

edible flint INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

The mission of edible flint is to support Flint residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect with the land and each other. Formed in 2009 following a number of community conversations, edible flint is a network of people and organizations interested in collaboration around healthy food access, productive reuse of vacant land and education around local food systems. The network engages in several efforts that support residents' ability to connect, grow, and access healthy food. In 2014, edible flint became a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization to help us find support for our mission through grants and donations from the community.

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With this mission in mind, edible flint has established work groups and has a number of projects that help people who are growing food for themselves and their community. Our participants collaborate on our signature programs including Garden Starters classes, kits and services; our Annual Food Garden Tour and the Demonstration Garden. Individuals involved with edible flint are called participants and the organization operates based on a consensus decision making process.

As attention focused on Flint in 2016 because of the water crisis and awareness about how nutrition can help fight the negative effects of lead, edible flint has expanded testing for lead in soils, sold irrigation hose filters, rain barrels and helped deliver research-based recommendations for people concerned about exposure through gardening. More and more of our early efforts to expand food access are now being supported and edible flint continues to look for new partnerships, collaborations and allies as we work to support more people, grow more food and reconnect our community.

STRATEGIC PLANNING A New Focus for 2016 and beyond

As a result of the lead crisis, Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) a valued statewide partner, advocated for ways to help build the capacity of *edible flint* and facilitated a comprehensive strategic planning process for the organization through funds provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Built upon the findings and success of edible flint's in-depth 2015 evaluation, the Leadership Board undertook an effort to complete a strategic planning process identifying four "Big Audacious Goals" for the future of the organization. You can see the plan in the centerfold of this year's annual report.



GARDEN STARTERS INTRODUCTION

GARDEN STARTERS Education Program

For eleven weeks in the winter and spring of 2016, 35 students enrolled in the 2016 Garden Starters

Training classes. These classes focus on local food systems, organic and sustainable food gardening, pest management practices, soil health, composting, harvesting, food preservation, cross-cultural communications, and accessing land and resources for growing food. The program had 28 graduates! In 2016 a new partnership was forged with MSU Extension's Cooking Matters program and the Genesee County Land Bank to expand the classes offered through the Garden Starters Training Program.

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The education doesn't stop after the course is completed. Gardening is a lifelong pursuit and there is also lifelong learning required. Classes with hands-on workshops were held in the fall covering topics including gardening with high lead, preparing the garden for fall, and extending the growing season.

HOW edible flint GARDEN STARTERS KITS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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e, eir DONATED When possible, excess can be donated to others efforts. Many gardeners find places that will accept donations

PRESERVED

HOW MUCH 87% of gardeners produced more than IS PRODUCED? 87% food from their own garden The program has lots of repeat customers-**95%** of the folks who got kits said they would plant again and more would recommend the program to others.

HOW BIG IS THIS EFFORT?

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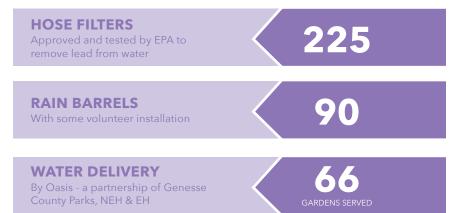
GARDEN STARTERS Kits and Services

The Garden Starters workgroup in Spring 2016 sold 324 garden kits to Flint and Genesee County residents at a

Distribution Day and Community Garden Celebration event at the Neighborhood Engagement Hub (NEH), which included educational demonstrations on rain barrels, lead safety in food gardens, veggie gardening tips, health and nutrition awareness, and available tools to borrow from the NEH's Tool Shed. The *edible flint* veggie kits contained 30 types of vegetables for a 1,500 sq. ft. garden. The garden services (City of Flint only) included tilling (24 gardens), soil testing (175 tests) and compost delivery (395 yards) for 79 gardens in Flint (24 were new gardens in their first year of establishment). Within Flint's growing season, a 1,500 sq. ft. plot can provide most of a household's yearly vegetable needs. New programming this year to support lead safe food gardens included distributing 90 Rain barrels and 225



irrigation hose filters through grant funding due to the water crisis. A new collaboration with the Oasis water delivery team (a partnership with Genesee County Parks, NEH, *edible flint*) resulted in water deliveries to 66 gardens in 2016's hot, dry summer - providing a source of water for gardeners where access to water was limited.



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GARDEN STARTERS DEMO GARDEN

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The edible flint Demonstration/community garden is in its 3rd year of production across from Hurley Medical Center, and was supported with the assistance of two key volunteer managers, a MSU dietetics student summer intern (who published her edible flint work in a poster session at the statewide MSU Extension Conference this fall), a Woodside Church intern, community volunteers (including youth), and soil technicians this summer. The edible flint demonstration garden produced 1,500 pounds of produce this year (which is tracked and recorded along with several other community gardens to measure annual impact), which is primarily distributed to neighborhood residents who rely on the garden's fresh produce to supplement their daily diets.









edible flint STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020

MISSION To support Flint residents in growing & accessing healthy food in order to reconnect with the land & each other.

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WE PRACTICE Humility, equity, ally-building, respect, trust.



OUR VALUES are perennial companions that must be continually nurtured:

- HUMILITY live and learn by example, remain teachable & resilient
- EQUITY provide resources to meet individual needs

VISION *edible flint* is an economically and environmentally sustainable organization, cultivating the model of a community food system in the Flint region through advocacy, expertise, and partnerships.

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3 Revitalize by re-engaging past participants and new participants	4 Expand support services
 Get 20% of available past participants to resume gardening services or join a workgroup by 2019 2 co-conveners from past or new participants by 2019 50% of new participants are referred to us by current or past participants. All Flint Wards are represented in work groups AT least 5 Wards represented on Leadership Board 	 By 2019, the number of gardens serviced & services offered will have increased by 20% from 2015 Support for 20 entrepreneurs in farm and allied agriculture businesses through a growers' network Present 3 annual activities to connect gardening and non-gardening residents Create a web based hub of local food resources
<text><text><text></text></text></text>	 DEVELOP database of local food and related resources and update on website/mobile app quarterly FOSTER businesses that focus on soil preparation, compost production, processing OUTREACH to general population, through on-farm activities that aren't focused on farming (ex. Movie night, yoga/exercise classes) DEVELOP stronger relationships w/FoodCorps and others to co-market classes and other services where the audiences don't overlap ENCOURAGE a network of local gardener/farmers who want to begin or expand their agricultural business

- ALLY-BUILDING work with one another to cultivate, connect, and empower
- **RESPECT** treat others with compassion and understanding
- TRUST seen by others as true to our word and deed

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FINANCIAL REPORT JAN-DEC 2016

Operating Funds Available as of 1 January 2016	\$ 43,220.82
OPERATING FUNDS	
Federal Grants	\$ 42,856.00
Community	\$ 138,425.40
University Grants	\$ 24,661.00
Donations	\$ 6,005.00
Fundraising	\$ 14,566.28
Dividends	\$ 379.27
Net Operating Income	\$ 226,892.95
Total Operating Income	\$ 270,113.77

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OPERATING EXPENSES

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Salaries	\$ 75,145.09
Supplies	\$ 35,860.62
Fee for service	\$ 21,849.42
Subgrant w/partner	\$ 8,803.39
Food	\$ 8,466.20
Rentals	\$ 4,116.49
Printing	\$ 2,590.20
Equipment	\$ 1,947.84
Mileage	\$ 1,452.93
Insurance	\$ 1,440.42
Advertising	\$ 1,387.04
Fees	\$ 918.48
Postage	\$ 331.78
Net Operating Expense	\$ 164,309.90
Total Operating Expense	\$ 164,309.90

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Operating Funds Available as of 31 December 2016	\$ 105,837.78
IN KIND SUPPORT	
Work Agreement	\$ 10,560.00
MSU interns/facility	\$ 11,525.00
Neighborhood Engagement Hub	\$ 10,000.00
Total Operating In Kind Support	\$ 32,085.00

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FUNDERS 2016

THANK YOU! To our funders, supporters, partcipants and friends. The work of this organization would not happen without you! Thank you for helping us to support Flint residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect them with the land and each other.

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SIGNIFICANT DONORS

Meyer Family Foundation

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John and Joanna Anderson Zen Buddhist Temple of Ann Arbor

SUPPORTING PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Crim Fitness Foundation
- Dort Federal Credit Union
- Flint Area Reinvestment Office
- Flint Farmer's Market
- Food Bank of Eastern MI
- Genesee County Land Bank
- Genesee County Health Department
- Genesee County Parks and Recreation
- Genesee Farm Bureau
- Genesee Health System
- Genesee MSU Extension
- Genesys Regional Medical Center
- Greater Flint Health Coalition

- Local Grocer
- Hard as Flint
- Hurley Medical Center & Foundation
- Indian Trails, Inc
- Mott Community College
 - Mr. Rogers Garden Program
- MSU Center for Regional Food Systems
- MSU College of Human Medicine
- National Kidney Foundation
- Neighborhood Engagement Hub
- Ojibway Vitamin Company
- UM Flint FUEL team
- Woodside Church

GARDEN STARTERS GARDEN TOUR

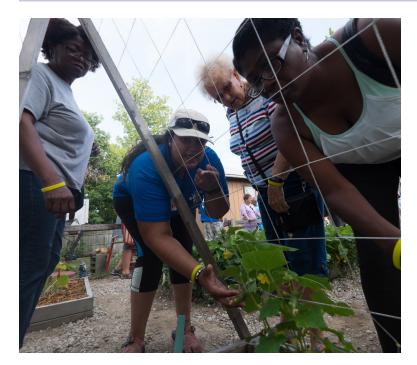
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The 2016 (8th Annual) Food Garden Tour workgroup highlighted the way our community is addressing a number of challenges by showcasing a diversity of gardens that are transforming neighborhoods by removing blight, increasing property values, employing youth, increasing food access, improving diets and decreasing grocery bills by coordinating a bus and bike garden tour on July 27, 2016. This year, 258 people participated in visiting 15 different innovative and inspiring food gardens across the City of Flint and surrounding area, wrapping up with a community celebration that took place at the Flint Farmers' Market including food, music and fellowship. This year's tour included the 4th Annual Partners in Healthy Living Fair, with 11 community partners.







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edible flint programs and materials are open to all

without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status

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www.edibleflint.org