

Austin College

Student Assembly

20SA20

900 North Grand Avenue, Suite 6J
assembly@austincollege.edu

Sherman, TX 75090-4440

(903) 813-2300

Office located in Wright Campus Center 176

Adopt a Butterfly Bed Resolution

Sponsor: THINK, Kate Howard

Fully aware

The Adopt a Butterfly Bed program seeks to involve student organizations with campus aesthetics by having them volunteer to plant and maintain native, perennial garden beds around campus. Student organizations will sign up to “adopt” a specific bed that will be their responsibility to plant and maintain with the assistance and direction of Environmental Studies staff, faculty, and occasional assistance from Physical Plant.

Having Seen

Students, staff, and faculty have noticed declines in campus aesthetics in the past few years in campus garden beds, especially during the portion of the year when the annual plants traditionally planted in the beds are dead or removed. The Admissions Office and Board of Trustees are also aware of the landscaping concerns on campus.

Additionally, much effort and resources from the Physical Plant staff are necessary each year to both install new annual plants and remove dead plants, which strains an already understaffed work force for campus maintenance.

Informed

Switching to more perennial plants in the garden beds will reduce the input costs for annual purchase of new plants and save money in the long run. The involvement of student volunteers will reduce the time Physical Plant must dedicate to garden bed maintenance.

Additionally, placing native, perennial plants in more garden beds around campus will increase habitat resembling historical ecosystems, increase biological diversity, and foster ecosystem services like pollination, and prevention of soil erosion.

Convinced	The adoption of this project will assist an understaffed Physical Plant, save environmental and financial resources used in campus landscaping, provide learning and service opportunities for members of our community, and increase native habitat, biological diversity, and ecosystem services (e.g., pollination) on campus. Engagement in this program will foster student pride in campus aesthetics and enhance sustainability awareness.
Be it resolved	<p>that the Student Assembly authorizes the purchase made by the Student Sustainability Fund for 24 pairs of gardening gloves, 3 tile spades, 25 hand trowels for use in maintenance of the adopted garden beds as well as 500 native, perennial plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total estimate of \$3,966 for purchase of products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$56 for 2 cartons of Uline Gription® Flex Latex Coated Gloves ○ \$130 for 3 Kobalt 32.5-in Wood D-Handle Drain Spades ○ \$280 for 25 Fiskars Big Grip 7-in Steel Hand Transplanters ○ \$3,500 for 500 native perennials at average price of \$7 per plant sold wholesale from Twin Oaks nursery
Noting	Student organizations will be trained by Environmental Studies staff and faculty to learn the appropriate plant species, maintenance needs of the beds, and procedures for acquiring the tools and materials necessary for completing tasks in the garden beds.
Further Noting	Participating student leaders of organizations will be required to sign an annual contract outlining their responsibilities and all participating students will sign an individual liability waiver form.
Further Noting	Student organizations will be responsible for maintaining their assigned garden bed and creating schedules for maintenance on their own time. Monthly inspections by environmental staff/faculty will be conducted to check adopted beds for quality control purposes and beds will be reissued based on satisfactory maintenance as outlined in the aforementioned contract.

Dimensions of garden beds and estimation of plants needed to purchase:

Library

- Circular bed: 17'7" in diameter – 30 plants ~18" apart
- Rectangular bed with curved side: 17'5" x 13' – 70 plants ~18" apart

Luckett parking lot bed (2 patches of soil)

- Section 1: ~60" x 20" – 45 plants spaced ~24" apart
- Section 2: ~60" x 30" – 55 plants spaced ~24" apart

South flats

- Rectangular bed: 80' x 9.5' – 150 plants spaced ~24" apart

WCC (mailroom entrance)

- Section near door: 15'4" x 4'8" – 20 plants ~21" apart
- Section further from door: 46'4" x 4'8" – 50 plants spaced ~21" apart

Wortham

- Rectangular bed: 46'4" x 7'2" – 100 plants spaced ~21" apart