



2018 Year In Review

2018 was a record year for the Sustainable Agriculture Project as we celebrated our 10th anniversary. We welcomed a record number of students through academic experiences, including both formal coursework and for-credit internships. We installed a 10th anniversary demonstration garden, centrally and symbolically located on campus near the Transformational Link. And, we were incredibly honored to receive the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Sustainable Innovation Award in recognition of the SAP's interdisciplinary nature. This success testifies to the commitment of supportive administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community members.



Seeding Sustainable Food Practices

This year, we have worked to increase educational opportunities for students campus-wide about sustainable food system practices and to improve the sustainable food practices already in place at the SAP. We've done this by:

- Increasing the number of proposals to the SAP Place-based Projects Grants program
- Further developing food justice programs and curricula with the SAP to help students across campus understand the relationship between food justice and sustainable agriculture
- Improving the post-harvest processing station to help prepare harvested produce more efficiently
- Developing an online ordering system



Cultivating Leadership

In honor of the Sustainable Agriculture Project's 10 year anniversary, we held a ceremony to dedicate the Demonstration Garden to students, faculty, and staff of the university as a symbol of our commitment to sustainability. The Demonstration Garden, located next to Au Sable Hall, is part of the SAP, with its main farm site located south of campus on Luce Street.



Nurturing Place

The Sustainable Agricultural Project collaborated with the Padnos International Center to participate in an annual tree planting event called the Global Grove. This provides an opportunity for the Padnos International Center to recognize GVSU's international partnerships and dedicate trees to them.



Growing Community

This year we made great strides at improving the public presence and recognition of the SAP, to improve the student sense of connection to the SAP in the winter, and to increase community outreach efforts of the SAP. We've done this by:

- Getting on the campus map, website, and working toward improved signage
- Hosting a winter Art Exhibit with Visual & Media Arts faculty member Dulcee Boehm, titled "System Processing"
- Applying for and winning a national award in sustainability innovation from AASCU (Sustainability and Sustainable Development Award in Innovative Project category)





As we continue to generate increasingly more internal and external support, we will be working this year to advocate for the applied learning students from across all disciplines and interdisciplinary areas of study experience at the SAP. To accomplish this goal in a thoughtful and intentional way, we have been working to develop a Master Plan for the SAP, keeping our many stakeholders at the forefront of this conversation, outlining our upcoming goals.

The Master Planning process has identified several areas for development of the Luce Street farm and student support that will ultimately further develop the academic uses of the program. Among other goals, we expect to begin on improvements to our irrigation system, including a new well pump and water lines to the academic plots, improving the accessibility of the site through increased parking and permanent, firm walkways, and the expansion of our South Hoophouse to include an area exclusively for academic uses rather than production. Each of these projects is intended to support our long-term goal of a multi-use field laboratory including formal classroom space, a commercial kitchen, laboratory equipment, and studio space.

We hope you'll share our excitement as we embark on another year of seeding sustainable food practices, cultivating leadership and learning, nurturing place, and growing community.