Service Learning at an Urban Farm
Sustainability Studies, Community Development, & Social Justice

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AESS 2014 Conference
Pace University
New York NY :: 4 June 2014
Roosevelt University: a Snapshot

Founded 1945

- Campuses: downtown Chicago, suburban Schaumburg, online
- 6 colleges
  - Arts & Sciences
  - Business
  - Education
  - Performing Arts (Music / Theater)
  - Pharmacy
  - Professional Studies
- Level II comprehensive institution
- 6,145 students (3,650 undergrad)
- Racially and geographically diverse
- Social justice-centered mission
Sustainability Studies Program (Founded 2010)

- **Fosters environmental literacy** through interdisciplinary work in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities;
- **Engages public policy** concerns surrounding consumption, energy usage, and viable economic growth;
- **Explores social justice** issues on a range of fronts, including environmental justice, resource allocation, urban development, and social equity;
- **Educates students to be leaders** on issues of sustainability, one of the critical issues of the 21st century.
Sustainability Studies Curriculum

**Core Courses**
- SUST 210  Sustainable Future
- SUST 220  Water
- SUST 230  Food
- SUST 240  Waste

**Advanced Courses**
- SUST 310  Energy & Climate Change
- SUST 320  Sprawl, Transportation, & Planning
- SUST 330  Biodiversity
- SUST 340  Policy, Law, & Ethics

**Special Options**
- SUST 350  Service & Sustainability
- SUST 390  Special Topics
- SUST 395  Internship
Service Learning, Urban Ag, & Social Justice

SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Spring 2013
Chicago Lights Urban Farm
Weekly Seminar-style Sessions (group discussion, short student presentations, farm work)

Farm Work (starting week 2)

Action Research Project (small groups work on practical projects for farm)

Field Trips & Activities

- Chicago Lights Urban Farm orientation
- Iron Street Farm tour
- Tour of Growing Power's Milwaukee flagship farm
- College Day at RU for Youth Corps
- Chicago River Canoe Trip urban nature adventure
Cabrini-Green Neighborhood: Location
Cabrini-Green Neighborhood: Housing

Left: Cabrini Extension 1998 | Right: Cabrini in the 1950s
Cabrini-Green Neighborhood: Dislocation

Left: Cabrini area clearance 1941 | Right: Demolition 2001
Community Service

Fall Harvest Festival at CLUF, Oct 2009
Working on the Farm

SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Spring 2012 & 2013
Chicago Lights Urban Farm
**Action Research Projects**

- Community Empowerment and Youth Enrichment (CEYE) Program
- Community Gardeners’ Guide
- Farm Education Lessons and Activities
- Knowing Your Neighborhood: Community Assets Brochure and Map
- Rainwater Harvesting Plan
- Self-Guided Tour and Farm Map (left)

*SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Spring 2013

[Action Research Projects](#) for the Chicago Lights Urban Farm
Field Trip: Iron Street Farm

Visiting Growing Power's Iron Street Farm, South Side of Chicago, April 2013
Field Trip: Growing Power Milwaukee

Visiting Growing Power's Flagship Farm, North Side of Milwaukee, Spring 2012
Field Trip: Canoeing the Chicago River

Paddling Bubbly Creek, South Side of Chicago, Spring 2012
Field Trip: Canoeing the Chicago River

Paddling Bubbly Creek, South Side of Chicago, Spring 2012
Connections: Water / Land / Food

Growing Power's Iron Street Farm in Chicago, on the west bank of Bubbly Creek (2012)
People Working Together

SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Spring 2013
Chicago Lights Urban Farm