

## Learning Garden Club

The Learning Garden Club is a student organized and operated group dedicated to growing organic food on campus. We focus on educating fellow students about the value of local, sustainable food systems. The garden is designed as a living laboratory that demonstrates the connections within human and natural systems. We strive to help people understand how their food choices can impact their personal health, environmental integrity and the well-being of the community. The Learning Garden Club is a member organization of the National Farm to School Network, The Real Food Challenge, and The School Garden Project of Lane County. The club has established an on-campus farmer-chef connection with the Culinary Arts Department.

The LCC Learning garden was established in the spring of 2006 and has evolved from one 20' X 20' plot to over 4,000 square feet of raised beds with deer fencing and an irrigation system. This year we will be expanding to more than double that current size. We are located at the southwest edge of campus, behind buildings 24-27, with access through Parking Lot D. We currently grow a wide array of organic vegetables and fruit to provide healthy options for people who want fresh, local food in the cafeteria.

The garden encompasses three separate growing areas, each with its own focus. In one plot we grow small amounts of vegetables to experiment with seasonal varieties and save seeds. The second plot is a production area where we grow row crops for the Culinary Arts Department for use in the Renaissance Room and special events in the Center for Meeting and Learning. The third plot will be designed as a permaculture food forest where we are planting a small fruit orchard and incorporating perennials and native food plants.

The LCC Learning Garden offers students valuable leadership experience through planning and managing hands-on activities. This is a great opportunity to be actively involved in implementing sustainability measures on campus. Learning Garden student volunteers can qualify for work-study, internships, service learning hours or class credit from specific faculty who support the garden with their curriculum. There are two classes offered during Summer Term that include the garden as an outdoor classroom: [Introduction to Permaculture and Gardening](#) and [Organic Gardening Principles and Practice](#). Sign up now to learn more about growing you own food!

Meet your fellow students in a unique context, build friendships and savor the rewards of your labor. Explore creative garden design, observe and cultivate plant communities, learn basic organic agriculture and Permaculture principles, and help develop the garden into an outdoor classroom. We are a diverse, energetic group dedicated to environmental stewardship, honoring the natural world that sustains us, and providing organic produce for delicious meals!

If you would like to get involved and help contribute to Lane's sustainability, please consider joining the Learning Garden Club. Come on down and enjoy the fresh air, delicious food and fun! To get on our email list and receive information about our meetings and work parties, please contact us at: [learninggarden@lanecc.edu](mailto:learninggarden@lanecc.edu). Visit our information table in the north end of the cafeteria. For more information, contact Devon Bonady, the Learning Garden Specialist at [bonadyd@lanecc.edu](mailto:bonadyd@lanecc.edu) or 463-5899.