



University of Houston partner, and the University of Houston's Horticulture Society, advised by Biology and Biochemistry Professor Donna Pattison. The garden will serve as a learning laboratory for classes such as Plant Physiology (BIOL3345).

The area that has been selected for the garden is located on the southwest corner of campus at Wheeler and Cullen, also known as Cougar Woods. The garden will be maintained by student employees and volunteers with oversight from staff from the Community Learning Agricultural Sustainability Program. The garden will be watered by an irrigation system implemented by Plant Operations.



*Location for new Garden*

Concern #1 – Design of the garden and the dimension of the beds.

In July 2009, three University Services team members attended community garden class offered through Urban Harvest to learn how to design and implement a community garden. Most of the concepts learned came from guidelines recommended by Dr. Bob Randall, an expert on local gardening for the Houston Metro area. Through a partnership between the University of Houston and Urban Harvest, we have been fortunate to have Suzy Fischer, landscape architect with many years of experience designing vegetable gardens in the Houston area, design the UH community garden.

Concern#2 – Funding Source

We'll be using auxiliary dollars to fund the garden which are generated from the returns from the university's sustainability and recycling program.

- |            |                             |                        |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Cost of Project</b>      | \$10,000 - \$15,000    |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Source of Funding:</b>   | Sustainability funding |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Proposed Start Date:</b> | Mid-April              |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spencer Moore  
Executive Director  
Facilities Planning & Construction

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments



Urban Harvest

Working with Gardens & Orchards to Build Healthy Communities

Board of Directors

President  
Mary Frances Morris  
Vice President  
Garland Kerr  
Secretary  
Shawn McFarland  
Treasurer  
Edward Griffin  
Member-at-Large  
Susan Fischer  
Member-at-Large  
C. Patrick Waites  
Past President  
Laurel Smith, Ph.D.

Katy Bomar  
Richard C. Bost  
V.J. Dispenza  
David Gresham  
Robert A. Hermes  
Scott Howard  
Debbie Lefflar  
James Manley  
Ilana Reisz, Ph.D.  
Michael Serant  
Jim Wilson

Executive Director  
Mark Bowen

Advisory Board  
Raymona Bomar  
Annette C. Bracey  
Robin Britt, Ed.D.  
Jim Bundscho  
David Crossley  
Rufus Driver  
Debbie Goble  
Carol Groppe  
Kay Harnden  
Brian Herod  
Kurt Hopfe  
Kathy Huber  
Paule Johnston  
Ron Jones  
Kellie E. Karavias  
Wendy Kelsey  
Diana Liga  
Rodney Miller  
Kathleen Ownby  
Teresa M. Perez  
Michele Pola, Ed.D.  
Bob Randall, Ph.D.  
Irv Robbins  
Ray Sher  
Brenda Beust Smith  
Dr. Karen Strupp

Emeritus  
Margaret Blackstone  
Leonel Castillo  
John Cleveland  
Mark Cotham  
Bradford Hendricks  
Terry Hershey  
Barbara McCormick  
Veon McReynolds, Ph.D.  
Camille Waters

March 17, 2010

Mark Bowen  
Executive Director  
2311 Canal St, Suite 200  
Houston, Texas 77003

Campus Facilities Planning Committee  
226 E. Cullen  
Houston, TX 77204

Dear Committee Members,

Urban Harvest is excited to be a part of the planning that has gone into building the University of Houston's community garden. Urban Harvest is a local charitable organization supporting a network of urban gardens, farms and orchards that inspire and empower people of diverse backgrounds to grow food in the city. We have been teaching people how to garden and build vegetable beds since 1994.

You have been fortunate to have Suzy Fischer as the designer of your garden. Suzy is a landscape architect who has been actively involved in designing vegetable gardens for the past twenty years. Her most outstanding community vegetable garden is the Upper Kirby District Community Garden located in Levy Park. (<http://www.urbanharvest.org/programs/cgardens/directory/garden/levy.html>) She is also a past president of Urban Harvest, an active participant within this organization and a landscaper who has installed many gardens in River Oaks.

Last year representatives from University Services attended the Urban Harvest community garden classes, which teach people how to organize, design and build a community garden. In this class they learned about constructing beds to fit the needs of their community. Additionally the class covered design techniques that aid in organic gardening. For example the students learned that it is best if the soil in vegetable beds is not walked on and therefore compacted. To prevent soil compaction raised beds need to be built in sizes that are compatible with the size of the gardeners using them. In general the width of a vegetable garden bed is based upon a squatting person's ability to reach into the center of a bed. Typically, most adults can reach about two and a half feet therefore the working area of the garden bed can be five feet. For children aged 5- 12 years old, this distance is generally two feet therefore the working area of a garden bed for children is four feet. These dimensions exclude the width of blocks that might be used for the bed edges which generally will add about 16 to 24 additional inches to the total width of a bed. This information is based upon the local gardening book *Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro Houston* by Bob Randall, Ph.D.

During the past few months of working with University Services I have been impressed with their commitment in building this vegetable garden. I think the University is on its way toward having an impressive food garden on campus.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Bowen  
Executive Director

# U N I V E R S I T Y *of* H O U S T O N

Department of Biology and Biochemistry

369 Science & Research  
Bldg 2  
Houston, TX 77204-5001

713/743-2666  
Fax: 713/743-2636

University of Houston  
Campus Facilities Planning Committee  
226 E. Cullen, Houston, TX 77204



March 17, 2010

To the Campus Facilities Planning Committee:

I am writing in support of the University of Houston's Campus Garden initiative. I am the faculty sponsor for the University of Houston's Horticulture Society. I was approached by the Services Department to provide advising on plants and greenhouse space for seedlings.

A campus garden provides an excellent opportunity for informal science education and community outreach. Participation by students in The University of Houston's Campus Garden has opened the door to discussions on traditional breeding, hybridization, and genetic engineering of crops. Conversations occur regularly about pest management, plant disease, and nutrient and light requirements. These types of endeavors support the goals of the National Science Foundation for the scientific community to provide life-long learning activities to the public-at-large.

The proposed garden is being designed by Urban Harvest. Urban Harvest specializes in establishing community gardens and has offered to serve as on-going advisors in our campus gardening endeavors. Urban Harvest is a community-based organization which helps local groups and schools develop community gardens for food production, habitats, and general enjoyment. The organization provides both expertise and a natural outlet for our campus to pursue community outreach activities.

At present, the Horticulture Society is sowing seeds and raising seedlings in the campus greenhouse for planting in the garden. The group will also be donating some seedlings to the University of Houston Charter School. The Campus Garden Group has already given a presentation on plant basics and composting at the Charter School and has been invited to give a presentation on agriculture at nearby Yates High School. A future goal of the Campus Garden participants is to produce tomatoes, basil, and cilantro for use in "Shasta's Salsa" which will be created in the campus dining hall and served on campus.

The garden will also serve as a "living lab" for my Plant Physiology course (BIOL3345). I hope to make a few forays out of the lecture hall to show students actual examples of lecture topics rather than just showing them pictures in slides. The lessons stick better when students can "see for themselves".

The University of Houston Campus Garden will be a positive, enriching addition to our urban campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna L. Pattison'.

Donna L. Pattison  
Instructional Assistant Professor  
Department of Biology and Biochemistry  
dpattison@uh.edu  
713-743-2642