

Spring 2016 Campus Sustainability Grant Proposal



Project Title: Osgood Farm—*Agriculture and Livestock development at Osgood Pond*

Project Leader: Bethany Garretson

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Co-participants: Brett McLeod, Joe Orefice and Kate Glenn

Amount requested: \$4385.00

Project Summary

This past Fall semester, seven Paul Smith's students participated in the Osgood Pond Semester. During the semester, they engaged in hands on learning while residing in authentic Mongolian yurts with no electricity or running water. They focused their awareness on lifestyle and consumption choices. Fall semester 2015, was our pilot program and many evaluations took place were taken. We strongly believe, the first step in enhancing our program, is to add an agriculture and husbandry component. Not only will a farm at the Osgood site enhance our fall semester, it will be a working site for many courses and programs. The potential of how this program to expand is present in the desires of the community and make up of our current environmental issues. Students today have had lifelong exposure to terms such as global climate change, organic and homesteading. The purpose of this project is to begin a working farm at the Osgood Pond site. Listed are our goals:

Goal #1: Teach students agriculture and husbandry skills spring, summer and fall 2016.

Goal #2: Grow food to feed students and college community. For example provide more food for Farm to Table.

Goal #3: Implement practices researched by PSC professors (Brett McLeod, author of *The Woodland Homestead* and Joe Orefice, owner of North Branch Farm).

Goal #4: Link Osgood Farm with SUS 296. This course should be viewed as an important incubator for pursuing other goals identified in the strategic plan; including the development of "North Campus," VIC programing, linking 'farm to fork,' and promoting PSC as "undeniably different."

Project Justification and Relevance

In the past ten years, there has been a growing conscientious towards where our food comes from. Osgood Pond and Paul Smith's students want to grow and harvest their own food. The bottom line is: We need good food and we need to know how to grow it. This project will further campus and community sustainability. Imagine a "college supported agriculture" program. It's a whole new way to look at a CSA. According to SWOT surveys, students at Paul Smith's see our current food system as a weakness. There is a great potential in collaborating with the VIC and having our greenhouse there. We need a place where subjects learned in the classroom can be explored in a natural setting. A place where students can get there hands dirty planting and harvesting crops. A place where students are able to experiment with trial and error. If we can cultivate a place of active learning, it will fuel inspiration for those who want to live a more sustainable lifestyle. This site has the potential to be a working model for sustainable food production in the Adirondacks.

Written Support for Osgood Farm from Dean Eric Holmlund:

Dear Bethany and Kate,

Upon review of Bethany Garretson's Sustainability Fund proposal, Osgood Farm—*Agriculture and Livestock development at Osgood Pond*, I hereby express my support for the project as Interim Dean of the school of Commercial, Applied and Liberal Arts. I feel the proposal advances an exciting, relevant, and attractive new element of PSC programming which is much in line with the college's heritage, identity, and future direction. Students love the idea, and what we learn though the Osgood Farm experiment will impact our academic and research functions and shape the lives of students and visitors by raising awareness and skills related to sustainable lifestyles.

As the school structure is changing, I feel it is essential to link the Osgood Farm project to specific academic programs. Therefore, as Program Director for Environmental Studies I designate the Osgood

Farm project as linked to the Environmental Studies academic program. I understand by virtue of his listing as a project co-sponsor that Dr. McLeod, as director/responsible faculty member for Natural Resources Conservation Management and Sustainable Communities and Working Landscapes, also indicates that the Osgood Farm program is programmatically linked to NRCM and SCWL. Dr. McLeod and I can work together to ensure the future health and integrity of the Osgood Farm program as a programmatic venture of the three linked academic programs: ENST, NRCM and SCWL.

Best wishes,
Eric Holmlund, PhD

Interim Dean, School of Commercial, Applied and Liberal Arts
Program Director, Recreation and Environmental Studies
Director, Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program
Paul Smith's College
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Methods

The Osgood Pond Semester class of 2015 developed personal projects and plans for the development of the site. The idea is that each class will build on the work of the last class. Our goals will be accomplished by assembling a Osgood Pond Semester committee, consisting of former students, incoming students and PSC faculty and staff. The committee will meet throughout the winter and plan for the upcoming planting season. This committee will also be responsible for developing a 1 yr, 5 yr and 10 yr plan for the program.

Project Budget

Expense Category	Item	Planned Expense	Company/Item Number
Agriculture	5 Raised Beds 2 x 8 Hemlock lumber	\$100.00 (\$20/bed)	PSC Sawmill
	3 yards Composted Manure	\$75.00 (½ yard per bed)	Local Farmer or PSC horse barn
	Timberlock Hardware	\$50.00 (\$10/per bed)	Curtis Lumber
	Fertilizer/Lime	\$400.00 (\$200 per ton/can be stored for future use)	Tractor Supply
	Seed	\$50.00	Fedco Organic Seeds
Livestock	50 Laying Chickens	\$150.00	McMurray Hatchery
	25 Meat Chickens	\$60.00	McMurray Hatchery
	Chicken Tractor	\$100.00	Homemade
Fencing	Fencing and solar charger	\$1,200.00	Tractor Supply, netting fencing for pigs
Feed	Chicken Feed	\$100.00	Tractor Supply
Hoop House	Hoop House	\$1,600.00	Grower's Solution

Unforeseen expenditures		\$500.00	
Total			\$4,385.00

Project Time line/Work Plan

Month	Task	WBS
February 2016	Submit proposal for Osgood Farm to the Sustainability Fund	Bethany Garretson
March 2016	Usher project through the space allocation committee, Support project throughout CSF voting process, purchase seeds and Hoop House	Bethany Garretson
April 2016	Start seeds in Hoop House	Bethany Garretson
May 2016	3 original yurts raised on Osgood Pond Site, prep site for planting, build raised beds and chicken tractor, purchase chickens	Bethany Garretson, Brett McLeod and students of SUS 296
June 2016	Summer programming and farming	Bethany Garretson and Work Study (*Work study position is optional)
July 2016	Summer programming and farming	Bethany Garretson and Work Study
August 2016	Summer and Fall programming	Bethany Garretson and Work Study

Proposed Job Description: Farm Manager

The farm manager will oversee the development of the site. He or she will be employed to this position from May 1 to October 1. The responsibilities of the position will include and are not limited to: Maintenance of site and equipment, oversees projects on site, leads farming initiatives, and oversees well fare of animals on site. It is recommended that the farm manager receive \$3000.00 compensation for 5 months of work (Please refer to attachment for full description)

Proposed Opportunity for Summer Work Study Employment: Farm Hands If needed due to work load. The farm hands will assist the farm manager and begin work May 15 on an hourly bases (Please refer to attachment for full description)

Animals on site: It is proposed that 50 laying chickens and 25 meat birds be purchased this spring for Osgood Farm. Before any animal is purchased, I will fill out a PSC Animal study proposal and submit it to the college to ensure our animals are taken care of properly. As for future care of the animals—the meat birds will be sent away and slaughtered at a facility with the proper certifications. If allowable, the meat will be used by PSC culinary students. If that option is not preferable, the meat can be distributed within the community. As fall approaches and the temperatures drop, the laying chickens

will be distributed to local farms within the area.

Supporting Documentation

1. Yurts and Dirt blog site:
<http://sites.paulsmiths.edu/osgood/>
2. Sterling College American Farmstead School (Take a look at what other colleges are doing. We can do this too!)
<http://m.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/sterling-college-launches-new-american-farmstead-school/Content?oid=3138051>
3. SWOT of Osgood Pond Semester: Appendix A
4. SWOT of Paul Smith's College: Appendix B
Appendix A and B show current trends and opinions within our student body. From these two documents, I feel there is a strong support from the student body to do more farming on site.
5. Summer Sustainability Field Experience SUS 296: Appendix C

Follow Through Plan: (*Currently, this project is pending on the approval of the Farm Manager position)

- Step 1: Submit project proposal to the Space Allocation Committee. Steve McFarland has approved project.
- Step 2: Receive funding through the sustainability fund.
- Step 3: Have funds received by the sustainability fund matched by donor, Mr. Morgan.
- Step 4: Reconvene Osgood Farm Committee to draft 1yr , 5 yr, 10 yr plans for site development. Committee members: Bethany Garretson, Former Osgood Students, Brett McLeod, Joe Orefice, Deb Naybor, Kate Glenn and Kendra Oremrod (VIC).
- Step 5: Create position of Farm Manager and appoint Farm Manager.
- Step 6: Purchase materials as mentioned in budget and adhere to the work tasks mentioned in the timeline.
- Step 7: Monitor and evaluate throughout process.

Appendix A: SWOT analysis of the Osgood Pond Semester Fall 2015

Analysis conducted by students and instructors (Sample size: 9)

*Key points: Opportunities seen in Farming/Homesteading and Gardens/Livestock

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Strong community and college support● Experiential learning opportunities● Dedicated and engaged students● Dedicated and knowledgeable instructors● Individual strengths and wide range of skills in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Different schedules amongst students and instructors● Full Class loads● Paying for Saratoga rooms and Sodexo food plan● No wood stoves● Pilot program and developing community

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beautiful site: quite, peaceful, outdoor space ● Location: Adirondacks ● Trips and programming ● Fun ● Example for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low storage capacity on site
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Farming/Homesteading ● Gardens/Livestock ● Produce food for community and PSC ● Journalism/Photography ● Blog work with students ● Primitive skills and cultural experiences ● Year round programming ● Strong summer programs ● Relationship with VIC ● Future jobs/homes ● Increase enrollment and retention at PSC ● Full immersion in sustainable living and lifestyle ● Documentary ● Positive publicity for PSC 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of funds ● Building codes/permits ● Accidents/negative behavior ● Use of drugs and alcohol on site ● Lack of interest in the future ● Winter ● Mice/critters

Appendix B: SWOT Analysis of Paul Smith's College Fall 2015

Analysis conducted by students (Sample size: 51)

*Key Points: Strengths Experiential learning, hands on classes, Opportunities seen at the VIC in farming and homesteading

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adirondack Location● Beautiful campus/Aesthetically pleasing● Community and small size● Reputation/4 year college in Adirondacks● Faculty● Experiential learning● Hands on classes● Environmental awareness● Private college● The VIC● Professors that research and study the ADK Park	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lack of diversity● Lack of money● Isolated location● Lack of a college town● Expensive tuition● Lack of summer programs● No ambulance● Food on Campus● Sodexo● Lack of variety of majors● Communication between college and students● Tobacco free campus● Harsh seasonal weather● Technology
Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Joan Weill donation● VIC● Volunteerism● Club and Team activities● Niche Programs● Homesteading/Fungi Festival● Field Experience● Ecological restoration● Jobs● Scientific research● Rails to Trails/Tourism● Maple Syrup Business● Student run businesses● Gould's Garden● NOLS	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Joan Weill name change● Decreased student enrollment● SUNY System and lower tuition rates● Poor quality of living (dorms)● Diversity and Racism● Loss of faculty● Inactive student body● Adirondack economy● Staff turnover rates● Lack of publicity● Board of Trustees

Appendix C: Summer Sustainability Field Experience SUS 296/SUS 399, May 16-27

Join Professors Brett McLeod and Bethany Garretson for an intensive two-week living-learning course

focused on sustainable working landscapes. The Adirondacks and Champlain Valley form the backdrop for field experiences related to agriculture, sustainable community development, working landscapes and forestry practices. The course starts with a broad introduction to ecological sustainability, and principles that underlie sustainable community development. The living learning experience includes field work at Osgood Pond, service projects, and field trips. Students who opt for the SUS 399 experience will be expected to complete a reflective narrative upon completion of the field experience. Prerequisite: NRS 110 Environment and Society or equivalent.

Course Highlights:

- Live in a Mongolian Yurt
- Plan & implement Phase 1 of Osgood Farm Development
- Establish experimental hops plantation in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Restore 19th century barn using traditional construction techniques
- Install a small-scale photovoltaic system
- Visit modern Green Communities
- Visit a local Amish Community

This course is co-listed as SUS 296 and SUS 399. Students needing to fulfill a SUS 295 or SUS 296 requirement should sign up for SUS 295. Students who wish to take this course as an upper division restrictive elective should meet in advance with their Dean or Program Director for approval.

Total course cost all-inclusive: \$1,995

Phase 1 of Osgood Farm Development includes: (*Note: All phases of development at Osgood Farm are overseen by the farm manager position)

- Soil testing
- Pruning of fruit trees on site
- Construction of five raised beds
- Construction of chicken coop and fencing for pigs
- Construction of hoop house and planting of seedlings



Position/Job Title: Farm Manager of Osgood Farm

Compensation: \$3000

Description:

Today there is a high demand for hobby farming—especially among the millennial generation who want to “go back to the land” and learn sustainable farming practices. Sterling College and Middlebury College both have impeccable campus farms that began as student-inspired initiatives. As farm manager, it is my objective to start Osgood Farm this Summer 2016 and run it to be a valuable addition to Paul Smith's College and VIC programming. The proposed Osgood Farm project will begin spring 2016 at the old Boy Scout campsite on Osgood Pond. Formerly a homestead in the late 1800's, the land was acquired by Paul Smith's College and used for many purposes over the past century, including: Boy Scout camp, silviculture plots, milling and storage of wood, and most recently the home to the Osgood Pond Pilot Semester Program.

The farm will have a field of potatoes, five raised beds, hoop house, 50 chickens and two pigs. Osgood Farm will be a valuable work site for classroom demonstrations, hands on learning, and farm to table food production. Easily accessed by the Jack Rabbit trail, the site is a three-minute walk from the VIC and twenty minute walk from the main campus. The farm manager will oversee projects at Osgood Farm and direct the farm hand work studies in proper care of the site.

Position Duties:

- Collaborate with Kendra Oremrod and VIC programming
- Produce content for the Osgood Farm blog and oversee the website.
- Collaborate with colleagues, local farmers and community members about future development of site. For example: Agriculture Tourism opportunities.
- Order supplies and submit purchase orders.
- Provide appropriate fencing and housing for livestock.
- Plant and maintain raised beds.

Academic: What academic programs it serves:

The Osgood Farm has the potential to serve many academic programs at Paul Smith's College. For example, For example, Osgood Farm will be the site of summer courses and programs—such as SUS 296 and Project Woodchips. During SUS 296, students will get hands on experience by restoring the old barn and building a chicken coop and raised beds. Throughout the two-week course, they will camp on-site and live simply. The site will also provide a space for revenue generating operations, such as Project Woodchips—in which eight to ten young professionals from urban areas will venture to the Adirondacks to challenge themselves for one week by learning woodmen and primitive skills. The course will be facilitated by Brett McLeod and Bethany Garretson.

Future development of the site may include hop production in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension (project already in progress as an initiative of the Adirondack Center for Working Landscapes at the VIC). Osgood Farm will be a valuable work site for classroom demonstrations, hands on learning, and farm to table food production. Easily accessed by the Jack

Rabbit trail, the site is a three-minute walk from the VIC and twenty minute walk from the main campus. Other potential courses on site: Permaculture and Farm to Table.