

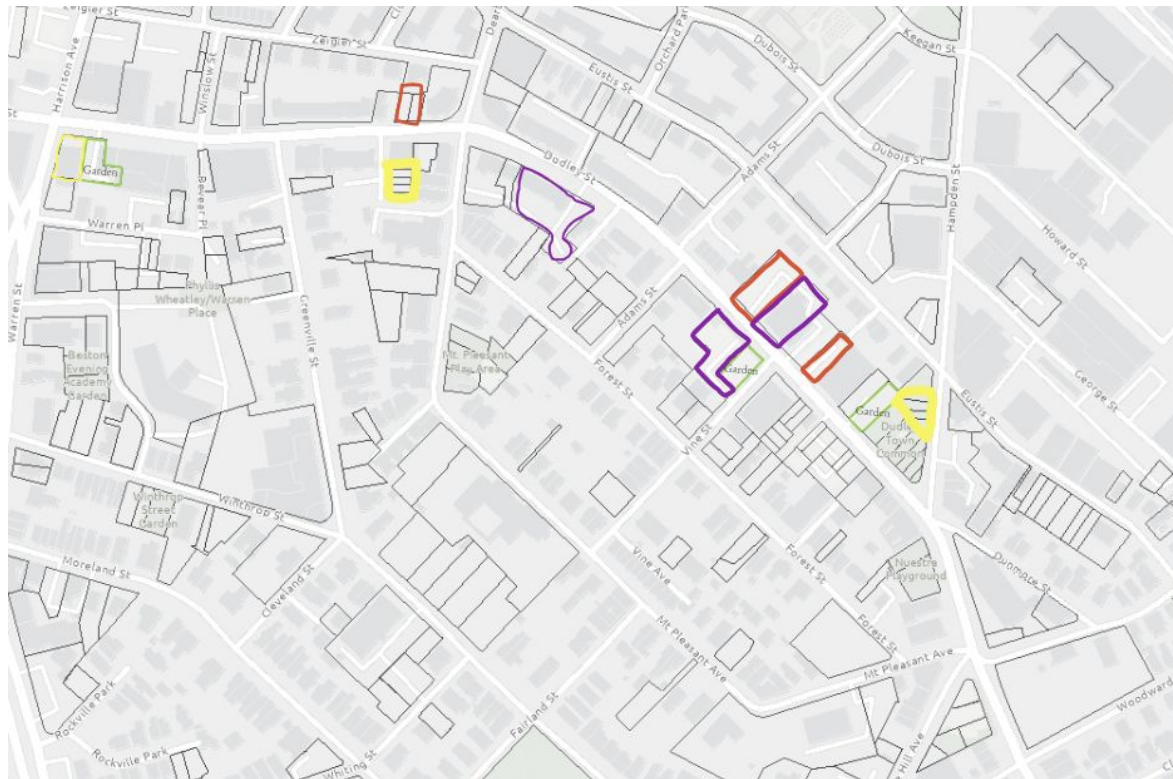


# ACTIVATION OF VACANT LOTS

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# ROXBURY, MA



Introduction

**Proposal**

Apple  
Orchards

Community  
Gardens

Community  
Green Spaces

Game  
Corners

Funding

# PROPOSAL

In several areas of Roxbury, there are vacant lots that are not claimed.

These lots can be used for community engagements, therefore creating attractive spaces throughout the area.

If we do not act on these parcels, developers may buy out the land and create new apartment complexes, office spaces, and more.

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# A TRAIL OF APPLE ORCHARDS



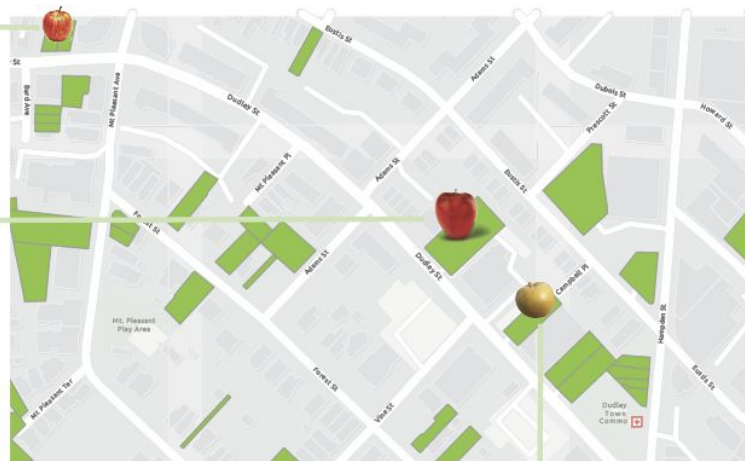
239 Dudley St

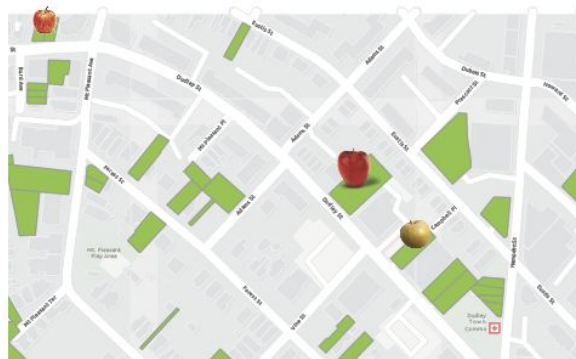


329 Dudley St



339 Dudley St





### Gala Apples

The bright yellow skin is finely stippled with red, as if airbrushed, and the result is a near - neon intensity. Gala was developed in New Zealand by J.H. Kidd, crossing Golden Delicious and his own Kidd's Orange Red.

The pale, creamy flesh is crisp and dense, with a mild, sweet flavor and good aroma. The fruit is not large, but medium in size. In taste tests, Gala easily outscores McIntosh and is considered more sprightly than Golden Delicious. When cooked, Gala strikes some people as bland, but it can be dried with good results. Gala is also used in many cider blends. This apple stores well when refrigerated.



### Red Delicious

A marketer's ideal: as intensely red as the apple in Sleeping Beauty, instantly recognizable, tall and wasp-waisted, gorgeous and big! Riding on these qualities, the variety has pushed regional favorites aside. The skin is thick and bitter and has to be chewed vigorously. At its best the yellow flesh can be juicy and somewhat tart, and highly aromatic. this apple does not hold up well when cooked.



### Roxbury Russet

The Roxbury Russet may be America's first pomological achievement, having been developed and named in Roxbury, MA in the early 1600's. A look at one suggests how the idea of a good apple has changed over the centuries, Roxbury presents a dull green, heavily marked face to the world. But the crisp, tart apple has more personality than some of today's supermarket standards. Its yellow-green flesh is firm and course textured. Roxbury is suited to eating fresh and cooking and long has had a reputation as a fine cider apple. As with most older varieties, it keeps well for months.



## HOW TO GROW AND MAINTAIN GALA APPLE TREES



The amount of garden space you'll need for the tree depends on which version you pick.

The standard Gala grows to **25 feet (8.5 m.)** tall with a similar spread, the semi-dwarf is about half that tall, while a dwarf stays about 10 feet (3 m.) tall and wide.

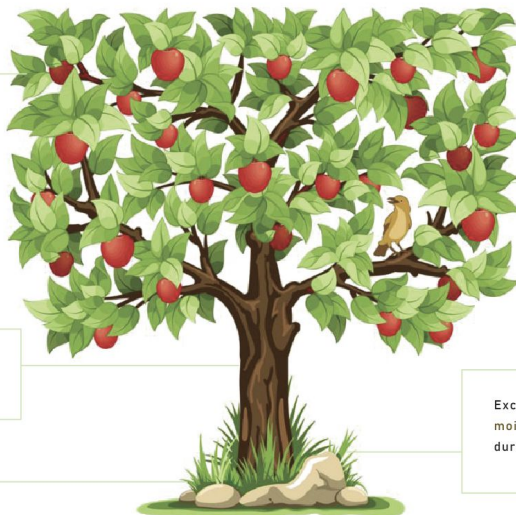


The ideal Gala apple tree climate is **not-too-warm** and **not-too cool**. It thrives in the middle zones.



Gala apple fruit trees need **ample water** for the first year.

Irrigate deeply at planting time, then twice weekly for a few months while the tree is establishing. One deep watering weekly during the growing season works well the first year, with one monthly in winter.



When planting a Gala apple tree, find a site that gets **full, direct sun**. It needs at least six hours of unfiltered sun per day.

Gala apple trees are self-pollinating. So you only need to start with very few.



Excellent drainage is equally important so provide it with **moist, well-drained soil**. After establishment, water only during dry spells. Mulching helps keep the soil moist.



It takes around **2 to 5 years** to produce apples.



## HOW TO GROW AND MAINTAIN RED DELICIOUS APPLE TREES



Red Delicious tree size ranges from 10-25 feet (3-8 m.) in height and 12-15 feet (4-5 m.) wide.



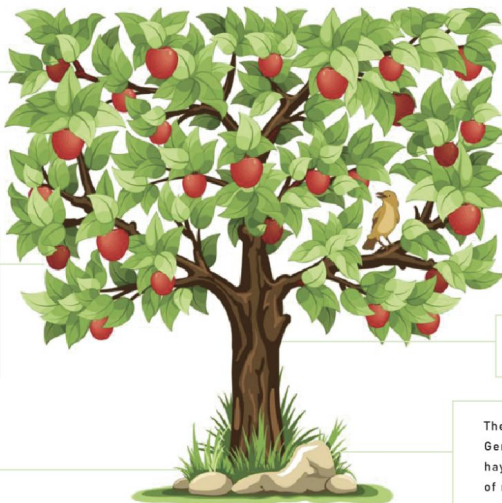
It's susceptible to drought stress, so a proper irrigation plan is essential for Red Delicious apples in the orchard. In northern areas, spring planting is suggested while the areas where the weather is mild and moist, fall planting is also successful.



Before planting your Red Delicious tree, make your soil is free from weeds.

Dig a hole about 2-3 feet (.60-.91 m.) deep and add some organic manure or compost in the hole.

Make sure that your plant is healthy and free from any disease or injury. Loosen the soil around the root ball, as it will help the roots to penetrate into the soil.



Red delicious apple trees are sun loving and need a **minimum six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight** each day.

Red Delicious **do not pollinate by themselves** but are cross pollinated, mostly with Golden Delicious and Gala. For maximum production, the planting distance must be considered - 12-15 feet (4-5 m.) apart for semi dwarf Red Delicious trees and 10 feet (3 m.) apart for dwarf varieties.



It takes around **6 to 10 years** to produce apples.

The tree grows well in **acidic, well-drained and humid soils**. Generally, the soil must be porous and supplemented with hay or some other organic material to keep it moist and full of nutrients.



**Water deeply when planting and twice weekly for 3 months** while your tree is establishing. For the first year, we recommend watering deeply once weekly in spring and summer and once monthly in fall in winter after the establishment period.





## HOW TO GROW AND MAINTAIN ROXBURY RUSSET APPLE TREES



Full Sun is defined as exposure to more than **6 hours of continuous, direct sun per day.**



It takes around **2 to 10 years** to produce apples.

Roxbury Russet is in flowering group **4**. It is **not self sterile** and needs a **pollination partner** nearby.



They require **rich soil, moderate watering, good drainage and full sun**. When planting, **space trees according to their ultimate size**. To prevent corrective pruning later on, **frequent light pruning during the tree's early years is required.**



The natural spacing of a Roxbury Russet Tree is about **24'**. These trees can grow to a height of **30 feet** and a **width of 15 feet** with a **growth of 8 to 12 feet per year.**

Do not plant in low areas where **frost settles** or where apple trees have previously been planted.



Roxbury Russet Apples are in **USDA zones: 4 - 7.**



Try to **water plants early in the day or later in the afternoon** to conserve water and cut down on plant stress. Do water early enough so that water has had a chance to dry from plant leaves prior to night fall. This is paramount if you have had fungus problems.



**Water deeply when planting and twice weekly for 3 months** while your tree is establishing. For the first year, we recommend watering deeply **once weekly in spring and summer** and **once monthly in fall in winter** after the establishment period.



# COMMUNITY GARDEN



## People of Interest:

- Trustees of Reservations
  - Non-profit owner's of community gardens in Boston
- Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture/GrowBoston
- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN)
  - Works to preserve and improve open space through community activities
- Central Boston Elder Services

## Policies of Interest:

- The GrassRoots Program
  - Supports the development of community gardens
- City of Boston's Open Space Plan 2015-2021  
[https://www.cityofboston.gov/images\\_documents/Section%207.3.2%20OSP1521%20CommunityGardens\\_tcm3-48298.pdf](https://www.cityofboston.gov/images_documents/Section%207.3.2%20OSP1521%20CommunityGardens_tcm3-48298.pdf)

# COMMUNITY GARDEN

Map



170 Dudley St  
Exempt  
6,000 sq.ft.

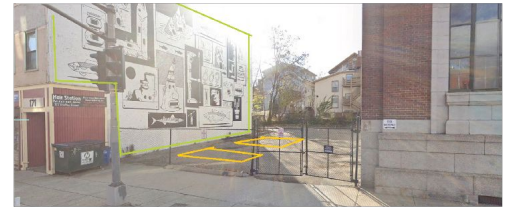


333 Dudley St  
Exempt  
4,800 sq.ft.

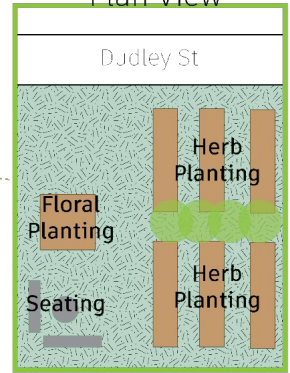


362 Dudley St  
Vacant  
5,500 sq.ft.

Spatial Concept

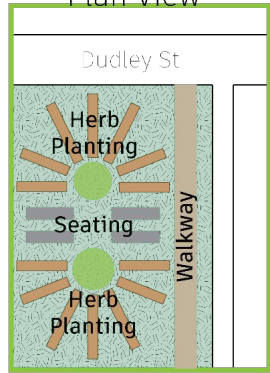


Plan View



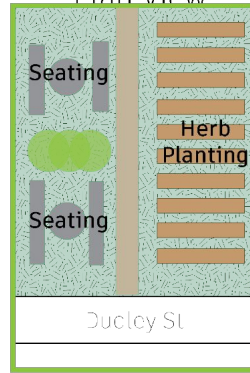
170 Dudley St  
New Garden (in collab with Zion Church)

Plan View



333 Dudley St  
New Garden

Plan View



362 Dudley St  
New Garden

- Goals:
1. Target Audience = Elders
  2. Fill Plots with all-year blooming herbs
  3. Start a food growing section where profit goes back into the garden

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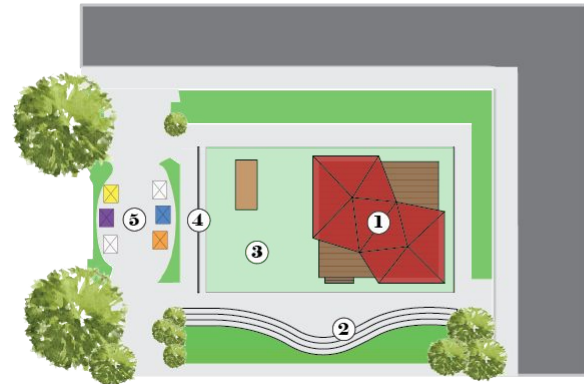
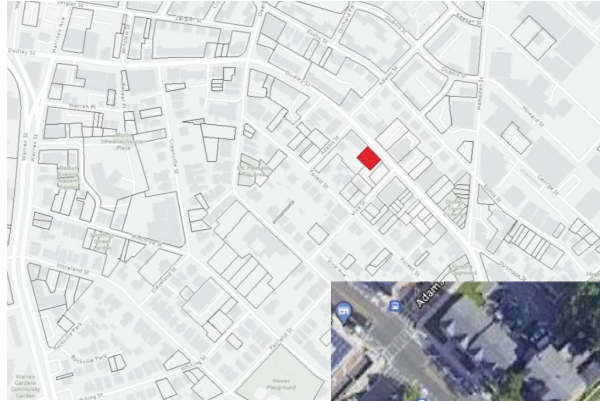
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# COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES



- ① Protected Dance Platform
- ② Sitting Steps
- ③ Flexible/Picnic Space
- ④ Community Art Wall
- ⑤ Community Vendor Space

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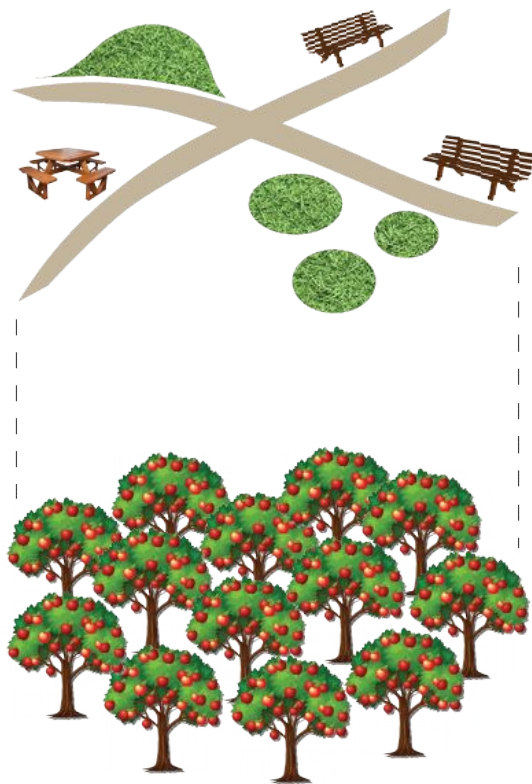
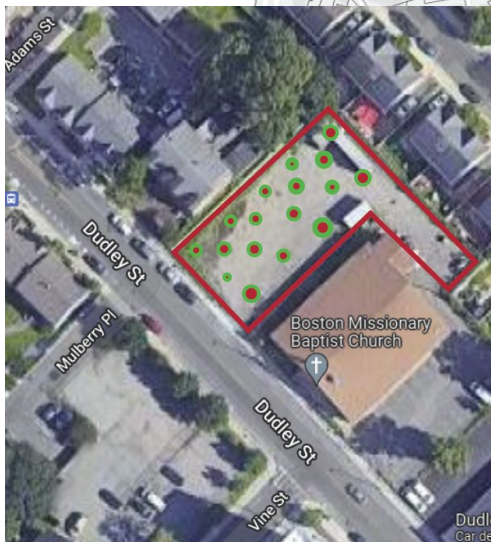
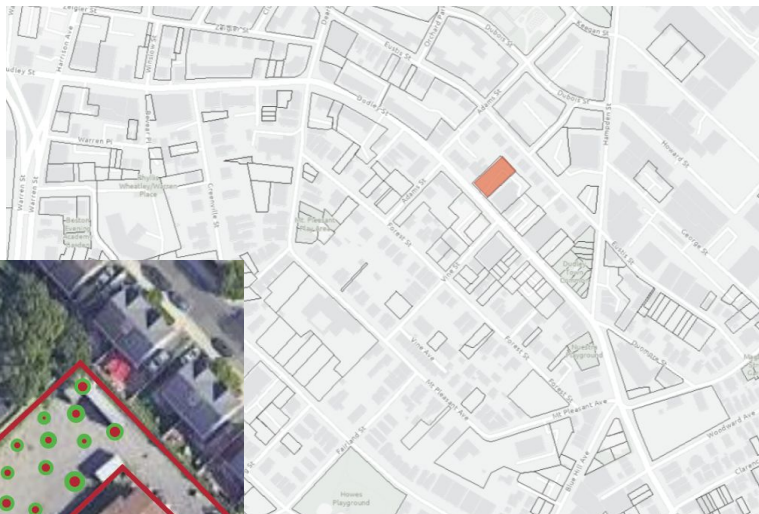
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# INTEGRATED REST SPOTS



# GAME CORNERS

## Research Conclusions

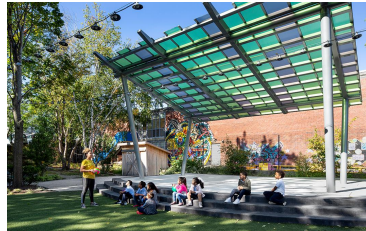
- Most parks lack spaces specifically for games
- More seating/public benches
- More shading
- More Greenery
- Recreational spaces need balance
- Different aspects promote different activities



# GAME CORNERS

## Vision

- Tables for certain types of games such as chess and cards
- Mini game library
- Shading and greenery
- Pop-up space for local business vendor
- Multigenerational





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# FUNDING?

- **Community Preservation Act**
  - Open Space Acquisition Program
- **New England Grassroots Environmental Fund**
  - Seed Grant
- **Grow Boston**
  - Grassroots Program
- **Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)**

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# POTENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What lots might work best for our different programming?
- How to maintain the spaces? What kind of community organizations/groups could help maintain the spaces?