The Carolina Campus Community Garden is a space, both physical and sociological. It provides fresh produce for university housekeepers through the volunteer labor of the community, including students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The CCG serves to provide access to fresh food for this community of housekeepers as well as provide a space of learning and community for its volunteers. Its interactions, inputs, and outputs within the garden and its relationships provide a space open to critique and observation, in order to better understand its intentions and effects.

**The Question:**
The garden separates the path of production and consumption: the student volunteers do not receive the food they help grow. With this in mind, what then are the motivations of students to volunteer in the garden?

**Methods:**
- On-site observation:
  - Volunteering in September and October
- Spontaneous questioning/conversation:
  - In-depth conversations with 5 volunteers
- Survey questions:
  - Emailed survey to 10 volunteers
- Semi-structured interviews:
  - Conducted in-depth interview with 2 regular volunteers
- Literature research on community gardens:
  - Utilized historical documents on community gardens and newspaper sources such as The Daily Tarheel

By comparing the responses of volunteers regarding their motivations for volunteering, it became clear that most had in common a desire to be involved in the food movement, as vague as that may sound: many were unable to expand upon what that meant to them.

Many students attended each work day, only to be replaced by a new group of student volunteers the following work day, and so on and so forth. In exploring the garden’s motivator as a provider of community, it serves as an open space in which prior knowledge or connection is not necessary.

Food has definitive properties that transcend its ability to physically nourish the body, and the CCG is an excellent site to study and examine the transcendence of food as food, and to look beyond that inherent property. The motivations and motivators of student volunteers and the CCG are neither inherently superior nor flawed, rather they must be examined critically and with an eye towards scale and environmental understanding.

**References:**
- Gibson Graham: *An Ethics of the Local*
- L.J. Shillington: *Right to Food, Right to the City*
- The Daily Tarheel