



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
*Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture*

2102 Plant Sciences Building  
College Park, Maryland 20742  
301.405.4356 TEL 301.314.9308 FAX

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Dear Mark,

Let me again reinforce how beneficial the sustainability seminar was at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. It was quite wonderful to formalize our approaches to sustainability, learn new nuances, gather potential academic support material, and to make new friends. You did a fine job of organizing and delivering content of value.

I am writing to describe the changes I made to the syllabus of **LARC 151, Designing and Assessing Edible Landscapes**, which is an I-series course that I previously taught as a pilot course and will be teaching more permanently this fall. I include here a general description of the changes that incorporate sustainability deeper into the course and also attach a revised syllabus. Thanks again for your seminar and in the greater sense, your work in sustainability.

## **Description of changes to LARC 151 to seamlessly incorporate sustainable principles:**

Incorporate readings from:

- Dan Barber, *The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food*;
- Fred Kirschenmann, *Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher*;
- Michael Pollan, “Why Bother” and “What’s Eating America”;
- Environmental Working Group, “A Meat Eaters Guide to Climate Change”;
- Carolyn Steel, “A Seat at the Table”

Big ideas to be incorporated in the course include:

- Understanding the cause, impact, and resolution of food deserts.
- Social justice and fair distribution as it impacts our food network.

The students learning experience will be enhanced by:

- Adding a survey of people who live in the food desert study area prior to the final project redesign of the Branch Avenue in Bloom Community Garden, survey to include:
  - Family structure
  - Economic background
  - Ethnic background
  - Availability of transportation
  - Food source options
  - Impact on health
  - Occurrence of hunger incidents

- Expanding the food footprint assignment to include:
  - Live for three days eating only from the food network available to the study area
  - Write paper on how to provide alternatives to food network in study area
  - Tap into socio/religious organizations for food distribution potential

Thanks again of a most enjoyable and enlightening seminar.

Dennis R. Nola

Chair, BLA  
Plant Science and Landscape Architecture