

2017

edible flint
Annual Report

Supporting Flint residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect with the land and each other.



Garden Starters

Training Program



28 students were trained in this series focusing on local food systems, organic and sustainable food

gardening, pest management practices, soil health and composting, harvesting and food preservation, cross-cultural communication, and accessing land and resources for food gardening. The classes spanned 14-weeks in 2014. *edible flint* took over the administration and delivery of the program in 2014.



Relavency of the Training Series 4.75 out of 5

Kits and Services

In 2014, *edible flint* Garden Starters **sold 300 kits** distributed to residents in Genesee County. Distribution Day and Community Garden Celebration occurred on May 14, 2014 at Salem Housing (now known as the Neighborhood Engagement Hub). The garden kits contained 10 different vegetable transplants and 18 different seed varieties. Services included soil testing, compost delivery and tilling. **27 New Gardens** were established with the assistance of *edible flint* Garden Starters.

Services 2014

28
Soil Tests

28
Tills

81
Gardens Served

300
Yds. Compost

Demonstration Garden

2014

New in 2014 to *edible flint's* educational



programing was the transition of the former Hurley Community

Garden into the *edible flint* demonstration garden. The garden received material donations by local nurseries, community groups and individuals. Additional workshops were offered, fruit tree pruning in the spring and compost, fall bed prep, cover crops, garlic planting, and season extension in the fall.

450
Hours Volunteer

600+
lbs. of produce

57
Workshop Participants

\$429
Raised

Accessible Tools

In 2014 *edible flint* the Garden Starters Work Group received a Michigan Disability Rights Coalition inclusive gardens expansion grant of \$500. The decision was made to add accessible tools and equipment to the Neighborhood Engagement Hub's Community Toolshed. The partnership procured enabling garden tools (now offered in the NEH Toolshed) and partnered with local high school students to try out garden tools that are accessible and inclusive for gardeners with physical challenges, allowing us to reach new audiences. Local vendor support was received from Gilroy's and Lowes.



Access and Education



The mission of the Access and Education Work Group is to improve community health by increasing the information about and consumption of healthy food. The group continues to gather and share information about access issues in our community. In 2014, the Access and Education Work Group transitioned to new leadership after the relocation of its convener. Throughout 2014, a Michigan State University Human/Community Nutrition doctoral candidate reviewed grocery and convenient store data collected in 2012 with a full report expected to be released in 2015. The work group developed a new work plan that will focus on data gathering related to access, revising outreach strategies and participant follow-up. This work plan will continue in 2015.

Food Garden Tour

The focus of the Food Garden Tour Work Group is to highlight the ways our community is addressing a number of needs including: food access, education and skill building, youth engagement, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities, community building, and reuse of vacant land in our neighborhoods. The 6th Annual Food Garden Tour

was held July 30, 2014, included bus and bike routes and hosted more than 280 people. The tour featured 16 different gardens across the City of Flint and surrounding community. A celebration at the new Flint Farmers' Market with music and fellowship followed the tour. This year's tour included a Partners in Healthy Living Fair, where 14

community partners shared information about health, volunteer opportunities, and community enrichment with tour attendees. *edible flint's* Food Garden Tour celebrates innovative and inspiring food gardens in the Flint area. Planning is underway for the 7th Annual Food Garden Tour, which will take place on Wednesday, July 29, 2015.



280 Participants
16 Gardens
14 Partners in Healthy Living

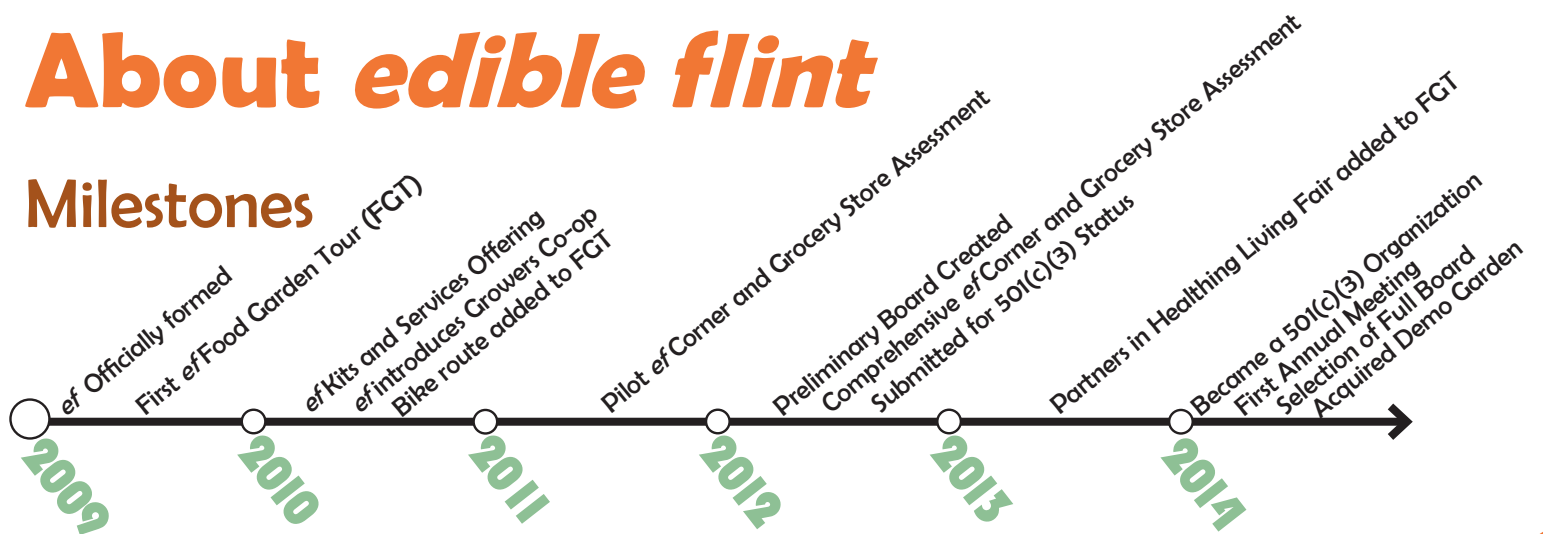


Organizational Work Group

The Organizational Work Group (OWG) was formed with the goal of building an organization which is sustainable and resilient to advance the mission of *edible flint*. In 2014, OWG completed *edible flint's* second Annual Report and held the organization's first Annual Meeting. Through outreach, meetings, and events *edible flint* **reached 5849 residents**. Late in 2014 OWG began the process of completing a 5-year in-depth evaluation for *edible flint*.

About *edible flint*

Milestones



How We Work

Individuals involved with *edible flint* are called participants. Each participant is welcome to make decisions at general meetings and in work groups through the consensus decision making process. The programs of *edible flint* are designed, organized and executed by work groups. Work groups support the overall mission of *edible flint* with the energy of participants. Participants collaborate to implement programs and projects defined by the group's purpose and goals. *edible flint* is guided by a Leadership Board which provides the structure for collaboration to support the mission of *edible flint*. The charge to the members of the Leadership Board, both from within *edible flint* and the community at-large is to give financial oversight and insure that activities and decisions of the group are aligned with the mission.

Partners

Collaborating with numerous local partners is key to the *edible flint* network. In 2014, these partners included: Ruth Mott Foundation; MSU Extension Genesee County; Genesee County Land Bank; Flint Farmers' Market; Salem Housing CDC (hereafter the Neighborhood Engagement Hub); Genesee County Health Department; Genesee County Parks and Recreation; Greater Flint Health Coalition; Hurley Medical Center; Flint River Farm; Harvesting Earth Educational Farm; Mott Community College; Genesys Regional Medical Center and the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan

Thank You!

Thanks to the participants of *edible flint* for a busy and productive 2014. We also thank our funders for their generous contributions which have greatly supported our efforts to grow healthy food to connect with the land and each other.

