

Marshall College Community Garden Proposal

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I. Mission Statement

As guided by the philosophy of Thurgood Marshall College, to develop the scholar and the citizen, the Community Garden will serve as an opportunity to learn about social responsibility through sustainable living, an outdoor study area, and a means to develop a close-knit Marshall community.

II. Overview and Goals

The community garden will be developed and maintained by A.C.T. and S.C.O.R.E., two well-established Marshall organizations. A.C.T. (Active Community at Thurgood Marshall College) is a club that fosters the ideals of social activism and community service funded by Thurgood Marshall College Student Council and advised by Marshall Administration. Throughout the year, A.C.T. has empowered Marshall students to become active citizens of their community by organizing beach clean ups, tutoring students for a Saturday School program, giving tours of campus to middle school students, fundraising for Heifer International, sponsoring a blood drive, and cleaning up local parks and canyon areas. By providing opportunities for Marshall students to become involved in improving their community, A.C.T. plays a significant role in developing Marshall students as both scholars and citizens.

S.C.O.R.E. (Student Committee on Residential Engagement) is a Residential Life organization focused on improving residential life in Marshall College on all levels from aesthetic appeal to community building through intentional programming. As one of the primary sources of residential programming, S.C.O.R.E. has worked for years to promote a more active community life for Marshall residents. Recently, they have been working within a set of three core themes spread throughout the year: Philanthropy, Culture, and Conservation. These themes have provided the backdrop for several programs of varying sizes and purposes. Smaller projects have included de-stress events and community BBQ's, with the goal of promoting overall well being and happiness of Marshall Residences. Larger projects have included an annual Conservation Fair and refurbishment of the Marshall Hump. All of these projects, large and small, have worked to promote community amongst Marshall residences, as well as establish S.C.O.R.E. as a key visible member within the Marshall community.

The support provided by these organizations and their respective advisors will ensure the garden's longevity and sustainability for years to come. Both advisors, Marshall Coordinator of Student Activities Justin Glover, and Assistant Resident Dean Shane Moise, have agreed to jointly serve as points of contact for this garden.

Marshall Resident Advisors have also expressed support in favor of the garden. The R.A.s represent a direct connection to residents on campus, and with their support, it will be easier to reach almost every Marshall resident with updates about the garden. They have also proposed having designated plots for each resident hall and apartment buildings to cultivate and grow. By giving each building an assigned plot, students and R.A.'s have a more personal investment in the garden, encouraging them to maintain and use the space.

As a way to not only connect the campus community, it will also be our goal to use this space as a medium for reaching out to the local community outside of UC San Diego as well. It is our hope that once the garden emerges, Marshall Student Organizations can partner with local schools to bring elementary and high school students onto campus, where they will be able to learn about the benefits to growing local crops in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way.

Student Committee on Residential Engagement & Active Community at TMC

MCCGP

Keeping in line with the Marshall core philosophy of social justice, this garden will provide access for all students of Marshall College, which include residents, as well as commuters and transfers, to take part in sustainable growing and exercise their right to grow their own fresh, organic food. The garden will serve as an open forum for students of all backgrounds and socioeconomic strata to come together and engage in community building. In order to better utilize the limited outdoor space in Marshall College, the garden will also include picnic benches and open spaces for students to study at their will.

The garden will become an integral part of each club's commitment to giving back to the community, providing a space for service and programming. Club constitutions will reflect an ongoing commitment as well as establish consistent leadership positions to ensure the garden's upkeep and success.

III. Funding

This project has already secured funding from the Student Sustainability Collective's "The Green Initiative Fund," granting our project an initial installment of \$7,876.50. Furthermore, additional funding can be accessed throughout the year through Housing and Dining grants, Residential Life funding, and funding requests from Thurgood Marshall College Student Council. We will also be working in conjunction with a non-profit organization known as Roots Sustainable Food Project whose experienced volunteers will aid us in design and execution of the community garden. Finally, we have been granted permission from the Student Sustainability Collective to share resources with the currently established gardens on campus in an effort to converse and better use tools and materials. A detailed budget and planned spending report can be provided by request from Chelsea Herrman at clherrma@ucsd.edu.

IV. Motivation for Garden

The goal of the Marshall Community Garden is to create a multi-use community centerpiece unlike anything else on the UC San Diego campus. The garden will be more than just a set of raised vegetable beds; rather it will be an open and welcoming space that encourages students to not just sew the seeds of herbs and vegetables, but to sew the seeds of community and creativity. By making this a multi-use space, students will be able to enjoy a wider variety of activities within the area than other gardens on campus, and more student groups will be involved in the garden and its maintenance. By utilizing the support from ACT and SCORE, we will be creating an outdoor space where students will take part in organic growing, learn about environmental sustainability, and create a stronger connection to Marshall College and the Marshall campus.

Rather than stay indoors, they will be able to bask in the beautiful San Diego weather while studying on the planned picnic benches and open spaces. As the garden emerges, student groups will also be able to enjoy performances and meetings in the proposed second-phase grass amphitheater, which will have an outdoor stage, with the audience facing a blank wall on which movies and images can be projected. What will set the Marshall garden apart from other on campus gardens is our plan to making the space incredibly versatile and diverse in its use as a new community resource that will be made openly available to students. We are confident in our ability to achieve this goal because of our stable financial backing and our consistent student organization members from ACT and SCORE who will be responsible for the general maintenance as well as the initial implementation of the garden.

V. Site and Physical Planning

The following map indicates the open green spaces that currently exist in Marshall College. Site #3 is our preferred option, but if for some reason we are unable to obtain approval for that site, we are open to using other plots of available land, as indicated on the following map.

VI. Proposed Sites

Stars indicate proposed community garden sites for Thurgood Marshall College. Numbers correspond to the site, ground-level photos. Please advise on site feasibility and pros/cons for use. Aim is to identify one usable open space.

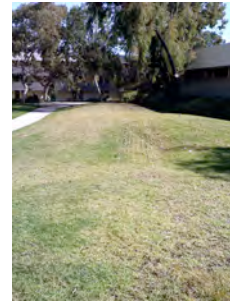




1. Marshall Field



2. Marshall field North Hump



2. Marshall Field South Hump



3. Across from Marshall Administration Building
[Preferred site location]



3. Across from Marshall Administration Building
[Preferred site location]



4. Goody's Market Lawn



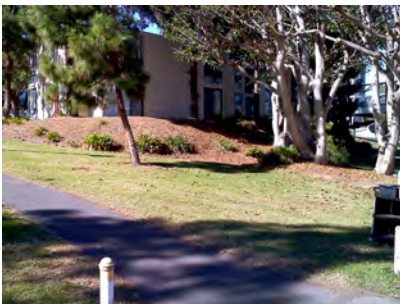
5. Marshall Uppers Apartments



5. Marshall Uppers Apartments



6. Marshall Lowers Apartments



6. Marshall Lowers Apartments

Site Preference: Site 3

Site 3, listed as Across from the Marshall Administrative building, is adjacent to ridge walk and is ideal for many reasons. It is a high traffic area, centrally located, and visible to the entire community. Projected uses for the garden as not only a place for students to practice sustainability and relax, but also a place to study and host community engagement projects, makes visibility, location, and accessibility very high priorities. Furthermore, the environment receives a great deal of sunlight and would be suitable for a longer and more diversified growing season. The natural slope lends itself to multiple dimensions of use that are detailed in the attached appendix document.

MARSHALL COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSED DESIGN V.2

KEY

- = Grass
- = Garden Planters
- = Flower Beds
- = Foot Paths
- = Trees
- = Picnic Benches
- ←

→

 = Entryway

COMMUNICATIONS
BUILDING

