



# SP0187 Final Report

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the [SPF Staff](#) via e-mail.

**Project Title:** Permaculture Garden Resource Coordinator

**Final Report prepared by:** Sophie Theron

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**Actual Project Start Date:** 5/14/2018

**Actual Project End Date:** 10/15/2018

**1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments in 1-2 sentences.**

(400 characters maximum)

The Macdonald Campus Permaculture Showcase Garden was maintained over the summer. Educational workshops were held in order to increase student and faculty engagement with the garden and to create learning opportunities in the field of permaculture. A toolkit was created in order to ensure the continuation of the project.

**2. Your team listed the following goal in your application:**

The goal of this project is to increase student and faculty engagement with the Macdonald Showcase Permaculture Garden, and to create learning opportunities in the field of permaculture at McGill.

**Did your team achieve your project's goal? In your answer, please describe the impact your project had on McGill's structures, processes, and/or systems. Also, please specify how this positively transformed people's behaviors/perspectives/habits on McGill campus(es).**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Yes, the project reached its goals. Six different workshops were held over the duration of the summer such as a planting day, an herb spiral building workshop, an olla irrigation workshop, a compost tea making workshop, and more. Volunteer hours were also held during the week when the Garden Coordinator went in for her shifts. At the beginning of any workshop, or if people came to volunteer, the garden Coordinator always gave participants a tour of the garden. This would allow participants to become more familiar with different aspects and implications of permaculture, and to ask questions. Every activity held at the garden was intended to be very discussion based and to compliment the strengths of the participants in order to make each interaction a positive and transformative one. In order to do this, the garden coordinator involved the participants in the preliminary design process of workshops. For example, during the Herb Spiral Building workshop, the garden coordinator started the event off by explaining the basic structure of an herb spiral, how it is built, and the way the system works. After that the group observed the area of land and materials with which the herb spiral would be built and brainstormed the most effective mode of design together, then put their ideas to practice. In collaboration with the Mac Music Club, several jam sessions took place after events in the garden. A lot of beautiful moments were shared during these jam sessions, increasing student's positive perception of the garden.

**3. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)**(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

**Key Successes**  
 Installation of herb spiral: The herb spiral that was installed in the garden the year before was relatively small due to limited access to rocks. The system itself worked really well, but because the plants grew so extensively the structure of the herb spiral was hidden. Herb spirals are structures that optimize space. The spiral shape leads to small variations in sunlight and moisture that create microclimates. This increases the diversity of plants that can be grown in a confined area. Herb spirals are attractive, easily reproducible, and clearly

demonstrate several of the Permaculture principles. Therefore, I decided to host an educational workshop which lead to the design and building of the herb spiral.

Installation of Ollas: The drought in Montreal this summer called for more watering of the plants than anticipated. This ended up being very time consuming. In order to tackle this problem, I decided install DIY Ollas in parts of the garden. Ollas are an ancient method used for sub-surface irrigation of plants. Their microporous walls allow water seepage guided by a suction force which attracts water molecules to the plant roots. This would save both time, energy, and water. With the help of volunteers, a number ollas were build and installed in the vegetable beds of the garden through a series of educational workshops.

Jam Sessions with the Mac Music Club: With the help of the music club, events held in the garden were followed by Jam Sessions. This brought a lot of people together to play some music and enjoy the garden in a more casual and laid-back manner.

Toolkit: This document will ensure that the next garden coordinator will have access to the information needed in order to bring the garden through its following stages.

#### Key Challenges:

Attraction of volunteers: Because there are a lot less students in Saint-Anne-de-Bellevue in the summer and the garden is a bit of a ways away from the main campus, it was a bit of a challenge to get students and faculty to come to the garden. I invited people through Facebook events and the Permaculture Club's mailing list. A lot of people on these lists were out of town this summer or lived downtown. In order to try and attract a larger audience, I decided to hang posters up on campus. This took a positive turn as students and faculty started showing up to the garden to volunteer due to the fact that they saw the posters that were hung up around campus.

Time management: Given the number of hours that needed to be completed over the duration of the summer, it made the most sense to complete 18 hours of work a week. I soon came to realize how much work garden-maintenance alone entailed, and how easy it was to underestimate the amount of time a simple task would take considering I was on a team of one. As a result, I was constantly trying to decide what type of work needed prioritization as the plants needed to be up kept in order to survive and thrive, but emails also needed to be sent and the toolkit created. Relative to the summer before, there was very little rainfall this summer. This put a lot of stress on the plants, especially after the transplantation of seedlings. This meant that I needed to water the plants often. Because I was coming to the garden part time, this was another factor that played a part in the time-management key challenge.

#### 4. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

##### Key points of advice/Lessons learned

1. Dedicate a certain amount of time before you start your project to plan each step out. Outline how each step will be executed through the progression of the project, what materials will be needed, how you plan to acquire them, and who you will need to contact. This will give you an idea of what preliminary research needs to be done and will allow you to create deadlines for yourself. Looking back, I feel like it might have been a good idea to have taken my first one or two weeks to focus more on planning and researching instead of immediately jumping into the maintenance of the garden.
2. Set deadlines. Make a monthly calendar that outlines key deadlines that need to be completed over the duration of the project, and a weekly one outlining more specific key-tasks to do day by day in order to meet those larger deadlines. When you are your own boss it is easy to either procrastinate or to overwork yourself as you have no one telling you when to stop.
3. Keep a log of the tasks you did each day and record your observations. This is especially important when working with natural systems such as a garden. For example, by taking note of the date that seedlings were transplanted from the greenhouse to the garden, one can then estimate their harvest date. This information would give you time to think of the different things you might want to do with the harvest and plan it accordingly (ex. workshops, donations, etc).
4. When you have a lot of tasks to do at once, make a list of everything then re-order them in terms of priority. This will allow you to focus on what is the most important in the moment.

**5. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project's future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project's progress in coming years, if ongoing.**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

I would recommend the formation of a Garden Committee consisting of multiple people who would work together in maintaining the garden and planning its continuation. Another thing that could be interesting is to open up the garden into a Community Garden Space. There is apparently a lot of competition for space in the community garden at MacDonald Campus. This transition could ensure the garden's continuity as there would be people maintaining it year after year. This idea might also build a sense of community and would increase awareness of permaculture among the McGill population. The McGill Permaculture Club will take responsibility of the project's future. Interested persons can be in touch by emailing the McGill Permaculture Club at mcgillpermacultureclub@gmail.com.

**6. Would you or your project team member(s) be willing to serve as a mentor to SPF project teams? Please choose one. If yes, SPF Staff will contact you with more information.**(800 characters maximum)

Yes  No

**7. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding:** Student Experience Enhancement Fund, \$3000.

**Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.**  
(1,800 characters maximum)

Yes, we received \$3,000 from the Student Experience Enhancement Funds.

**8. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.**  
(1,800 characters maximum)

**9. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the "Actual" column.**

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual
# of workshops held during the summer	3	6
One Permaculture Garden Toolkit created	Complete	Complete
# of volunteers engaged throughout the summer	25	30

**If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.**  
(1,800 characters maximum)

Double the amount of workshops were held due to the fact that a lot of the tasks that needed to get done in the garden were very time-intensive. Therefore, workshops were a great educational and fun way to get an extra set of hands in the garden all the while learning about different permaculture techniques as a group.

**10. Please report on your results for the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the “Actual” column.**

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual #
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	30
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	30
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	0
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	6
# of tons of GHG emissions reduced by your project	N/A

**Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.**

(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

McGill Nourish International, McGill Macdonald Campus Music Club, McGill Wildlife Association, Bioresource Engineering Student Society, La Rue Des Femmes (Womens Homeless Shelter), Corbeille de Pain - Ugly But Loved Project

**If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below.**(1,800 characters maximum)

**11. Please indicate the McGill stakeholder groups that were involved with your project as a team member or collaborator/partner. Choose all that apply.**

- Undergraduate
  Postgraduate
  Administrative Staff
  Academic Staff
  Alumni

**12. Please rate your project team’s overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.**

- Very Dissatisfied
  Dissatisfied
  Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied
  Satisfied
  Very Satisfied

**13. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team’s experience with the SPF.**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

The SPF team was very helpful throughout the entirety of this project. I always felt like I could address the team with any questions or concerns I had, and any email I sent was always responded to in a timely manner. All experiences I had with the SPF team have been positive ones.

**14. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.**

(Unlimited characters)

**15. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of professional growth? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.**(800 characters maximum)

- Yes
  No
  Prefer Not to Share

**16. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of personal growth?**

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below. (800 characters maximum)

- Yes  No  Prefer Not to Share

**17. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budgeting           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Networking                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Systems Thinking               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conflict Resolution | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving            | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Management         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time Management                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listening           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Writing                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mentoring           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify in the field below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Identification |  |

Other:

**18. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability?**

Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.(800 characters maximum)

- Yes  No  Prefer Not to Share

**19. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities: 1**

**Please identify the represented communities below.(e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)**

(1,800 characters maximum)

Women

**Thank you for completing your Final Report!**

Please e-mail your report to the [SPF Staff](#) attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.