

**FINAL REPORT**  
**FOREST SERVICE GRANT NO. NA-99-0416**

Period covered by this report: September 24, 1999 through June 30, 2002

*NOTE: Please review the following information and revise/complete as necessary.*

**Issued to:** Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems  
**Address:** P.O. Box 4903, East Lansing, MI 48826-4903

**Congressional District Number:** 15

**Project Name:** Creating an Edible Urban Forest in Detroit

**Contact Person/Principal Investigator:**

**Name:** Tom Guthrie  
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*Project Coordinator  
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**Your Organization's internet home page address:** *www.msu.edu/~miffs/*

**Date of Award:** September 24, 1999

**Grant Modifications:** Mod. 1: No-cost time extension from August 31, 2001 to December 31, 2001  
Mod. 2: No-cost time extension from December 31, 2001 to June 30, 2002

**Date of Expiration:** June 30, 2002

**Funding:** Federal Share: \$53,200 plus Grantee Share: \$55,650 = Total Project: \$108,850

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**FS Grant Manager:** Phil Rodbell

**Address:** USDA Forest Service - NA, 11 Campus Blvd, Suite 200, Newtown Square, PA 19073

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Please provide an abstract on your project and its results. This abstract will be posted on the NUCFAC Internet site. (approximately 200 words or less).

*See Next 2 pages (1a & 1b)*

## Final Report Abstract

Urban edible forests have been now established at five sites in Detroit: (1) Catherine Ferguson Academy, (2) East Grand Community Park and Garden (Genesis Lutheran Church), (3) North Woodward Empowerment Center (4) God's Little Acre (Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church) and (5) Holbrook Elementary School.

At God's Little Acre all but two trees were destroyed by a developer building new housing on adjacent land. The "Greening of Detroit" — a local non-profit agency that plants trees to replace some of those lost in Detroit during recent years—found a new home for the trees that were not destroyed. The other trees will not be replaced due to financial difficulties on the part of the developer.

The future of the East Grand Community Park and Garden project has been secured with the Helen Street Block Club's official adoption of the site. Thus, the program seems to have recovered from the death, last year, of its founder and coordinator, Gerald Hairston.

At Catherine Ferguson Academy, the recently planted peach, plum and pear trees appear to be healthy. The mature apple trees cared for under the grant yielded a bountiful harvest during the fall of 2001. Although the cold spring appears to have damaged some of the blossoms this year, we will have enough apples to once again make applesauce and cider with school students this fall. Construction on the agriscience teaching facility at Catherine Ferguson is nearly complete. This will allow even more hands-on activities to take place at the site throughout the year.

At the North Woodward Empowerment Center, volunteers continue to weed and water the approximately 80 Christmas tree seedlings that were transplanted there during the spring of 2001.

Finally, the garden at Holbrook Elementary School has been adopted by a group of University of Michigan Students who continue to work with youth growing vegetables and tending the perimeter planting of Choke Cherries, Dogwoods, Butterfly Bushes and Arbor Vitae. The garden has become a key gathering place for parents and their children. The U-M students are also tutoring youth in the garden this summer. For more in-depth information on any of these projects a project manual has now been completed and is available from the office of the principal investigator.

**Progress Report on grant, NA-99-0416 entitled: *Creating an Edible Urban Forest in Detroit (Continued)***

**Project Objectives:** To establish a diverse, mixed edible urban forest on vacant lots in Detroit. The forest is to be planted, maintained and utilized by the surrounding community for its social, nutritional and economic benefit.

**Objectives Met Successfully to Date:** Five diverse urban edible forest projects have been established with the help of volunteers (many of them youth) from throughout the City of Detroit. Following the death of the community coordinator at the East Grand Community Park and Garden, that site was adopted by the Helen St. Block Club. The vegetable understory will be divided into small subplots to be adopted by members of the block club. The fruit trees at that site have also been adopted by members of the block club. Thus, all sites have been planted and continue to be kept up by members of the community. For more specifics on each of the sites please refer to the project manual included with this report.

**Objectives Not Yet Met:** None

**What specific quantifiable results will be produced?** Five urban edible forest sites have been established on approximately 1.5 acres of vacant urban land in Detroit. A manual describing how we went about creating the urban edible forests and their impact on the community has been produced and is included with this report.

**How will results be disseminated to the public?** Copies of the above manual will be distributed to groups interested in urban greening throughout the US.

**If a no-cost time extension has been requested for this project, why was it needed?**

Because we did not actually receive funds to begin the project until November 2, 1999. We had planned on receiving the funding during the summer of 1999.

A small amount of additional time was needed to finish and distribute the manual and to complete billing procedures.

**List the active partners (key individuals or organizations) involved in the project to-date:**

Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS), Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan (HACMI)-the fiduciary of the Detroit Agriculture Network (DAN), The Greening of Detroit, University of Detroit Mercy Architecture Department, Wayne County Michigan State University Extension, Green Enterprise (An empowerment zone initiative), the City of Detroit Forestry Department, Detroit Public Schools, Hamtramck Public Schools, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Genesis Lutheran Church, North Woodward Empowerment Center and residents of the community.

**Comments Considered of Importance But Not Covered Above:** See attached abstract for a summary of recent accomplishments.

**This report was prepared by:**

Name: Jason Fligger

Title: Urban Agriculture Coordinator

Phone Number: (313) 965-8117 ext. 27

Date: July 3, 2002



# GRASS ROOTS EDIBLE URBAN FORESTRY

**"A DETROIT MOMENT"**

*Community Planning Guide*

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Lessons Shared From Edible Urban Forestry  
Projects in Detroit Neighborhoods

Written and compiled by:

Jason Fligger, PhD., Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan

Kristine Fedewa, M.Ed., The Learning Connection



# Dedication



## Gerald Hairston 1947- 2001

Gerald Hairston, a legendary Detroit gardener, and a long-time partner of the Hunger Action Coalition, passed away in June of 2001. Gerald refused to view Detroit as a “dead city.” All his life, he infused his energy into the city and the neighborhoods he loved. Gerald always lived as a free spirit. He worked constantly, but only a small portion of the time for his own benefit. He served those who had little to give him in return. He lived a life of physical poverty and spiritual wealth.

Gerald was the kind of person that could bridge gaps of wealth, race or culture. African kings, corporate executives, the elderly and youth all enjoyed the time they spent with Gerald. Gerald believed strongly that through gardening, the human race could grow a little closer together. Gerald’s hard work, enthusiasm and community organizing skills linked gardeners together in a city-wide network that became known as the Detroit Agriculture Network. The edible urban forest projects outlined in this book represent a very small portion of Gerald’s work. We salute Gerald’s involvement in shaping a better Detroit for tomorrow and we proudly dedicate this manual in his memory.

*“Man you got to get ya self on CPT - that’s Culled Peoples Time.” - Gerald Hairston*

## Project Title: Edible Urban Forestry

Evaluators: Kristine Fedewa, M.Ed.

Date Completed: July 24, 2002

Project Goal SMART Objectives	Baseline Data (Indicators)	Evaluation Methodology	Measurement Timeline	Progress to Date: DATE: June 30, 2002
<b>GOAL #1: Establish diverse, mixed edible forests on vacant lots.</b>				
To increase the number of vacant lots converted to edible urban forests.	Three established lots (Catherine Ferguson Academy, F.A.R.M. and God's Little Acre)	Total number of sites	End of project	Five sites used for edible urban forest: Catherine Ferguson Academy, Gods Little Acre, Holbrook Elementary, East Side Park & Garden and FARM.
Expand size and diversity of established tree plantings in EUF sites	Existing plantings: Catherine Ferguson (100 fruit trees)	No. of surviving plantings at each site	Ongoing, end of project	Total number of plantings: Christmas Trees - 90 Fruit trees - 76 Brambles - 36 Shade - 15 Shrubs - 12 TOTAL: 139
Recruit and utilize neighborhood leaders and volunteers to complete project work	Original Leaders: 5	No. of hours volunteered  No. of leaders involved in the project	Ongoing, end of project	Volunteers hours donated: 1999- 51 2000-600 2001-600 No. of leaders involved 1999-2002 -18
<b>GOAL #2: Promote urban arboricultural practices</b>				
Contribute to or write educational articles for media sources		Clip and save file  Record of events and participation	Ongoing	One Metro Detroit news article Six press Releases/Ads
Submit updates to agency newsletters				MIFFS MEMO - 8 Hunger Action Coalition Breadlines - 12

Host tours or garden lectures.			Ongoing	Holbrook Elementary featured on DAN Garden Tour  One conference presentation
Project Goal SMART Objectives	Baseline Data (Indicators)	Evaluation Methodology	Measurement Timeline	Progress to Date: DATE: June 30, 2002
GOAL #3: Demonstrate how edible urban forests contribute to revitalization of neighborhoods and community building, as well as provide energy, habitat and nutritional benefits.				
Revitalize at least one site				The transformation of the vacant lot at Holbrook Elementary resulted in 10 neighbors cleaning and clearing private lots.
Teach basic principles of production and sustainable agriculture, energy use and conservation, and animal habitats.	Catherine Ferguson Academy Agriscience program	No. of contact hrs Type of ed program No. of Educators Amount of Produce	Counted as each program is completed	Detroit Summer – 96 youth contact hrs Cucumber Kids - 300 youth contact hrs Hunger Camp – 160 youth contact hrs Gardening Workshop - 36 adult contact hrs Seven Educators 20 gallons of cider
Offer one program that involves volunteers in selecting and preparing nutritious meals.	N/A	No. of meals served No. of volunteers fed	End of program	Total: 45 (Two WSU Graduate students interning in nutrition and seven Jr. Master Gardeners prepared and ate meals once/week for five weeks)
GOAL 4: Cultivate, connect and educate community leaders				
Increase the number of agencies working in a collaborative effort among various Detroit neighborhood sites.	MIFFS and HAC originally involved	Number of agencies represented at site meetings	Ongoing	Total number of agencies involved in project: 10
Support and teach		What content was	Ongoing	▪ Planted 40 descendants of Johnny

cultural traditions		Taught to whom? What tradition was preserved?		Appleseed trees; included educational article in Community Planning Guide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated spirituality in Cucumber Kids program with 300 youth contact hrs</li> </ul>
Project Goal SMART Objectives	Baseline Data (Indicators)	Evaluation Methodology	Measurement Timeline	Progress to Date: DATE: June 30, 2002
<b>GOAL #5 Improve the skills of urban edible forest growers</b>				
Provide resources to sponsor, mentor or teach project participants generally accepted management practices for EUF	N/A	Names of participants who attended or were involved in programs designed to improve knowledge and skills of growing produce	Ongoing	Paul Weertz (state conference) Gerald Hairstad Part-time employee at EGP & G
<b>GOAL #6: Serve as a model for other large American cities</b>				
Discover and record the social, economic, environmental and political barriers	Detroit Census data	Volunteer Interest Survey  Reflections of Project Coordinator	Spring 2000  June, 2002	Findings recorded and shared in Community Planning Guide
Print and distribute 1,000 copies of Edible Urban Forest Community Planning Guide to other cities and audiences	N/A	Distribution Log	June, 2002 and beyond	Print 1,000 Community Planning Guides