

PUBLIC EDIBLE LANDSCAPE

Public, edible landscapes combine form and function to create practical and aesthetically pleasing environments in communities. The promotion of visible, edible spaces will build knowledge about where food comes from, how to grow it, and re-connect individuals with their food and nature. Edible landscapes build up the environment, increase diversity, and improve food security and horticulture therapy through a connection to nature. Edible landscapes are unique because they incorporate various forms of food such as: fruit trees, berries, herbs, and vegetables with ornamentals. This inter-mixing allows for reduced pests, creative textures, and fun environments. Edible landscapes allow for nature to connect with the built environment through architecture, structure, materiality, and productive function.

Community Conclusions: During the decision making meeting, the coalition determined a priority project that will evolve the current design for Bee Branch that includes an edible landscape component. In addition, the project will assist with branding and signage for the site to build awareness on edible landscape design and food access.

Discussion from coalition meetings:

- Encourage people to explore swiss chard as a pretty landscape plant
- Four Mounds Farm 4392 Pearl: demonstration farm for agroforestry
- Dubuque Arboretum: Building Garden of Eatin' – public food forest demo garden- set to plant by 2016
- Eagle Point Park and Mines of Spain: edible trail- side landscaping with signage
- Sieppel / Cousins Road: 25 Acre Riparian Zone- Future Use?
- Bergfeld Recreation Area: lots of room, plant edible natives, berries, maybe root vegetables
- Jackson Park: edible landscape can add beauty to an area while providing easily harvested fruits and vegetables to a general population : WW-Plateville just implemented this on campus last year to great success with pepper and tomato plants dotting walkways on quads
- Galena, Illinois: Have parks, public spaces with nothing but lawns, need more awareness about local food and fresh food

Equity: offers healthy food access within public realms of a city. Currently only 37% of households nationwide have gardens, by offering public access to foods it can improve food security and decreased miles traveled for fruits and vegetables

Health: can promote healthy behaviors and be utilized for horticulture therapy

Natural Systems: promotes aesthetics around the community and businesses; edible landscapes can cool heat islands, improve air quality and reduce stormwater runoff

PARK SYSTEM: COUNTY AND CITY

Parks to People- Health and Wellness programs for parks

CATFISH CREEK WATERSHED:

Need of conservation: also other watershed authorities

BEE BRANCH CREEK RESTORATION IN WASHINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD

Total Open Space: 4,523.0 ACRES

Public Open Space area: 1,631.0 ACRES

(Scherf)

City of Dubuque has 1600 acres of publicly owned green space (Long, Notes from Dubuque Meeting)

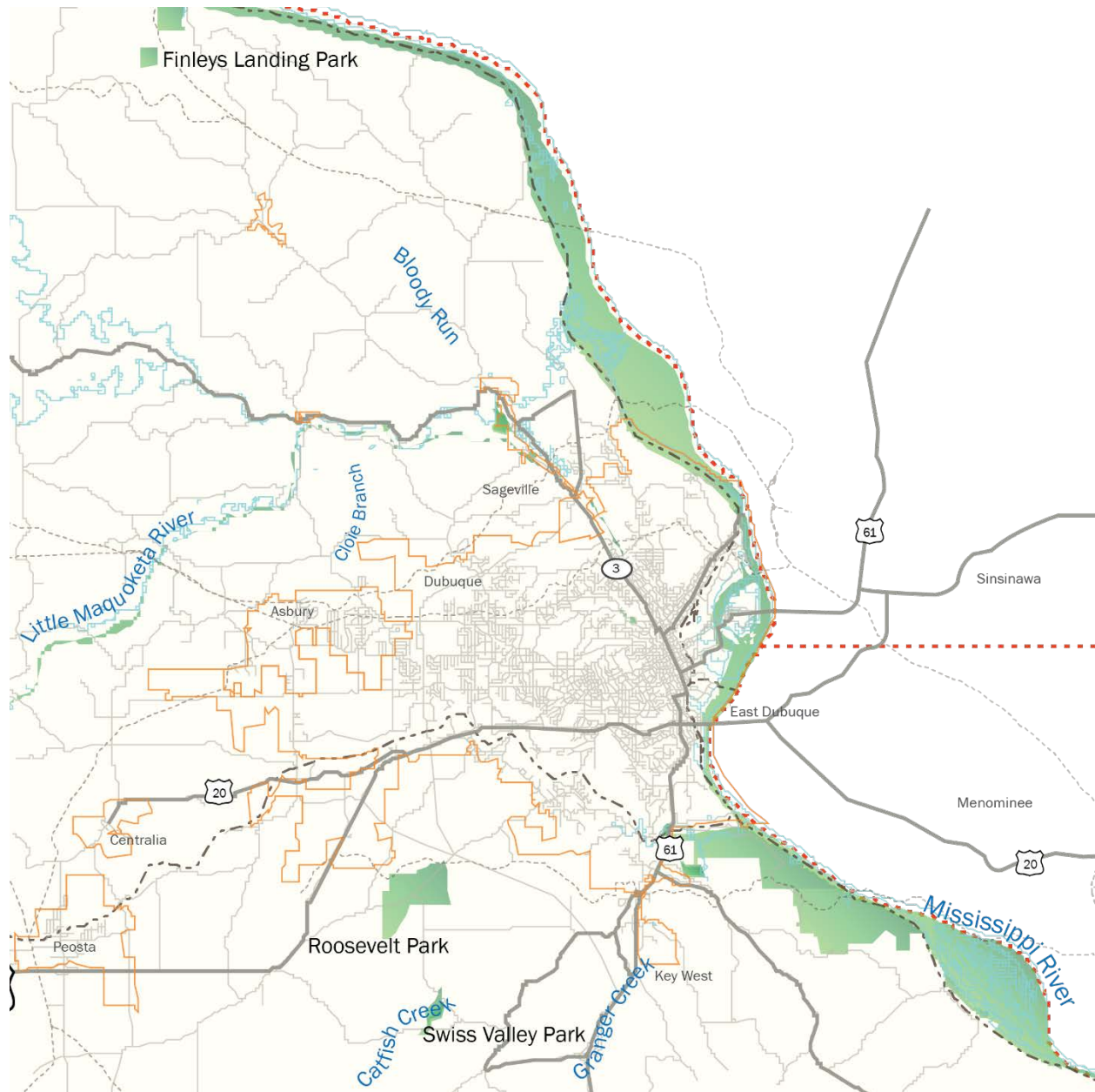


Figure 3: DNR and Conservation Lands