Karen grew up on a dairy farm in Southern Ontario; her academic background is in horticulture, landscape architecture, planning and geography. Current research interests include urban agriculture, food systems, green infrastructure, and landscape stewardship. Research with graduate students includes design guidelines for urban agriculture, urban to rural linkages, assessing landscape values, and landscape planning for food systems, to name a few. Along with Alison Blay-Palmer, Karen is a member of the Nourishing Ontario Sustainable Local Food Systems Research Group, which has conducted research on models and best practices for local food systems, and which recently published a special issue of Local Environment journal, entitled Local Food Spaces: Constructing Communities of Food (2013 Vol. 18, Issue 5, pp 521-641).