

East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm

To: Dave Fredrickson, Commissioner, MN Dept. of Agriculture
From: East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm
Re: Urban Agriculture Request for Governor's Budget

Date: February 23, 2016

On behalf of the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm (EPIUF), we are very pleased to respond to your invitation to submit an official project proposal to be included in Governor Dayton's urban agriculture supplemental budget legislation.

EPIUF is excited about the timing of this opportunity since our East Phillips community has been proposing to develop a portion of a commercial building, the Roof Depot, at 1860 E. 28th St., Minneapolis, as an upscaled, cross cultural and sustainable year-round urban farming model for our low-income neighborhood's revitalization. This initiative is designed help us overcome the severe racial and economic disparities in our community with increased access to healthy food, good paying jobs, and relief from our toxic environmental burdens.

For nearly two years East Phillips Neighborhood residents and several of our cultural community organizations have joined together to envision and plan this project. It began as part of a grass roots community-based "green zone" strategic alternative -- a community development /economic revitalization response to our city's proposal to utilize a large warehouse in East Phillips for storage space—the Roof Depot building. Alternatively, we have proposed this year-round, indoor urban agricultural collaborative farming model along with small culturally specific entrepreneurial local businesses in order to join with our city in developing this property to more appropriately overcome the severe economic disparities and social justice inequities of the East Phillips Neighborhood in South Minneapolis.

East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm is fortunate to have the collaboration of several progressive **neighborhood-based organizations** which are either culturally identified or culturally diverse non-profits whose work specifically includes food/agricultural justice strategies as culturally based "medicine" for healing our severe health disparity injustices. These include:

- 1. Little Earth of United Tribes** -- An urban South Minneapolis housing complex with Native preference, a national model at the forefront of American Indian migration into urban areas that works cooperatively to build the community and create opportunities for Native American People to achieve self determination;
- 2. Tamales y Bicicletas** -- A grass roots Latino-led neighborhood organization dedicated to developing healthy Latino and immigrant communities through bikes, cultural empowerment and access to healthy foods;
- 3. East Phillips ImprovementCoalition** -- The City of Minneapolis' officially recognized citizen participation organization whose mission is to promote the social, educational and economic health of the community, including underrepresented groups; and

4. The Women's Environmental Institute -- An environmental justice organization which provides organic farming expertise, education and food/racial justice organizing for both rural and urban communities. It is the "MN Regional Outreach Training Center" for Growing Power, Inc.

Each of these community based organizations have begun "urban farming" sites and each have participants who have attended hands-on training in organic farming--including composting and building safe and nutrient rich raised beds to overcome urban soil contamination issues as well as modest growing-season extension strategies. This training with Will Allen and Growing Power, Inc., has been offered by the Women's Environmental Institute(WEI) at both its Amador Hill rural campus and at Little Earth of United Tribes housing in East Phillips Neighborhood over the last six years. **Growing Power** has provided long term technical support and consultation for WEI. For example, numerous hoop houses and closed system low tech eco-aquaponics units have been constructed and supported.

5. Growing Power, Inc., -- A national non-profit who mission is growing healthy food as part of a larger transformational project to create a more just society. It is part of the "Growing Food and Justice Initiative" —a national network fighting food racism with education, training and justice-based community development. Growing Power has committed to extending project planning and on-going urban agriculture consultation support to this East Phillips Urban Farming initiative.

In addition the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm has successfully engaged the participation of several **private enterprise collaborators** who are willing to join us to help make this a sustainable economic initiative:

6) Dean Dovolis of DJR architecture, Originating in Phillips Neighborhood in 1985, DJR joined efforts with local non-profit organizations to create options for affordable housing and promote urban design strategies to stimulate community development. DJR is one of the area's leading firms in all segments of the housing market, mixed used development, community education, retail and commercial development, urban design and master planning.

7) Debbie Goetel, an environmental and civil engineer practicing in the areas of sustainable agriculture; **Mayor of Richfield, MN;** **President of MN Sustainable Development Group** whose mission is to create and restructure businesses to meet sustainability goals.

8) Turquoise River-- a U.S. Small Business Administration "8A" qualified Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation federal preference Tribal contractor to assist in the enhancement of Native Development and Native Economic Opportunity.

9) U of M Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Whose mission focuses on public issues arising from the intersection of science, technology, environment, and society that shape economic development, environmental sustainability, human health and wellbeing.

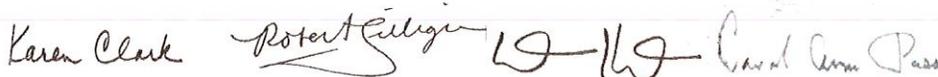
These nine organizations form the core of this East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm proposal to the State of MN.

With all of these collaborators and investors, the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm stands ready to develop the planning and implementation strategies needed to create this collaborative urban farm project.

We are requesting \$3 million in the Governor's Supplemental Budget for organizational and structural planning and renovation of a portion of the existing facility including: building improvements for physical space and supplies for economic start-up opportunities for small, local urban farm growers; development of two levels of eco-aquaponic fish farming operations (low-tech entry level and higher-tech developed structures with racking systems); dedicated urban organic agricultural education and training programming for youth and adults; development of culturally specific tenant retail space along the Greenway; a bicycle shop; several locally-based and culturally specific small business enterprises; first year rent; hiring of staff; recycling and compost set up with possible future infrastructure opportunity for bio-digester development.

These organizations have an exceptional readiness to collaborate and to "scale-up" in order to create a new, year-round accessibility to quality affordable organic food in a project that creates living-wage jobs and provides space to develop small culturally specific entrepreneurial businesses, especially those related to traditional agricultural skills and cultural traditions.

Karen Joy Clark Robert Lilligren Dean Dovolis Carol Pass Jose Luis Villasenor



Attachments:

Building Site Location -- 5 documents

Operation Diagrams -- 2 documents

Business Model -- 1 document

East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm Request

Project Team—Key Personnel as listed

1. Little Earth of United Tribes
2. Tamales y Bicilitas
3. East Phillips Improvement Coalition
4. Women's Environmental Institute
5. DJR Architecture, Inc.
6. Debbie Goettel, MN Sustainable Development Group
7. U of M Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy
8. Turquoise River
9. Growing Power, Inc.

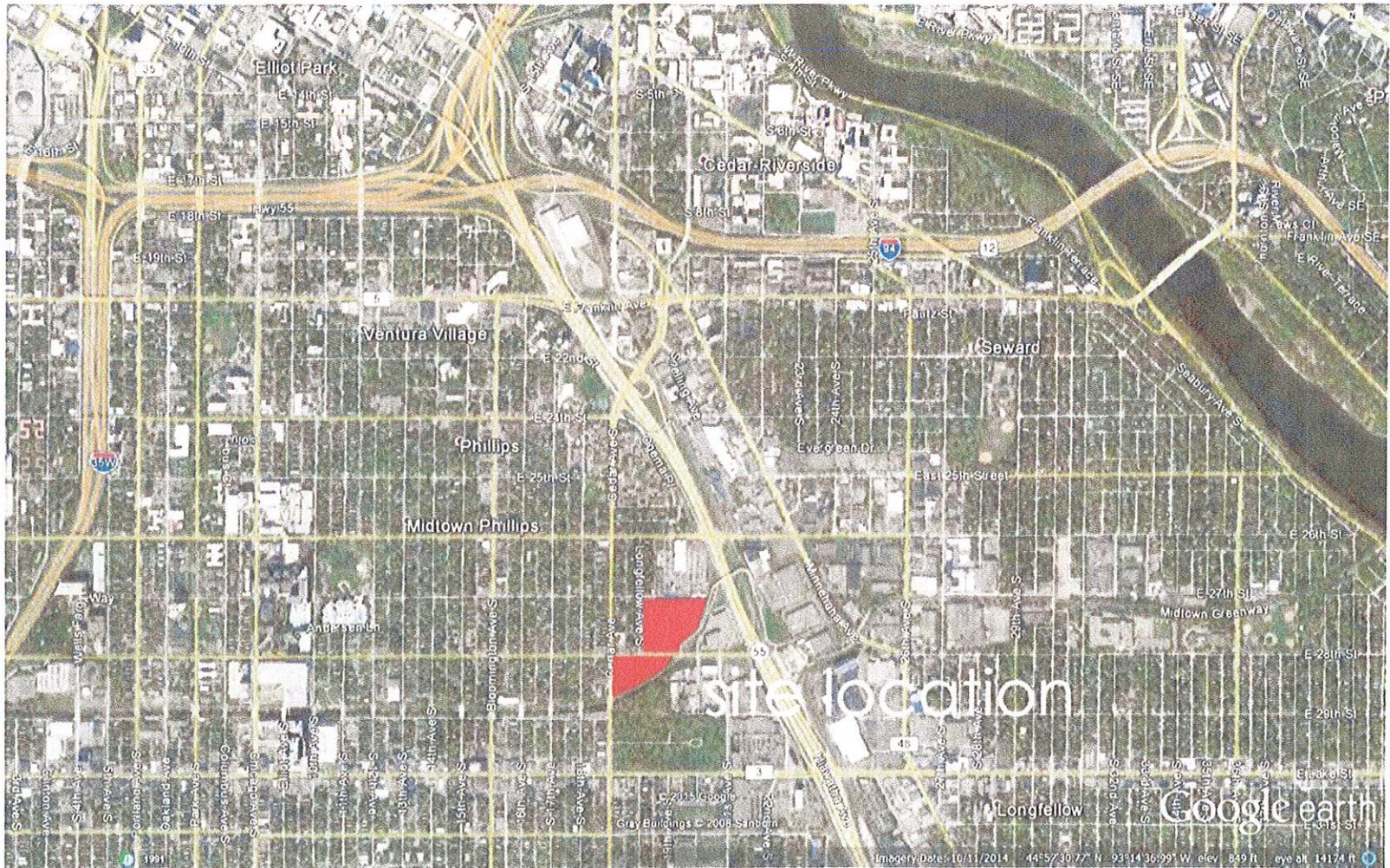
Project Site: Roof Depot, 1860 E.28th St., Minneapolis, MN 55407

Supplemental Budget Request to Governor Dayton: \$3 million

Will provide use of 43% of the existing Roof Depot which the City intends to purchase. This state funding will be matched by several private sector grants. We anticipate that there will be at least a 3 to 1 private match. (30% equity)

One year's rent of building: 100,000 sq ft x \$1 sq ft =	\$100,000
Renovate 100,000 sq ft. (68,000 sq feet growing area x \$5)	\$3.4 m
Staff Salaries and stipends =	\$800,000
Planning (consultants, etc) =	\$500,000
Education and Training (youth and adults)=	\$200,000
Green Growing supplies (shelving, racking, etc) =	\$1m
Aquaponic ponds/water filtration (low tech & high tech options) =	\$1m
2 cargo vans =	\$150,000
Marketing =	\$200,000
Small Business start up support=	\$500,000
Administration (office supplies, insurance, etc.)	\$500,000
Solar Array and utilities=	\$1m
5% Contingency	\$450,000

Total Project: **\$9.8 million**
Request to the Governor: **\$3M (of the \$9.8 million)**

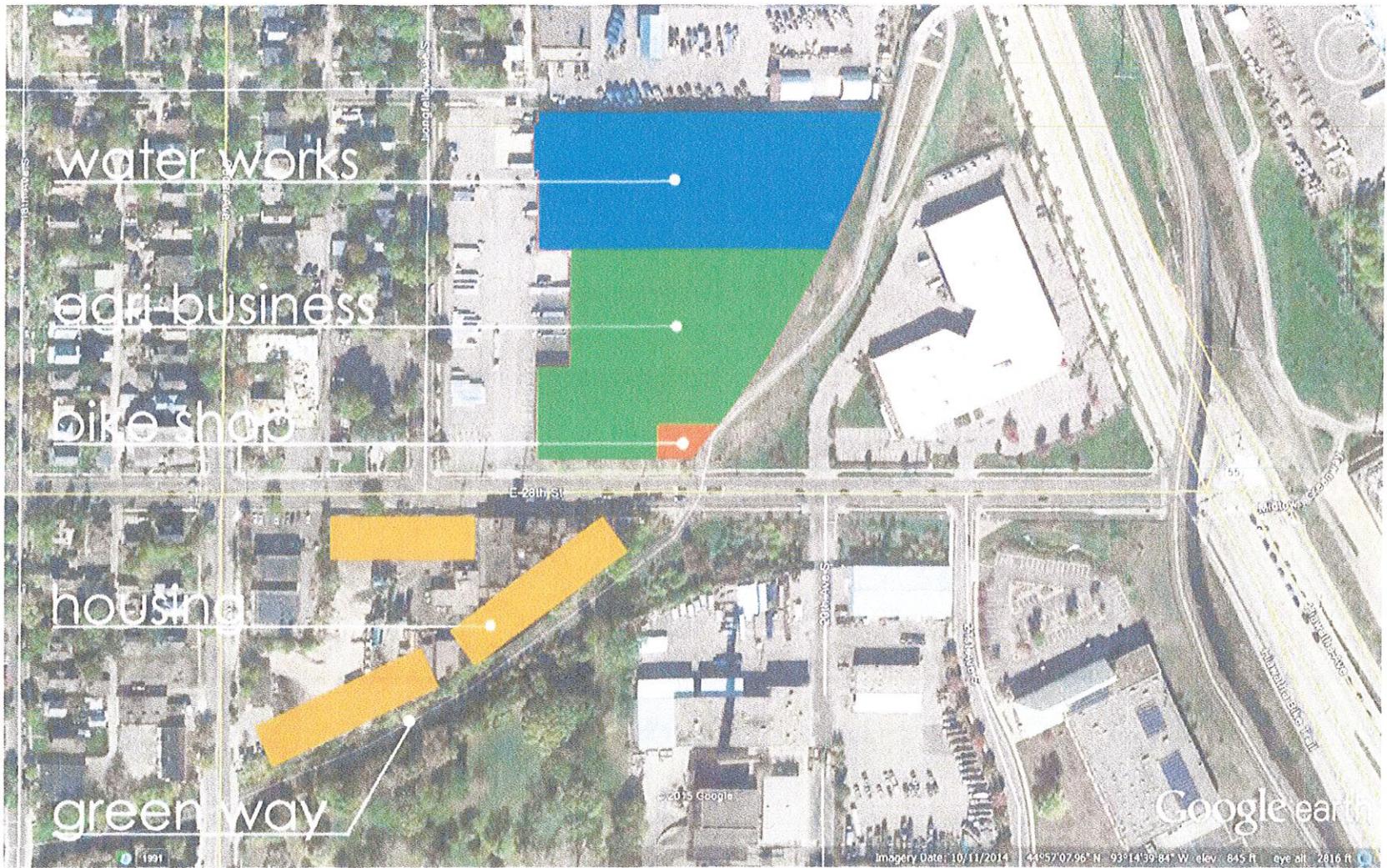


EAST PHILLIPS INDOOR URBAN FARM

Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 24, 2016

Site Location

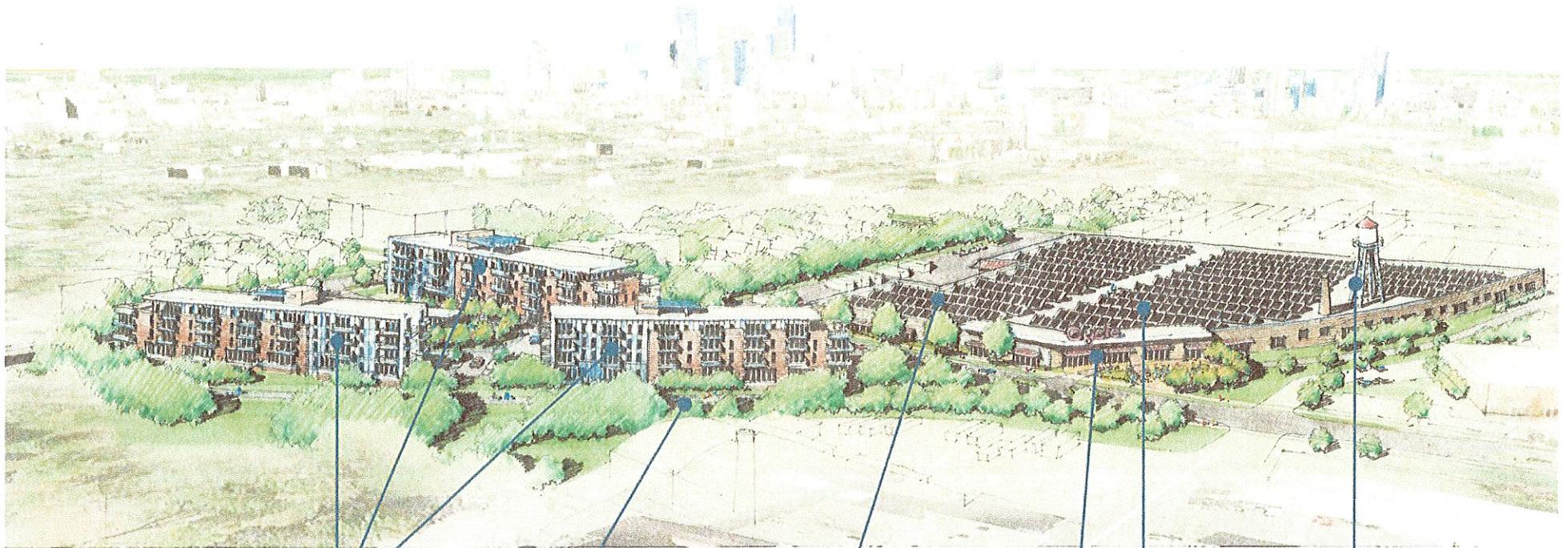


EAST PHILLIPS INDOOR URBAN FARM

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Site Plan



mixed use housing

greenway

agribusiness

bike shop

solar array

water works

EAST PHILLIPS INDOOR URBAN FARM

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Site Bird's Eye View

DJR
ARCHITECTURE INC.



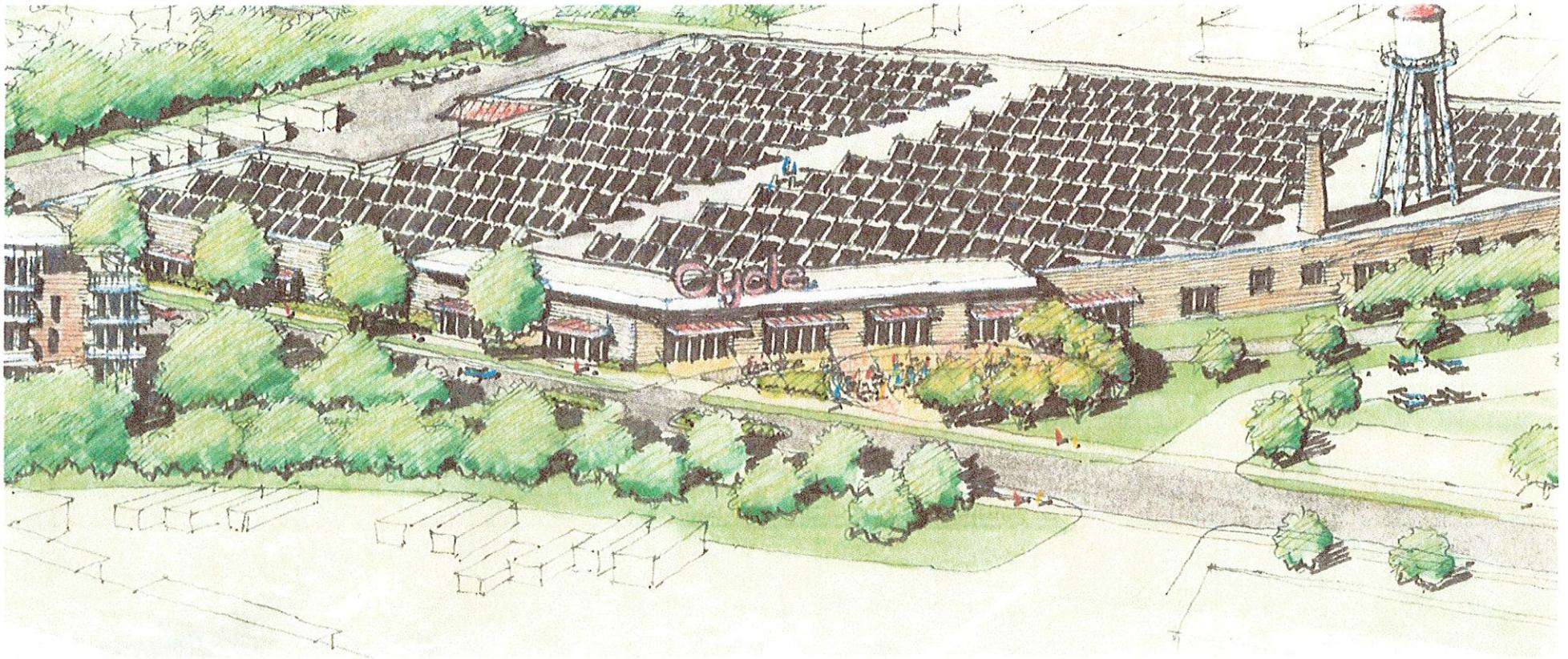
EAST PHILLIPS INDOOR URBAN FARM

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Mixed-use Housing

DJR
ARCHITECTURE INC.



EAST PHILLIPS INDOOR URBAN FARM

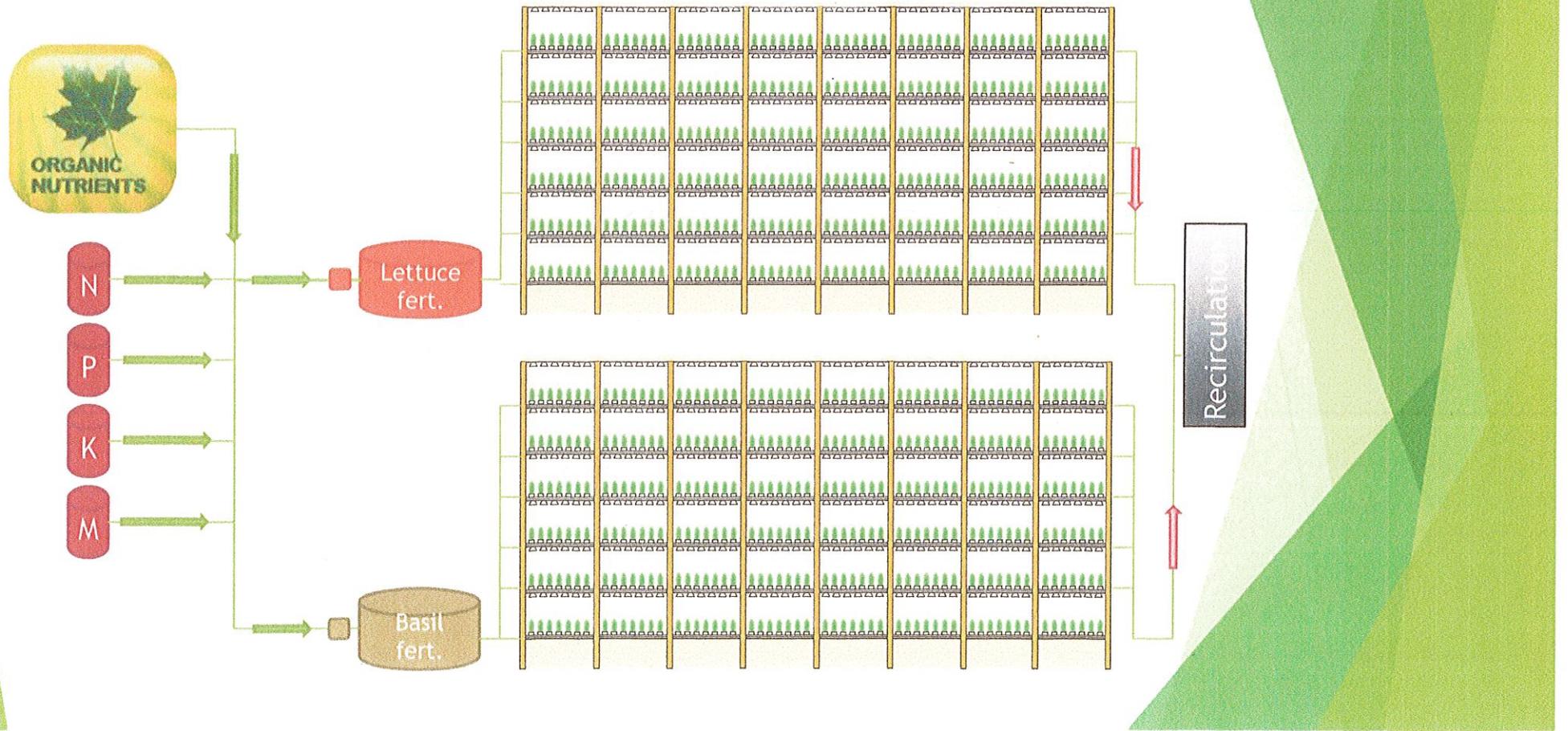
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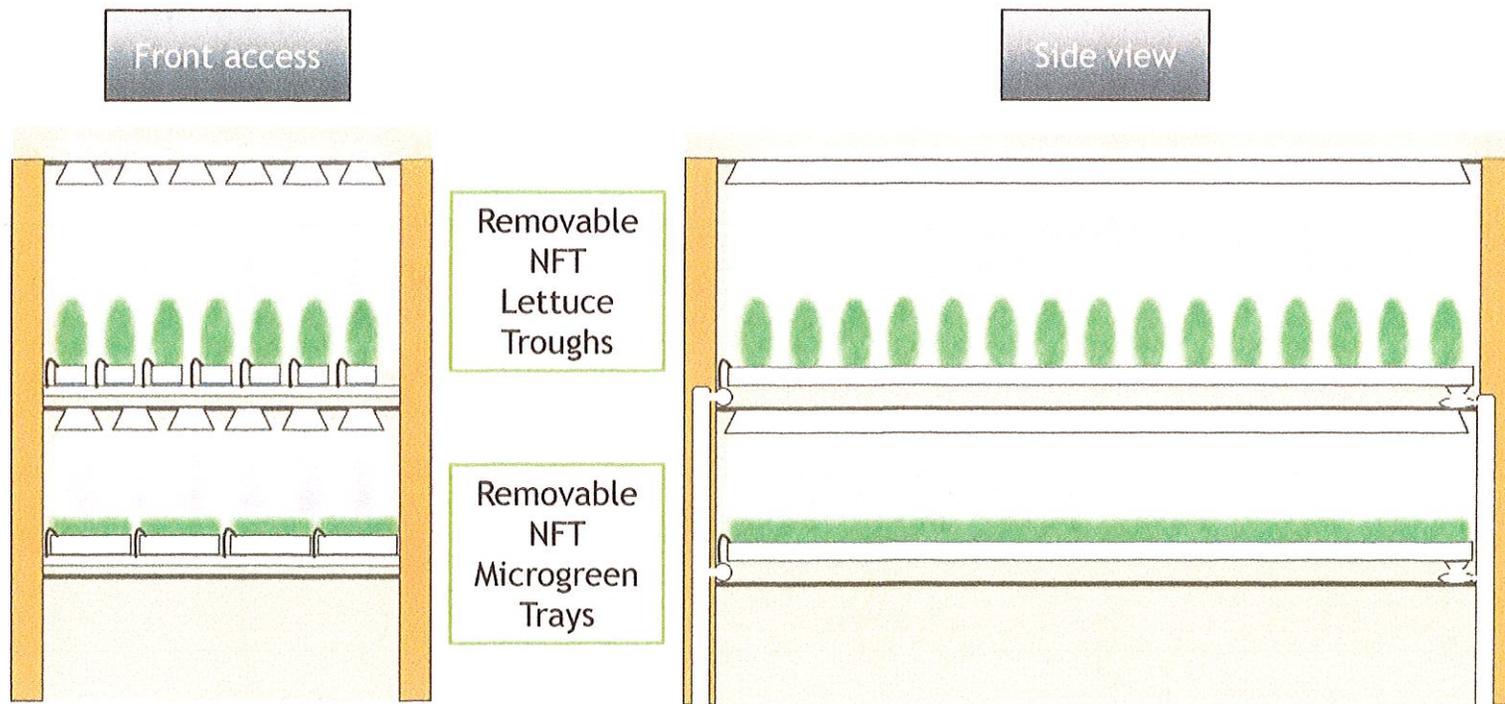
Greenway Bike Shop and Repair

DJR
ARCHITECTURE INC.

Farm system diagram



Rack Design



Business model

MISSION STATEMENT

- Provide year round fresh, local, organic vegetables.
- Create local jobs with livable wages.
- Foster sustainable agricultural education, and local community access.
- Transform organic waste into food production and clean energy.
- Promote carbon neutral practices and new sustainable business development.

TARGET CUSTOMERS

Specialty groceries



Direct retail



Restaurant-
Institutional

