

# Brighton Neighborhood Garden

A FlexTech Collaborative Project



**FLEXTECH**  
HIGH SCHOOL

# How did we arrive at this point?

- Worked with Councilmember Renee Pettengill on designing and installing a little library in the Imagination Station (2015).
- Worked with Councilmember Renee Pettengill to decorate and Install a Peace Pole in the Imagination Station (2016).
- Designed prototypes for a solar charging station for possible installation in the Imagination Station (2016-present).
- Presented idea of community garden to Councilmember Renee Pettengill and expanded the conversation to include City Manager Nate Geinzer (2016).
- Explore ideas for how to improve wildlife and water quality of the Mill Pond (2016-2017 school year).



# Projects at FlexTech

- Science: Raised garden beds, compost systems, and water collection systems.
- Culinary Arts: Farm to Table events, Harvesting Produce, and Preserving Produce.
- Math: Geometrical garden design and budgeting.
- English: Makers' Research Project (building hydroponic systems) and writing argumentative pieces on the topic of food (e.g. food ethics, genetically modified organisms, urban agriculture, etc...)



# Project Scope



- FlexTech will be expanding its use of raised garden beds and the construction of a greenhouse through an awarded grant.
- We would like to make community connections with this project and Kissane park could be a site to interact with the community.
- Our long term goal would be to establish a small business elective where students participate in local farmer's markets.

# Building Relationships with the Neighborhood

Having students create authentic community based projects is a large part of FlexTech's mission. We hope this project will offer the following:

- Learning opportunities for students, community members, and local residents.
- Allowing neighborhood members to grow their own produce at the garden site.
- Providing/hosting workshops for planting, caring, harvesting, preparing, and preserving produce and set up produce kiosk.
- Leading to overall park beautification and revitalization.
- Continuing to build relationships between The City of Brighton and FlexTech High School.

# Kissane Park Proposal

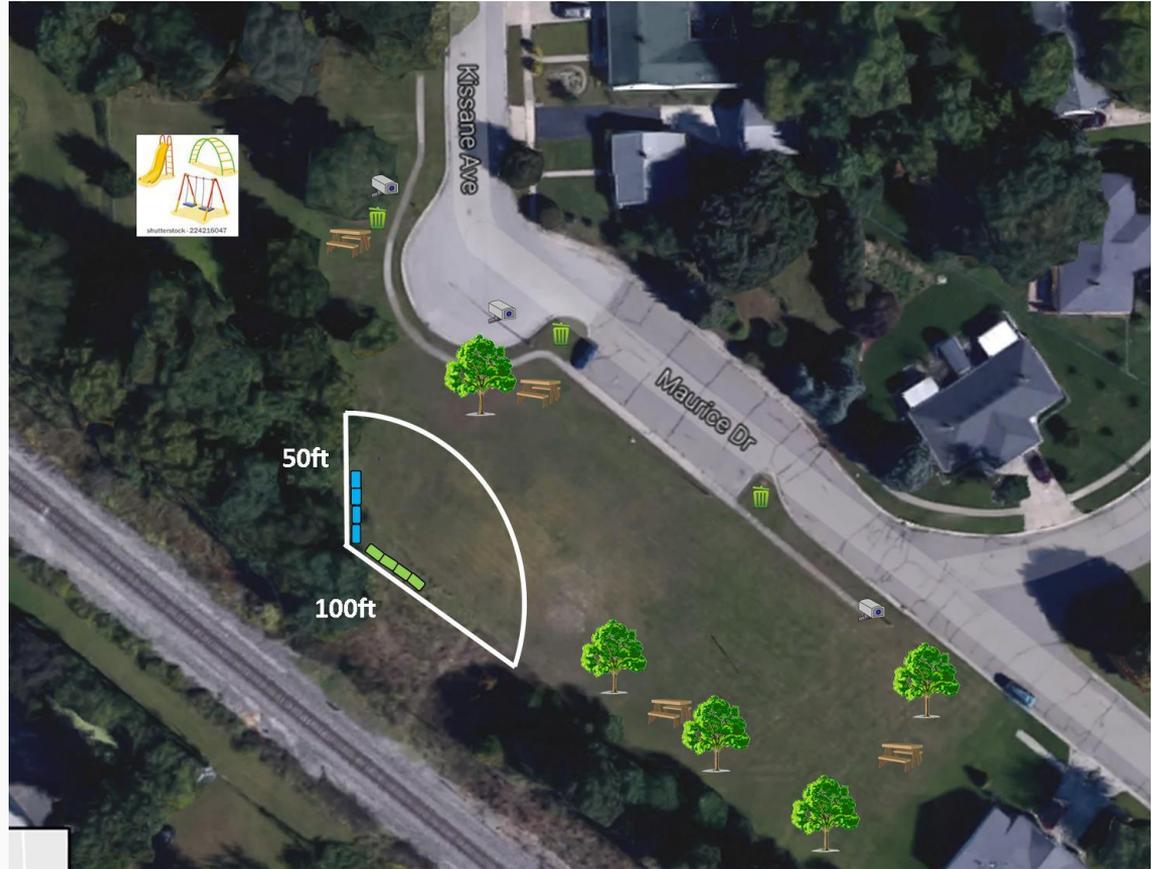
- We propose that we use the northwest corner of the park along the tree line to construct neighborhood garden.
- The project will start with four 4'x8' raised beds for FTHS to grow plants, with four additional 4'x8' beds being constructed for interested neighborhood members.



# Kissane Park Future Projection

The image to the right depicts additions if:

- the neighborhood surrounding Kissane Park wants to use more raised garden beds.
- the area would include trees, benches, waste baskets, and new play equipment.



# Cost to City

- In initial costs to the city will be lumber, screws, landscape fabric, peat moss, compost, and vermiculite for the raised garden beds.
- We would also need funds for seeds and/or seedlings for varieties we would like to plant (Possible vendors could include [Project Grow](#), [Michigan Heirlooms](#), or [Ann Arbor Seed Company](#)).
- To avoid pests we will need to invest in some type of barrier (i.e. chicken wire) and pesticide (I would suggest organic soaps and essential oils).
- A projected cost of these materials would range from \$1,867.54—\$2,136.18

# Creating a Volunteer Framework

- Building and maintaining water barrels and water tanks to meet garden needs.
- Being a liaison between school and community/neighborhood.
- Promoting community garden events.
- Providing waste disposal options.
- Assisting in the creation of a plan for maintenance of garden in summer when school is not in session.

# Frequency of Visits

Students will use the LETs bus service to travel to neighborhood garden events and will be supervised by instructors.

Students will need to visit the site for the following reasons:

- Initial planning and/or construction of boxes.
- Planting of seeds or seedlings.
- Participating in on-site observations.
- Harvesting produce.
- Attending any collaborative events.

# Projected Timeline

**August 10th 2016:** Assess Community Interest

**August 17th-September 1st 2016:** Incorporate Neighborhood Garden Ideas into Projects

**September 1st 2016:** Present Ideas to City Council

**September 2016:** Finalize Neighborhood Garden Proposal.

**September 2016-May 2017:** Complete Project Components for Neighborhood Garden

**April 2017:** Begin Neighborhood Garden Construction

**April-May 2017** (*Depending on Frost*): Begin Planting

**May-June 2017:** Participate in Neighborhood Garden Launch

# How we can grow?



- Building a produce kiosk to share fresh produce with neighborhood.
- Creating seed shares for the neighborhood.
- Designing unique garden beds for neighborhood residents.
- Developing a compost program for neighborhood garden.
- Continue building relationships with neighborhood to address needs and plan new ideas.
- Exploring other community garden opportunities in the City of Brighton.