

# ToGather, ToGether: Collective Urban Foraging



# ToGather, ToGether: Collective Urban Foraging

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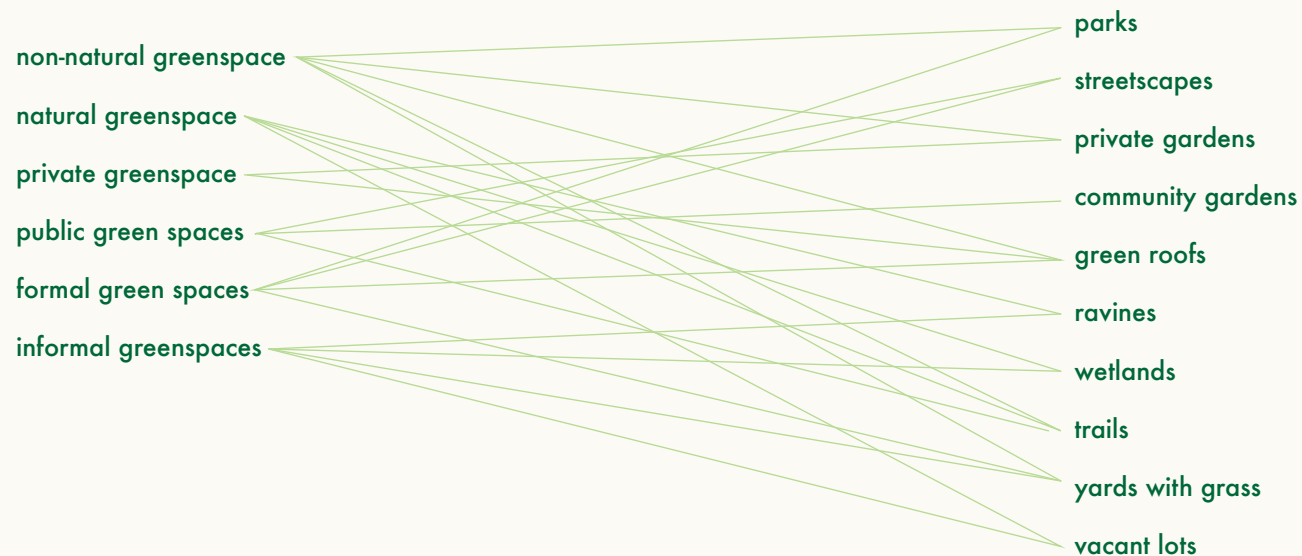
A common is a place or thing that can be used and cared for by anyone. It embodies an equal right to engage with land and its resources.

Urban environment green spaces contain an array of plants that can be gathered and used by anyone.

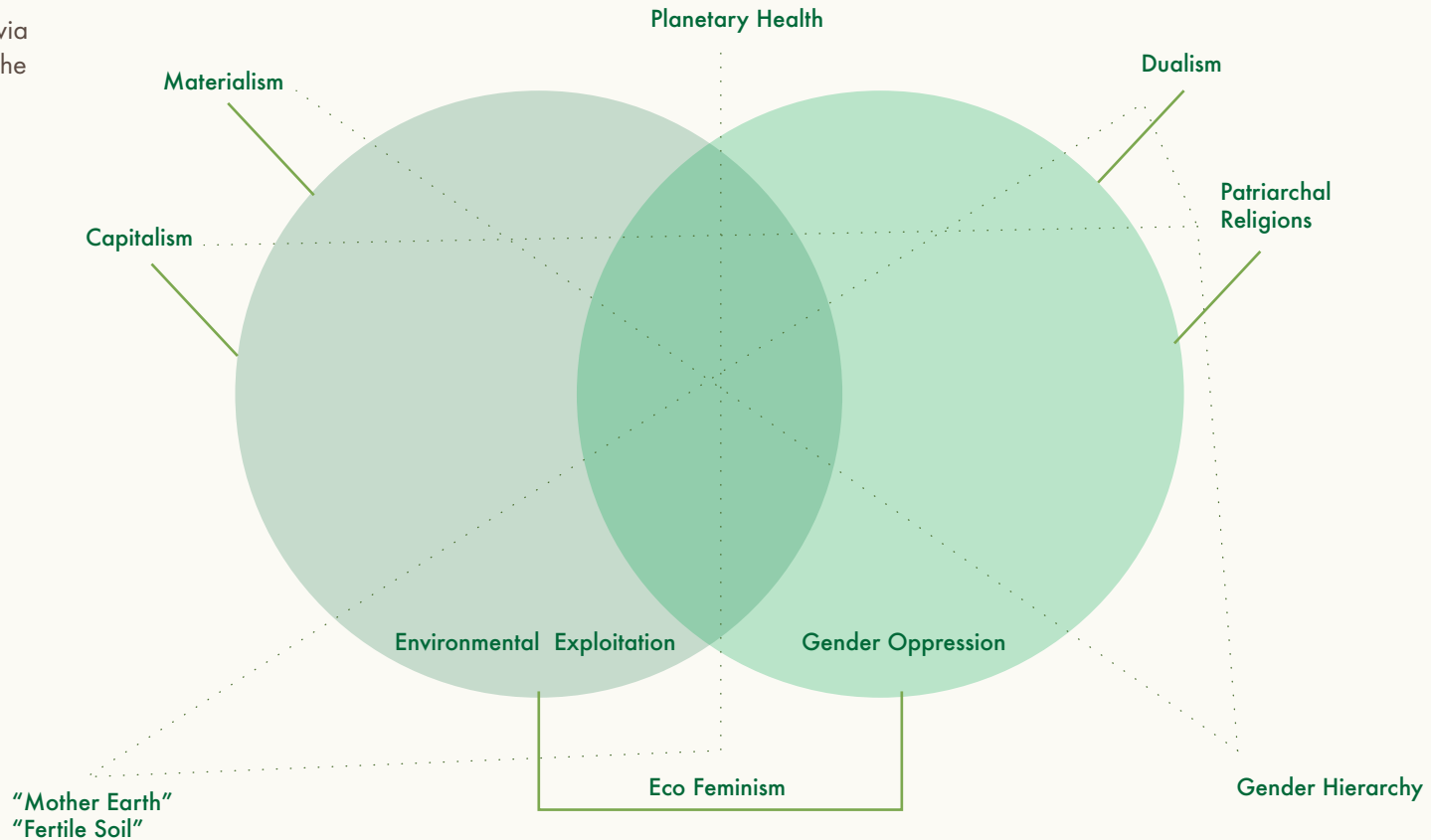
Urban Foraging is collecting provisions in urban environment green spaces.

## Green Spaces

Areas of vegetation in a landscape.



“For the root of oppression is loss of memory” (Paula Gunn Allen) - Cited by Silvia Federici in *Re Enchanting the World*.



Those who do not have a controlled source of food, forage.

Cultural and spiritual connections to nature are formed in many forest communities and the way of “life” is defined by the forests they forage within. When a resource becomes scarce these communities have to spend more time working harder and their roots in natural medicine, education and connection to nature are limited. Not being able to teach younger generations cultural, spiritual, medicinal practices and beyond effects the patterns of their everyday life and history. All ecosystems are endangered when neglected.

“An important aspect of it is the reproduction of our collective memory and the cultural symbols that give meaning to our life and nourish our struggles” Silvia Federici, (2018).

Coordinates of Edible Plants on Campus

Latitude, Longitude	Plant
40.76086 , -111.85215	Black Walnut
40.762936 , -111.852051	European Beech
40.764099 , -111.851822	Common Hackberry
40.764912 , -111.851395	Kentucky Coffeetree
40.764606 , -111.850945	Yellow Buckeye
40.764652 , -111.849991	Midland Hawthorn
40.764755 , -111.849762	Lavalle Hawthorn
40.764774 , -111.849976	European Beech
40.76527 , -111.849709	Small-leaved Linden
40.76445 , -111.849045	Ginkgo
40.764267 , -111.848335	English Oak
40.764252 , -111.847984	White Mulberry
40.764591 , -111.847954	Black Locust
40.7649 , -111.843452	Bur Oak
40.763779 , -111.844505	Bur Oak
40.76231 , -111.844795	European Beech
40.76096 , -111.847008	Eastern Redbud
40.761013 , -111.848152	Persian Silk Tree
40.765665 , -111.830692	Blackcurrant
40.766717 , -111.834893	Black Mulberry
40.76558418 , -111.8305108	Oregon-grape
40.76559734 , -111.8304966	Blackcurrant
40.76552619 , -111.8304098	Blackcurrant
40.763941 , -111.849089	Mulberry
40.76294 , -111.849195	Persian silk tree
40.765091 , -111.854713	Crabapple
40.765089 , -111.854842	Apple
40.768976 , -111.842381	Serviceberry
40.7662143 , -111.8345339	European plum
40.761622 , -111.844463	Grape,Currant, Gooseberry

Native vs Non-Native Plants Mapped on Campus

● NON-NATIVE

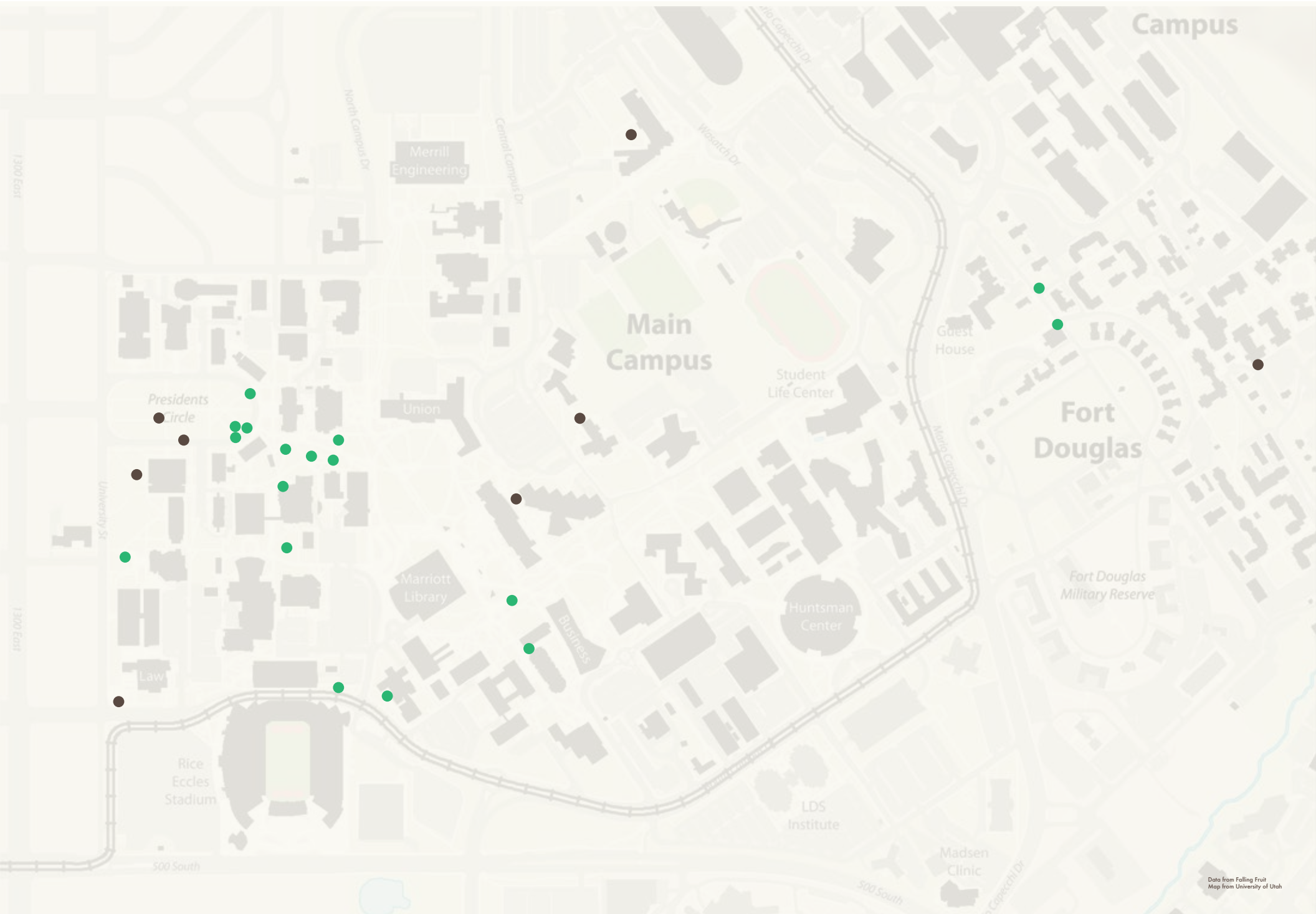
- European Plum
- Black Currant
- Eastern Redbud
- White Mulberry
- Little-leaf Lindon
- Lavalle Hawthorn
- Black Mulberry
- European Beech
- Persian Silk Tree
- Common Grapes
- Gooseberry
- Ginkgo
- English Oak

● NATIVE

- Black Walnut
- Common Hackberry
- Black Locust
- Bur Oak
- Crab Apple
- Kentucky Coffeetree
- Oregon Grape
- Service Berry

Using the University of Utah's Tree Tour Tool and Falling Fruit I was able to identify and place edible plants on the Campus Map.

# Research



## The Disconnect

There is a disconnect from nature in urban environments. In these industrialized and sterile ecosystems there is a need to understand how native and non-native plants play a role in keeping the ecosystem balanced and how we can learn from them through urban foraging.

## The Opportunity

I am going to design a "tool" that can be used collectively in urban communities to develop a deeper connection and understanding to native and non-native plants and their uses.



## The Parameters

"Tool" will be used as a foraging tool in urban environments.

"Tool" will teach ethics in foraging.

"Tool" will make foraging in urban environments an engaging experience.



Identifying a location on the University of Utah Campus: Presidents Circle.

## Concept

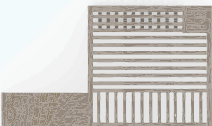
All encompassing "tool" for urban foraging that identifies plants and their edible and medicinal purposes where members will be able to document findings and have community discussion.

## Goal

Introduce urban communities to plants in an accessible way where they will be able to identify the same edible plants in the future and start to build a deeper relationship with the environment in which they inhabit.





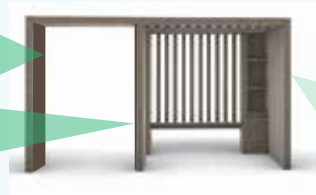


### INFORMATION PANEL 1

CONTAINS:  
Urban foraging explained,  
What is toGather, toGather

### INFORMATION PANEL 2

CONTAINS:  
Ethics - explained in detail.



### INFORMATION PANEL 1 DESIGN

## Urban Foraging

**What is Urban Foraging?**  
Act of gathering provisions in a developed environment.

**Welcome to toGather, toGather**

The best way to navigate what this kiosk does is to be apart of it. Without the contribution from our community this common space would not work. To begin your journey grab a map and a field book in the drawers on the bookshelf and give the books on the shelf a peek before helping us build the best edible and medicinal plant archive this area has ever seen.

Email [together@together.ly](mailto:together@together.ly) to volunteer or for more information on our seasonal plant verification tour.

### INFORMATION PANEL 2 DESIGN

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### 1/3 RULE

Only take what you need. If there is 1/3 of a harvestable part of a plant left re-frame from taking any unless it is an invasive species. This help encourage new growth and respect.

OVER HARVESTING = NO PLANTS

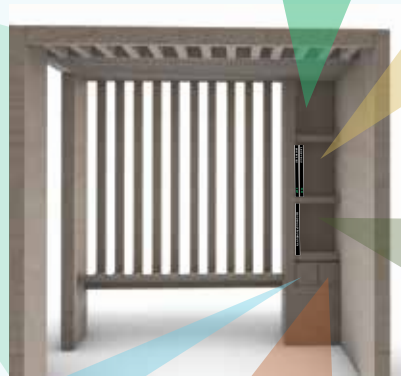
## RESPECT

For urban foraging to be successful in our community we have to respect the system that is already in place. Remember to be kind to all flora and fauna in every environment you step foot in. Don't tear plants out of the ground, think of the bee's that pollinate and squirrels that gather for the hard winter.

## CONSENT

See something juicy hanging from a tree in your neighbors yard? Don't be scared to ask for permission to check it out and harvest a little bit from it. It is important to not trespass and ask before entering someone's private property.

### RESOURCE BOOKS



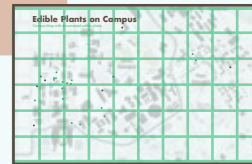
### DRAWER 1

CONTENTS  
3"x5" blank field book  
bound by staples



### DRAWER 2

CONTENTS  
Local Map  
Information  
Resources



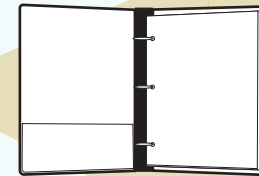
### BOOK 1: Log & Archive

#### DOCUMENT

The user will document the following:

- Name of user / plant
- Date
- Circle the icon of the season it is
- Coordinates / Location found
- A place to sketch the object
- Opportunity to add a clipping in a clear sleeve (Sleeves located in the back of the binder)
- Other

This book works as an archive and will be kept in the kiosk.  
This book will contain information that can be transferred to the identification book once plants are confirmed.  
This book is to not leave the kiosk unless needing repair, data transfers or community plant walks.

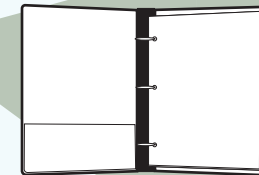


### BOOK 2: Plant Identification

#### DATA

- This book will contain:
- Name of plant
  - Origin of plant
  - Image
  - Location / coordinates
  - Online sources
  - Edible uses
  - Medicinal uses
  - Section to add more coordinates / notes

This book is to aid urban foragers in the surrounding area to identify plants.  
This book will help individuals find locations of plants they may wish to find in the surrounding area.  
This book will contain data harvested from reliable sources.  
This book will contain information from the log book that has been verified.





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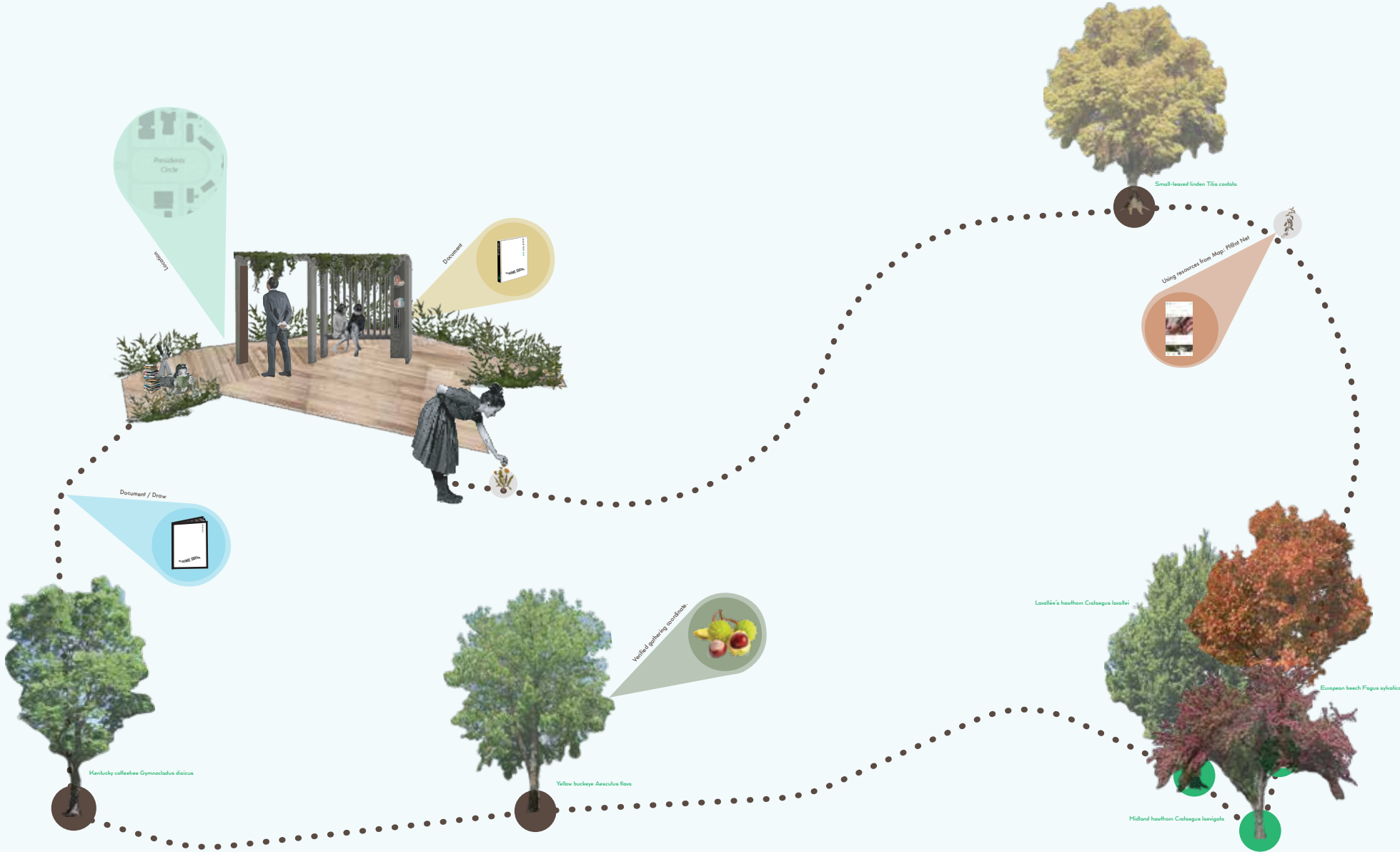
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# Urban Foraging Kiosk

User Experience

# Product Outcome





1. Arrive at Kiosk
2. Grab the self "tools"; the map and the personal field book
3. Look through book #1 and #2 and jot down some community documented coordinates in your personal field book
4. Follow the Map to find foragable plants
5. Discover plants and try to identify on your own
6. Check if plant is in the identification book (#2) and if not document in book (#1)
7. Join for an seasonal community plant walk.



## Seasonal Community Plant Walk

WHAT: Verify Plants with a professional that were documented in Book 1

WHEN: 1x each Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

WHY: To update map and Book 2

HOW: Ebbs and Flows, dependence on community participation.



Although there is diversity of native and non-native plants throughout urban environments that can be consumed, many community members are estranged from the idea of eating something they can not identify. It is important that the community, no matter the demographic, has access to gathering and building a relationship with nature and getting the education through a hands on experience that does not cost them money or their health. A kiosk placed in a heavily trafficked area helps bring awareness to those who are not informed about urban foraging. This tool will bring community together, encourage plant diversity in our public green spaces and influence how we decide to incorporate green in our yards now and in the future.



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## Colophon

This report uses the typefaces Futura and Reross Quadratic. Documented in Adobe Illustrator with utilization of Adobe Photoshop, Procreate and Indesign.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to recognize that foraging practices are a primitive act that have existed as long as living creatures have been on this planet and possibly beyond. This includes non human living things. I would also like to recognize indigneous folk in our region who's knowledge that has been stripped, whitewashed and forgotten just like their land.

Further, I would like to thank MDD peers and professors for sharing critical feedback and helping this project evolve. Lastly, a note on the value the University of Utah places on plant diversity in the college ecosystem was not unseen.