

COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE PROJECT

Waverley Place / McLean Hospital

Waltham, MA

Project Goal

Renovate and re-design a portion of the former New England Rose Society Garden at the UMass Extension Service site in Waltham for the functional use of participants in the Waverley Place horticultural rehabilitation program.

Description

Waverley Place is a rehabilitation program for individuals with chronic mental illness. One aspect of Waverley Place is the hands-on Community Greenhouse Project (CGP) located in a new greenhouse on the grounds of the UMass Extension Service / Waltham Field Station on Beaver St. in Waltham, and adjacent to the Rose Society's former display gardens. Recently, the CGP has taken over the lease and jurisdiction of the Rose Society site for the use of CGP participants.

While program participants feel appreciation and responsibility for the assortment of mature plant material on the site, they lack the familiarity, skills, and capacity to restore and maintain it. Program participants have also found the current semi-formal configuration of the landscape not useful to their program goals. Participants would like to see the large garden space re-designed to provide gathering space at a more comfortable scale, limited opportunities for ornamental gardens, guidelines for on-going maintenance, and a memorial garden for departed colleagues integrated into the plan.

Technical Details

- Confer with participants to refine goals and opportunities for the site.
- Develop a multi-phase strategy for improvements.
- Provide maintenance guidance which can be used as vocational training for participants.
- Cost estimating required
- Budget is very limited.

Community

Waverley Place is a community support program of McLean Hospital; the Community Greenhouse Project is a vocational service with the intention of providing therapeutic support and vocational training to participants who are managing their mental health issues.

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