



The Neighbourhood Tomato Community Farm Project A Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Community Development

The Neighbourhood Tomato Community Farm Project will build upon the mission of the already thriving Community Gardens network to expand locally-grown sustainable food production and empower the community to improve food security for vulnerable populations in a time of recovery for Mississippi Mills

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Objective- Municipal Partnership

Requesting collaboration and partnership with municipality to develop Farm Project as the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Community Development

Identify municipal sites for multiple Farm Project uses:

- ▶ 5-6 acres for organic farm operations
- ▶ 3-4 acres in smaller parcels for orchard, tree nursery, outdoor community space, etc.
- ▶ 8-10 acres in total, including parking

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3 Pillars of Service
 Seniors' Services
 Affordable Housing
 Developmental Services

The ABCD Model

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Community Development Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens

- ▶ Community Garden Network-
 Almonte Library, Augusta Street
 Park, Mississippi Mills Youth
 Centre
- ▶ Great Veggie Grow Off- annual
 event, over 16 tons of fresh
 produce was donated this year to
 area food banks
- ▶ 75 fruit trees planted 2010-
 Almonte, Appleton, Blakeney,
 Clayton, Pakenham
- ▶ Community oven built in 2016



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Project Elements and Outputs

- ▶ Community Organic Farm- farm operations
 - ▶ fruit tree orchard
 - ▶ native tree nursery
- ▶ Education- sustainability education/ farm workshops
 - ▶ online training/demonstration projects
 - ▶ links to school curriculum- Bill 216- Food Literacy Act
- ▶ Employment- youth and senior employment
 - ▶ expansion of Community Garden volunteer network
 - ▶ youth/seniors' centre's tree sales program
- ▶ Waste Diversion- farm and community compost
 - ▶ reduction/reuse of equipment
 - ▶ in-kind donations of equipment, resources
- ▶ Community Marketplace- seasonal markets
 - ▶ Great Veggie Grow Off
 - ▶ community events



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The Neighbourhood Tomato Community Farm

The Triple Bottom Line- Economics, Society, Environment

Deeper community engagement	Sustainability education	Engaged environmental stewardship
Actions: Community development to encourage volunteerism and build capacity of citizens	Actions: Sustainability education programs Demonstration projects	Actions: Use of sustainable agricultural practices Local distribution
Outcome: Development of a culture of service Empowerment of citizens	Outcome: Increased community awareness of need for sustainable practices	Outcome: Community positively influenced by sustainable actions
Goal: Increased Food Security for Mississippi Mills Increased access to nourishing food for vulnerable populations Improved wellbeing and quality of life		

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Community Support- Experts and Advisors

- ▶ Ron Ayling, Master Arborist
- ▶ James Coupland, PhD, crop researcher
- ▶ Allan Goddard, Master Gardener
- ▶ Gordon Harrison, Director, Climate Network Lanark
- ▶ Lorne Heslop, agriculture specialist, former Carebridge board member
- ▶ David Hinks, Master Gardener, Lanark County Food Bank board member
- ▶ Scott Hortop, compost researcher
- ▶ Ed Lawrence, CBC Radio host, Master Gardener
- ▶ Karen Lomas, Chair, Lanark County Food Bank
- ▶ Cheryl Nash, Chair, EcoPerth
- ▶ Don Palmer, former Executive Director, Causeway Community Services
- ▶ Tammy Parent, Manager, Lanark County Food Bank
- ▶ Scott Sigurdson, Owner, Indian Creek CSA

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Community Support- Partners and Allies

- ▶ Town of Mississippi Mills
- ▶ Mississippi Mills Youth Centre
- ▶ Hunger Stop/Lanark County Food Bank
- ▶ Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens
- ▶ Climate Network Lanark
- ▶ Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
- ▶ Mississippi Mills schools
- ▶ Mississippi Mills Public Libraries
- ▶ Long-term care facilities
- ▶ Local service clubs- agricultural groups, Civitan, Lions
- ▶ Large traditional farms and small community supported farms
- ▶ Local businesses- food retailers, local restaurants
- ▶ Local citizens



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Funding Opportunities

- * Perth and District Community Foundation- **\$14,000- secured funding for feasibility study and project development, through Perth and District Community Foundation, beginning February 2021**
- * Tree Canada- **\$3500- funding decision pending**
- Town of Mississippi Mills
- United Way East Ontario
- Lanark County
- Valley Heartland Community Futures Corporation
- Trillium Foundation
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- In-kind donations/contributions- farm equipment, materials, resources, land



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Project Timelines

Year 1 Summer 2020	Year 2 Spring 2022	Year 3 Spring 2023
Growth of Community Garden network (new and existing sites)	Expansion of Garden network to all wards	Increase in Garden network community services
Early Community Farm Project development	Secure land to begin Farm Project operations	All Farm Project elements in active operations

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Thank You!

