

MAKER SPACE at Wallis Welding

WALKABLE MAIN STREET

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All photos of garden products below were created by welders and are for sale at the actual prices shown. They are provided to show the potential for earning money by using welding skills to create urban garden items. Similar garden items created at the makerspace could be sold on Walkable Main Street, thus attracting walkers to Walkable Main Street. These items could be scattered throughout Walkable Main Street for sale, thus providing an elemental reason for people to keep walking on Walkable Main. All the businesses on Walkable Main are connected and supportive of each other. With the promotions of blackberry bushes, plain sturdy trellises will also be in high demand.



Garden Trellis Retails \$389 Garden Obelisks \$89
(Outrageous, but there are people who can and will afford it.)

Tool Art Creatures from Old Tools

Makerspaces and Connectivity

Many of the items made in the Makerspaces along Walkable Main can also be featured along the Walkable Main Street and also in shops down on the square. Shops on the square can be connected with WALKABLE MAIN. We might even eventually be making enough products in the Walkable Main neighborhood to support a Walkable Main Street Store on the downtown Garland Square.

The items created by the Wallis Welders and their makerspace minions will support and promote the edible blackberry landscaping that is blended into the Walkable Main Street path. Other items for sale along Walkable Main will, of course be blackberry bushes. These two can be sold at any of the businesses along Walkable Main.

Loving Garland Green would like to see as many makerspaces as possible connected to the process of strengthening a plant-based local economy.

Welding As Career

Of course like any career, welding is not for everyone. But it certainly is for some. Justin Friend, in 2013, his first full year as a welder, had an income of about \$130,000, more than triple the average annual wages for welders in the U.S. In 2014, Mr. Friend's income rose to about \$140,000. Read this story from Jan 2015 *Wall Street Journal*: The \$140,000 a Year Welding Job – Two Year Degree and Special Skills Pay Off for Young Texan. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-140-000-a-year-welding-job-1420659586>

References and Resources

- MAKE MAGAZINE is perhaps the premier stopping place on the Internet for information regarding how to create a Makerspace. [MAKE](#)- Make Magazine's website includes project instructions, the Maker Shed maker supplies store, project plans, videos, event listings and more. Make sponsors Maker Faires around the world.
- **Six Strategies for Funding a Makerspace**
<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/6-strategies-funding-makerspace-paloma-garcia-lopez>

Materials

Materials needed depend on the determination of how the Wallis Welding Makerspace is designed.



Resources

Again, the resources needed for the re-design efforts for this makerspace in a corner of the existing Wallis Welding shop would be determined by a plan created by the owners of Wallis Welding with the assistance of the planners for Walkable Main Street.

However it is expected that most of the resources for the redesign of this space would come from community donations and volunteer labor.

Note: The entire project of WALKABLE MAIN is a Soup Stone community involvement project whereby all participants bring "vegetables" to make the "soup." We are working together to make our community more inviting, unique and lovable and in so doing, we are lifting up the quality of our own lives and our local economy. We are all connected and it is to all our best interests to enhance that connectivity.

What does a Plant-Based Economy Look Like?

Answer: It's connected, supportive, healthy and it's local

Take the blackberry, for example, a plant that grows better than a weed in Garland Texas. It's loaded with antioxidants—even its leaves are healthy for you. Not only is the blackberry used for all kinds of food from juices to blackberry desserts, it is also used for cosmetics and other cosmetic products. If we get enough urban gardeners in Garland growing blackberries we would have enough of this plant product to support many different types of businesses right here in Garland—from juice factories to blackberry cosmetics cooperatives.

It all begins with edibles grown by local urban gardeners. Some of these edibles can be sold or shared with local residents, thus supporting local health and prosperity. Sharing an edible that you've grown with your neighbors might encourage them to grow one of those plants too.



Blackberries grown by a local Garland urban gardener might be supported on a trellis made in the Wallis Welding Makerspace. Black berries sold by urban gardener Liz might be sold to Mellissa who makes them into blackberry jam that is then purchased by Mayor Doug Athas. We can use blackberry bushes as part of the landscaping plant elements for Walkable Main Street. If we have 100 blackberry bushes planted along Walkable Main Street, we could expect approximately 1,650 pounds of blackberries from those bushes every month of June—more than enough to support all kinds of activities and fun for a Blackberry Festival Month her in Garland.

Blackberry leaves are excellent for making blackberry tea. Many sources claim that blackberry leaves have more antioxidants in them than the blackberries themselves. Perhaps along Walkable Main Street we could have a vendor stand that sells iced blackberry leaf tea—most certainly during the June blackberry festival month.

Blackberries are very high in elegiac acid, which is an antioxidant that acts as a scavenger to help make potential cancer-causing chemicals inactive. Elegiac acid reduces the genetic damage caused by carcinogens like tobacco smoke and air pollution. They also contain other antioxidants that help lower cholesterol and ward off cardiovascular disease.

Blackberry Jams and Jellies



Melissa, owner of Fat Lady Foods is already making a living from plant-based products here in Garland and one of her products is Blackberry sage jam.



We are lucky here in Garland because in some parts of the USA and in England blackberries ripen in the fall. According to an old English legend, the Devil was kicked out of heaven on October 11 and landed in a blackberry bush. He took his revenge by spoiling blackberries after the 11th. Some say he spits on them and others that he pees on them, but in any case, blackberries are said to taste watery after October 11 in those areas.

If you are picking leaves for tea, as you might be in Garland, it is recommended that you don't pick the leaves either after October 11 until the next season. I recommend starting to dry them the middle of September so you have plenty for the winter.

Terms

Makerspace

A makerspace is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network, and build. Makerspaces provide tools and space in a community environment — a library, community center, private organization, or campus. Expert advisors may be available some of the time, but often novices get help from other users.

The makerspace—sometimes referred to as a hackerspace—is often associated with fields such as engineering, computer science, and graphic design. The concept emerges from the technology-driven “maker culture,” associated with Make magazine and the Maker Faires it promotes.

<http://www.makershed.com/collections/make-magazine>

This idea of a collaborative studio space for creative endeavors has caught hold in education, where the informal combination of lab, shop, and conference room form a compelling argument for learning through hands-on exploration. On campus, the makerspace is being embraced by the arts as well as the sciences, and a new energy is building around multidisciplinary collaborative efforts. In the Garland ISD we have Makerspaces in place at some of our public schools. For example, Watson Tech has a makerspace located in their library.

There are three very good reasons for establishing makerspaces along this strip of WALKABLE MAIN.

- 1) Makerspaces are great laboratories for job creation and job training.
- 2) Makerspaces will attract people to this area and give people one more reason for coming here.
- 3) Makerspaces can contribute to growing and strengthening our local economy and especially the businesses located on Walkable Main Street.



In a 6,000-square-foot workshop underneath the Staten Island Railway on the borough's north shore, sculptors DB Lampman and Scott Van Campen are attempting to build something: community.

"We're trying to establish a new normal," Van Campen said.

The married couple officially opened the Staten Island Makerspace, a nonprofit workshop, a year after their Stapleton studio was flooded with more than 3 feet of water during Superstorm Sandy.

Following the clean up — and some \$80,000 in damages — the couple proposed the creation of a business incubator at the metal shop, eventually getting sponsorship from the city's Economic Development Corporation.

With access to a plasma cutter, sewing machines, saws and various welders, the goal of the Staten Island Makerspace is simple: give people a place to make something.

The Makerspaces hosts classes — Women, Wine and Welding is a popular choice — and offers membership with access to the metal and wood shops, private studios and storage.

Some members are Islanders, but others make the commute from other boroughs. Makerspace has also become a hub for the local artistic community.

SOURCE: <http://www.metro.us/local/building-community-at-the-staten-island-makerspace/tmWnfv---a0wr1uER2Y7oE>

WALKABLE MAIN

RESERVED FOR YOUR NOTES ON MAKER SPACES