



YOUTH FARM AT ENOCH DAVIS



Calling all leaders in youth development, workforce training and urban agriculture! To establish a Youth Farm project at the Enoch Davis Center, we need your help.

What is a Youth-Led Urban Farm?

Empowering youth to lead urban agriculture projects has proven to be a successful strategy. Community leaders and organizations provide the guidance, resources and knowledge to help youth succeed. Participants, from 7th grade through college, start as workers, then become mentors, managers and eventually food systems leaders. They learn through experience, implement real world business principles, and serve the local community while advancing urban agriculture.

Four key components:

- **Entrepreneurship Experience and Training** – Youth will learn essential business skills as they form a business plan, market the produce, sell the produce, and manage their accounts. Workforce readiness includes training in key soft skills—communication, dressing for success, maintaining a work ethic, etc.
- **Youth Leadership Development** – Empowered to be leaders on the farm, youth will be making daily operational and big picture decisions—serving on steering committees, pitching new ideas and learning essential leadership and team-building skills.
- **Food Systems Training and Education** – Health and nutrition education involves sustainable urban agriculture experience and training, and topical discussions about today’s social and health challenges relating to the food system.
- **Culinary Training** – Youth will learn to prepare nutritious and delicious meals and follow best practices for food safety.

Site Description

The proposed project site is a .83-acre parcel of city-owned, unimproved land within the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). Northwest of the Enoch Davis Center and Johnson Community Library, the 18,000 SF center houses human service agencies, multi-purpose meeting rooms, a computer lab, snack bar, and other amenities. It will also accommodate Youth Farm Project operators—providing access for onsite produce sales, use of a refrigerator, and parking. The library currently hosts a small seed library and future ideas include a collection of gardening books and garden programs. Based on contamination levels present during ongoing environmental assessments, funded through the city’s EPA Brownfields Grant, a clean-up of the site is anticipated at the end of 2018.

What Has Been Done to Date?

Garden Survey

In August 2017, St. Petersburg partnered with the UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program and TASCO (Teen Arts, Sports, & Cultural Opportunities) recreation programs to conduct a garden survey online and with copies available at six rec centers.

TASCO youth canvassed the neighborhood within half a mile of the proposed garden site and collected just over 100 surveys. Residents responded in support of the garden project with **82% indicating they’d like to volunteer**. Mayor Kriseman recognized TASCO youth for their service to the community.

Stakeholder Workshop #1

In March 2018, 65 stakeholders representing 32 different organizations, gathered to brainstorm next steps—learning about projects Grow Dat Youth Farm in New Orleans and Youth Farm in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Stakeholder Workshop #2

In May 2018, stakeholders reconvened to discuss a Collective Impact partnership model for the project. Workshop participants shared their ideas and knowledge towards identifying new partners, coming up with a strategy for public engagement, etc., and signing up for the Ad Hoc Committee. Pinellas Technical College was introduced as a potential backbone organization for the project, tasked with managing the collaboration and aligning efforts with a collective vision.

Child’s Park Family Fun and Fitness Day Outreach Event

On June 9, the City, UF/IFAS Extension FNP, and USFSP teamed up to host a table for Youth Farm. Visitors received information about the project and had an opportunity to sign up for updates. Children constructed seed bombs with the help of a Marigold seed donation from WunderFarms.

Youth Photovoice and Food Jam Activity

Trey Conner’s communications students at USFSP are working with TASCO youth to create a project around their “food story” utilizing various techniques, including Photovoice. With a composition notebook and a camera, TASCO youth were tasked with taking pictures and journaling about their experiences with food. They’ve been continuously engaged in activities aimed at increasing food literacy. On August 1, the youth will present their stories at the Frank Pierce Talent Show and Family Day, taking place at Campbell Park Pool starting at 4 p.m.

What’s Next?

The Ad Hoc Committee for the project will meet in August to move the project from vision to action. Those interested in taking an active role in the project are invited to sign up for the committee by contacting Robyn Keefe at robyn.keefe@stpete.org or 727-892-5255. Project groundbreaking is expected to take place in Spring/Summer 2019 with youth starting the program in Fall 2019.

