

Contact Info:
Annabel Feider
Philanthropy@nacurh2012.com
720-206-5480

Family Housing Community Garden Project

February 2012: Annabel Feider, Kim Kushner, Alfred Flores, Emily Conkey, Manuel Garcia

Description of Project:

The University of Colorado at Boulder's Graduate and Family Housing Department is seeking funds to establish more community gardens on their three main properties. The grounds around these complexes are vast and have a lot of potential to be great spaces for experiential education and programming surrounding sustainability and environmentalism. However, these areas are currently uninviting and unusable as they are vast and require serious overhaul. The hope is that if these spaces are turned into gardens, where residents have a direct hand in their planting, they will continue to maintain them into the future. We are requesting \$2,500 in funds to create gardens in three family housing areas—Newton Court, Smiley Court, and Athens Court. We envision supplying university-approved draught tolerant and native perennials, mulch, and other relevant supplies to implement this project in the most sustainable and organic way possible, thereby ensuring education for the residents while beautifying and restoring these spaces.

Student Impact/Involvement:

All of the residents in Graduate and Family Housing are current students, faculty, staff and their families who represent over 70 different countries worldwide. This gardening program will help create pride in the community and allow them to be directly involved in its physical maintenance. We want residents to identify the Athens, Smiley, and Newton Court complexes as more than just where they live, and give them a place to build community and become more connected. Moreover, we hope through active and passive experiential programming we will be able to teach them to maintain and sustain their gardens, thereby continuing the campus trend of low impact and supportable planting practices.

The day when these gardens will begin to be constructed is June 1, 2012, a date coinciding with the NACURH 2012 Conference (The National Association of College and University Residence Halls). As a part of the conference philanthropy, 300 of these conference delegates will be involved in the active planting/grounds restoration and passive education (i.e., creation of bulletin boards that have information about sustainable gardening practices, along with other resources specific to the complexes, such as recycling and waste reduction practices). These delegates are university students who live in the Residence Halls of colleges across the country, and even some international schools. In addition to this population, there will also be 45 volunteers who are current University of Colorado at Boulder students helping to facilitate the project as well.

Another of our goals is to bring University of Colorado at Boulder Residence Hall Association (RHA) together with the Family Housing Resident Council to work together on programs and projects. The gardens will help facilitate programming as we can bring RHA members together with residents to winterize these spaces or to do additional planting and education in the future. We hope this project will bring the family housing community together with a new sense of pride in their homes, enrich the experience of our conference delegates, and

foster new relationships between current university organizations surrounding sustainable gardening.

Project Budget:

Below is an estimate of the costs of supplies for the community gardening project with the Graduate and Family Housing Department. Housing and Dining Services (HDS) Grounds will be providing tools, mulch, and technical assessment. The total costs for this project is \$4827 we are asking for \$2500 of that, specifically covering the cost of flowers. The rest will be covered by \$2400 that has been set aside by the facilities department. Below is our budget:

Flowers:

Newton Court

Bloody Crainsville 4 flats at 38.95 = 155.80
 Big Blue Stem Grass 4 flats at 38.95 = 155.80
 Worley Butterflies Pink 4 flats at 35.95 = 143.80
 Hardy Orange Gazania 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Native Blanket Flower 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Provance Lavender 4 flats at 38.95 = 155.80
 New Mexico Evening Primrose 4 flats at 35.95 = 143.80
 Missouri Evening Primrose 4 flats at 35.95 = 143.80
 Pink Penstemon 4 flats at 35.95 = 143.80
 Total 1318.60

Smiley Court

Prairie Red Coneflower 4 flats at 33.95 = 135.80
 Lavender Cotton 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Double Deep Pianese 10 flats at 9.80 = 98.00
 Purple Cone Flowers 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Total 509.80

West Family Housing

Purple Cone Flowers 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Creamy Sulfur Flowers 4 flats at 38.95 = 155.80
 Worley Butterflies 4 flats at 35.95 = 143.80
 Hardy Orange Gazania 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Red Coral Belts 4 flats at 34.50 = 138.00
 Total 713.60

Total for flowers: 2542.00 (The extra \$42 would come from the ground's budget)

Other Costs:

20 yds. of mulch \$520.00

Labor \$1050.00
Estimated tool loss \$250.00
Cost of supervisory and design \$165.00
Estimated cost for plant replacement or additional flats \$373.00

Total for other costs \$ 2358.00

Total Project Cost \$ 4900.00

Project Timeline: The project itself will occur on June 1, 2012 from the morning into early afternoon. The groups will be divided into teams that include volunteers, residents, NACURH conference delegates, and grounds staff so everyone will know what they are supposed to do and can ask questions. Following this day, Family Housing Resident Council and RHA will work to coordinate garden maintenance including winterizing, spring planting, and active/passive education surrounding sustainability efforts for these plots.

Sustainability:

One way this project will be sustainable is through the use of perennial plants, as these require less water and maintenance than annuals. We will also be choosing drought-tolerant varieties in order to consume even less water. These plants will for the most part be native to Colorado and will be accustomed to our changing climate. They will also continue to propagate each season without the addition of more plants or the need for harmful pesticides or other unnatural substances.

These gardens will also become a great space to teach residents about gardening and sustainability so they can take that knowledge back to their own personal plots or into their future homes after they graduate or move away from this university. Residents will be learning how to plant, water, weed, and sustain a garden.

In accordance with this project, we will be creating bulletin boards and other passive programs throughout the three complexes highlighting sustainability concerning the gardens and other aspects of residents' lives. We envision creating presentations to talk about these new spaces and the importance of utilizing sustainable practices as well.

These spaces will provide a valuable starting point to begin discussions around sustainable practices in University Family Housing and a wonderful place to do so. Residents will be able to see what a sustainable garden looks like and see how to take care of it. Our hope is that not only will they apply these new skills while they are living with us but will carry these practices with them into their future communities.