



Macon County Office
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Proposed Library Garden
Submitted to the Decatur Public Library Board March 16, 2000

University of Illinois Master Gardeners in Macon County propose to assist the Decatur Public Library Board and Administration in creating more attractive grounds surrounding the new Decatur Public Library building. Recent discussions with Master Gardener representatives from Champaign and Coles Counties make us confident that we can successfully undertake local gardens similar to gardens that have been well received in those communities. We feel that the proposed project would enhance the outward appearance of the building and would support the current efforts of the City of Decatur to develop and implement a City Beautification Program.

This year we have the commitment and support of 28 trained Master Gardeners along with 21 Master Gardener trainees to design, plant and work in the landscape and garden areas around the library building. Long term maintenance of the areas is a project we expect to be of interest to annual Master Gardener classes. We feel that it is important, however, to not overlook opportunities to work collaboratively with the Library Board, Administration and staff to develop a community volunteer recruitment effort specific to supporting the project.

John Moorman and our planning committee have identified a total of eleven garden sites on the library property. Mr. Moorman has requested that we address the needs of the Franklin Street area first. It is the most highly traveled area of the property with a priority need for curb appeal. Phase I of the proposed project would address the specific needs of the Franklin Street gardens. Concurrent maintenance of other garden beds would be done at a minimal level until additional staffing and resources allow for expansion. It is our desire to assure that the gardens are well maintained and attractive at all times. The appearance of the landscape and garden areas will be a direct reflection on the library and the Master Gardener caretakers. Phase II and beyond could involve the addition of shade gardens, a children's garden and a rock garden.

Phase I: Franklin Street

Franklin Street Raised Planters, North and South

Lilac Verbena
Silver Verbena
Torenia

Total 400 plants \$900

Connie's Greenhouse, near Latham, has already begun growing these plants. They are committed to donating them to the Library.

Franklin Street Sign

We will maintain some of the existing Japanese yews and the existing grass areas.

Maiden Grass (6, 2gallon)	\$240	
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Adagio' (4)	140	
Purple Fountain Grass (16)	128	
Hardy Mums, pink (40)	200	
Begonias (3 flats)	60	
Total		\$768

Southwest Corner

We will observe the current shrubs and decide what changes will be made during the growing season.

<i>Miscanthus</i> 'Zebrinus' (1)	\$10	
<i>Miscanthus</i> 'Morning Light' (5)	50	
<i>Erianthus</i> 'Ravennae' (3)	30	
<i>Verbena</i> 'Homestead Purple' (5)	10	
<i>Ajuga</i> (10)	20	
<i>Sedum</i> 'Autumn Joy' (11)	55	
Annuals (3 trays)	36	
Total		\$231

Northwest Corner

Estimated to be same as above. We will observe the current shrubs and decide what changes will be made during the growing season.

Total		\$231
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Other Costs, estimates

Soil, 8 cu. yards	\$ 85	
Mulch, 50 cu. yards	free from the City Arborist	
Compost, 20 cu. yards	300	
Fertilizer	20	
Roundup	60	
Hoses, ¾ inch, 75 feet (2)	60	
Hose reels (2)	80	
Hose connectors	50	
Watering wands (2)	45	
Drip hoses (6)	60	
Total		\$760

Phase I Gardens TOTAL EXPENSES **\$2,890**

Donations already secured:

Hobby's Daylilies, \$100 worth of daylilies
 Connie's Greenhouse, \$900 worth of annuals for the Franklin Street planters
 4-E's Trees, rototiller use for free
 MG plant divisions – *Miscanthus* and *Ajuga*, \$60
 Decatur Garden Club, tree or shrub for Arbor Day

Phase I TOTAL DONATIONS **\$1,060**

Phase I NET EXPENSES **\$1,830**