



Clifford Park : Re-imagined!

Presentation of the Clifford Park
Community Food Forest

Resilient Hartford
Community Meeting
September, 9th, 6:30pm

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Introductions

Land Acknowledgement

Project Overview

- Site History
- Current Conditions
- Community Input
- Project Design
- Maintenance Structure
- Phases & Timeline
- Questions & Discussion



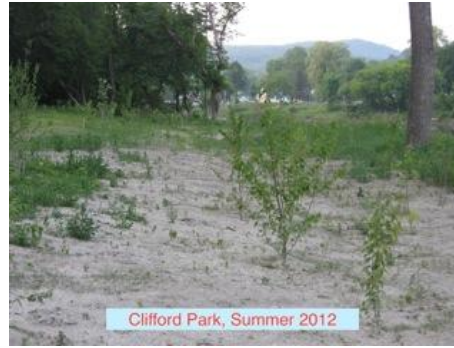
We are gathering online on the ancient grounds of the Wobitekwo Odanak [White River Village] in N'dakinna [Our Land], we are gathering in the middle of this ancient Nation homeland which includes Vermont, New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts, western Maine, and southern Quebec.

This is the sovereign homeland of the Abenaki Nation and People. Since ancient times, the Abenaki know that they have always been here, are still here, and will always be here. We pay our respects to them, and to the wisdom of their elders and their culture.

We are aware that many newcomer families from Europe, Africa, and Asia who moved or fled to this area and the region were welcomed from the 1600s on and given Indigenous Seeds and Plants, shown the ways of Sogalikan (Maple Sugaring), introduced to many, crucial technologies and ways of living from Canoe, Toboggan, Snowshoe, and Basket Making to ways of Farming, Fishing, and living with and caring for the land, waters, and air in good ways which are still widely practiced in the Abenaki homeland.

We are committed to continuing to learn to care for the land, waters, and air here in partnership with the many Abenaki Nation peoples in a better, more respectful way.

History



Colonization

1890s - Hazen Meadows
1960 - deeded to Erwin Clifford



Parks and Now

- Ball games
- Family gatherings

May 26: Building Soil with Cat Buxton
June 9th: Species & Design with Karen Ganey

Abenaki

1977 - 12 acres signed over from Erwin Clifford to Town of Hartford

Irene

Multi use space for all ages!

Future

Current Condition

Town Maintenance:

- The park is mowed once or twice a week during the spring, summer and fall months depending on grass growth and programmed activities.
- Clifford is not on the Turf Management Plan, i.e. no fertilizers or pesticides have been used on this site for the past three seasons.



Current Condition continued: Early Spring 2021



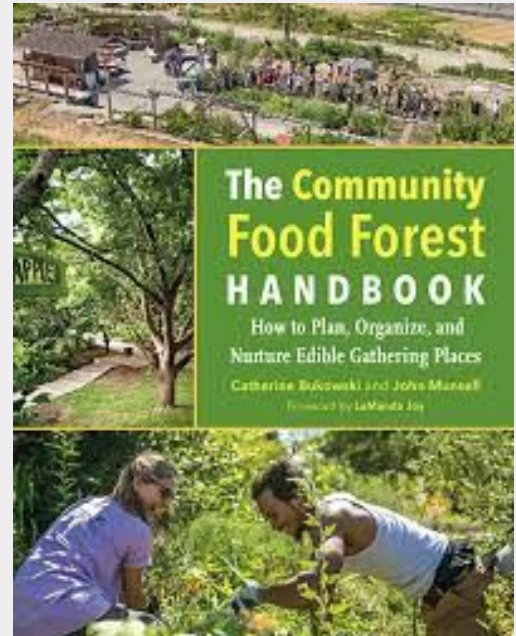
Community Input So Far

- *a fabulous idea and will bring the community together;*
- **pocket parks** could be scattered along the trails;
- **quiet places, trails, benches** etc could easily be integrated into the forest or orchard;
- **organic/biodynamic food-growing** areas for town food are imperative for **public health and local resilience**;
- *all trees are fruit bearing and there are gardens in all available locations;*
- *I think the whole park should be planted to **perennial crops for all to harvest**;*
 - before planting gardens, assure the soil is safe;*
 - a herd of **goats to use for 'mowing'**-- goats could be housed in a barn at one of the parks; important to have native trees;*
- *alternative methods using vertical gardens and magnetic energy in small spaces to provide more food than a conventional garden (at innovation.com);*
- **community composting**
- *organized and professional town garden/farm, with real infrastructure and employees;*
- *it's a brilliant use of space, will help with **food security, and build community**;*
- **maximizing the amount of food** is a good idea: drop apples are good for cider and all drop fruit is good feed for pigs, chickens and cows;
- *designing food producing areas into our parks would have great **nutritional, environmental, social and economic benefits**;*
- *GREAT ideas around food!; community composting;*
- *Play spaces, multi - use, **classes, educational workshops, concerts***

Possibilities

Community Orchard
Collaborative Growing Spaces
Free Food
Place-Based Education
Biodiversity
Eco-literacy
Flood & Drought Resilience
Community-scale Organics
Management

Food Forests are
popping up
everywhere:



Community Mission:

We Aim:

To create an accessible and inclusive space for the community to come together to grow food naturally and regeneratively.

To restore soil health.

To create a food forest with mostly native, fruit bearing shrubs, trees and perennials.

To nurture opportunities to learn and good stewardship of our environment.

To make the space accessible and safe for all people.

To create space where people share knowledge and skills.

To provide a space for reinvigorating the human soul!

To nurture wonder, pride, belonging, abundance, relaxation, peace, and FUN!

To create habitat for pollinators, wild fauna, migratory birds, and wildlife.


To strengthen the wildlife corridor along the White River.

To explore how input intensive parks can be transformed into low maintenance and regenerative social and environmental ecosystems.

To work cooperatively with Abenaki community members to learn about traditional ecological knowledge.

Area of Focus



< Search... 

 Quick Tools...



0 10 20m 

1:500 



Design Process:

GENERAL CONCEPT THEMES:

Community, Skillsharing, Co-learning, Food Security, Education on Climate Mitigation, Soil Health, Food Preservation, Accessibility for everyone, nutritional, environmental, social, economic benefits for the community, useful spaces for workshops and presentations (ie. on soil health and climate mitigation).

DESIGN IDEAS: Fall 2021

- Center Guild with fruit trees and perennials
- Yellow Bud Hickory
- Riparian Reforestation: Linden, Burr Oak, Butternuts

Considerations:

- Space for workshops - somewhere around the tennis courts (30 x 20)
- Water possibilities - pump from river and from roof of garage into rain barrels
- Talk to Abenaki to collaborative around gardens, species and methods

KEYSTONES:

- Butternuts, Bitternuts, Heartnuts, Basswood
- White Oak, Burr Oak, Maple, Alder
- Fruit Trees: Pears, Peaches, Plums, Persimmon

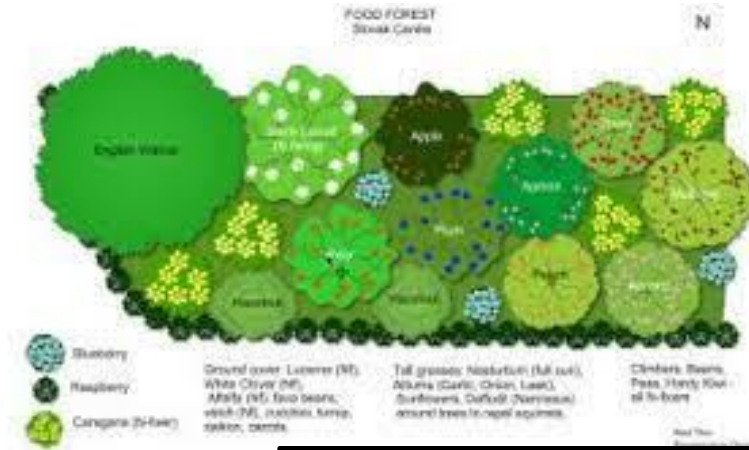
SHRUB LAYERS: Aronia, Currants, Dogwoods, Elderberries, Gooseberries, Hazelburts, Honeyberries, Serviceberry
Viburnums, Winterberry

PERENNIALS, HERBS & FLOWERS: Asclepias spp., Chamomile, Lemon Balm, Lavender, Chives, Oregano, Yarrow

What are the benefits?

This creates a living system with numerous benefits including:

- Wildlife habitat
- Resilient biodiversity
- Abundance of food and medicinal yields
- Carbon sequestration
- Increased tree canopy
- Healthy and stable soils
- Runoff reduction and rainwater infiltration
- Local food security
- Community gathering
- Intergenerational education





Planting Phase 1: September 18th, 2021

Community Collaborators

Resilient Hartford

Hartford Garden Friends

The Apple Corps

The Regeneration Corps

Change the World Kids

Hartford Area Natural Resources
Department

Local Abenaki and Indigenous
individuals and organizations



Maintenance and Long Term Care

Current Structure:

Resilient Hartford : Liaison with Town of Hartford



Neighborhood Committee

- Care coordination
 - Workshops, signage, safety



Youth Groups - Seasonal work parties, demonstrations, workshops

Questions:

- Water - from river and/or water collection from the building
- Future on site composting
- On site soil building in floodplain regulations.

Needs:

- Fundraising: The Fundraising Committee is already exploring many option.
 - Pathways, Water catchment system

Timeline:

- Finalize design and species list (Aug 23rd)
- Resilient Hartford Meeting (Aug.25th)
- Community Meeting (September 9th)
- Community Planting (September 18th & mid
- October)



Phase 1:

Community Education
Soil Building
Ecological Species & Design
Design, Mapping, Resource
Collection

Phase 2:

Fall 2021 Planting
Keystone trees & guilds (1-3)
Plant initial riparian area (5-7)

Phase 3:

Spring 2022
Planting
Community Workshops

Onward

Community Run
Collaborative Space for all to
learn from and enjoy!