

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

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Title of clinic:	Harvest: LUC's new community garden
Number of students:	2 to 6
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	EES, GED, WP: major tag or elective CHS and GHIS: Elective (major tag if needed).
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	None

Research context

Rationale

The environmental and social aspects of agriculture and food production is a visible and cross-disciplinary scholarly theme at LUC, and more broadly. But aside from ad-hoc field trips LUC students actually receive scant exposure to the myriad dimensions of agriculture and food production. Urban community gardens represent a specific type of food production system that links to a range of environmental and social aspects of cities.

Development of an urban community garden would provide a unique opportunity to LUC staff and students to directly work with growing and harvesting food. The LUC community garden would serve as a type of "living-learning lab" for education, research, and urban community outreach.

Uses and applications

An urban community garden could link with multiple LUC majors, especially EES, CHS, and GHIS. The concept lines up nicely with LUC giving back to the City. An urban community garden would also lineup nicely with LUC's new 'community' kitchen on the second floor, with the produce being used in different recipes to serve students – i.e., the 'field to fork' concept – that helps to foster LUC community. As crop yields in community gardens can be quite high, excess produce - or a specific percent - could be donated to a soup kitchen in the Hague to "give back" to the City.

Students' tasks and activities

Tasks and activities (some combination, specific tasks to be worked out in consultation with students): In this 'pioneering' phase of the LUC Community Garden tasks and activities are oriented to quite fundamental necessities to get the garden up and running. These include,

- field work assistance, setting up the garden and preparation of the site, installation of monitoring and sampling instruments, sowing seeds, watering, weeding, composting
- research on organic gardening techniques and practices
- research on possible crops
- assistance in developing a plan for the first gardening season
- data input in spreadsheets,
- report writing,
- general support of gardening activities.