

PROJECT TITLE: SP0260: Campus Crops Sustainability 2020

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

Final Report prepared by Talia + Juan Pablo

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Actual Project Start Date 2020-12-15 Actual Project End Date 2021-05-15

Questions

1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments to date. In your answer, consider the impact your project has had so far on McGill's campus(es).

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

This SPF-sponsored project birthed the next chapter in sustainable administration for the Campus Crops collective gardens. Thanks to the SPF, Campus Crops leadership was able to regroup and enrich our archive of documentation, formalize a long-term partnership with SSMU to fund paid coordinators yearly, and install drip irrigation to reduce water consumption and labour required to maintain the gardens. The foundational outcome of all of these items is to ensure the viability, and beyond that the health, of the project into the future. We are happy to announce a five year commitment of support from the SSMU Green Fund with the possibility of renewal. Where we previously struggled with financially-inaccessible leadership positions and information that was lost year to year, this new structure helps to increase institutional knowledge and takes burden off of volunteers. We have already seen since the start of this month, May, how having paid positions has improved Campus Crop's ability to engage with volunteer gardeners and stakeholders with COVID-19 appropriate activities. Community involvement, whether with students, staff, or alumni, is a central tenet to what Campus Crops aims to accomplish with communal urban agriculture. We are in fact very grateful for the large number of applicants for the coordinator positions and thrilled that those who, unfortunately, were not hired have signed up as volunteers where interested and able. Finally, we were able to purchase seedlings from MSEG at Macdonald Campus, an important relationship in inter-campus agriculture.

2. 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)

3. 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)

2:

Key successes:

- We were able to secure a 5 year commitment from SSMU to fund these position with a possibility of renewal.
- We hired two dedicated, passionate, knowledgeable and creative individuals to be the coordinators for campus crops this year. So excited to see them flourish in this new environment!

Key challenges:

- Working with SSMU was a bit tedious, slow and unresponsive but we prevailed in the end! Just needed constant bugging.
- Covid-19 has made garden planning slightly more challenging this year due to the limitations on the number of volunteers allowed on site, and logistics for ordering supplies / resources.

3: Advice

- Take advantage of the timeline and interim report to regroup as a team
- Set smaller interim deadlines for larger goals to reduce the barrage of large impending deadlines for intimidating

project tasks

- Communicate, communicate, communicate! Everyone should always be on the same page about everything.

4. 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)

Campus Crops now has two new Coordinators for 2021, hired through SSMU: Marysia Zaleski-Cox and Zoë Deskin. We are so excited for them to help the gardens and community participants flourish. They have both been introduced to SPF and other useful Campus Crops contracts around McGill. They will in turn hire two Coordinators for 2022 with SSMU. The irrigation project in the central Campus Crops bed could act as a pilot for similar installations at the ECOLE and SSMU Daycare gardens. Additionally, there has been a huge influx of volunteer interest for community gardening, perhaps given the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps not. Increasing the size of the garden beds would be a valued addition to the Campus Crops project. One postdoctoral volunteer from Summer 2020 developed a brilliant proposal for no-dig mulch beds which we are in the midst of proposing to McGill Grounds for Summer 2022.

5. 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

I am definitely happy to serve as a mentor in the future -JP

6. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding:

N/A

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)

7. 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)

We purchased a drip irrigation system for the main Campus Crops bed behind the school of environment. This system is modular comprised of hoses and connectors that sits on the soil and provides water directly to plants' roots effectively reducing overwatering and damage caused by water falling on the leaves. It also allows gardeners to spend more time weeding and caring for plants than holding a hose. The system is removed each winter and installed at the start of each growing season.

8. 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
Yearly coordinators hired	2	2
Yearly coordinators supported by each other, SSMU, and the SPF	3	3
Creation of coordinator training manual	1	1
Creation of archive for Campus Crops documentation	1	

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)

Wouldn't allow to add a number for the last success indicator but it should be a "1"

9. Please report on your progress with 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	5
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	2
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	8400 annual
# of tons of GHG emissions reduced by your project	n/a
# 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.	2

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

(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

We made a formal partnership with SSMU Environment to fund two paid positions for Campus Crops Coordinators for 5 years (with chance to renew). Funding from SPF for seedling purchase also supported a renewed connection with MSEG at Macdonald Campus.

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below.

(1,800 characters maximum)

10. 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

11. 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

12. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team's experience with the SPF
(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

SPF staff was always quick to respond and eager to assist in any way possible. All SPF staff we were in contact with showed great care and interest in our project. The check-ins provided were helpful and it felt like SPF was there to help us ensure the project succeeded. Thank you for all your help <3

13. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.
(Unlimited characters)

14. 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

Personally this experience has definitely helped my professional growth in terms of experience with interviews. I had had very little experience prior and this project led to 10+ interviews with individuals that were all very qualified! It was also helpful to follow the structure ssmu hiring process to see how companies do this sort of thing. -JP

15. 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

Of course! I got to help with the garden, learnt about no-dig garden, learnt about flat drip irrigation hoses etc. This has been a wonderful journey and I'm glad I went along with it :) -JP

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Time Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify in |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negotiating | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Identification | the field below) |

Other:

17. 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

Learnt about no dig gardens!

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

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

(1,800 characters maximum)

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.