

DU Community Garden Meeting Minutes – Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Initial Community Meeting to gauge to interest

I. Project Idea

1. Student Initiative – Led by DU Environmental Team (DU-ET)
2. Local/Organic Food, another DU-ET Initiative.
3. Why a Garden? Build stronger relationship between DU students and our neighbors.  
Exemplify the abundance of food you can grow in yard. Create a learning environment for people to find out more about gardening, composting, urban agriculture, sustainable living, and more.

II. Project Progress

1. Student Support → DU-ET leading charge, Undergraduate Senate playing supporting role
2. Funding → AUSA (Undergraduate Senate) Sustainability Committee will help fund this project with up to \$11,000 in available funds.
3. The Sustainability Council, which oversees all green initiatives on campus, passed a motion of support for the community garden. This led to us working with Facilities on a location for the garden
4. In the process of confirming location of the garden. Right now we are looking at a University owned lot at 1844 S. High Street, which is one block south of Buchtel. The final decision will be made on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and it does look very promising.

III. Next Steps

1. Confirm location (soil testing, area development plans, neighborly concerns, etc, administrative permissions, etc)
2. Form Steering Committee → Composed of faculty, students, and neighbors. Those who were interested in being part of the leadership will be contacted. Please e-mail [duenvironmental@gmail.com](mailto:duenvironmental@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the steering committee.
3. Garden design, what features should be incorporated? Design meetings can be held once we have confirmed the location.

IV. DU-ET's Thoughts On the Garden...

1. We envision the garden to be a learning, community space. All organic, sustainable gardening methods. We would like the garden to be an example of the abundant variety of fresh, healthy food that is possible to grow in any yard.
2. Winter Gardening → We want the garden to be active all year round. Cold Frames will definitely be budgeted for.
3. We want the garden to be available for everyone. Plot fees will likely be used to offset some costs, but they will be kept to a nominal charge. We will certainly work with anyone who might not be able to afford it.
4. Students really won't be around during the summer, the gardens up keep will rest mostly on the community at this point.
5. We hope to find the money for a couple of garden work-study positions. These students would be around during the summer to help with management and issues that may arise.
6. Classes and Programing
  1. With the work study positions, we hope to have a couple students very well trained and able to conduct free classes on composting, basic organic gardening, winter harvests, and other relevant information the community finds useful.
7. Garden Co-op – There may not be a plot for everyone in the garden but we would to setup a

program where neighbors and students can network and share garden space on their own property. Those that might be a bit nervous about expanding their garden bed can partner with a student or several students to ensure there is enough hands for maintenance. This program would also make it easy for people to share their harvest with other neighbors and students.

8. Seed swapping – What would you call a community garden without a seed swap party?
9. Resource List – It would be neat to have a resource list where people can find low-cost or free supplies. Anything from garden centers with free brown material for composting to landscapers willing to provide free soil.
10. Our main goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to grow their own food and obtain more information on how to do it. We want to inspire DU students to think about where their food comes from and how their food choices affect the environment. In the process we hope to learn a lot from our neighbors who already know much about gardening and have a lot to contribute. Food is something all people can relate to and through that common bond we hope to build a stronger relationship with our neighbors who often seem trapped outside the DU bubble that seemingly encompasses campus.

#### V. Ideas from the Audience

1. “Beans” in the Hotel Restaurant Tourism Management Building is a student run coffee shop. A similar idea could be started on-campus using the produce grown in the garden.
2. Cold Frame Contest. Kids can compete against each other to see who can grow the most and greatest variety of food in the winter months. The child who wins receives a free cold frame for their backyard.
3. A student and a neighbor are paired up and assigned a plot. Both the student and community member can work together. While students are gone over the summer, community members will maintain the plots. Great way to unite the community and build relationships
4. Utilize community notebook (alumni tool). Good way to engage students in the community and connect with alumni.
5. CU Extensions office, great resource that is underused. At the very least, they can be used for soil testing.