Official Groundbreaking: September 8, 2018

Placement:

UConn Pharmacy’s new Medicinal Garden will become part of the northeast science quad at UConn (North Eagleville Science District) on the south facing side of the Biology/Pharmacy building. It will connect the planned north and south woodland corridors, green belts moving through the entire UConn campus. UConn greenways create a sense of place and support other environmental goals on campus including addressing storm water issues.

History:

The UConn School of Pharmacy’s original medicinal garden was located near Fairfield Way on the UConn campus. The courtyard garden was kept for
The garden was used to teach students about drugs derived from medicinal plants from the sowing of seeds, through the stages of cultivation, to their collection and final manufacture into a pill or tincture. Pharmaceutical products were assayed chemically or pharmacologically in laboratory work, giving a complete story of the materials of medicine through to patient use.

The original School of Pharmacy medicinal garden at UConn dates back to the late 1950s.

Goals

UConn Pharmacy is creating a new educational garden where students, alumni and visitors can learn about medicinal plants and their historic and modern day uses.

The garden will define an outdoor environment and will contain live medicinal plants, descriptions of their healing properties, medicinal uses, and information regarding their chemical compounds via QR codes.

The garden will complement the UConn campus’ master plan with a defined space that offers a sense of enclosure and inclusion for all.

Site lighting will enhance nighttime appearance while providing a well-lit, safe environment for students.

The garden will create a space for a small open classroom within the garden as well as reflective spaces for visitors.

Plant List:

The plant list for the new garden draws from the previous garden and current recommendations from various sources. The garden will have 4-season interest.
There will be an estimated 44 plants in the herbaceous medicinal category, 11 tree species, 4 shrub species, 7 groundcover species, 7 species of swale plants, and a grass mix.

Below is a short list of some of the planned herbaceous medicinals. Please ask for a more complete list.

**Sample plants and their medicinal uses:**

Anise hyssop
*Agastache foeniculum*
Anise Hyssop has respiratory, anti-inflammatory, cardiac, gastrointestinal, obstetric and gynecological uses.

Autumn crocus
*Colchicum autumnale*
Autumn crocus contains the alkaloid colchicine which can be used to treat gout and rheumatic complaints.

Calendula
*Calendula officinalis*
Marigold extract can be used topically as an anti-inflammatory. The plant has antispasmodic properties and can help to initiate menstrual periods. It also has a fever reducing capability.

Comfrey
*Symphytum officinale*
Comfrey provides historical reference. It has toxic pyrrolizidine alkaloids that damage the liver. Comfrey is no longer used for internal uses. Some creams and ointments contain comfrey for use in treating inflammatory conditions and healing closed wounds.

Golden rod
*Solidago odora*
Goldenrod can act as a diuretic and can reduce inflammation associated with arthritis and gout, skin reactions, allergies and more.
Marshmallow
*Althaea officinalis*
Marshmallow leaves and roots are multifaceted in medicine. The plant can be used to treat inflammations and irritations of the mucous membranes. It can also help treat excess stomach acid, peptic ulceration and gastritis. Bruises, sprains, aching muscles, insect bites and other skin inflammations can also be treated with marshmallow.

Rosemary
*Rosmarinus officinalis*
Rosemary is common in cooking. It is also considered an antioxidant and is believed to help improve memory and combat hair loss.

Yarrow (crimson)
*Achillea millefolium*
Yarrow has been used to treat colds, allergies, and gastrointestinal issues.

**Sample tree with medicinal use:**

Willow Tree
*Salix*
Willow is one of the earliest herbal remedies. Its bark contains salicin, the compound found in aspirin. Tinctures made from the bark have been used to offer relief from pain, fever and inflammation.

**Design:**

The overall size of the garden is about 10,300 square feet. The area of pavement is 1908 square feet. Planting areas as specified by the planting plans in the set are general landscape plantings (C-151) 6900 square feet, and herbaceous medicinal plantings (C-152) 1492 square feet. All plants specified will have some medicinal value.
The garden design layout is based on the chemical structures of salicylic acid - one of the first pharmaceuticals isolated from plants in the modern pharmacopeia – and menthol.

A willow, the bark of which is a source for pain relieving salicin, will provide focus at one end of the garden.

There will be plants, stone garden benches, paving material changes and more as you walk through the space. Four weathering (corten) steel planter edges will add areas of raised plantings to make them more accessible and add visual interest.

**Timeline**

Planned construction duration is 3 months starting September 8, 2018 with an estimated completion date of December 3, 2018. The completion date may change depending upon UConn CPCA bidding process, contractor bid results, and time spent finalizing/negotiating the construction contract.

**Questions**

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