“You can fix all the world’s problems, in a garden.
You can solve them all, in a garden.
You can solve all your pollution problems and all your supply needs, in a garden.

And most people today don’t actually know that. And that makes most people very insecure.”

Geoff Lawton, Permaculture Consultant, Designer, and Teacher
Festival Beach Food Forest

Celebrate, Connect, Grow!
Festival Beach Food Forest

Celebrate, Connect, Grow!
Festival Beach Food Forest

Celebrate, Connect, Grow!
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Festival Beach Food Forest

Celebrate, Connect, Grow!

AND HOW WE ALL LEARN ALONG THE WAY
• Farming of both Livestock and crops is the largest human endeavor on Earth, using more than 38% of ice-free land.
• Our next largest impact: erosion caused by agriculture, building, logging, and mining.
“We don’t need perfect political systems. We need perfect participation.”

There are... diamonds... of them... everywhere...
Where is this place?
Many Discussions!
I am grateful for all of the rain and gardens and trees have been blessed with.
So first we needed to be on the master plan!
The Community Spiral:
The spiral is a central organizing metaphor for our community; our message of tree, local, healthy food, spiralling outward to embrace our whole community. Spread outward to touch our neighbors. Ever-spiralling outward to spark new initiatives of food security and strengthening community bonds. The spiral will take on many forms from archways and gateways to seat walls and patterns on the ground. Different sections will have different characters as differing ideas or groups dedicate themselves and their stories to the spiral sections.

Rainwater Harvesting:
Four cisterns are located around the spiral for storing rainwater. When the RBJ redevelopment occurs, it is our sincere hope that this project will benefit from rainwater capture from RBJ roof surfaces. The spiral in this section will have a continuous aqueduct that will fill all four cisterns in the rainy season to be used for irrigation throughout the year.

The Community Garden Shed:
Our community envisions a multi-purposed structure that will be located on the boundary between the existing Festival Beach Community Garden and the Food Forest. The building will be symbolic in that we are reaching out to the community garden with a new facility for our shared use. We share our resources; we share our water. We are neighbors, brothers and sisters in celebrating the bounty of the earth.

Light & Shade:
A variety of micro-climates are necessary including varying amounts of sunlight that reaches into a garden. The 1st phase will be planted with many trees and being young trees, there will be plenty of light allowing for sun-loving plants to thrive. As time passes and trees grow providing more shade, the sun-loving plants will migrate or transplant to later phases toward the RBJ redevelopment.

Plant Guilds:
Each location around the food forest will have specific plant guilds. Guilds are groupings of plants and other components that have a symbiotic relationship which in turn builds a larger whole community or micro ecosystem all working together for optimum performance. Plants with scales, microbes, insects, birds and other wildlife contribute to a whole system producing food or supporting food production.
Guerrilla Rye Grass
Spiral Seeding
So we have talked a lot, met a lot of people, had parties, had design charrettes, and crafted vision statements.

BUT I’M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE THIS ALL OUT... (I’m not the only one though)
Food Forest? What's that??!!

The Layers!

Nine Layers of the Edible Forest Garden

1. Canopy/Tall Tree Layer
2. Sub-Canopy/Large Shrub Layer
3. Shrub Layer
4. Herbaceous Layer
5. Groundcover/Creeper Layer
6. Underground Layer
7. Vertical/Climber Layer
8. Aquatic/Wetland Layer
9. Mycelial/Fungal Layer

1. Canopy (Large Fruit & Nut Trees)
2. Sub-Canopy Layer (Dwarf Fruit Trees)
3. Shrub Layer (Currants & Berries)
4. Herbaceous (Comfrey, Beets, Herbs)
5. Rhizosphere (Root Vegetables)
6. Soil Surface (Ground Cover, Strawberry)
7. Vertical Layer ( Climbers, Vines)
Food Forest? What's that??!!

The Guilds + Systems!
Visited a REAL food forest!
PROCESS!

UGH!

We really have to do a process?
So we started to develop plans:
26,773 sf
First Phase Limit of Construction

All work performed within the tree protection zone will be performed by hand.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Soils</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Carya illinoiensis</td>
<td>Pecan</td>
<td>70'-100'</td>
<td>moist</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
<td>Texas Black Walnut</td>
<td>50'-75'</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Sun/Part Sun</td>
<td>Moist, Rich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pinus taeda</td>
<td>Loblolly Pine</td>
<td>60'</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Sun/part sun</td>
<td>Dry, Well Drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cupressus arizonica</td>
<td>Arizona Cypress</td>
<td>40'-50'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Sun/Part sun</td>
<td>Moist, Sandy Loam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Prunus domestica</td>
<td>Plum</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Wide Variety; Moist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Malus ioensis var, Texana</td>
<td>Blanco Crabapple</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Well Drained, Calcareous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Prunus serotina v, exima</td>
<td>Escarpment Black Cherry</td>
<td>36' Medium</td>
<td>Sun/shade</td>
<td>well drained, Dry/moist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pyrus communis</td>
<td>Pear</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Sun/Part Sun</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pinus monophylla</td>
<td>Pinion Pine</td>
<td>15'-30'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Well Drained, Dry Rocky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Moringa oleifera</td>
<td>Moringa; Drumstick Tree</td>
<td>30'-49'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Sun/Part sun</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Eriobotrya japonica</td>
<td>Loquat</td>
<td>25'-35'</td>
<td>dry-moist</td>
<td>Sun/ part sun</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ziziphus jujuba</td>
<td>Jujube</td>
<td>20'-30'</td>
<td>Dry-Moist</td>
<td>Sun/ Part sun</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Punica granatum</td>
<td>Pomegranate</td>
<td>16'-25'</td>
<td>Low-Moist</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Diospyros texana</td>
<td>Texas Persimmon</td>
<td>25'</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Sun/Part sun</td>
<td>well drained, limestone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diospyros kaki</td>
<td>Asian Persimmon</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Laurus nobilis</td>
<td>Bay Laurel</td>
<td>25'</td>
<td>Med/moist</td>
<td>Part sun/shade</td>
<td>Rich, well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Prosopis glandulosa</td>
<td>Honey mesquite</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Leucaena retusa</td>
<td>Glenball Lead Tree</td>
<td>15'-25'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Part sun/ Shade</td>
<td>Wide Range</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prunus persica</td>
<td>Peach</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>Sun/ Part sun</td>
<td>Well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Prunus armeniaca</td>
<td>Apricot</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Well drained, pH 6-7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ficus carica</td>
<td>Fig</td>
<td>15'</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Sun/part sun</td>
<td>Well drained, not sandy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asimina triloba</td>
<td>Paw Paw</td>
<td>10'-40'</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Sun/Shade</td>
<td>Rich/Moist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chilopsis linearis</td>
<td>Desert Willow</td>
<td>10'-40'</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Sun/Shade</td>
<td>Rich/ Moist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ilex vomitoria</td>
<td>Yaupon Holly</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Sun-Shade</td>
<td>Well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Viburnum rufidulum</td>
<td>Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>SunPart sun</td>
<td>Dry, Sandy Loam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mimosa borealis</td>
<td>Fragrant Mimosa</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>SunPart Sun</td>
<td>Wide Range</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yucca recurvifolia</td>
<td>Soft Leaf Yucca</td>
<td>8'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>SunPart Sun</td>
<td>Well drained, dry-moist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fortunella japonica</td>
<td>Round Kumquat</td>
<td>8'</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Heavy loam, lots of compost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Berberis trifoliata</td>
<td>Agarita</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Sun/ part sun</td>
<td>well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Rubus idaeus</td>
<td>Raspberry</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>Sun part sun</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Callicarpa americana</td>
<td>American Beautyberry</td>
<td>3'-6'</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Part Sun-shade</td>
<td>Rich soil, sandy loam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Opuntia lindeheimeri</td>
<td>Texas Prickly Pear</td>
<td>3'-6'</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>sun</td>
<td>well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Malpighia glabra</td>
<td>Barbados Cherry</td>
<td>4'-6'</td>
<td>Low-Med</td>
<td>Sun/ Part sun</td>
<td>Dry, variety, well drained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rubus fruticosus</td>
<td>Black Berry</td>
<td>3' Moist, Tolerant SunShade</td>
<td>Well drained, wede range</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Colocasia esculenta</td>
<td>Taro</td>
<td></td>
<td>High, River edge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Vitis mustangensis</td>
<td>Mustang Grape</td>
<td>vine</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>Sunpart sun</td>
<td>well drained, moderate fert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Arundinaria gigantea</td>
<td>River Cane</td>
<td>25' Med</td>
<td>SunPart sun</td>
<td>wet to well drained</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bambusa textilis</td>
<td>Clump Bamboo</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>moist</td>
<td>Sun/ Part sun</td>
<td>Sandy, Loamy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Eysenhardtia texana</td>
<td>Texas Kidneywood</td>
<td>3'-8'</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Dry, Rocky, Calcarious, Loamy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permablitz!!
Tree Folks! Planting 100 trees with an American Forest Grant
A bright future for urban food forests

BY TRACY ILENE MILLER

IF YOU'VE NEVER HEARD of a food forest before, you are not alone. The concept grew out of the permaculture movement of the 1970s and has risen in popularity over the last few years due to social and environmental issues related to food security.

Food forests are an idea whose time has finally come. What is a food forest? It is a tract of land densely planted with trees that work together to sustain itself as well as provide an abundance of edible produce. A food forest is a sustainable ecosystem where not all plants are edibles. Food forests include a mix of trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials and herbaceous plants that feed the soil, attract pollinators, produce rich soils, provide habitat for wildlife and produce food.

How food forests are built:

Food forests follow a planting system based on several layers and plant guilds. The system takes advantage of plant morphologies and photosynthetic strategies to optimize light, water, nutrient and structural needs of the plants. The layers are as follows:

1. Standard and Large Fruit trees, such as peaches and nectarines, from the uppermost layer, the canopy layer, and are surrounded with species that lower turbulence in their layers.

2. Smaller trees, such as pears, apples and small orchard fruit, on the upper canopy layer.

3. The shrub layer has flowering and fruiting plants, such as berries and blueberries.

4. The herb layer is made up of grasses and other perennials that provide cover and habitat for wildlife.

5. The ground layer includes ground covers, such as clover and vetch, that help to retain moisture and provide habitat for beneficial insects.

6. The soil layer is enriched with organic matter from the plants and animals in the ecosystem.

By creating a food forest, we can provide a sustainable and diverse source of food, improve the local environment and support the local community. Urban food forests can be a solution to food insecurity and a way to connect people with nature and each other.

The National Press

DIGIKAA MAGAZINE • FEBRUARY 2016
City Council Update on our progress

February 24, 2016
City of Austin City Council
Via email

Re: Festival Beach Food Forest gets National Press

Dear Austin City Council,

First of all, thank you for your service in a difficult job.

This note is a brief update on Austin’s new food forest located adjacent to the RBJ Senior Center and the Festival Beach Community Garden at 2581 1/2 Walker Street.

As you may know, our installation began at the end of October and beginning of November with an amazing turnout of volunteers. There has been such a buzz about the project that we have now been featured in an article from the Oregon Nursery Association, which is attached as part of this email.

Our journey has been a long one as volunteers to get this project envisioned, designed, permitted and now installed. Thanks to many chaplains at PARO and our core team of volunteer members, we have been very proud of our accomplishments to date and wish to share that with you as well.

As of Saturday February 13th, our food forest is looking great! Being a scheduled workday, our volunteer turnout hovers around 20 pairs of hands-on-deck for mulch spreading, moving, trimming, trash pickup, planting, and more. This Spring we will be working on a second phase of plantings that will start to build the understory plant communities to work in unison with the fruit and nut trees and former trees, already installed.

We were very happy to have Mr. Patera come by and see the activities and wish for all of our city leaders to come by and enjoy our small patch of forest and enjoy the fact that the eyes of the parkland nation are watching us as we continue to mature. We have an event coming up on April 9th at a local farm: YardFarm, 7204 Shelton Road. The event will be a fundraiser to help us match a City of Austin Neighborhood Partnering Program grant of $50,000 for the development of ADA paths, benches, and signage. Visit our website at festivalbeach.org for information about the event, workshops, fundraising, and grant activities and photos.

We hope to see you April 9th as well as at the food forest!

Best Regards,

Festival Beach Food Forest Core Team

Street: 2411 E. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78702  contact@festivalbeach.org
TODAY!
Next Workday!!

March 12th

Festivalbeach.org
WHERE FROM HERE?

Required landscapes should require edibles
We must broaden our acceptance of more food in an aesthetic landscape.

We must broaden our acceptance of what in our landscape IS possibly edible.
Pecan: Nuts
Live Oak: Nuts ground into powder for soups and baking, medicinal uses
Mexican Plums: Fruit
Yaupon Holly: Tea, Medicinal uses
“Gardens like this are needed the world over, desperately needed where deserts flourish and life dies. Life!

Perhaps that is it! Yes, if I were asked to describe the Findhorn Garden in one word, I would answer ‘Life’. Life abounding.”

From The Findhorn Garden
April 9th Fundraiser @ YardFarm
7204 Shelton Rd.

Raising funds for a Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) matching grant worth $80,000 for ADA paths, benches, & signage