Ecological impacts of manicured lawn culture

Food Systems Round Table| https://foodsystemroundtablewr.ca/
Shane A. May | smay@uwaterloo.ca

FOOD SYSTEM ROUNDTABLE OF WATERLOO REGION

About the Problem

Manicured grass lawn culture teaches children and adults to be indifferent to the environment, contributes to climate change, the decline in biodiversity, and directly affects public health. The problems that grass lawns pose are intertwined in our economy and what we value aesthetically, specifically with children, as most school yards are manicured grass lawns, which have very little educational value. The customs and values children learn in their early years is hard to change once they become adults. Grass lawns are places where you intentionally kill everything except the grass which leaves very little habitat for everything else.

About the Community Partner

Mission: Championing a healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system through policy advocacy, education, and community partnership building in the Region of Waterloo

Objectives:

- To increase awareness of food system issues and communicate with a common voice to promote action
- To build new partnerships and enhance networking between existing food system stakeholders
- To identify and prioritize food system needs

Values:

- Right to Know — People have a right to know what's in their food and where and how it was produced
- Access — All people should have physical and economic access to healthy, local food
- Economic Viability — Local food businesses should be valued, supported and vibrant
- Sustainability — All sectors of society share in the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environmentally sustainable local food system

Impact on the Organization

Hopefully to find a way to change our values away from grass lawns to more ecologically divers landscapes that serve not only humans but non-humans as well.

Potential Connections & Data Sources

Region of Waterloo Community Garden Network, Seeds of Diversity, Youth Food Systems
Emanuel Brighton Daycare Forest School

map THE SYSTEM CANADA

Kindred Credit Union
CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO