

MS Project
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
College of Science
George Mason University

Candidate: Sarah Roth

Presentation Date and Time: April 16, 2024 at 4:30pm

Presentation Location: Peterson Hall 1109

Title: The Foragers' Forest: Establishing a Native Food Forest on Mason Campus

Project Director: Dr. Dann Sklarew

Committee: Dr. Andrea Weeks and Dr. V. Alaric Sample

ABSTRACT

For this project, my goal was to create a natural space that would address various community needs: climate resilience, wildlife habitat, food provision, and community wellbeing. In 2023, I designed and established the Foragers' Forest, a 100% native food forest on Mason's main campus. As it grows, this space will provide freely accessible wild foods, while serving as a "living laboratory" for ecology, environmental science, nutrition, and other courses. The project included grant management; site evaluation; plant selection and installation; and maintenance. The Foragers' Forest was created in collaboration with my project advisor, Dr. Dann Sklarew, and Donielle Nolan with University Sustainability.