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Rethink GV Landscape

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Rethink GV Landscape

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By: Chantelle Ash, Ashley Brecken, Matthew Jolman

Introductions

Ashley Brecken:

Biology Major

Environmental Studies Minor

Interested in botany and sustainable agriculture

Chantelle Ash:

Public and Nonprofit Administration

Environmental Studies Minor

Interested in disaster relief down south

Matthew Jolman:

Occupational Safety and Health Management Major

Environmental Studies Minor

Graduating April 2016

Impacts of traditional landscaping

- Eutrophication
 - Algal blooms
 - Fish die offs
- Diminished biodiversity
 - Plant and animal
- Carbon emissions
 - Landscaping equipment
- Erosion



Problem Statement

Grand Valley natural areas need better visibility!



Kennedy Roof Garden, Featured GV Homepage Photo

Community Partner



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Steve Snell
Grand Valley Arborist
Email: Snells@gvsu.edu
Phone: (616) 331-3840
1121 Service Building/GVSU

Overview

Website

Pictures and information on all natural areas on campus

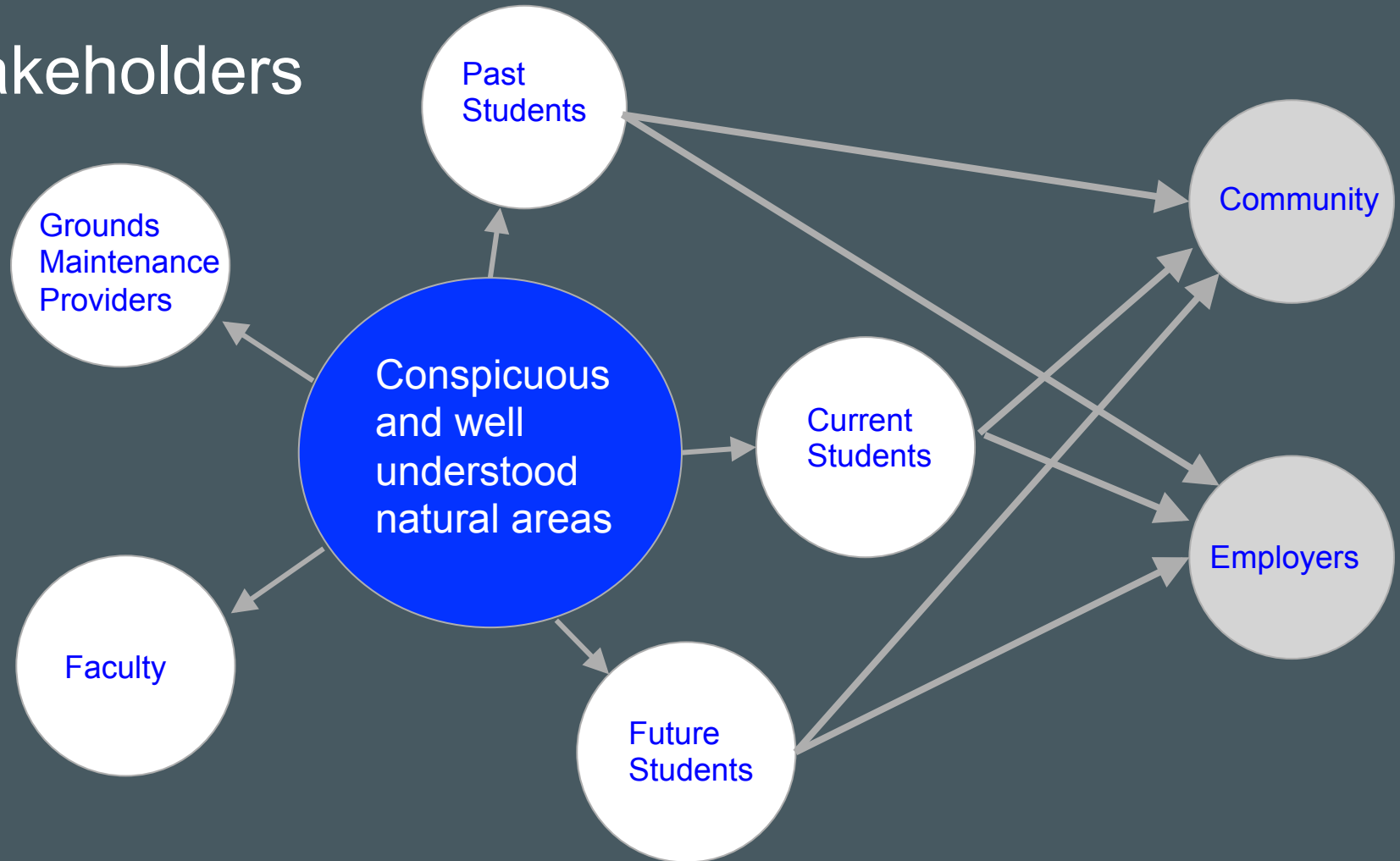
People learn about their function

Improved signage

Consistent and conspicuous signs for all natural areas

People will see the difference between natural areas and landscaped areas

Stakeholders



Problem Analysis

Problems

Natural areas serve many important functions

Natural landscape unnoticed and misunderstood at GV

Ideas

Add more natural areas to GV

Change student's views of natural areas

Solutions

Make interactive map of all landscape features on campus

Incorporate consistent signage

Proposed Solutions (Website)

Design

GV styled site

Interactive map

Pictures and information

Correlate with signs

Function

- Purpose and benefits
- Location
- Species ID
- Map linked to pictures

**GVSU
NATURAL
LANDSCAPE**

[Home](#)

[Campus Map](#)

[Rain Gardens](#)

[Rooftop Gardens](#)

[Other Features](#)



Rethink Landscape

A virtual tour of Grand Valley State University's natural features

http://rethinkgvlandscape.weebly.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Proposed Solutions Continued (Signage)

Design

Conspicuous

Uniform

Correlate with map

Function

- Purpose
- Species ID
- Includes pictures

Current Signs



Proposed Solution Continued (Signage)



Ravine Trail System

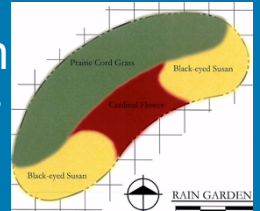
(list species and mark locations on map)

(detail how ravine plants play part in local ecosystem and geology)



Rain Garden

Prairie Cord Grass
Black Eyed Susan
Cardinal Flower



(Purpose of rain gardens and natural landscaping)

Issues & Limitations

Lack of available space

Website construction

Applying GV style to the website

Locating all natural areas

Incorporating future sites

Next Steps

1. Finish website
2. Install signs
3. Incorporate future natural areas
4. Inform faculty of website and sign changes
5. Enjoy positive public feedback

Contact Information

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