

1010 Dodd Community Pollinator Garden Proposal

Proposal Overview

For the site at 1010 Dodd, the Environmental Committee proposes to build an elevated series of garden beds, with the centerpiece being a large, raised, mandala pollinator garden. The Committee also proposes to plant several trees along the south end of the property, which has been identified as an area less likely to be impacted by future development.

Mandala Garden Overview

The centerpiece of this proposal is a 61' raised mandala garden bed, composed in a distinct geometric pattern, with multiple pathways throughout. Pathways are present to allow for access to all spaces of the Mandala garden, as well as to provide a visually appealing presence.

There will be eight divisions of the Mandala garden, which would each be assigned to a volunteer individual or organization. Seven of them exist around the perimeter of the garden, with the eighth being a circular planter in the middle of the garden.

In total, the Mandala bed will provide 1,075 sq ft of planter bed space, and the center circle provides an additional 21sq ft, for a total of 1,096 sq ft.

Each section of the Mandala garden will have an associated plaque, which can serve two purposes:

- Educate the visitor about some of the different types of plantings, and offer information about their value in the Minnesota ecosystem.
- Provide a possible avenue for monetary sponsorships from individuals or organizations. The plaques could recognize a donor and be an incentive for sponsorship promotion.

Why a raised garden bed?

The Environmental Committee recommends a raised garden bed for two main reasons:

- To avoid potential soil issues with the site, which is likely contaminated due to past use.
- To assist with accessibility of the planter area during care and maintenance.

Mandala Garden Height Options

To provide adequate accessibility, the Environmental Committee recommends that the Mandala Garden be no less than 18" in height and no more than 3' in height, depending on construction materials and other variables.

Front Planter Area and Welcome Sign

In addition to the Mandala Garden, the Environmental Committee also proposes a front planter area, which is recommended to be raised between 1' to 2'. With a taller option, one of the ends of the planter area could be extended to provide an integrated seating option.

This front planter bed will provide an additional 149 sq ft of planter area.

A Welcome Sign is also a possibility in this area, however, due to future redevelopment, it should be post-based and easily movable.

Seating and Back Area

The Environmental Committee recommends planting several trees along the south end of the property, which is determined to be an area less likely to be impacted by future development. This would primarily be to provide some shade, as well as to serve as a natural barrier between the public area and the neighboring private property.

The Committee also recommends the placement of a few picnic tables, to help encourage picnic-style use of the space. This could be coupled with Food Truck events to provide additional engagement and use.

Lastly, the Committee proposes the placement of at least one bench, to provide a resting area for visitors and volunteers.

Pathways

The Environmental Committee recommends placement of a sidewalk within the space to provide access through the lot, picnic area, and Mandala Garden. For accessibility reasons, the Committee recommends that the main path be a paved sidewalk, while the fork leading to the Mandala Garden could be either sidewalk or a gravel / dirt path.

Additional Items to Consider

The Environmental Committee would also like to consider establishing bee or bird houses, bird baths, feeders, and the use of man-made shade structures, such as gazebos, to provide additional amenities to the area. The use of vine plants could be particularly helpful with providing structured shade while the trees are still immature.

Additional Uses of Property

The shoulder and parking area on Dodd Road could easily serve as a Food Truck location, to help bring people to the area. The Environmental Committee recommends the placement of a couple of picnic tables to facilitate this purpose. In addition, there is quite a bit of unused land on the West side of the property that would cater to picnic use.

Recommended Plantings

To ease in maintenance requirements, as well as provide the best opportunity for pollination, the Environmental Committee recommends that all plantings be native Minnesotan pollinators.

The Committee recommends a mix of different pollinator types - a mix of butterfly / bee / moth friendly flowers, and both flowers as well as berries to encourage bird presence and to help provide birds with berries during essential winter months.

The list below are several examples of a variety of plants that cater well to this purpose. This list is not exhaustive nor exclusionary, but aims to provide a variety of options available for different locations.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Reason
Common Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	4'	
Canada Yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	6'	
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	3'	Butterflies / bees / moths
Silverberry	<i>Eleagnus commutata</i>	9'	Butterflies / bees / moths
Laborador Tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	3'	Butterflies / bees / moths
Broadleaf Meadowsweet	<i>Spirea latifolia</i>	6'	Butterflies / bees / moths
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	3'	Butterflies / bees / moths
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	30' (vine)	Hummingbirds, Orioles
Saskatoon Berry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	6'	
Bartram Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	4'	
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	3'	Summer interest plant
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	9'	Summer interest plant
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	1'	Fall interest plant
Canadian Buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia Canadensis</i>	6'	Fall interest plant
Glossy Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	10'	Winter interest plant
Pasture Rose	<i>Rosa Carolina</i>	7'	Winter interest plant
Sweet-scented Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	5'	Winter interest plant

American Hazel	<i>Corylus Americana</i>	8'	Nuts and acorns
Beaked Hazel	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	10'	Nuts and acorns