Fall 2016 Campus Sustainability Fund Grant Proposal

Raised Beds for Gould's Garden

Project Leader: Taylor Sprague, Mitchell Frost
Co-Participant: Kate Glenn

$900

Project Summary

Goals

Gould's Community Garden is a great resource for Paul Smith's College and the community to participate and develop relationships amongst community members, while growing delicious food and beautiful flowers. An issue that the garden is facing however is weeds and organization. By strategically planning the location and size of these beds we will be able to maximize the use of space within the garden, along with organizing the plots to make it easier to rent them. By building these raised beds, we will be minimizing weeds, make planting, weeding, and harvesting easier, and extend growing time. Our goal is to create 35 raised beds to address these issues stated above.

Project Justification and Relevance

Weeds and plot organization are several challenges Gould's Community Garden is facing. By strategically planning out the location of these raised beds, the garden will be able to maximize their use of growing space, maintain and assign garden plots easier, and eliminate the excessive weeds present in the current garden plots. The raised beds will be underlaid with plastic so pre-existing weeds will not be able to grow into the beds. The raised beds will be two to three feet off of the ground, with several waist high to make gardening more accessible to members with back issues or other issues that make gardening on the ground challenging. The height of these raised beds will make it easier to weed, minimizing the need of bending over, reducing stress on your body. The current layout of the garden has you walking throughout your plot, accidentally trampling plants, compacting the soil,and making it a hassle to plant, weed, and harvest. With this proposed layout, there is no need to walk within your plot, since the center is only an arm length away.

Currently the garden plots are plowed and measured each spring, before members are allowed to rent them. The raised beds will eliminate this need, allowing renting to be easier, since garden members will be assigned their own raised bed, which they can use year round and year after year. Eliminating the need for plowing each spring will also be beneficial to the garden. Plowing reduces the soils long-term productivity, because it exposes the organic rich topsoil and breaks up the clods that naturally and slowly form in soil.

The wood for this project will be harvested by Paul Smith's College students. The majority of the wood are logs that were left over from previous projects and harvests, that currently have no use. Obtaining the wood from the college will not only help tremendously with the cost, but will allow students to practice their harvesting skills based on a customer's request. The logs will also have to be milled, to allow for stacking, so students, along with faculty, will learn how to run the portable saw mill during the work day on April 22, 2017. The saw mill will provide a great educational demonstration for those who have not seen one or have not used one. Paul Smith's College will also be providing wood chips, that are currently leftover from the saw mill, to put in

between the raised beds to allow for easy transportation and navigation, minimize the need for weed whacking around the beds, and to make the garden aesthetically pleasing.

The work day will be an educational and fun experience, strengthening teamwork, communication, and problem solving skills, along with building relationships amongst the students, faculty, and volunteers. The workers will learn how to build raised beds, using tools and equipment that they may have never used before. At the end of the day, the workers will leave satisfied with the reward of completing the project, and strengthening the community garden. This day will be a learning experience for all.

Methods

1) Harvest wood and cut to desired measurements with Dave Simmons and his work study
2) Buy and harvest materials from businesses/people mentioned in the budget table
    - Top Soil (dehydrated cow manure) from Hhott House in Saranac Lake
    - Fill compost from Adirondack Correctional Facility in Ray Brook
    - Plastic from Home Depot
    - Wood chips from the college
    - Nails from Home Depot
3) Work day in April 22nd with Kate Glenn's Nature and Culture class, along with volunteers
    - Cut plastic to desired footprint of the beds
    - Build Raised beds
    - Fill bottom layer of bed with compost soil
    - Fill top layer of bed with topsoil

Project Budget and Timeline

Budget Table

Material	**Location**	**Quantity**	**Price**
Lumber	PSC	~ 3,100 board feet	Free
Plastic	Home Depot	10 rolls of 8' x 50'	$ 170.00
Topsoil	Hhott House	Pallet (60 bags)	$ 375.00
Fill soil	Adirondack Prison	Dump Truck	Free
Woodchips	PSC	Dump Truck	Free

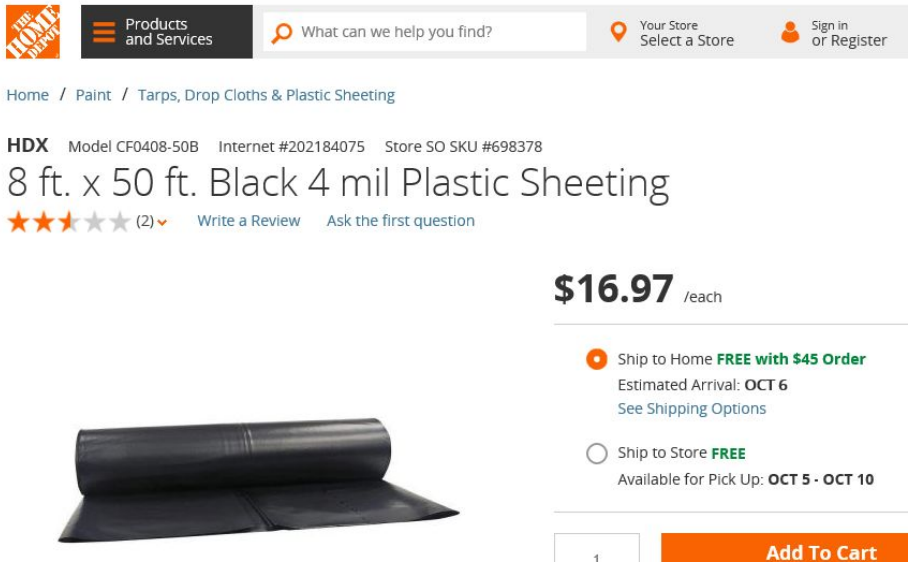
Nails	Home Depot	12” Nails (~600)	$ 300.00

Timeline

- September 30th - Harvest wood with Dave Simmons (Manager of Forestry Tools) and his work study
- February 1st - Order/Buy Materials
    - Plastic from Home Depot
    - Nails from Home Depot
- March - Buy/Harvest Materials
    - Wood chips from PSC
    - Fill soil from Adirondack Prison
    - Top soil from Hott House
- April 22nd - Work day with Kate Glenn’s Nature and Culture class and volunteers to build raised beds
- April 30th - Have project completed

Supporting Documentation

Plastic - Home Depot



Nails - Home Depot

Grip-Rite Model 12HGSPK Internet #100176170 Store SKU #988588

#3/8 x 12 in. Galvanized Steel Spike Nails (50 lb. Pack)

★★★★☆ (2) Write a Review Questions & Answers (2)

$64.91 / each

BULK PRICE ELIGIBLE If you buy **2** or more **$58.42** / each

- Commonly used to secure railroad ties and landscaping timbers
- Available in bright smooth, ring, and spiral shank styles
- Also used to secure large members in log home construction

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