

What comes to your mind when you hear hands-on opportunities for science at Lake Forest College? Oftentimes we think of our beloved summer lab research and RFU programs. However, when you really look at the greenery of our beautiful campus, you will find a variety of opportunities and life within our greenhouse, restoration areas, and student garden. Today's article will introduce you to these important projects under the environmental studies department.

Starting with the Lake Forest College student garden, located behind Glen Rowan house, is a 100% student-led initiative under the guidance of the E.S. Department Assistant Anna Evans. Its purpose is to learn how to grow 100% organic fresh produce on campus by students and for students between the months of May and October. Over the summer, garden stewards work tirelessly to grow, take care of, and harvest all kinds of vegetables, roots, fruits, and herbs. The goal is to make this healthy produce accessible to all students. To do that, every week, the garden has a "pay what you can" produce sale on campus, open to anyone -but focused on students- so they can get fresh and affordable produce on a regular basis to promote healthy eating and the value and power of our environment. The garden is important to our college's community in many ways. Beyond selling its produce to students on campus, the garden has a growing partnership with Parkhurst dining and the cafeteria. Whatever produce is left over after our sale, the cafeteria buys to serve to students on the meal plan, which aims to put hyperlocal food on students' plates and ensure all students are getting access to our campus-grown organic produce. One of the main benefits of the student garden is how it underscores the College's commitment to sustainability. One of our garden stewards (Bowen Murley '24) explained it as follows "Compared to a truck driving from California to bring produce to Illinois, being able to grow