

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION ON CAMPUS: PERCEPTIONS, VALUES, AND IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

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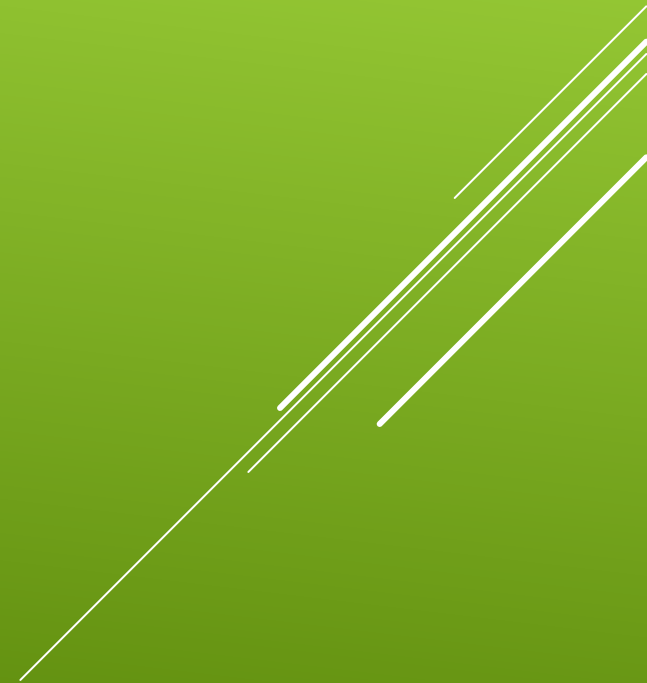




- ▶ Senior Regional & Urban Planning Students
 - ▶ Project in collaboration with Office of Sustainability and as a requirement for PLAN 490: Applied Planning Project
 - ▶ Purpose of PLAN 490 is to “draw from the body of regional and urban planning learnings and apply in a real setting, including the utilization of community engagement and facilitation”

- ▶ Goal of the project is to put together a report of recommendations that includes the public’s:
 - ▶ Perceptions
 - ▶ Values
 - ▶ Ideas For the Future

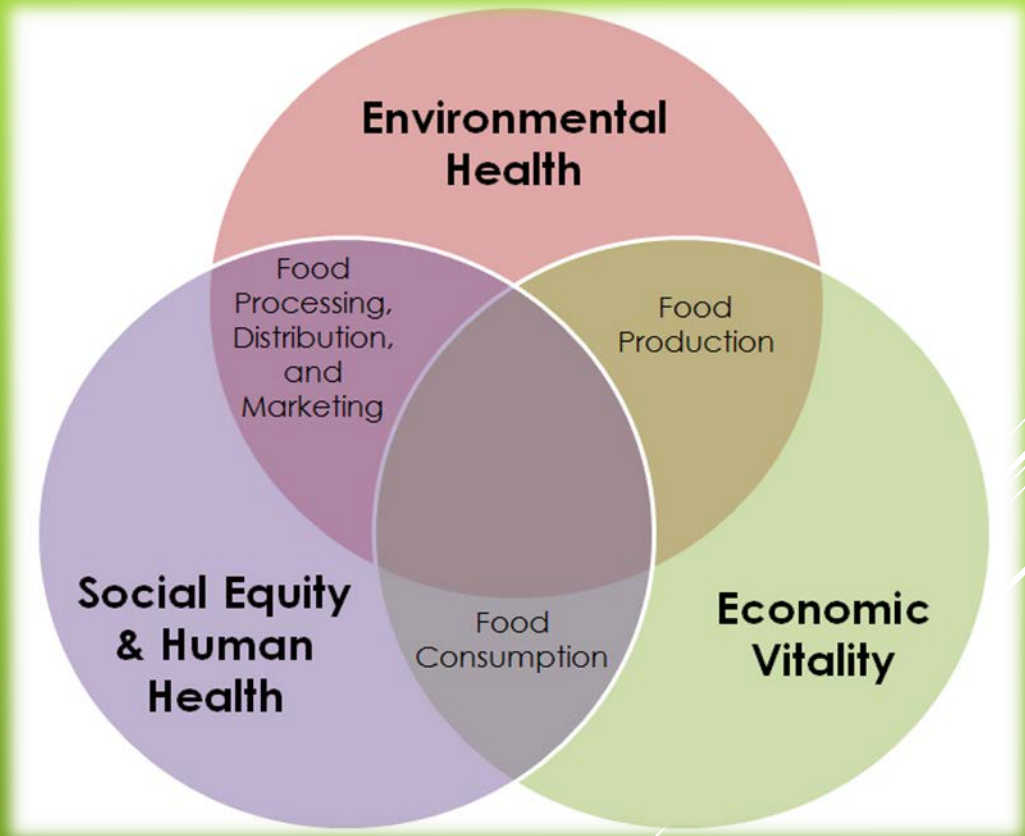
THE PROJECT





WHAT IS "SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION?"

- ▶ Access to healthy, affordable food options
- ▶ Minimizes environmental impact
- ▶ Encourages local food production and processing
- ▶ Focus on local economies
- ▶ Maximizes resources through collection and reuse of organics (compost) and other food related byproducts (i.e. fats, oils, grease)



EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

- ▶ Farmers' markets
- ▶ Community gardens
- ▶ Rooftop gardens
- ▶ Transforming greyspace to edible greenspace
- ▶ Healthy corner store initiatives
- ▶ Farm-to-school programs
- ▶ Food waste collection programs



& MORE!!!

- ▶ Sustainable Food Practices are a response to the inadequacies of Global Food Supply Chains
- ▶ Opportunity to develop holistic programs that serve citizens, communities and the environment!
- ▶ It's about REFRAMING, REIMAGINING, and RETHINKING the way we have been doing food!

WHY NOW?!



<http://www.mcgill.ca/mchg/projects/ediblecampus>



CURRENT PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

▶ Community Gardens:

- ▶ McEown Park Community Garden (For members of residences)
- ▶ St Andrews Community Garden (run by USSU, CHEP, and Aboriginal Students Association)
- ▶ Horticulture Club Garden on 14th Street

▶ Other Programs:

- ▶ Herb Garden Spiral
 - ▶ College of Education Prairie Habitat Garden
 - ▶ College of Agriculture Edible Landscape
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- ▶ Researched best practices from other campuses
- ▶ Huge potential for the U of S as an agricultural leader with a large campus



BEST PRACTICES AND POTENTIAL

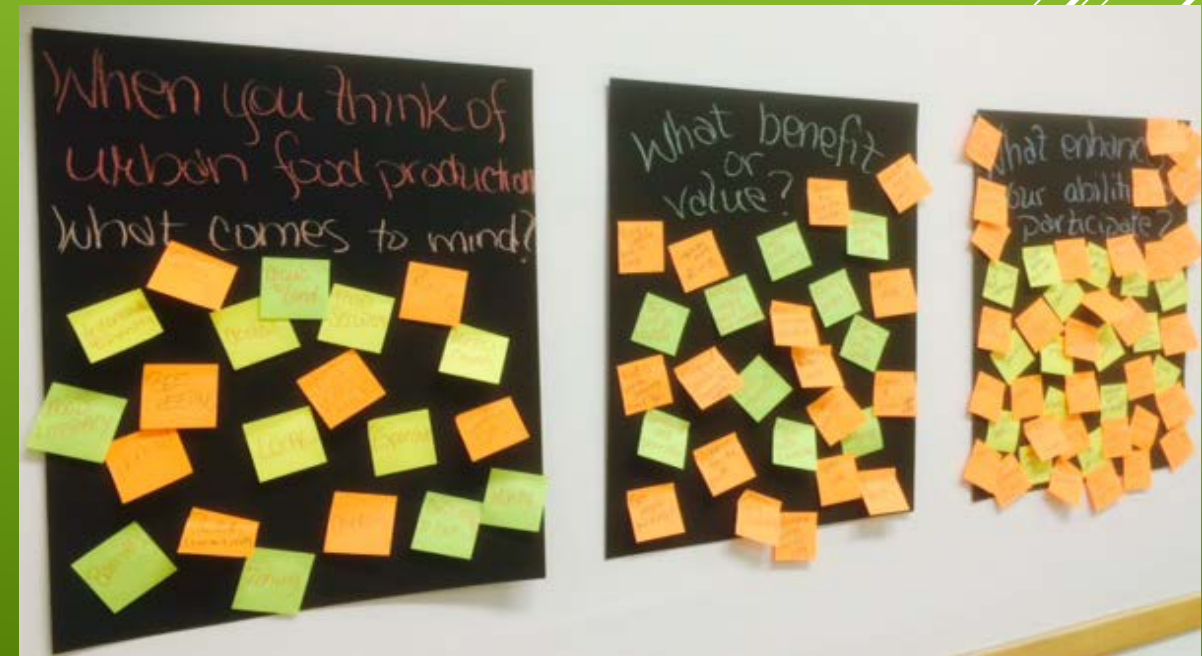
- ▶ To engage the public we held a focus group with people interested with sustainable food production on campus
- ▶ The goal of our focus group was to engage stakeholders and the wider public in order to discover what sustainable food production means to them
- ▶ Began with a question on perceptions, followed by a brainstorming discussion and a visioning exercise

THE FOCUS GROUP



- ▶ **Main Themes:** Education & Raising Awareness, Open to Everyone, Health, Building Community, Opportunities, Transforming Existing Underutilized Spaces
- ▶ **Unique Findings:** Incentives, gardening in the classroom
- ▶ **Barriers to Overcome:** lack of programming and education, long waits for community garden plots, knowledge on how to start, heavy reliance on volunteers, time, climate, prices/cost

FOCUS GROUP OUTCOMES



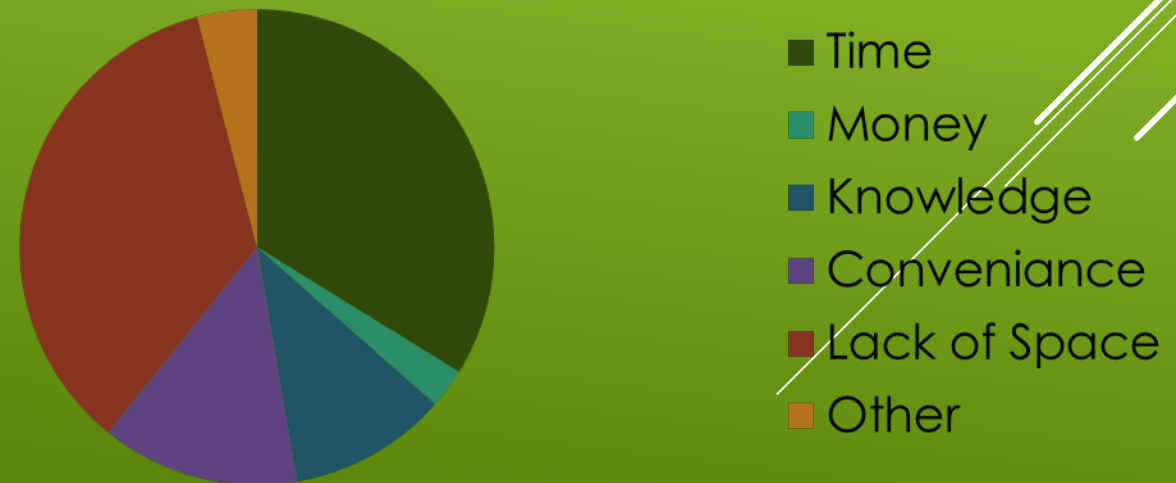
- ▶ We conducted an online survey in order to engage students and the general public.
- ▶ The survey was posted on Facebook and the PAWS homepage
- ▶ Survey consisted of 10 questions – mix of open ended and multiple choice
- ▶ 75 responses

THE SURVEY

Results:

- ▶ <20% of respondents said the U of S was doing good or very good in terms of providing access to programs for sustainable food practices
- ▶ 88% of respondents said it was valuable or extremely valuable to learn how to grow their own food
- ▶ 90% of respondents said they would participate in programs that allowed them to grow their own food on campus or purchase food from local sources

Biggest Obstacles to Growing Your Own Food



SURVEY DATA



1. Build awareness & education

RECOMMENDATIONS



JULY
03
OR
04

Partners:

The RPRG 
Green Patch


NORTH Central Community Association

**VERTICAL GARDEN
FREE HANDS-ON
WORKSHOP**

Thursday July 3rd, 2014
12pm - 1pm at U of R RIC Atrium
(open-study space in the Science Building)
Sign up by sending an email with your name and phone to garden@rprg.org

OR

Friday July 4th, 2014
12pm - 1pm at North Central Community Association
(1264 Athol Street, North Regina)
Sign up by sending an email with your name and phone to communitygardens@nccaregina.ca

<http://www.uregina.ca/fm/events/2014/07/vertical-garden-workshop-NC.html>



U of M Patio Garden

<http://umsu.ca/services-a-programs-umsumenu-3/student-garden-umsu-menu>

2. Use underutilized space & create multiuses for spaces



Ryerson Rooftop Garden

<https://ryeshomegrown.wordpress.com/rooftop-garden/>

RECOMMENDATIONS



Ryerson Children's Garden
<https://ryeshomegrown.wordpress.com/childrens-garden/>



Ryerson POD Indoor Garden
<http://rusustainability.ca/initiative/ryes-homegrown-pod-indoor-garden/>

3. Provide a variety of programming and opportunities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ More community engagement
- ▶ Mapping the campus specifically for the purpose of developing urban agriculture
- ▶ Holding a walking tour of current and possible future locations for urban agriculture
- ▶ Feasibility studies of locations
- ▶ Pilot project with a paid employee

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THANK YOU!
ANY QUESTIONS?

