Sustainability Studies at RU: Connecting Campus & Community through Education & Research

Michael A. Bryson
Associate Professor of Humanities
Director of the Sustainability Studies Program
GreenTown Conference :: Chicago IL :: 21 May 2014
Presentation Highlights

• **Transforming Perception**: from campus sustainability to community awareness

• **Envisioning "Schaumburg's Sustainable Future"**: suburban & urban ecosystems

• **Engaging Community**: service learning, urban farming, & action research
Context: Regional Sustainability

Proposed green infrastructure network for Chicago Region
(CMAP Go To 2040 Comprehensive Plan)
Sustainability Studies at Roosevelt

• **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 at Roosevelt

## 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, Trans., & Planning
- SUST 330  Biodiversity
- SUST 340  Policy, Law, & Ethics

## Special Options
- SUST 350  Service & Sustainability
- SUST 390  Special Topics
- SUST 395  Internship
Campus as Ecosystem

SUST 220 Water: assessing water quality of RU detention basin
Schaumburg IL (March 2013)
Schaumburg's Sustainable Future Project

Website/blog launched Earth Day 2011
Student research & writing from SUST 210, 220, & 240 classes
http://futureofschaumburg.wordpress.com
Photos: Jessie Crow Mermel (2011)
Accelerate 77 Project

Documenting Sustainability Assets in Chicago's Neighborhoods
SUST 210 Honors / ICA Accelerate 77 Project (Spring 2012)
SUST 350 Service & Sustainability

Urban Farming, Environmental Justice, & Community Development
Chicago Lights Urban Farm, Spring of 2012 & 2013
SUST 350 Service & Sustainability

Urban Farming, Environmental Justice, & Community Development
Chicago Lights Urban Farm, Spring of 2012 & 2013
Urban Nature Field Trip:
Canoeing Bubbly Creek, Spring 2012
Urban Nature Field Trip:
Canoeing the Skokie Lagoons, Spring 2013
SUST 350 Service & Sustainability

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)

Action Research Projects

Spring 2013
Forging Community Partnerships

- Field Museum of Natural History
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Chicago Lights Urban Farm
- Eden Place Nature Center
- Chicago Wilderness
- Center for Humans & Nature

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY