GROUNDWORK

CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

GROUNDWORK Somerville

South Street Farm
CPA Public Meeting

1/27/2016

About Groundwork Somerville

Our Community: Facts and Figures

- Most densely populated municipality in New England
  - 80,000 people in 4.1 sq. miles
  - Only 5.3% is green space – 2.3 acres per 1,000 people
    - Compare to 4.9 acres in Cambridge and 8.3 in Boston
- Food Security
  - 50% of students K-8 are overweight or obese
    - compared to 31% nationally
  - 67% qualify for reduced/free lunch

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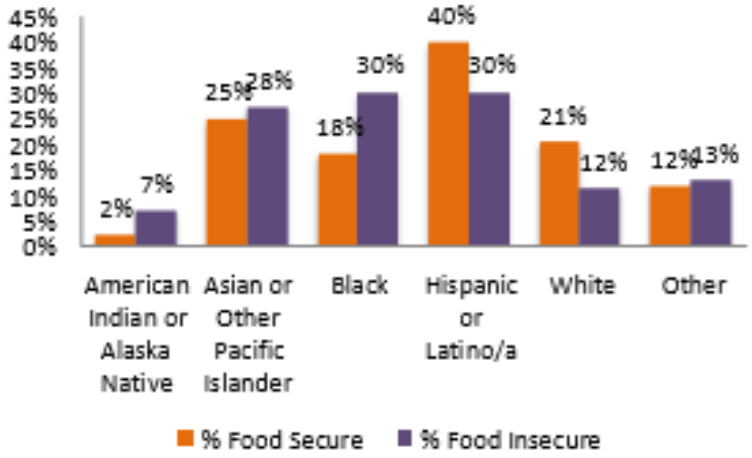
Our Community: Facts and Figures

Race Matters



Out of the surveyed youth, **black** and **American Indian/ Alaska Native** families are the **most impacted** by **food insecurity**.

Places to Get Food

There is opportunity to increase both the **use** and the **knowledge** of healthy and affordable food options for youth in Somerville.

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Our Mission & Goals

- **Mission**: improve the physical environment through the development of community-based partnerships which empower people to promote environmental, economic and social justice.
- **Three-pronged approach**
  - Food and Farms
  - Youth Leadership
  - Sustainable Environment
  - Racial Justice
- **Ultimate goal**: a cleaner, greener, healthier, more equitable citv

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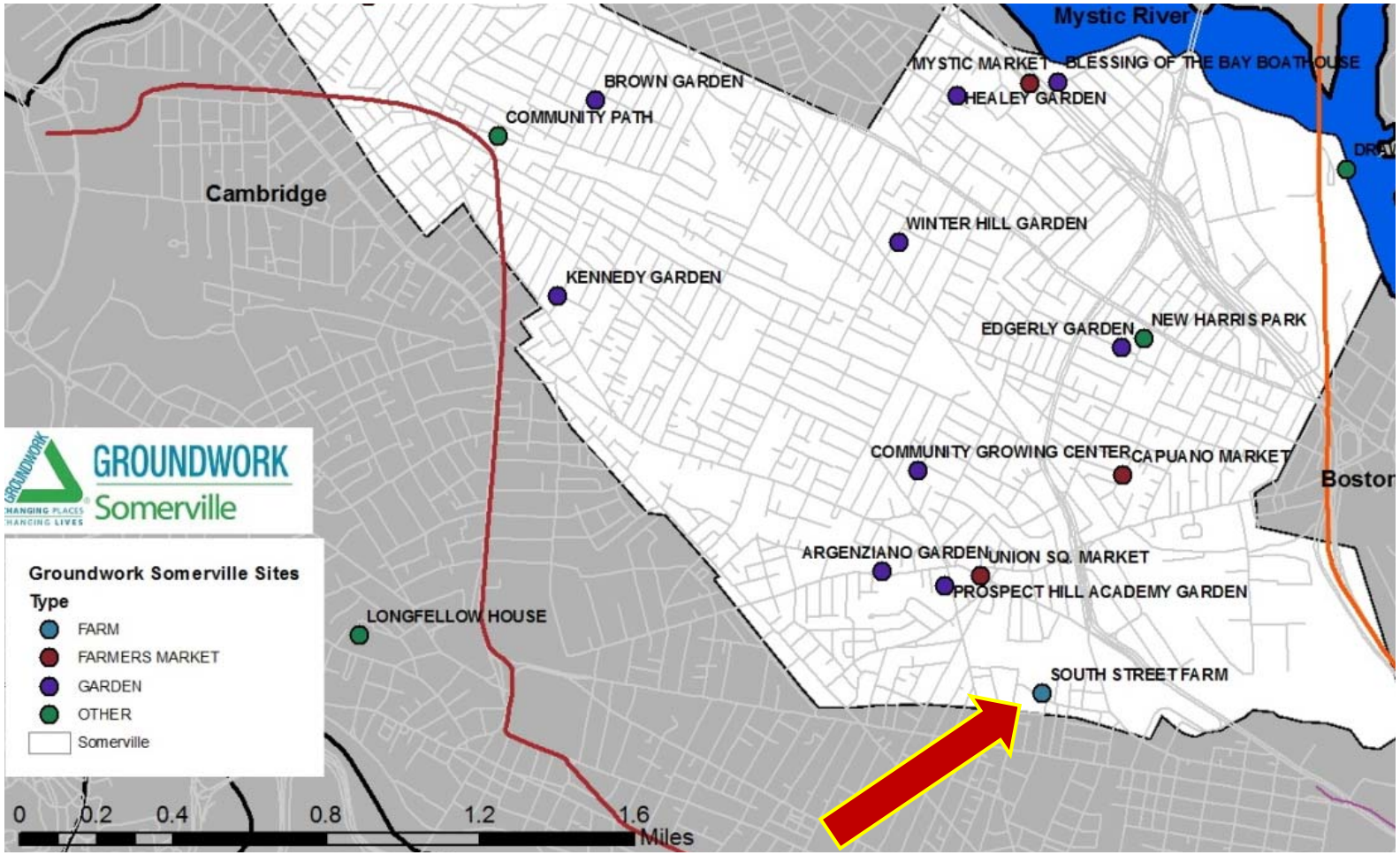
Our Proposal

Improvements and additions to South Street Farm to increase public access and food production



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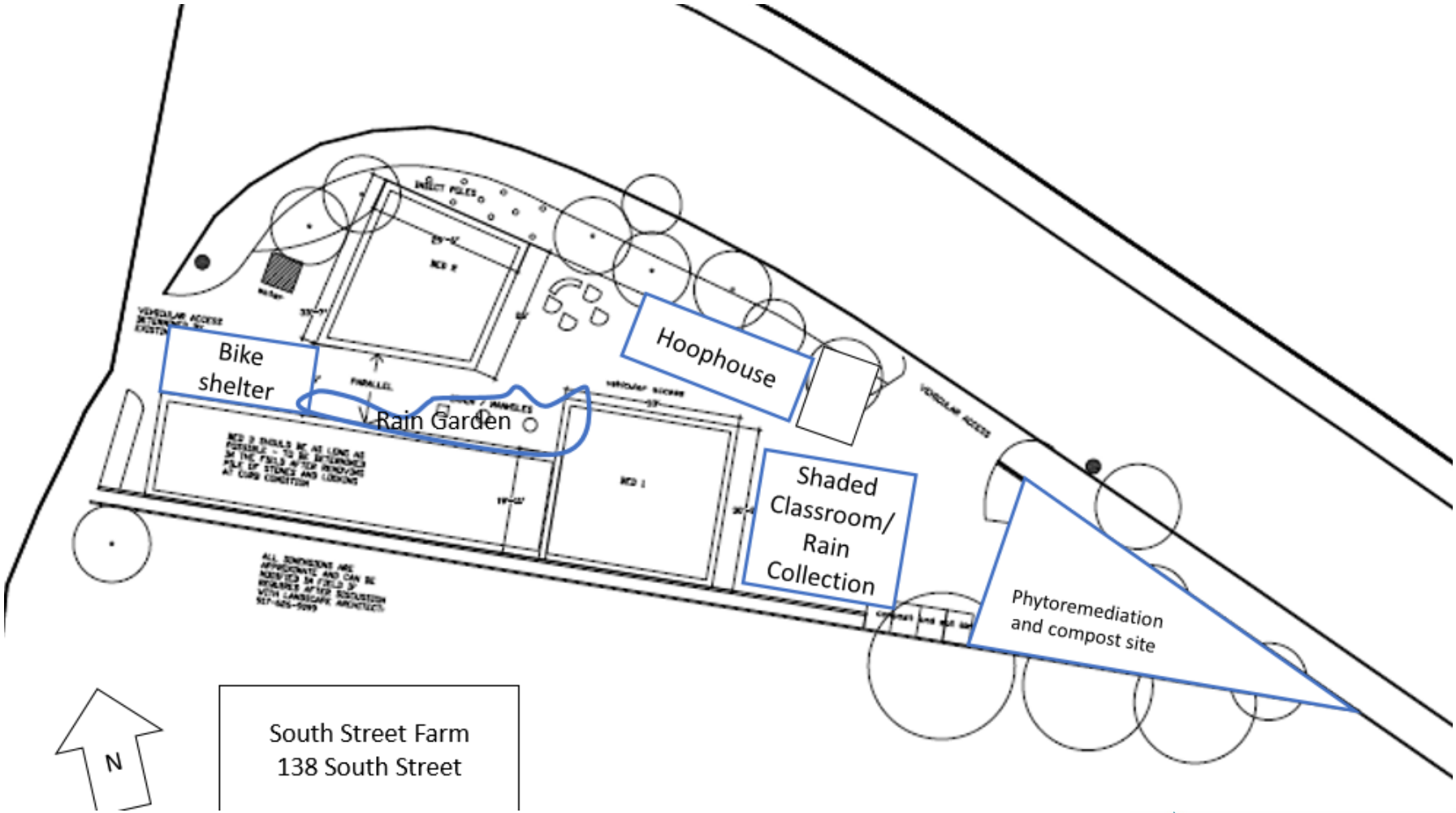
Site Concept



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Shade Structure/Trellising

Simple covered shade space for 10-30 people to gather, doubling as rain collection and vertical growing area

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Wash Station

Long counter-like structure with 2 wash basins, hook up to hose, screen-top drying area; drain collects wash water for reuse as irrigation on the farm

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Bicycle Parking/Rain Water Collection

Covered on-site bicycle parking fosters alternative transportation to the site, and is the preferred method of most of our visitors and volunteers in the past. The covered structure adds additional surface to collect rain-water, and allows us to create a sustainable pump system to reduce reliance on public water.

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Secure Compost, Stormwater Management, Remediation Modeling

Neat, secure compost reduces waste and reliance on DPW, builds soil mass that inputs back into the farm, new rain gardens reduces runoff to storm drains outside of growing fields, and phytoremediation models best practices, while improving soil in eastern corner.

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Greenhouse/Hoophouse

To extend growing season, improve efficiency of seed starting and add more rain collection surface. Greenhouse is partially funded at this time with additional support pending.

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Timeline

- January-March 2016 – finalize layout, design and renderings for the site.
- March 2016 – Notification from Agnes Lindsay Trust
- March-April 2016 – Source and purchase materials for greenhouse, transport to site in preparation for building, construct greenhouse to allow us to start plant seedlings.
- May 2016 –Construct rainwater harvesting surfaces, bike parking and shade structure. Begin planting in eastern section including phytoremediation and soil building. Focus outreach in Union Square and nearby neighborhoods to encourage public use of the new features for organization/company meetings, passive recreation, community gatherings, and meals; Notification of Metro North Regional Employment Board youth funding.
- June 2016 – Install green infrastructure/rain garden as part of the June Cleaning & Greening event.
- July-August 2016 – Finish construction with summer Green Team, including all painting and unfinished sections from the spring. Erect interpretive signage and visitor kiosk onsite.

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Staging/building for schools; potlucks, community meals and events

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Urban Ag Training, Education, Teambuilding, Volunteering

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Passive and casual visits, brings people into the Boynton Yards neighborhood

Urban Ag Ambassadors train and work on the Farm

Neighbors and passersby use the open space for passive recreation

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Incredible impact

Food and Community:

- 1,500 pounds of food
- 40 jobs each year
- 14 Public Events in 2015
- 356 Volunteers and Visitors in 2015
- Weekly "casual" users

With improvements:

- 2,500 pounds of food
- 50 jobs each year
- 22 Public Events in 2016
- 750 Volunteers and Visitors in 2016

Other Users:

- Taza Chocolate, Gentle Giant, neighbors, passersby, Green City Growers, Land's Sake, National Park Service, SPS, Education First, Food Day, Urban Ag Ambassadors

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Budget

Groundwork Somerville - South Street Farm CPA Budget				
Item	**Explanation**	**CPA Cost**	**Other Cost**	**Source**
Project Manager (Jess Bloomer)	Groundwork Program Manager time on coordination, design and implementaton (18 hrs/week x 26 weeks x $30/hr, March-August)	$ 9,500.00	$ 4,540.00	Merck Family Fund
Designer/Contractor (Clay Larsen)	January-April Design/Rendering Work (50 hours total x $34/hr)	$ 1,700.00	$ -	-
Designer/Contractor (Clay Larsen)	March-August Construction oversight, building, training and implementation, including erecting shade structures, rain garden layout and planting ($34/hr x 20 hrs/week x 26 weeks)	$ 17,680.00	$ -	-
AmeriCorps Members - project crew (Devin Powers, Sarah Lindsay)	Project Assistance throughout (50% of work time for half a year - 1/4 of $30,000)	-	$ 7,500.00	In-kind from Department of the Interior, Mount Grace Land Trust
Spring Green Team	Design and initial project construction March-June 2016, including rain garden (5 youth x $11/hr x 35 hrs work)	$ -	$ 1,925.00	Metro North Regional Employment Board
Summer Green Team	Project Construction July-August (10 youth x $11/hr x 60 hours work)	$ -	$ 6,600.00	Metro North Regional Employment Board
Hoophouse	Materials and construction for an 8 ft. x 24 ft. season extending hoophouse	$ 2,000.00	$ 9,500.00	Somerville Health Foundation; Agnes Lindsay Trust, Merck Fmaily Foundation
Rain Garden	Materials including soil, plantings, weed cloth,	$ 4,500.00	$ -	
Shade Structure	Lumber, shade sail material, all fittings and hardware for a shade structure that can be retracted to allow more sunlight on growing areas. Tables, chairs, benches	$ 6,430.00	$ 1,500.00	In-Kind contributions

Wash Station	Stainless steel sink, lumber and fittings. In-kind design by Nuvu Class	$ 1,138.00	$ 600.00	Nuvu class in kind design
Bicycle Parking	2 double-decker bicycle racks ($893 each), locks ($50 x 16)	$ 2,586.00	$ -	
Bicycle shelter	lumber and corrrugated, transluscent roofing material for shelter structure, plus fittings and hardware	$ 4,200.00		
Phytoremediation Project	Compost, soil, pumpkin seeds, lasagna layer soil building materials	$ 800.00	$ -	
Rainwater Harvesting	Rain barrels ($60 x 12), piping ($550) and stationary bike ($750) for carbon neutral pumping system	$ 1,250.00	$ 750.00	Plan for donated bicycle
Composting	Lumber and hardware for secure, pest-proof composting	$ 750.00	$ -	
Visitor Kiosk	Roofed kiosk	$ 450.00		
Materials overage	10% overage for materials	$ 2,365.40	$ -	
Interpretive Signage	Printing metal, all-weather interpretive signage	$ 600.00	$ -	-
Grant Administration (Chris Mancini)	10% of project total for reporting and administrative management of project and grant	$ 4,210.72	$ 4,210.72	Merck Family Fund
TOTALS		**$ 60,160.12**	**$ 37,125.72**	**$ 97,285.84**

Questions?

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Rainwater Shed

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