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# The Unity Gardens Urban Orchard Program

— A collaboration with the Giving Grove —

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# What is the Giving Grove?

- A national network dedicated to installing urban orchards to increase fresh food, ecosystem services, and green space
- They've partnered with us at Unity Gardens to get more fruit trees/brambles into South Bend!
- More information on Giving Grove here: [Giving Grove Website](#)

# What do urban orchards look like?

- Each orchard looks different! On average, a site will have about 10 trees, but your site can have more or less!
- But should have a plan for engaging the community and what to do with your harvests and have two dedicated stewards to each site
- These orchards can all be free pick or directed to pantries, shelters, etc,

# What's required of an orchard site?

- EASY access to water
- A sunny area (at least 8 hrs of sun!)
- Good air circulation
- Land that's not in danger of being used for something else in the future
- At least TWO volunteer stewards dedicated to maintaining the orchard

# What is required of a volunteer steward?

- Come to steward trainings and workshops! Trees can be hard to take care of.
- Stay in contact with us. We'll be sending information on what to do throughout the year and we'll be there to answer all your questions.
- Engage your community with volunteers and make sure your neighborhood knows of the orchard.
- Take care of your trees! It's less work than gardening, but requires more knowledge (it boils down to an hour a week typically for a 10 tree orchard)
  - And if you keep up with it, the work stays simple!

# Do I have to know anything about orcharding to be a steward?

- No! We'll teach you everything you need to know!

# Do you have any questions? Want to get started?

## Contact:

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# Where do the trees/supplies come from?

- Unity Gardens will provide the trees, supplies, and knowledge!
- If you're able to get financial backing for the orchard, that will allow us to stretch our resources even further.
- Essential supplies we'll provide for you to take to your site - including pruners, spray bottles, a steward handbook, etc
- Some more expensive things you're welcome to purchase or you can borrow from us - including more extensive resources, sprayers, orchard ladders, etc



# What will a typical orchard year look like?

Fall - Winter: Attend steward workshops to learn about holistic orcharding

February-early April: pruning your trees

April - March: planting any new trees/bushes

Summer: summer maintenance and begin harvest!

Fall: continue harvest

Throughout the year: holistic sprays on trees for pest/disease control (although not until year three of your tree's life!), watering, and general tree care

# How do I become an orchard site?

1. Let us know you're interested!
2. Set up a time for a site visit
3. Fill out the steward questionnaire
4. Attend steward workshops BEFORE tree planting
5. Set up tree planting time (we'll be there to help!)
6. Begin regular care of your orchard!

We'll have times for stewards to meet to share tips, tricks, and socialize!