UC DAVIDS

RESIDENT GARDEN

Policy & Procedures

dining.ucdavis.edu/sus-garden.html
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For addition questions, issues and/or concerns, please contact:

**Resident Garden Coordinator**
UC Davis Dining Services / UC Davis
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MISSION STATEMENT
The goal of the Student Housing Gardens is to provide a space for on-campus residents to learn about edible plants, how they are grown and cared for and how they can be prepared. The gardens will also provide an opportunity for student leadership, staff development and community involvement.

WHO WILL USE THE GARDENS
In order of priority:
- on-campus residents
- dining guests
- housing/dining sustainability/nutrition interns
- housing/dining staff

GARDEN COORDINATORS
Garden Coordinators employed by Dining/CCE will help coordinate the day-to-day, quarterly and annual operations of the garden.

New garden coordinators will be hired each spring and continue through the next academic year. In addition to paid Garden Coordinators, we hope to have a team of student garden champions to help assist with coordinating maintenance of the gardens.

Garden coordinators will work with campus resources including UC Davis on-campus residents, Grounds, the Student Farm, EH&S, Housing and Dining Services to provide the man-power, knowledge and physical resources necessary for garden maintenance.

Responsibilities:
- coordinate harvest parties, plantings, work days
- pest control, watering and general garden maintenance
- manage communication for garden (see pg. 2)
- schedule and manage educational programs (see pg. 2)
- safety and garden use trainings
- floor programs, nutrition education and cooking demos associated with garden

Student Garden Champions
A team of 3-5 student volunteers who will assist the coordinators in marketing, education, maintenance.

GOVERNANCE
- Resident Garden Workgroup (UC Davis Grounds, UC Davis Dining Services, UC Davis Student Housing, Garden Coordinators)
- Dining Services Sustainability Intern Meetings
- Dining Services Sustainability and Nutrition Office (main contact)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Educational programs are a mechanism to increase a sense of ownership. By providing maximum opportunities for students to get involved with the garden without actually harvesting plants, have the chance to maximize the educational value of the garden, while incorporating as many people as possible into the garden.
Examples are listed in Appendix B
COMMUNICATION

Various methods of communication will be employed in order to market the garden, garden activities and safety.

Garden Kiosk
A covered kiosk with a glass-covered cork board and chalkboard to communicate upcoming events, allow for students to sign up for upcoming info sessions, provide feedback about the garden, and include a garden map.

Electronic Communication
Garden Listserv, website, facebook group, Aggie Reader, Student Housing Television

Education Signage in Garden
Signage throughout the garden – labeling of plants; respect the garden; Incorporate the labels with art

Face-to-Face Communication
Tabling in dining rooms, resource fairs, Welcome Week, tours of garden.

GARDEN TERMS OF USE/HOURS

The garden will remain unlocked and have open-access. It will be explicitely stated at the entrance to the garden that the garden can only be harvested and maintained during specifically determined harvest days as determined by the garden coordinator(s).

The garden will have open harvest/maintenance hours during variable times during the week to provide for increased access by all students. The goal is to have between 5-10 hours of supervised harvest/maintenance time each week.

All harvest must be overseen by the Garden Education Coordinator and/or the Garden Maintenance Coordinator. There will be no planting in the garden outside of designated planting parties/schedules.

LIABILITY/SAFETY

Students, staff who hope to participate in the harvest, consumption, maintenance of the garden must attend a Garden Intro Session. This session will cover necessary safety and maintenance training and also provide an opportunity for students/staff to sign a safety and liability waiver. After students/staff complete the Intro Session, they will receive a ‘Garden Card’ which they can show when participating in garden work/harvest. A master list of students who have been trained will be kept by Garden Coordinators. See further training details below.

In the event of one-time use/consumption/harvest/maintenance, garden coordinators will have waivers available on hand. This will pertain to any guests of the garden/campus - friends of students, parents, professors, conference groups, etc.

If a student/staff member shows up during a garden party and doesn’t have a garden card, he or she can sign a one-time use waiver and will be encouraged to attend the next Garden Intro Session.

Garden Intro Sessions will occur every day during Welcome Week, heavily during the beginning of the fall quarter, then available on an as-needed basis throughout the academic year. Interested students/staff can sign up for Garden Intro Sessions at the garden kiosk and online.
Garden Intro Session - Training
- Garden Coordinator or Gold Gardener Resident (see appendix A) will go over Gardening Safety Handbook. (Handbook created by UC Davis Student Housing, Dining Services, Environmental Health & Safety.)
- Students will sign a paper stating they’ve received the book and that they agree to follow all policies outlined in the book. If they fail to follow policy, they will have their garden privileges revoked. This paper will be kept by the Garden Coordinator.
- They will also sign a University Group Waiver outlining the physical risks of gardening.
- After completion of Garden training, they will receive a gardening card that must be kept with them at all times while in the garden.
- Any revisions to rules will be posted in the garden and updated on the website. An email will also be sent to individual gardeners.

Please refer to the Garden Safety Manual and the Garden Safety Handbook (for students) for detailed garden safety procedures and policies.

MAINTENANCE

Preparation for Planting
Only starts/plugs will be used in the garden. Plugs will be purchased from the Student Farm, Kelly’s Colors or Ace Hardware. Student Farm/Jepson Prairie compost will be used to amend the soil. Preparation will be coordinated by the Garden Coordinators utilizing student labor (during academic year), intern labor (during summer).

Watering
Drip irrigation will be utilized. The gardens will be watered automatically by timer. Irrigation and water needs will be determined by Garden Coordinators.

Pest Control
If a pest issue arises, infected plants will first be treated by using organic pest-control methods - physically pulling pests from plants and destroying them, spraying infected plants with organic soap and water, spraying infected plants with organic NEEM. In order to prevent pest issues, beneficial and companion plants will be incorporated into the garden design. The UC Davis arborist, Melanie Gentle, will provide a complimentary pest inspection 1x/mo to identify and help prevent any pest issues.

Harvesting of Crops
As noted, harvesting of crops for consumption will only occur during specified harvest dates/times and will be managed by the Garden Coordinators.

General Weeding/Maintenance
General maintenance will be scheduled at minimum 1x/week in the form of educational workshops, dedicated work parties (bi-weekly), intern labor, RA labor, etc.

Green Waste Procedures
All green waste coming from the garden will be diverted into the UC Davis Dining Services compost waste stream.

Tool Maintenance and Storage
Tools will be inventoried after each garden party. Tools will be properly maintained and cleaned per the Garden Safety guidelines. Tools will be stored in the garden bench.

**Academic Breaks**

**Winter** - Winter break is the only time that students AND staff are not on campus, we will need to have a plan for garden maintenance for the 1 week between the holidays. This may be a time the garden will need to be locked. Irrigation needs will likely be minimal due to the time of the year. As many staff do stay in the area during the break, the feasibility of having one person volunteer to check in on the garden is pretty high.

**Summer** – one paid garden coordinator position with Dining Services will continue over the summer months. Harvesting will be coordinate by Garden Coordinator

**THE VALUE OF FAILURE**

Two Garden Objectives:
1. Garden will act as a space for students to gain familiarity to how a garden is cared for by allowing students the opportunity to plant, maintain, and harvest themselves.
2. Garden must remain attractive and aesthetically pleasing, showcasing a successful and working garden.

**Fact**

Students will make mistakes while learning and getting acquainted to garden practices. This will influence the condition of the garden and it's overall appearance.

**Questions:**
1. To what degree will the Garden Maintenance Coordinator(s) allow for students to make mistakes while caring for the garden?
2. How will student mistakes be identified and communicated to students while operating in a public space?

**Example:** How will the Student Housing Garden's adaptive maintenance philosophy react to a student's failure of over watering her tomato plant?

**Possible Options:**
1. Garden Maintenance Coordinator identifies problem and fixes it.
   a. Efficient chain of communication
   b. Guaranteed.
2. Garden Education Coordinator communicates problem to student, student fixes it.
   a. Efficient chain of communication
   b. Not guaranteed.
3. Garden Educational Coordinator communicates problem to garden community and student through public signage, placing community pressure on student to fix problem.
   a. Inefficient chain of communication
   b. Not guaranteed
   c. Preserves public garden problems as public concerns, ideally building community over a common problem.
APPENDIX A.
Logistical Outline for Garden Maintenance

GARDEN COORDINATORS RESPONSIBILITIES (ANNUAL POSITION)
● Liaison between campus resources and RA Garden Speciality Group
  ○ Grounds
  ○ Student Farm
  ○ Housing and Dining Services
  ○ Other social units which are interested in being involved with garden
● Responsible for supplying and approving possible planting, harvesting, and growing schedules and plans
  ○ Approves RA/Resident growing suggestions
● Identifies pest control, watering and general garden maintenance which may be overlooked by RA/Residents
  ○ Delegates tasks to RA’s or grounds as needed

STUDENT HOUSING RESIDEN ADVISORS SUSTAINABILITY WORKGROUP (QUARTERLY POSITION)
● Liaison between Garden Coordinator and Residents
  ○ Communicates desires of students to coordinator and determines feasibility of students’ objectives
● Understands quarterly demands of maintaining a garden
  ○ may be required to attend workshops offered by campus social units
● Responsible for encouraging students to participate in garden maintenance
  ○ Coordinates with students specific work parties
  ○ Communicates realistic time-lines and tasks required to maintain a garden

RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES (volunteer positions)
● Students: learn how to take care of an urban garden, planters, harvesters, cardholders
● Leaders in deciding what to grow, and when to work
  ○ As students, learning how to take care of a garden must accommodate their class schedule
● Blue Gardener cardholders - this card certifies that the owner has been safety trained according to Resident Garden policy and thereby achieved Blue Gardener status.
● Gold Gardener cardholders - This card certifies that the owner has been awarded Blue Gardener status, has completed 10 hours of garden service, and has been qualified to safety train other residents thereby achieving Gold Gardener status

AWARDS
Resident Garden Champion (quarterly/annual)
● Recognized as an enthusiastic resident garden
● Committed to attend garden workshops and work parties

ADVANTAGES
● Quick turn around, students and RA’s can choose to participate for the quarter but are not committed for the entire year
  ○ introduces many people to garden, enthusiastic stay while less dedicated are free to move on
APPENDIX B.
Examples of educational programs

THE “HOW-TO”
Potential Coordinators- CCE Volunteer Coordinator, Eco-Food Corps, Volunteer Gardening Team, Experimental College Garden
Goal- To teach people the mechanics of gardening so that they know how to, and will, garden once they move off campus
Mechanics:
1. Workshops open to the listed target audience (ideal to have a workshop with dorm residents, dining hall users, Student Housing/Dining Services staff, etc.)
2. Educational signage
   a. Plant taxonomy
   b. Info on how to grow at home- similar to Arboretum all-stars
   c. Where to get the plants
   d. Welcome sign- when the next workshop is, explain rules of the garden, explain that is for students- similar to Salad Bowl garden
3. Website
   a. List of seasonal plants, similar to goodlife garden
   b. Meals you can make with the plants you grow
   c. Where you can buy materials for gardening
   d. Basic gardening tips
   e. Contacts for people who are willing to help you set up a garden
   f. Calendar of events
4. Off-“student housing” area
   a. apartment complexes –collaborate to establish gardens in their complexes to tie these projects together.
   b. EC garden- facilitate people setting up their own plot in that garden.

FOOD SYSTEMS
Potential Coordinators- Eco-Food Corps, Dining Services, Students for Sustainable Ag
Goal- To utilize the small scale garden to educate people about the process of growing food, so that they have a better understanding of the energy it takes to grow food at a large scale, and why we currently have an industrial food system.
Mechanics-
1. Workshops, RA programs, collaborate with Dining Services to raise awareness about where the food comes from in the DC
2. Educational Signage- Could connect with existing signage in the DC
3. Website- have some info about food systems on website
4. Connect with classes such as CRD 20- Food Systems
5. Farmers from surrounding area to speak about differences in farming. Potential for field trips out to visit their farms?

FOOD WASTE (COMPOST EDUCATION)
Potential Collaborators- Project Compost
Goal- Utilizing composting as a tangible example, this program would educate people on closed loop systems- the idea of returning unused nutrients to the system. Could be coupled with integrating compost into the soil as well.
Mechanics
1. Composting workshops—while not actually composting, could still discuss the mechanics of composting, coupled with adding compost into the soil

**ART**

Potential collaborators—Aggie Public Arts Committee

Goal—To make the garden a beautiful space created by fellow students, while using the garden as inspiration for art projects

**SCIENCE**

Goal—To facilitate interactions between staff, faculty, and grad students with undergraduates through education centered around the garden. Each educational subject will also provide better information about the garden and/or the gardeners, and can be stored in a database. For example, monthly soil science workshops could be held, with the soil data taken each time stored in a database to track soil quality over time.

Mechanics—workshops held as needed. These are highly dependent on interest, and become very useful if demand for garden time becomes higher than harvest will allow. These workshops do not require any harvesting, and provide an opportunity to include more students into the garden.

Potential Subjects
1. Nutrition—potential collaboration with nutrition professor Sheri Zidenberg-Cherr, Nutrition club. Workshops could focus around nutritional differences between industrial farming and organic farming, pesticide use, etc.
2. Entomology—Grounds has offered their arborist to incorporate educational workshops with a monthly pest management observance
3. Soil Science—coordinate with soil science department, potentially Randy Dahlgren or Roxanne Robles to conduct soil tests, teach about soil, how it impacts gardening
4. Plant Science