

Plans continue for on-campus garden



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Students propose to build a garden in the lot behind the Center for Child Development.

BY JARED YOUNG
Staff Reporter

Harry's Food Garden might soon be the place for students to learn to grow their own food.

Harry's Food Garden, in reference to Harry S. Truman, is the proposed name for the possible garden. The idea originated from the Environmental Campus Organization and has been introduced to Student Senate for their approval.

Junior associate senator Josh Mantooth said ECO currently is in charge of the garden plans.

The garden would be located by West Campus, Mantooth said. It would provide the opportunity for student's to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

The food produced by the proposed garden would be for people on campus and some charity organizations in the Kirksville area. Mantooth said the garden also will serve academic endeavors.

"It's going to be used as a tool for education and as a way to bring people together over something that people don't know that much about," Mantooth said. "Most people don't grow their own food anymore. They get it from the grocery store. This is a way to connect people back to the food they eat."

The garden will be the main focus of a non-profit organization. Mantooth said ECO is not planning on keeping the garden as its own.

"A separate student group from ECO would be in charge of [the garden]," Mantooth said. "Also, the group's not limited to just students. We want to bring in anyone from the Kirksville area that would like to participate."

ECO would like to bring in local farmers to give workshops and help educate people on how to grow food. Mantooth said there also are plans to keep the proposed garden open during the summer months.

"What we want to do is have an internship where there would be a student responsible for taking care of the garden while most people are gone," Mantooth said.

Senior associate senator William Erker said the plan for a campus garden is becoming popular with students.

"There's already a lot of student energy and support and actual leg work that is going into making this next project happen," Erker said. "The past

four Saturdays there's been around 20 students coming out to the University Farm and planting a variety of fall crops, such as lettuce and spinach, peas and radishes that are going to be served in the campus dining halls."

Erker said the idea of a campus garden originated from students wanting to improve the quality of food available on campus and in the Kirksville community.

"It's kind of our way of asking, 'What can we do to build some solutions that will improve the food system?'" Erker said.

Sophomore Yajie Yu, chairperson for the environmental affairs committee, is in charge of writing the resolution that will be proposed to Student Senate.

He said having Student Senate's support will say that the general student body supports having a community garden on campus.

This weekend is Student Senate's retreat. The resolution was presented formally to Senate at the Sept. 20 meeting. Yu said that beyond Student Senate support, garden planners are also looking for funding.

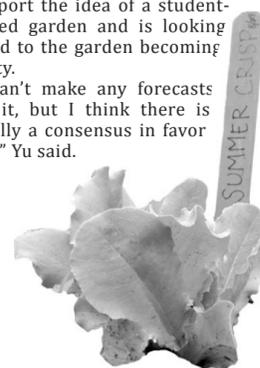
"We're looking for funding either from the FAC or from a SILO (Student Initiated Learning Opportunities) Grant," Yu said. "Right now, we believe that we have a strong case that this is definitely a learning issue."

Grant money for the project would be used to open a paid position during the summer. Yu said plans also include making scholarship jobs available to students.

"Starting a garden is a big, ambitious project," Yu said. "We're going to need money for tools, seeds, storage sheds and what not."

Yu said Truman's campus appears to support the idea of a student-operated garden and is looking forward to the garden becoming a reality.

"I can't make any forecasts about it, but I think there is generally a consensus in favor of this," Yu said.



Cove construction sees no progress

Web site, phone for apartment complex deactivated

BY ANDY MOORE
Staff Reporter

The sign for the Cove apartments sits on South Halliburton Street in an empty, overgrown field with the word "Cove," a disconnected phone number and a deactivated Web site address.

SMC Development President Eric Kaemmerer told the Index in January that the Cove apartments were delayed after the torrential rain in July 2008 flooded the site. He added that the project was further delayed that summer when SMC's bank was bought out and had all of its development and construction loans frozen.

Kaemmerer could not be reached for comment, and Brandt Stiles, former president of the Cove, said he is

no longer is affiliated with the Cove.

Richard Gooch of Kirksville based Gooch Construction said they originally were hired to do work on the Cove apartments, but he has not heard from SMC for about six months.

"I've had some trouble trying to get a hold of [SMC] also to find out what is going on and what their expectations are and so on," Gooch said. "So, I really don't have any updated information. ... I don't anticipate that it's really optimistic."

Brad Selby, the code administrator in Kirksville, said he also has not heard from the SMC Development for about six months, but that he still would like to see the property be "properly maintained" for grass and weeds.

"We haven't seen any construction begin," he said. "There were some stakes out for layout, but nothing took

place after that."

He said his last contact with SMC was when the company received its building permit last fall.

"We've had no contact," Selby said. "Of course their plans are far behind schedule, and we don't know if they have any plans. We're assuming basically, with what we have here, their plans are probably just defunct."

Junior Stephanie Baechle and her roommate paid SMC a \$100 deposit in April 2008 but never signed a lease because the company had not started construction. Baechle said she got her deposit back in July, but she had only a month to find another apartment in Kirksville before the Fall 2008 semester started.

"We weren't expecting them not to have the apartments built," Baechle said. "But I guess we expected to get the deposits back because nothing was built."



Amy Vicars/Index

The Cove housing project has seen no development since the announcement of their construction of luxury apartments in Spring 2008.

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Miscellaneous

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Misc: JUNGLE OF JOYS PET SHOP, Kirksville, MO 660-665-7701: Amphibians, Birds, Exotics, Ferrets, Fish, Reptiles, Small Furry Animals, Special Orders, Supplies; Feeder Crickets, Fish, Mice, Worms.

Miscellaneous

Misc: Homecoming at Church of Christ, Sun. Oct. 11, with alumni leading worship, including TruMen's Greg Hudson songleading and Marty James (bank president) speaking. www.kirksvillechurchofchrist.com

Misc: Spiritual NIGHTCAP! Mondays 9-9:30 PM or longer if desired, Ekklesia Campus Ministry House, 1405 S. Florence. Short devo, praise, java, and Gaylene's famous brownies. Ekklesia.truman.edu.

Miscellaneous

Misc: Student Bible Study. Ryle Hall, room 362. Mondays at 8pm. For more info call Ryan 573-424-2887. ryanmskinner@gmail.com. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

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