

## Cumberland Community Orchard

### FY 2024 Work Plan

#### 2023 - **Envisioning the Orchard, Aligning with Community, and Designing the Orchard.**

Creating a community vision and end goals. Public outreach to build support and awareness of the project. Recruit leadership team. Identify additional stakeholders. Create events to bring in volunteers. Prepare the orchard space for planting in 2024.

July - October

- Set up basic infrastructure (tool storage, IBC totes for watering needs, etc.).
- - Work with the Town Manager/Assistant Manager on the pad site for Orchard shed/pole barn.
- - Acquire shed/pole barn for tool storage.
- - Hold public engagement meetings/sessions.
- - Recruit members for LCC Orchard subcommittee as leadership team for the project.
- - Identify first year tree planting sites, sheet mulch with cardboard/woodchips. Wire fencing around planting sites ahead of time to be ready for Spring planting.
- - Hold an Inaugural Fall Planting Day to begin the work designing, cultivating, and planting the fledgling Orchard site (beneficial insect mix and comfrey root divisions planted around tree sites).

November-December

- -Promote and hold a series of workshops on Food Forest design to build knowledge and enthusiasm in the community ahead of spring planting.
- - Finalize planting list and order trees/shrubs etc. from vendors for spring delivery.

#### 2024 - **Initial Orchard Planting - Laying the Framework**

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now".* — Chinese Proverb

- Laying out the basic framework of the orchard by planting a diverse mix of fruit and nut trees, fruiting shrubs, cane fruits, and pollinator plants.

January-February - Continue Food Forest design seminars.

March - Hold Inaugural Spring Planting weekend to plant the fledgling Orchard site with an initial round of canopy layer fruit, nut, and shade trees.

April-June - Hold bi-monthly work days to weed, add mulch, and plant additional support around trees.