



Woodland Library Demonstration Garden

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Background

- ▶ I am Homestead High School senior, and an Ambassador Girl Scout in Los Altos Troop 60321
 - ▶ Girl Scouts Northern California Board of Directors, 2016-2017
 - ▶ Girl Scouts Lead the Way Conference Committee Chair, 2016-2017
- ▶ This Demonstration Garden Project is the capstone portion of my Gold Award Girl Scout service project designed to address a community issue and make a positive, sustainable impact
- ▶ The project is designed to illustrate the many ways to reduce the overuse of water on traditional grass lawns and landscaping by creating a drought tolerant demonstration garden at Woodland Library in Los Altos
- ▶ City Staff has identified the location as the berm between the front of the Woodland Library and the Thinker statue

Objectives

- ▶ To demonstrate to the community the possibilities and benefits of drought tolerant landscaping by the creation of an educational demonstration garden at Woodland Library
- ▶ Sustainability of the garden is an important feature and can be accomplished if grants and donations can be obtained from various sources
- ▶ Collaborate with decision makers
 - ▶ Environmental Commission, City Council, City staff, the Los Altos Community Foundation, GreenTown Los Altos, and the Girl Scouts of Northern California, Cal Water and various community organizations
- ▶ Learn life skills



Existing Plantings on Berm

Woodland Library

Woodland Library Garden Overview

- ▶ Replant Woodland library berm with California native and drought-tolerant plants
 - ▶ Rain garden
 - ▶ Connection to pervious paving in Los Altos
 - ▶ Considering rainwater catchment system, partnered with CalWater
 - ▶ Natural, drought-tolerant lawn alternatives
 - ▶ Elements of drought-tolerant gardening practices
 - ▶ Vertical garden
 - ▶ ADA accessible pathway
 - ▶ Sign or kiosk with map of garden
 - ▶ Link to resources inside library

Initial Garden Sketches



California Natives



California Fuchsia

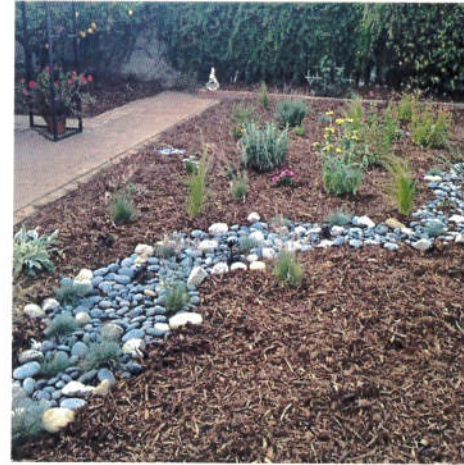


California Lilac



Laspilitas

Rain Garden



Lawn Alternatives



Vertical Garden



Plan Development

- ▶ Design the layout and content of the education demonstration garden
 - ▶ Using drought-tolerant and native plants
 - ▶ Incorporate the help of local landscape designers, nurseries and Los Altos City Staff
- ▶ Create educational material (i.e. signs and brochures) to augment the educational aspect of the garden
 - ▶ Lead community members to further resources inside the library
- ▶ Lead installation of garden
 - ▶ Volunteer work
 - ▶ City Staff
- ▶ Ensure garden sustainability

Partnership - A Key Component

- ▶ City of Los Altos
 - ▶ Environmental Commission
 - ▶ City Council
 - ▶ City Staff
- ▶ Girl Scouts of Northern California
 - ▶ Troop 60321
 - ▶ GSNorCal Board of Directors
- ▶ Los Altos Community Foundation
- ▶ GreenTown Los Altos
- ▶ Cal Water
- ▶ GrassRoots Ecology

Installation - Staff and Volunteers

- ▶ Installation planned for February 2017
 - ▶ Pending City Staff approval and Environmental Commission review
 - ▶ City and volunteer partnership
 - ▶ Los Altos Girl Scout Troop 60321
 - ▶ Homestead High School
 - ▶ The Los Altos Community Foundation
 - ▶ GreenTown Los Altos
 - ▶ Los Altos City Staff
 - ▶ Los Altos Parks and Recreation Department

Preliminary Budget

- ▶ Installation:
 - ▶ Plant purchases: ~\$1,000-\$2,000
 - ▶ Irrigation: ~\$300
 - ▶ Signs and educational material: ~\$300
 - ▶ Rain garden structure: ~\$400
- ▶ Maintenance:
 - ▶ Plant purchases: ~\$50-\$100/year
 - ▶ Irrigation: ~\$50/year
 - ▶ Updating educational material: ~\$50 or less/year

Life Skills

- ▶ Working with a business model
- ▶ Creating a work plan
- ▶ Collaborating with a variety of organizations (such as the staff at Woodland Library, City staff, Commission, Council, non-profits, for-profits, media) to accomplish a goal
- ▶ Developing content for the City's website and social media accounts.
 - ▶ Local newspapers and magazines
 - ▶ Feature partnerships
- ▶ Facilitate collaboration between the City and local non-profit organizations

Funding

- ▶ Grant funds required to purchase plants, irrigation, mulch, and educational material
- ▶ Use for initial installation and remaining funds to ongoing maintenance
 - ▶ Sustainability is a main feature of project
- ▶ Donations and grants will also be requested to establish a sustainability fund
- ▶ Perhaps the Environmental Commission Education Fund could be considered as a source of funding

Summary

- ▶ Educate community on the benefits of replacing traditional landscaping with California natives and drought-tolerant plants
- ▶ Demonstration Garden on berm at Woodland Library
 - ▶ Native plants, rain garden, vertical garden, natural lawn alternatives
 - ▶ Educational material and links to content inside library
- ▶ Part of my Girl Scout Gold Award project
 - ▶ Volunteers from Troop 60321
- ▶ Sustainability and partnership are key components
 - ▶ Diverse Los Altos organizations (LACF, GreenTown, City, CalWater, etc.)
 - ▶ Sustainability fund

