

## Ninety-Nine Year Lease given to The Food Project to farm land on West Cottage Street

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July 28, 2015. Lincoln, MA— The Food Project is excited to announce that the Dudley Neighbors Inc. (DNI), which has ownership over the parcel of land at 40 West Cottage where The Food Project has farmed on a year-to-year basis since 1998, has granted The Food Project a 99-year lease.

"We are excited to continue our relationship with DNI and to know that this land will be farmed for the next 99 years. This opportunity provides vibrant space for The Food Project and community members to grow healthy food for years to come," says J. Harrison, executive director at The Food Project. "This serves as an important symbol and validation of the importance of urban agriculture."

Harry Smith, director of Dudley Neighbors Inc., says, "Protecting the community farm for the long-term is a great example of why the neighborhood created the DNI community land trust. We are proud to partner with The Food Project on the Dudley Grows initiative and we see this agreement as a key strategy to maintain and expand access to local, healthy food for local residents."

"Thanks to the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, The Food Project will be able to continue making a difference in the City of Boston for many years to come. This extended lease is a symbol of hope and wellness, and I encourage those who have yet to experience their work to get involved and help stimulate our local food system," says Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

DNI also leases land for The Dudley Greenhouse to The Food Project. The greenhouse is a 10,000-square-foot facility that operates year-round as a food production and educational space for the local community.

Dudley Neighbors Inc. (DNI) is one of the country's largest urban community land trusts, with 225 affordable homes, along with office space, businesses, urban farms, a greenhouse, playgrounds and other amenities of a vibrant urban village. DNI was created in 1989 to carry out the housing and economic development agenda of Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), which included development without displacement.

The Food Project is one of the largest regional farming and food access organizations in Massachusetts. Since 1991, more than 1,400 youth have participated in our leadership development programs. We farm approximately 70 acres on three suburban farms, four urban farms, and two greenhouses throughout Massachusetts, and distribute our produce through farmers markets, subsidized farm shares, and to hunger relief organizations.

