



Garden Design and Popularity

Jack Forrest¹, Jessica Tabron², Jeong Choe², Tina Nesberg²
Palo Alto High School¹, Palo Alto Unified School District²



INTRODUCTION

A community garden is a place that can benefit the community by growing plants helpful for the community and by serving as a nice environment for relaxing and hanging out. Palo Alto High School has its own community garden, but it has not been used to its full potential. When I first saw the garden, I decided to take on the task of remodeling it from dry dirt to a place to grow crops. I found that the garden had gone unserved for the last seven years, which had left it a blank, arid canvas. My first day there, the first job was to clean up the cardboard and scraps we had lying in the garden.



DATA AND FINDINGS

Figure 1. Before we started the garden was heavily packed with dry dirt.



Figure 3. After the soil was turned, we decided that garden bed would be a good idea, for it would work well with Jeremiah's irrigation system. Beds would be equipped with metal mesh on the bottom to keep rodents out. Once they were assembled we decided to paint the beds PALY green with intent to lay out white rocks in the future for PALY colors.



METHODOLOGIES

The garden had much to be done, first what was needed was to turn the soil over and soften it up for a nice ground level. Then we decided to build garden beds, with the idea to paint them green, and to also install an irrigation system in each bed. with also using white rocks as a path for PALY colors, green and white.

To accomplish the task of remodeling the garden, I worked with a team. Without the group effort, this project wouldn't have been possible. The garden group consisted of a group of Paly students (including me), as well as three garden mentors and a little help from my dad on three occasions.



Figure 2. After rain swept through the garden it left grass in its wake, so our first task was to dig up the grass and turn over the dirt to unpack it to make a nice base for the garden.



Figure 4. After all three beds were created and placed we filled the beds with soil and planted a few plants in some of the beds.

DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

When working on the garden I ran into two challenges:

1. When screwing the screws into the beds, some of the planks chipped. Next time, this should be done extra cautiously.
2. The budget was limited, and in some cases we were limited to what was donated to us. We had received rocks to go between the gardens, but they were dark rather than the white we had planned to match Paly colors.

Overall, the rest of the project was flawless to my eyes. Everything seemed to go smoothly, and we ended up creating something that I'm proud of, as the beds turned out wonderful and the plants are growing and thriving just as planned.

CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

The garden project was successful. Turning a desert into a garden worked. I feel that this garden will impact the community in a positive way and maybe even attract attention from the students, even though it's quite a walk from the normal hang-out areas of the campus.

If I were to take this project further, I would focus on adding a white rock pathway to reflect the Paly colors, as I think aesthetics are key to drawing attention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

Garden Mentors: Jessica Tabron, Jeong Choe, Tina Nesberg.

Garden Group: Rahul Kothari, Jeremiah Cohn, David Hernandez, Jack Forrest.

Extra help with the beds: Gregg Forrest, Owner of Bike Connection and Cardinal