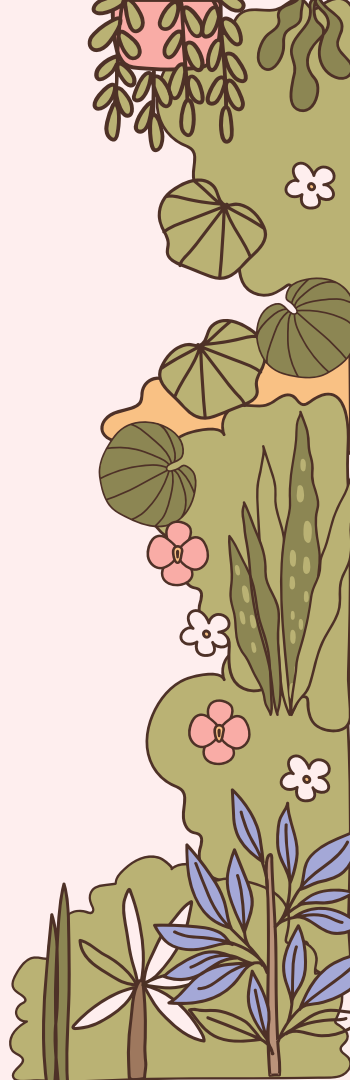
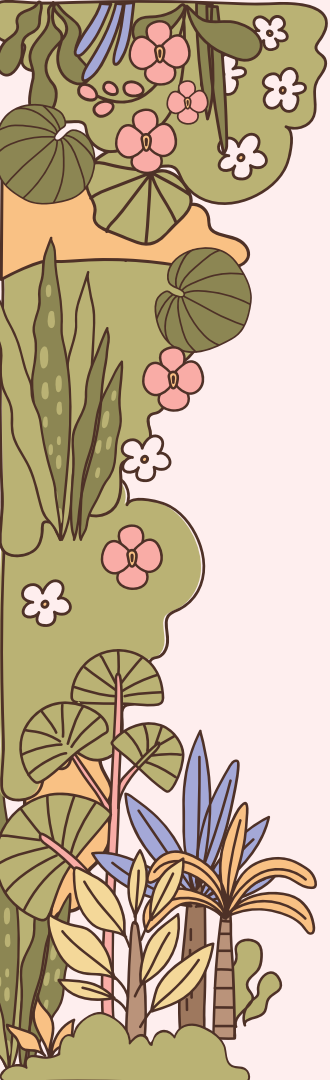




Earth Grant Demonstration Project - UACG Improvement


By Lachlan Craddock





Introduction

Over the course of the year as an Earth Grant Intern for Compost cats, I was able to work on a year long project to improve and area of our site at the University of Arizona Community Garden. This project was meant to fulfill the following objectives:

- Creating a more shaded community spaces within the garden area
 - Making existing spaces more inviting
 - Using sustainable materials and methods to create this space
 - Ensuring that all new improvements are built to last
- 

PROJECT COMPONENTS

01

Finished
Compost Bin

02

Shade
Structure

03

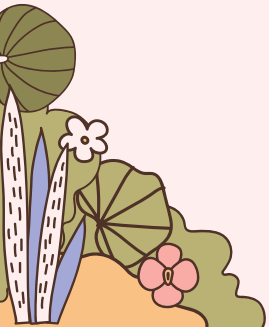
Seating

04

Signage

05

Community
Activation





OUR GOALS

Permanent Structures

All structures and signage will be good quality with the aim to need little maintenance and last a long time.

No New Plastic

We want to promote long term sustainable use of the garden. No new plastic will be used as we are setting an example for sustainable environments.

Lasting Impact

The goal of this project is to create change in the garden that will exist after we leave and provide the community with a welcoming environment that is for everyone.



01 FINISHED COMPOST BIN



Above: Initial inspiration



Above: Final choice

Our original design incorporated an area to hold finished compost for community members to use in their gardens

In our final design we chose a cattle trough instead of something that we build by hand

- More efficient use of space
- Keeps compost more contained to one area
- Metal will last longer than wood
- Cheaper than concrete or ByFusion blocks

02 SHADE STRUCTURE

- Prefab pergola from Backyard Discovery
 - 5 Year Warranty, Cedar Wood
 - Somewhat higher material cost
 - Much less Installation costs and labor-hours
- Contributes to shading the area
- Allows for the addition of creeping vines
- Quoted at \$1,599 + \$560 Installation labor



03 SEATING



Above: Bench that was purchased

For Seating we bought benches that we assembled. We put these benches both in our existing ramada area and under the new pergola that we purchased as well as few other areas in the garden

- Seating allows for more comfortable use of the garden space as a community gathering area
- With adding 6 total benches we nearly doubled the amount of permanent seating space in the garden

04 SIGNAGE

Inspired by signage created for other Compost Cats demonstration sites we also designed signage for UACG to both help direct the public and educate

- Adding Passive Education Signage
- Would include a site map and an overview of the compost cycle
- Signage relating to important pollinators
- Community message board
- Similar to signage at TVF and Cooper Center



05 COMMUNITY ACTIVATION

The main goal of this project is to increase the community availability of the garden plans are in the works to be able to hold more public events in our new community space

- Using the new garden space for community events
- Expand on the hosting abilities of UACG



Conclusions

The project was an amazing experience and gave us significant experience in project management and community organization. We hope that the improvements that we started will be able to facilitate community for years to come!

