



Growing a student garden: An integrated approach to teaching, service learning and student recruitment

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Athens-Clarke County (Sad) Demographics

- **38% Non-White**
- **Unemployment rate 8.0%**
- **Poverty rate 36.7%**
- **Children affected by poverty 40.9%**
- **> 21% food insecure**
- **61% residents eligible for SNAP**
- **70% children eligible for free school lunch**

USDA/NIFA HED Grant

Short Term Goal: To create an interdisciplinary certificate in local food systems

- **3 Tracks**
 - **Policy**
 - **Food and Nutrition**
 - **Production**
- **Internship/production course requirement**
- **Student garden as centerpiece**

Higher Goal: Graduate more well-rounded students prepared to work to help make healthy food available to everyone

History of Garden

- Coalition of student orgs with eco focus
- Wrote a manifesto
- Requested garden space
- Nobody said yes, nobody said no!
- Incorporated garden into USDA grant
- Horticulture Department offered space



Master Plan

































BROWN LEDGE
FUTBOL

University of Georgia
Athletics

























Where does service learning fit in?

- **Formal courses**
 - **Community food production**
 - **Freshman seminar**
 - **Introduction to horticulture**
 - **After school garden nutrition course**
 - **Aux. course requirement**

Student Organizations

- **Campus Kitchen**
 - **Weekly meals to families**
- **UGarden**
 - **Harvest for Food Bank**
 - **CSA for low-income families**
- **The ONE Campaign**
 - **Incubator farm with Burmese refugees**

Campus Partners

- **Office of Service-Learning**
- **Office of Sustainability**
- **Student Affairs**
- **Grounds Department**
- **Colleges and Departments**
 - **Foods and Nutrition, Family and Consumer Economics**
 - **Geography, Anthropology, History**
 - **Environment and Design**
 - **Horticulture, Pathology, Engineering**

Community Partners

- Athens Land Trust
- Council on Aging
- Clarke County Public Schools
- ACC Master Gardeners
- Keep Clarke County Clean and Beautiful
- P.L.A.C.E.
- Hands on NE Georgia
- Athens Latino Center for Educ. and Services







OK, the quick numbers for 2011-12 academic year

- **5,000+ student volunteer hours at garden**
- **2,000+ student hours at community gardens**
- **100 elementary kids participated**
- **60 workdays and/or tours**
- **110 instructional contact hours**
- **17 students enrolled in LFS Certificate**
- **7 undergrad student research projects**
- **2 graduate student projects**
- **3 student sustainable project grants**
- **2 UGarden student fundraising events**
- **Total direct cost ~ \$40,000**