



Community Gardening

Welcome to the new Lafayette Community Garden located at Metzgar fields! This project is a new and innovative addition to the Lafayette campus and those of us involved are very excited to be a part of it! Here is some information on the history of the project, as well as the Terms and Conditions and Reservation Form for obtaining a garden plot for the 2009 growing season.

History of the Project

A community garden at Lafayette College has been a dream of the students of LEAP (**L**afayette **E**nvironmental Awareness and **P**rotection) for some time. This dream has finally become a reality due to the hard work of students, faculty and the administration.

The community garden idea grew from another project in which LEAP and SEES (**S**ociety of **E**nvironmental **E**ngineers and **S**cientists) students advised by Professor Art Kney created a pilot food-waste composting program in collaboration with College staff and administration. We are hopeful that this program will expand until food-waste from all dining facilities on campus is composted daily.

After successfully implementing the food-waste composting project, and working to reduce our waste stream, our focus shifted to application of the finished compost. In the summer of 2008, the Corn on the Quad project led by Professor Andy Smith was a great example of using the campus compost to complete the food waste loop. This led to the idea that composting and gardening could be done on a larger scale on our campus. Professor Brandes and Jenn Bell '11 worked together in applying for a Clinton Global Initiative grant that envisioned a sustainable "food loop" in which our vegetables were grown organically and locally on campus, the waste was composted, and the compost was then applied back to the gardens. The grant application was successful and the garden project is now proceeding at Metzgar fields with assistance from the College. Our intent is for the garden to operate self-sufficiently through the collection of modest user fees and the sale of produce.



The community garden includes two sections (see picture on next page). A large garden plot (~1 acre) will be tended by students of the Lafayette Organic Gardening club, and with the intention of eventually serving the produce to the Lafayette College dining halls. The second 1-acre space will be divided into approximately 40 separate 20' x 40' plots available to students, staff, faculty, and sponsored student organizations.

The following pages include Terms and Conditions for use of the individual plots, as well as a Reservation Form.

Questions? Comments?

Check out the Lafayette Organic Gardening website: <http://wordpress.lafayette.edu/organicgardening/>

And please feel free to contact student Jenn Bell (leap@lafayette.edu) or project advisors Professors David Brandes, Art Kney, Andy Smith, Derek Smith, and John Wilson. This is a new project and we welcome feedback/assistance/comments!



Aerial view showing the location of the garden along Sullivan Trail



Closeup of the site layout