In the spring of 2019, we will plant the first community food forest in Virginia, MN! A food forest is a large perennial garden made up of edible plants, bushes and trees. Perennials are plants that come back every year, so once a food forest is planted, it will continue to grow each year and bear more fruits, herbs, nuts, and berries.

Our food forest will be part of the Rutabaga Project for access to local healthy food. It will be located on city property on the west side of Silver Creek near the Ewens field track and the playground by Pine Mill Court. It will start small and will be planted and tended by folks in the neighborhood. As the food forest matures and the plants spread and grow larger, the food forest will yield more and more food for the whole community to harvest and enjoy. We hope it will eventually become a gathering place for folks who like fresh local produce and a place for people of all ages to learn more about cultivating and growing plants that thrive in our unique climate.

Since we’re in one of the coldest gardening zones (USDA zone 3), we will plant trees and shrubs and berries that will survive our winters and come back each spring. This coloring book describes the kinds of trees, shrubs, berries, and herbs that we’ll be planting and that you and your children will be able to harvest.

Rutabaga Project

A joint effort by Arrowhead Economic Agency & Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability

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Graphics by Matt Jankila
APPLE TREE  PEAR TREE
HAZELNUT TREE
KOREAN PINE TREE
CRANBERRY
CHIVES
THE LAYERS OF A FOOD FOREST

- Tall-tree layer
- Low-tree layer
- Shrub layer
- Herb layer
- Vine layer