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PROPOSED PLANTINGS

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"Restoration Agriculture" by Mark Shepard Summarizes an orchard that would do quite well here. It has fruit trees, but also hazelnuts and chestnuts, which have multiple food uses.

"This one-acre field would look something like this:

9 rows of edible woody plants with a 23-foot-wide alley between each row.

The rows would be planted as follows:

- 5 rows of chestnuts planted 12 feet apart within the row. Beneath each chestnut tree would be a row of red currants planted 2 feet apart within the row and one grape vine trellised on each chestnut tree.
- 4 of the 9 rows would be an apple and hazelnut row with apples planted every 24 feet and hazelnuts as an understory planted every 4 feet. Raspberries would be planted on the south side of the entire row every 2 feet and one grape trellised on each apple tree.

This spatial arrangement would result in a total for each acre of:

- 34 apple trees
- 86 chestnut trees
- 120 grape vines
- 208 hazelnut bushes
- 416 raspberry canes
- 520 red currant bushes"

Since we are looking to plant the fruit trees now, we will focus on these at the moment, and then I will list other plants to consider supplementing in the spring.

The fruit trees I would get from Ames Orchard and Nursery in Fayetteville, AR as follows. You can get as many as you want to plant now, but you can expand it later. Here's varieties I would pick:

Apples:

Aunt Rachel, Rusty Coat, Arkansaw, Stayman Winesap, Enterprise, Williams Pride.

Pears:

Turnbull, moonglow.

Hazelnuts and Chestnuts:

Ames has hazelnuts, so you can order them there. As for Chestnuts, I am not aware of a local source, but you could Google some and find them. Chestnut orchards are becoming very popular in Ohio, and all the way down into Missouri. So, there will be some sources available there. You are looking for hybrids that include the Chinese chestnut genes.

Elderberries/juneberries, etc.:

Ames has elderberries, goji berries and juneberries, and I would order several of each. (At least 10). You could also get blackberries and raspberries there.

Plants that we should consider adding in the spring are as follows:

Shrubs:

Red currant, Gooseberry, False Indigo.

Perennials:

Daffodils, Lupine, Comfrey, Dandelion, Chicory, Astragalus, Goldenrod, Yarrow

Annuals/ Biennials:

Artichoke, Borage, Chives, Basil, Dill, Fennel Nasturtiums, Vetch, Alfalfa.

Groundcover:

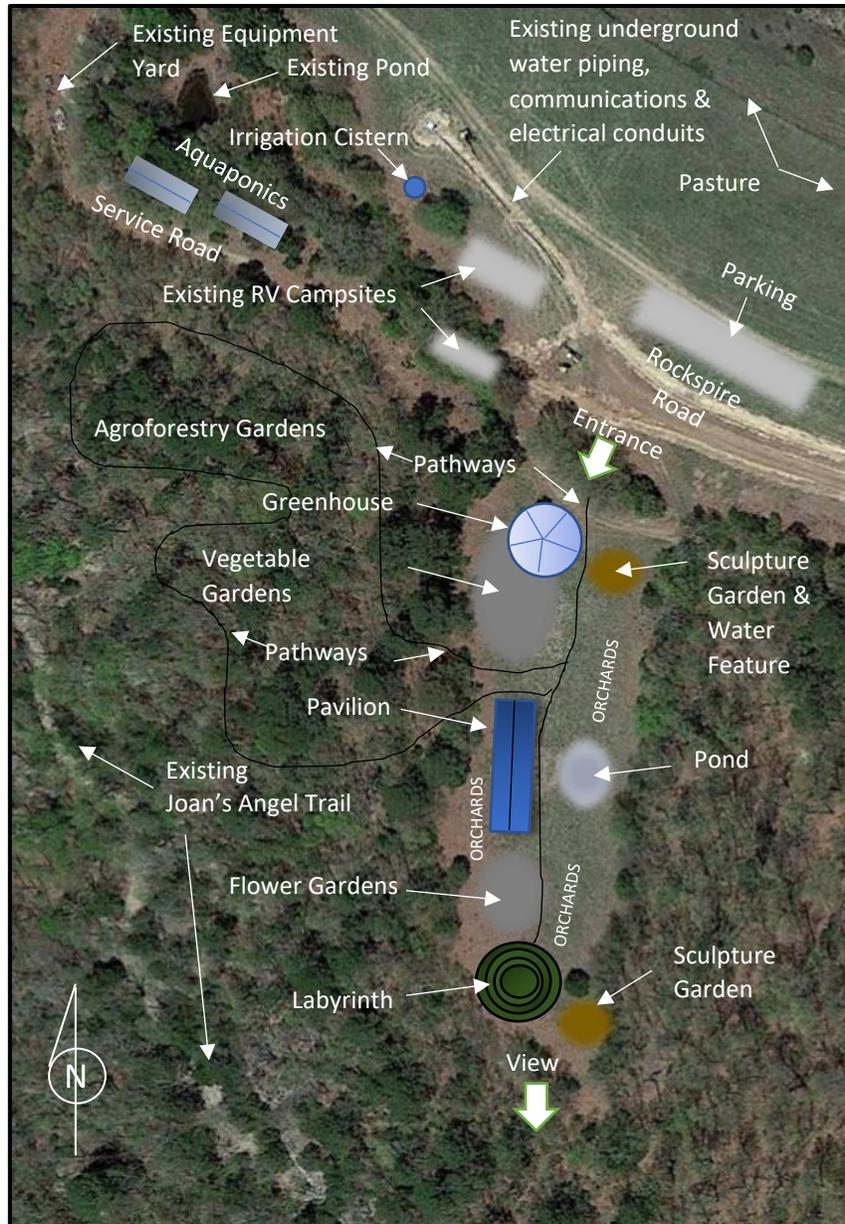
Plantain, White clover, Red clover, Fava beans, Mint, Violets, Forget-me-nots.

Roots:

Garlic, Iris, Parsnips, Spring bulbs, Jerusalem artichokes, nodding onions, burdock.

All items mentioned above would be in the 3 Orchard areas shown in the *Rockspire Agricultural Center Master Plan* below.

MASTER PLAN



Some of the proposed agricultural concepts being incorporated are:

- Permaculture Orchards
- Restoration Agriculture
- Organic Gardening
- Polyculture Gardening
- Hugelkultur
- Aquaponics
- Pasture Rotation and Carbon Capture

And, as shown in this satellite photo of the proposed site, elements for the Center may include:

- A Labyrinth
- Two Sculpture Gardens
- A Greenhouse
- Two Aquaponic Containers
- Raised Vegetable Gardens
- Flower Gardens
- Agroforestry Gardens
- Three Permaculture Orchards
- A Pavilion that could include:
 - Teaching Kitchen
 - Commercial Food Prep. Areas
 - Classrooms
 - Outdoor Dining
 - Public Restrooms
- A Natural Spring-fed, Drip-irrigation System and Pond
- Two Three-acre Pastures

The entire agricultural center will be interconnected through a series of pathways that will link to the existing 2-mile, Joan's Angel Trail.