Somerville Community Growing Center Renovation and Restoration

Community Preservation Act Funding Application

Friends of the Community Growing Center 12/5/2016

Table of Contents

I GEN	NERAL	3
1.1	Application Cover Page	
1.2	Submission Requirement Checklist	
1.3	Narratives	
1.4	Project Timeline	
1.5	Grant and Trust Funds Disclosure Form	
2. FIN	ANCIAL	21
2.1	Budget Summary	
2.2	Itemized Budget	
2.3	Detailed Cost Estimate	
3 VISU	JAL	25
3.1	Property Map	
3.2	Project Site Photos	••
4 OW	'nership/operation (non-city)	28
4 . I	501(c)(3) certification	••
5 CO	MMUNITY SUPPORT	29
5.1	Letters	27
6 PLA	NS AND REPORTS	37
6.1	Site assessment and plans from Terra Cura Inc	

I GENERAL

- I.I Application Cover Page
- I.2 Submission Requirement Checklist
- 1.3 Narratives
- I.4 Project Timeline
- 1.5 Grant and Trust Funds Disclosure Form





CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY17 FUNDING CYCLE

APPLICATION COVER PAGE

1. Project Information							
PROJECT NAME: _Somerville Community Growing Center Renovation and Restoration							
PROJECT LOCATION	on: <u>Vinal A</u>	Ave					
LEGAL PROPERTY	OWNER OF	RECORD: City	of Somerville				
ONE SENTENCE D	ESCRIPTION	OF PROJECT: Th	is project pro	vides critical ι	updates to infrastructur	e increasing accessibility,	
safety and edu	ucational a	ind cultural pr	ogramming vi	brancy.			
Please indicate (X) all categ	ories that apply	to this project	(minimum of c	one) in the chart.		
	Open	Recreational	Historic	Community			
	Space	Land	Resources	Housing (blended projects only)	ESTIMATED START DATE:	June 2017	
Acquisition					ESTIMATED COMPLETION	DATE: Spring 2018	
Creation							
Preservation			0		CPA FUNDING REQUEST:	\$423,000	
Support							
Rehabilitation/ Restoration	х	Х	3		TOTAL BUDGET FOR PRO.	јест: \$458,500	
2. APPLICANT I			ids of the Cor	nmunity Grov	wing Center		
CO-APPLICATION	Name / Or	GANIZATION: <u>C</u>	ity of Somerv	ille			
CONTACT PERSON	N: <u>Lisa Bru</u>	ukilacchio					
Mailing Addres	s: <u>FCGC</u>	c/o SCATV, a	att. Erica Jones	s, 90 Union So	quare, Somerville, MA 0	2143	
PHONE: 781-953-4826 EMAIL: <u>lisa.bruk@gmail.com</u>							
3. SIGNATURES							
I (we) certify that all information provided in this entire submission is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and that no information which might reasonably affect funding has been excluded. I (we) authorize the Community Preservation Committee and/or the City of Somerville to obtain verification from any source provided.							
Name (printed) <u>Lisa Brukilacchio</u> Signature Signature Date <u>12/5/2016</u>							
Name (printed) _			Signat	ture		Date	





CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

FY17 FUNDING CYCLE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Please check (*X) each item included in your submission, which should include the applicable items in the order listed below.

C	
GENERAL Y	Application Cover Page (form provided) Submission Requirements Checklist (this form) Narratives (prompts provided) Project timeline: a project schedule showing all major milestones (i.e., study, design, environmental, permitting, construction, etc.), including receipt of other funding sources Grant and Trust Funds Disclosure Form (form provided)
FINANCIA	AL:
\ \ \ \	Budget Summary (form provided) Itemized budget of all project costs, including the proposed source for each cost At least two written quotes for project costs. If quotes cannot be secured, detailed cost estimates may be used if a thorough explanation of the estimates is included. Proof of secured funding (e.g., commitment letters or bank statements), if applicable
VISUAL:	
\checkmark	Map of the property location showing all features pertinent to the project, including current or future rapid transit stations
✓	Photos of the project site (not more than 4 views per site); include digital copies
OWNERS	HIP/OPERATION (NON-CITY):
	Documentation of site control or written consent of the property owner to undertake the project, if the owner is not the applicant
✓	If the City has signed on as a co-applicant for community projects proposed on City land.
	Certificates of Good Standing from the <u>City</u> and the <u>State</u> , if applicable
	501(c)(3) certification, if operating as a non-profit Purchase and sale agreement or copy of current recorded deed, if applicable
_	
COMMU	NITY SUPPORT (RECOMMENDED): Letters of support from residents, community groups, other City boards, commissions, or departments, or
Y	from City, state, or federal officials
PLANS AN	ND REPORTS (IF AVAILABLE; SUBMIT DIGITAL COPIES ONLY)
~	Renderings, site plans, engineering plans, design and bidding plans, specifications, and any MAAB variance
	requests Applicable reports (e.g., 21E, historic structure report, appraisals, survey plans, feasibility studies).

I.3 NARRATIVES

I.3.1 Project Description

I.Describe the project, including the project location and the property involved

This Renovation and Restoration project has been designed to implement the most important infrastructure of the Somerville Community Growing Center. These renovations are critical to increasing the park's accessibility and safety, providing a beautiful and fun environment for volunteer groups to manage this urban forest, garden and cultural center for decades to come. The elements that would be funded by CPA include (please refer to attached Visual Narrative for details):

- I) Demolition, Site Preparation
- 2) Grading
- 3) Added Utilities, New Pathways, Railing & Fence, Seating Platforms
- 4) Retaining walls
- 5) Storage
- 6) Composting Station and Annual Demonstration Planting Beds

The Growing Center is slightly over \(^3\)\(^8\)-acre, a City-owned urban park adjacent to Nunziato Park located on Vinal Avenue in proximity to Union Square, the Somerville High School and a diverse residential neighborhood.

Following a multi-year community process led by Terra Cura, a non-profit permaculture design firm, we have completed: site analysis, public visioning and design feedback sessions, schematic and design development, and multiple review sessions with the city and a Landscape Architect. The design phase culminated in the production of final design plans, performance specifications, preliminary pricing from prospective contractors that informed this proposal and the project budget.

2. Why is this project needed?

The Friends of the Community Growing Center (FCGC) have a license with the City to operate the site "to support urban agriculture, celebrate the arts, foster innovative use of urban open space for recreation and education, promote sustainable urban and environmental practices, facilitate positive models of play for young children, promote healthy eating and physical activity, provide common gathering space for celebrations and renewal, and promote citizen engagement."

Currently, the physical space, which was designed in 1993-94 on a "10-year plan", needs renovation and restoration to fulfill its potential as a gem in Somerville. In keeping with the above articulated multi-purpose roles the Growing Center fills in Somerville, there are numerous reasons this project is needed and that are critical at this time in the site's history and evolution.

- 1. To increase the accessibility and safety for the public;
 - a. The proposed infrastructure renovations will restore ADA accessible pathways and create additional accessible platforms for programming use within the park, allowing improved safety and accessibility to all for education, events, and general use.
 - b. These infrastructure renovations within the Growing Center could eventually allow for the park to be open to the public additional hours, with the long term goal of at least dawn to dusk. The removal of the pond (which required by permit that there be a

locked gate whenever an adult is not present) and the addition of secure storage integrated around the site would make this much more feasible.

- 2. To support community volunteers' ability to manage the long term health and use of the park (urban forest restoration), as well as increasing opportunity for greater fundraising used for programming and management. (Currently all expenses for management and the abovementioned activities are covered by funds raised by FCGC)
 - a. Renovating pathways and creating dedicated secure storage across the site will make the work of maintaining the site safer and easier for volunteers.
 - b. Creating rain gardens and rainwater containment will prevent erosion and runoff across the site during severe weather events.
 - c. Renovating the recycling/trash area with a green roof will make area safer, easier for public use and more environmentally friendly.
 - d. Renovating the compost area will improve management ability and resource use within the site, continuing this function with practiced rodent prevention equipment and principles. It will allow for increased food scrap collection of up to at least 3-4000 lbs./month with proper management from residents and Union Square businesses. Food scrap collection and processing will allow us to create high value vermicompost that can be sold to support site activities and management.
- 3. To enhance the educational opportunities focused on sustainability in an urban environment for the residents and visitors of Somerville, continuing to build the City's reputation in this area.
 - a. The renovation will better allow the site to support long term use by SFLC, SCALE, Somerville Public Schools and local early childhood care centers who use the Growing Center as an outdoor classroom for easily accessible free field trips and to promote outdoor exploratory play, literacy and language skills, social-emotional skills building, and increased physical activity.
 - b. Visitors to the Union Square area can be invited to make the Growing Center a destination to engage in learning about ecological health and diversity in a dense urban environment and enjoy the setting of an Urban Forest Oasis.
 - c. Local residents will benefit from increased access to local garden materials from compost, seeds, plant seedlings, through education materials and hands-on learning that can extend to home or work settings.
- 4. To enhance the ecological health and long term sustainability of the urban forest park;
 - a. The infrastructure will support the long term health of the semi-mature trees for decades into the future as well as increase diversity of herbaceous plants accenting pollinator food and habitat, edible, medicinal, and soil regenerating plants.
 - b. Working in synergy with the Nunziato retention project, the Growing Center design, including rain gardens and other sustainable landscaping elements such as existing rain catchment, will accent the ability for natural systems solutions for that can be applied in various settings throughout the city to decrease overall stormwater runoff load. (see page 24 in visual narrative)
- 5. To be a model for a long term, healthy urban food forest with multiple functions; socially, ecologically and economically. (see visual narrative, pg 25- 28)

This project, implemented at the Growing Center, would also serve to address a number of goals in the City's draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. Data indicates that there is need for more community gardens. In the past, persons on the waiting list were introduced to the collective growing opportunities available at the Growing Center. Though not offering individual planting areas, residents of all ages can be actively involved in growing vegetables, herbs, and fruits; nurturing them; and sharing harvests, as well as delivering produce to local food security partners. This participation opportunity

could help meet the demand in the City for community gardens by providing both the gardening and the community elements. CPA funding will also help support the Growing Center as the first Urban Forest Garden in the City, by building on its existing resources, offering multiple community benefits. These include supporting the tree canopy, promoting a diversity of tree species to reduce impacts of tree diseases such as ash borer, and providing interactive opportunities, linked to urban agriculture through increased fruiting trees and shrubs. The integrated rain garden elements planned also help to demonstrate ecological responses to climate change and increased severe weather incidents that could encourage such approaches on private property.

3. How does it preserve and enhance the character of Somerville? How does the project benefit the public? What population(s) will it serve?

This Growing Center has, since its inception, served to both preserve and enhance the character of Somerville and helped to build the reputation of the City as a leader in innovative land use, urban agriculture, integrated arts programming and civic engagement. This project will allow the space to move forward with a design that will support evolving use of the space over the next 20-30+ years. It will allow the management capacity to adapt as needed to meet changing community needs supporting physical and mental health, while sustaining a corner of the urban landscape that is allowed to be a bit more wild and wonderful than many urban spaces. The development plans for Union Square make the location of the Growing Center even more critical to helping to preserve the richness and vitality of green spaces in the overall fabric of Somerville. An urban forested green space that can also serve as-inclusive learning space, food production place, cultural and entertainment center- as well as raise funds onsite to support such management and programming would help illustrate the progressive nature of Somerville. This project models multi-use of urban open and recreational space in keeping with the diversity and density of Somerville and the desire for the City to be a place to live, work or raise a family. In its early years, the Growing Center served as a model for integrating residents with a range of ages, abilities/disabilities, and diverse identities into the fabric of the community through their active participation. Restored and enhanced ADA access and universal design concepts can hopefully once again facilitate increased utilization of the space by all individuals, despite mobility, cognitive, sensory impairments, or social-emotional challenges, to enjoy nature in the city in a safe, supportive space.

Support letters included in this application help to illustrate some of the public benefits of the site, as spelled out in our license. Key among those are recreation and physical activity and health, education and learning, urban agriculture, civic engagement, social-emotional/mental health benefits of green space and linkage with City initiatives and departments.

The population served by the Growing Center is varied. It is the young children that come every Wednesday or Friday mornings in the summer to play and explore, or to learn about art and nature in an outdoor summer program. It is the neighbors who come weekly to compost, the monthly labyrinth walk participants, the SCALE English Language Learner field trips. It is local seniors who find a place they can serve as productive members of the community, while improving their mental and physical health and enjoying varied social interactions with people of all ages. It is the 39 new volunteers trained last year to help with on site management and event support, who seek to share their passions, talents and time. It is the collective volunteer group, over 200 strong, who in addition to planning and running a full calendar of events, spent over 500 hours planting, weeding, watering and harvesting the vegetable and herb gardens, delivering fresh organic produce to sites such as CASPAR residence homes and the Come to the Table free community monthly meals. It is the diverse families that come to visit and play on Saturday mornings during the six months of the key growing season or Tuesdays in June for evening playgroup. It is the eager viewers of the annual film festivals in collaboration with SCATV. The young people, including home schoolers and Somerville Public High

School students in the Transitions Program, who use the space weekly for classes and skills building. It is the large young adult population that has claimed Somerville as their home, proud of places such as the Growing Center where they can become actively engaged in their chosen community, offering yoga classes or joining our board. It is the volunteer board who organize and raise the funds to support all the space and all the free programming, with the only paid support a part-time volunteer coordinator consultant. It is the participants of events such as film nights or seasonal celebrations, including the 120 homes decorated by holiday wreaths created by Growing Center volunteers or the families that raise sun-gold cherry tomatoes purchased from the Friends at the Spring Farmers Market.

4. How does the project meet the general and category-specific priorities outlined in the Community Preservation Plan, including how the project incorporates sustainable practices and design?

The Growing Center is applying under Recreational Land category, under the area of Rehabilitation/Restoration. The Growing Center provides both active and passive open space based recreational opportunities for residents. This project clearly addresses priority #4 to "Rehabilitate and restore existing recreational land according to need." At the same time, it addresses both #6 "Creatively and coherently combine multiple uses that meet community need" and #7 "Expand urban agriculture opportunities". This project fits the priorities through making capital improvements and extraordinary repairs to make City assets functional for intended use, including improvements to comply with federal, state or local access codes.

The key intent of the prior community design effort and the collaboration with Terra Cura was to develop an implementation plan that emphasized sustainability through regenerative design principles to create a City space that will be sustainable on many fronts: ecologically (including rain gardens and urban forestry), socially (community building through volunteer engagement and social connectivity through programming, educational, or leadership opportunities), economically (creating products for sale to support the site and efficient management) and as part of the overall City infrastructure to support those who live, work and raise families in Somerville.

1.3.2 Measuring Success

I. What are the goals of this project?

The investment for this public park we feel is not only going to highly benefit the current residents using the park, but greatly expand the recreational accessibility and inclusivity. The current budget was strategically designed to encompass safe and well-built infrastructure, incorporating sustainable design principles and practices so that it will last for decades. With this well-built infrastructure creating a strong hardscape foundation for the Growing Center's city-owned space, the Friends volunteers will be able to invest their time and expanded fundraising to complete the "softscape" and green factors of design. This not only is a great use of volunteer time and skills, but a concrete way to build community and for residents to connect with and value this urban oasis. Active engagement of community individuals and groups can take the form of volunteer work days, such as built the gabion walls and completed the fall cleanup, as well as sustained contributions through offering a program or joining a site or board management committee. This project will lay the groundwork for re-establishing the Growing Center as a volunteer managed urban hub, in close proximity to Union Square. The more "buzz", the more people want to be part of something. We seek to be a safe, accessible place for all who find their way to the Growing Center, providing flexible options for personal investment and engagement to optimize utilization of the improvements resulting from this project.

2. How will the success of this project be measured?

For 20 years the Growing Center has served as a sustainable education center, natural oasis and learning/playspace as well as a community gathering place and cultural event center for the residents of Somerville and beyond. The success of this project will be measured by the completion of the hardscaping elements laid out in the plan and details such as: increased square footage of ADA accessible pathways and platforms, increased square footage of baby stroller/wheelchair friendly features, increased seating typologies and locations for the enjoyment of the site for a multitude of social group sizes, increased infrastructure for sustainable living education and increased seasonal extension of annual growing area allowing greater production. This investment in renovation and restoration of the Growing Center will increase the ability to expand accessibility and inclusivity to the residents of Somerville. The renovations will improve the safety of the site, as well as enhance the ability for long term ecological health from the soil to the canopy. The renovations will also strongly support a 200 member volunteer group to more efficiently and sustainably manage the site with a regenerative mindset. With the US² project revitalizing the Union Square area, the expansion of reach and use of the Growing Center by residents would also be a success story for the City and for the future of the Growing Center. We will collect data on measures such as:

- # of new volunteers trained and number of volunteer hours
- Increased cubic feet for storage management (increasing safety and management capacity of volunteers)
- # of children served through programming
- # of visitors at events
- # of participants in events such as classes and cultural events
- Qualitative feedback from local schools/youth programs/other regular participants on increased usability of site
- # of square feet and increased diversity in new edible plantings
- # of square feet of pollinator habitat and diversity of native plants, providing supports for a range of pollinators and extending length of support through the seasons
- # of hours safely open to the public per year

1.3.3 Financial

I. Describe attempts to secure funding and/or in-kind contributions, donations, or volunteer labor. Describe cost-saving measures.

The Friends of the Community Growing Center are grateful for CPA funding from the 2014 proposal for the project to support the site analysis and regenerative design process, enlisting the services of Terra Cura and the Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design (COG) to achieve a landscape design inclusive of community member's needs and desires. Both of these partners leveraged in-kind and/or volunteer professionals to offer community educational workshops, review plans and designs, or provide guidance on gathering quotes for the next phase of work. Community members volunteered their time at two formal design charrettes, as well as numerous community based interactions at venues such as the Union Square Farmers Market and the City's Urban AgriCulture Fair and community work days to refurbish compost bins to last another year and to source material to renovate a gabion retaining wall with attached bench onsite.

The prior funding also provided construction documentation created by Terra Cura, and leveraged pro-bono support from COG members, which has enabled us to move forward with the landscape design, with plans that reflect city zoning and permitting requirements. These documents are attached to this application and were used to engage local contractors in providing quotes to create a budget. With design and construction documentation now in place, the Friends are ready to move the renovation project forward to the next step.

FCGC actively self-funds annual operational costs through multiple fundraising events such as donations at events, holiday wreath sales and spring seedling sales and largely through private donors.

Like in the earlier years of the development of the Growing Center, an infusion of new funding will be required to implement the design plan. The hope is that new CPA funding can cover the largest portion of the costs needed to immediately address the needs for ADA renovation and utility upgrades, site safety and elements of the design requiring the most intensive site management, professional construction skills, and adherence to permitting requirements at this City owned space. The Friends can then devote their connections and track record to fund the "soft" elements, such as, the plants that will complete the urban agriculture and forest functions of the site. Also, the FCGC volunteers can then provide the volunteer labor to install and maintain planting beds and plants--tasks that have traditionally been outside the range of local unions--and therefore saving money in the long run. And the Friends are also seeking new funding to revitalize our Children in Nature Initiative, in close alignment with local public health goals and Shape Up Under 5 efforts with Tufts and the City.

Additional cost saving measures include working with a general contractor sourced through the city procurement process who will assist in meeting the requirements of the specifications including optimizing reuse of all materials on site for fill in grading and gabion walls, or compost (with the exception of pressure treated wood), or local materials, to avoid waste hauling and reduce costs and environmental burdens. This approach worked well with securing the fill needed when the current gabion walls were installed, using on site materials and stone rescued from a local contractor's foundation demo site with the assistance of Groundwork Somerville's Green Team in Spring 2016. Based on the initial quotes, it is also clear where volunteer labor for demo or site prep, such as cleaning out and deconstructing the old greenhouse, composting infrastructure, etc., will help save money. The project will also be phased in order to eliminate the cost of overtime labor and any and all additional costs that tight timeframes might bring.

2. How was the total CPA funding request determined?

This request is based on the designs and budgets developed during the prior CPA funding, including drawings involving a full site plan, surface materials map, demolition plan, grading plan, and planting plan, along with a detailed set of performance specifications. A request for preliminary pricing was sent to three local contractors, one of which provided full material and labor cost estimates. After several on site meetings and negotiations we used this detailed cost estimate list as a base for our budget. Several additional contractors were also very helpful as in-kind consultants working with the designers in order to reduce waste and material cost by reusing materials, innovating phasing of construction plans, while maintaining a quality product.

Additional funds needed will be raised by FCGC for aspects such as new plantings, and programmatic materials for the site. These costs, estimated at \$8,500, will be funded through the Friends of the Growing Center's yearly fundraising activities and special funding requests (grants, etc.). FCGC will also be responsible for annual maintenance, including costs. Therefore, the renovation of infrastructure is a critical timely need that will leverage additional resources and will greatly expand the efficiency and accessibility for regenerative management by city volunteers.

3. Will the project require funding over <u>multiple years?</u> If so, please provide annual funding requirements.

The infrastructure renovations that are requested to be supported by the CPA funds should be completed over one fiscal year/two calendar years, based on when the funding will become available. Focused in this proposal are all of the main site **infrastructure needs** for long term and accessible use of the Growing Center.

4. How will the project be affected if it does not receive CPA funds or does not receive the full amount requested?

Funding for the infrastructure renovations and rehabilitation will need to be sourced through other collaborative efforts with the City, if CPA funds are not available in this round. If we do not receive enough CPA funding for either of our two proposed options, we would need to restructure our plans for a shorter term approach. This would not be as efficient, as cohesive, nor as timely and could create a higher cost in the end. The top priorities for first phase funding are: Demolition & Site Preparation, Site Grading, Added Utilities, New Pathways, Railing & Fence, Seating Platforms and Retaining walls.

1.3.4 Project Management

I. Describe the applicant. Are they public, private non-profit, private for-profit, an individual, a partnership, or another type of entity? What is their history and background? Provide any additional relevant information

The lead applicant is the Friends of the Community Growing Center, Inc. (501c3), in partnership with Terra Cura, Inc, (501c3), with the City as co-applicant (the Parks Department of OSPCD). This project is a collaboration of two non-profit organizations, which will work together with the property owner and co-applicant, the City of Somerville, to revitalize the targeted urban open and recreational space.

The *Friends of the Community Growing Center (FCGC)* seek to educate and engage the full population of Somerville, with a focus on children and youth, to provide an open and welcoming location that educates on a broad spectrum of nature related topics and urban agriculture, allows direct engagement with nature, fosters positive community interactions and allows for a culturally enriching experience through internally managed and externally collaborative programs or projects. For over twenty years, the Friends have managed the evolving programming and coordinated volunteer efforts to support the program, the people and the place—including fundraising. Founded in 1994, the Friends received 501c3 status as of 2010, allowing for more robust fundraising such as the prior CPA proposal and this application.

Terra Cura, Inc. is a regenerative design and education organization founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) in 2014. By integrating regenerative land-based design, site management and education, they aim to restore the foundations of community-socially, economically and ecologically. Terra Cura projects are designed to encompass education and experience as a means of empowerment for the community through working collaboratively. Using the principles of permaculture, they focus on efficiency, long term viability and a triple bottom line mentality.

2. Demonstrate that the applicant has successfully completed projects of similar type and scale or has the ability to complete the project as proposed.

Based off the success and progress made over the previous two years, FCGC will continue to follow through and complete set goals and initiatives. Using the resources of The Friends, with project management support from Terra Cura, consultation as needed from COG, and a future chosen construction management company, the project will be led by a comprehensive and resourceful team.

The Friends have managed the space development at the Growing Center (since the end of the initial first year of initial construction in fall 1993-1994 which was managed by the City Planning office) in accordance with city zoning/permits. These projects have included design and construction of the barn built in collaboration with the High School & Next Wave and the implementation of the "Water in the City" elements from a community

design process guided by Niall Kirkwood of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The pressing renovation needs of the site identified in 2012 and the need for once again engaging a community design process (beyond the survey approach) motivated the Friends to seek professional support for design support and creation of construction drawings. The Friends successfully partnered with Terra Cura and COGdesign and will continue to do so throughout this next phase in order to lead the project to completion. We plan to partner with a construction company who will act as a construction manager and work collaboratively with our team, ensuring optimal and safe utilization of volunteers for those tasks typically performed by FCGC.

We partnered with Terra Cura for the first phase of this project and we could not have chosen a more willing, and better suited design team. Terra Cura will continue to partner with us throughout this next phase of construction. Terra Cura's design team has multi-disciplinary experience reaching from design and engineering, sustainable farming, education, community outreach to health coaching experience. There is also a support and resource team to help carry out the work at all implementation levels. They have connections to Harvard Graduate School of Design, Bridgewater State University, University of New Hampshire, Marion Institutes, Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms USA—among others. The design team integrates skill sets from engineering, architecture, landscape and systems design, holistic health, and sustainable agriculture and community practices across the globe. The key team members Eva Leung and Adam Davenport have contributed to the future of the Somerville community far beyond the fees Terra Cura utilized to engage partners in site analysis, design and development of construction documents, not to mention hosting community charrettes and work days attended by diverse community members.

COGdesign's services were extremely stimulating and engaging to the community during the start-up of our design process and we will continue to partner with them as the project evolves. COGdesign's services are available to community groups which are prepared to participate actively in the design development process and are challenged by a limited or non-existent budget for landscape development. COGdesign clients include underfunded community organizations such as community gardens, public and private schools, neighborhood parks, Friends groups, affordable housing, churches, historic sites, and municipal agencies. The services of their board members in helping to gather community input as well as lending professional consultation from professionals with years of experience in the field has been much appreciated.

3. Identify and describe the roles of all known participants, including the project manager.

FCGC will continue to be the lead agency, with key roles to engage and inform the community of CPA project development through multiple social media channels, to engage the Board and volunteers in fundraising to fund the "soft-scape" and recruiting volunteer labor for planting. The Friends are also committed to doing on-site preparation work that will save money and optimize the professional labor. In addition, the Friends will manage the operational impacts of juggling on-going programmatic use of the space around construction schedules to optimize both, whenever feasible, to retain much of the recreational use of portions of the space during peak usage periods such as early summer. The Friends will also coordinate fundraise for and install plantings once infrastructure work in place. COGdesign will provide support as needed and appropriate, in a role as community partner.

Terra Cura - Terra Cura will work with the Friends of the Growing Center and Contractor as a project management consultant. Roles of Terra Cura include:

- 1. Ensure design goals and criteria for site renovation are continuously met
- 2. Make periodic site visits to ensure design intent is executed by Contractor
- 3. Advise and coordinate FCGC volunteer effort with contractors for portions of construction that could be implemented by the community

- 4. Serve as agent for FCGC. Provide recommendations on design/ issues pertaining to time and cost, design that may arise during construction
- 5. Lead community implementation workdays, in partnership with FCGC
- 6. Advise on funding source and partnerships
- 7. Upon request by FCGC, attend meetings with FCGC board, consultants and city related to site design implementation
- 8. Advise on long-term regenerative management plan
- 9. Coordinate with Nunziato project where required
- 10. Coordinate next phase of community design charrettes with FCGC as needed. E.g. detailed planting, signage, educational material

4. Describe the feasibility of the project and how it can be implemented within the timeline and budget included in this application.

Based off our performance over the past two years, the project has been shown to be feasible and attainable through the combination of efforts from our project team. Our schedule was met for each of the previous phases of the project from 2014-2016, with some exception due to weather considerations. The previous phases included: Initial Site Visits and Evaluations - October through November 2014; Continued Analysis, Research and Design Preparation phase - December 2014 through March 2015; and Systems Design Development phase - March to May 2015. The last phase, Construction and Education Documents, wrapped up our overall design and planning project phases on schedule as of the end of 2016. (please refer to visual narrative for details, design process is summarized in pages 20-23, with site analysis and plans following)

We are now ready to move into our construction and implementation phases. The construction timeline and schedule reflects a multiple phase approach. (please refer to pages 13-18 in visual narrative) Throughout, Terra Cura, COGdesign and the future chosen construction management company will work with the Friends and the Somerville Community Growing Center to evaluate and adjust the construction phase dates as necessary to the community's needs. *Please refer to pg. 30 and 31 in the Visual Narrative for a visual of the timeline and budget.

Pending the approval of CPA funding, we are on track to move forward with the project using our proposed schedule and budget. We received an estimated cost proposal from a local landscape contractor based off our site plan drawing, surface material plan, demolition plan and grading plan. This company specializes in edible landscapes of similar size and scope. They were given design documents from Terra Cura and a walk through where they were able to ask questions and understand the scope on a very detailed level. We used this estimated cost to aid in creating an accurate budget to request for CPA funding. The estimated construction cost is \$386,550. This cost also covers all materials and labor (all soft and hard costs) to install the intended design.

We have budgeted \$33,500 for project management and construction administration services from Terra Cura. This fee also covers all field visits, oversight, RFI and submittal documentation development by Terra Cura principals, staff and/or consultants. We proactively cut costs by subtracting \$35,500 from the estimated construction costs. We feel that as an active volunteer community organization we can perform many of the preparation tasks ourselves for little to no cost. We have evaluated the task list and have identified the tasks we feel comfortable tackling on our own as a community. However, we feel that to insure a quality outcome, meeting permitting and ADA requirements, requires us to engage consultant services to fill this role. Terra Cura has partnered with us for the long haul, to see this project through to the end, so we appreciate the opportunity to continue this working relationship.

We have also included a 10% contingency of \$38,450 to help offset any unforeseen complications during construction. This brings us to the total budget request of \$423,000. Again, this budget is inclusive of all soft and hard costs associated with construction, the design fees for construction administration and project management and a cost reduction effort to utilize our community strength. This total is about 20% of the estimated \$2 million cost of upgrading or building a new park in Somerville, so this investment seems quite feasible in comparison.

We have broken out our project budget in two ways to allow flexibility of schedule and costs. Please see the visual narrative on pages 30-31 for this budget breakdown. First, in our full scope option, we have broken out our budget to reflect trades, such as site preparation which comes in at \$44,000, masonry at \$169,000, framing and finish carpentry at \$67,200, metalwork at \$24,850, utilities at \$36,000 and planting at \$45,500. The second, limited scope option, breaks the project up into sub-projects. The phases and associated costs are as follows: retaining walls at \$70,350, pathways and utilities at \$196,500, and in-kind labor and fundraising of \$35,500.

*Please refer to pg. 30 and 31 in the Visual Narrative for a break out of the Project Budget.

5.Describe any known or potential barriers to the successful on-time commencement and completion of the project, including any permits or inspections required.

The only major potential barrier to this project would be a denial of CPA funding. FCGC has worked on this project for many years and completed many successful phases of this project. We believe our budget is accurate and our schedule is appropriate. We have a dedicated and talented team who have the experience and knowledge to lead this project forward as they have done throughout the past few years and past successful project phases. Without CPA funding; however, the future phases of the project would be compromised and require short term funding to make short term renovations, rather than investing now for a long term horizon to impact recreational and educational opportunities in this strategically located multifunctional green open space in the City.

6.Describe any ongoing maintenance and programming required and who will be responsible for it.

The construction phasing is planned so that it will not drastically reduce the operation of the Growing Center for community members and requires this flexibility from contractors. We hope to stay open and continue to operate as business as usual as much as possible. Our schedule will work with, and make good use of, seasonal changes. Our volunteers will be vital in the programming and continuation of our weekly events for the community. During certain phases we will need to restructure our events in order to find suitable limited on site and/or temporary locations which would ideally be the Nunziato Field if the Growing Center work can be completed before that major renovation commences. Our volunteers will take on this load and will strive to keep the Growing Center as active as ever. The construction company will have a supervisor on site at all times and the site will be kept clean and free from debris. The design team will be on site weekly, at a minimum and as needed supplementally, for construction administration services. A representative from the Growing Center will also be on site weekly to ensure progress is going as planned and the integrity of the work is being upheld.

7. Describe any permits, approvals, MAAB variance requests, or restrictions that are required for the project to go forward and the status for each.

General Building Permit; the designers and FCGC have met on site with the Somerville Inspectional Services Department, Parks and CPA staff for a preliminary meeting to discuss permits required for proposed work. Formal applications will be developed upon notice of awarding of funds. All plans, and any changes, will also be cleared with the City Parks Department.

8. Note if the applicant has previously received CPA funds and if so, a concise summary of the impact of the previous CPA project.

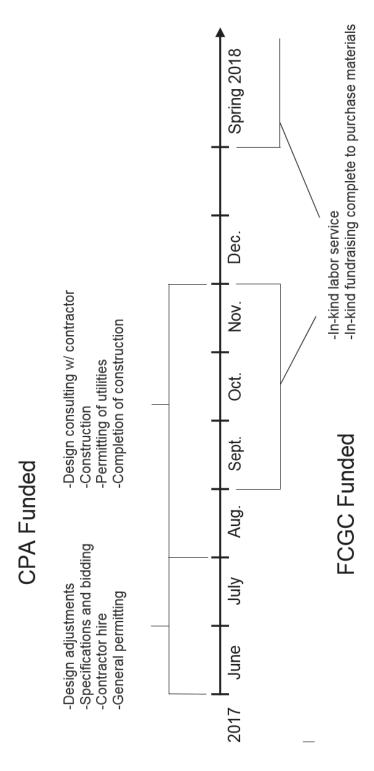
CPA funds from fiscal year 2015 were received by the Friends of the Growing Center. These funds were used for:

- Assessment and analyzation of current conditions of the Growing Center
- Assessment and analyzation of use and social programmatic features of the Growing Center
- Creation a shared vision through a community visioning charrette and outreach for the future of the Growing Center to lead design
- Design and Repair of Northwest corner retaining wall
- Site Mapping and Schematic Design process enacted by Terra Cura
- Community Feedback/Design workshops led by Terra Cura
- Educational Workshops to improve understanding and site management led by Terra Cura and Friends of the Growing Center
- Creation of a Documentary used for outreach, education and fundraising for the Growing Center.
- Detailed Design Documents; Site Plan, Surface Map, Contour Plan, Planting Plan and Performance Specifications
- Obtaining quotes from several contractors for the implementation of design
- A Regenerative Management plan created by Terra Cura for education to volunteers and efficient management of future site design.

1.3.5 Accessibility Requirements

I. Describe how the proposed project complies with all ADA/MAAB Regulations

ADA accessibility is an important factor motivating the rehabilitation of the Growing Center. Current main pathways were constructed at appropriate accessibility grades, but 20 years of root growth has caused pavers to rise up and poke through the grade in several areas in the upper pathway, potentially impacting safety and access for all. The design not only will restore safe access, but adds additional ADA accessible platforms and gathering spaces through new areas of the Center, increasing the circulation (as seen in the circulation diagram, pg 23 of visual narrative) of the site to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities as well as parents with strollers. The proposed pathways will be constructed with appropriate precautions such, as subgrades and drainage, to ensure long term safe access for all according to the ADA/MAAB regulations. Hand rails will also be utilized, where indicated, to increase safety and accessibility. The Friends also own and pay to maintain an accessible porta-potty, one of the few in the City, which we hope to eventually replace with an accessible composting toilet.





GRANT AND TRUST FUNDS DISCLOSURE FORM PURSUANT TO CITY OF SOMERVILLE CODE OR ORDINANCES SEC. 15

(copies of the Ordinance are available upon request)

<u>Instructions</u>: All applicants for grant and/or trust funds administered by the City must complete this form as part of its application submission to the City of Somerville. Complete all sections of this form.

Section 1

Legal Name of Applicant:	Friends of the Community Growing Center
Indicate whether the applic	ant had any grant, contract, or agreement with a federal, state or local agency

Check One:

Yes (If yes, please identify the grant, contract, or agreement including parties, term, and cause of termination on an additional page.)

Section 2

Applicants are required to disclose any circumstances constituting a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest arising from or relating to the proposed grant or trust disbursement, whether real or apparent.

Conflict of Interest Prohibited. No employee, officer or agent of the grantee shall participate in any particular matter, including but not limited to, the selection, or in the award or administration of a contract, grant or subgrant, or employment agreement administered by way of funds received by the City of Somerville if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would arise. Such a conflict would arise when:

1) an employee, officer or agent, or

terminated within the last three (3) years.

- 2) any member of his or her immediate family, or
- 3) a business organization in which he or she is serving as officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee; or
- 4) any person or organization with whom he or she is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment,

has a financial or other interest in the person or entity selected for an award, or a contract, grant, subgrant, or employment agreement of the grantee or the funds for which originate from or are awarded through the city.

Check One:	✓ No Conflict Of Interest
	Potential or Actual Conflict of Interest (If checked, disclose in detail all relevant facts, including names of individuals or organizations, relevant contract, grant, subgrant or employment agreement, and source of funding on an additional page.)

Section 3

Attach a copy of applicant's policy addressing conflicts of interest that may arise involving management, employees and the members of its board of directors or other governing body. See the *City of Somerville Code of Ordinances Section 15-12(c)* for complete requirements. Should the policy be revised during the grant term, a copy of the revised policy must be submitted to the City within thirty (30) days of being revised.

Section 4

Identify all officers, employees, contractors, subgrantees or other persons providing any type of service in relation to the proposed grant activity, in the following format. Use additional page(s) as necessary.

Name (Individual or Entity)	Association	Service Provided	Value of Service (\$)	Amount of City Funds Supporting Service (\$)	Mark "X" if individual or entity has had any grant, contract, or agreement with a federal, state or local agency terminated within the last 3 years.*	
Terra Cura	contractor	project management	\$35,500	\$35,500		

^{*}If yes, please identify the grant, contract, or agreement including parties, term, and cause of termination on an additional page.

Section 5

This form is hereby completed on behalf of the applicant named above. Through the undersigned individual, the applicant hereby certifies that the completed form is true and accurate. The applicant acknowledges that it has read, understands, and agrees to comply with, the requirements of *City of Somerville Code of Ordinances Section 15*.

During the term of any grant, grantees have a continuing obligation to submit an updated Disclosure Form to the City of Somerville immediately as to any circumstances which constitute a potential or actual conflict of interest.

Signature

Print Name of Authorized Individual: Lisa Brukilacchio

Lun Bululus

Title: President of the FCGC Board of Directors

Date: 12/5/

Friends of the Community Growing Center Conflict of Interest Policy

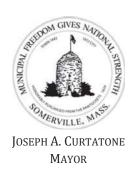


Whenever a director (board member) or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Board of Directors, the Board shall ensure that:

- 1. The interest of such officer or director is fully disclosed to the Board of directors.
- 2. No interested officer or director may vote or lobby on the matter or be counted in determining the existence of a quorum at the meeting of the board of directors at which such matter is voted upon.
- 3. Any transaction in which a director or officer has a financial or personal interest shall be duly approved by members of the board of directors not so interested or connected as being in the best interests of the organization.
- 4. Payments to the interested officer or director shall be reasonable and shall not exceed fair market value.
- 5. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

Approved by the Board, December 2016

- 2 FINANCIAL
- 2.1 Budget Summary 2.2 Itemized Budget
- 2.3 Detailed Cost Estimates outlined in Project Specifications by Terra Cura Inc





CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY17 FUNDING CYCLE

2.1 BUDGET SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Somerville Community Growing Center Renovation and Restoration

APPLICANT: Friends of the Community Growing Center

SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS

Please include a complete itemized budget of all project expenses, including the proposed funding source for each expense, in your submission.

Everyore							
	PROPOSED SOURCE	EXPENSES					
	1 KOI OSED SOOKEE	STUDY	SOFT COSTS*	Acquisition	CONSTRUCTION**	TOTAL	
1	Somerville CPA	\$	\$ 35,500	\$	\$ 351,050	\$ 423,000	
2	Friends of the Community Growing Center				\$ 35,500	\$ 35,500	
3							
4							
5							
6							
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$	\$ 35,500	\$	\$ 386,550	\$ 458,500	

^{*}Soft costs include design, professional services, permitting fees, closing costs, legal, etc.

EXPLANATION OF FUNDING SOURCES

Please explain the status of each funding source (i.e., submitting application on X date, applied on X date, received award notification on X date, funds on hand, etc.). For sources where funding has been awarded or funds are on hand, please include documentation from the funding source (e.g., commitment letter, bank statement) in application packet

	Source	SECURED? (YES/NO)	STATUS OF FUNDING SOURCE
1	Somerville CPA	No	Currently applying
2	Friends of the Community Growing Center	Yes	Volunteer labor organized by FCGC members
3			
4			

^{**} Construction includes new construction, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration work, and/or accessibility related expenses

2.2 ITEMIZED BUDGET

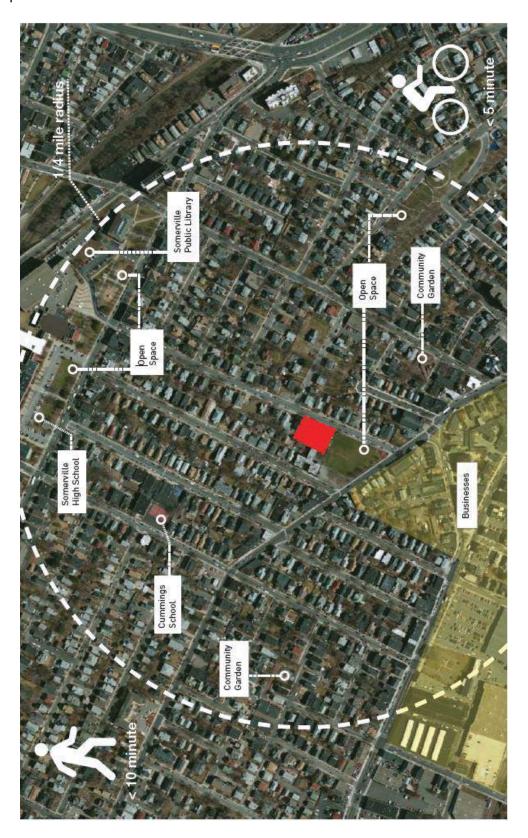
D	etailed Cost Estimate	Source		
I. SITE PREPARATION				
a. Retaining Walls Removal	\$6,000	Somerville CPA Grant	•	
b. Concrete Removal	\$3,500	Somerville CPA Grant		
c. Tree Removal	\$4,500	Somerville CPA Grant		
d. Compost Infrastructure Removal	\$2,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
e. Greenhouse Removal	\$1,000	FCGC		
f. Fence (included in fence install)	\$0	Somerville CPA Grant		
g. Transplanting	\$2,000	FCGC		
h. Pathways Removal	\$9,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
i. Labyrinth Removal	\$1,000	FCGC		
j. Grading	\$13,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
k. Pond Removal	\$2,000	Somerville CPA Grant	Subtotal:	\$44,000
2. MASONRY				
a. Gabion Retaining Walls	\$15,000	Somerville CPA Grant	•	
b. Main Pathways & Edging	\$130,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
c. Secondary Pathways	\$14,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
d. Stone Steps	\$8,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
e. Granite Blocks Seating	\$2,000	Somerville CPA Grant	Subtotal:	\$169,000
3. FRAMING AND FINISH CARPE	NTRY			
a. Annual Bed Planters	\$8,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
b. Seating Bench	\$7,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
c. Composting Containers	\$5,700	Somerville CPA Grant		
d. Storage Lockers	\$30,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
e. Seating Platforms	\$4,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
f. Bee Box Privacy Fence	\$5,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
h. Hoop House/Cold Frames	\$7,500	Somerville CPA Grant	Subtotal:	\$67,200
4. METALWORK				
a. Perimeter Fence	\$9,850	Somerville CPA Grant	l.	
b. Stair Rails	\$10,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
c. Bee Box Ornamental Fence	\$5,000	Somerville CPA Grant	Subtotal:	\$24,850
5. UTILITIES	. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
a. Power	\$14,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
b. Plumbing	\$22,000	Somerville CPA Grant	Subtotal:	\$36,000
7. PLANTING	. ,			. ,
a. Loam	\$5,000	Somerville CPA Grant	l.	
b. Plant Material	\$8,000	FCGC		
c. Planting, Mulching, Labyrinth Install	\$25,000	FCGC		
d. Beehive Equipment	\$500	FCGC		
e. Mulch	\$5,000	Somerville CPA Grant		
f. Wood Chips	\$2,000	Somerville CPA Grant	Subtotal:	\$45,500
CONSTRUCTION TOTAL:	\$386,550		<u> </u>	
PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOTAL:	\$33,500			
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$420,050			
TOTAL IN KIND FROM FCGC:	\$35,500			
TOTAL ASK:	\$384,550	w/10% Contingency >	\$423,000	

2.3 DETAILED COST ESTIMATES

A request for preliminary pricing was sent to three local contractors, with detailed performance specifications. One contractor provided full material and labor cost estimates. After several on site meetings and negotiations, we used this detailed cost estimate list as a base for our budget. Several additional contractors were also very helpful as in-kind consultants working with the designers in order to reduce waste and material cost by reusing materials, innovating phasing of construction plans, while maintaining a quality product. The detailed performance specifications can be available at your request.

3. VISUAL

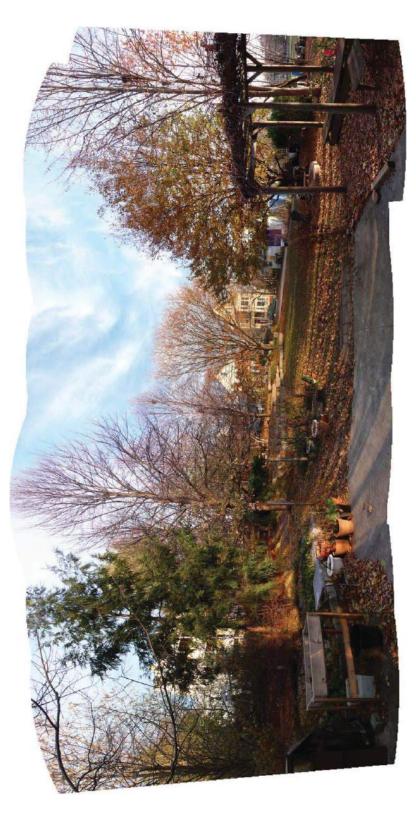
3.1 Property Map



3.2 Project Site Photos









4 OWNERSHIP/OPERATION (NON-CITY)

4.1 501(c)(3) Certification

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE P. O. BOX 2508 CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Date:

JUN09 2014

FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY GROWING CENTER INC 16 HOLYOKE RD SOMERVILLE, MA 02144-3232 DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Employer Identification Number: 04-3397617 DLN:

17053043403043 Contact Person: CUSTOMER SERVICE

STOMER SERVICE ID# 31954

Contact Telephone Number: (877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Public Charity Status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption: May 15, 2010

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

Yes

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,

Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947

5 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

5.1 Letters of Support

- Shape up Somerville
- Somerville Mom
- Groundwork Somerville
- Community Preschool, Union Square
- Somerville Arts Council
- Somerville High School
- Somerville Family Learning Collaborative



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE MAYOR

DOUGLAS S. KRESS DIRECTOR



December 1st, 2016

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

This letter is in support of the Friends of the Community Growing Center CPA application to renovate and rehabilitate the Community Growing Center.

Shape Up Somerville's mission is to build a healthy, equitable community through interdisciplinary partnerships, programming and policies related to food systems and active living. The Community Growing Center embodies these goals and has always served as a model for Shape Up Somerville initiatives ranging from urban agriculture to utilizing open space to gather and celebrate community.

There is strong evidence to support the positive relationship that access to nature has on cognitive. emotional and physical health. We value these outcomes at Shape Up Somerville and recognize that the Community Growing Center plays a key role in providing this opportunity to everyone in our densely populated city.

Dedicating funds from the Somerville Community Preservation Act revenue to upgrade the Center so that it can continue to serve as a multi-functional community space in Somerville would be a worthy investment in the future of our community. Thank you for seriously considering the Friends proposal for the needed infrastructure work that will help support the future of urban agriculture and cultural and educational events for the community at large.

Sincerely

Director, Shape Up Somerville

50 Evergreen Ave

City Hall Annex Somerville, MA 02145 617-625-6600 x4312

Stephanie Hirsch 17 Fremont Ave Somerville, MA 02143 617-512-4847 <u>shirsch@sprynet.com</u> December 3, 2016

Hello Community Preservation Act Committee –

I would like to submit comments in support of the Community Growing Center's proposal to receive CPA funding for much needed upgrades. I am a Somerville parent of three children (ages 5, 8, and 10) and actively involved in the City/Schools, plus neighborhood development and open space planning. The Growing Center is one of my favorite places to visit. I am hard pressed to think of a place that more effectively addresses some of Somerville's key needs – a shared backyard, a place to meet, a sliver a nature in our densest of cities.

To share one story, on a weekend this past fall, my family of five thought about going to the suburbs to pick apples. We don't have a car, so this would have entailed getting a zip car and fighting traffic for 45 minutes. Instead we went to the Harvest Festival at the Growing Center. They brought the farm to us – apples, pumpkins, cider – so much of farm and woods to touch, test, smell, and experience. This experience is critically needed for city families, especially those who don't have the resources to travel to summer camps or cabins.

In addition, here are some more reasons why I can't imagine a better funding recipient to exemplify the goals of CPA funding:

History of Community Contribution: The Growing Center has been an oasis of learning, free-play, enjoyment of nature, learning about food, gatherings of friends and not-yet-friends for many, many children and adults in the City. The Growing Center's extraordinary history of contributions indicates to me their likely success with continuing and expanding their work.

Model that Leverages Volunteer Support and Partnerships: An exceptionally successful component of the Growing Center has been their ability to leverage volunteers to make the space open and to create interesting programming. This community support shows the sense of ownership within the community — it is public space in the best sense of the word that gets shared by so many, creating a maximum amount of fun and community benefit per square foot. Furthermore, the Growing Center has been amazing at building partnerships with other community organizations that increase its usage. Those partners include childcare centers, the Arts Council, and many other organizations.

Model that is Open: My favorite part of the Growing Center is that it is open to the public. Many community gardens are lovely, but they only allow entry to plot owners (and in some cases are even only visible to plot owners). The Growing Center invites volunteers to use the

space with the requirement that they open the space to the public. I hope that this model is not just sustained, but studied as a possible model for other spaces. In Somerville where so many of us don't have back yards or big living rooms, spaces that are a bit more sheltered than public parks, but are still completely open to the public, are very much needed. I would love to see a Growing Center in every corner of the City.

Thank you in advance for your Committee's work on reviewing CPA proposals. I look forward to seeing the projects get underway!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hirsch

Suphm Ism



28 November 2016

The Community Preservation Committee City of Somerville, Massachusetts 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 01243

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

I am writing in support of the recent application to your committee by the Friends of the Community Growing Center to support renovation and restoration to upgrade the Growing Center.

We know well the multiple functions of this unique City space that has been stewarded by the Friends for 20 years of active programming and collaboration--and played a pivotal role in the creation of Groundwork Somerville. There is a deep history between our organization and the Growing Center which nurtured and welcomed our Green Team for onsite urban agriculture training, continues to support our School gardens with plants, and has hosted numerous community events such as the annual Somerville Youth Voices open mike. The Center served not only as a launching pad for the founding of Groundwork Somerville, but through setting the stage allowed Groundwork to dig deeper into urban agriculture in Somerville, finally putting down our own roots on South Street. We also collaborate on the annual Maple Syrup Project, a program developed by the Friends that was eventually integrated into Groundwork programming, which annually engages Somerville students in learning about this regional specialty.

Some of our staff were able to participate in the design charettes funded by the previous CPA grant, and look forward to continued discussion about collaborations such as our new World Crops project, expanding on early pilot initiatives at the Growing Center. Our Green Team were also able to actively participate in the construction of the new gabion wall construction, providing experiential learning in ecological design and building and materials recycling.

Open space and recreation funds from the Somerville Community Preservation Act revenue would be well spent to help upgrade the Center so that it can continue to serve as a multi-functional community space in Somerville. Thank you for seriously considering the Friends proposal for implementing the regenerative systems design developed to integrate the site design and management with site programming including urban agriculture and cultural and educational events for the community at large—which will well complement the work of Groundwork Somerville and goals of a greener City.

Sincerely,

Chris Mancini

Executive Director



December 2, 2016

The Community Preservation Committee City of Somerville, Massachusetts 93 Highland Ave Somerville, MA 01243

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

We are the owners and teachers at Community Preschool located in Union Square, and we are writing in support of the application to your committee by the Friends of the Community Growing Center for renovation and rehabilitation to upgrade the Growing Center.

The Growing Center has provided important outdoor learning opportunities for the preschool children in our program. We are a small play-based preschool with children ages 2 years 9 months to five years old. We visit the Growing Center at least once a week. When we are at the Growing Center, our students are engaged with nature directly. They find sticks, leaves, pinecones, puddles, and dirt. They imagine themselves as princesses, dinosaurs, campers around a campfire, good guys, drivers of cars, and pilots of planes. We run races on the grass and take slow exploring walks on the upper pathways. The children play differently at the Growing Center than they do at the playground we visit on Walnut Street, or at Nunziato Field. Their play is more open-ended and driven by their own interests: digging in the mud, filling containers with pinecones, using leaves and a birdbath to make "soup," removing the seeds from seed pods, throwing small sticks into the pond. Our visits to the Growing Center are the favorite outdoor times of our week.

From our perspective, funding from the Somerville Community Preservation Act revenue to upgrade the Center so that it can continue to safely serve Somerville would be a worthy investment in the future of our community—and our children. The proximity of this unique garden and community space to Union Square makes it even

more critical as the development plans for the square unfold, helping to preserve true greenspace and outdoor learning space to enhance early childhood development. Thank you for seriously considering the Friends' proposal for the needed infrastructure work that will help support the Growing Center.

Sincerely, Lie for Jennifer Griptell

Zoe Stark and Jennifer Guptill

Community Preschool 73 Bow Street Somerville, MA 02143 community-preschool.com 617-616-5691



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS ARTS COUNCIL JOSEPH A. CURTATONE MAYOR

2 December 2016

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing in support of the Somerville Community Growing Center's CPA request for support. The Arts Council has worked with SCGC since the beginning to support programming in the garden.

For the past 18 years, we have managed our popular summer youth camp, Art in the Garden, providing services to families of 6 to 12 year of olds in the center space. This space affords us the ability to teach about art, environmental science and exploration, providing a safe, wonderful space for youth and their families.

Any attempt to support the rehabilitation of the space should be applauded. The space, while amazing, needs more support and care that is often so difficult to ensure from a small but dedicated group of volunteers.

I hope the CPA can support their efforts.

If you have any other questions about SCGC partnerships with the Arts Council, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gregory Jenkins

Executive Director



Somerville Public Schools

Education · Inspiration · Excellence

Special Education Department 8 Bonair Street Somerville, MA 02145 617-625-6600

November 30, 2016

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

As the Transition Teacher in the Special Education Department at Somerville High School, I am writing in support of the application to your committee by the Friends of the Community Growing Center to support renovation and rehabilitation to upgrade the Growing Center.

The Transition Program at Somerville Public Schools is a classroom for post-graduates working towards community, independent living, employment and social-communication goals. A prominent focus of this program is expanding horizons for young adults with disabilities through community inclusion. This past year, we have had the opportunity to partner with the Growing Center to support the education and learning of our students. With the support of volunteers from the Friends of the Community Growing Center, our students were engaged in meaningful, constructive activities in the spring and fall. They were able to plant tomatoes and peppers, to help install a new raised bed and plant it with herbs, and to serve as weekly Watering Angels. Through the Growing Center connections, the students were also introduced to Shape Up Somerville, the Somerville Community Health Agenda at CHA and the Council on Aging through a unique collaboration. In the fall, the students harvested herbs from the Growing Center that they then offered, with educational information, to patrons of the Mobile Farmers Market at the Council on Aging on Fridays. Students were then invited to participate in the Senior Health and Wellness Fair in October, where they offered up kale, collards and herbs they had helped to nurture at the Growing Center. These opportunities, made possible by the proximity of the Growing Center to the High School and the welcome we received there, were very meaningful for our students.

Dedicating funds from the Somerville Community Preservation Act revenue to upgrade the Center so that it can continue to serve as a multi-functional community space in Somerville, that clearly supports young people and their development, would be a worthy investment in the future of our community. Thank you for seriously considering the Friends proposal for the needed infrastructure work that will help support the future of urban agriculture and cultural and educational events for the community at large. This is a special place that embodies what is great about the community of Somerville and we hope it can continue to serve as such for decades to come. The renovations would make this possible.

Sincerely,

Laura Moynagh

Somerville High School Transition Teacher



November 30, 2016

The Community Preservation Committee

City of Somerville, Massachusetts

93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 01243

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

As Director of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, I am writing in support of the application to your committee by the Friends of the Community Growing Center to support renovation and rehabilitation to upgrade the Growing Center.

In our role in the Somerville Public Schools, we provide opportunities for parents and caregivers as they raise, nurture and educate their children. In our work over the past decades, we have had the pleasure to partner with the Friends and the Growing Center on many efforts. Just a few would include: Summer Outdoor Playgroups each June, family events including the initial Storywalk program, multi-lingual literacy programs and supporting the Friends Children in Nature Initiative events. The first playgroup on which we partnered has continued, under volunteer parents for ten years, a testament to the desire and interest in such programming. The Friends have participated in our annual Summer Camp and Activity Fair as well as helped us respond to requests to provide evening and weekend opportunities for working parents through the June playgroup collaboration. We are very excited for how the suggested upgrades to the Center will make it even more "family friendly" for collaborative educational programming for the long term.

Dedicating funds from the Somerville Community Preservation Act revenue to upgrade the Center so that it can continue to serve as a multi-functional community space in Somerville would be a worthy investment in the future of our community. Thank you for seriously considering the Friends proposal for the needed infrastructure work that will help support the future of urban agriculture and cultural and educational events for the community at large. This small volunteer group has been a stable community partner in our efforts to support all Somerville families. A City investment in upgrading the space will be well leveraged by volunteer contributions!

Sincerely,

Nomi Davidson Director, Somerville Family Learning Collaborative

Nmi Dandh Somerville Public Schools

Cummings School • 42 Prescott Street, Room 11 • Somerville, MA 02143

Phone: 617-625-6600 x6966 • E-mail: ndavidson@k12.somerville.ma.us



6 PLANS AND REPORTS

 $6.1\ Site$ assessment and plans from Terra Cura Inc

Somerville Community Growing Center Renovation and Restoration

prepared by Terra Cura Inc. December 5, 2016







Content

	Introduction	03	
	Executive Summary Context Site Panoramas Why is Funding Needed ?		
PARTI	Site Design Overview	60	
	Infrastructure Layout Material & Surface Map		
PART II	Phasing & Measures of Success	12	
	Demolition & Site Preparation Utilities, Pathways, Railings, Fence, Seating Platforms Retaining Walls - Gabion & Stone Outcrop Storage Composting Station, Annual Demonstration Planting Beds		
PART III	PART III Community Design Process	19	

Participatory Design & Build Design Feedback Summary New Site Patterns - Ecological Features Highlights Somerville's First Urban Food Forest - A New Typology for Public Parks

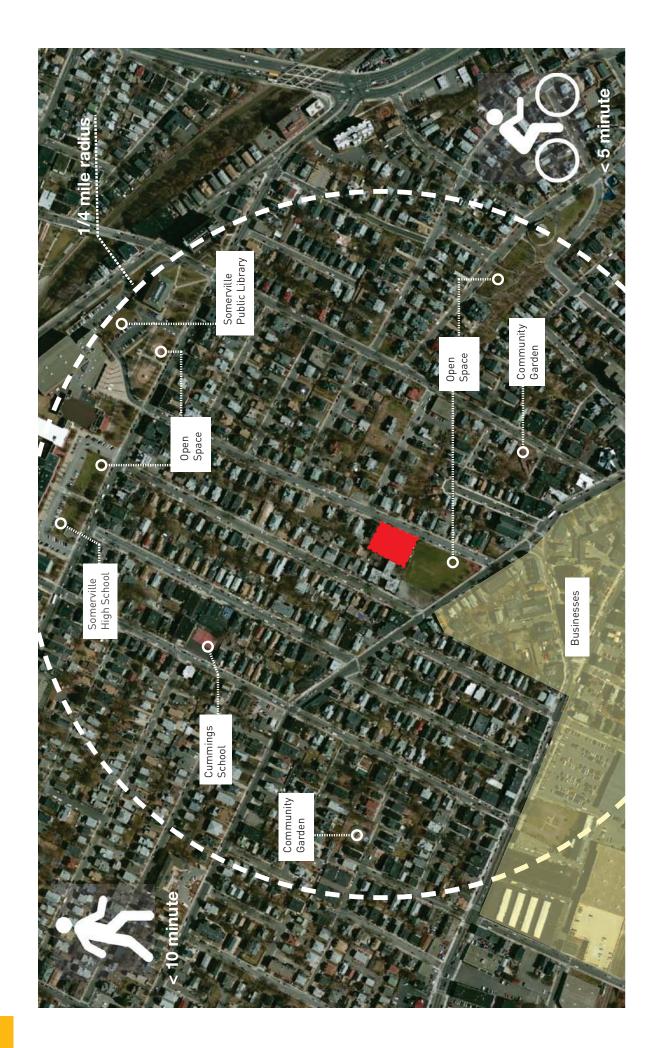
PART IV Project Budget & Timeline Full Scope Limited Scope Option / In-Kind / Project Timeline Limited Scope Option / In-Kind / Project Timeline PART V Appendix Preliminary Pricing Drawing - Site Plan [30x42 fullsize] Preliminary Pricing Drawing - Bemolition Plan [30x42 fullsize] Preliminary Pricing Drawing- Grading Plan [30x42 fullsize]



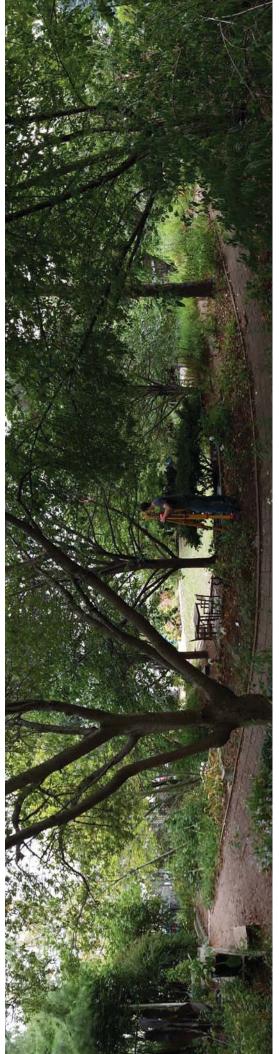
WHAT WILL CPA17 FUNDING BE INVESTING IN?

Designed in 1993-94 on a "10 year plan", the current space needs renovation and restoration to fulfill its potential as a gem in Somerville. In keeping with the multi-purpose roles the Growing Center serves in Somerville, there are numerous reasons this project is needed and critical at this time in the site's history and evolution.

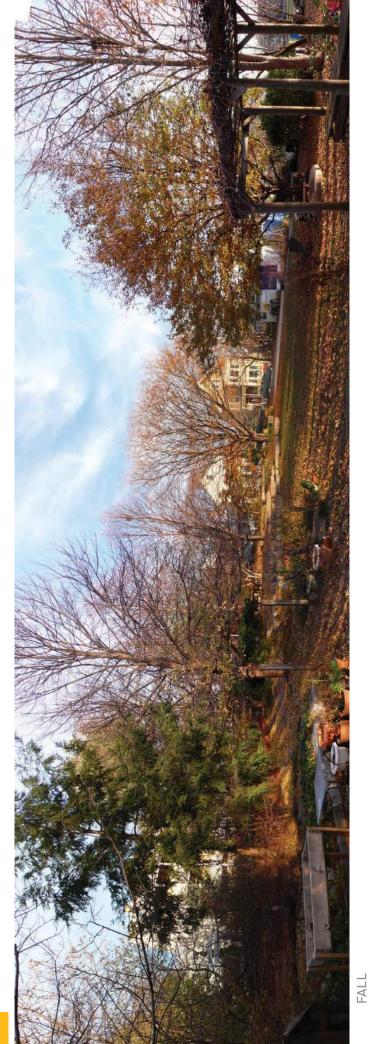
This Renovation and Restoration project has been designed to implement the most important infrastructure of the Somerville Community Growing Center. These renovations are critical to increasing the park's accessibility and safety, providing a beautiful and fun environment for volunteer groups to manage this urban forest decades to come.





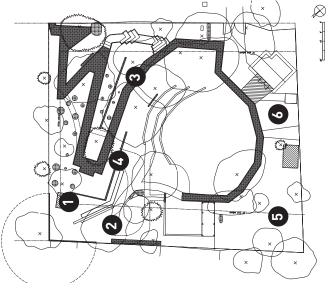


SUMMER









EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE CONDITION

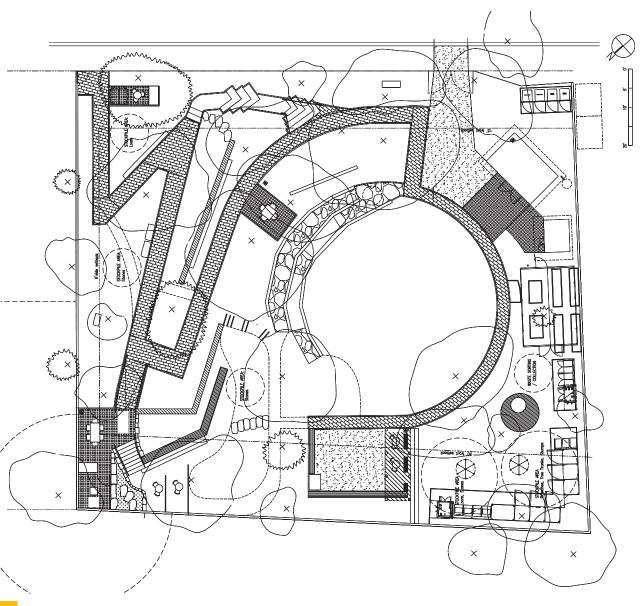
While this is not a full documentation of site issues, here are representative views of conditions prevalent throughout the site that require restoration. These correspond to phasing of construction [refer to PART II].

- Broken infrastructure
- 2 Damaged and fenced North section
- 3 Uneven, damaged pathways
- 4 Rotting wood retaining walls
- 5 Inefficient /overflow of storage
- 6 Damaged composting structure / Lack of flow and spatial definition at planting beds



Part I: Site Design Overview

SITE DESIGN OVERVIEW - INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT



NEW / RESTORED FEATURES:

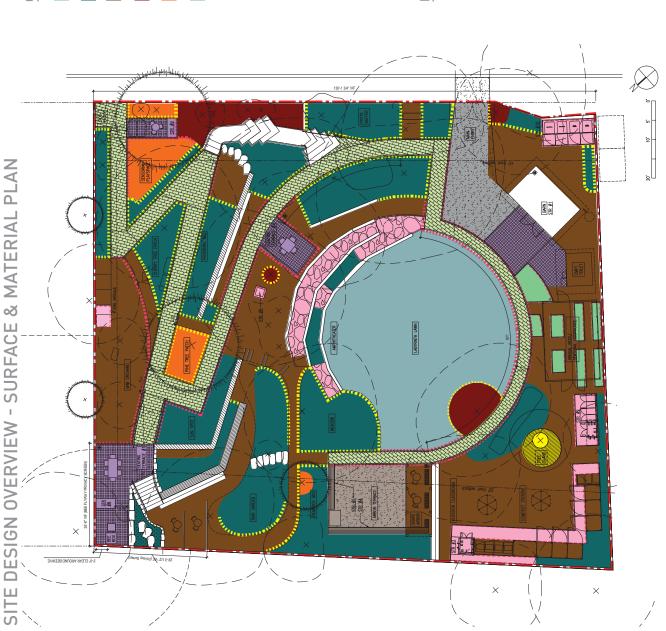
DEFINED ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION PLANTING BEDS / ADA / STROLLER -FRIENDLY SEATING PLATFORMS DECENTRALIZED / PROGRAM-SPECIFIC STORAGE PERENNIAL DEMONSTRATION PLANTING BEDS ROBUST / PEST-FREE COMPOSTING STATION ADA PATHWAYS + WELL-DEFINED EDGING AMPHITHEATER + NEW PAVING / SEATING SEASONAL HOOP HOUSE / COLD FRAMES RETAINING WALLS / STONE OUTCROP LAWN WITH MEDITATION LABYRINTH ADDITIONAL POWER / PLUMBING RAIN GARDEN [REPLACE POND] SIT SPOTS / EVENT SPACE NATURAL PLAY SPACE APIARY + FLYWAY MEADOW

EXISTING STRUCTURES:

GRAPE ARBOR PORT-A-JOHN

BARN

* See Appendix for key plan & annotated design drawings



SEATING PLATFORM - WOOD

STEPPING STONES

GROUND SURFACE:

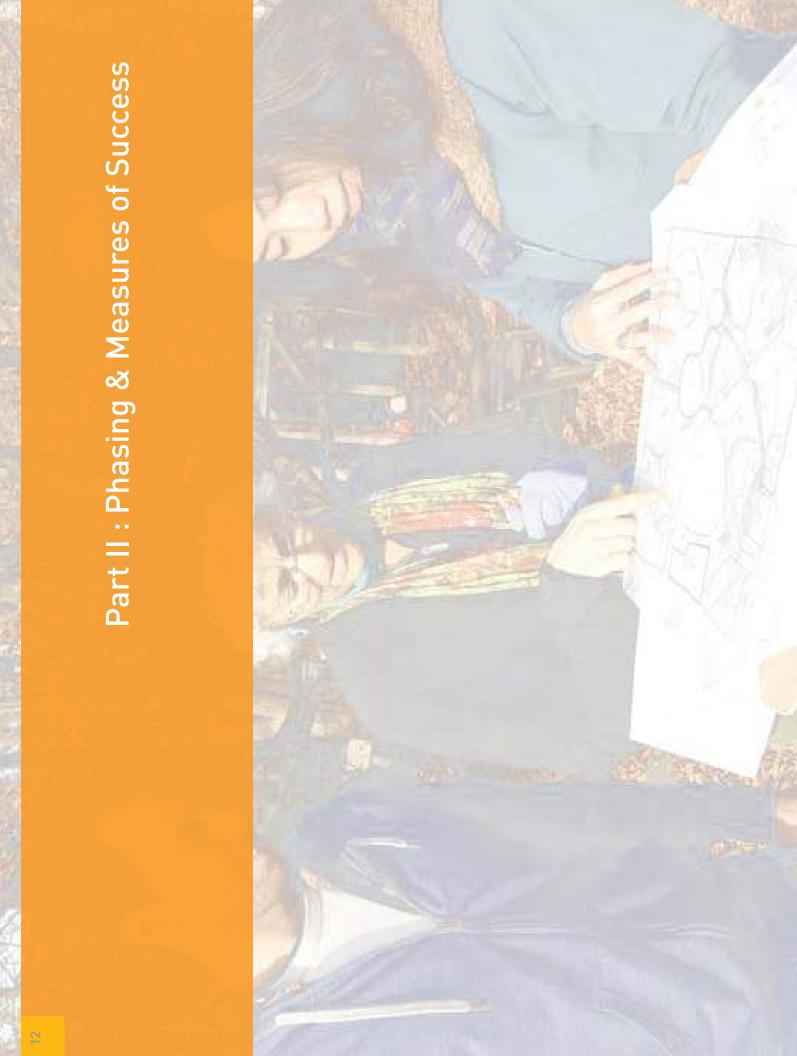
ANNUAL BEDS
PLANTING SOIL
REGULAR MULCH
THICK MULCH
PINE MULCH
LAWN WITH LABYRINTH
PRIMARY PATHWAYS - PERVIOUS PAVERS
SECONDARY PATHWAYS - PERVIOUS PAVERS
[WITH INTERPLANTING / UPCYCLED PAVERS]
SEATING PLATFORM - PERVIOUS PAVERS
EXISTING CONCRETE

EDGING

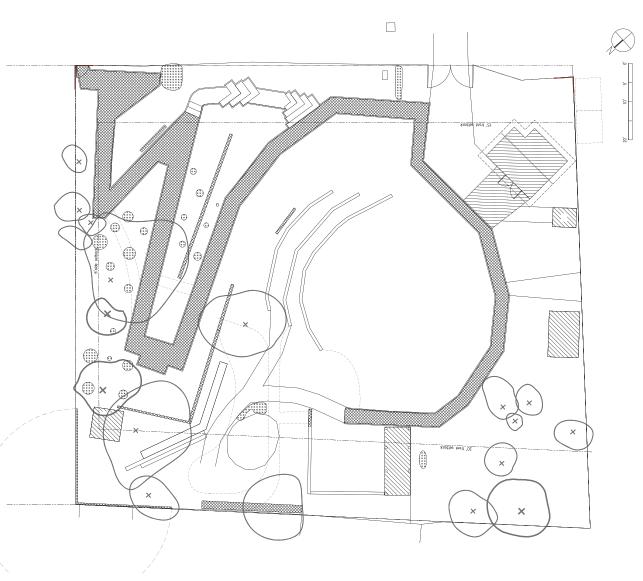
AT GRADE - NEW AT GRADE - UPCYCLED

RAISED PLANTING BED RAILWAY TIES

KAILWAY 11ESFENCED SITE BOUNDARY



PHASING & KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS



LEGEND:



ELEMENTS TO BE DEMOLISHED



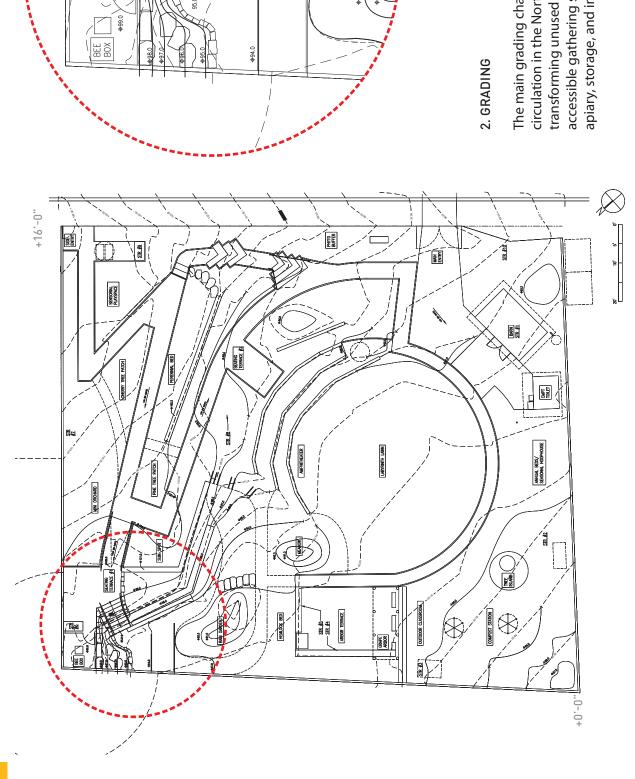
TREES TO BE HARVESTED



HERBACEOUS LAYER TO BE REMOVED

1. DEMOLITION & SITE PREPARATION

All materials for construction [except pressure treated wood]will be reused as onsite fill for grading and masonry phases. Volunteer trees noted for harvest will be utilized on site and stumps ground prior to construction.

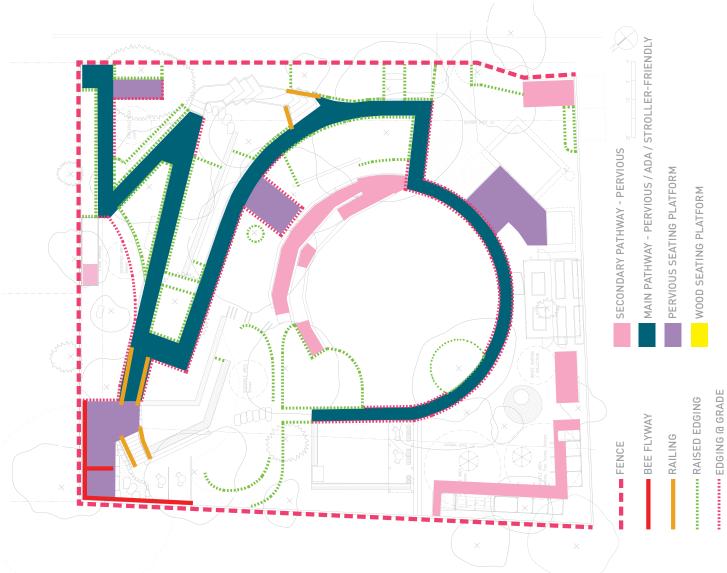


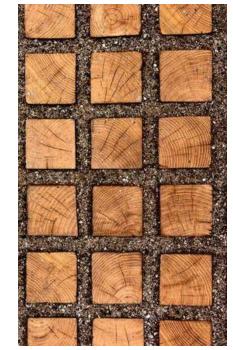
SEATING TERRACE #1

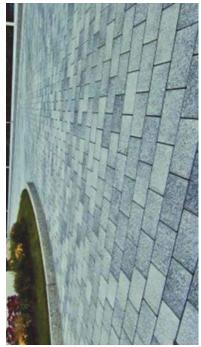
ST,

The main grading changes will drastically improve circulation in the Northern corner of the site, transforming unused space into infrastructure, ADA accessible gathering space, a well protected urban apiary, storage, and increased planting area.

PHASING & KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS



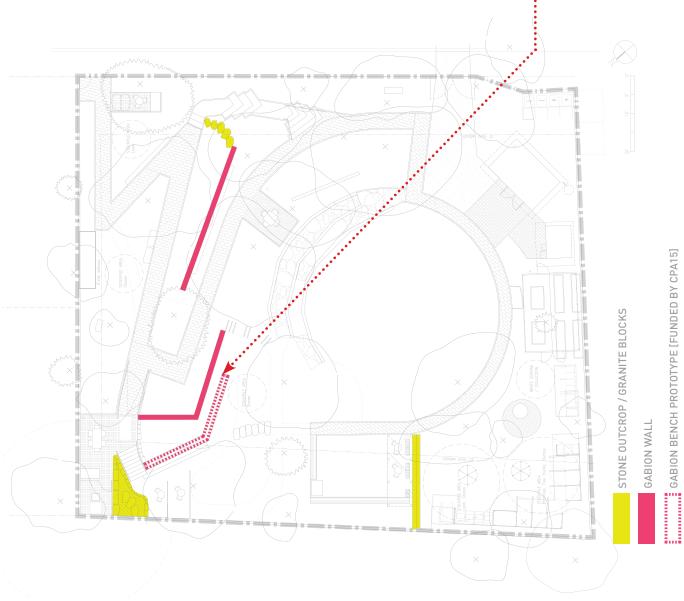


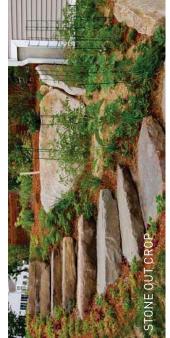


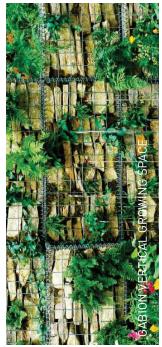
3. UTILITIES / PATHWAYS / RAILINGS / FENCES / SEATING PLATFORMS

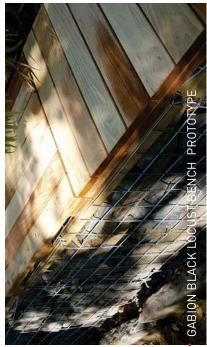
ADA accessible pathways, platforms with proper subgrade and installation will allow increased use of the site for all. This upgrade will bring the walkways up to code, with little to no maintenance needed for decades. Native and sustainably sourced material such as Black Locust tiles and other pervious pavers allow for water infiltration supporting the forest and plant health.

PHASING & KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS









4. RETAINING WALLS - GABION / STONE OUTCROP

Gabion retaining walls will replace current rotting wood with strong and resilient infrastructure. These walls also allow for upcycling of degraded pathways as fill, eliminating waste and saving material costs, while providing superb drainage and vertical growing space.

PHASING & MEASURES OF SUCCESS







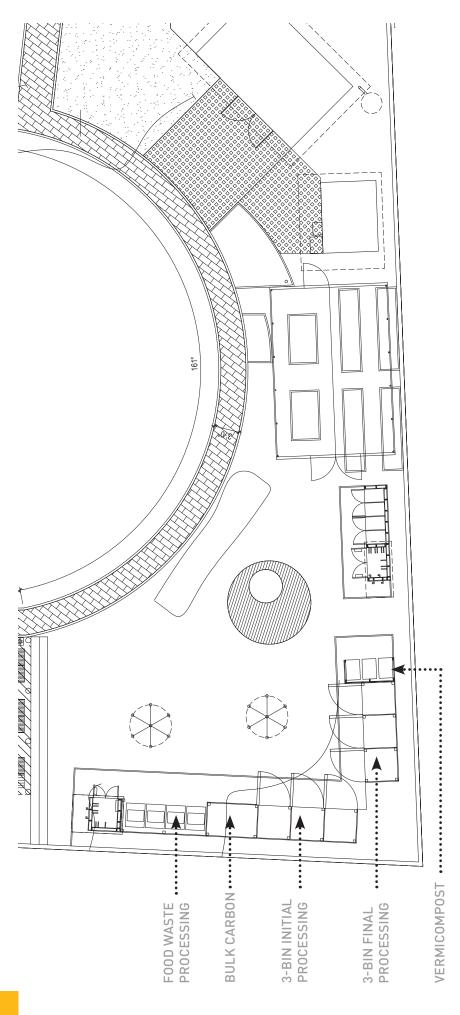
5. PROGRAM-SPECIFIC STORAGE

Dispersing storage throughout the site based on proximity to site programs is key for organizing tools and materials. Not only does it provide ease of access by volunteers and management, this storage plan allows for safer access, improving aesthetics and overall organization.

NEW PROGRAM-SPECIFIC STORAGE

EXISTING STORAGE

PHASING & MEASURES OF SUCCESS





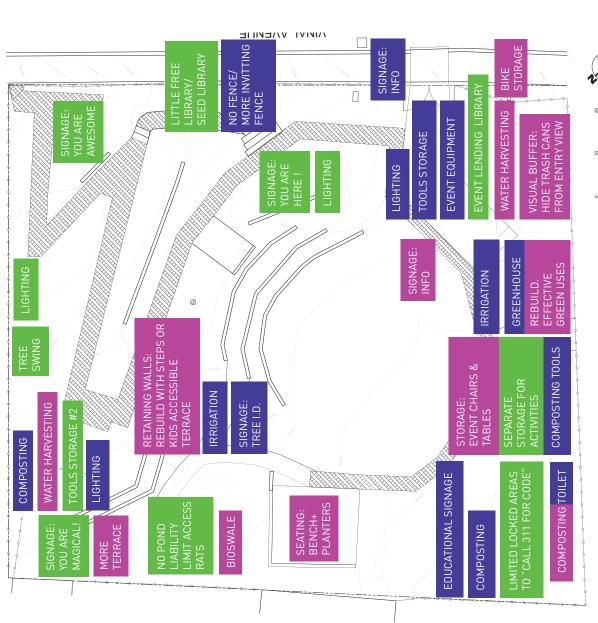


6. COMPOSTING STATION, ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION PLANTING BED

The composting station will hold and process all organic waste produced on site. It is designed to process food waste in an urban setting, building capacity for food waste collection and composting in connection to residents and businesses in Union Square. Up to 3-4,000lbs/ month of food waste could be processed with proper management. In addition, food scrap collection and vermicompost creation can be an funding source for the FCGC team or a small local business.

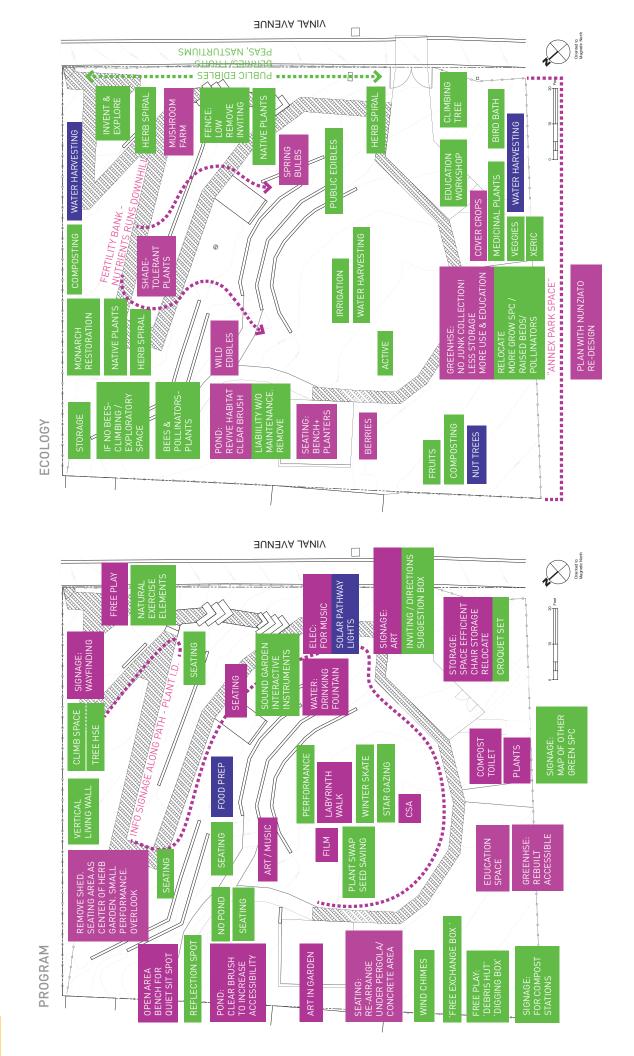


designers, Terra Cura, were able to harness the energy and ideas of local residents and volunteers. From the visioning and design charettes to education and volunteer days, the collaboration was key to a successful, community based



DESIGN FOCUS - INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Design ideas and feedback from the community were gathered in the context of infrastructure, programming, and ecology. Most applicable to this project is the feedback for infrastructure on site. Community knowledge, innovation and desires were continually considered throughout the entire process.



NEW SITE PATTERNS - INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY



EXISTING



management of the urban forest and add access for groups playground. This improvement will also allow for efficient circulation throughout the site as shown. This will add for greater use and enjoyment as a natural space and Construction of the proposed project will increase

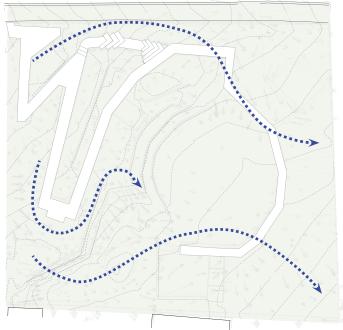




NEW SITE PATTERNS - INCREASED STORMWATER INFILTRATION THROUGH NATURAL SYSTEMS



EXISTING



STORMWATER CONTROL

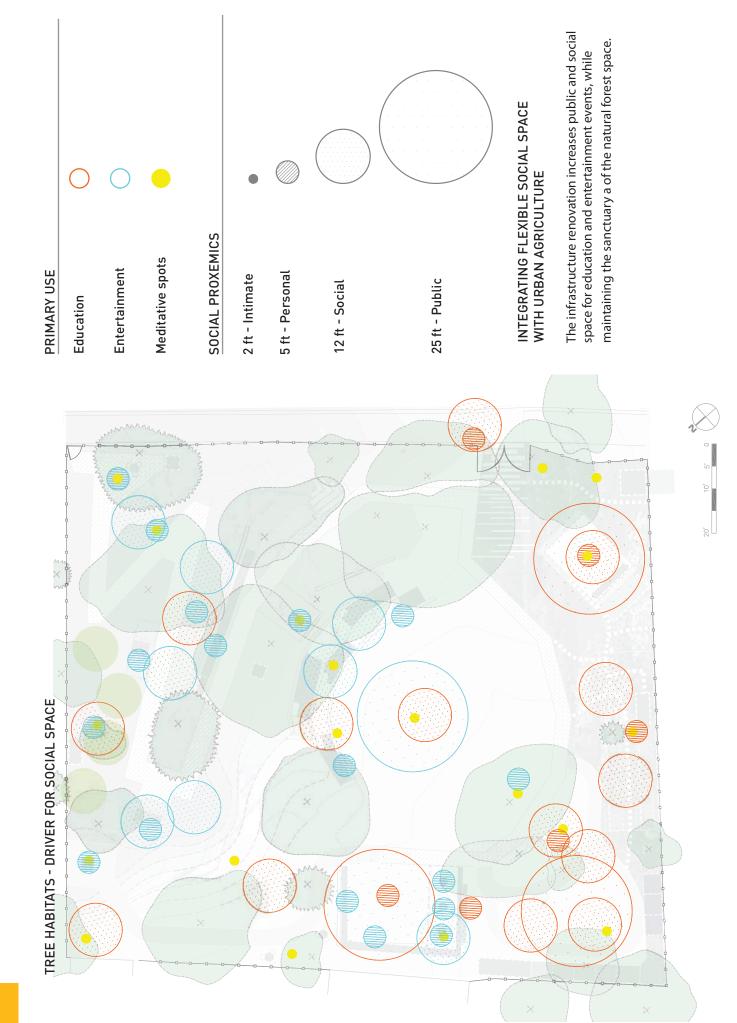
Water infiltration into planting beds is considered throughout the site design. With new construction the Growing Center will allow for:

93% Permeable and Pervious surface Absorbs & Infiltrates into groundwater

7% Impermeable SurfaceWith runoff captured on site



SOMERVILLE'S FIRST URBAN FOOD FOREST - A NEW TYPOLOGY FOR PUBLIC PARKS



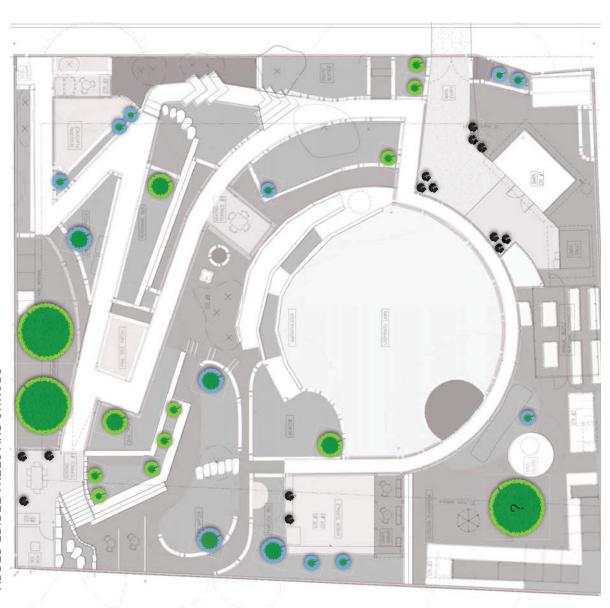
INFRASTRUCTURE UNDERGROWTH FOREST **FOREST EDGE OPEN SPACE / LABYRINTH** ANNUALS PEOPLE WOODLAND **FOREST** TREE HABITATS OUTDOOR WORKING ROOM

EXPERIENCING A DIVERSITY OF HABITATS

As the largest architecture on-site, social space and sit spots are positioned and designed to accetuate the tree habitats at different sections of the urban forest.

SOMERVILLE'S FIRST URBAN FOOD FOREST - A NEW TYPOLOGY FOR PUBLIC PARKS

ADDED EDIBLE TREES AND SHRUBS



SUN / SHADE TOLERANCE



PART SUN/ SHADE TOLERANT

SIZE & QUANTITY



REGULAR BUSH

MINIATURE BUSH ω

POTTED 14

REGULAR BUSH

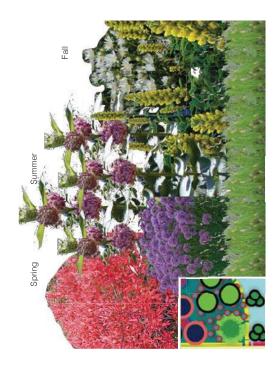
MINIATURE BUSH

BEYOND COMMUNITY GARDEN

adding interest along with social and ecological value to the Edible trees and shrubs will fit into the new infrastructure Growing Center. This is a key factor emphasized by many parents and children of the community.

MULTI-LAYERED PLANTING FUNCTIONS + STRATEGIC SOIL BUILDING CAPACITY





A COMMUNITY NURSERY

This project allows for a new round of diverse and functional plantings by the FCGC. Emphasis is placed on full season bloom with diverse color and texture, edible herbs, ornamental flowers for cutting, native pollinator habitat, soil regenerating plants, rain gardens, annual gardens, and more! These plants can be distributed at plant sales, gifted to volunteers and spread throughout the community of Somerville, serving as a community nursery.

PROJECT BUDGET BY TRADE - FULL SCOPE

1. SITE PREPARATION		3. FRAMING & FINISH CARPENTRY		6. PLANTING	
A. RETAINING WALLS REMOVAL	000′9 \$	A. ANNUAL BED PLANTERS	\$ 8,000	A. LOAM	\$ 5,000
B. CONCRETE REMOVAL	\$ 3,500	B. SEATING BENCH	\$ 7,000	B. PLANT MATERIAL	\$ 8,000
C. TREE REMOVAL	\$ 4,500	C. COMPOSTING CONTAINERS	\$ 5,700	C. LAWN LABYRINTH INSTALL	\$ 25,000
D. COMPOST INFRA. REMOVAL	\$ 2,000	D. STORAGE LOCKERS	\$ 30,000	D. BEEHIVE EQUIPMENT	\$ 500
E. GREENHOUSE REMOVAL	\$ 1,000	E. SEATING PLATFORMS	\$ 4,000	E. MULCH	\$ 5,000
F. FENCE [INCLU. IN INSTALL]		F. BEE BOX PRIVACY FENCE	\$ 5,000	F. WOOD CHIPS	\$ 2,000
G. TRANSPLANTING	\$ 2,000	G. HOOP HOUSE / COLD FRAMES	\$ 7,500		
H. PATHWAY REMOVAL	000′6 \$. INTULA	. \$ 47 200	. INTULA	. \$ 7.5 500
I. LABYRINTH REMOVAL	\$ 1,000				
J. GRADING	\$ 13,000				
K. POND REMOVAL	\$ 2,000	4. METALWORK		TOTAL CONSTRUCTION:	\$ 386 550
SUBTOTAL:	\$ 44,000	A. PERIMETER FENCE	\$ 9,850	TOTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT:	
		B. STAIR RAILS	\$ 10,000	TOTAL COST:	\$ 420,050
		C. BEE BOX ORNAMENTAL FENCE	\$ 5,000	*IN-KIND:	\$ 35,500
2. MASONRY				TOTAL COST LESS IN-KIND:	
A. GABION RETAINING WALLS	\$ 15,000	SUBTOTAL:	: \$ 24,850	+ 10% CONTINGENCY	
B. MAIN PATHWAYS & EDGING	\$ 130,000	5. UTILITIES		TOTAL ASK: \$423,000	5423,000
C. SECONDARY PATHWAYS	\$ 14,000				
D. STONE STEPS	\$ 8,000	A. POWER	\$ 14,000		
E. GRANITE BLOCKS SEATING	\$ 2,000	B. PLUMBING	\$ 22,000		
SUBTOTAL:	\$169,000	SUBTOTAL:	: \$ 36,000	* SEE NEXT PAGE FOR IN-KIND LINE ITEMS	-KIND LINE ITEMS

LIMITED SCOPE BY SUB-PROJECTS / IN-KIND / ESTIMATED TIMELINE

LIMITED SCOPE OPTION:

sub-projects listed on the right will be minimizing increase of overall project to be completed for efficiency in the prioritized to achieve baseline safety sequence of construction, as well as and functionality. They include line items from other trades that need If partially funded, the 2

However, this option will exclude key site features: composting stations, storage, seating, annual bed units. \$ 266,850 \$ 28,500 TOTAL CONSTRUCTION: TOTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

\$ 330,850 TOTAL COST:

\$ 35,500 *IN-KIND:

\$ 295,350 TOTAL COST LESS IN-KIND:

+ 10% CONTINGENCY

TOTAL ASK: \$324,850

* SEE TABLE BELOW FOR IN-KIND LINE ITEMS

1. RETAINING WALLS

2. PATHWAYS & UTILITIES

A. RETAINING WALLS REMOVAL \$ 6,000	10VAL \$ 4,500	ANTING \$ 2,000	:MOVAL \$ 2,000	13,000	F. GABION RETAINING WALLS \$ 15,000	TEPS \$ 8,000	H. BEE BOX PRIVACY FENCE \$ 5,000	ER FENCE \$ 9,850	H. BEE BOX ORNAMENTAL FENCE \$ 5,000
A. RETAININ	B. TREE REMOVAL	C. TRANSPLANTING	D. POND REMOVAL	E. GRADING	F. GABION	G. STONE STEPS	H. BEE BOX	I. PERIMETER FENCE	H. BEE BOX

8,000

E. SECONDARY PATHWAYS

F. POWER

D. STAIR RAILS

\$ 14,000

9,000

\$130,000 \$ 10,000

C. MAIN PATHWAYS & EDGING

B. CONCRETE REMOVAL

A. PATHWAY REMOVAL

\$ 3,500

SUBTOTAL: \$ 70,350

IN-KIND LABOR / FUNDRAISING BY FCGC

A. LABYRINTH REMOVAL	\$	\$ 1,000
B. TRANSPLANTING	\$	\$ 2,000
C. GREENHOUSE REMOVAL	⋄	\$ 1,000
D. PLANTING, MULCHING,	Ş	\$ 8,000
WOODCHIPS LABOR, LAWN &		
LABYRINTH INSTALLATION		
E. BEEHIVE EQUIPMENT	\$	200
F. PLANT MATERIAL	\$	8000

\$ 35,500 IN-KIND TOTAL:

SUBTOTAL: \$196,500

2017 ESTIMATED TIMELINE

SCOPE ADJUSTMENT JUNE / JULY:

SPECIFICATIONS **BIDDING &**

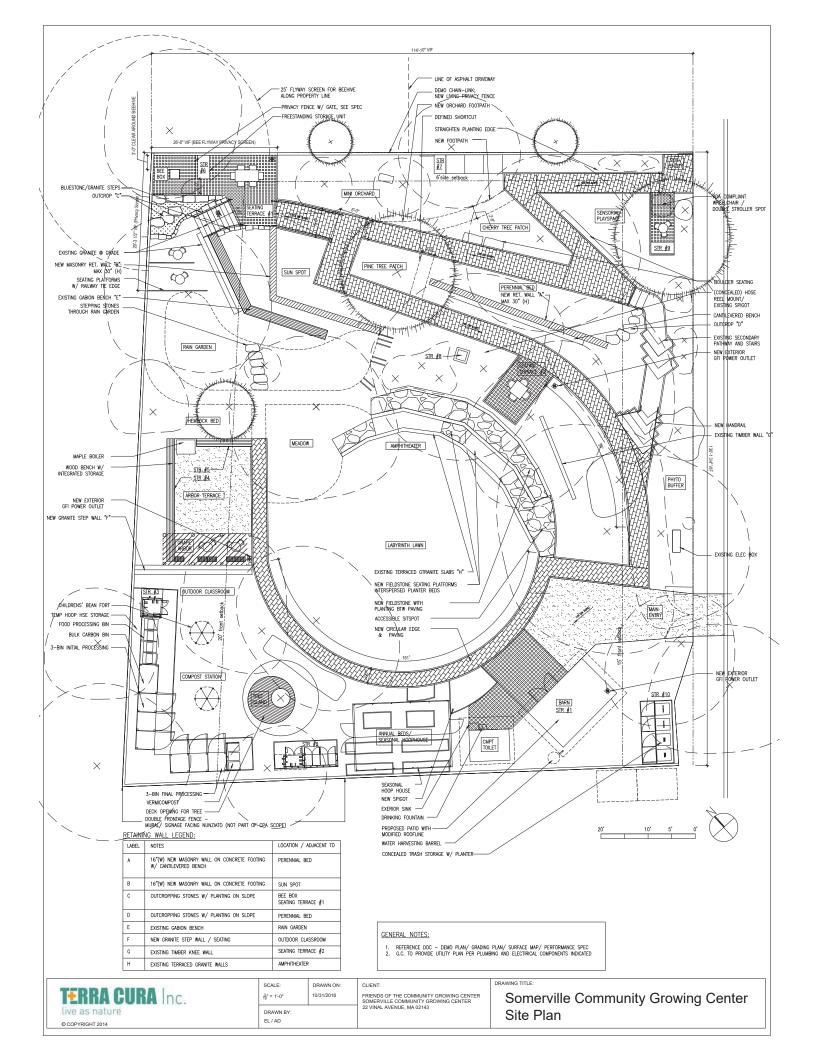
NEGOTIATIONS

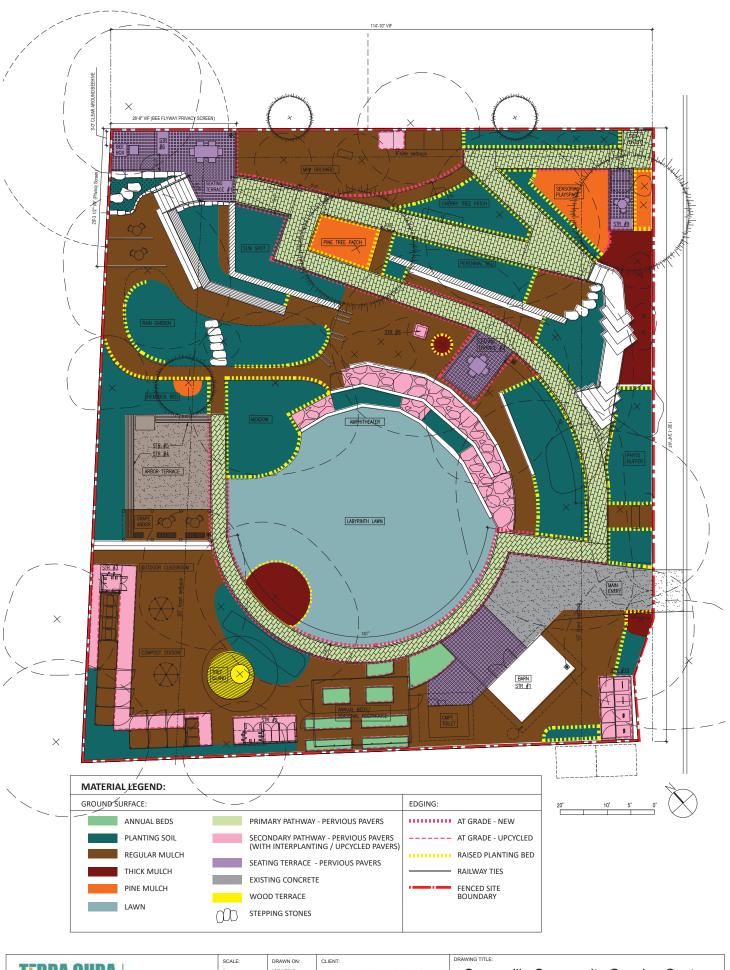
CONSTRUCTION AUG / SEP / OCT / NOV:

IN-KIND SERVICE BY FCGC OCT / NOV / EARLY DEC:

*CONTINGENT ON DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE / WEATHER

Part V : Appendix





TERRA CURA Inc. live as nature

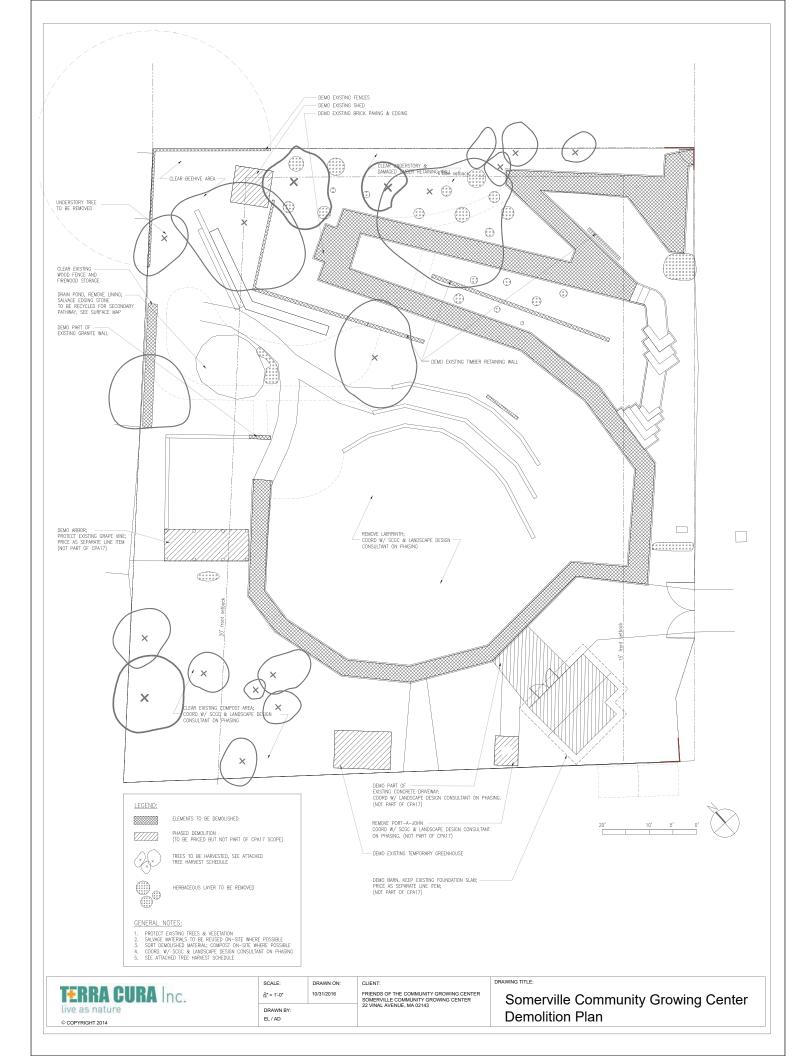
• COPYRIGHT 2014

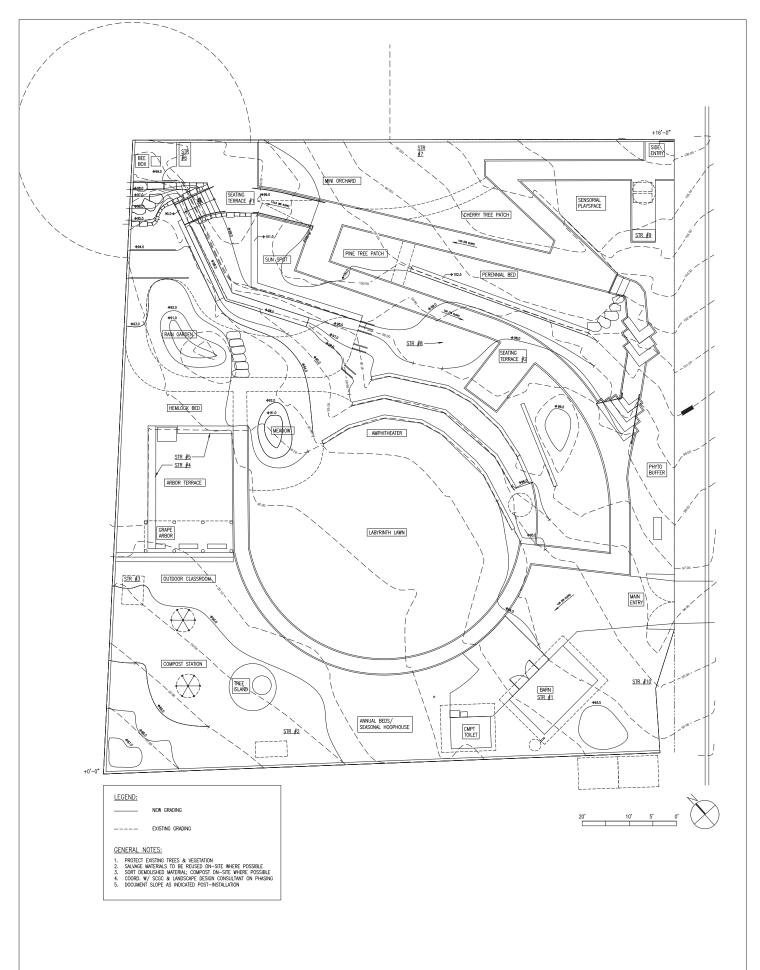
SCALE: DRAWN ON 10/31/2016

DRAWN BY: EL / AD

CLIENT: FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY GROWING CENTER SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY GROWING CENTER 22 VINAL AVENUE, MA 02143

Somerville Community Growing Center Surface Map





TERRA CURA Inc.

© COPYRIGHT 2014

SCALE: DRAWN ON:

10/31/2016

DRAWN BY:
EL / AD

FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY GROWING CENTE SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY GROWING CENTER 22 VINAL AVENUE, MA 02143 DRAWING TITLE

Somerville Community Growing Center Grading Plan



