Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project for Green Infrastructure: Infiltrating Water and Invigorating Neighborhoods

**USDA Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** 

### Overview

- GLRI: 2 year project (2022-2023)
- Plant 451 trees and 211 shrubs on 2.64 acres along 3.0 mile corridor in Syracuse, NY
- Community engagement and education with 4 community planting events and community food walks
- Increase intercept by 1.7M gallons; lower stormwater impact by 0.4M gallons over 20 years

### Partners

- Syracuse City Depts Parks & Rec (Urban Forestry), Neighborhood & Business Dev (NBD)
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)
- Syracuse University (SU)
- Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC)
- Southwest Community Learning Farm (SWCLF)
- Brady Faith Farm



STEWART DIEMONT, Ph.D. Assoc. Professor, Environmental Biology, SUNY-ESF

MATT POTTEIGER, MLA. Professor, Landscape Architecture, SUNY-ESF

ANNE C BELLOWS, Ph.D., Professor, Nutrition & Food Studies, Syracuse University

KATHERINE KORBA, MLA, Natural Areas & Urban Forestry Specialist, Kanopy Works

STEVE HARRIS, MS (ESF). Syracuse Arborist (since 2010), Forestry Div., Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs

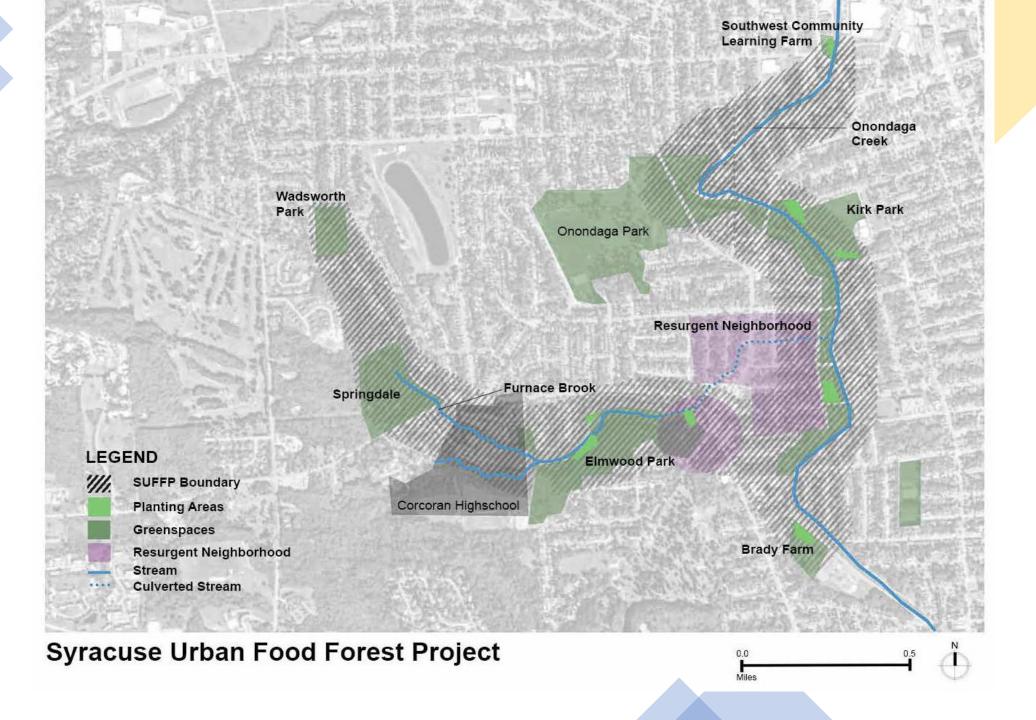
ROBERT COVILLE, Project Manager, Davey Institute & USFS

DON LEOPOLD, Ph.D., Distinguished Teaching Professor, Environmental Biology, SUNY-ESF

SUDHA RAJ, Ph.D., RDN, FAND, Teaching Professor, Nutrition & Food Studies, Syracuse University



## Area Map



## Scope of Work

#### DESIGN

# DESIGN a model food forest corridor that integrates ongoing green infrastructure plantings, and ecosystem types

- •IA. Develop designs for 3 ecosystem types
- •IB. Site-specific designs for 9 planting areas

#### **ENGAGE**

# ENGAGE neighborhood and business community linked to efforts to improve environmental quality and financial opportunities for local residents

- •IIA. Gather community input for design of plantings
- •IIB. Share and communicate cross-generational foraging knowledge and practices

#### **PLANT**

# PLANT food forest for green infrastructure systems in nine locations across a diverse economic and ecological cross-section of the city

- •IIIA. Volunteer coordination and training for a total of 4 large community planting events
- •IIIB. Maintenance. OEC will water all trees and shrubs planted for the first year after planting

#### **MEASURE**

MEASURE performance of food forest green infrastructure systems using quantitative modeling and qualitative assessment through evaluation

- •IVA. Water infiltration
- •IVB. Food availability
- •IVC. Community engagement

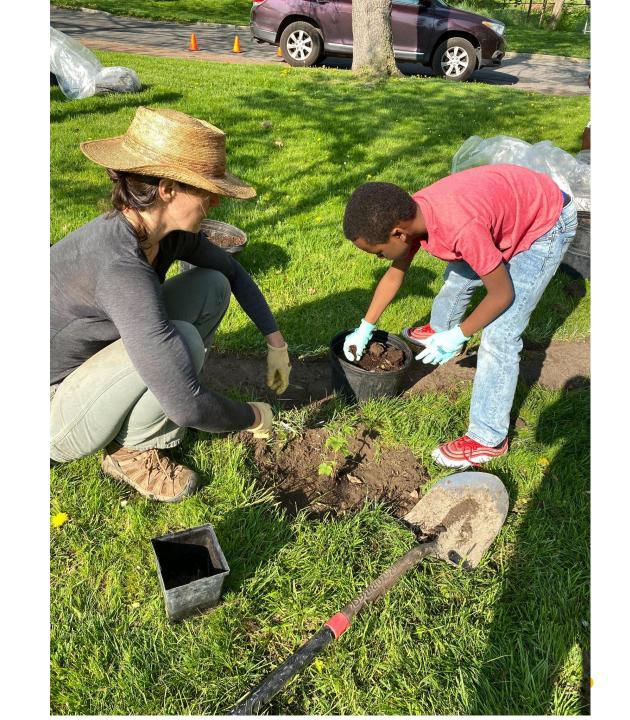


### Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project





Planting w/
Youth from
OASIS
SCHOOL



Vacant Lot adjacent to Elmwood Park



4th Grade Students

May 12th, 2022



Red & Black
Currant
Shrubs



Chinkapin
Oak, Quercus
muehlenbergii



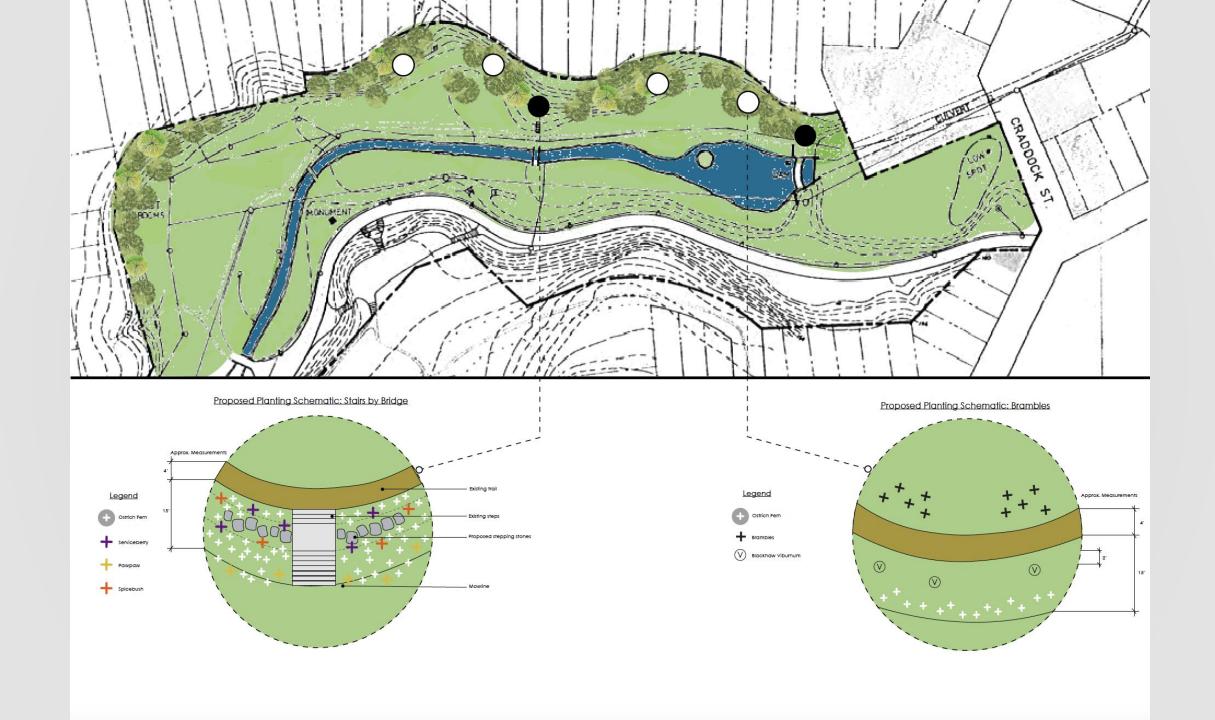
Chinkapin
Oak, Quercus
muehlenbergii



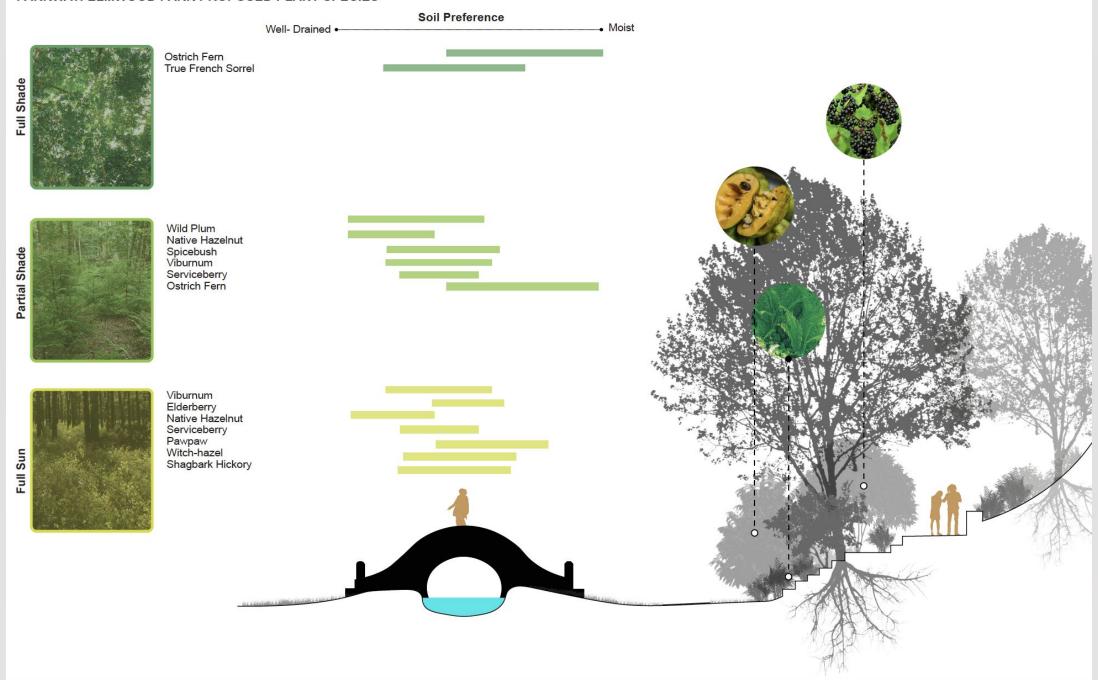
# Elmwood Park Community Tree Planting Event on Saturday, May 21st, 2022









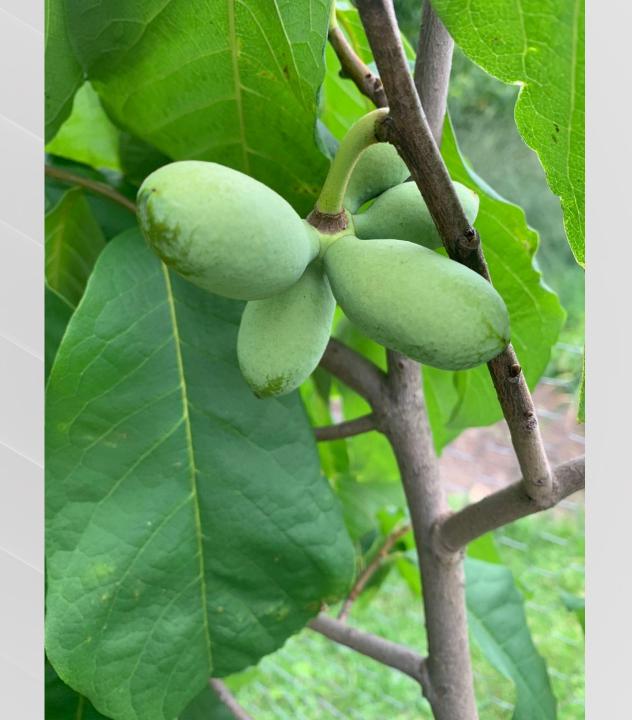


Shagbark Hickory, Carya ovata

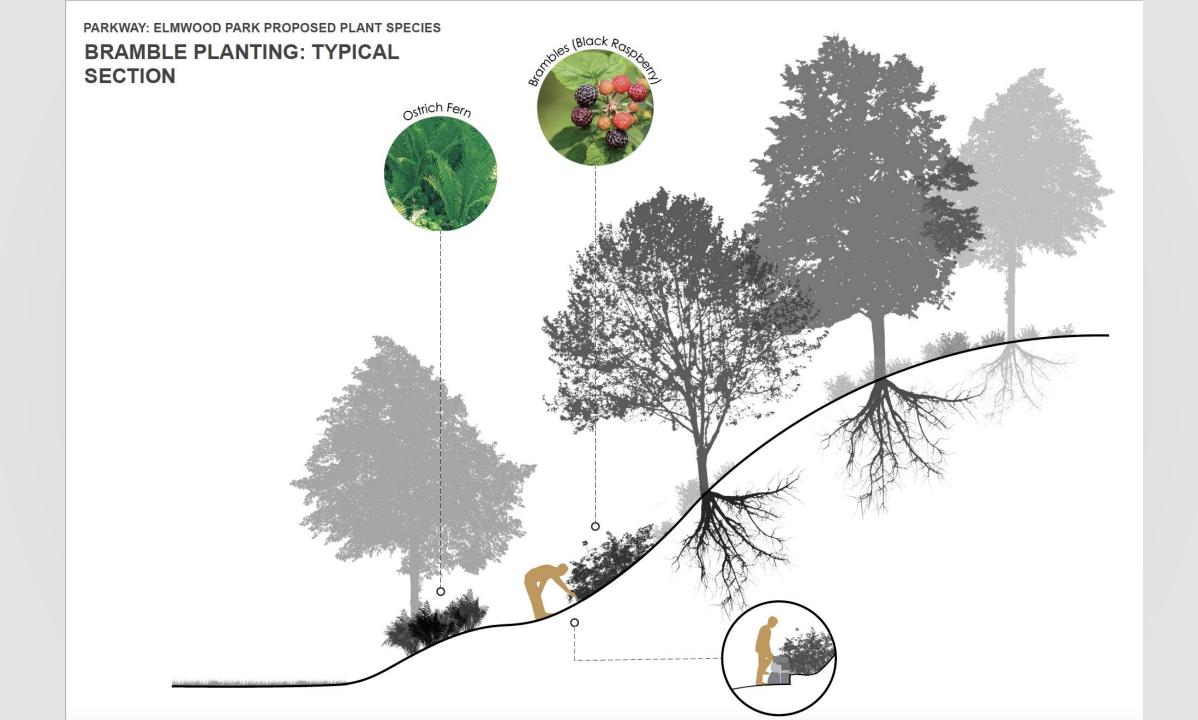




Pawpaw, Asimina triloba



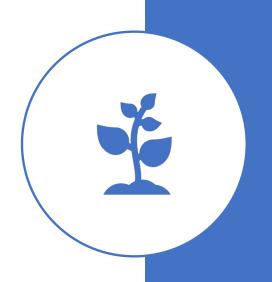






# Foraging, Public Access and the Honorable Harvest

The SUFFP increases access to public land for foraging.



# Community Engagement, Public Health and Environmental Justice

We seek to increase diverse community engagement with nature and open access for foraging foods.



### Green Infrastructure

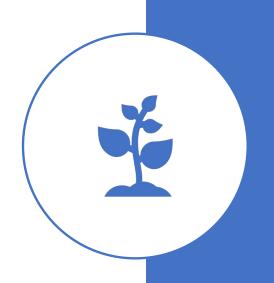
In addition to creating edible ecologies, the SUFFP provides important ecological services:



### Green Infrastructure

- Reducing stormwater runoff
- Increasing habitat diversity and connectivity

Sequestering carbon



## Neighborhood and Business Development

 The SUFFP works with chefs and businesses to identify local sources for plants that can used in their products





### Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project



