

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019



The UVic Campus Community Garden (CCG) is a 92 plot allotment garden for students, staff and faculty members located on campus, outside of Ring Road, at 2100 McKenzie Ave. In 2008, the CCG was relocated from its original site in the Technology Enterprise Facility (TEF) parking lot, where it was first created in 1998. Since its relocation to the 1.58 acre garden site, the CCG has seen an incredible surge in engagement with new students, educational projects, and food growth on campus.

The purpose of the Campus Community Garden is to:

- a) enhance the built environment of the University of Victoria;
- b) provide allotment garden space for students, staff, and faculty of the University of Victoria
- c) increase opportunities for students to access food and the process of food production
- d) provide volunteer opportunities for members of the campus
- e) provide an inclusive space for engagement, education and research on topics related to sustainable urban agriculture such as food security, permaculture, composting, organic gardening, native plant and perennial propagation, and healthy living.

The garden is committed to promoting an accessible community space for educational, agricultural and cultural purposes.

Campus and community engagement

- Pop-up markets during summer/fall
- Tabling at New Student Welcome, both undergraduate and graduate
- Tabling at Clubs and Course Unions day
- Visits to Kildara and Urban Bee Honey (Spring Farm Crawl)
- Established connection with NSU and growing that relationship
- Engaged with ES classes (tutorial visits of over 200 students)
- Helped Anth, ES and Geog students with projects (by being available for interviews)
- Established relationship with Permaculturalists from The Bullocks
- Had staff representative speak as part of Student Food Activism panel and that relationship with CRFAIR has led to staff hosting a workshop in this upcoming November
- Tabled at UVic Environmental Round Table

The pop-up markets have been successful in increasing visibility and presence on campus and the students have appreciated access to free veggies and chatting about where it comes from with the people directly involved in food production.

Social Media Outreach

- Our old UVic website was officially abolished and our Weebly website remains our main tool of web outreach, now with less confusion
- The newsletter continues to be a very successful outreach tool, with high response rates to calls for help with watering, and for cardboard and garden pot donations. From talking with attendees many of them find out about our events and workshops from the newsletter.
- Our main Facebook page continues to be an extremely valuable location for keeping information about our events and workshops in one localized place. Many attendees mention Facebook to be one of the places they found out info about our events and workshops.

Events and Workshops Overview

- Fall Harvest Party
- Native Plants Workshop
- Spring Orchard Crawl (Kildara and Urban Bee Honey)
- Perennial Veggies
- Kiwi Trellis Building
- Native Plant Hedgerow Implementation
- Make Your Own Reusable Produce Bag
- Hot Composting
- Farewell Summer Garden Potluck
- Irrigation Implementation Party
- Make Your Own Gardener's Hand Salve
- Intro to Grafting
- Small Engine Maintenance
- Everything You Need to Know About WWOOFing

- Intro to Pruning
- The Soil Food Web
- Foods That Fight Inflammation
- Student Food Activism Panel
- Digestion 101
- Food Forestry and Ecological Design
- Spring Social
- Semi-Annual General Meeting
- Bee Keeping
- Intro to Propagation
- Composting Basics

The garden parties have been very well attended and have continued to foster a sense of community at the garden as well as serving as an introduction and welcome to new students and thank you for volunteers. Garden staff also hosted a new volunteer orientation at the beginning of September for new volunteers which had an excellent turnout. Some of the most popular workshops were Native Plants, Beekeeping, Farm Crawl and the Spring Social harvest parties. The high interest in beekeeping and native plants should be noted for future projects and events. There was also a high stated interest in a mushroom log workshop; if it can be facilitated for a reasonable price, this workshop is worth looking into. Overall, students have shown high interest in workshops and events.

Infrastructure & Site

- Kiwi Trellis was successfully built with 3 Kiwi plants planted.
- The Native Plant hedgerow was approved by the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability and then implemented by volunteers and students of ES 200. Later, Kristen from Saanich Native Plants joined us for a planting day after which the irrigation system was completed and deer fence was installed.
- Way-finding Sign was installed
- Communal plot signs repainted and repaired
- Composting toilet project has been placed on hold
- Grey Water Sign Designed By Lucas Bell was installed
- New shed ramp was built
- New weed wacker rack was built
- Two additional giving garden beds (A3 and A4)
- Irrigation line was installed to the permaculture area and around the perimeter of the garden fence
- Orchard ladders purchased to assist in harvesting, pruning, and other care for the fruit trees
- Portable rental toilet remains on site until the composting toilet is built
- Compost Bins dismantled - new lids designed and preparing to be built
- Berry Trellis in construction
- Vermicomposting bin and worms donated and in action!

This year has been full of exciting additions to the Garden site. In May, we installed an irrigation line and planted our native plant hedgerow along the McKenzie fenceline. Following that, the Kiwi Trellis project was built in July by Hatchet & Seed Edible Landscape Designers and three kiwi

seedlings were planted by volunteers. The rest of the summer season included the installation of the wayfinding sign, the repair of the communal plot signs, the building of a weed wacker rack for the tool shed, the dismantling of several of the compost bins, the implementation of an irrigation system with lines around the perimeter of the site, and the beginning of the berry trellis project near the permaculture area.

The compost bins were removed in order to prepare for the construction of the composting toilet, which we have had to place on hold for the time being. The project will move forward once we have approval from the university regarding some logistical and insurance regulations.

Work Parties

Work Party Times

On-site work parties are/were held every Friday from 3-5pm throughout the year, weather permitting. From May-September, additional work parties were held every Wednesday evening from 5:30-7pm, although the work party often saw extended hours from 5:30-7:30pm with high amount of tasks and volunteer enthusiasm. Friday work parties from 3-5pm continued from the prior year throughout the summer and will continue throughout the 2018/2019 winter term, although subject to weather. The last Wednesday work party for the summer season took place on September 25th 2019.

Work Party Volunteer Statistics

From Jan 11, 2019- Oct 18, 2019 there were approximately 465 volunteers, up from 377 volunteers in the same time frame from the prior year. These numbers do not portray individual volunteers but instead the sum amount of volunteers per work party. The estimated amount of volunteer hours in this January-October time period is 986, up from the 694 hours within the same time frame from the prior year. Tracking how much food we produce, how many volunteers attend work parties, for how many hours, and what activities are accomplished is still new as a CCG staff task, and the numbers are not exactly accurate. Staff must continue to become increasingly diligent about tracking volunteer activities at the garden, however a new scale was recently acquired which will allow us to have more precise numbers for pounds of food.

Work Party Tasks

Work party tasks varied weekly depending on the priority of tasks set by staff in weekly staff meetings. Most work parties offered a variety of tasks in different areas of the garden, but consisted mainly of tending to plants in the greenhouse, giving gardens and turning the compost. Certain work parties were catered to a large specific task such as setting up for parties/concerts or installing the rainwater harvesting system. In the summer, there was consistent turnout and a set of regular volunteers for both the Wednesday and Friday work parties, but a different volunteer base. There would be some volunteers who only came on Wednesday and others who only showed up on Fridays. Between January 11, 2019 - October 18, 2019, approximately 275 various work party activities were completed with volunteer help.

Work Party Morale Initiatives

We consistently gave volunteers fresh produce from the garden and offered purchased snacks to restore their energy at the end of the work parties. Playing music during work parties often helped create an even more enjoyable atmosphere. When discussing tasks, we ask volunteers

what they would be interested in doing or learning, hoping to use work parties as opportunities for individuals to diversify and share their skills and knowledge within the community.

REFERENDUM

Throughout the winter semester of 2019, garden staff and board members put forward a referendum question to be voted on in the UVSS elections. The question asked UVic students: “Are you in favour of raising the Campus Community Garden fee by \$1.50 for full-time students and \$0.75 for part-time students to increase student employment, integrate the garden site in more curriculum for UVic courses, grow more food with native and edible plantings, and improve the infrastructure of the Campus Community Garden?”

The campaign cost the garden \$180.10 on top of staff hours (however it must be noted that the campaign did not increase the total number of staff hours worked in the fiscal year above what was approved by the board) and the result was positive. The referendum question passed and the CCG’s funding was doubled, increasing from \$61,875 to approximately \$109,471 per year. As discussed in other sections of this report, this funding increase has allowed for the creation of an additional year-round staff position and enables the CCG to continue to make site improvements, implement new projects, and grow more food!

It is recommended that the garden supports the proposed UVSS referendum question to increase student fees at the rate of inflation so that another garden specific referendum campaign is not required in the near future.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Increasing student’s opportunities to access local food, as well as increasing their awareness of the process behind food production, is one of our priorities. From January 11 2019-October 23 2019, a total of 273.5 pounds of food was donated directly to either the food bank or to students via pop-up markets. This number is in addition to the approximately 173 pounds of food given to volunteers at work parties.

The year-round site officer initiated regular weekly donations to the Food Bank and it is recommended that these continue throughout the next year. Additionally, the garden is in the process of establishing a weekly donation to the First People’s house as a method to establish a stronger relationship with the Indigenous communities on campus and to offer support and gratitude for their continued resilience.

Kale, chard, and lettuce had the greatest yield this year. In July, we expanded the Giving Garden areas to contain two additional plots near the compost bins (A3 and A4). With the donations of tomato starters from Metchosin Farms, our production of tomatoes was bountiful both in the greenhouse and outdoors throughout the summer season, and the plants in the greenhouse are currently still producing. In the Giving Garden beds and greenhouse we had a harvest of zucchini, potatoes, garlic, onions, fava beans, carrots, leeks, kale, chard, lettuce, arugula, snap peas, bush beans, pole beans, cucamelons, sweet peppers, tomatillos, cucumbers, scallions, butternut squash,

and beets that all did well. We struggled over the summer to reach germination with several tries at beets, carrots, and attempted spinach due to the extreme heat and lack of moisture in the soil. Our fall crops of snap peas and green beans did exceptionally well, and we are still harvesting a sizeable amount of food on a weekly basis for students.

The berry bushes and other fruits around the site were plentiful during the summer, with exciting additions from the newly implemented hedgerows including seabuckthorn berries, goji berries, and grapes. The raspberries, elderberries, goji berries, and goumi berries produced a large number of fruits, while the strawberries and blueberries did not have much of a yield. The apple tree and mulberry tree also had a minimal yield, and we are hoping the new irrigation lines throughout the permaculture area will help with fruit production in the upcoming summer season.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2018/2019 we had 20 new plot rentals out of our 92 allotment plots, mostly from students. This was the same as the 2017/2018 year. The wait list time for students remains at about 6 months, and we are now contacting folks that signed up in May.

The waitlist time decreased from last year, which was six months to a year, due to new techniques tried out by the previous staff. Changing the sign up method to a separate sheet in tabling outreach events, as well as implementing an online sign up have proven to be successful in managing the length of the waitlist.

Last Spring, Vincent, a previous Summer Site Officer attempted to implement a sublet system for plot renters who were going away for the summer, which was unsuccessful due to too short of notice, we think. This year our turnover of staff in April happened later, and Summer Site Officers began working at the beginning of May. Therefore, there was not enough time to share with plot renters about a subletting system. This year, we hope to try again reaching out to plot renters sooner, before the exam season begins in hopes that with more time to consider the possibility, it could be useful to plot renters.

Student groups that gardened with us this year included Uni 101, Native Students Union (NSU), Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, and Centre 4 & 5 Daycare. We encourage more student groups to sign up to rent a plot!

FISCAL YEAR FINANCES May 2018-May 2019

Income	\$84,390.77
Balance from previous year	\$24,968.19
Staff Salary Expenses (Coordinator, Outreach Officer, Site Officer, Workstudy top-up) -	\$65,209.77
Admin Expenses (MSP, Rent, food discount, office	\$2,170.37

supplies, misc)	
Events and Outreach Expenses (workshops, events, workparty food etc)	\$7,081.91
Site Expenses (infrastructure, tools, plants, seeds, compost, straw bales, greenhouse, misc)	\$14,359.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$88,821.30
END OF 2017/18 FISCAL YEAR BALANCE	\$20,537.66

Current CCG Balance as of October 2019: \$17,171.47**

**This number does not include student fees to be received for fall and spring semesters

Major expenses:

See Budget Expenses spreadsheet 201820192020 Financials in google drive.

Sources of income:

Due to our referendum passing in February, the garden funding doubled. The garden previously received \$1.50 per full-time student, and \$0.75 per part-time student from UVSS Student fees, and now receives **\$3.00 per full-time students**, and **\$1.50 per part-time students**, which we began receiving in the summer. This gives the Campus Community Garden its main source of revenue at approximately \$110,00 per year, up from previously \$60,000 per year.

Plot renters will continue to pay a \$30.00 membership fee to rent a garden plot or \$15 for half a plot, and pay for subsidized site materials for their individual plots (e.g. compost and straw bales @ \$5-10/wheelbarrow).

Plot renters helped with cost recovery from subsidized materials delivered to the site such as sea soil, compost and straw bales. This is categorized under miscellaneous income for 2018/19.

OTHER REFLECTIONS

With the creation of the Outreach Officer position in lieu of Assistant Coordinator, outreach has increased significantly and attendance at work parties and workshops has increased. In September, a new staff position was also created, being the Year-Round Site Officer. This was due to feedback from last year, noting that 4 staff would have been beneficial in busy months of September, as well as having a staff role specifically for tending to the site while day to day administrative tasks need to be completed by the Garden Coordinator and Outreach Officer. This position is also beneficial for mitigating turnover in the Spring when we hire new Summer Site Officers, as someone other than the Garden Coordinator can help train and bridge the gap to new staff. This summer, we had an issue of theft at the garden. First, two aluminum shelves were removed from the garden. Upon noticing, we filed a report with Campus Security, and took

preventative measures with our remaining shelf (there were 4 outside of the greenhouse). We put locks on the gates and gave the code to plot renters, and chained the remaining shelf to our fence. A week later, we noticed the chained shelving unit was removed as well. Whoever took it unscrewed the bolts from the level that was chained and took the rest. We filed another report. A week after that, that same shelving unit was then returned to the garden, left outside of the fence. We still do not have the other two that were stolen. The fourth shelving unit was not stolen, but bent and broken due to an incident where a deer entered the garden through a gate left open and Summer Staff tried to chase it out, and the deer ended up jumping onto the shelving unit, destroying it. We are now down 3.5 aluminum shelving units that we use in our greenhouse. It should be noted that while we consider getting new ones, the aluminum shelves over time bend and warp, and it would be worth looking at sturdier shelving structures in the future.

2018-2019 STAFF

Garden Coordinator: Stephanie Enevoldsen 2016/17/18/19 (re-hired for 2 year term starting late September 2017, left for maternity leave September 15th and Nicole Cymerys was hired as a Temporary Garden Coordinator until March 2021.

Work study Project Assistant: Nicole Cymerys (late October 2018- late April 2019; Vincent Burkholder (January 2019-April 2019)

Outreach Officer: Sydney Welsh (late September 2018 ongoing, with 4 month leave from May-August 2019)

2019 STAFF

Garden Coordinator: Stephanie Enevoldsen/Nicole Cymerys

Summer Site Officer: Carley Roller (May-August 2019, outgoing), Keely Kergen (May-Late September 2019, outgoing), Riley Yakabuski (May-Late September 2019, outgoing)

Addition of Year Round Site Officer: Riley Yakabuski (Late September ongoing)

Outreach Officer: Sydney Welsh (late September 2018 ongoing)

2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Undergraduate Members: Evan Devereaux, Livia Newman, Wendy Fleming, Jessica Roberge, Christine Constable, Bronte Elphick-Miner, Jake McCurdy

Associate Members: Larry Kimmett, Jin-Si Over, Toby Stewart, Lina Rotermund, Claire Remington

October, 2019 CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Undergraduate Members Summer 2019: Jake McCurdy, Bronte Elphick-Miner, Jessica Roberge, Kayla Kremer

Associate Members: Larry Kimmett, Claire Remington

2019-2020 Visioning

Question 1: How can we expand our positive impact on student food literacy and security?

- Include garden in student orientation
- Continue outreach activities (i.e. posters and public events)
- Continue good relationship with ES department
- Increase visibility of CCG on UVic website
- Board in SUB with weekly harvest tasks and interesting facts
- More Indigenous led workshop

Question 2: What are some ways that we can increase the longevity of the Garden and community and site? Think 5, 10, 20 years in advance?

- Create specific HR document that outlines role of staff and board members.
- Engage board members more.
- Increase Staff hours

Question 3: How can we go about promoting engagement, education and research at the Garden site? How can we make the space more accessible to alternative methods of learning?

- Testing out native plants for research into more sustainable and productive food crops for re-establishing local biodiversity in Victoria's food system.
- Hosting events for faculties and departments that would not necessarily be exposed to the importance of sustainable food systems (i.e. commerce students, engineering students, business students, staff, etc) to help educate on the importance of local food security for communities.
- "Come to the garden" sign @cabbage serves
- Involvement with the coop program/ continuing education/ camosun college
- Outreach to Grad Students involved in plant biology, soil sciences, urban farming research and provide them with space in the garden.
- Collab with Pacific Rim college - Holistic Nutrition
- Green Cuisine sponsor - Activist discount card?
- Classroom outreach to promote engagement
- Approaching department heads of various disciplines (ENG, ES, ANTH, BIOL, GEOG, etc...)
- Reaching out to other campuses ie. Dalhousie