



Gardens, Nutrition, and Health for People with Disabilities

October 4, 2023



Photos by Robert Acklen, Anette Freytag, and Julia M. Ritter



This vibrant panel on gardening, nutrition, and disabilities will include our partners in academia, the community, as well as individuals with disabilities who have perfected gardening through innovation and determination. This presentation is part of the [Rutgers University Second Annual Disability Awareness Month](#) program.

For over 40 years, the Cook Organic Garden and the garden community at Jones Avenue at Rutgers have provided faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of surrounding communities with opportunities to garden in over 86,000 square feet of cultivated space on the New Brunswick campus. Historically, none of the spaces has been designated or designed specifically as universally accessible for people with disabilities.

The establishment of a [Rutgers Universal Access Garden Pilot](#) at 178 Jones Avenue in New Brunswick serves as a space to afford people with disabilities health and social benefits and as a site for socioenvironmental research. [A Rutgers Research Council Social and Racial Justice Grant](#) and the passionate involvement of students, staff, and faculty realized the construction of a [small pilot garden](#) on this site, where the new garden joins existing community gardens and the weekly [Community Farmers Market](#). This is part of an ongoing initiative of the Rutgers Departments of Landscape Architecture, Human Ecology, Kinesiology and Health, Art and Design, and the cross-school AIR Collaborative to establish [Universally Accessible Gardens](#) on campus. During the event, the various initiatives are presented and discussed, followed by a visit of the garden.

4:00pm-5:10pm

New Jersey Institute for Food Nutrition and Health, Room 101, 67 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Short presentations by Richard Alomar, Anette Freytag, Yan Han & Rose Greenblatt

Panel:

- Richard Alomar (Rutgers, Landscape Architecture)
- Javier Robles, Rutgers (Rutgers, Kinesiology and Health)
- Laura Latorre (Rutgers, University Ethics and Compliance)
- Craig Kennedy (Open Doors Organization)
- Rose Greenblatt (Occupational Therapist)
- The discussion is animated by Anette Freytag (Rutgers, Landscape Architecture and AIR Collaborative)

5:30pm-6:30pm

Rutgers Universal Access Garden Pilot at 178 Jones Avenue, New Brunswick

- Welcome by Meredith Taylor (Rutgers, Human Ecology) and Jackie Thaw (Rutgers Art&Design and AIR Collaborative)

Hot cider and cookies will be served.

4:00pm Panel discussion at IFNH 101 followed by a visit to the Rutgers Universal Access Garden Pilot at 178 Jones Avenue.

For special access needs and public parking, please contact gail.mckenzie@rutgers.edu

