Growing a resilient food system in the River Road neighborhood
Food Security:
- Long Term Issues - preparedness in a changing world, resilience at times of disaster, sustainable agricultural methods
- Short Term Issues - feeding the under nourished and homeless, healthy diets for children and seniors, availability

Community Food System:
- Long Term - access to food in neighborhood during emergency, resilience through community
- Short Term - availability of fresh food for seniors, hands-on food experience for children, building community
What is a food system?

C: Common Points in RRPC Zone

- 1) plantations
  - neighborhood gardens
  - permaculture landscaping / food forests
- 2) hostels
  - Dharmalaya dorm / Lotus House
  - Vistara Village
- 3) cottage industries
  - Urban Garden Carts
  - appropriate tech products [eg, solar cookers, ovens, solar food dryers]
  - processed/baked/preserved food products
- 4) schools
  - Dharmalaya training programs
  - Urban Ecogardens workshops
  - PI PROUT Studies programs
- 5) dairy farm
  - proposed substitute project: soya/oat/nut production
- 6) medical units
  - substitute project: health education and he
What we have going for us

- Community vision (River and Garden District)
- Land with class 1 soil. Big lots and public land
- Many properties as active models
- Expertise and Design frameworks
- Innovative entrepreneurs
- Permaculture convergence
- Active young people

CHALLENGES:

- City/county annexation and codes - infill development push
- Organizing collective action among neighbors
Collaborative cultivation of public land

- Filbert Grove
Cooperative cultivation on private land

- Vistara - Donated to senior food program and fed a summer workforce
- Question Mark farm - Donated food to Occupy and Burrito Brigade
- Avant gardeners
Support for family gardens

- Jan’s house and numerous other family gardens
Education
What neighborhood garden projects do you know of?

- Avant Gardeners and other work parties/brigades
- Propagation fair March 28 - Whiteaker school
- Upstart Nursery, veg starts give-aways
- Community Supported WWOOFer program
- Beekeeping
- Neighborhood nurseries and garden consulting
- Education programs
Examples from other neighborhoods

- Friendly Fruit Tree Project and Common Ground Garden
- Last year City Fruit in Seattle gleaned **27,948 pounds** of unused fruit from residential properties and donated 22000 pounds to food banks
- Portland  [http://farmmyyard.org/](http://farmmyyard.org/)
POTENTIAL ENTERPRISE

CSA / farm stand - food distribution
Soil building micro enterprise
Compost cooperative
Light manufacture
  green houses, garden carts, solar food dehydrators
Seed and plant exchanges
Greenhouse starts
Food for restaurants
Food preservation
Bee keeping
Herbs and medicinals
POTENTIAL

River walk
and
Food Forests
What defines a food forest?

- An intentionally designed ecological system
- A large diversity of perennial species: trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground-covers.
- Multiple layers (3 or more) of vegetation from canopy to soil level.
- A strong emphasis on food production.
Native Species
Food or Density?
It isn’t either/or!

Vancouver, BC
New York City
This....

Could be
A community share garden in the 10 acre lot behind Dairy Mart

Monroe, Oregon
Community Share Garden
Our neighborhood is a destination for people interested in how to create sustainable, livable community.

Neighbors USA 2014 conference
Short and long term benefits to individuals, families, community, Eugene

- Impact of gardens on home economy and personal health
- Impact of social capital (community) on quality of life
- Impact on food security for vulnerable populations
- Regional economic benefits of localization
- Neighborhood showcase of permaculture design and new visions
- Eugene on map for innovation
- Creation of neighborhood light manufacturing and employment
- Resilience in time of climate change
NEXT STEPS

- Feedback Cards
- Follow up meeting on Monday, March 23. 7 pm Rec Center. 1400 Lake Drive
- Write grant for Eugene Community program May 15 deadline
- 2015 shovel ready projects for Permaculture Convergence
- Volunteering with the Permaculture Convergence at the Rec Center in August
- Powerpoint presentation will be on River Road Community Organization Website.
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Avant Gardeners:  https://www.facebook.com/groups/eugeneavantgardeners/
Permaculture Convergence:  Jan Spencer  http://www.northwestpermaculture.org/
School Garden Project  http://schoolgardenproject.org/
Green Horn Lane:  https://www.facebook.com/groups/104682389664525/

For inspiration:

- Impact of gardens on home economy and personal health
- Impact of social capital (community) on quality of life
  http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3661291/
- Impact of school garden projects
  http://www.kidsgardening.org/node/13152
- Delicious Development: The Powerful Role of Local Food in Job Creation”
- Monroe sharing garden
  http://thesharinggardens.blogspot.com/
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIIDDvj4RxYM
- Yes Magazine
  http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/cities-are-now
- Zoning and legal support
  http://www.localfoodrights.com/
  http://communityrightslanecounty.org/
- Seattle