

1. Meeting Agenda

Documents: [PC AGENDA APRIL 2015.PDF](#)

2. Citizen Comment Period

3. Acceptance Of Meeting Minutes- March

Documents: [PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES 3.5.15.PDF](#)

4. Friends Of Deering Oaks: Castle Restaurant

Documents: [CASTLE FOOD SERVICE MEMO.PDF](#), [CASTLE GOALS.PDF](#), [FOOD.PDF](#),  
[PROPOSED CASTLE CAFE PROCESS.PDF](#), [RESTAURANTEURS.PDF](#)

5. East Bayside Garden

Documents: [EEBFORSTGARDENPROJECT OVERVIEW.PDF](#), [FOX FIELD.PDF](#),  
[FOXFIELDFOODFOREST DRAFTDESIGNELEMENTSSTRATEGIES.PDF](#)

6. Communications/Updates

6.I. Community Garden - Eastern Promenade Update

6.II. Western Prom Wall

7. Unfinished Business

7.I. CIP Update

7.II. Trust For Public Land Update

7.III. PC Admin Report

Fundraising

Governance/Drafting Report



Michael J. Bobinsky  
Director of Public Services

## **Parks Commission**

### **Agenda**

**April 2, 2015**

**5 – 6:30 PM**

**City Hall**

**389 Congress Street ~ Room 24  
(Basement)**

- I. Citizen Comment Period (10 min)
- II. Agenda Items
  - A. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes- March (5 min)
  - B. Presentations
    - Friends of Deering Oaks: Castle Restaurant (20 min)
    - East Bayside Garden (15 min)
  - C. Communications/Updates (10 min)
    - Community Garden - Eastern Promenade Update
    - Western Prom Wall
  - D. Unfinished Business (15 min)
    - CIP Update
    - Trust for Public Land Update
    - PC Admin Report (15 min)
      - o Fundraising
      - o Governance/ Drafting Report

**PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2015**  
**City Hall ~ Room 24**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Commission Members:** Diane Davison, Dory Waxman, Steve Morgenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Cynthia Loebenstein, Carol Hutchins, Meri Lowery, Travis Wagner, Jeff Scher, Jaime Parker

**City Staff:** Councilor Jon Hinck, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Mike Bobinsky, Rick Knowland

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes February 2015**

Motion made by Cynthia Loebenstein to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Dory Waxman. Motion passed 10-0.

**Heseltine Park**

Aaron Brady, representing the Friends of Heseltine Park; along with Emily Broce and Tim Witherby talked to the Commission regarding some things that they would like to have changed/upgraded at the park.

The things that they requested was a new park sign. The one that they currently have, Haseltine is spelled wrong. The requested a trash can and a new or repaired picnic table (the current one has expletives on it). They also asked if it was possible to have water at the park so that they could water the flower garden. Another item they would like to see is additional swings (for older children).

It was also discussed about the structure that Unitil places in the park in the winter. In the area that it gets places, it also destroys the flower bed. It was discussed that the friends group, along with city staff, talk to Unitil about working with the friends group to help with replacing the flower bed and possibly other landscaping needs.

**Communications/Updates**

**Community Garden/Eastern Promenade-** Cultivating Community received a \$15,000 grant. This will help with the gardens. The community garden on the Eastern Prom is still on plan to plant this spring.

**Deering Oaks Pond-** Staff said that they are hoping to start working on the ravine of the pond later in the year (November/December). Actual work on the pond would be in 2016.

**Evergreen Cemetery Wall-** Work has been going slow due to the weather. The goal is to have it finished by Memorial Day.

**Western Prom Wall-** Work has been going slow due to the weather. Work should be completed in late spring.

**Update on Winter Activities** – The Recreation Department purchased a Polaris 1000 with a groomer. This helped clear the ice skating ponds and have allowed them to groom cross-country ski tracks at Deering Oaks Park. Camp Ketcha this winter rented out hockey and ice skates at Payson Park. This program was a great success.

**Fitzpatrick Field Project** – The grass carpet pads will go down in the spring. The track will be done afterward.

**Payson Park, Title IX project** – The City was in violation of Title IX (girl's equality for sports) at Payson Park. They are updating the softball field at that park with a new scoreboard, bleachers, and batting cages. Next year they will be putting in bathrooms and a concession stand.

**Footgolf, Curling and Squash** – Riverside Golf Course will have footgolf on Saturday and Sundays in the spring during the slow golfing times. Curling will be starting at the Ice Arena. Rec Department is looking to partnership with Bayside Bowl to get the recreation children to participate in squash.

### **Unfinished Business**

**CIP Update-** Committee looked over the city's proposed CIP budget.

**Trust for Public Land Update** – The Steering and Stakeholder committees met for the first time on March 4, 2015. The agenda of the meeting was to review what has occurred so far. They will continue to meet now until July. The Commission will be updated when they have meetings.

**Administrative Tasks** – The Commission created subcommittees to look into the following ideas. Parks Commission's role in raising funds subcommittee will be Dory Waxman, Cynthia Loebenstein, Sally DeLuca and Diane Davison.

Reviewing and adopt rules (implementation of rules, electing officers) will be Travis Wagner, Steve Morgenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Jaime Parker and Troy Moon.

Travis Wagner will be looking at putting together an outline for the annual report.

## Castle Food Service Memo, 3/12/15

**1) History** When the Castle restoration planning was begun, the plan was to restore the building to its historic splendor. Food service in the location, which had been provided almost from the beginning (it was built 1894), started with hot chocolate/coffee/snacks when the Castle was a warming hut for skaters and expanded to fast food takeout (operated by the Flashes in the 1970s and onward) in a new building constructed to its left. With the construction of the new building, the Castle, sadly, was turned into a restroom facility and many decorative elements removed (stained glass windows, etc.). The Flash fast food operation was replaced by The Barking Squirrel restaurant in the 1990s, I think, and was also fast food but with a broader menu, with inside seating as well as outside and takeout. I believe The BS served beer and wine, but cannot confirm. That operation was very popular (people still mention it to me), but the operation failed after about four years, because the owner was a realtor, with no restaurant experience.

With this long history of food service, when the City and FoDO collaboratively developed a Treatment Plan for the Castle in 1999, food service was identified as a key project goal (see attached).

In 2004, as the detailed design plan was in process, the "Barking Squirrel Building" as it was called and which was to be rehabilitated, was significantly damaged by fire. As a result, the plan was developed for the Castle to serve as a small cafe, with sit-down food service (to include liquor sales) to be provided in a newly-constructed restaurant to its left. FoDO was to raise funds for the new restaurant and to supplement what the City could commit to the Castle. This ambitious project went through full City review and was enthusiastically received at all levels.

Unfortunately, FoDO was not able to raise the funds for the new building and the decision was jointly made to go forward with Phase I, restoration of the Castle, with the continuing objective of it serving as a cafe.

**2) Solicitation of Food Service Vendors** During construction, the City conducted an RFP process to select a food vendor. See attached list of potential operators that were invited to a site visit. As I recall, about eight attended. Unfortunately, there were **no** responses to the 2005 RFP. The feedback received was that the space was too small to appeal to the vendors. With the approval of Purchasing, the City and FoDO later negotiated with two additional vendors, but without success.

**3) Convention and Visitors Bureau** Subsequently, the City was approached by CVB about leasing the space and it did so for about seven years, ceasing operation there some time in late 2012, I think. The building has been vacant and locked ever since. See attached letter re the unavailability of the bathrooms.

FoDO has been pressing DPS staff to find a replacement use ever since, with no success, except for City staff present in the morning of the Farmers' Market last summer. But this

certainly does not serve the larger goals identified in the Treatment Plan or the significant investment made by the City and FoDO..

**4) FoDO Initiative** Hearing FoDO complaints, Acting City Manager Sheila Hill-Christian asked, "what if FoDO leased the building and found a use"? The FoDO Board discussed this very general concept and was not ready to take it on due to liability and oversight concerns. I then turned to experienced restaurateurs, Cheryl Lewis and Norine Kotts (with whom you are familiar) and sought their advice. They asked to see the building interior and, to my surprise, they themselves expressed an interest in the site, as they had just sold their latest venture, El Rayo.

I sent them the building floor plan and they have been exploring menu options, given the building constraints: size, need to construct a small kitchen but without expanding the footprint, no vent hood exhaust (due to likely Historic Preservation limitations, which had come up before). Their tentative menu is very limited, family-friendly, and focused on healthy foods, delivered fast and at a reasonable price. This is very much in line with the original goals, which I have attached. They also hope to do outdoor food prep demonstrations during the Farmers' Market, highlighting creative uses for Market products.

**5) City Process** Again, FoDO fully understands that this is a City building and its use is subject to City process. See attached, my first effort to outline the process steps and sequence. The FoDO Board has reviewed the concept and is fully supportive of further exploring this potential. I have emailed Sheila re the leasing options and have not yet heard back from her, due to her focus on the budget. My next step was to explore with Business Licensing the potential for serving beer and wine, which is a thresh-hold issue for Cheryl and Norine.

As the building has been vacant for almost two years, our hope is to move the process along expeditiously, so we can hopefully have a use in place as early this summer as possible. I am personally prepared to shepherd this process and have the time and experience do it.

Finally, FoDO hopes the Parks Commission and City staff will favorably contemplate these points:

~~Food service has been part of the history and plan for the site for decades.

~~Beer and wine sales are a complement to and financially supportive of a viable food service operation. Such service is also very common offering in park cafes and restaurants throughout the country.

~~Give the limited size of the structure and past history of the City's inability to attract a vendor or even a food truck to the park, the City should find a way to enter into a lease either with FoDO or directly with Cheryl and Norine.

## CASTLE-IN-THE-PRAK PROGRAM GOALS

- A space for a successful restaurant
  - ⇒ quality food, affordable, family-oriented
  - ⇒ indoor and outdoor dining
  - ⇒ take-out available
  - ⇒ seating 50 people inside
  - ⇒ movable, flexible furniture
  - ⇒ storage space for outdoor furniture
  - ⇒ diverse menu - like Della's Catessin, Federal Spice, Walter's, Joe's Boathouse, Bintliff's
  - ⇒ hot and cold food available
  - ⇒ breakfast, lunch and dinner
  - ⇒ year-round, with hours defined by the director of Parks and Rec
  - ⇒ Department approval of changes in operation
  
- Interior has good views to pond and ballfield
  - ⇒ Skyline
  
- Four, supervised public toilets -two serving restaurant, two for public use
  
- Public gathering space, separate from restaurant, but able to combine with restaurant for larger uses
  - ⇒ space shared with restaurant
  - ⇒ oversight issue
  - ⇒ how furnished?

- A Ranger station, information station
  - ⇒ Information on Deering Oaks
  - ⇒ Satellite to City Information Center
  
- Exterior gathering spaces on both sides of the building
  
- Move roadway, to reconnect the Castle to the Pond
  
- Building entry from both sides
  
- Connect with other park activities (ballfields, tennis, etc.)
  
- Appropriate signage, lights, furnishings
  
- Universal accessibility
  
- Activity management, relationship to café operator
  
- Other?

# Food

*Excerpted from The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces, by William H. Whyte*

**If you want** to seed a place with activity, put out food. Food attracts people who attract more people. In New York, at every plaza or set of steps with a lively social life, you will almost invariably find a food vendor at the corner and a knot of people around him - eating, schmoozing, or just standing. Vendors are the caterers of a city's outdoor life. They flourish because they're servicing a demand not being met by the regular commercial establishment. Plazas are particularly parasitic in this respect. Hardly a one has been constructed that did not involve the demolition of luncheonettes and restaurants. The vendor thus fills a void, and this can become quite clear when he is shoed away. A lot of the life of the space goes with him.

Vendors have a good nose for spaces that work. They have to. They are constantly testing the market, and if business picks up in one spot, there will soon be a cluster of vendors there. This will draw more people, and yet more vendors, and sometimes so many converge that pedestrian traffic slows to a crawl. In front of Rockefeller Plaza during the Christmas holidays, we've counted some 15 vendors in a 40-foot



stretch (most of them selling hot pretzels).



number who used the café.

Food attracts people who attract more people. We had an excellent opportunity to observe this shill effect through some semicontrolled experiments at a new plaza. At first there was no food. A moderate number of people used the place. At our suggestion, the management put in a food cart. It was an immediate success (a flower cart was not). More people came. A pushcart vendor set up shop on the sidewalk, then another. Business continued to pick up, for all three vendors. Next, the management got the restaurant in the building to open a small outdoor café. More people came and yet more - over and above the

The optical leverage in these things is tremendous. For basic props, nothing is more needed than a pushcart, and several stacks of folding chairs and tables. Set up a kiosk or a pushcart, spread the chairs out, put up the colored umbrellas, and the customers and the visual effect can be stunning. Instead of distributing the facilities over a large space, group the tables and chairs close together. As a consequence, people will be compressed into meeting one another easily; waiting in line or weaving their way through the tables. Very quickly, the space can become a great social interchange for pedestrians.





## **Proposed Castle Café – Process (in sequence)**

**DRAFT 3/10/15**

### **Preliminary**

☒ FoDO- review, discussion

Sheila/Corporation Counsel – process re leasing (sublet to FoDO or RFP required?)

Licensing – determination re sale of beer and wine

Parks Commission - review, discussion of concept on 4/2 if possible (LBC Review, if determined necessary)

Planning Department staff - concept review

Historic Preservation staff - concept review

Inspections – preliminary discussion

### **Formal review**

Planning Department/Inspections/HP staff - review of formal plans

FoDO – review, recommendation to Parks Commission

Parks Commission - review, recommendation to Council (Land Bank Commission?)

Council review/approval of liquor license application and lease

Potential Restaurateurs for Deering Oaks

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Amato's                   | Owner?         |
| Anthony's Italian Kitchen | Tony Barassio  |
| Angelone's                | Joe Angelone   |
| Arby's                    | Ken Raffell    |
| Barbara's Kitchen         | Owner?         |
| Bintliff's                | Owner?         |
| Black Tie                 | Owner?         |
| DiMillo's                 | Steve DiMillo  |
| Foodworks                 | Owner?         |
| Fresh Market Pasta        | Owner?         |
| Katahdin                  | Owner?         |
| Newick's                  | Owner?         |
| Pepperclub                | Owner?         |
| Perfetto's                | Walter Loehman |
| Silly's                   | Deirdre Nice   |
| Steve and Renees Diner    | Owner?         |
| Susan's Fish and Chips    | Owner?         |
| Village Café              | Reali          |
| Walter's                  | Mark Loring    |

# Fox Field Food Forest

An Edible Landscaping Demonstration Project

Preliminary Overview Document

Updated March 2015

## Description:

The proposed Fox Field Food Forest is a project of the East Bayside Neighborhood Organization (EBNO) with support from the Sewall Foundation, The Resilience Hub, the City and others would be a small garden located at the northeast corner of Fox Field in the East Bayside Neighborhood. This garden would be one aspect of the “Edible East Bayside” idea to bring more food production, gardens, food businesses and access to healthy and sustainable food to the East Bayside Neighborhood.

## Project Design Goals:

While specific design elements and plantings are to be determined over the coming weeks, at this time the general goals can be defined as:

1. To create a demonstration garden that **beautifies the neighborhood and enhances the experience of all visitors**, neighboring residents and nearby businesses.
2. To begin the process of **reducing mowing** time/labor/expense.
3. To create a no-dig/no-till perennial edible garden that focuses on **low maintenance plantings and ecological landscaping techniques** (annual maintenance to consist primarily of one mulch application, one day of pruning and then harvesting edibles such as fruits and nuts). After initial planting, no irrigation or weeding will be needed.
4. To create an open and inviting **resting space** for members of the neighborhood.
5. To create an **educational garden** complete with 5-6 small signs describing how edible perennial gardens can be ornamental, low-maintenance and contribute to food security for the neighborhoods in which they are located (many examples from around the world).
6. To demonstrate a **participatory design process** in which the neighborhood members and other stakeholders will be involved in refined goal-setting, design review and installation with support from The Resilience Hub, the East Bayside Neighborhood Organization, The City of Portland and other interested parties.
7. To demonstrate that, beyond the physical design of the garden, we will be **designing the social and financial structures** for the ongoing support of such a garden (i.e. budget, stewardship, maintenance, etc.).

## Next Steps:

March - Continue participatory design sessions and awareness-raising

April - Creating design drawings, getting approvals, planning work parties

May/June - phase one site work

June/July - phase two installation

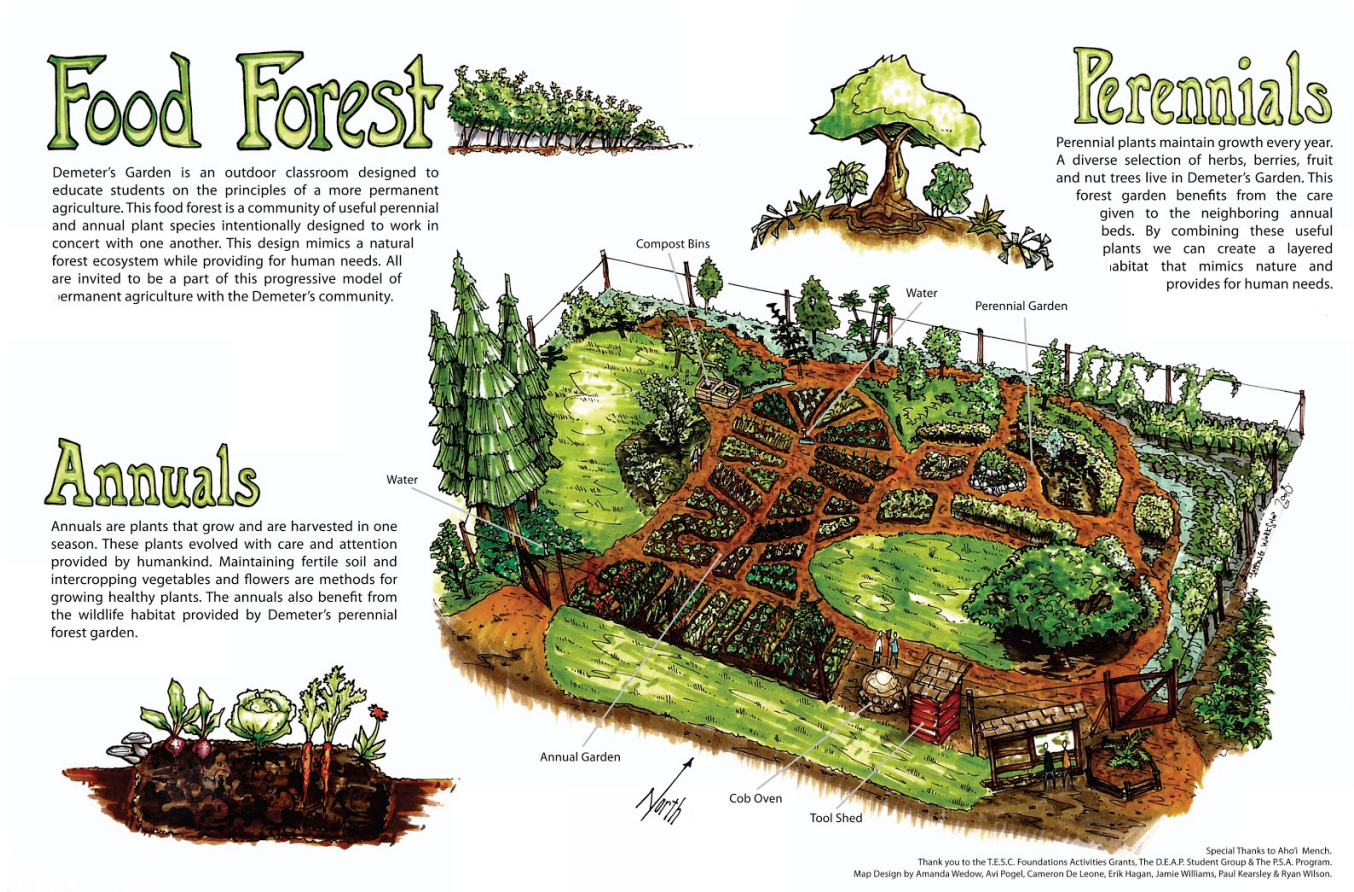
**Contact: Hope @ EBNO / Lisa @ Resilience Hub / Jennifer @ Wright-Pierce**

# What is a Food Forest?

also known as an Edible Forest Garden

also known as Agroforestry (if you come from an academic background)

A Food Forest is a way of growing food that mimics the way a natural ecosystem works and relies primarily on edible perennial low-maintenance plantings. Once the “ecosystem” of a food forest is established, there is minimal ongoing maintenance compared to annual vegetable production. Here is one example from Washington State:



Food forests of any size can be designed for: Beauty, Learning, Food, Rest, Pollinators, Birds, Nutrition, Lawn Eradication and ALL OF THE ABOVE!

More than 40 cities in the USA have active food forest projects as part of their urban agriculture and food security efforts (the closest being the Boston Food Forest Coalition which is being provided with parcels by public and private entities to embed more food in the urban landscape).

FMI: [urbanfoodforestry.com](http://urbanfoodforestry.com) / [edibleforestgardens.com](http://edibleforestgardens.com)

# Fox Field Food Forest

An Edible Public Landscape  
in East Bayside

*Status Update &  
Preliminary Design Ideas / Feedback*

# Quick Review: Who is Involved So Far

- EBNO
- The Resilience Hub
- Sewall Foundation
- Wright-Pierce
- City's Recreation & Facilities Management Department
- City's Public Services Department

# Now: Others Invited to Participate

*neighborhood  
residents,  
especially  
those who use  
the park*

- Portland Trails
- Root Cellar
- Cultivating Community
- Portland Pollinators
- Portland Housing Authority
- Study Center at 51 Mayo Street
- Mayo Street Arts
- City's Planning Department
- Maine Muslim Community Center

# The Fox Field Site - ca. 1940



# The Fox Field Site



# The Fox Field Site

*Edible Landscaping Location*

*Basketball Courts*

Fox Street



# The Fox Field Site



# The Fox Field Site



# The Fox Field Site



# The Fox Field Site



# Additional Design Participation

*Happening in April 2015:*

*Root Cellar Youth Workshop*

*Study Center Youth Workshop*

*PHA Kennedy Park in-home questionnaire*

*CBD India Street public design lab*

*(all lead to concept drawings being created)*

# More Next Steps

Parks Commission Update - April 2

Edible City movie Screening - April 2

Other Neighborhood Outreach - ongoing

Drawings & Stewardship Plans / Approval - May

First Work Party - May/June

Permablitz Planting - June

Ongoing work / celebration into 2015 & beyond

# Fox Field Food Forest - An Edible Landscaping Demonstration Project

## DRAFT Ideas from Past Design Conversations

| <i>Potential Design Elements</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <i>Potential Plantings</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Educational Signage (plants, landscape, recipes)<br/> Sitting places (stone or low maint materials)<br/> Sundial<br/> Shade Structure (i.e. grape arbor)<br/> Gathering space<br/> Pathways<br/> Pollinator hotels<br/> Table w/Chess Board<br/> Neighborhood Art<br/> Living furniture (willow or hazel) demo<br/> Bird and/or Bat Houses<br/> Night Lighting<br/> Living ground covers around plantings<br/> Permeable surfaces<br/> Little lending library (see City Repair)<br/> <b>Features to support field &amp; court users?</b></p> <p>(Already there: water access, fountain, bike parking)</p> | <p>Peach<br/> Asian Pear<br/> Plum<br/> Mulberry<br/> Shisandra<br/> Paw Paw<br/> Persimmon<br/> Grapes<br/> Hazelnuts<br/> Hops<br/> Elderberries<br/> Chestnut<br/> Blueberry / Serviceberry / Aronia</p> <p>Pollinator support plantings</p> <p>Perennial Vegetables (Pending soil testing)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Strategies to Employ / Demonstrate</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <i>Stewardship Strategies</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Polycultures (plants that support one another and ecosystem health)</p> <p>No-till, no-dig methods</p> <p>“Food Forest” or edible forest garden techniques</p> <p>Sea level rise education opportunities</p> <p>Citizen Research: soil remediation (myco, phyto), maintenance requirements of this kind of system, etc. (many potential research questions)</p> <p>“Open” to the field and basketball courts (not closed room feeling) w/taller plantings to the</p> <p>Edible + Ornamental Demonstration</p>                                                                                             | <p>Stewardship plan (who/when/when/with what money/how) to be agreed prior to any site work.</p> <p>Clearly articulate tasks, roles and responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. during establishment phase (2015/2016)</li> <li>2. ongoing basis / annual</li> </ol> <p>Clearly articulate INPUTS and sources of inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● time/labor/paid vs volunteer</li> <li>● money</li> <li>● materials</li> <li>● other in-kind support support</li> </ul> <p>Clearly articulate OUTPUTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Edible products (who accesses?)</li> <li>● Educational yields</li> <li>● Community-building</li> <li>● Reduced mowing &amp; maintenance costs</li> <li>● Ecosystem health</li> <li>● Data about this kind of system</li> <li>● See other goals</li> </ul> <p>Clarify COMMUNICATIONS flow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Public facing communications &amp; outreach</li> <li>● Internal project team and users (i.e. meetings, online comms, schedule, etc.)</li> <li>● Decision-making structures / veto powers</li> </ul> |