

2016/17 Drought-Tolerant Education Project Work Plan  
February 10, 2017

Goal	Objective	Activity	Timeline	Status
<b>Plan Development</b>	Develop site plan in coordination with City of Los Altos at Woodland Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define garden boundaries and measurements</li> <li>• Pathways, ADA compliance, type of demonstrations i.e. grasses, drought tolerant plants, rain garden</li> </ul>	Aug. – Sept.	Meeting with City 9-27-2016 <b>COMPLETE</b>
	Add partners in the project, Cal Water and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine plant types and quantities, irrigation and other necessary supplies</li> </ul>	Jan – March	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach out to local landscape designers</li> <li>• Draw up and finalize garden blueprint</li> <li>• Develop cost estimate for project</li> </ul>	Jan – February	In progress <b>PRIORITY</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with Cal Water, GreenTown, LACF, SCVWD, city, landscape designers to finalize garden design and plan for installation</li> </ul>	Jan – March	In progress
		Obtain assistance from volunteer to develop materials, list of resources, organization of materials, scribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solicit organization assistant/scribe from City volunteers</li> </ul>	Sept – Jan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop summary material, PowerPoint, work plan, presentation to Environmental Commission and other potential partners</li> </ul>	Sept – Oct.	Present before EC 10-10-16 <b>COMPLETE</b>	
<b>Establish a Budget</b>	Determine the budget for initial installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request funds: possible resources: Environmental Commission, LACF, GTLA, Cal Water, other</li> </ul>	Jan – March	LACF deadline 2-21-17
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase plants and other materials</li> </ul>	Month before installation date	
	Determine budget for ongoing maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as above</li> </ul>	Jan – March	

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	Obtain appropriate liability insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase Girl Scout Plan 2 insurance for non-Scout volunteers</li> </ul>	Month before installation date	
<b>Installation</b>	Build and train volunteer team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solicit volunteers from Troop 60321, GreenTown, LACF, Acterra, and/or City</li> </ul>	Aug. – Feb.	Troop leaders notified, GLTA, CalWater
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train Troop 60321 volunteers at working party</li> </ul>	Month before installation date	
	Complete pre-installation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build pathway around garden area (ADA accessible)</li> </ul>	Approx. month before installation date	According to city plan/schedule
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove bushes and/or trees according to site plan</li> </ul>	Approx. month before installation date	According to city plan/schedule
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine installation dates</li> </ul>	February	
	Install garden with volunteer assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend soil</li> </ul>	Approx. month before installation date	According to city plan/schedule
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alter irrigation if necessary according to site plan</li> </ul>	Approx. month before installation date	According to city plan/schedule
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate volunteers and plant</li> </ul>	May	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create rain garden (possibly pre-installation for runoff water harvesting)</li> </ul>	May	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create signs, map, resources, kids activities, etc.</li> <li>Install signage, educational content, and garden map</li> </ul>	May	
<b>Communications and</b>	Get published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create content for online media (City and Woodland Library websites.)</li> </ul>	April – June	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create content for print media (newspaper and magazine)</li> </ul>	February – June	

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<b>Media</b>		articles.)		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solicit article space in local newspapers and magazines</li> </ul>	May	
	Host on-site event at garden opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize event with City staff</li> </ul>	May	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicize event in print and online</li> </ul>	April – May	



# Woodland Library Demonstration Garden

Alyssa Robins

Los Altos Girl Scout Troop 60321

# 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

# Successful Demonstration Gardens in the Community

- ▶ Lucie Stern Demonstration Garden - Palo Alto
- ▶ Foothill College Native Garden - Los Altos Hills
- ▶ Guadalupe Gardens Nature's Inspiration Garden - San Jose

**Nature's Inspiration Gardens**

- Cardboard Works as a Weed Barrier**  
A layer of cardboard is used underneath the mulch to prevent weeds. Learn more about plant mulching here.
- Mulch Decreases the Forest Floor**  
The soil is covered with a 3 inch mulch layer. Learn more about mulching here.
- Slow the Flow of Rainwater**  
Permeable hardscape surfaces in these pathways allow rainwater to trickle through and soak into the soil. Learn about permeable pavers here.
- Healthy Soil Makes Healthy Plants**  
Healthy soil grows healthy plants that are able to fight off weeds and diseases better. Learn how to make healthy soil here.
- Nourishment Comes Naturally**  
Aerol organic fertilizing with fast acting synthetic fertilizers as shown here helps organic plant growth. Learn more here.
- Right Plant in the Right Place**  
The plants in these gardens are deliberately spaced away from each other. Learn the importance of plant spacing here.
- This Watering System Delivers**  
Sprinklers were replaced with a drip irrigation system in these gardens. Learn how drip irrigation can contribute to plant health here.
- Connect to the Ecosystem with Native Plants**  
All plants selected for these gardens are native to California. Learn the reasons for selecting California native plants here.
- What was Here Before?**  
A measure showing herbicide (Roundup) use was replaced by these beautiful gardens. Learn more here.
- Being Bugged in the Garden?**  
These gardens provide a welcoming home to butterflies, bees, ladybugs and other beneficial bugs. Learn why wild, and beneficial bugs have a place in your garden.

**Café Garden**  
Co-designed by Kim Lechner, San Jose

**Nectar Garden**  
Co-designed by the Garden Squares team, San Jose

Number	Common Name	Common Name
1	Artemisia tridentata	Yucca filifera
2	Chenopodium	Yucca filifera
3	Phacelia	Yucca filifera
4	Erigeron	Yucca filifera
5	Salvia	Yucca filifera
6	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
7	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
8	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
9	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
10	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
11	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
12	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
13	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
14	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
15	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
16	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
17	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
18	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
19	Artemisia	Yucca filifera
20	Artemisia	Yucca filifera





## 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

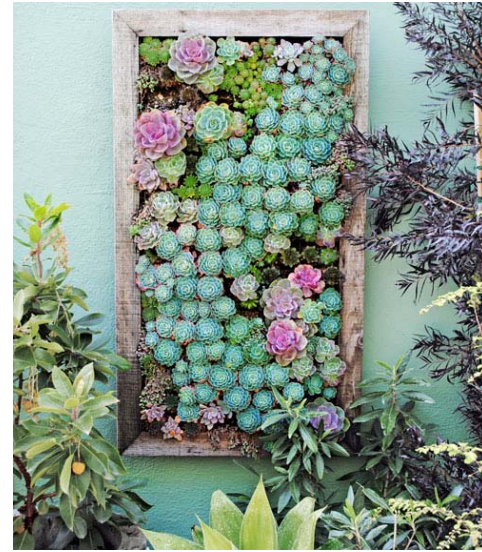
# Rain Garden



# 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

