

Edible public gardens & parks



Edible public gardens & parks

2 December
2025



1.
What is an
edible
garden/park?



2.
Why edible?



3.
Why native?



4.
Models for
Hendersonville

What is an edible garden or park?



In downtown Detroit, Lafayette Greens is an urban garden and public green space where visitors can watch live music, enjoy local art installations, and take community yoga classes, all while watching butterflies flit from plant to plant. Raymond Boyd/Getty Images



In Seattle, volunteers transformed seven acres of grass next to a busy road into The Beacon Food Forest. Photo: ian Jett/Wikimedia



Amidst the urban jungle of the Malaysian city of Iskandar Puteri, Edible Park is a five-acre oasis of fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. Wikimedia

Why an **edible** garden or park?

- Free, healthy food available to the public
- Opportunity for environmental education
- Connects people to the local land and ecosystem
 - Especially relevant if native edibles are planted
 - Opportunity to see wildlife interact with plants
- When properly planned, can assist with erosion mitigation, stormwater drainage, and other forms of resiliency
- An alternative to purely ornamental plants that may be invasive or otherwise harmful to the local ecosystem (looking at you, Bradford Pears)



Why native?

- Low maintenance compared to many cultivated or non-native crops
- Opportunity for environmental education
- Connects people to the local land and ecosystem
 - Opportunity to see wildlife interact with plants and provides habitat
 - Inspire locals to cultivate on their own property



Asheville's Edible Gardens: A model for HVL



- Asheville has a variety of public spaces that incorporate native and non-native edibles:
 - Edible Gardens
 - Community Gardens
 - Certified Pollinator Habitats
 - Edible native plants in downtown and other urbanized areas
- <https://www.ashevollenc.gov/department/sustainability/food-policy-action-plan/avl-edibles/>
- Lots of resources available through NCSU
- Could we collaborate with the City of Asheville? Bountiful Cities? The HVL Tree Board?

