

Draft

## Raised Bed Common-Share Collective Congress Street Pilot Proposal

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The purpose of this project is to highlight and address food insecurity by placing raised garden beds in vacant areas of sidewalk esplanades along Congress Street in Portland. The project is also intended to bring people, organizations and businesses together for a common cause (growing food).

The means of production and distribution will be controlled by a neighborhood based common share collective which operates much like the Casco Bay Gardens “common share garden” on the East End. It, and/or the Boyed Street garden could serve as a base to support the raised beds and the distribution of harvests. As the project moves into other parts of the city more of the city’s community gardens could come into play.

### **The proposed structure and operation of the raised bed common-share collective will operate as follows:**

1. Any individual, family or organization can sign in to be part of the common share raised bed collective.
2. The collective will vote on what is planted considering best practices and yield factors.
3. People will volunteer for leadership and supportive roles (planting, weeding, harvesting, logistics, promotion, etc.).
4. SMCC Building and Technology students will build the raised beds.
5. Work activities and harvest distributions will be centered around two one-hour time slots twice a week. (Example: Saturday morning, Weds 6 to 7)
6. Harvest and distribution would be coordinated with other food-oriented non-profits such the Locker Project, CC, or Good Shepard, etc, to leverage the quantity of food, educational aspects, and distribution.
7. Food maps and menus would be developed by the culinary department at SMCC, USM’s Food Studies and cartology departments (Osher Library), and Portland Public Library.
8. A part-time position would be funded with grants and business donations to help organize the project and provide ongoing support and development.

### **There will be three main stages of the project:**

1. Community pop-up clean-up of the area (Happened 8/14/2019. See photos below)
2. Placement of prototype raised beds, planting, and establishment of partnerships (spring 2021)
3. Expansion into other areas of the city (spring 2022)

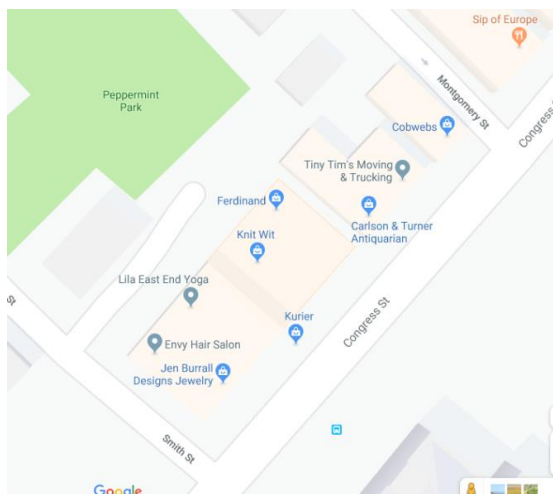
## Possible Community Partners:

Maine Foodscapes  
Garbage to Compost  
Opportunity Alliance  
Portland Public Library  
Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Association  
Resilience Hub  
Locker Project  
Cultivating Community  
Mayo Street Arts  
Edible Main Street  
Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Rewild Portland  
Portland Trails  
SMCC – David Eng (Construction)  
UMA  
USM  
MECA

## Possible Businesses Partners:

LB Kitchen  
Lila  
Hair Envy  
Jen Burrell Jewelry

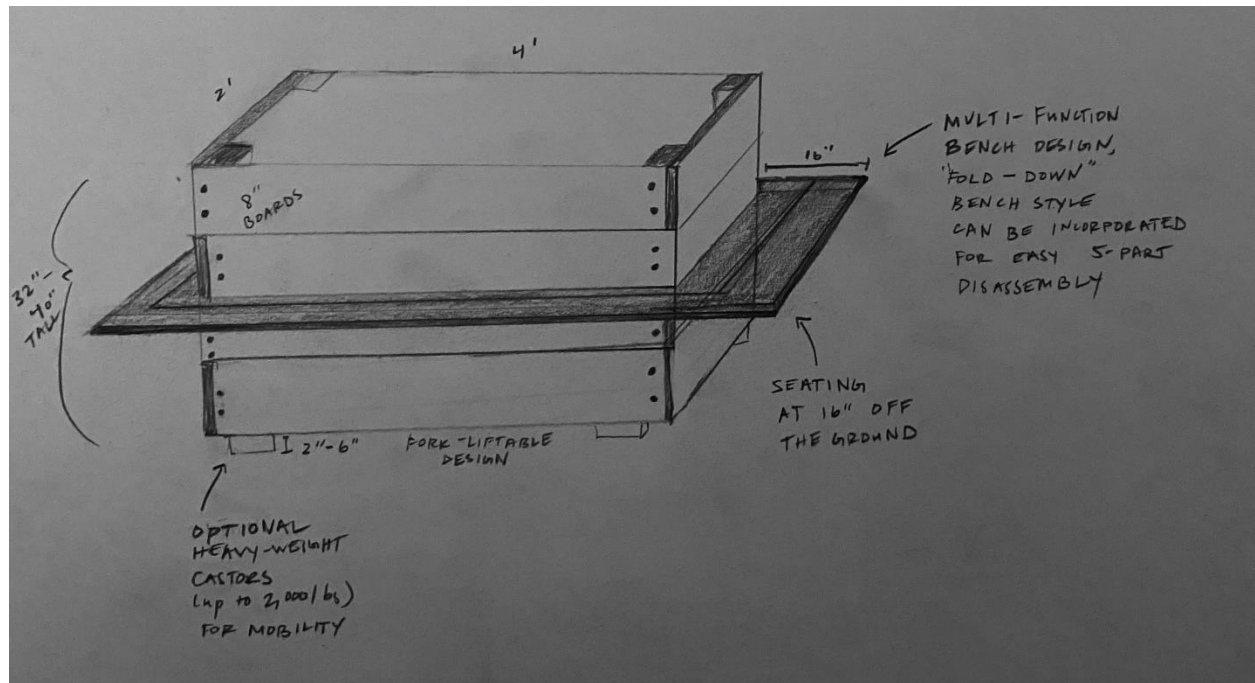
## Map of location



Current Esplanade in front of 151 Congress Street.



## Possible raised bed design from Maine Foodscapes



## Possible Replacement Example (Norway, Maine).

Inside each container is a hay bale that was pre-soaked in compost juice, which was then covered with compost and planted with veggie plants. There's an informative sign attached and the container can be moved if necessary.



The town of Gorham has also recently started a program featuring raised beds of different sizes.

<https://wgme.com/news/local/gorham-grown-free-edible-maine-street-program-growing>

### **Community Pop-up Clean-up**

# Community Cleanup Pop-up

Friday August 16<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 4:00

Research shows that volunteering helps you live longer and happier. So why not help clean up the neighborhood? We'll be removing grass and weeds from along the sidewalk between Smith and Montgomery Streets (across from cemetery) and from around the back of the building. Bring tools if you can or just bring yourself. Questions? Contact Matthew (718-644-5368) ([homematt@gmail.com](mailto:homematt@gmail.com))







