Section 10
Design Considerations

Garland urban Agriculture center
Garland Edible Landscapes
INTRODUCTION

Section 10 of this proposal for the Garland Urban Agricultural Center addresses design considerations for creating a **Garland Edible Landscape**.

Municipalities are the largest landowners within any city. Cities own a lot of land that will simply never be developed because it’s along a street, in a utility corridor or on a flood plain along a creek or a river (There is such an area right near my home.)

The Des Moines municipal governments parks and recreation parks and recreation staff has planted fruit and nut trees around schools and community buildings. The maintenance on fruit and nut trees is often less than that of a lawn with ornamental shrubs.

Most municipal governments don’t even know how much municipal land is available or appropriate for producing food. Some estimates state that 1/6 of the land mass of most cities is covered with buildings with flat roofs—largely unused space that could be put into use for food production.

The first Public Fruit Park for the State of California

NO MORE BARREN CITIES!

City Hall Fruit Protest, Los Angeles 2005 Davburns – Wikimedia Commons
Fallen Fruit, http://www.fallenfruit.org/, a group in Los Angeles worked towards this goal for over 8 years. Since the early days of Fallen Fruit they imagined neighborhoods coming together to create new-shared resources, transforming the way we think about the places we live. Their latest project “Del Aire Public Fruit Park” in Los Angeles was formally dedicated to the County of Los Angeles on January 5th, 2013 at 10:30 am.

Fallen Fruit is a collaboration of three artists: David Burns, Matias Viegener, and Austin Young.

Using fruit as their lens, Fallen Fruit investigates urban space, ideas of neighborhood and new forms of located citizenship and community. They began with a mapping of the “public fruit” growing on or over public property in Los Angeles and other American cities and have grown to include video, photography, site-specific installations and participatory events in cities around the world.

By always working with fruit as a material or media, the catalogue of projects and works re-imagine public interactions with the margins of urban space, systems of community and narrative real-time experience. Public Fruit Jams invites a broad public to transform homegrown or public fruit and join in communal jam-making as experimentation in personal narrative and sublime collaboration; Nocturnal Fruit Forages, nighttime neighborhood fruit tours explores the boundaries of public and private space at the edge of darkness; Public Fruit Meditations renegotiates our relationship to ourselves through guided visualizations and dynamic group participation.

Fallen Fruit’s visual work includes an ongoing series of narrative photographs, wallpapers, everyday objects and video works that explore the social and political implications of our relationship to fruit and world around us. Recent curatorial projects re-index the social and historical complexities of museums and archives by re-installing permanent collections through syntactical relationships of fruit as subject matter.

When most people think of Los Angeles, images of a bountiful landscape teeming with public fruit trees doesn’t necessarily come to mind. The artists of Fallen Fruit, David Burns, Matias Viegener and Austin Young are transforming the neighborhood of Del Aire in Hawthorne, CA, into a bountiful public fruit orchard.

Through a commission by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Civic Art Program in collaboration with the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Del Air Fruit Park is a groundbreaking civic art project designed to provide the community with an urban orchard that will be sustained, nurtured and harvested by the public.

At the heart of Del Aire Public Fruit Park are 35 fruit trees and grape vines, centered in an eye-shaped planting of stone fruit trees with a split-rail fence that echoes old Californian orchards and ranches. As part of the public art project, the artists distributed over 60 trees to be planted by local neighbors. “We invited the neighborhood collaborators to consider planting these fruit trees on the edge of their
property or adjacent to public space to extend the feeling of the Public Fruit Park and many people agreed,” explains David Burns. The intention of this artwork is that the Public Fruit Park moves out from its center and slowly comes to fill the entire neighborhood, creating a vision of sustainability. The neighborhood becomes a fruit park.

Through this collaboration Fallen Fruit invite the citizens of Los Angeles to reconsider their relationship with public and urban space to explore the meaning of community through sharing and creating new and abundant resources. The fruit trees planted in Del Aire Fruit Park reflect the natural ripening of fruit during a season, plums and peaches in the summer, pomegranate and persimmon in the fall, and citrus such as lime, lemons, oranges and kumquats over the winter and spring.

As a collaborative art project, Fallen Fruit aims to reconfigure the connection between those who have the resources and those who do not. They are committed to investigate new, shared forms of citizenship by creating art projects that imagine fruit as a lens by which to see the world. Public Fruit Parks such as the one in Del Aire help to collectively re-imagine the function of public participation and urban space.

“We started by creating maps of the fruit trees growing on or over public property nine years ago in the neighborhood of Silver Lake, in Los Angeles,” says Burns. “When we started exploring Del Aire,” says Matias Viegener, “we saw that not only were there very few fruit trees, but hardly any street trees at all.” “So we knew that our vision had to inspire the residents to adopt the model of the fruit park and grow it out into the whole neighborhood,” says Austin Young.

This is a growing artwork. The trees in the Del Aire Public Fruit Park are still young and slender, and its full transformation will take time. Neighboring residents were invited into the project through a fruit tree adoption in the spring, and a Public Fruit Jam event during the summer. The artists of Fallen Fruit see this project as a call to other neighborhoods and residents of communities across the Los Angeles County to plant their own public fruit trees and change the way their city is experienced.

ANOTHER COMMUNITY ORCHARD BEGINS IN JANUARY OF 2013—this one is in Portland Oregon.

We are very excited to announce that Village Gardens and Portland Fruit Tree Project are partnering to bring a new Community Orchard to North Portland! The orchard will be located in the Portsmouth neighborhood, just north of Village Gardens’ Seeds of Harmony Garden and directly adjacent to the Tamaracks Apartments (see here). Not only will the Portland Fruit Tree Project be supporting Village Gardens in designing and then building a community orchard but they also will be holding trainings on the how-to prune and care for fruit trees.

So if you are interested in taking part in this new and exciting project please come to the design meeting Saturday, February 2nd, 10am-12pm at the Charles Jordan Center (9009 N Foss Ave) – Chief Joseph Room. Free snacks and drinks will be provided! This will be your opportunity to help decide what trees & plants will go into
the orchard, brainstorm other community uses for the site, and meet with fellow community members excited about creating this wonderful new orchard! If you're interested in attending this event, please RSVP by calling 503-284-6106, or sending an email to spencer@portlandfruit.org.