



2016

# ANNUAL REPORT





# 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.

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.



This photo courtesy of MSU ANR Communications.



This photo is property of *edible flint*.

# 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.

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!

**79%**  
**CONSUMED**

Most gardeners start by eating the produce they grow in their own houses

**SHARED**

When their garden produced more, gardeners share the bounty with their neighbors and church families

**66%**

**23%**  
**DONATED**

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

**PRESERVED**

If you can't enjoy your produce when it's picked, you can preserve it using canning, freezing and drying

**80%**

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?

**324** kits sold in 2016



**HOW MUCH IS PRODUCED?**

**87%** of gardeners produced more than **200lbs of food** from their own garden

## 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.



Photo courtesy of MSU ANR Communications.

### HOSE FILTERS

Approved and tested by EPA to remove lead from water

**225**

### RAIN BARRELS

With some volunteer installation

**90**

### WATER DELIVERY

By Oasis - a partnership of Genesee County Parks, NEH & EH

**66**

GARDENS SERVED

# GARDEN STARTERS DEMO GARDEN



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.

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

**Big  
Audacious  
Goals**

**1** Advocate for a culture change to bring more value to growing food & farming for sale & self

**2** Build organizational processes

**3 YEAR**  
Measurement  
of Success

- Local institutions will source 20% local foods by 2020
- Increase local food sales of *edible flint* network growers 10% by 2018
- Advocate for the 2018-19 Farm Bill to include urban agriculture and 2 items that will positively impact Flint area growers

- Starting with 2017 budget, the leadership board will affirm an annual budget in Q4 for the following fiscal year
- Have personnel and hiring process and procedures in place by 10/15/2016
- Develop and affirm an external communications policy by 12/31/2016
- Develop an internal communications strategy by 4/30/2017
- Identify and apply for funding four times each year from 2017-2019 by 9/30

**STRATEGIES**  
on Our  
Road Map

**ENGAGE** people who have graduated from food garden training & support services to grow for sale

**CONVENE** groups who are working around food issues to join us to educate policy makers

**DEVELOP** an advocacy strategy and a list of policy priorities for *edible flint* - local, state, and/or federal

**ALIGN** with statewide committees and representation from Flint (*edible flint*)

**CREATE** partnerships (with MIFMA, MIFFS) to develop strategies that support food access and growers such as DUFb, Hh4H

**IDENTIFY** legal needs or technical assistance for hiring processes

**IDENTIFY** financial management consultant to assist with financials and budgeting

**IDENTIFY** communications assistance for external communications policy development

**SET UP** payroll function

**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.

### 3 Revitalize by re-engaging past participants and new participants

- 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

### 4 Expand support services

- 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

**LIAISON** to connect with people

**SUPPORT** services & flexibility at meetings to engage busy people (e.g. babysitting, phone in options)

**INCREASE** our physical presence in the community

**ASK** past participants for referrals to potential new participants neighborhood centers of local food (like demo garden)

**GIVE** preference to Flint residents on Leadership Board

**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

# 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**

## OPERATING EXPENSES

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**

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**

# FUNDERS 2016

**THANK YOU!** To our funders, supporters, participants 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.



## SIGNIFICANT DONORS

Meyer Family Foundation

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



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.



All photos courtesy of MSU ANR Communications.





*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

[www.edibleflint.org](http://www.edibleflint.org)