

Partners for Places

Lots of Food

Overview

The Bloomberg Award for **Partners for Places**—a project of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities will bring neighbors together to transform vacant lots into fruit orchards and mini-parks that support sustainable and healthy neighborhood revitalization. The local partners include the Fund for Lake Michigan, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Zilber Family Foundation, David J. Frank Landscape Contracting, Growing Power, the City of Milwaukee, and the City's HOME GR/OWN Initiative. The partners have contributed funding and in-kind donations of materials and staff time to work alongside neighbors, nonprofits, and community groups to install 20 orchards and six parks that increase access to healthy food and create safe neighborhood gathering spaces. Partners for Places will focus its efforts in Aldermanic Districts 6, 7, and 15, areas of the city that have felt the effects of the foreclosure crisis and now have many vacant lots.

How it Works

Residents and neighborhood groups will apply for an orchard or mini-park in their neighborhoods. If selected, they will help design the lots and pick features from a menu of options. The orchards will include fruit trees and could also include benches, flowers, etc. The mini-parks will include options like trees, shrubs, walking paths, benches, and rain water harvesting features. The final plans will be professionally designed and approved by Partners for Places and the City of Milwaukee.

Professional site work, tree pruning, and watering for the first year will be done by Growing Power, David J. Frank, and Blue Skies Landscaping. City-contracted crews will be responsible for grass cutting, but will not pick up trash. Neighborhood groups are encouraged to take care of or improve the parks and orchards by hosting cleanups, planting days, or art projects. A neighborhood group or agency will be identified to help with community outreach, schedule cleanups, and make sure the orchards or parks are safe and well maintained. Neighborhood partners will not be responsible for any out of pocket costs, but are encouraged to apply for project or clean-up support from the Community Connections Small Grants Program (ccsmallgrants.org) or Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Community Improvement Grants (city.milwaukee.gov/CIPs), if funding is needed.

How to Apply for an Orchard or Mini-Park

If you and your neighbors are interested in transforming a vacant lot in your neighborhood, fill out the attached application and submit via email or regular mail to the City of Milwaukee's Office of Environmental Sustainability, ATTN: Partner for Places.

Here are some tips to consider before you apply:

- Is the vacant lot in one of the targeted Aldermanic Districts, including Alderwoman Coggs's 6th District, Alderman Wade's 7th District, and Alderman Stamper's 15th District? The Common Council website has District Maps available (city.milwaukee.gov/CommonCouncil).
- Eligible properties include single, double, triple, and corner City-owned vacant lots. Preference will be given to vacant lots that the City of Milwaukee has preapproved for orchards and mini-parks. You can see that list here: http://bit.ly/MKE_P4P_LOTS
- Talk to your neighbors and community-based organizations about their interest in an orchard or park.
- Are you willing to participate in a community meeting to design the orchard or park? UW-Milwaukee's Community Design Solutions will be available to help each group select a site plan.
- Orchards and parks are intended to benefit the community, not individuals.

Partners for Places Application

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main contact person name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address and phone number: _____

Best time/method of contacting you: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

(pick one)

Neighborhood name: _____ Aldermanic District: 6 7 15 Other: _____

Please list the addresses and/or intersections of vacant lots where you would like an orchard or mini-park:

What neighborhood groups are you working with? (Nonprofits, neighborhood association, block clubs, residents, churches, etc.) Please list the groups' names and a contact person for each, if available:

If your project is selected, Community Design Solutions (CDS), a UW-Milwaukee design and planning service, will host a neighborhood workshop to help design the orchard or park. Are you interested in using a CDS workshop to plan your orchard or park? _____ YES _____ NO

How will you get neighbors and partners involved? Are there neighborhood meetings that CDS could attend? When and where do the meetings take place? _____

What time and/or day of the week are best for neighborhood meetings? _____
