income residents. Volunteer youth organizations will tend to the gardens and provide the harvests to those in our community with the greatest food insecurity. Youth involved in maintenance have the opportunity to learn job skills related to agriculture, and greater job training and youth entrepreneurship components can develop when youth learn how create value-added products at certified community kitchens to resell at farmers markets.

This park is intended to be low maintenance and will focus on edible tree and perennial crops to avoid constant care and replanting every season. The park can be used as an educational and demonstration garden providing inspiration on how to incorporate edibles into urban landscapes.



## How the park will benefit citizens with low income

1. Food- The food that the park provides will be used to feed those in need and to reconnect people to their food source.
2. 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 backyard.
3. 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.
4. Community- This can be a great opportunity to organize citizens around a positive and important aspect of daily living-local food. It will give 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 Proposal

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Fertilizing- For the health of the environment and the people who eat the food, this park should be maintained using organic practices. 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.
4. Weeding- This should be done on a bi weekly to monthly basis depending on the time of year. With the use of corrugated cardboard, thick wood mulch, ground covers and cover crops, weeding can be kept to a minimum. But this will be done routinely to keep the park aesthetically pleasing.
5. 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 tidy. This will need to be done often through the year as plants were carefully chosen to provide fruit from spring to late fall.




## Estimated Budget

Item	Unit Cost	No. Units	Total Cost	Notes
Soil	\$26/yard	4 yards	\$104	Necessary to start off new plants and enrich existing sandy soil.
Chicken manure 5g	15	1	\$15	
Worm castings 5g	20	1	\$20	
Greensand 2.5g	12	1	\$12	
Perennial vegetables	\$4.5 per plant	35	\$157.50	Mix of perennial vegetables
Perennial trees/shrubs	\$15-45 per plant	23	\$515	Mix of perennial fruiting trees and shrubs, will flower throughout year
Re-seeding annuals and herbs	\$3/plant	60	\$180	
Mulch	FREE		\$0	Free county mulch delivered
Installation labor	\$16/hr	6 hrs, 2 staff	\$192	FOG staff
	\$22/hr	6 hrs, 2 staff	\$264	Abundant Edible Landscapes staff
Volunteer labor	FREE		\$0	FOG volunteers
Perennial Maintenance Training	\$22/hr	16	\$352	Staff from Abundant Edible Landscapes will train FOG staff to correctly maintain perennial fruit trees
<b>Supplies</b>			<b>\$1,003.50</b>	
Labor Covered by FOG (through CDBG)			\$192	
In-Kind Labor from AEL			\$616	
<b>Total Project Cost</b>			<b>\$1811.50</b>	
<b>Total Cost to City (supplies only)</b>			<b>\$1,003.50</b>	
<b>Cost Estimate - Ongoing Yearly Maintenance</b>				
Maintenance labor/volunteer coordinator	\$22/hr	6 hours per month x 12 months	\$1,584	FOG staff to help coordinate maintenance of annual and perennial beds
Volunteer labor	FREE		\$0	From organizations listed above
Soil	\$25/yard	2 yards	\$50	Needed to build soil, promote plant growth
Chicken Manure 5g	\$15	1	\$15	
<b>Supplies</b>			<b>\$65</b>	
Labor Covered by FOG (through CDBG)			\$1,584	
<b>Total Project Cost</b>			<b>\$1649</b>	
<b>Total Cost to City (supplies only)</b>			<b>\$65</b>	

## Possible Volunteer Organizations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFAS Extension (Master Gardeners, 4-H)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Communities Dialogue</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastside High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bread of the Mighty</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loften High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gainesville Harvest</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners for a Productive Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Harvest</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty Reduction Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Board of Alachua County</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retired and Senior Volunteer Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gators for Sustainable Campus (to coordinate with other UF Groups)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alachua County Veteran and Senior Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa Fe Saints for Sustainability</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salvation Army</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florida Native Plant Society</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Francis House</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alachua County Nutrition Alliance</li> </ul>

## Possible Plant List

<p><b>Cold Hardy Avocados</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extremely hardy in our climate</li> <li>• make a perfect backyard tree</li> <li>• self pollinating</li> <li>• high oil content which makes them taste like Hass more than “Florida” avocados</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Asian Pears</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shape and crisp texture are reminiscent of apples</li> <li>• fruit tends to be quite large and fragrant, very juicy</li> <li>• commonly served raw and peeled</li> <li>• when carefully wrapped it can last for several weeks or more in a cold, dry place</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cherry of the Rio Grande</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extremely cold tolerant fruit tree of South American origin</li> <li>• closest comparable fruit to the northern cherry that can be grown in our subtropical climate</li> <li>• bears a 1" oblong, dark-red fruit with a thin skin, sweet with a single seed</li> <li>• fruit is eaten fresh</li> </ul>	

### Satsuma Tangerine

- glossy dark green leaves, fragrant springtime blossoms, and bright orange fruits make for beautiful specimen trees
- host plant to giant swallowtail butterfly



### Meiwa Kumquat

- round in shape and are often referred to as "sweet kumquats"
- beautiful quarter-sized, bright orange fruit cover a lush, small tree
- ideal citrus variety for container planting or short hedges
- it is the most preferred fresh-eating kumquat
- have few seeds and are best eaten whole



### Highbush Blueberries

- 6-12 ft tall attractive crown-forming shrub
- Used as a landscaping plant
- Produces high yields of blueberries



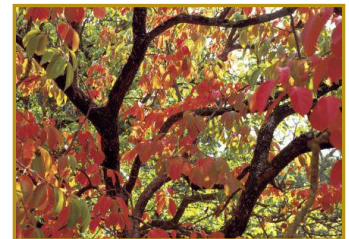
### Brown Turkey Fig






- medium to large fruit, with a reddish-brown skin tinged with purple
- pulp is reddish-pink and of good quality
- excellent for making home preserves, eating raw or dehydrated



### Asian Persimmon

- a beautiful tree bearing delicious fruit



<p><b>Strawberry Guava</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fruit prolifically at an early age and also in the shade</li> <li>• no muskiness of the common guava, the flavor is somewhat strawberry-like, spicy, sub-acid</li> <li>• small tree</li> </ul>	
<p><b>French Sorrell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a low growing perennial that has sharply acidic, lemony tasting leaves</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Italian Dandelion (Chicory)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not a true dandelion, but leaves are similar</li> <li>• Leaves are bright green and frilly</li> <li>• Has a tangy asparagus-like flavor, good cooked and in salads</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Okinawa Spinach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forms a gorgeous dense shrub in full sun and sprawls slightly in the shade</li> <li>• dark green leaves, with reddish purple undersides</li> <li>• freeze back in the winter but will come back in the spring</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Surinam Spinach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low growing perennial from tropical America</li> <li>• leaves are often eaten raw, though can be cooked at low temperature</li> <li>• close relative of purslane, and has a similar tangy flavor</li> <li>• dies back to the ground after a freeze, but comes back in spring and becomes a welcomed refreshing lettuce substitute during extreme summer heat</li> </ul>	

### Daylilies

- many varieties and hybrids
- easy to grow with very little care



### Sweet Potato ground cover

- makes an attractive ground cover while bearing underground tubers



### Arugula

- a salad herb that is native to the Mediterranean region
- leaves add a peppery taste to salads or pesto; and eaten raw or cooked in many other dishes



### Basil

- common garden herb



### Callaloo (Amaranth)

- Amaranth comes in a variety of colors and also has edible seeds and leaves that are very good sources of protein, vitamins, and minerals
- an annual native to central Mexico and has its origins in the traditional cultures of Mesoamerica
- a sun loving plant that does well in the heat

