INDIANA UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS GARDEN
INITIATIVE ANNUAL
REPORT

2012
Frances Einterz, Stephanie Hopkins, Sara Swan
3 Introduction and Methodology  
*Beginning the Garden Initiative, Growing at Hilltop*

5 Edible Campus Steering Committee  
*Guiding the Initiative*

6 Programs  
*Garden Corps and Garden Leaders, Special Events, Student Groups*

9 Academics  
*Partnerships with courses*

10 Next Steps

**Contact**

https://www.indiana.edu/~sustain/Garden

iugarden@indiana.edu

704 E. 10th St. Bloomington, IN 47408

812-855-1822
Volunteer Shaina Clerget, '14, tries a radish. Volunteers get a share of the crops.
Indiana University Campus Garden Initiative Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

Food represents a primary interface between environmental and social sustainability and personal choice. Everyone eats, but what everyone eats has implications far beyond the plate. Increasingly, Americans eat foods that have traveled thousands of miles, come in plastic packaging, are grown with chemical inputs, and were harvested and packaged by workers about which the consumer knows little. All of this requires a vast amount of energy, which, given climate change and impending oil shortages, threatens long-term food security.

A campus garden offers a way to reverse these trends, not only through providing local and chemical-free food, but also by increasing awareness of the benefits of such food. The two Indiana University campus gardens, the Bryan House Garden and the campus garden at Hilltop have the potential to expand into the centerpieces of campus conversations surrounding food, health, and the environment. These edible spaces allow students, faculty, and staff to witness, participate in, and taste the growth of a garden, offering a meaningful opportunity to learn about food issues while working towards a more sustainable food system.

After a Designing an Edible Campus Series conducted by former IUOS intern Stephanie Hopkins in the Spring of 2011, planting began in the Bryan House pilot garden and the Edible Campus Steering Committee was formed. The Committee comprised of 43 students, faculty, and staff, guides and advises the initiative in three areas: Academic Initiatives, Volunteer Engagement, and Food Production.

METHODOLOGY

Due to a construction project behind the Bryan House, the Hilltop garden was the focus of this summer. The 8,500 square foot plot at Hilltop was granted to the Initiative in late 2011. With our first season in this new space, there were many new opportunities and challenges. With the support of the IU Office of Sustainability, the Edible Campus Steering Committee, Hilltop Garden & Nature Center, Residential Programs and Services (RPS), IMU Dining, and various student groups, we harvested over 400 pounds of produce, hosted over one hundred volunteers, and provided food for the wider campus community.

Environmental Health & Safety inspected and approved the garden as a wholesale food vendor. In exchange for fresh produce, IMU Dining and RPS helped the initiative to secure materials necessary to comply with health codes. Beginning in April 2012 and continuing throughout the season, produce was harvested by volunteers for RPS and IMU Dining. Some produce was also harvested by the 3 year-old

1 This number should be interpreted carefully. It is vulnerable to error as well as inaccuracies. First, a majority of the produce harvested consisted of lightweight greens. Additionally, the scale used was donated and not calibrated correctly, and finally, volunteers habitually forgot to weigh or record the produce they took home. Tracking them down was a constant, necessary, and often a losing battle.
class at Campus View Childcare Center who utilized it in their curriculum. Finally, volunteers were
encouraged to take produce home with them and extra produce was donated to Hoosier Hills Food Bank and Middle Way House.

Weekly workdays at Hilltop began in February 2012 and began by prepping the beds, starting plants in the greenhouse, and tending to the cool-season crops. Beginning in May, the workdays expanded to twice a week. Under the supervision of the IUOS Garden Coordinator, volunteers took part in every aspect of garden maintenance, from starting seeds, to transplanting, to harvesting, to cover cropping, to watering, to the all-time favorite—weeding. A daily watering schedule was instituted, wherein four volunteer waterers came on the non-workdays to water. This was an especially important task given the drought this summer. Special group workdays were also held throughout the season (see page 8).

As the summer and fall harvest came to an end, the number of workdays slowed back down to one workday a week from November to March. During the winter months, there was a lot of turning of compost, beginning seeds for plants in the hoophouse, and maintaining the plants growing in the greenhosue. Other, future, winter tasks that were underappreciated would include saving seeds or drying herbs.

As the winter came to an end, the beds began to be prepared, plants began in the greenhouse, and beginning the end of April, the workdays again returned to occurring twice a week. Throughout this time, a steady flow of volunteer participation kept them involved in every aspect of the garden.

Several methods were used to maintain contact with volunteers and to reach potential volunteers. Updates from the garden listerv kept volunteers up-to-date on workdays and new opportunities. The Garden Initiative Facebook page, new this season, helped us to inform volunteers and potential volunteers of workdays as well as post pictures and descriptions to encourage greater participation and outreach (see Appendix A). Finally, the Wordpress blog (see Appendix B) allowed for more in-depth descriptions of garden events.

While the production of the garden is beneficial, it is the Garden Initiative’s growing presence on campus that we hope will begin to influence campus consciousness of food issues. Our goal is that all volunteers and class groups, regardless of experience, are exposed to new crops and new thoughts while in the campus garden.
Volunteer Eliot Nix helps transplant the parsley and dill on an early Friday morning workday.
EDIBLE CAMPUS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Edible Campus Steering Committee is the vital guiding structure for the Garden Initiative. Comprised of 35 staff, faculty, community members, and students, the ECSC helps with everything from meeting health codes to reaching out to key programing partners. This season, they created the garden planting plan, helped plan the two Weed, Seed, Feed picnic events (see page 7), helped the garden meet health codes, planned the distribution of produce, and initiated conversations on the garden’s future in terms of increased production, increased service learning opportunities, and increased visibility. The ECSC members’ diverse expertise helps to create a well-rounded guiding body for the initiative.

During the November of 2012 and February 2013, the ECSC conducted a pathfinder series in order to articulate the specific goals and timelines of the project. These sessions build upon the Edible Campus Series of 2011, discussed passed issues, future ideas, and completed a SWOT analyses. Here are some conclusions of the Pathfinder Meetings:

- The steering committee needed to be restructured into three smaller subcommittees (Volunteer, Academic Initiatives, and Food Production) that could meet on their own time whenever was necessary, based on the tasks that needed to be completed. Each subcommittee will send one representative to the monthly steering committee meetings in case something should come up.
- Academic partnerships should be stronger, with greater co-curricular activity required, especially the integration into course curriculums.
- The future of the gardens rests on the campus’s ability to maintain the gardens and any additional edible spaces.
Heather Reynolds (left, Biology) and Haley Long (right, ’12) pull weeds. Heather, a member of the ECSC, is a professor as well as a co-owner of local farm Stranger’s Hill Organics.
PROGRAMMING

In order to enhance the educational potential of the garden and to broaden the volunteer programs were initiated this season, including garden leader programs and special events.

Garden Leader Programs

One of the biggest challenges to a larger growing space was that of maintaining it. With many students gone for the summer and only a part-time employee coordinating the garden, we looked for creative ways to increase garden involvement. From May through August, three Garden Leaders helped to lead workdays.

In August, we began accepting applications for the Garden Corps, a group of students who committed to working 6-10 hours per week with the Campus Garden Initiative. In exchange, Corps members received vegetables and took part in potlucks and farm trips. This year, there were 4-7 Corps members.
Special Events

The garden also hosted two Weed, Seed, & Feed picnics in order to increase involvement in the garden. The first picnic, held in July, was catered by IMU Dining and included vegetables from the garden. Around 30 volunteers ate and helped to weed the garden. The second picnic, held in October, was catered by RPS and included a performance by the Jamaican musician and poet, Mbala. In March, a garden movie night was held off campus, and one is planned for May to be held at the garden. Events, such as these, are extremely important to building connections, community, and gaining some marketing for the garden. People greatly enjoyed all the events and it is a great opportunity to make the garden a focal point of celebration and gathering space.
Mbala performs during the second Weed, Seed, & Feed picnic. The Garden Initiative looks to partner with arts groups whenever possible.
Student Groups

The gardens are a useful resource for student groups. Many utilized the space for group workdays. These ranged from Wells Scholars to the IU Women’s Rugby Club to Freshman Orientation groups to Interfraternity Council volunteers. Working in the garden together allowed groups to talk and relax as well as to learn about gardening, food, and all issues relating to sustainability.

IU Beginning Student Service Day volunteers helped to mulch the pathways. They also got to taste the wide variety of vegetables growing in the garden.

Another regular volunteer group was the North–American Interfraternity Conference. One volunteer from that group, Andrew Koning, said, “This experience gave me a better understanding of hands-on work and care and it allows me to appreciate the millions that farm and garden around the world. It was a fun time and [I] plan on taking it up as a new hobby.”
ACADEMICS

Through partnering with courses, the Initiative hopes to deliver a cross-curricular understanding of the many ideas and opportunities surrounding food and farming. The ability to ground classroom teaching in hands-on experiences aids students in connecting and applying materials. For example, a graduate course called Writing the Earth tended four plots from August to November in order to gain a better understanding of the agriculture-themed literature read in the course. Another professor had her students watch Stephen Colbert’s testimony in Congress on migrant farm labor then had the students come work in the student garden. A School of Public Health event planning class partnered with the garden through service learning and was in charge of organizing the second Seed, Weed, Feed event (discussed above). In the Spring, a Human Biology Class also partnered with the garden through service learning. A group of fifteen students was divided into five groups. Each group completed a different project for the garden and turned in deliverables and each person was responsible for volunteering at the garden a total of four hours. In addition to providing more volunteers to the garden, creative connections like these facilitate a real understanding of food and farming, and we hope to expand academic partnerships in the future.
THE BRYAN HOUSE GARDEN

The Bryan House Garden, the original pilot garden, has been under construction since Spring 2012, and has recently been released back to the initiative. During the coming summer, the initiative hopes to engage a student in permaculture design by enrolling he/she in an independent study with the hope of implementing the design in the Spring of 2014. The continued maintenance and care of the Bryan House garden will become the next steps in this undertaking.

NEXT STEPS

The Campus Garden Initiative can have a pivotal role in the future of food on campus through raising awareness of local foods and through encouraging discussions on food and farming. It has great potential to have a more prodigious presence on the campus. It needs to be marketed more to incoming students through freshman orientation or campus tours, and it should be something that draws students to IU. The Garden has opportunity to act as a community gathering space, especially if the idea of installing a pizza oven is realized. In order to expand the Initiative, the ECSC and the wider campus community must decide how to reach the garden's goals, and funding the initiative should be a top priority. Continuous efforts to reach out to student groups, faculty, staff, and community members will be necessary to encourage engagement with the gardening spaces.
Basil starts grow in the greenhouse at Hilltop. Basil thrived in the high heat of the summer season.
Community volunteer Andre helps weed the garden. Andre shared his gardening experience with student volunteers throughout the Fall semester.
Volunteers Erica Bramlet, '12, Sarah Koning, & Rennee Albrecht sample fresh peas.
APPENDIX A

IU Campus Garden Initiative

The campus garden is an IU Office of Sustainability project that aims to foster environmental and social sustainability by creating interactive, edible garden spaces on the IU campus. The garden is an IU Office of Sustainability project that aims to foster environmental and social sustainability by creating interactive, edible garden spaces on the IU campus.

The workday will be 9-11 a.m. tomorrow! Bring warm clothes!

For those interested, this is a local farm growing all organically.

> Commenter
> Partager
APPENDIX B

-Pickin' and Picnic'n

Posted on July 18 2012| Leave a comment

Yesterday the thunder rolled, the lightening struck, but the rain held off, and the Feed, Weed, and Seed Garden Event went on. Despite the ominous weather, visitors to the garden were able to enjoy some fabulously delicious local food donated by Fischer Farms, IMU Dining, and the IU Office of Sustainability and prepared by chefs from IMU Dining. The event brought new volunteers to the Campus Garden and a number of regulars. Together, they were able to destroy the Forest of Weeds that had been threatening our vulnerable bean plants. You can check out pictures from the event on our Facebook page.

Disappointed that you missed free food? No worries, the garden is beginning to churn out chard, kale, zucchini, and tons of basil, so come to a workday and pick up some free veggies! Workdays are Tuesdays 5-7 p.m. and Fridays from 9-11 a.m.

P.S. We also have a number of edible weeds, one of which has more omega 3 than fish oil. Come to the garden and pull some for your salad or smoothie.

How to make Garden Gumbo —

RECENT POSTS

- Healthy Herbs
- GounD'ania!
- How to make Garden Gumbo
- Pickin' and Picnic'n
- Garden PicnicXextTuesday!

IN THE NEWS

- Edible Campus' project links food, gardens, sustainability — IU Newsroom, 04.19.11
- t:rb:an Gardens Sprout L.:p on IU Campus — WFIU, 06.06.11
- Campus garden to put on Lunch and Learn eVent for faculty and staff — IU Newsroom, 06.15.11
- Campus garden at IU-Bloomington teaches sustainability — The Herald-Times, 07.22.11
- n: Bloomington garden teaches sustainability — The Courier-Journal, 08.07.11
- IU Campus Garden Initiative continues to grow — IU Newsroom, 10.12.11
- Daily Local News: Campus Community Garden @ fr-WFHB Xews, 10.13.11
- Campus garden closes first season — Indiana Daily Student, 10.20.11
- XoYember brings new campus garden to fr-I — Indiana LiYing Green, 10.25.11
APPENDIX C

Garden Produce Log