

Riverside Garden Proposal

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Goal

Our overall goal is to install a bench, a compost bin, a community board, and shed in the means of bettering the Riverside Garden.



Community Board



Average cost of community board: \$1500+

Benefits of a Community Board

- ❖ Day to day goals for the garden
- ❖ Organized schedule
- ❖ Instructions for certain tools
- ❖ Weekly/monthly goals
- ❖ Good way for plot owners in the community to communicate with each other

Tool shed

Average cost of tool shed: \$300+



Benefits of a tool shed

- ★ Proper place to hold gardening tools
- ★ Promotes active gardening
- ★ Easy for beginners to locate tools, as well as learning how to use them with included instructions
- ★ Everyone has access to tools

Tools:

Gloves (5+ pairs), Spades (2-3+), Hoe (2-3+), Hand trowel (5+), Pruning shears / garden scissors (2-3+), etc..

Compost bin

Average cost of compost bin: \$100+



Benefits of a compost bin

- ★ Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced
- ★ Compost reduces and in some cases eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers
- ★ Compost promotes higher yields of agricultural crops
- ★ Compost can help aid reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by improving contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils
- ★ Compost can be used to remediate soils contaminated by hazardous waste in a cost effective manner
- ★ Compost can provide cost savings over conventional soil, water and air pollution remediation technologies, where applicable
- ★ Compost enhances water retention in soils
- ★ Compost provides carbon sequestration

It's also important to compost so the rodents don't have easy access to food (which is a current problem at Riverside)

Bench

Benefits of a additional bench

- ★ Allows for more people to rest and enjoy the garden, rather than finding other seating outside the garden
- ★ Bench could be made of a eco friendly material, which could solve the issue of the bench overheating
- ★ Prevents people from sitting on garden beds when benches are full

An additional bench would enhance the overall garden experience

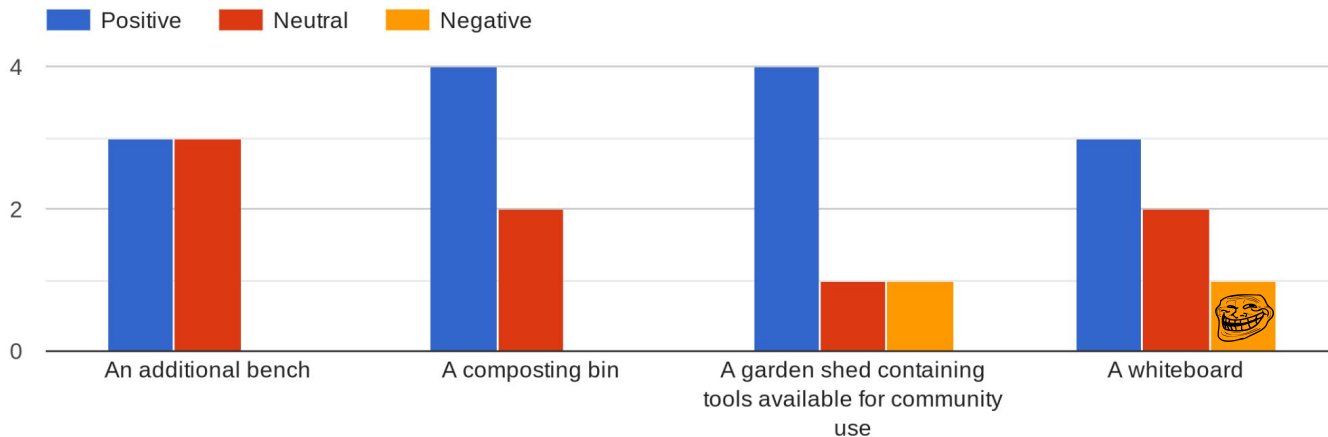


Average cost of bench: \$400



Responses

Please rate your feelings to the following potential additions to the Riverside community garden:



Almost all of the responses we received for our changes to the garden were positive. Showing that the community is supportive and willing to change the garden for the better.

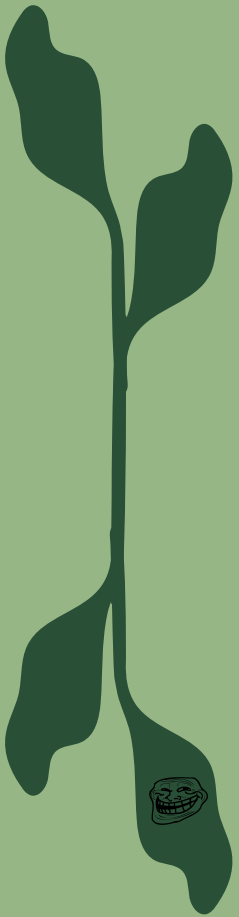
Community Feedback

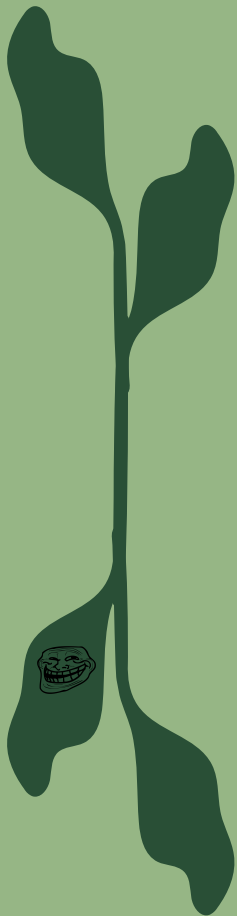
We made a survey to get the public's opinion on these potential changes

- ❖ “Positive intentions are good. Benches to sit in shade will help allow visitors to relax. I would come more often to enjoy the space. Composter May attract more rodents (?) Tools may disappear though try it for a year and see… perhaps clearly label or I.d. to keep in community garden.”
- ❖ “These changes would be nice!”

We also asked if there were any additional changes they thought would improve the experience at Riverside

- ❖ “I would love to have a shaded area where we can sit and rest - maybe a picnic table? All the other suggestions are excellent. Another way to improve the garden would be regular landscaping maintenance of the areas on the perimeter and within the garden - there are piles of refuse and tons of weeds coming up through the gravel that really need to be tackled by a larger-scale landscaping effort.”





Are there any other changes you can think of that would improve the garden? Or do you believe the garden is good as it is?

4 responses

Weeding and a community clean up around the raised beds would be nice. I also think the hose is used by community members regularly and may stay cleaner if it had a more convenient home (open air with sun exposure).

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Less asphalt/blacktop would be nice

Participatory dates made publicly viewable at the garden would be good, like scheduled demos of spring clearing, seed and planting schedules based on weather. More emphasis and updates on the change from 'my plot' to new 'community sharing'

Add Blueberry bushes, dwarf cherry and apple trees... maybe swap out some of those shrubs that block the view to the garden from the park.

More feedback:

Great to see this particular garden transition from the neglected unsupervised situation it was. Thanks for your efforts!

Weeding the walkways which are becoming overgrown to the point that it might be difficult for differently abled people to access the garden.

Less monoculture. Seems like most of the plots are filled with different varieties of the same plant:

A bench or tables inside the garden where people can sit and socialize.

A garbage can since the one that was there disappeared and wasn't replaced.

The compost in the compost bin (one broken down) should be available for onsite gardeners.

Attract more people from the immediate neighborhood.



When I went to work in the garden it was hard for me to find the water and it was very hot and aunmy.

Thank You
For Your Time

