

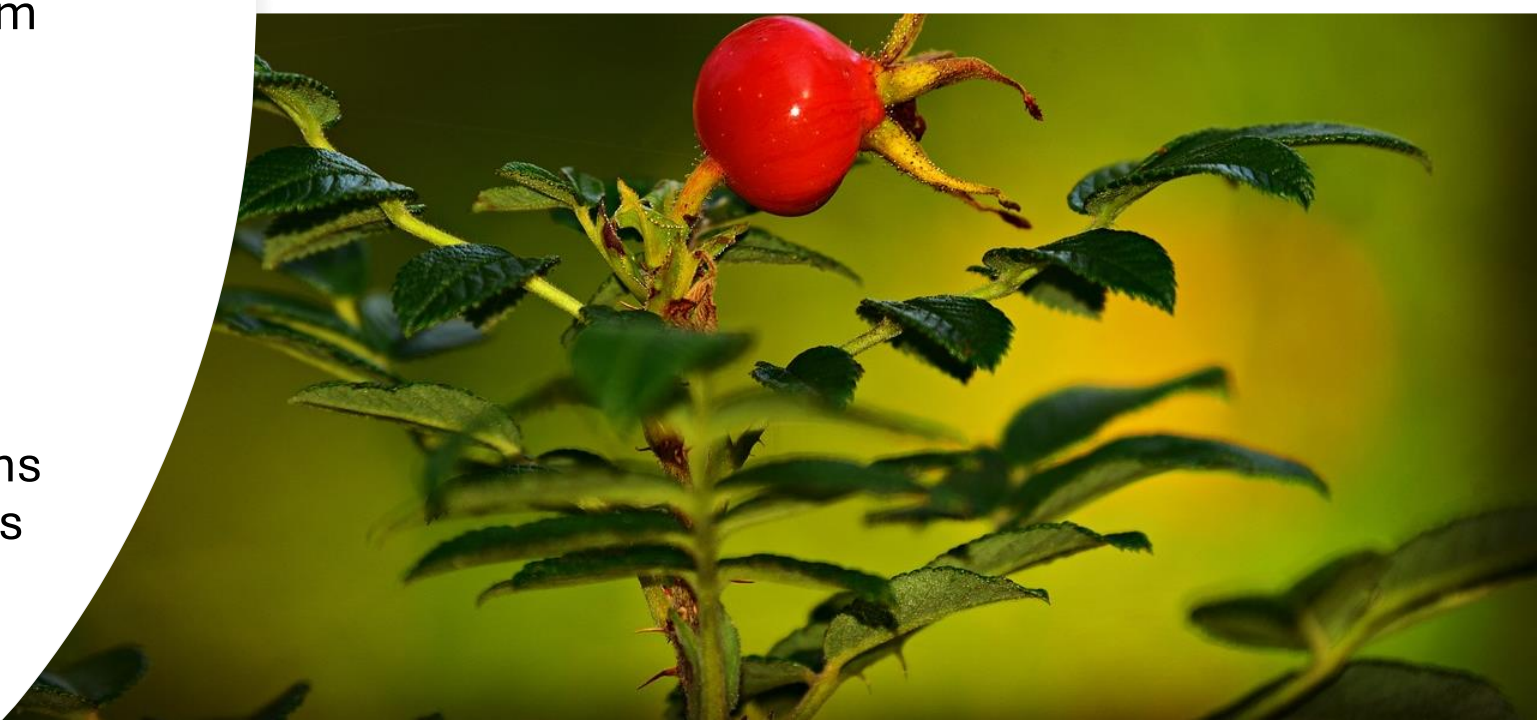


Forest Gardens

Hubbard SWCD in Partnership with National Association of
Conservation Districts

Community Canopy and Forest Garden Pilot Project

- Manageable scalable forest gardens
- Provide additional sources of food from native plants
- Create resources for starting sustainable resilient green spaces
- Increase knowledge on natural systems and their benefits to wildlife and humans alike



Food Forest Kits

Virtual Lab

- 40 future forest kits will be given to community members who registered
 - Contains, trees shrubs and seeds of native plants with edible components and pollinator benefits
- Virtual lab modules are being created to provide additional information and resources
 - <https://hubbard-county-swcd-watershed-education-hub-hcswcd.hub.arcgis.com/>



Demonstration Gardens

- 4 Community Demonstration Gardens currently in progress
 - Park Rapids Depot Park, Park Rapids Salvage Depot, City of Akeley, City of Nevis
 - Interactive Informative Signage
 - Volunteer assistance is needed for planting if interested!



Benefits of Food Forests

- **Sustainability:** Permaculture gardens are designed to mimic natural ecosystems, using principles such as companion planting, crop rotation, and natural pest control.
- **Biodiversity:** Permaculture gardens promote biodiversity by incorporating a variety of plant species, which attracts beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife.
- **Soil Health and Nutrient Reduction:** Permaculture practices focus on improving soil health through techniques like mulching, composting, and cover cropping.
- **Food Security:** By growing a diverse range of crops, permaculture gardens can provide a consistent supply of fresh, nutritious food year-round.
- **Resilience to Climate Change and Minimal Maintenance:** Permaculture gardens are inherently resilient to climate change, as they are adaptable to diverse environmental conditions. By diversifying crops and incorporating resilient plant varieties, they can better withstand extreme weather events and shifting climate patterns. They also provide shade in urban areas and require less water use.
- **Personal Health:** Growing your own food in a permaculture garden encourages outdoor physical activity and provides access to fresh, nutrient-dense produce. This can contribute to improved physical health, mental well-being, and a deeper connection to nature.
- **Regenerative Agriculture:** Permaculture goes beyond sustainable agriculture by actively regenerating ecosystems and restoring degraded land. By mimicking natural patterns and processes, permaculture gardens help to heal the Earth and create a more harmonious relationship between humans and the environment.
- **Cost Effective:** Planting perennial crops reduces the need to continually purchase seasonal plants and reduces associated food costs



Future Minded

- Consider future plantings!
 - Can I provide additional habitat benefits?
 - Can I provide additional food for me and wildlife?
 - Check tags for growing zones and native plants
- Share with others!
 - What is blooming? What is ripe or in season?
- Interested in your own Forest Garden?
Contact us!
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