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## Capital City Farm: Modeling a Way Forward

This thesis uses an investigation into Capital City Farm, a two-acre urban farm established in 2015 in the City of Trenton, New Jersey to explore the multifaceted challenges urban agriculture faces in urban post-industrial spaces and communities. Despite 2019 being its most successful year in terms of production and programming, the project struggles with sustainable funding, staffing and community engagement. The first part of this investigation contextualizes Capital City Farm with the concepts of sustainability; resilience; urban issues such as redlining, urban renewal, and gentrification; environmental justice; citizen participation; and urban agriculture. These topics provide lenses to investigate urban agriculture as a means to address the environmental, social, economic, and justice issues communities like East Trenton face.

The second part of the work focuses on Capital City Farm's recent past and current situation using a Four "L" Framework of Land, Labor, Liquidity, and Leadership. Interviews with Farm stakeholders, regular visits to the Farm property, and a visit to the Trentoniana collection at the Trenton Free Public

Library provide the material for this investigation. The study then moves into evaluation of Capital City Farm and the recent Garden State Agrihood proposal for the community that frames the Farm as in a new community development model. This analysis suggests that, while many facets of the concept of the Farm and the Agrihood are valuable and worth pursuing, the Farm is unsustainable without an adjustment of the Agrihood Board's commitment to address participation, maintenance, and management.

The final section projects different organizational models the Farm could take: Garden State Agrihood managed cooperative, Garden State Agrihood managed Farm, Non-Profit managed agriculture program, Mercer County managed agriculture park, or just city managed open space. It concludes with a discussion of what could be possible with more study and general lessons learned throughout the investigation that can be applied to the practice of landscape architecture.

For full thesis: <https://doi.org/doi:10.7282/t3-xb0v-jj29>



**Ellen Fallon-Senechal** is a Class of 2020 MLA graduate of the Landscape Architecture Program at Rutgers University. She earned her Bachelor of Science (2010) and Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (2015) from the University of Connecticut. Before coming to the MLA program, she served in Americorps as a Conservation Steward, Seasonal Interpretive ranger for the Connecticut State Parks Department, and associate for L.L. Bean. While at Rutgers, she was a Student Farm Intern, a Teaching Assistant for the Construction sequence, and a Graduate Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. These experiences as well as public service on Old Bridge's Environmental Commission have led her to academic interests that include urban agriculture, community resilience, the public process and how they relate to public space design.

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