

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Edible Flint Food Garden Tour

Flint, MI – A growing number of Flint and Genesee County residents are transforming their neighborhoods, improving their health, and reducing their weekly grocery bill by growing food gardens in their yards and on vacant lots. These gardens are providing gardeners easy access to fresh, affordable, healthy, and chemical-free food. With more than 18,000 unoccupied residential properties in Flint alone, residents now have more opportunities than ever to turn available lots into productive food gardens.

Register today to reserve your seat on the inaugural **Edible Flint Food Garden Tour**, a totally free evening highlighting a few of the many food gardens in the Flint area on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 5:00pm at the Flint Farmers' Market. Transportation, tour guide, and tasty local snacks provided. Tour route will include the Andrew Lilly Garden, the Flint Farmers' Market Living Sculpture Garden, the East Piper Street Block Club Garden, the Harvesting Earth Educational Farm, the Home Avenue Neighborhood Vegetable Demonstration & Teaching Garden, and the Mission of Hope Garden. Participants will meet local food producers who are raising bees and chickens, producing food year round, visionaries converting vacant space into food security and see how committed youth and volunteers are transforming community concerns into valuable neighborhood assets.

Participant check-in and boarding for the Edible Flint Food Garden Tour begin at 5:00pm on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at the Flint Farmers' Market, 420 East Boulevard Drive. Buses depart at 5:30pm and return to the Market at 8:00pm. Immediately following the tour Edible Flint is hosting an after-glow at the Flint Farmers' Market with a light meal made from locally produced delicacies and time to share with others interested in local food production. To register for the Tour contact Raynetta Speed at 810-257-3088 ext. 536 or rspeed@co.genesee.mi.us, on or before Friday, August 28, 2009. Tour and afterglow are free. Donations will support food gardening efforts in Flint, MI.

The Edible Flint Food Garden Tour is the first event sponsored by the newly forming and evolving *Edible Flint: A Food Gardening Network*. Created to better coordinate existing resources, Edible Flint is in the beginning stages of development with a focus on connecting food gardeners in Flint to gardening materials, tools, plants, funding, vacant land, training and technical assistance. Edible Flint's conceptual partners include the Applewood Initiative for Garden and Community, the Genesee County Land Bank, Keep Genesee County Beautiful, Michigan State University Extension, Salem Housing Community Development Corporation and many other organizations and independent producers.

To receive the latest information about Edible Flint, join the mailing list by contacting Raynetta Speed at 810-257-3088 ext. 536 or rspeed@co.genesee.mi.us.