



# Canberra City Farm Turner Garden Information and Design Day Outcomes Saturday 20 September 2014

## **Background**

On Saturday 20 September 2014, around 50 people got together to learn about, and design, the first Canberra City Farm Garden in Turner.

The day started with an overview of what had taken place up until that day, which consisted of the first meeting of the Canberra City Farm in September 2011, the exploration of various sites across Canberra and the establishment of an interactive display at Floriade in 2013 and 2014 that is a small demonstration of what the Canberra City Farm is out to create.

Everyone then broke into 6 groups to discuss the design principles they would like to see in the Canberra City Farm Turner Garden. In addition, before people left they were asked to complete a short survey.

A small group was nominated on the day to compile the outcomes from the day. Following are the results of both the ideas that came from the group discussions and the surveys.

## **Design Principles for the Canberra City Farm Turner Garden:**

*Note: Some items on this list are repeated as they were repeated in the different groups.*

| Theme                        | Points noted  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Education/<br>Communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a podcast tour of the display to support visually impaired</li> <li>• Signage or audio</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Facebook page for Turner site</li> <li>• Whiteboard with jobs list</li> <li>• Information post</li> <li>• Microclimate demo</li> </ul>   |
| Animals –<br>fly in fly on   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bees</li> <li>• Chooks</li> <li>• Ducks</li> <li>• Bees – bee forage</li> <li>• Chook day – once a month people bring chooks in = ACT fowls and ducks association (Canberra Connect)</li> <li>• Pidgeon House – conical house</li> <li>• Native birds – bird bath, bird shelter, plants that attract native birds</li> <li>• Bird bath</li> <li>• Possum issues</li> </ul>           |
| Water                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump water from Sullivans Creek</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Water efficient</li> <li>• Containers, rain gardens, into wicking beds, watering vertical gardens</li> </ul>  |
| Security                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop vandalism</li> <li>• Security cam with recorder</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Power – solar and battery backup</li> <li>• Lighting – LED sensor lights</li> <li>• Live web cam to show who's in there – high speed for displays – and as a way for people to stay across what is happening at the site</li> <li>• Good lighting – motion sensor, electricity supply</li> </ul> |

| Theme      | Points noted  |
|------------|---|
| Look/feel  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of community</li> <li>• Boundaries</li> <li>• Recycled and free materials</li> <li>• Flow of garden</li> <li>• Purpose</li> <li>• Experiment and fundamental</li> <li>• Inviting and social</li> <li>• Inviting – design, socially, simple, accepting</li> <li>• Design – pathways, open, entrances</li> <li>• Entrance</li> <li>• Open space</li> <li>• Good circulation</li> <li>• Visually appealing</li> <li>• All seasons</li> <li>• 3D – go high</li> <li>• Different height and accessible levels</li> <li>• Creating small spaces/rooms that show different garden types</li> <li>• Curves – paths where possible</li> <li>• Community area</li> <li>• Community space</li> </ul>   |
| Structures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse for winter</li> <li>• Bicycle rack</li> <li>• Earth roof on container – roof garden</li> <li>• Portable furniture could use space outside demonstration area (ie. hammocks)</li> <li>• Compost toilet</li> <li>• Greenhouse/polytunnel</li> <li>• Compost toilet</li> <li>• Gap between shipping containers with perspex for greenhouse</li> <li>• Shade sails</li> <li>• Trestle tables – stored in lock-up</li> <li>• Seats – some with backs, could double as garden</li> <li>• Food preparation area with pizza oven</li> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Roundhouse for growing structures</li> <li>• Consider wind when placing structures</li> <li>• Picnic tables outside our area under trees</li> <li>• Frames for beds so can put plastic, shade cloth, mesh, etc. over</li> <li>• Pizza oven for events – community pizza night</li> <li>• Bicycle parking and racks</li> <li>• Seating – used for different purposes – old tyres</li> <li>• Not just garden – weather-proof</li> <li>• Containers to rig up temp cover</li> <li>• Seating lounges</li> <li>• Accessibility – wheelchairs, walkers</li> <li>• Covering – poly tunnel, shade cloth</li> <li>• Berry slope with storage and or cubby underneath with sandpit</li> <li>• Toilet – composting – other cultures for food growing – mix</li> <li>• Propagation space</li> <li>• Spaces for staged development</li> </ul> |

| Theme                  | Points noted   |
|------------------------|--|
| Plant beds             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containers – art work</li> <li>• Vertical gardens</li> <li>• Kokonut Pacific has 200L drums and pallets</li> <li>• Progressive planting</li> <li>• Raised beds</li> <li>• Accessible – raised beds</li> <li>• Green shed – recycled containers</li> <li>• Straw bales – gabion</li> <li>• Telephone books – newspaper beds</li> </ul>   |
| Plants                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunflowers</li> <li>• Minimise grass</li> <li>• Bush foods</li> <li>• Sensory garden – touch, smell, taste, vision impaired, wind chimes/mirrors</li> <li>• Medicinal garden</li> <li>• Flowers</li> <li>• Beneficial insects – daisy, carrots, sage</li> <li>• Flowers</li> <li>• Mushrooms</li> <li>• Food growing</li> <li>• Haybale or sunflower or other maze</li> <li>• Green wall / Green roof</li> <li>• Graft onto street trees</li> <li>• Flowers</li> <li>• Bean/pea teepees</li> </ul>  |
| Edging/fencing         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picket fences</li> <li>• Arches with gates</li> <li>• Berry hedges</li> <li>• Dry climate plant fences bottle brush</li> </ul>  |
| Activities at the site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids activities</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Brainstorm area with sign-up sheet</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Socialise</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Sculpture – living art</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Music – fun</li> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Range – diversity of interests</li> <li>• Capturing knowledge of the elders</li> <li>• Sculptures (living)</li> <li>• Interactive experience</li> <li>• Education/meeting point/shady spots</li> <li>• Working bee</li> <li>• Camping wwoofers</li> <li>• Involving UC landscape design</li> <li>• Local competition</li> </ul> |
| Recycling              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compost – creative arrangement not just bins – vermin proof</li> <li>• Worm farm</li> <li>• Recycle / reuse</li> <li>• Worm farms, compost, nutrient cycling</li> </ul>   |

### **Follow-up survey:**

- 33 survey responses were received
- Answers to Question 1: What would YOU like to see happen in the Turner Garden?
  - 29 indicated they want to use and help maintain the garden
  - 29 indicated they want the garden to be a place to learn
  - 28 indicated want the garden to produce lots of vegetables/fruit
  - 26 indicated they want the garden to have places to sit and relax
  - 26 indicated they wanted to meet people in the Turner Community
  - 20 indicated they want the garden to have space for children to learn/play
  - 8 noted other reasons, which consisted of:
    - Expand
    - I want to engage elderly people
    - I would like to share the harvest at community dinners
    - Push limit
    - Meeting place, fun space for all ages
    - Capture knowledge and foster inter-generational engagement
    - Provide compost
    - Purchase produce
    - I want it to be catching for people to want them across Canberra, and to prove to government that it's a valuable project
    - I want the space to showcase skills held by, and including, marginalised communities
    - I want the space to empower people to enact change in their own lives
  - Of the responses above, 9 indicated an order of importance and these consisted of:
    - 5 had the highest importance as they want the garden to be a place to learn
    - 3 had the highest importance as they want the garden to produce lots of vegetables/fruit
    - 1 had the highest importance as they want to use and help maintain the garden
    - The other orders of importance were mixed across all of the options.
    - The only other noticeable consistency in order of importance was that the least important items were:
      - 3 had the lowest priority as they wanted to meet people in the Turner Community
      - 3 had the lowest priority as they want the garden to have space for children to learn/play
- Answer to Question 2: What makes you interested in the Turner Garden?
  - 23 are local residents
  - 5 are from CCF members
  - 4 are from schools
  - 1 attends a local church
  - 1 is from a local business
  - 10 noted other, with responses consisting of:
    - Sustainable food production, education
    - Keen gardener
    - Supporter of sustainable food and community building
    - I would like to learn how to start a community garden and maybe start one in Ainslie
    - Learning
    - Essential to society's development
    - On committee of Turner Residents Association
    - I like plants and growing communities and sharing ideas and learning
    - Sustainability and greens activist
    - I am a supporter of the Food Sovereignty movement and it's benefits for physical, social and environmental health

*Some photos from the day*

**Image 1:** People milling about enjoying food and socialising as part of the informal information session



**Image 2:** Workshop session commenced



Image 3: Workshop session engaged a fair amount of locals

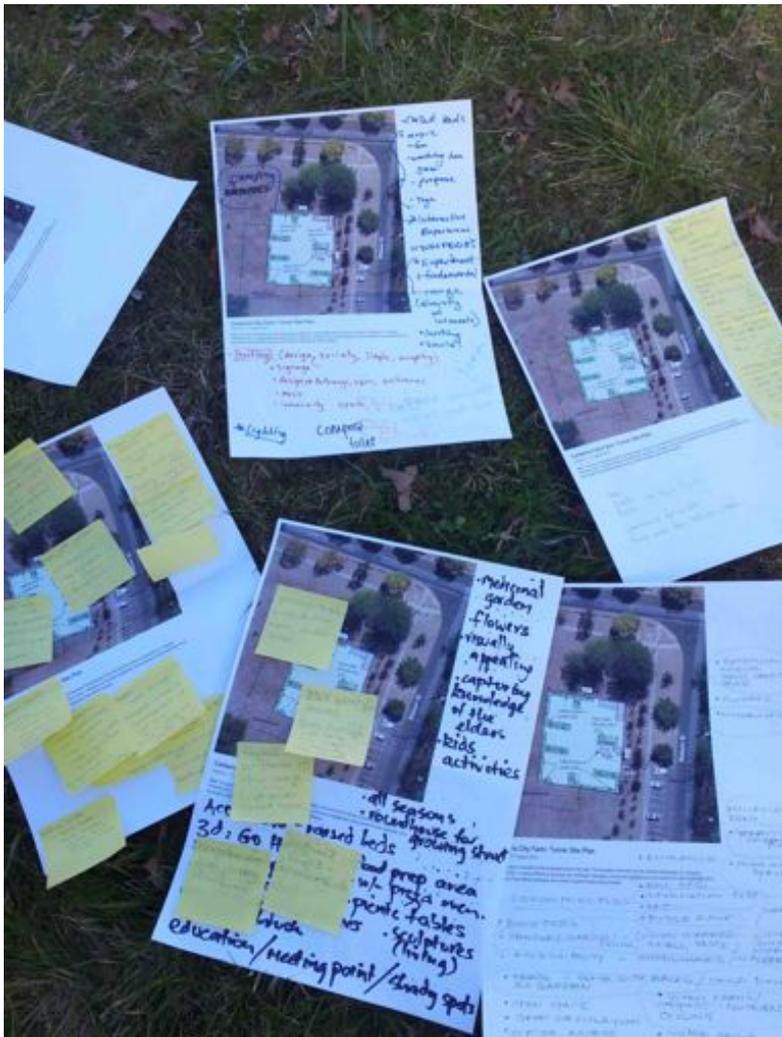


Image 4: Each group's output from the workshop session