Development of the Beloit Urban Garden
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Introduction
Work on creating the Beloit Urban Garden (BUG) started in January 2013 by Beloit College students seeking to create an on-campus, student-run garden. In February a group of students, administrators, food service staff, and faculty collaborated to identify 13 ideals for a potential garden. With the creation of the BUG in late spring, my project over the summer was to develop the garden and work towards meeting the set ideals.

Beloit Urban Garden’s 13 Ideals
Beloit’s College Garden Will:

- Be close to campus
- Be economically self-sufficient
- Enhance the college’s reputation
- Engage the broader Beloit community
- Offer opportunities for experiential learning
- Put the liberal arts into practice
- Be student run and managed
- Be connected to the college curriculum
- Be connected to the campus food provider
- Maximize Wisconsin’s growing seasons
- Have a space for experimental use
- Produce ecologically sound food
- Be aesthetically pleasing

Be Student Run and Managed
- Current students directed the development of the BUG
- Students will direct future planning for the garden
- A formal group will be established in the fall to direct future development

Engage the Broader Beloit Community
- Neighbors surrounding the garden have helped
  - Some donated plants
  - One loaned his trailer
- Almost all garden supplies are from local vendors

Be Connected to Campus Food Provider Bon Appetit
- Bon Appetit at Beloit College has agreed to purchase all produce at market value
- BUG produce in Commons is designated on signs

Be Connected to the College Curriculum
- Sustainable Agriculture class in the fall will be working on developing long-term plans for the BUG
- Other classes and projects will also work with the BUG
- The Biology Department has helped with plant identification and supplies

Be Aesthetically Pleasing
- Flowers and diverse plants in the garden attract beneficial pollinators and insects
- Healthy gardens have high plant diversity

Future Plans
The garden’s economic self-sufficiency and ability to enhance Beloit College’s reputation are long-term goals that can only be achieved in the years to come. To maximize Wisconsin’s growing seasons we’re looking into building hoop houses to grow leafy vegetables during cold months, and we’re exploring where we can possibly have space for future experimental/academic use.

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