

North Amherst Community Farm Design Plan

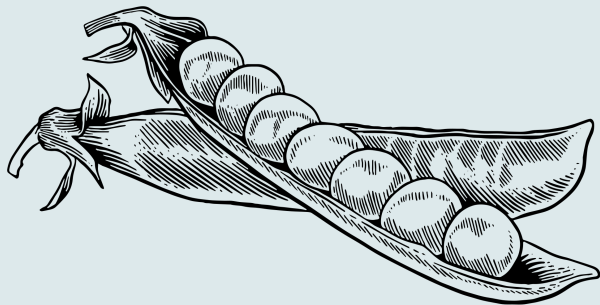
1089 N Pleasant Street Amherst, MA 01002



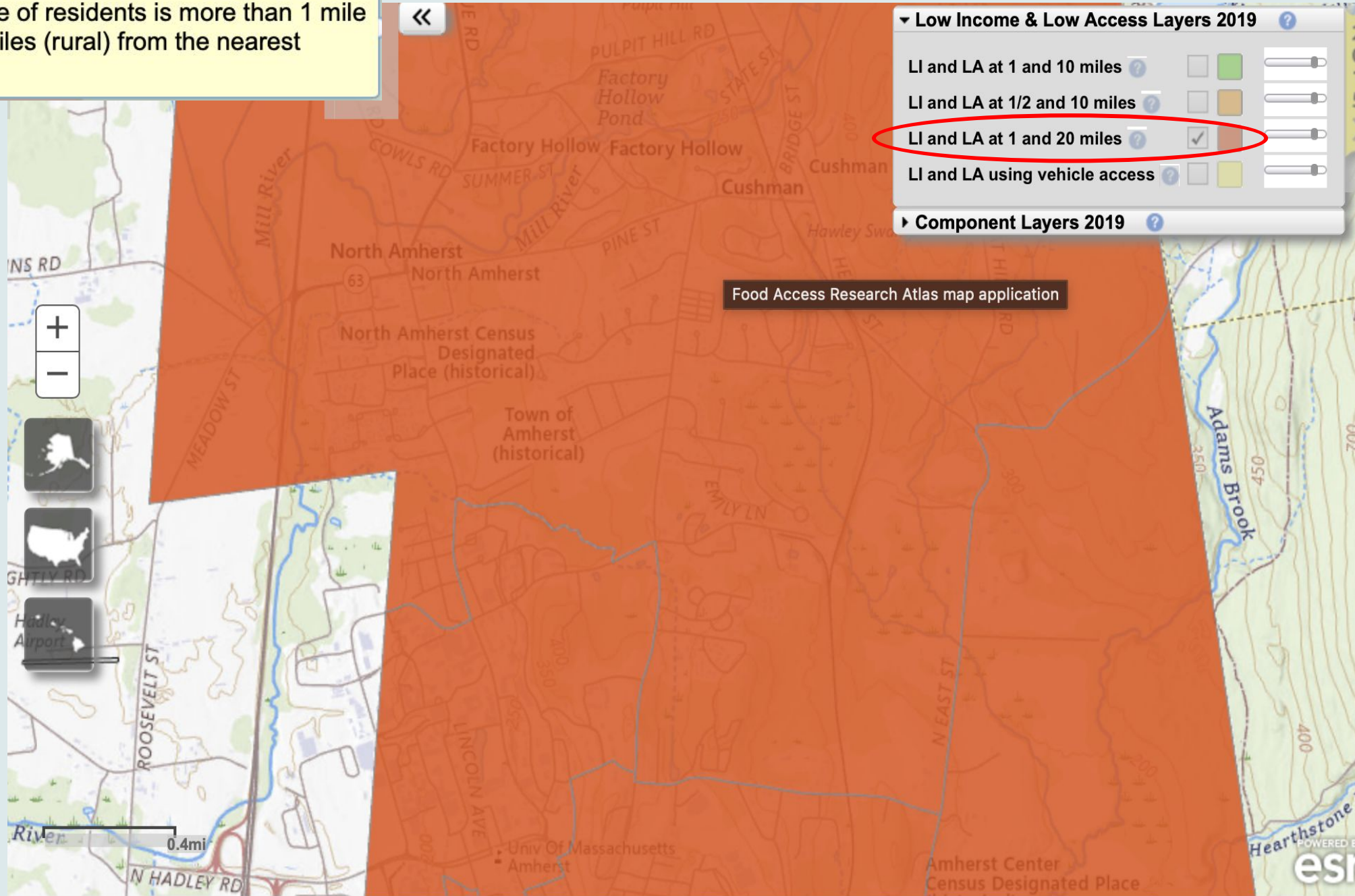
Presented by Team Rocket: Meredith Thayer, Davis Ball, Rowenn Stevens, Christine Hayes, Lucy Stevens

N.A.C.F.'s Background~

One in every four Amherst residents are low income, and live more than a mile from the nearest grocery store. This makes Amherst a USDA designated *food desert*. Our location, North Amherst Community Farm, is right in the heart of North Amherst, within 0.6 miles of the university. This provides walking-distance access to many families and students living in Amherst.



Low-income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1 mile (urban) or 20 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket.



This map was provided by the ERS.USDA.GOV

SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

Donors and community support, location, environmental conditions, infrastructure

Weaknesses:

Funds, water runoff on walking paths, machinery and debris, run-down buildings

Other components to note:

- Many unstable structures- (*collapsed barns, broken playgrounds, trailers*)
- Many viable structures (*farm store, residence, greenhouses*)
- Lots of water access
- Beautiful views
- Community gathering potential



SWOT Analysis cont.

Opportunities:

Large opportunity to improve aesthetic, and to decide what purpose would be most beneficial for the farm/community, and to engage further with community.

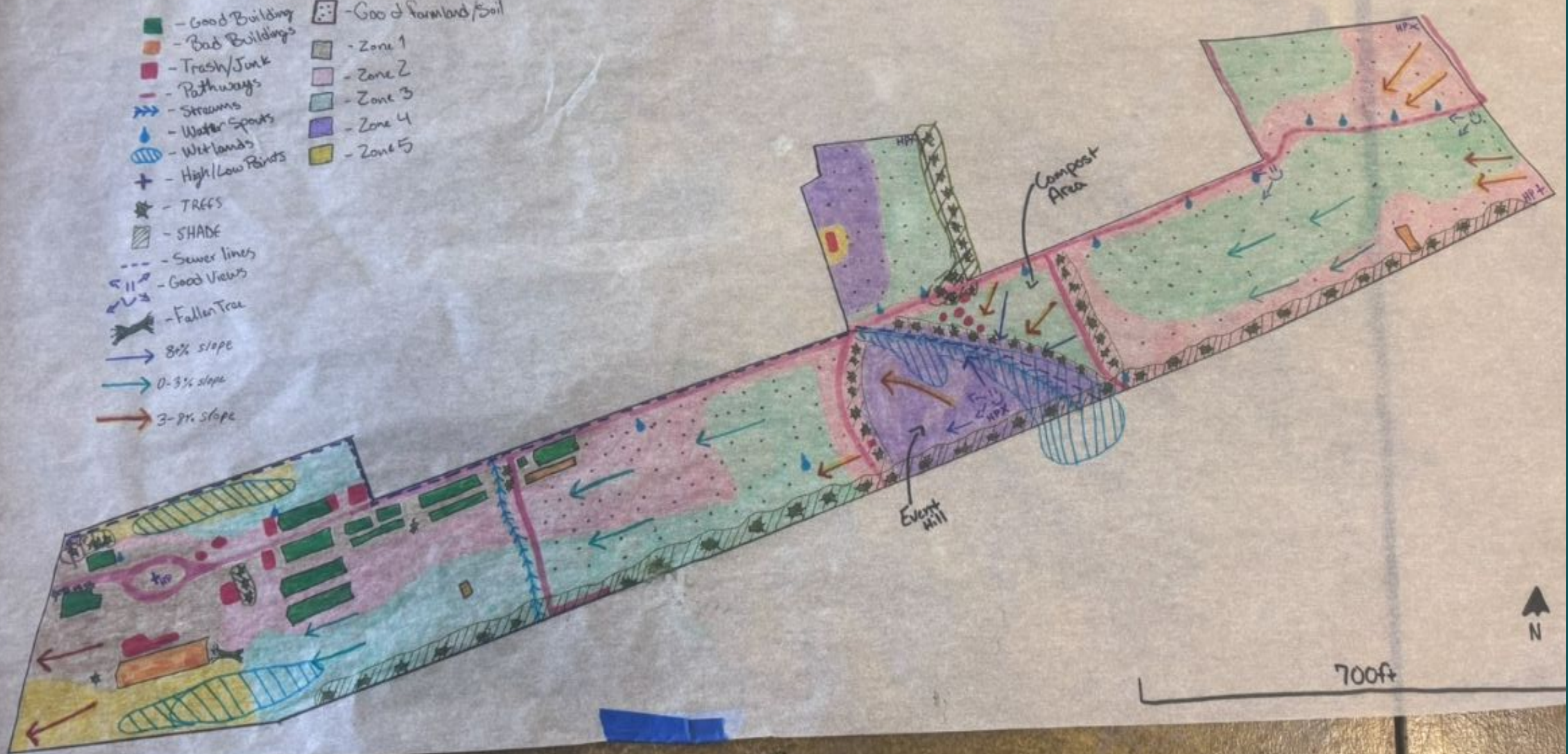
Threats:

Concerns about lack of community awareness, finances, overwhelming cleanup, large spaces to plan.



SWOT Analysis Map

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | - Good Building |  | - Good Farmland/Soil |
|  | - Bad Buildings |  | - Zone 1 |
|  | - Trash/Junk |  | - Zone 2 |
|  | - Pathways |  | - Zone 3 |
|  | - Streams |  | - Zone 4 |
|  | - Water Spouts |  | - Zone 5 |
|  | - Wetlands | | |
|  | - High/Low Points | | |
|  | - TREES | | |
|  | - SHADE | | |
|  | - Sewer lines | | |
|  | - Good Views | | |
|  | - Fallen Tree | | |
|  | - 8% slope | | |
|  | - 0-3% slope | | |
|  | - 3-8% slope | | |



Case Study: Intervale Center



As part of our design process, we chose to examine a separate community-focused farm to gain insight and inspiration for our own design. Intervale Center, located in Burlington, VT and is home to several medium-sized farms. They function as a 501c3 nonprofit, and operate with a volunteer board of directors. Intervale aims to strengthen community food systems, sustaining local farms, land, and people. They envision inclusive, sustainable, and accessible food systems that center on social, economic, and environmental justice. This case study serves as an example to follow regarding land stewardship, community-building, and streamlined business operation.

Our Goals For N.A.C.F.~

This site is located on one of the busiest streets in Amherst, *North Pleasant st*, while also bordering *Pine st*.

An inviting entrance, communicating the purpose of the farm as a recognizable community space will be created. This includes a sign, and sidewalks/crosswalks leading to the space.

Fully establishing the farm in our community is still its own task, requiring outreach to Amherst residents to inform them on plans for NACF, and to also get feedback on what they envision for the future.

Lastly, we will divide the ~30 acres of land into functional, clear spaces to support: community gardens, young farmers, educational programs and the community.



Team Rocket Final North Amherst Community Farm Design



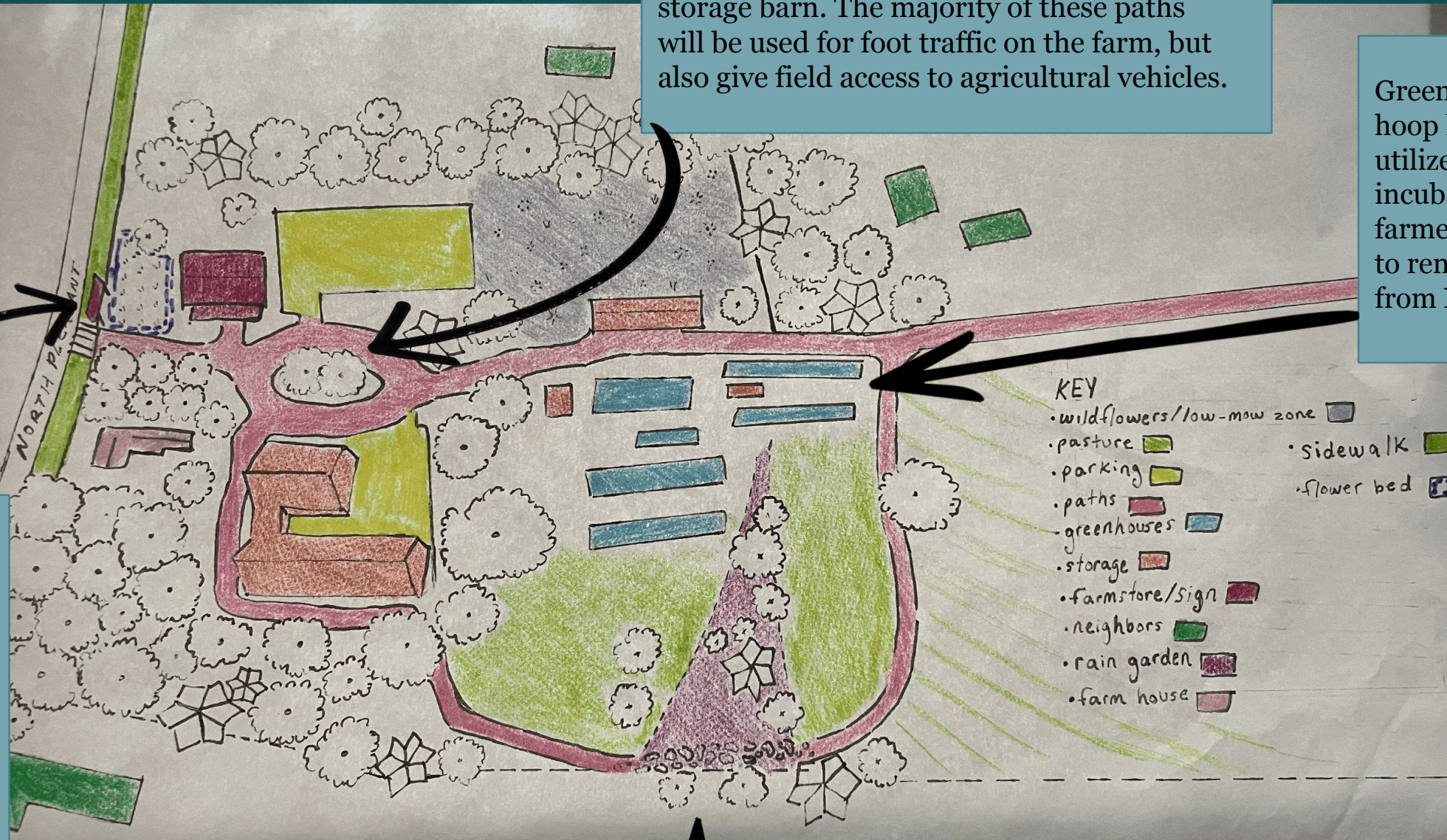
Main entrance, farm store, communal storage, and non-designated areas for grazing/recreation.

North Amherst Community Farm

Christine Hayes

Paths give access to vehicle parking- to the right of the farm store and in front of the storage barn. The majority of these paths will be used for foot traffic on the farm, but also give field access to agricultural vehicles.

Greenhouses and hoop houses can be utilized by incubator farms, or farmers who want to rent the space from NACF.

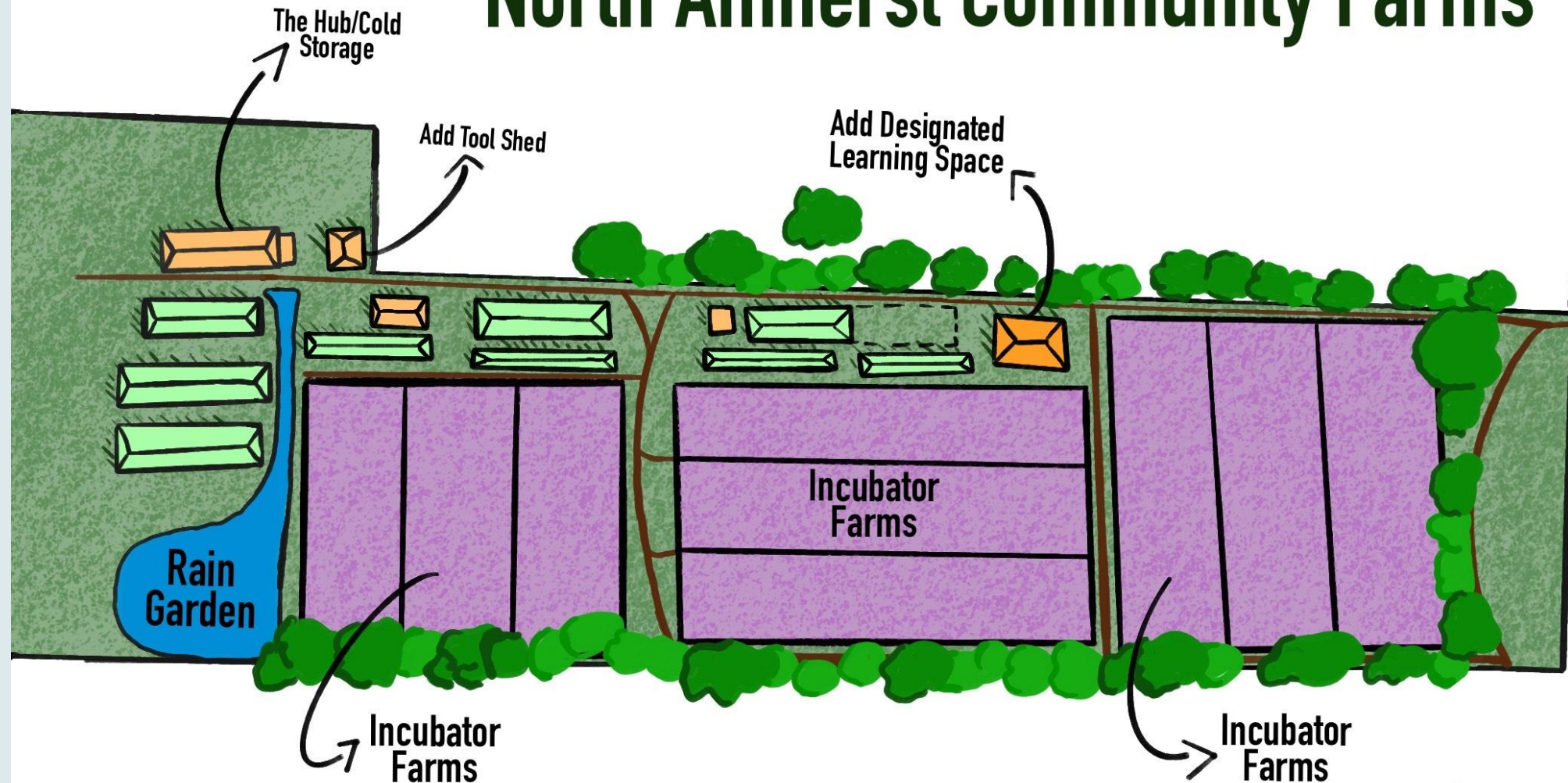


Our primary area of attraction, where we want to show passerby that this is a community space. This sidewalk provides a majority of the foot traffic from Amherst residents

The small rain garden provides better groundwater drainage for the pasture below.

To collect excess rain water, implementing species with deep root systems will benefit the stability of the ground in this area. Some of our planting suggestions are: Giant Hyssop, Black Chokeberry, River Birch, Serviceberry, Marsh Milkweed, & Turtleheads.

North Amherst Community Farms



Incubator Farms

~1/2 acres per farmer

New farmers have a space to learn and grow before buying their own land

The Hub

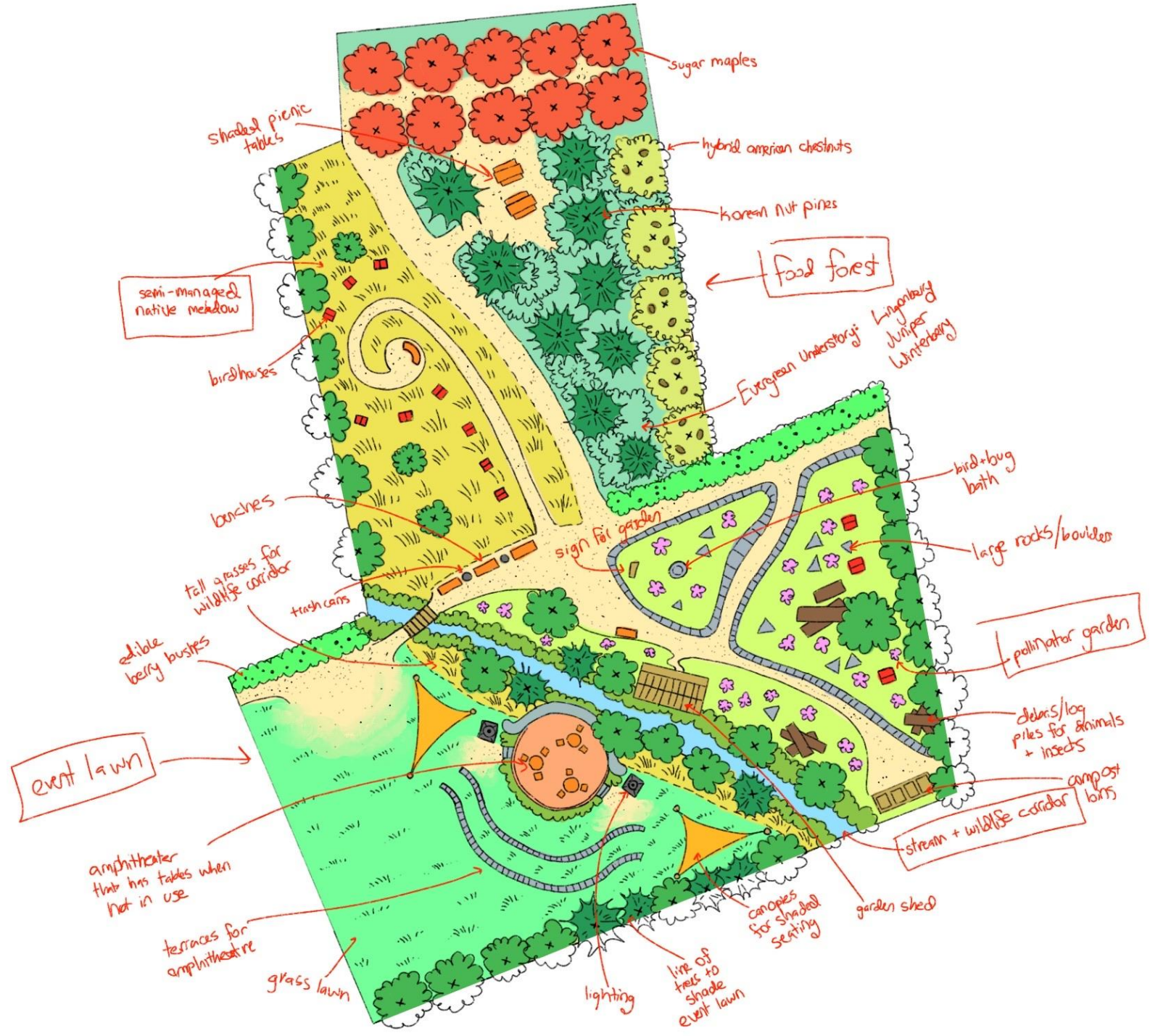
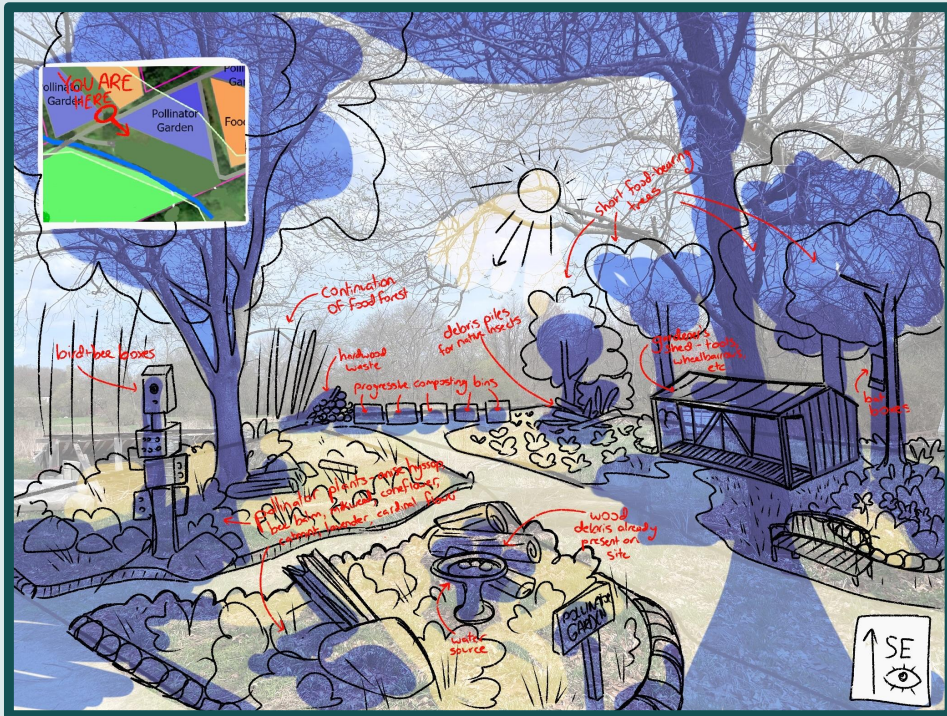
Acts as equipment and cold storage for farmers

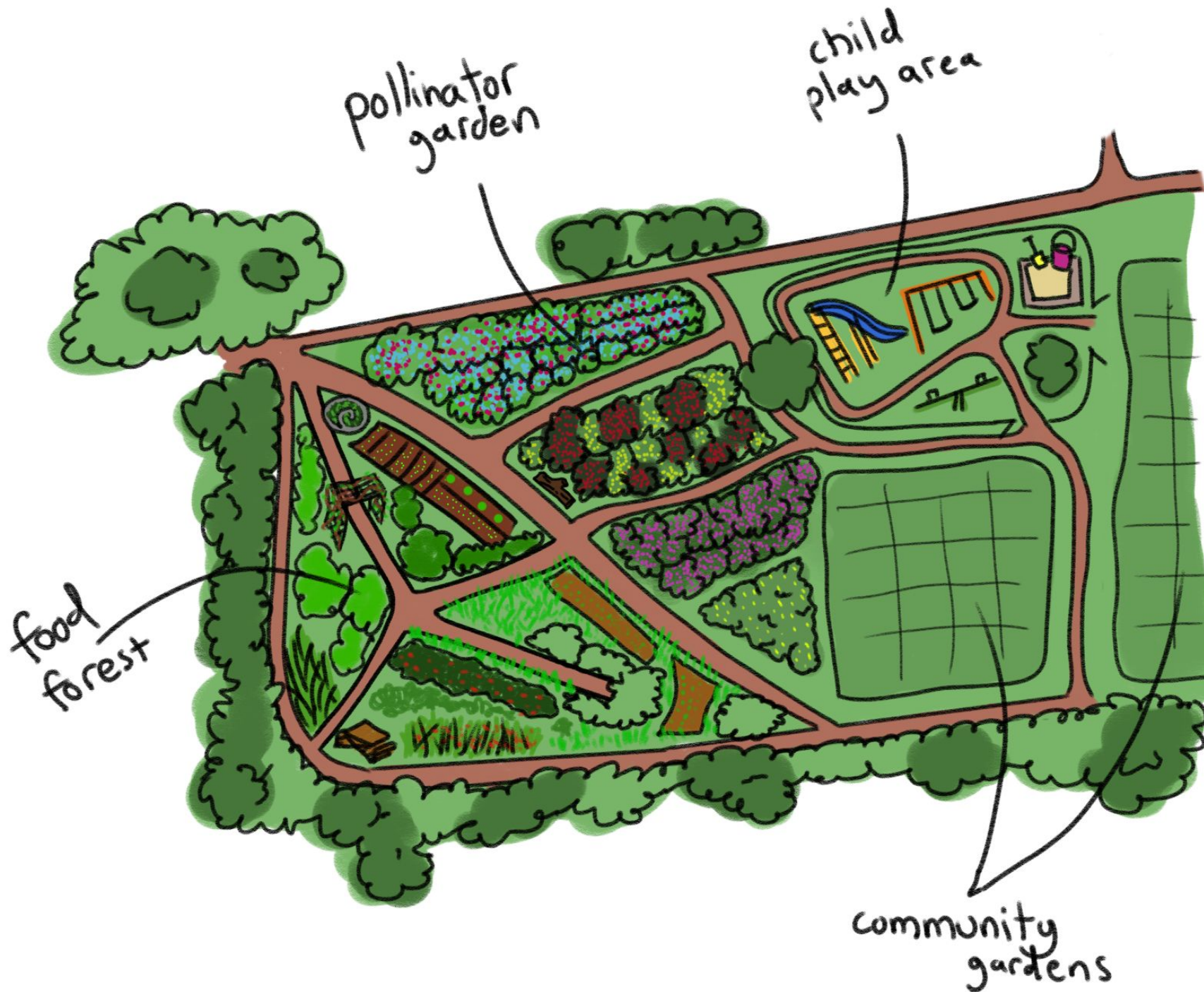
Learning Space

Space where farmers can gather, hang out, and learn from one another

Event Lawn, Pollinator Gardens, Meadow, and Evergreen Food Forest

North Amherst Community Farm Design
Meredith Thayer





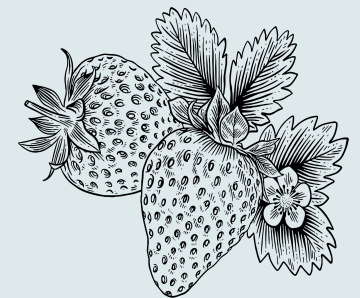
Play Area, Pollinator Garden & Food Forest

North Amherst Community Farm
Davis Ball

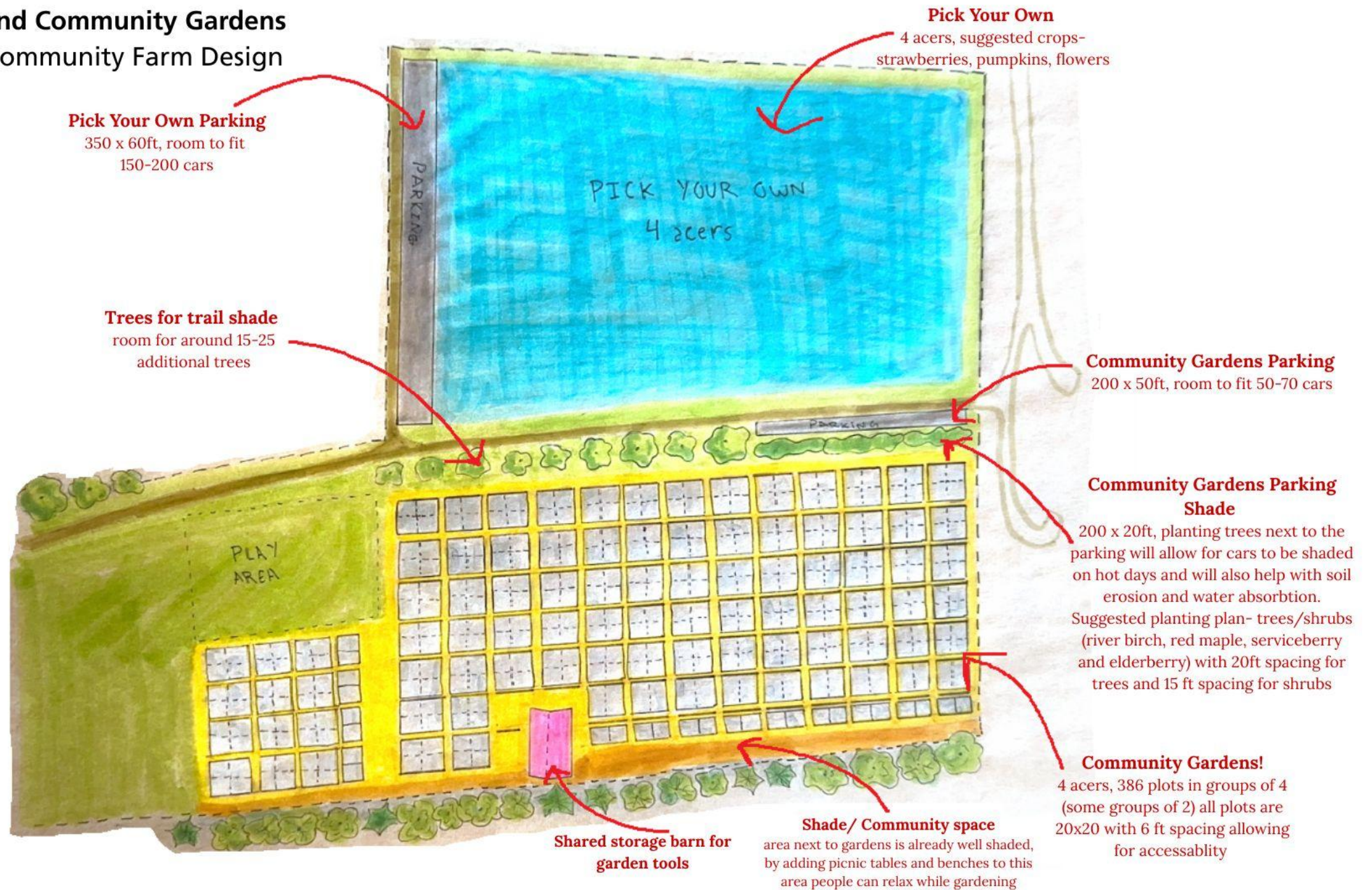
The playground is conveniently near the community garden plots, and is still a good distance from the road.

Key pollinator species help to fertilize nearby crops, as well as bring biodiversity to the surrounding area.

A food forest that is tended to by a dedicated steward can provide high-yield nourishment while remaining resilient to climate change.



Pick Your Own and Community Gardens
North Amherst Community Farm Design
Lucy Stevens



Additional Design Features and Details



Sign to include with dog waste station.



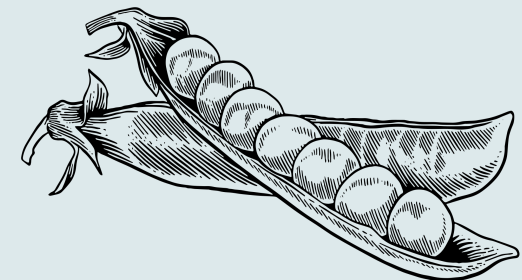
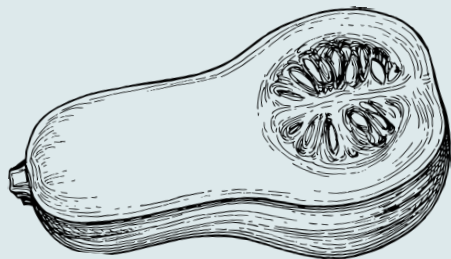
New sign design, cleaned up entryway road, and painted crosswalk.

Mural concept to attract attention from the roadside.

Please Clean
Up After
Your Dog!



We want to keep
the farm clean
and hygienic
for everyone!



Implementation Plan

Financial stability is the most pressing matter for N.A.C.F. currently. Our plan suggests the introduction of an incubator farmer to lease a section of the land, which would provide a stable source of income for the farm via rent. Additionally, the you-pick section of the farm would be maintained and expanded, with parking lots to increase its capacity. Community gardens could be built by volunteers; and members of the Amherst community could pay an annual fee to have a plot. These varieties of income would provide financial stability to N.A.C.F. to allow for the implementation of more detailed aspects of our plan like the food forests and community spaces.

