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Is this a project that you will work on alone, or will you collaborate with others? If you are collaborating with others, list their names, their Tufts affiliation, and their contact emails. Please indicate which member of your team will be the principle contact.

This will be a collaborative project with technicians and other green-thumbed staff.

Please provide a 300-350 word description of your project.

Vertical Wall Garden – to allow for vertical planting, attached to the outside area of dog walking area (entryway near swipe card access). The planters should be high enough so dogs will not be able to urinate or eat any of the plants, they should be placed on the outer surface of the dog walk area on either side of the cage opening or on the fence parallel to the building. The plants will hopefully cascade down over the pouches when the plants grow out, reducing the visibility of the grow bags/ shoe pockets/ pots below. I'm unsure how much weight the pockets can hold or the grommets can withstand. The shoe hanger (referenced below*) comes with sturdy looking hooks that go 'over the door' for regular use, they can most likely attach to the upper metal poles of the chain link fence. The plants would be co-mingled flowers and edible plants. Chives, basil, oregano, sage, mint, parsley, cilantro, rosemary, lemon thyme, wheat grass, catnip, Bee balm, calendula, marigolds, nasturtiums, lavender (*plant cost varies). These plants also attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and provide food for honeybees. Potted ornamental grass plant in dog rock walk area - *Soil, mulch, compost fill, rocks for drainage. These will be non-edible plants, only for dog aesthetic to encourage urination. I am proposing that these are equidistant from each other in the rock garden. Grasses will be a familiar substrate, may help with those patients that are hesitant to urinate. This would help to avoid the issue of atonic bladders in long term hospitalized patients. Types of plants – Zebra Grass, Maiden Grass Vestibule Indoor Vertical Garden Items needed: Lettuces, herbs, edible flowers Self-watering system to aid in the supply of greens for the exotics department and increase employee enjoyment. This system would cool down hot spots and provide morale-boosting enjoyment by staff. The system is mobile and is resistant to wear and tear that may occur due to animal accidents and will allow for cleaning. The elevated surfaces will lessen contamination from any urinary incidents. The vestibule would house 2-3 of these systems to allow for a variety of stages of renewable growth. Supplemental grow lights are available for winter months.

What is the problem that you are looking to solve?

1. Help to feed our hospitalized herbivores by planting an edible garden in one of the glassed in areas of the hospital.
2. Improve employee morale, reduce stress by placing plants in a very visible area for employees.
3. Potentially reduce 'heat island' areas of the dog walk area (cemented sidewalk, rock area for dog elimination adjacent to a building) – this area gets very hot during the summer, retaining a lot of heat in the summer.
4. Provide a familiar space for patients to eliminate, as many patients are unfamiliar eliminating on paved areas.
5. Encourage bee populations by planting bee/butterfly friendly plants (those not treated with neonicotinoids), assisting with the pollinator initiative on campus.
6. Misc: Reduce erosion on the hill leading up to the dog walk area, reduce grass and mowing of the steep hill by planting native trees, bushes, greenery (eventually, perhaps

‘phase II’), use runoff water from the dog walk area to water plants (unsure if this is such a good idea!)

How would you sustain or expand the project after the pilot has ended?

We have been unofficially testing this project with the Aerogardens that have been growing happily in ICU and Exotics departments. It seems as though we are unable to keep up with demand of our patients! This would be an expansion of that pilot program.

How will you measure success?

The sustainability of the project – organizing the volunteer work force. This would be a cooperative effort to get this garden moving. Hopefully the plants will speak for themselves and we could get a thriving garden growing.

How many people would this project impact? Please categorize them as students, faculty, staff, and other.

This project will positively impact staff, faculty and students. They would be influenced passively as the staff and faculty would be the main garden tenders, the students will be able to enjoy the greenery, their patients will potentially reap the benefits. Owners may also see the efforts made by staff to improve the sometimes sterile environment of the hospital.

What is the environmental impact?

Environmental impact – the gardening will potentially reduce hot spots in and out of the hospital.

What are the educational impacts of this project?

The project will bring employees and students together to improve the care of patients.

What is the social impact (excluding educational aspects)?

(e.g. alleviating climate injustice, community resiliency, culture change, equity, etc).

I feel that this project will improve the culture of the hospital on a small scale. We also have the hopes to improve the pollinator population around the campus as well.

Will it help Tufts meet its sustainability goals? If so, how?

This will give back to the environment by offering more opportunities for pollinators. The food that will be grown will feed the hospitalized patients. The rotation of plants would be beneficial for the local landscape and reduce waste.

What are the life cycle cost savings or the immediate cost savings, if applicable?

Provide us with a timeline of planning and implementation of the project. (This question is for optional additional information not included in the Gantt chart)

There would be a multi-step process. Initial stage would be the seasonal planting outside of the employee entrance. This would take the least financial and time commitment. Followed by the second stage, indoor gardening in one of the vestibules of the dog walk area. Then request from facilities to plant trees and plants near the dog walk/MRI area. When these have been completed, beehives to be started in the off season.

How much funding are you requesting from the Green Fund? Are you seeking funding from other places?

We are requesting a maximum of \$5000. No funding from other sources has been approved.

How will you manage pests, such as fruit flies?

The areas in question are high traveled areas, both indoor and outdoor. The areas will be monitored for fruit flies and unwanted pests and if noted, fruit fly traps/ deterrents will be placed in the affected area(s).