Rooted in Ferguson
Growing Food, Farmers, and Community

EarthDance

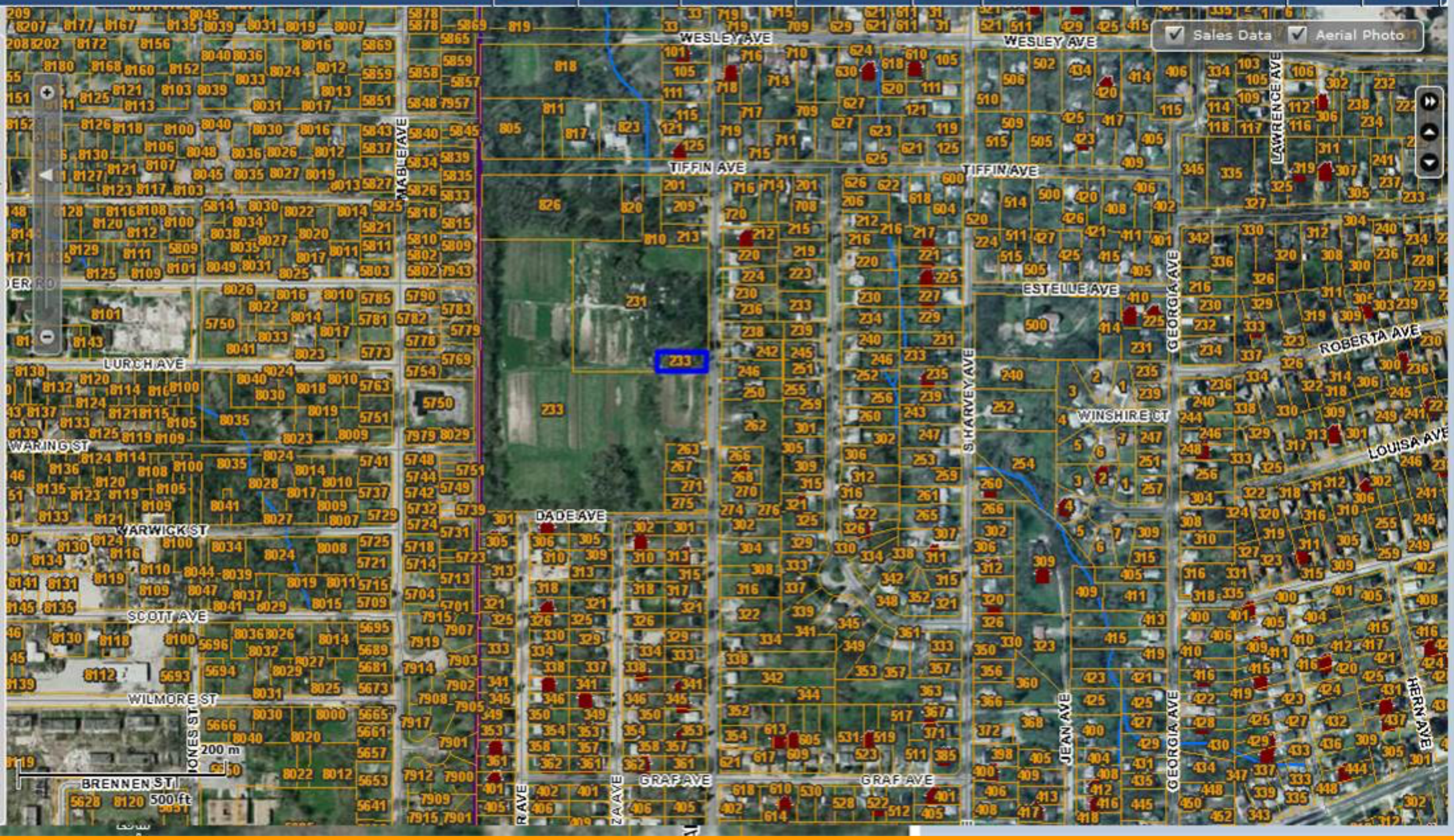
ome

2J611161&Val=100249236172306622718213320511819543142714 9

erty Viewer

Tools | Zoom In | Zoom Out | Full Extent | Pan | Zoom Previous | Zoom Forward | Help | Print

Sales Data | Aerial Photo



EarthDance was founded in 2008 to preserve the oldest organic farm west of the Mississippi & to train the next generation of organic farmers.

Neighbors buying produce from Al & Caroline at the Mueller Farm
(date unknown)

CALIFORNIA
VEGETABLES

VEGETABLES

Image: St. Louis Business Journal

Our Mission

To sustainably grow food, farmers, and community, one small farm at a time, through hands-on education and delicious experiences

Our Vision

Organic farmers feeding their commmunities
Communities caring for the land
Farms inspiring creativity

EarthDance Offers

Volunteer Opportunities

Farm & Garden Education

Fresh, Local, Certified Organic Produce

Tours, Workshops, & Public classes

Youth Programs

EarthDance Farm & Garden Apprenticeship

Connect with each other & the land

Learn the skills to make agricultural dreams a reality

Take home a share of the harvest

YEAH! (Youth Exploring Agriculture & Health)

Junior Farm Crew

Field Trips

School Visits

Intergenerational Garden Program

Service Learning

Community Engagement

Volunteer Opportunities

Community Food Assessment

Public Classes & Workshops

On-Farm Events

Free, Family-Friendly Farm Tours

Let’s build a better food system for everyone, together!

You can support EarthDance & the Good Food Movement by:

Shopping at the Ferguson Farmers Market

Bringing your friends & family out to the farm

Attending Farmers Formal

Donating your time & passion

Spreading the word about importance of healthy soil, food, & communities

NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
FIELD NOTES
NORTH CENTRAL SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

Non-Profit Cultivates Food, Community, & Hope in Ferguson, MO

The Newsletter of the NCR-SARE Program
Summer 2015
Issue 32

On a neighborhood street in Ferguson, Missouri, flanked by fields of spinach and beets, is a hand-painted sign announcing, "Mueller's Organic Farm, Homegrown Fruits & Vegetables." This is the EarthDance Organic Farm School—the sign pays homage to the Muellers, a pioneering organic farming family that established this farm in 1883.

In 2008, agroecologist and future farmer Molly Rockamann started a non-profit organization to support work on a small parcel of land at Mueller Farm; she called it EarthDance. Four years later, EarthDance purchased the Mueller Farm to both preserve the historic Mueller Farm and connect people with the land through community food production. Today, EarthDance farms about 3.5 acres on the 14-acre parcel.

The green fields, small brick farmhouse, greenhouse, and flowers at EarthDance stand in contrast to the Ferguson that has been depicted in the news in recent months; yet the highly diversified system of vegetables, herbs, and flowers at EarthDance is located just about a mile from the Ferguson police station. EarthDance's vision: organic farmers feeding the world, communities caring for the land, and farms inspiring creativity.

EarthDance's staff of 11 organizes and offers a wide variety of programs and activities for Ferguson and surrounding communities, some of which have been supported through NCR-SARE Youth Educator and Farmer Rancher grants. A brief history of EarthDance's SARE-supported work includes a farm apprenticeship program, a summer camp for youth in 2011 and 2012; a Junior Farm Crew Program that pays and trains high school students; the installation of a pear orchard to increase the availability of local, sustainably grown fruit; and the "greening" of a greenhouse with sustainable energy solutions. These activities focus on sustainable growing methods and quality of life for the surrounding communities, which are a priority for Rockamann.

The EarthDance Farm and Garden Apprenticeship Program teaches organic agriculture through hands-on education in fields and markets using experienced farmers and gardeners.

"I have never been more re-confirmed in my belief in humanity than to see the hard work and compassion for one another and our planet that has been so evident in our apprenticeship class each year," said Rockamann. "One of the reasons that I started our apprenticeship program was to connect more people to the Mueller Farm so that it could remain a productive organic farm. We have achieved that goal each year."

Jennifer Fleischmann, a Saint Louis native and the Marketing Coordinator at EarthDance, says that with more than 170 graduates of the program, projects like the apprenticeship program socially and economically empower Ferguson. She says SARE's support has enabled their impact on sustainable agriculture to be more widespread.

"The future farmers that the apprenticeship program trains will plant, harvest, and sell our veggies at the Ferguson Farmers Market. In a place where food deserts have become a widespread fixture, our apprentices contribute to increasing local access to healthy, organic produce," said Fleischmann.

EarthDance Farm in Ferguson, Missouri has rece
a variety of sustainable farming and community-
including their Junior Farm Crew project. Photo

Another SARE-funded pro
future food leaders is Eart
Crew, where 20 members h
skills, leadership, and job s
members leave with know
farming that will enable th
the conversations that nee
the good food movement.

photographs, *Youth Renewing the Countryside* shares remarkable stories of young people in each state changing the world through rural renewal. Read it online for free: http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Youth-Renewing-the-Countryside

Sharing this example of our community-based Organic Farm School with others

Thank You from EarthDance Organic Farm School!

www.earthdancefarms.org