

Dear PAC,

Thank you for being in touch with your questions, we appreciate the opportunity to clear up any misunderstandings and provide accurate information about the Northside Food Forest Project. We want to let you know, in the interest of saving all of us time and trouble, that we have significantly distilled the information on the project on the [True Earth website](#). We ask you to please take 5 minutes to look over the page, as we believe it will help clarify many of these questions, as well as the central mission, structure, and plan for the proposed Food Forest.

We know that there has been widespread public support that has been shared with you via email, could you clarify how this support for the project impacts the decision-making process?

We have the answers to the questions you provided below:

- Arrowwood is a 36 acre site. Was any effort made to develop the Northside Food Forest on coop property? If not, why?

We did not explore developing the Food Forest on coop property, because this project is and always has been a proposed *public* project, not an Arrowwood project. The project is being proposed by a coalition of Ann Arbor residents: some from Arrowwood, some from other parts of Ward 1, and others still from across the entire city. The project has also garnered significant public support from people all across the city who are not currently part of the coalition.

The project aims to address the city's publicly stated Sustainability Framework Goals and as such, and it has always been important to the Coalition that this is a public project helping the city of Ann Arbor to meet these goals on public land. It is our impression that the city takes these goals seriously and that it welcomes citizen involvement. Arrowwood Hills Co-operative is privately owned property, and while it absolutely feels congruent with the nature of the project to welcome and uphold members of an under-served community (and we trust that Ann Arbor would be on board with that), the project welcomes *everyone* across the city into this opportunity for learning.

- Is there any interest by the co-op in partnering to manage the Northside Food Forest?

As stated above, this is an option that has not been explored because this proposal is for a public project, benefiting all Ann Arbor residents.

- Do Arrowwood residents have access to garden plots administered by the coop?

While the distinction between Arrowwood projects and this public project has been made clear above, we are also including this excerpt from the project's webpage about the difference between a food forest and a community garden model: "It's helpful to understand that Food Forests are not just community gardens. While community gardens are also a vibrant and relevant contribution to healing the earth and building resilience through localization of food production, food forests emphasize community engagement in a way that is distinct. While community gardens are made up of individual plots where people garden for themselves and their own families, a Food Forest is a self-regulating food system that is put in place by the community, for the community and will last for generations to come."

- Arrowwood shares 900' of common border with Leslie park (and more than double that if the adjacent Huron Parkway corridor is included). Was there any effort to develop the food forest on a shared boundary with Arrowwood, as opposed to a stand-alone section of park?

The project is cited where it is in Leslie Park out of a combination of respect for park use (team sports happen in the open areas) and for agricultural reasons (sun exposure and flat ground make this a viable spot).

- What is the relationship between True North and the Food Forest project? Will fees be charged?

The Northside Food Forest proposal is brought forth by a diverse coalition of Ann Arbor residents from all across the city. As True Earth staff, we (ShuNahSii and Robin) are members of this coalition, and we have been serving as liaisons with the city. We are offering space for public documentation of the project on the True Earth website because we are very excited about being a part of it and proud to be working with such an amazing team of people. All work toward this project, both from those of us at True Earth and the coalition at large, has been offered in an entirely volunteer capacity.