

Project: Dowling Green Roof

Name: Alicia Bellido

School: Arts and Sciences

Role: Student

Description: Our Green Fund project would fund the construction of a rooftop garden on top of the heating facility next to Dowling Hall. This would either be materialized a green roof, with small herbs and ground plants that cover as much of the available roof space, or several garden beds throughout the rooftop with a mixture of native pollinator plants and agricultural/vegetable garden-type plants, depending on how much load the roof was built to bear. We would use the gardens to grow food and herbs for the community, education purposes, and potentially partner with the biology department on studies or projects.

People Involved: Our Green Fund project would fund the construction of a rooftop garden on top of the heating facility next to Dowling Hall. This would either be materialized a green roof, with small herbs and ground plants that cover as much of the available roof space, or several garden beds throughout the rooftop with a mixture of native pollinator plants and agricultural/vegetable garden-type plants, depending on how much load the roof was built to bear. We would use the gardens to grow food and herbs for the community, education purposes, and potentially partner with the biology department on studies or projects.

Budget: After initial assessment, a green roof could vary from \$50/foot for a larger garden plan to \$200/foot for pre-made, self-watering green roofing beds, plus roughly \$100 for soil (whereas the \$50/foot cost includes soil). - Roughly 20 square feet of usable roof - Between \$1000 and \$4100

Timeline: Phase 1: Planning ~ Fall 2019 - Winter 2019/2020 - Gaining permission from Tufts and the Facilities Department to use the building - Assessing the building for which type of garden it can support - Planning the layout of the garden Phase 2: Construction ~ Spring 2020 - Summer 2020 - Gathering materials to build the beds - Ordering equipment needed for the beds (planters, soil, plants, etc.) - Work days for actually building the beds Phase 3: Planting and Maintenance ~ Summer 2020 - Fall 2020 - Picking out plants and putting them in the beds - Watering/weeding/harvesting as needed

Benefit to Tufts Community: - Potential research use by the Biology Department - A garden visible from Dowling for prospective students that beautifies the area - Mental improvement of increased greenspaces - Increased water permeability and retention in an urban space - Habitat for pollinators and birds - Place for social activities on campus and student bonding - Educational opportunities for students and potentially young school groups - Food grown could benefit wider Tufts community (i.e. potentially giving herbs or produce to Tufts Dining) - Decreased solar absorption and mitigation of urban heat island effect - Absorbs noise from city/street - Great PR/talking point for the Sustainability Department and university as a whole