

## Maryhill Park Community Garden

### Stalled Spaces Grant Proposal

In designing the first phase of work in the community garden, we have decided to use industrial materials – mostly used scaffolding poles and boards. These are cheap, readily available, and hard to vandalise.

The poles can be bolted together and bolted to the concrete or tarmac surface with tamper-proof fixings, and the scaffold boards will be bolted or screwed inside the scaffold pole frames – once filled, these will be impossible to remove and very hard to set alight.

Rania Tzalla has very kindly produced this visual impression of what we plan to build, and she has also given us a lot of very useful advice on similar sites and structures elsewhere.



### Sensory Raised Bed

This will be a raised bed along the side of the existing concrete ramp, 10m long, 1m wide and 1m high. It will be at the correct height for wheelchair users, and will be planted with a combination of visually pleasing plants, and sensory plants with interesting smells and textures, also perfect for small children.

This bed will also act as a barrier on the open side of the concrete ramp for safety, as a visual barrier to divide the community garden from the bowling greens, and will also visually continue the planting in the existing flowerbed. It will be constructed from scaffolding boards and poles.

### Path

The path will run from the two gateposts at the entrance to the compound to the steps down to the tennis courts, to give a straight through path, and a central corridor through the community garden. Half the path will be on existing tarmac, the remaining 16m will be

a 2m-wide path made of bark chips or Ultitrec on top of a membrane with wooden boards to the sides.

### **Pergola**

The pergola structure will be built on the existing concrete pad, built out of scaffold poles and connectors, very securely bolted to the pad. It will have climbing plants spiralling around it, planted into the soil at the front and into two 4'x4' raised beds at the back. This will give more height to the space, providing a feature that can be seen from the bowling greens and both ends of the site, and also act as a summer meeting space.

The pergola will be roofed with corrugated steel sheet, guttered at the rear, and the gutters will feed into a water storage tower made out of three steel drums. These will have a capacity of 600 litres – rough calculations show that the 12'x8' roof will collect around 600 litres of rainwater per month in the summer months. There will be a lockable tap on the bottom of the storage tower.

### **Raised Beds**

There will be two raised beds, 12' by 4' by 18" high, placed on two sides of the pagoda. These will be for community planting of vegetables, and will be constructed from commercially-available raised bed kits made from pressure-treated timber, bolted and staked to the ground.

### **Water Supply**

The water supply will come from the pergola roof, stored in the water tower. As a backup, we have several spare wheelie bins which could be filled at a nearby tap, several Friends members live in Spence St and have offered to do this if needed.

### **Compost Bins**

A series of three or four compost bins will be constructed in the shady area next to the entrance. They will be built out of recycled pallets, which are readily available at zero cost.

### **Planting**

We have budgeted to purchase plants for the raised beds and climbing plants for the pagoda, according the following plan:

#### **1. Flowers for raised beds and planters**

- Geraniums
- Petunias (raise from seed for April/May planting)
- Nasturtiums (mix of varieties, sow in-situ)

#### **2. Herbs, etc., for sensory raised bed**

- Thyme,
- Oregano
- Rosemary
- Chives
- Rocket
- Land cress
- Mint
- Tansy

### 3. Climbers – for pergola uprights, walls

- Runner beans
- Climbing hydrangea
- Wisteria
- Honeysuckle
- Climbing roses

### 4. Veggies – for the raised beds

- Beets
- Chard
- Radishes
- Other salads

The plan will be to deliberately leave some parts of the raised beds bare, and encourage others to plant their own plants in these spaces.

#### **Minor Work**

We will repoint the brick walls which need some work in places, and finish tidying the rest of the site. We also plan to put wires for climbing plants along the stone back wall of the site.

#### **Sculpture**

We have a local Glasgow architectural blacksmith, Agnes Jones ([www.agnesjones.com](http://www.agnesjones.com)) who is very interested in helping us with a feature sculpture for the community garden. The intention is that this will be placed on top of the existing metal gatepost at the entrance to the bowling greens, at a height where it will be very hard to vandalise. We will pay for materials, she will provide the design and her labour for free. We have budgeted for the sculpture, but this money could instead be used as a contingency if needed.

#### **Community Involvement**

We plan for the main structural work to be carried out by the Maryhill Park Volunteers, then we will have one or two weekends where we will try to involve as much of the community as possible to fill the beds with compost and soil, plant the beds, and lay the bark on the path.

Our hope for the community garden is that it will become a community seating and meeting area, with places for people who do not have garden spaces of their own to get involved in growing things. We already hold a summer fair on the neighbouring bowling greens every year, and this garden will also add to those events.

