



BOSTON FOOD FOREST COALITION



FOOD FOREST SITE AT MASS AUDUBON'S BOSTON NATURE CENTER

There is a forest of food in Boston, and it is growing at Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center! The Boston Food Forest Coalition (BFFC), a project of Jamaica Plain New Economy Transition (JPNET), is an organization of committed neighbors across Boston that envision a robust network of neighborhood-based, publicly accessible edible food forest gardens and orchards located throughout Boston. Our flagship food forest demonstration site is located at Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center, and ground was broken on the project in April 2014.

Take a look at our progress in Year 1 at the Boston Nature Center in this photo essay!

BOSTON NATURE CENTER SITE'S FIRST GROWING SEASON

ABOUT FOOD FORESTS A food forest is a sustainable land management system that mimics a woodland ecosystem, focusing on fruit and nut trees, berry bushes and other edible plants growing in different supportive layers.

Herb Spiral We dismantled old brush piles and used the brush to construct an herb spiral. An herb spiral allows you to place plants in the sun and water conditions they need .



April 2014: Constructing spiral out of materials found on site and soil donated by City Soil.



May 2014: Volunteers planting herbs generously donated by Allandale Farm.



July 2014: Herbs grew well in two months with very little watering or maintenance.

Hugelkultur Raised Bed Hugelkultur is a raised bed technique in which you bury old tree trunks and branches under compost. The tree waste acts like a sponge, making sure the vegetables planted on top get required moisture.



May 2014: Volunteers construct the hugelkultur bed



May 2014: Donated plants from Brookwood Farms



July 2014: Our vegetables grew wonderfully in the hugelkultur bed without any watering for weeks.

Compost Bin We constructed a stall out of repurposed wooden pallets and rope to keep our compost pile tidy.

Sheet Mulching This is a simple technique to minimize weed activity while preparing the ground for new plantings. To sheet mulch, the ground is first covered with cardboard, the boards are then wetted and covered with compost and mulch. Over time, the cardboard breaks down underneath.



July 2014: Volunteers stand proudly in front of their compost bin project.



November 2014: Volunteers break down cardboard in preparation to sheet mulch.

Planting Bee-Friendly Garden Jenny Hauf of Allandale Farm led a workshop about medicinal and bee-friendly herbs. We planted a raised hugelkultur with arnica, tansy, mullein, and others.



August 2014: Volunteers planting herbs in the freshly built hugelkultur bed

Tree Planting After a summer of preparing the land, we finally began the base of the food forest and planted edible trees in the ground, including Yates Persimmon, Filberts and Paw paws.



September 2014: Volunteers dig big holes to plant trees in



September 2014: Dan Schenk demonstrates the proper way to plant a tree in the ground