



About *edible flint*

The mission of *edible flint* is to support Flint residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect them with the land and each other.

History

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. With this mission in mind, *edible flint* has divided its efforts among five different work groups, each self-organized to address the specific issues and opportunities in our local food system. Throughout the year, *edible flint's* work groups envision, plan and implement these efforts using a consensus based decision-making model.

Structure

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 work of *edible flint* is accomplished within 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: Ruth Mott Foundation; Genesee MSU Extension Office; MSU's Departments of Food Science and Human Nutrition & Horticulture; Genesee County Land Bank; Flint Farmers' Market; Salem Housing CDC; Flint Urban Gardening and Land Use Corporation; Genesee County Health Department; Genesee Health System; Greater Flint Health Coalition; Hurley Medical Center; Flint River Farm; Harvesting Earth Educational Farm; Resource Genesee, Mott Community College, Genesys Regional Medical Center and the National Kidney Foundation.

Financial Status

Many thanks to the participants of *edible flint* for another exciting and busy year. We also thank our funders for their generous contributions which have greatly supported our efforts to connect with the land and each other. According to our most recent tabulations for the 2013 year, as of December 31, 2013, we have received \$191,305 from grants, donations, and services; and our expenses totaled \$161,867.70, leaving us with an ending year balance of \$24,443.29.



edible flint Annual Report 2013

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edibleflint.org



Garden Starters Work Group

edible flint's Garden Starters provides growers with the skills and tools necessary to produce fresh healthy food. The workgroup does this through Garden Starters Training Classes and Garden Starters Kits and Services.

Garden Starters Training Classes

The 14-week course trained 32 students in 2013. The classes focus on local food systems, organic and sustainable gardening practices, cross-cultural communications, and accessing land and resources for growing food. The Garden Starters Training Program supports residents in the effective use of the Garden Starters Kits and Services, and to establish sustainable community food gardens.



Garden Starters Kits and Services

In 2013, 300 garden kits were sold to Genesee County residents, providing both vegetable transplants and seeds, 67 gardens were tilled, 40 gardens were soil tested with 350 yards of compost was delivered. These services were provided to over 75 gardens in their first three years of establishment, 40 of which were new gardens. 🌱

Food Garden Tour

The *edible flint* Food Garden Tour celebrates inspiring food gardens in the Flint area through an annual tour. The 5th annual tour took place on July 31, 2013 and more than 375 people attended despite another rainy day. The 2013 Food Garden Tour featured 18 gardens in the city including community gardens, school gardens, family gardens, and market gardens. The gardeners each received a garden stone to commemorate their participation.



This year the tour also featured more than 20 community-serving organizations in our first Partners in Healthy Living Fair. The inclusion of these partners serves to illustrate the opportunity that each person has to contribute to our community.

The Food Garden Tour Work Group brings together all the details of day as well as raising funds ahead of the event. This year the group raised \$5,000 to off-set the costs of the tour. 🌱



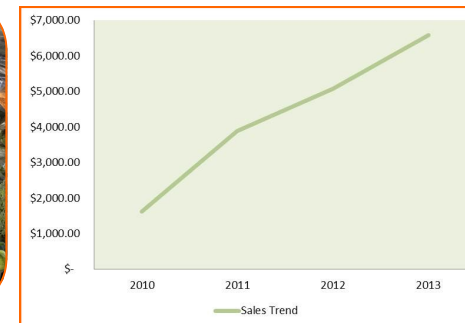
Access and Education Work Group

The *edible flint* Access and Education workgroup conducted an in-depth assessment of convenience and grocery stores within the City of Flint, through the work of a doctoral student from Michigan State University in Human/Community Nutrition & Dietetics student in 2012. The team assessed 187 stores with a tool that covered 11 categories and a total of 63 different dimensions of assessment. In early 2014, the data will be shared in community forums in Flint. The group seeks to increase the understanding about how food choices affect health, and advocate for policy changes that will increase the availability and access of healthy food. The group is developing a work plan that will guide future efforts and the pursuit of external funding. 🌱

edible flint Co-Op

The *edible flint* Co-Op offers people the chance to become a member which entitles you to sell at our stall at the Flint Farmers' Market on Saturdays. Members agree to share in the work of the Co-Op and in return share in the collective purchases of the group—such as display materials and supplies for the market. In addition, Co-Op members assist one another with tasks at work sessions called Crop Mobs. Crop Mobs are hosted by a member with a large job to accomplish and for a meal, other members assist with the completion of the work.

During 2013, the Co-Op sold more (in dollars) than any previous year. Members brought a more diverse set of products than ever before including tree fruit, green leafy vegetables, vine fruit and vegetables, herbs, and value-added products like baked goods and nut butters. 🌱



Organizational Work Group

In 2013, the Organizational Work Group (OWG) was formed from the former work groups New Roots , Growing the Network and Evaluation. The new work group exists to create the structures for the sustainability of *edible flint*. In 2013, the workgroup has focused on strategic planning, financial recordkeeping, and policy creation for the organization. The group also developed a logic model, assisted with the evaluation of events and classes from the other work groups.

The OWG is assisting the Leadership Board with the creation of a 501 (c) (3) organization. Through this structure, *edible flint* can pursue grant funding to insure financial sustainability. 🌱

