

Purpose: To encourage initiatives that will improve the quality of life at St. Lawrence through curricular, co-curricular, or campus life projects and provide a foundation for St. Lawrence's future.

St. Lawrence Innovation Grants projects ought to inspire a foundation for St. Lawrence's future that is in keeping with pioneer spirit, open to experimentation, and new paths, known throughout our campus history.

1. That the initiative clearly improves the quality of life on campus in any way a Laurentian (faculty, staff or student) experiences St. Lawrence: curricular, co-curricular or campus life
2. That the sponsor(s) will provide a report at the end of the project period and include any relevant measurable statistics about the initiative.
3. That the sponsor(s) will articulate the potential for continuation if the program is proposed to be multi-year or permanent and the sponsor(s) will work with the administration to locate potential funding sources.

Name of Project: Fruit for the Future

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Project description (250 words or fewer):

We would like to plant an edible, self-sustaining permaculture landscape, composed of fruit trees (apple, pear, plum), perennial herbs and flowers, and other fruit bushes. This landscape would provide a haven for students and faculty to visit, to enjoy an environmentally beneficial landscape, rather than a simple mowed lawn. This landscape would attract more birds, insects, and other wildlife to our space, increasing biodiversity, similar to the intent of the no-mow zones, but more involved and intentional. Campus and local community members will have the opportunity to benefit from the landscape; class and organization involvement and education will be encouraged. Local farmers can become involved, with education about permaculture and plant care. This type of development in a landscape would be a

long-lasting asset to our campus grounds, and a step toward making our space more environmentally sustainable, productive, and inviting. Who would not want to visit a forest-type landscape to enjoy lunch or a good book? This space will encourage both students and faculty at our university to question the use of open space on our campus, and in communities beyond St. Lawrence.

When will project take place?

Most of the initial work with the project will take place within the first year. Some maintenance will be required the first year. After this period the landscape will have taken its own form and require minimal management. However, attention to the space will continue for the life of the landscape. Fruit-producing trees and bushes, useful herbs, and bright perennial flowers will increase the attractiveness and use of the landscape for the next several decades. Although this project will be established in the first five-years, it is a long-term investment that will benefit the campus and North Country community for over 30 years.

How will the campus community benefit? Who in the campus community will be affected?

The benefits of an edible permaculture landscape are not limited to fruit production, although a bounty of summer and fall fruits improves the life of those in the community. The landscape will provide habitat for insects and birds, food for important crop pollinators, and an opportunity for education about agriculture, ecology, and permaculture landscapes. Students, faculty and staff will all have opportunity to visit this landscape which will become a aesthetically pleasing and ecologically functional asset to the campus.

Do you have class visits in mind and with whom? Are there any other co-curricular groups involved or activities planned?

The following groups have been involved in the planning and will be involved in the implementation: Lettuce Turnip the Beet, Environmental Action Organization, The Greenhouse.

This project will be very relevant to several classes on campus including Sustainable Agriculture, Ethnobotany, Biology of Vascular Plants, Ecology, Winter Ecology, Plant Systematic, and Environmental Psychology. All of these classes would benefit from a local landscape that provides study material and outdoor learning space.

How will this project be perpetuated past the first year, if applicable?

During the first few years, minimal pruning and careful water will be necessary. The extra-curricular groups along with the classes listed above will be involved in this process. In the long-term, this landscape will be fairly self-maintaining. Over time it will become a more productive and resilient landscape

Please include an itemized list of relevant expenses: transportation and/or lodging for visitors, meals, honorarium or fees for visitors (if any), supplies, promotional materials, technical support). Do you have any other funding support?

Currently we do not have any other funding support, although other relevant groups will be encouraged to contribute time, energy, money if needed. In order for the landscape to be the most productive, lasting and manageable, we budgeted a professional design fee.

Costs	#	\$/#	
Permaculture design			750
Deer exclusion material for 3/4 acre(fencing @ \$1/ft)			1000
Tools (shovels, pruners, gloves)			250
Signs			150
Apple Dwarf	30	30	900
Pear (5-6')	15	30	450
Blue Damson Plum (5-6')	15	30	450
Blackberry	10	10	100
Raspberries	10	10	100
Blueberries	15	10	150
Grapes (2 yr vine)	6	10	60
Elderberry (4-5')	10	10	100
Total			4460

Where will the project take place? Technical/logistical requirements (including room reservations, audio/visual equipment, and other technologies such as laptop, adaptors, mics, etc.)?

The three-quarter acre plot is tentatively planned for an area to the south of the Senior Townhouses. We have discussed this plan with Director of Faculty and Operations, Marcus Sherburne who recommended the location. This area abuts the Kip Tract forests and is close to campus. Accessible water source is located at the townhouses. Due to deer predation, a fence around the perimeter will have to be implemented to exclude deer. Alternative locations include along Romoda Drive and behind F lot. These alternatives were also discussed with Marcus.