COGdesign

Roxbury YMCA

Client: Roxbury YMCA / YMCA of Greater Boston

Location: Roxbury, MA

Designer: Monica Fairbairn

Design Completion: Summer 2010

Description:
The Roxbury YMCA has a family focus with programs like pre-school child care, team sports, aquatics, after-school child care, and teen programming. Located at a busy intersection in a dense urban neighborhood, the Roxbury Y's property includes under-used outdoor spaces which they would like to improve and use to support their programming.

The Y requested design services to create a new garden at the facility's main entrance. The garden will be highly visible, become a neighborhood landmark, and serve as an invitation to explore the Y's programming. The YMCA envisions this garden as an outdoor experience and teaching garden for the many children who use the Y daily.

COG's designer Monica Fairbairn, in collaboration with the Y staff, created a design for a useful and manageable landscape including a patio for gathering and an outdoor classroom space boasting edibles such as berries, grape vines, and apple trees. Paths traverse a diverse palette of plants with multi-season interest and low maintenance requirements.

At COGdesign's request, Hartney Greymont contributed a day of service at the site, pruning overgrown trees that created a major obstacle in developing the landscape.