

September 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: University of Utah – Red Butte Gardens Water Conservation Garden Project

Issue

The University of Utah has requested authorization for creation of a Water Conservation Garden at the Red Butte Gardens (RBG). The proposed project will be financed entirely with non-state funded resources, with ongoing O&M support provided by revenues generated by RBG.

Background

The proposed budget for the project is \$5.5 million of which \$250,000 will be provided by RBG and the remainder provided by donations. As is described in the attached letter requesting this authorization, the purpose of this garden is to provide an example that will encourage Utah residents to reduce their landscape water consumption. A Project Description that provides more detail about the project, including site design information, is attached. A conceptual drawing of the garden is also attached.

This project has been approved by the University's Board of Trustees. Representatives from the University will be in attendance at the Board Meeting to provide additional information as needed and to respond to questions from Board members.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board authorize the University of Utah to proceed with this project by presenting it to the Utah State Building Board for design and construction approval.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/GLS/WRH
Attachment

September 26, 2014

Mr. David Buhler
Commissioner
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284

**RE: University of Utah
Red Butte Gardens – Water Conservation Garden**

Dear Commissioner Buhler,

Red Butte Gardens (RBG) is seeking approval for a three acre garden that will stand as an inspiration to water conservation. Utah is the second driest state in the nation but uses more water per capita than any other state. Two-thirds of the residential water is used outside the home and the goal of this garden is to encourage residents to reduce their landscape water consumption by 25%.

The garden space will exhibit water-wise plants in an effort to be a leader in this conservation effort. The attached project description offers further detail for this garden installation.

Save for approximately \$250,000 from RBG, the proposed total project budget of \$5.5 million is being funded entirely by donated resources. O&M for the Water Conservation Gardens will be provided by operating revenues generated by RBG.

The University of Utah and its Board of Trustees approved this project and respectfully seeks your approval of this request and the opportunity to present this project to the Finance and Facilities committee at the September 26, 2014 Board of Regents meeting.

Sincerely,



John Nixon
Chief Business Officer

Cc: Michael G. Perez, University of Utah

Attachment: Water Conservation Gardens

C: /university/regents/2014/Red Butte Water Conservation Garden.doc

University of Utah

Water Conservation Garden @ Red Butte Gardens

Project Description

The Water Conservation Garden at Red Butte Garden (RBG) is a three acre installation designed to showcase water conserving plants, both native and adaptive species, in beautiful displays that provide landscaping ideas and water-wise plant species selection to the home gardener.

Exhibiting a wide range of materials and design intended to inspire and instruct, the Garden is intended as a source of ideas for plants, landscaping methods and materials, and maintenance practices that conserve water, soil, chemicals and other resources.

As a displace garden, great attention has been given to combinations of plant species and the presentation of plants' forms, textures and colors, to create garden spaces that are both beautiful and instructive. Design detailing is also intended to demonstrate to homeowners different types of wall construction, diverse masonry styles, and a variety of paving materials and design expressions.

The intent is to proffer to the public a garden compelling in its appearance and conservation story, so that homeowners, seduced by the beauty, will learn conservation lessons, take home plant ideas and understand that conservation is fully compatible with garden and landscape beauty.

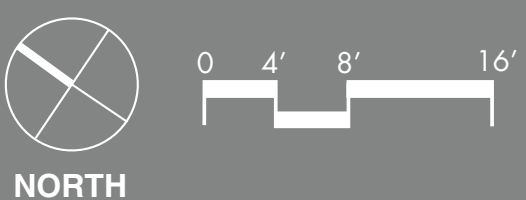
Site Design

Site design on the sloping hillside is organized by a sinuous ADA-compliant central pathway that curves up the hillside creating, within its meanders, planting beds with distinct planting themes. Interpretive signs and exhibits will elaborate to visitors the topics – adaptive beauty, desert harvest, dry shade, stable slope – that unite the plant species within each bed. A secondary system of steps and walkways interlace through beds to bring visitors into close contact with plantings.

Terraced garden rooms will present relatively flat or gently sloping areas which stage beautiful spaces celebrating the aesthetics, techniques, horticulture, and botany of water-wise gardening. Walls create the terraces and support the central pathway with design and materials which demonstrate the aesthetic and horticultural possibilities for transforming grading necessities into garden assets, supporting diverse plantings such as trained vines, espaliers, cascading plantings trained from the top of wall, and plants worked into planting pockets in the walls.

Structures in the project are anticipated to include an earth-sheltered concrete restroom facility with an artistic “stratified sedimentary” concrete wall section. Steel fabrication of arbors and a large cantilevered deck.

Stone masonry on the project will involve multiple techniques from dry laid stacked stone walls, to veneered walls of different patterns, to stacked block and boulder walls. Stone will be used extensively in paved surfaces, as accent bands in concrete paving, and sand set as cut pieces or in mosaic patterns.



Conservation Garden
Red Butte Garden

January 12th, 2012



studioOutside

3.fromme DESIGN
garden + landscape + display