

A vision for the Forty Hall Community Orchard

The Forty Hall Community Orchard will be a demonstration orchard, where local people can come together to learn how to grow fruit and to share in its eating.

The Orchard will set an example, proving that healthy, locally grown organic food can and should be accessible to all. It will provide volunteers and visitors with an opportunity to share their skills and to learn new skills. We will document the development of the Orchard so that others can learn from our experiences.

The Orchard will include fruits for juicing, cooking and eating. We will promote heritage varieties and robust, local varieties that ensure the Orchard adapts to change and produces fruit over a long growing season. Fruit we would like to grow includes: apples, figs, pears, plums, damsons, apricots, mulberries, avocado, olives and a variety of soft fruits.

The Orchard's produce will be processed, providing juices, jams and chutneys. We will use the Orchard as an opportunity for people to learn how to make these products, and to learn more about fruit processing. We will sell the Orchard's produce locally.

The Orchard will promote wildlife, supporting bees, bats and other fauna. We will plant wildlife-friendly plants, such as lavender, to help biodiversity.

The Orchard will be accessible to all, regardless of age and background. It will promote the notion of a community orchard as a place where people can come together. It will encourage children and young people to engage with their environment. We will explore possibilities for the sponsorship of trees and other ways in which families can become involved in the Orchard. We also recognise the health benefits that nature can provide and want to share these benefits with all who need them.

The Orchard will be a long-term project. If a tree takes 40 years to reach fruition, we will plant it for our children and future generations. We will respect and promote the health of the planet and try to limit our impact on the environment. We will aim to produce zero waste.

The Orchard will help people put something back into the community and to help Forty Hall Farm develop as a community farm.

Forty Hall Community Orchard Group

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