



ACES Email: info@weareaces.org

Phone 604-826-6803

[FB/ActivelyCreatingAnExceptionalSociety](#)

FVRD Grant in Aid Request - Community Garden Project 2020

ACES is applying for a grant in aid to assist with the development of an edible community garden/food forest that we will develop in collaboration with the Deroche Farmers Market (DFM). We will be inviting the participation of local First Nations, community groups, families and individuals from Deroche to Harrison Mills.

Differing slightly in process from typical community gardens, where individuals have their own plots, the raised beds that we intend to build with volunteer assistance will be planted, tended and harvested communally by all the folks engaged in the project. We seek to promote community resiliency with an emphasis on food security. Produce will also be shared with those unable to participate in the growing.

The ideal location to create the garden would be in a section of the public open space at the FVRD site in Deroche. Director Bales put forth a motion to the FVRD for use of the area.

Goals of the Project

- renew our connection to nature
- produce fresh, wholesome, nutritious food to share with community
- encourage healthy outdoor activity, positive social interaction, protection and use of open space
- healthy eating, lower food costs
- knowledge sharing of wild edibles
- community resilience if faced with food shortages or a large-scale emergency.
- Develop environmental stewardship of public space

Benefits to Community

The development of an edible community garden and “food forest” contributes to the overall well-being of the community while helping people of all ages learn about sustainability, food security and develop skills to produce their own food, and insuring there is fresh local produce available to those most vulnerable in our community.

Activities around the building and maintaining of such a garden provide opportunities to build a sense of community, ease social isolation, provide opportunities for community celebrations (seed exchange, planting parties, harvest).

In addition to the garden we will be canvassing the community and developing a resources list of local gardeners that wish to share their produce, give talks on

gardening practices, have other food items to share such as eggs and honey for barter or free. The Deroche Farmers Market is a good starting point for developing the resource list and also provides a mechanism by which local growers/makers can share or sell their wares.

With the grant funding we propose to build 12 - 4'x8' raised beds for a range of plants everything from tomatoes, cucumber, squash, beans, lettuces to root vegetable such as potatoes, turnips, and carrots.

We will also plant fruit and nut bearing trees, raspberry canes and blueberry bushes.

“Local edible trees also enhance a sustainable locally-grown food supply, improving dietary variety and nutrition. Edible trees teach people about the importance of clean eating, such that having access to a reliable source and enough nutritious food improves quality of life. As well, food grown locally saves resources by reducing the amount of fuel used to transport food long distances.”

<https://treecanada.ca/blog/the-benefits-of-edible-trees-planting-for-a-future/>

We will start the project with several small scale basket making sessions where participants will create garden baskets of tomatoes and strawberries to take home. We will also host a series of 4 community talks with guest speakers on a subjects pertaining to methods of food growing, preserving food, wild edibles, and beekeeping.

This project builds on activities that ACES has successfully implemented in the area for over the last decade: the popular annual ACES SEED Exchange – which we have co-hosted with the DFM the last few years, Solstice Celebrations, Community Movie Nights, Art & Garden Tour, Speaker Series and Rivers of Peace Eco Arts Festival.

ACES Email: info@weareaces.org Phone 604-826-6803

[FB/ActivelyCreatingAnExceptionalSociety](#)