

Green ARtery: Neighborhood Community Garden Initiative

Final Report

August 2015

By

Andrea Papandrew



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I. Introduction

The following report is based on an internship from May 2015 to August 2015 with the Metropolitan Planning Commission. The report records the work done on the Green Artery Neighborhoods Community Garden Initiative. This initiative was started by Lena Young Green, Tampa Heights Civic Association and Catherine Wallace, President of Tampa Garden Club. The Green Artery Neighborhoods Community Garden Initiative's purpose is to increase community gardens in Tampa and Hillsborough County and to start the planning for the Annual Garden walk on Earth Day 2016. This report includes work done in finding new garden sites, interviewing communities to gauge residential interest, identifying intermediate and mentor gardens, and starting the groundwork for the 2016 Gardenwalk. The work recorded in this report will be a foundation for the next USF class to build on.



II. Green ARTery Neighborhoods Community Garden Initiative

Project Purpose:

1. To increase community gardens in and around the Green ARTery in Tampa and Hillsborough County
2. To start the planning for the inaugural Annual Green ARTery Community Gardens Tour to be held in honor of Earth Day starting in April 2016

This project will:

1. Review the reports from Dr. Elizabeth Strom's Community Research Class completed December 2014.
2. Identify the recommended Green ARTery neighborhoods and sites that were proposed by USF students' research on the creation of new community gardens.
3. Continue research to identify two neighborhoods and sites for creation of new gardens.
4. Identify one or two existing gardens that would serve as 'mentor gardens' for two new gardens to be created based on the recommendation of the research report.
5. Identify one intermediate garden that needs only minor support for improvement, expansion or other needed assistance.
6. Conduct interviews with neighborhoods for new garden creation, intermediate garden improvement and 'mentor gardens' to document their readiness for each process and document each result.
7. Develop a plan for Number 6.
8. Start the groundwork for the inaugural Annual Green ARTery Community Gardens Tour to be held in honor of Earth Day starting in April 2016. This project will be handed over to a USF class, group or club after the summer internship is completed for continuation of the planning for the April 2016 event.

III. Community Garden Criteria

- Good source of social capital: networks within communities that foster support and trust.
An active community is essential in establishing a good communication infrastructure and organization.
- Sun: gardens need to be in areas with at least 6 hours of daily sun.
- Shade: gardens also require partial shade to ensure variety of plants and for the health of the gardeners.
- Water: gardens need to be connected to a city pipeline or have an easily accessible water source (stream, river).
- Logistics: site needs to have available parking, walkway etc.
- Security: site needs fencing or some type of secure border to ensure that unwanted animals or people don't enter property.
- Design the garden to fit the needs of the community (accessibility, age design, protection from animals, storage of tools etc). The site needs to be in an area easily reached by most in the community. The area needs to be safe and preferably not near a major intersection or roadway. The most likely participants to get involved are the younger and older generations.
- The land used may need a permit, or permission from land owners. Public land would require more time to obtain permission.
- Have a garden master(s). At least one member of the community who is willing to commit the time and effort to oversee the garden, ensure growth, and actively get community members involved in the garden.
- Laws/rules covering membership requirements, committees, officers, duties, process of assigning tasks, process of dissolving gardens, and voting process to change and set up rules, may be required.
- Form partnerships/sponsors to gain access to materials, tools, funding, and volunteers.
- Design a garden plan. Figure out garden plot sizes, draw a detailed sketch of the garden and plan out the resources needed.
- Decide if garden will have compost, native plants, mulch, rain barrel etc.
- Schedule of plan on who is to build the garden, what is planted, who is responsible for maintenance.
- Share pictures and videos on social media sites to get more involvement, spread the word!
- Continuously update plans to make any changes needed.



IV. New Garden Site Creation Interviews

Three neighborhoods being considered:

For the purpose of this work, new community garden locations were only considered for the Tampa area as access and resources for all of Hillsborough were limited. Using the USF Fall 2014 community garden map, three neighborhoods were identified that lack community gardens and would be viable candidates to successfully establish one. These three neighborhoods were the focus in identifying land for creating new community gardens. They are Ridgewood, Downtown Tampa, and East Tampa. Before looking at garden sites, interviews were done with the leadership of the three neighborhoods to discern if residential interest and effort were present.

New Garden Creation Interviews Report

Downtown Tampa:

Contact:

Karen Kress: Downtown Tampa Partnership AICP- Director of Transportation and Planning

1. Would the Downtown Tampa partnership be willing to help with the groundwork to start a community garden?
"We have looked into a community garden a few times but have come up short."
2. Is there any residential interest in a community garden in the Downtown Tampa area?
"There is a garden in Tampa Heights and one being planned for Encore so the consensus was that was enough to cover limited demand."
3. Where is the garden being built in Encore?
"I can't remember. The project is being planned by the Housing Authority."

Ridgewood:

Contact:

Stacy Warder: President of Ridgewood Park Crime Prevention and Civic Association Inc.

1. Would a community garden be of residential interest in the Ridgewood area?

"This is a good question. Most everyone in our neighborhood likes the idea of a community garden, they just don't want to do the work. We only have about 400 residents, versus say Tampa Heights that has thousands, so getting enough people to volunteer would be a challenge."

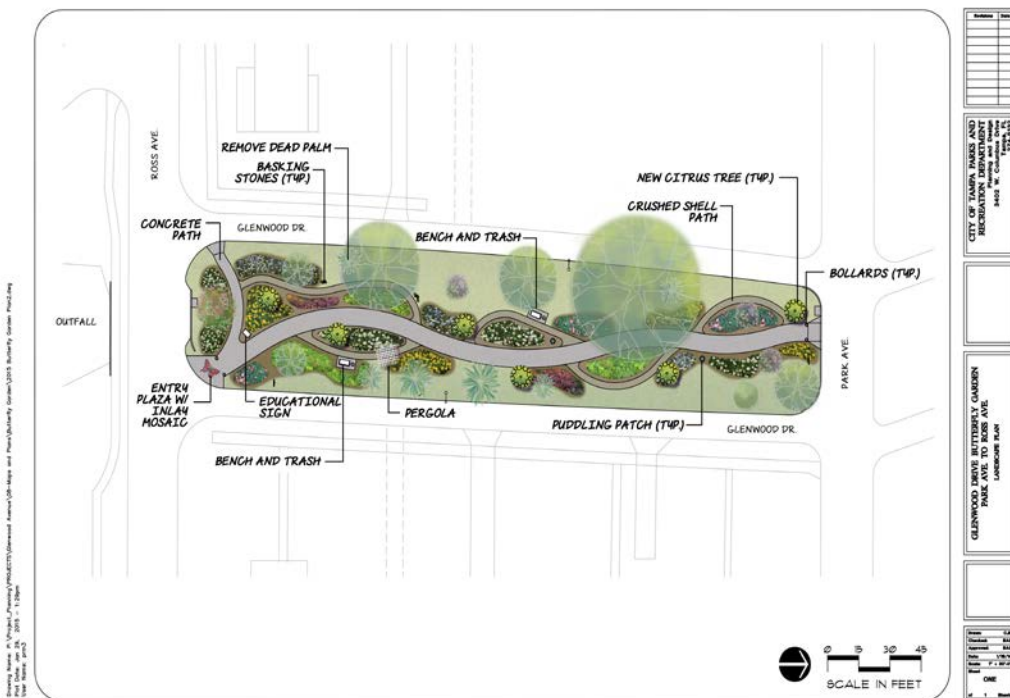
- Lena Young is passionate about building a community garden in the area, and mentioned that you would know of any available green space in the community.

"I'm not ruling it out, but The City did plant 3 fruit trees in one of our right of ways, and we are getting a butterfly garden with more fruit trees and herbs. The City is paying for the irrigation. It's been in the planning stage for a year and they are working on getting the funding lined up."

- The MPO is working on a map of the community gardens in Hillsborough and Tampa. Would you mind giving a location on where the butterfly garden would be?

"It is planned for the block of Glenwood Dr. between Ross Ave. and Park Ave. in our linear park, which is really a right of way."

Ridgewood Planned Butterfly Garden:



East Tampa:

Contact:

Samuel Mobley Sr: President of Eastern Heights Neighborhood Association and Crime Watch

1. I and my colleagues, Michelle Ogilvie, Lena Young, and Catherine Wallace would like to come to the August 20th civic association meeting to talk about community gardens and the possibility of getting one established in your community. Would this be of residential interest?

"Thank you so much for wanting to speak on Community Gardening at our August 20th general meeting. We are more than glad to accept your offer. We will inquire about how many people might be interested at our July general meeting. We will design a flyer to pass out in the neighborhood, and also to put in it the newspaper and also on our National Facebook Address Page."

2. Do you know of any available space in your community that would be willing to share some space for a community garden?

"There is one church in our community that has a community garden at this time, however others may be interested. At this time, I believe that most of our community is interested in container gardens because there are either seniors or young families that want to take this project. I personally believe community gardening is a worthwhile project."

3. What church has the garden and would they want to encourage the community to join them?

"Mt. Olive Baptist Church on 40th street has a garden, but I am not sure if it is church- owned and just for members or not. We will make sure that they get a flyer and also one of their members might be at the meeting."

4. By container gardening, do you mean a community garden, for example, on the city property?

"I was thinking on the line of gardens on land where the person lives, however a small community garden may be of interest to others in the community. Perhaps we can be told where land is available and get info on how to go about starting a community garden. Thank you for your interest in Eastern Heights."

V. Eastern Heights Community Garden Survey

1. Previously, has there been any discussion about community gardens in your neighborhood?

YES

NO

2. If yes, please provide a brief summary of the discussion.

3. Are there any existing community gardens in your neighborhood? If yes, please provide name or location.

4. Would a community garden be successful and utilized in your community?

YES

NO

5. If no, please explain why not.

6. If a community garden was established would you be interested in committing time to manage a plot?

YES

NO

7. Does anyone in the community have previous community garden experience or would be willing to become a leader in helping to establish the community garden?

8. Please circle all that apply: Which type(s) of community gardens would you prefer?

- One neighborhood community gardens
- Children's garden
- Table Top garden (individual small garden boxes)
- Individual home community gardens
- Intergenerational garden
- Butterfly garden

9. Do you or anyone in the community have any connections to any garden material suppliers or sponsors?

10. Do you know of any available space in your community for a garden? If yes, please list the address or contact of the available space.

Please include any additional thoughts or comments that you might have about community gardens in your neighborhood:

VI. East Tampa Field Visit: Potential Garden Sites

The above interviews show that East Tampa has a community willing to commit to the building and maintain of a community garden. A field visit was conducted on July 8th, 2015 to survey existing conditions that could support a new garden and meet the criteria previously outlined for a successful garden. The locations listed below were chosen using the Hillsborough County Atlas, Property Appraiser, Google Maps, and recommendations from the local area.

Location 1- 22nd Street Area greenspace behind 2607 East Doctor Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33610

Picture 1- looking North



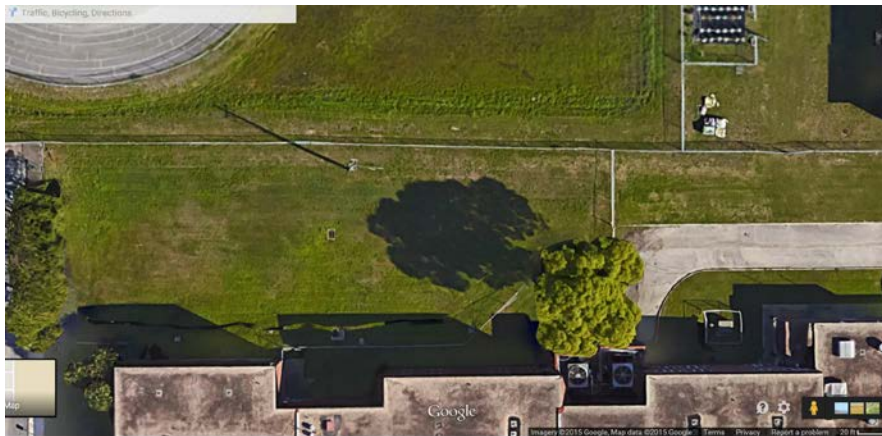
Picture 2- Looking South



DISCUSSION: Field visit review confirmed that the site provides too much sun for a successful garden site. The site also lacks adequate protection or security.

Location 2- Young Middle and Lockhart Elementary

Picture 1: Lockhart Elementary- Aerial view of empty partial shaded area behind school



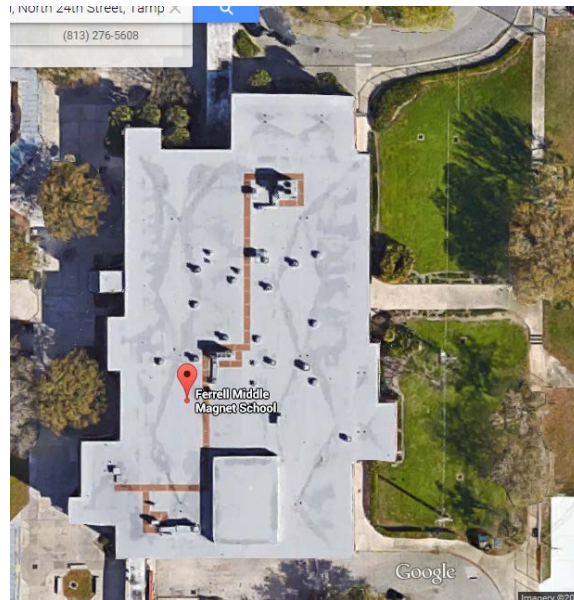
Picture 3: Street View #1 of Above area



DISCUSSION: Field visit confirmed that side is inaccessible due to school fencing. The school board will have to allow the public access to the property. Also, existing drainage patterns may indicate flooding potential.

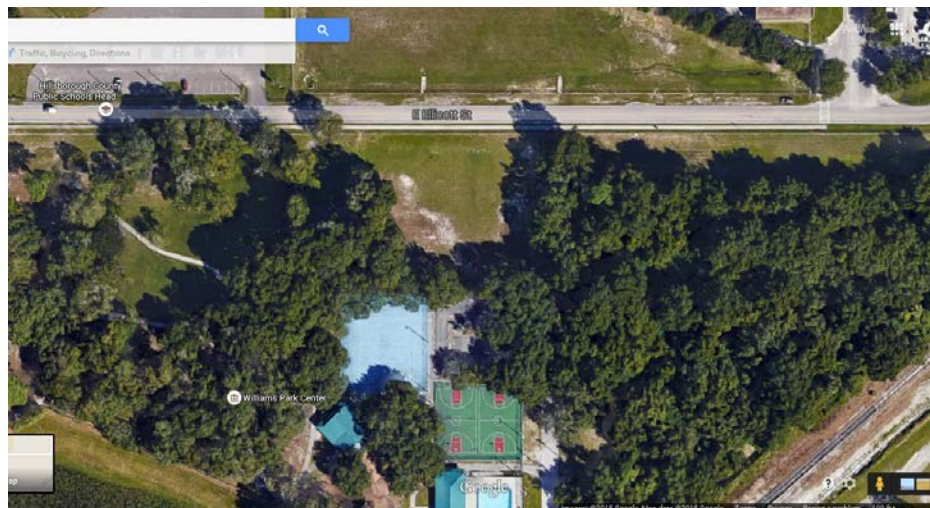
Location 3- Ferrell Middle

Picture 1: Two small empty areas behind school



DISCUSSION: Field Visit confirmed that the two areas in the back of Ferrell Middle are inaccessible due to fencing on all sides. I was unable to view property due to fencing. Lack of public access to the site makes it unsuitable for a community garden.

Location 4- 4362 E OSBORNE & 43RD ST AV, TAMPA



Street Views



DISCUSSION: Land shown above in pictures is behind William Park Center and owned by the City of Tampa. Field visit conformed that site has areas of both semi-shaded and full sun. The site is fenced but has an opening that allows for easy public access. Site also has available parking space on the side. Site looks to be a great location if the city will allow a garden to be built on public land.

Location 5- Open land at 1802 E 25th Ave



Street Views



DISCUSSION:

Field visit showed that the site is nicely shaded with enough sun. Sites has walkways but no fence. Site has big runoff drain in the middle and also looks to be a reclamation pond.



VII. Tampa Public Land Research

What is needed for permission to build a community garden on public land?

- Community gardens are listed Under Sec. 27-127. - Classes of special use permits; agent or body responsible for each general procedure.
- *Contents of application for special use.* The application for a special use shall be submitted on forms provided by the zoning administrator. The application for a special use shall include at a minimum:
 - a. Short-term S-1 special use permits (alcohol beverage sales — temporary and vendor other than annual vendor) and S-1 permits for community gardens.
 - b. A detailed boundary description of the area receiving the special use permit, and a graphic (sketch) that depicts the boundaries. The graphic must delineate "North," identify street names, and identify any structures on-site with dimensions. For alcohol beverage sales - temporary applications, the boundaries are the area where alcoholic beverages may be consumed ("Consumption Area"), and the graphic must also clearly delineate the areas where alcoholic beverages may lawfully be sold ("AB Sales Area") within the boundary.
 - c. The name and address of the property owner;
 - d. The name and address of the applicant, if different from the owner. The first application for a particular location will be considered the "master application." Any subsequent applications within the boundaries of the master application will be issued a "subpermit." The graphic for the master application must be amended to reflect the subpermit request.
- Have to submit a certificate of completion that the below City of Tampa conditions have been met. (Site plan, photos, etc). <http://www.tampagov.net/land-development/info/applications>

Specific Regulations Concerning Community Gardens in the City of Tampa

Regulations may change, please make sure to keep up to date.

Sec. 27-272.

1. Size Limitation. Within residential zoning districts, a community garden, private, may not be greater in size than two acres
2. Noise Limitations: No gardening activity may take place before sunrise or after sunset. The use of hand tools and domestic gardening tools is encouraged. The use of other machinery and other noise-emitting equipment is subject to the noise standards set forth in Chapter 14.
3. Maintenance Responsibilities: The property maintenance responsibilities shall be that of the property owner and any lessee of the property, including the community garden group/organizations. Standards for property maintenance are set forth in Chapter 19.
4. Agricultural chemical application. Application of fertilizer, pesticide, insecticide, herbicide and/or agricultural use chemicals shall be consistent with product label instructions and all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Integrated Pest Management and organic gardening is strongly encouraged.
5. Sale of harvested crops.
 - a) Within residential zoning districts, the produce and horticultural plants grown in a community garden are not intended to be offered for sale on or from the premises on a daily basis. Sales shall be allowed only when part of an event as stated in (6) below.

b) Within office and commercial districts, the produce and horticultural plants grown in a community garden may be sold from the premises on a daily basis.

6. Events. Events with sales of crops or goods on residentially zoned property will be limited to a maximum of four (4) events per year.

7. Permitted structures. Only the following structures shall be permitted in a community garden:

a) Greenhouses, hoophouses, storage sheds, shade/water collection canopies, and planting preparation houses.

i. Location. Buildings shall be setback from property lines consistent with the minimum principal building setbacks in the front yards and accessory building setbacks of the underlying zoning district for all other yards.

ii. Heights. No building or other structures shall be greater than fifteen (15') feet in height.

iii. Building Coverage. The combined area of all buildings, excluding greenhouses and hoophouses, shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the garden site.

b) Fences. Fencing shall be subject to the regulations of Sec. 27-133 and any applicable Overlay District, Historic District or design district regulation. Fencing parallel to the front property line shall adhere to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

c) Outdoor furniture and garden art.

d) Planting beds raised three (3) feet or more above grade, compost bins, and rain barrel systems shall maintain the following yard (setbacks) from property lines: 20' front yard, 3' side yard, and 3' rear yard.

e) Lot coverage (use and placement of impervious materials) shall not exceed 35% of the site area.

f) Signage: Each community garden will have a sign indicating the name of the Community Garden and contact information of the principal operator (garden coordinator), including; Name and current telephone number, web site, or email address. Signage shall comply with Chapter 20.5 standards.

8. Parking. Off-street parking is not required for gardens on lots with a residential, YC-, CD-, or CBD- zoning district. For gardens with an office or commercial zoning district, parking shall be provided at a rate of one (1) space per ten (10) individual plots, not to exceed fifteen (15) spaces. All parking shall comply with section 27-246.

9. Prohibited Activities. The following activities are prohibited within the Community Gardens:

1. Littering, dumping, alcohol consumption and other unlawful activities;
2. Amplified sound;
3. Pets are not allowed in the garden;
4. Storage or use of fireworks.

Specifically to build on a park:

- Need written approval from Parks and Recreation Tampa before any building can begin.
- Garden plans must be specific to park location and show that the above specified guidelines will be met.



VIII. Identify two mentor garden

A Field visit was conducted to identify mentor gardens in Hillsborough County. The purpose was to identify which gardens were successful enough to assist emerging gardens in their development and growth. For reference, a mentor garden is a garden that is well established, and has the capacity to assist emerging gardens in becoming successfully rooted.

Mentor Garden #1- Tampa Heights: 605 E. Frances Ave.



Mentor Garden #2- Temple Terrace : 405 S. Riverhills Dr.



IX. Identify one intermediate garden

A field visit was conducted to identify intermediate gardens in the Hillsborough County. The purpose of the field visit was to identify which gardens still needed support. For reference, an intermediate garden is a garden that needs only minor support for improvement, expansion, or other needed assistance.

Intermediate Garden: Old Seminole Heights : 6011 N. Highland Ave.



X. 2015 Garden Walk Report

A Garden Walk is a free self-guided tour of private and public gardens usually within a compacted area. Garden Walks are usually started to showcase or change the perception of a community. In Hillsborough County, there is interest in creating a Garden Walk for the upcoming Earth Day in April 2016. The information below is the groundwork research into Garden Walks.

National Garden Walks:

Chicago Garden Walk:

The Chicago Garden Walk is part of the Old Town Art Fair and showcases 60 gardens in the Old Town historic neighborhood. Open on June 13 and 14th, the Chicago Garden Walk showcases a wide variety of gardens, from free-form to structured. Almost every garden will provide a description and house history.



Buffalo Garden Walk:

The Buffalo Garden Walk was started in 1993 by Marvin Lunenfeld and Gail McCarthy after they visited a similar tour in Chicago. These two residents presented the idea of a garden walk to the Northwood/West Utica neighborhood and two years later had a basic structure planned out. The main goals of the Buffalo Garden Walk are to increase beautification and to promote community pride. The Buffalo Garden Walk started out with 29 gardens participating. By 2011, it had become a national event extending over 5 miles with over 380 gardens. All work for the two-day event in late July is done by local volunteers, with financing coming from local businesses.



Cleveland Garden Walk:

Founders Jan Kious and Bobbi Reichtell started Cleveland's Garden Walk after visiting Buffalo's. Cleveland Garden Walk was founded with the goals of changing how the community is perceived and of connecting people through gardening. Cleveland's Garden Walk has 200 gardens and spans five neighborhoods over a two-day period in mid-July. Cleveland also relies entirely on local volunteers and businesses to make the event possible.



Unique Characteristics of Buffalo and Cleveland:

- Cleveland has a greater variety, showcases urban farms, vineyards, and orchards.
- Buffalo raises enough money to give out \$30,000 to help set up new community gardens.
- Buffalo has been able to extend beyond a yearly garden walk and now conducts daily garden tours.
- Cleveland has designed its own logo to place at each participating garden to make it easier to locate.

Smaller Garden Walks:

Lancaster, NY Garden Walk:

Started over 10 years ago, the Lancaster Garden Walk features over 50 public and private gardens. They feature culturally influenced gardens such as the Japanese koi pond gardens. The 11th annual garden walk will commence on July 19th and 20th with a night garden showing on the 18th.



Greenville, SC Garden Tour:

Started by the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs along the historic Augusta road, this tour features six private gardens and two public gardens along an old historic Cherokee road. It does charge a one-day fee of \$20.



Characteristics of successful garden walks:

- Private and public gardens with adequate irrigation.
- Most successful garden walks are the ones in which multiple communities participate together. This leads to a greater supply of resources, outreach, labor, etc.
- Must have multiple sponsors and neighborhood grants as funding for event. Need local partnerships to be sustainable funding-wise. Can also use local businesses for marketing and resources.
- Committees and subcommittees: marketing, outreach, logistics (parking, restrooms). All are made up of community leaders and local residents.
- Specific positions given to qualified volunteers, such as the garden finders who go out to every garden and review the applicant gardens.
- Need a network of volunteers. This is vital to ensuring that every little detail gets accomplished.
- Regularly scheduled community meetings so that every voice is heard.
- There are online garden applications and site visits from garden finders. Gardens have to be within a three-mile radius of the walking path.
- Large variety of garden types (Japanese, Russian, English etc.) and other outdoor environments such as urban farms.
- Complete pedestrian-safe trail (Similar to Green Artery). The successful garden walks are located on or near a trail or in a historic area with little traffic. Extremely detailed maps are provided of trail system.
- Every neighborhood has a designated house that serves as headquarters and sells refreshments and provides restrooms.
- Garden guide or expert gardener at every neighborhood.



xi. Tampa's Outlook

Tampa's Objective:

- To establish a garden walk composed of community gardens alongside the Green Artery project by next Earth Day.
- To enhance community engagement.

Current Tampa garden celebrations:

Earthly Paradise Garden Tour:

The Earthly Paradise Garden Tour features six private gardens/outdoor spaces along South Tampa on April 13th. This garden tour mainly features structured design and placement of a private home garden.

- No community garden walk/tour exists for Tampa.

Strengths:

- Backing of large organizations with essential resources such as the Tampa Garden Club.
- Large number of community gardens.
- Have some survey work done that indicates which areas are ready to begin building new community gardens.
- Downtown Tampa area could greatly benefit from the lift in sales from the tourists. This makes it easier to get sponsors and financial backers from local businesses and restaurants.
- Planning commission is implementing a green artery system that would be a safe pedestrian path to connect the gardens to.

Challenges:

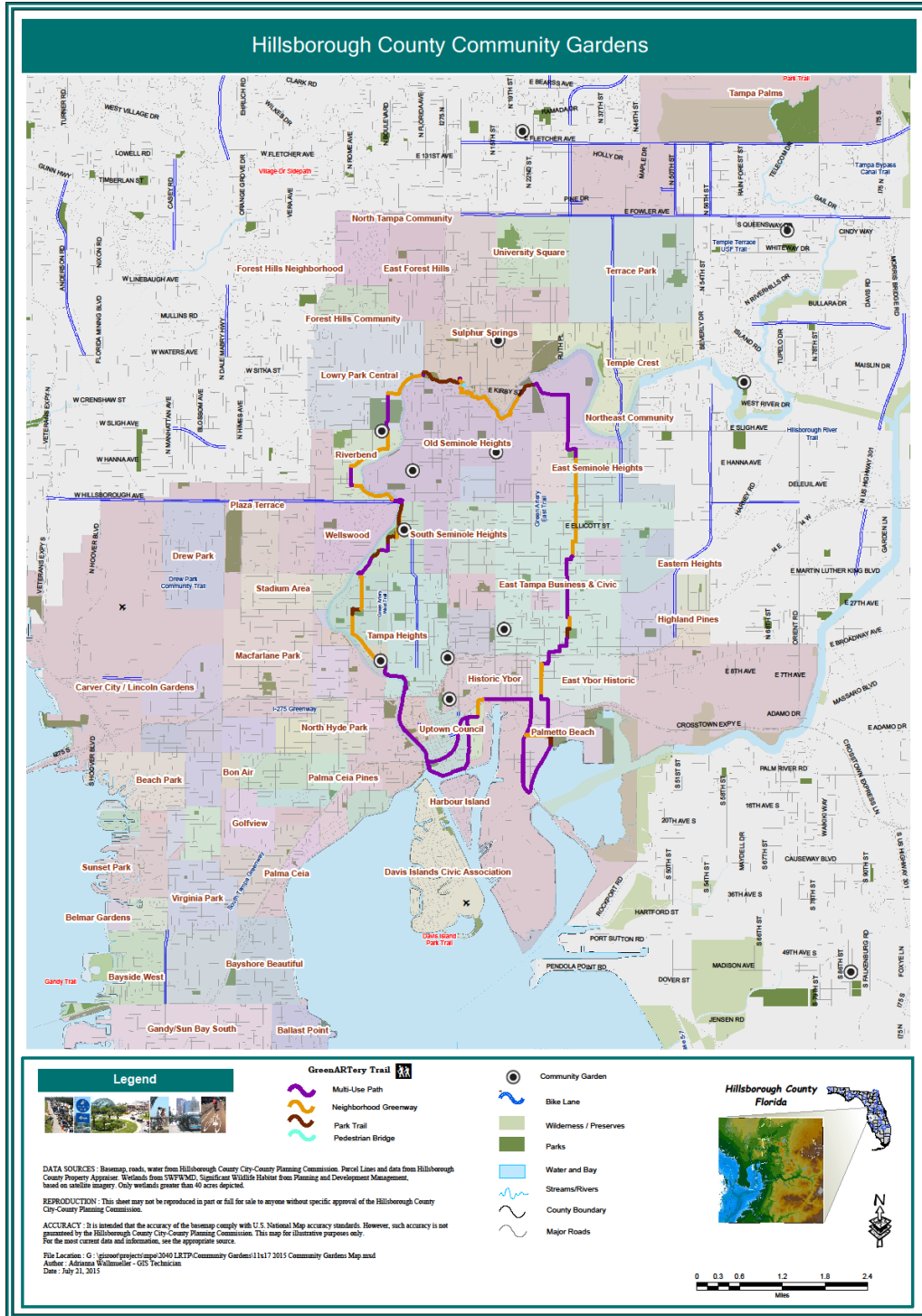
- No completed existing trail or area with limited traffic to build/connect community gardens along for a garden walk.
- All existing community gardens are scattered in different neighborhoods. Hard to have a compact walk with great distances between every garden.
- Not all communities in the Tampa area have effective communication. Might need specific governance from a city department to pull residents together.
- Little outreach and marketing among communities to gauge interest. Not sure how residents feel or would respond to a garden walk.
- No base of local support to move forward.
- Acquiring enough public land for new community gardens is challenging.

XII. New Hillsborough County Garden Locations

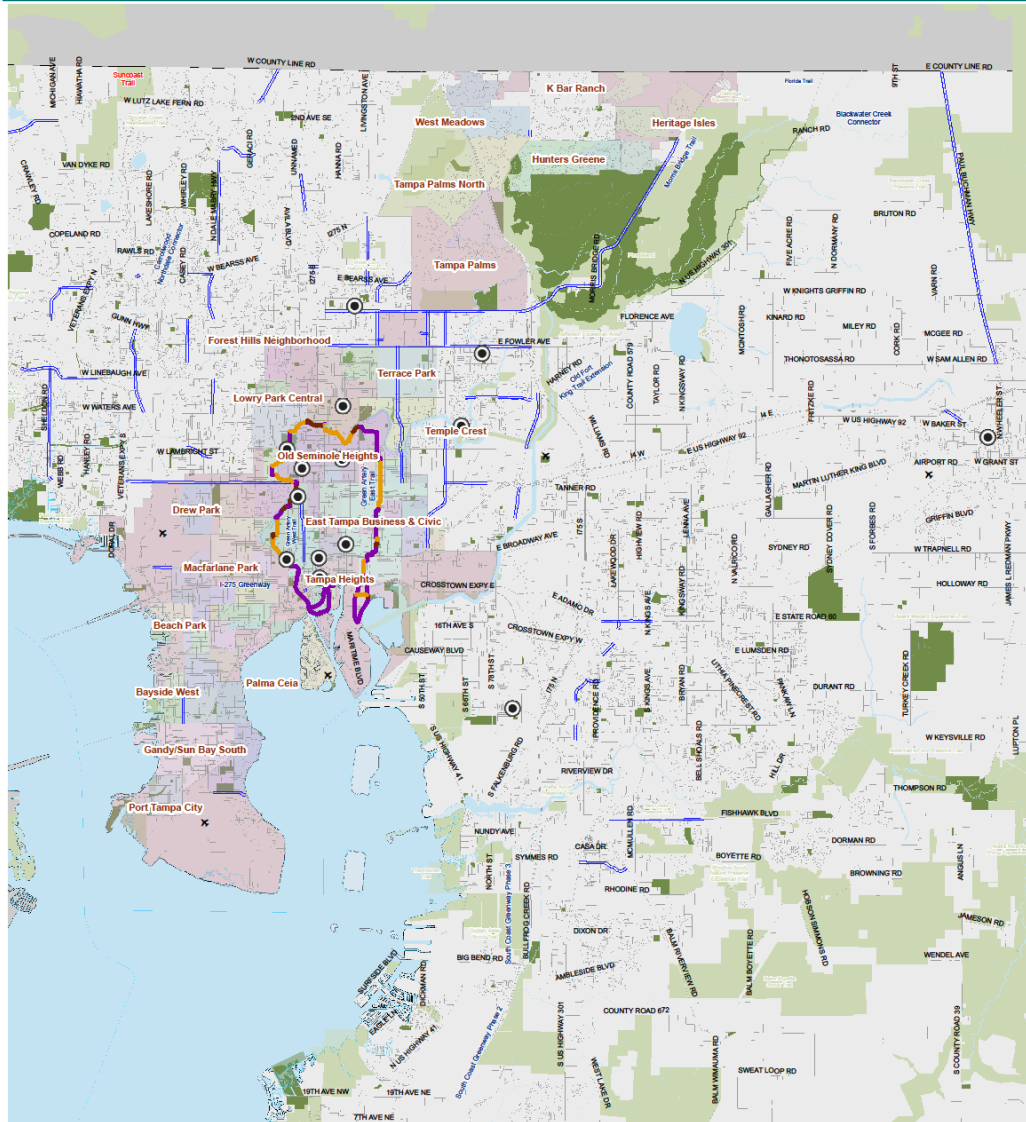
- **Current Community Gardens**
- **Planned Community Gardens**

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Old Seminole Heights | 6011 N. Highland Ave. | |
| 2. Old Seminole Heights | 6503 N. 15 th St. | |
| 3. Seminole Heights | 407 W. Violet St. | |
| 4. Tampa Heights | 605 E. Frances Ave. | |
| 5. Ybor | 2924 Ybor St. | |
| 6. Ridgewood | 2204 N. Glenwood Dr, 33602 | Butterfly Garden |
| 7. Plant City | 302 N Carey St. | |
| 8. Riverbend | 918 Sligh Ave. | |
| 9. Temple Terrace | 405 S. Riverhills Dr. | |
| 10. Greco | 6925 E. Fowler Ave. | |
| 11. University Area | 13704 N. 20 th St., 33613 | |
| 12. Progressive Village | 8650 Birch Ave., 33619 | |
| 13. Sulphur Springs | 1524 E. Yukon St., Tampa | |
| 14. Encore | 1210 Ray Charles Blvd, 33602 | |

XI. Hillsborough County Community Gardens Maps



Hillsborough County Community Gardens



Legend

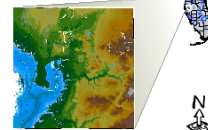


GreenARTery Trail

- Multi-Use Path
- Neighborhood Greenway
- Park Trail
- Pedestrian Bridge

- Community Garden
- Bike Lane
- Wilderness / Preserves
- Parks
- Water and Bay
- Streams/Rivers
- County Boundary
- Major Roads

Hillsborough County Florida



DATA SOURCES: Base map, roads, water from Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission. Parcel Lines and data from Hillsborough County Property Appraiser. Wetlands from SWFWMD, Significant Wildlife Habitat from Planning and Development Management. based on satellite imagery. Only wetlands greater than 10 acres depicted.

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ACCURACY: It is intended that the accuracy of the base map comply with U.S. National Map accuracy standards. However, such accuracy is not guaranteed by the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission. This map for illustrative purposes only.

File Location: G:\gis\proj\map\2040 LEIP Community Gardens\11417 2015 Community Gardens Map.mxd
 Author: Adriana Williams - GIS Technician
 Date: July 31, 2015



XIII. Concluding Remarks/Recommendations:

The purpose of the Green Artery Neighborhoods Community Garden Initiative was to promote community gardening and to plant the seeds, literally and figuratively, of future community gardens in Tampa and Hillsborough County. In my short time at the Planning Commission, I did my best to implement this vision. There were a few challenges involving residential involvement and the Parks and Recreation Department. Residential interest in the focus neighborhoods was low, but we did establish the groundwork for a new community garden in the Eastern Heights Neighborhood. Overall, there was great success and progress made in establishing new community gardens and starting the groundwork for the 2016 Gardenwalk. This work will continue with the next USF class and hopefully will meet the goals of the Initiative.

Recommendations:

- Have the next USF class help the Eastern Heights community with navigating the red tape needed to get a community garden started.
- Regularly keep in contact with the Eastern Heights community and have representatives from the mentor gardens lend a helping hand in getting that new community garden established.
- Utilize the survey data from Eastern Heights in planning and designing the new community garden.
- Based on the new map showcasing community gardens, have the next USF class locate areas lacking community gardens and try to establish new community gardens.
- Constantly seek out viable new community garden locations in the area and update the map accordingly.
- If the support is there at the initial Garden walk meeting, establish the infrastructure needed to ensure that the Garden walk occurs (regular meetings, list of volunteers, organizational structure).
- Sponsor a community garden day in Tampa. A public outreach event would be great for getting information out there about community gardens, possibly inspire new gardens, and will hopefully gather support for a future Gardenwalk.



