

**Project:** Vertical Planters

**Name:** Heather Manley

**School:** Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

**Role:** Staff

**Description:** In order to increase the green in our hospital, I propose to have vertical planters throughout the hospital. At times, we work in a stressful environment. My theory is that the presence of flowers may improve our outlook on those days that may be less tolerable than others. By having indoor and outdoor vertical gardening on the way into the employee entrance of the hospital, we may literally be able to stop and smell the flowers. Secondly, we can provide food for our exotics patients by growing our own greens on campus. This has worked on a small scale with the AeroGarden that we have had for a few months in ICU and I feel that it may help to improve our herbivore patients as well. Edible landscaping both in and out of the hospital would prove beneficial to a select group of our patients. Lastly, by reducing hot spots on campus, specifically along fencing parallel to the MRI wing, we may provide a more comfortable area for our patients while increasing our green footprint on campus. Adding trees and ornamental grasses may mimic the 'at home' quality for patients.

**People Involved:** I plan to consult the Tufts Pollinator Initiative so we can use local desirable plant that may prove to be beneficial to the pollinator community. Previous requests for this greening initiative have been approved by previous administration (funding had not been approved). If approved, the assistance from facilities may be required.

**Budget:** Depending on the amount approved, the budget at this time would be flexible. I am requesting a budget of \$5000 in order to obtain the equipment and infrastructure to build the indoor planting system (self watering vertical planting), plants and trees. This plan would ideally spread to the rest of the campus to include discrete bee hives and beneficial plants to support bees and other pollinators on the campus.

**Timeline:** 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, bee hives to be started in the off season.

**Benefit to Tufts Community:** I feel that this would have an benefit for the morale for the employees, improve the outcome of our patients and reduce at least one of the hot spots on campus.