



Garden Expansion Proposal

Project Introduction:

The act of growing one's own food is an empowering and necessary skill for people to possess during these uncertain times. This ability is often limited to a niche group of farmers. IDEAS for Us is partnering with Fleet Farming and Quest Inc., an Orlando based center for individuals with disabilities, to empower people to grow their own food while cultivating a thriving ecosystem and healthy produce. This has been previously achieved by installing 8 raised garden beds for produce, 12 herb beds, and 15 fruit trees. IDEAS for Us is seeking support to further develop this ecosystem and permaculture food forest to help create green job opportunities, empower the next generation of sustainable farmers, and create a space of learning and growth for children and adults with disabilities.

Fleet Farming Introduction:

Fleet Farming is a bike-pedaled urban agriculture program of the United Nations accredited nonprofit, IDEAS For Us. This program converts underutilized lawn space into micro-farms called "farmlettes" and educates the community on how to grow food for free through monthly events occurring in Audubon Park and Parramore. It was founded in Orlando, Florida in 2013 during a monthly workshop known locally as The IDEAS Hive where participants began conceptualizing the Fleet Farming business model to combat the environmental challenges of the monoculture/ agricultural system.

The Fleet Farming Mission is to **"Empower All Generations To Grow Food"** and has expanded programming to incorporate a custom garden installation service called **Edible Landscapes** to facilitate growing produce locally at low income schools, assisted living facilities, hospitals and residential homes.

Project Summary

IDEAS for Us is seeking support to grow the Quest Inc. Garden into a healthy and sustainable food forest. The produce grown and picked from the volunteers and attendees will go towards feeding the disabled members of Quest Inc., promoting healthy habits and eco friendly practices. The educational portion of the project will serve to promote



sustainable agriculture, bringing up the next generation of farmers. Promoting this healthy and thriving ecosystem will serve to heal the air, water and soil quality of the property, setting up the possibilities for a larger garden and self-sufficient community in the future.

Quest Inc. Garden Proposal:

The existing garden at the Quest Inc. Aaron Ave location has the potential to be a thriving permaculture food forest in the urban Orlando area. With a small orchard, sustainable produce and herbs, and a thriving symbiotic relationship with pollinators, this garden will not only help engage and motivate volunteers but also heal our environment. Recently, 8 raised garden beds were installed along with 15 additional fruit trees. This first step will initiate a regeneration program to create a learning space for individuals and an oasis of biodiversity for wildlife. IDEAS for Us plans on restoring the pond on the property with aquatic plants that will serve to heal the soil and benefit the entire ecosystem. A pollinator garden will also be installed in order to create a symbiotic relationship with the pollinator insects and the produce. Fleet Farming plans on scheduling regular maintenance events where volunteers will work to replace the existing soil with nutrient rich compost and soil amendments. Each season a member of the Fleet team will be meeting with the lead Quest Inc. Garden Coordinator to schedule the plantings as well as classes for Quest clients to participate in. With each consultation, the Fleet Edible Landscapes Manager will also do a site visit to assess the maintenance and plant replacement needs for the garden's future productivity. In Fall 2021, the classes will be open to participating clients and will be more consistent to launch a successful start to the program. By the Spring and Summer season, programming will be done routinely so the support of a Fleet Farming educator will be needed less frequently. This project implementation will serve to not only create a thriving food forest and ecosystem in a food desert, but also developing a space for building life skills and learning how to take care of the land, a necessary skill for people to understand.

Project Goals and Objectives:

Objective 1: Install a pollinator garden on the Quest Inc. property.

Goal 1A: Cultivate pollinator insect populations that will help the production of produce and fruit from the nearby microfarm.

Goal 1B: Have a space with flowers and butterflies, increasing the beauty of the property.

Goal 1C: Help improve the suffering bee populations.

Objective 2: Restore the pond with aquatic plants.

Goal 2A: Heal the soil and water quality of the pond by planting 1000 aquatic plants.

Goal 2B: Bring in aquatic wildlife, improving the biodiversity and resilience of the ecosystem.

Objective 3: Host weekly gardening sessions, engaging disabled children and adults in growing their own food and teaching them life long skills.

Goal 3A: Educate people on sustainable farming practices, hopefully bringing up the next generation of sustainable farmers.

Goal 3B: Create green jobs by hosting the several events and educating people on life and job skills.

Goal 3C: Feed the attendees of Quest Inc. fresh and sustainable produce from their garden, improving health.

Objective 4: Host quarterly volunteer events where individuals can help maintain the thriving ecosystem with soil replacements, weeding, and any other needs.

Goal 4A: Engage the community in creating more biodiverse and healthy ecosystems, helping them to feel more connected to our planet.

Goab 4B: Educate more people on environmentalism and sustainable farming practices.

Budget

Name	Details	Cost
Pollinator Garden	Purchasing the plants, mulch and irrigation material to install a pollinator garden on site	\$1000
Shoreline Restoration	Purchasing aquatic plants for the on site retention pond	\$800
Maintenance Cost	Quarterly replacement of soil and plants	\$1200
Total		\$3000