

RAINWATER HARVEST DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

A Sustainable Campus-Community Landscape at Historic Art & Architecture.

This project will demonstrate how rainwater can be harvested from the roof of the historic Art & Architecture building and provide the sole water source for a sustainable and educational garden of native plants.

The project will be a demonstration site for an interdisciplinary collaboration of University of Idaho graduate and undergraduate students, as well as local community members, now and into the future. It ultimately will reach regionally and nationally beyond.

The proposed garden will be a major improvement to the highly visible degenerating landscape at the historic Art & Architecture building. Having a state of the art sustainable facility associated with the Department of Landscape Architecture will also contribute to student recruiting, be a source of accomplishment and pride for existing students, and help prepare students for careers associated with conserving a precious and vital resource.

On-site interpretation and after-construction monitoring will enable the results to be disseminated to the community through educational workshops, and electronic and (eco friendly) printed material.

GOALS

Sustainable resource use: demonstrate feasibility of harvested rainwater use for landscaping instead of drinking (potable) water.

Sustainability education: teach students how to design and monitor rainharvest systems for both usability and cost.

Community outreach: create a public garden that demonstrates the technology and visual advantages of this type of water-conserving landscape.

HIGHLIGHTS

Design charrette March 7: more than 30 Art & Architecture students working in teams, produce baseline design options for the rainharvest system and landscapes it could support. Food served is sustainable and local, supported by Moscow Food Co-op the PCEI Plate Program. Mayor Nancy Chaney, UI Sustainability Coordinator Darin Saul, and many faculty, staff and other students attend.

April 17 as part of UI Campus Day and Earth Week, a cooperative work crew of students, staff, faculty and community members removed the senescent arborvitae trees on the building's east side to prepare for rainharvest project installation.



DATA

Award Date:
Spring 2007
Award Amount:
\$10,000
Expected Completion:
May 2008
Location:
Art & Architecture Building

TEAM



Robert Farnsworth

PROJECT TEAM LEADER:

Robert Farnsworth,
Master's Student,
Landscape Architecture

PROJECT ADVISOR:

Gary Austin,
Associate Professor,
Landscape Architecture

ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS:

UI Landscape Architecture Club
Conservation Social Sciences (students)
Mechanical Engineering students and professor Don Elger
Students in LArc 289 and LArc 360

University of Idaho Sustainability Center

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