

University of Saskatchewan



Public Orchard and Community Garden

Our team's goal is to provide the university with a plan to institute a public orchard on the campus grounds. The project would serve to showcase the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) fruit program, promote local food security, raise awareness through education for sustainable initiatives on campus, and serve as a catalyst for future developments.



FOOD SECURITY

Food insecurity is a prevalent issue for both the U of S and the City of Saskatoon as a whole, and because of this, there is a clear need for a public space that addresses this and other sustainability issues.

Though issues such as food imports and food security are discussed within the campus community, little is being done to address the underlying problem. Our campus itself is located in a food desert. An orchard would provide an on campus example that would educate not only the campus community



but also the greater Saskatoon community about sustainable regional food.

OUR PLAN

Our project focuses on an opportunity for growth on a local scale, in both a literal and theoretical sense. The orchard would serve to better demonstrate the U of S fruit program, promote local food security, raise awareness through education for sustainable initiatives on campus, and serve as a catalyst for future developments.



THE DESIGN

Our ideal location for this orchard will be featured alongside an often forgotten fragment of Cecil Patterson's many test plots. Just west of the Education Building's ravine is a row of neglected crab apple trees lining a pathway that separates the education building from Diefenbaker Place. Currently, the land features a number of trees and a section of manicured grass, known by few, and underutilized as is. Our proposed change would increase the utility of the area as a public space, while fostering an engaged learning experience for all who visit.

FRUIT VARIETIES

The orchard will showcase the main fruit varieties that have been developed by the internationally recognized U of S fruit breeding program. These include various cultivars of apples, cherries, and haskap. Other fruits and native plants will be incorporated into the design to enhance the space and promote food security and sustainability. The plant

species chosen are all hardy and designed specifically for the prairie climate, and each variety has enhanced flavour and production capabilities. Our team has decided it is essential for the local community to be educated on the potential for fruit production on the prairies if we are to move towards a more sustainable future within our city.



The design focuses on maximizing land use, in addition to utilizing space to produce large quantities of fruit without overwhelming the development itself. The design will pay specific attention to the contents of the orchard in combination with the best suited layout.

