

BACKGROUND

The French Legation is and has been a city of Austin landmark for generations. Unfortunately in recent years, the landscape has become somewhat neglected due to a shortage of funds. At present it has a number of invasive and non-native plants, dying trees and shrubs as well as few resources for changing this condition. It could become a great asset for the city to restore it with more of the native plants that would have been in the Austin area nearly 200 years ago if possible. This would include an herb and spice garden near the old kitchen. The museum does have a small admission charge to tour the buildings but the grounds are open to the public without any fee required.

Comment [JW1]: Highlights importance to the community

Comment [JW2]: Describes current state of the property

Comment [JW3]: Clarifies that property is open to the public

IMPLEMENTATION

A local landscape designer, Cynthia Bond, is donating her time for this project. We will organize volunteers from the Native Plant Society of Texas, local Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards and Wildlife Austin volunteers to locate native plant material, install the plants and recruit volunteers and local neighborhoods to help with the maintenance of the project. The museum has limited landscape budget that is used for maintenance. We will also remove non-native and invasive plants that are damaging the landscape at present using volunteer labor. The design of the garden would happen during the summer of 2008 with the installation happening during the fall and winter of the same year. We will contact local members of the Austin Neighborhood Council and involve local homeowners groups that will live in the area to help monitor and look after the garden.

Comment [JW4]: Demonstrates clear plan on how to recruit volunteers

Comment [JW5]: involves the surrounding community

Comment [JW6]: highlights a focus on restoration

Comment [JW7]: clear timeline to accomplish project

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Austin Neighborhood Council will provide the contact information for nearby homeowners associations in East Austin to help with all phases of the project. Volunteers from Capital Area Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Austin Butterfly Forum, Travis County Audubon and others will assist in plant selection and wildlife monitoring. Records could be kept of wildlife observations on the site.

Comment [JW8]: lists community groups who will assist with the project and their roles

IMPACT

Because of the high visibility of this site, the French Legation will serve as a model of public private partnerships designed to rejuvenate East Austin historical sites. This will support the City of Austin's Global Warming Initiative. By building back wildlife habitat in the urban core, reducing water and energy use, as well as, becoming an educational center to promote wildlife and native plant preservation this project can become a neighborhood showcase of sustainability. A labeling system will be developed for the plants, trees and shrubs to let students know of the importance of native plants.

Comment [JW9]: outlines how project will impact East Austin, supports city environmental initiatives, impact the environment positively, and educate the public

SUPPORT OF KAB MISSION AND GOALS

There should be not doubt that restoring a jewel from Austin's past can only encourage any and all visitors to become better stewards of our land and protect our native plants and animals throughout the city. By using local resources and talent, any neighborhood can duplicate this effort to beautify this city we all love.

Comment [JW10]: goes beyond beautification to environmental stewardship

BUDGET

The Legation has very low curb appeal and we want it to be an inviting place that neighbors will want to visit again and again.

Comment [JW11]: lists all items, amounts, and projected costs in an easy to read format

Item	# of Units	Cost/Unit	Total
Soil	10 cubic yards	\$40	\$400
Mulch	10 cubic yards	\$36	\$360
Crushed Granite	5 cubic yards	\$28	\$140
Compost	5 cubic yards	\$45	\$225
One Gallon Plants	95	\$8	\$760
One Gallon Shrubs	14	\$8	\$112
10-15 Gallon Trees	10	\$50	\$500
			\$2,497