**exhibit plan**
The exhibit plan highlights the locations of unique features and materials within each of the three exhibit gardens—cultivated, woodland, and rain.
**introductory sign**

(16”w x 28”h)

The introductory sign explained the exhibit title, layout, and four messages we intended to communicate. The size and location of the sign—near the entrance, in front of the shade structure—maximized visibility to visitors.
Where soils and rainfall were good, ancient Hawaiians harvested rainwater, tilled and terraced the earth to grow sweet potato, taro, and sugar cane year-round.

Simple farming methods that moderate changes in temperature, sunlight, and wind exposure make year-round gardening at home possible. The shade structure, cold frames, and taro planter are a few basic examples of how to do it. On a large scale, growing more food at home could decrease the energy needed to grow and transport it there.

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INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW 2012*

cultivated garden interpretive sign
(16”w x 14”h)
Visitors read that practicing longstanding, elementary agricultural methods at home could have personal, social, and ecological benefits.

*aloha`āina • a return to life with the land*
cultivated garden

Grow plants outside longer than you might think! Use a cold frame or shade structure.

A cold frame is simple: just four walls and a transparent lid to trap heat. The walls can be made of untreated wood, concrete, or even hay bales. An old window works well as a lid, but you can also use acrylic panes or plastic sheeting tacked to a frame.

A shade structure is simple too: lattice sheets or permeable cloth placed atop poles or posts. Underneath, the wind is calmer, the air is cooler, and water in the soil will evaporate slower than outside. Sensitive plants will thrive!

plant list

- Alocasia 'Calidora'
- Anethum graveolens
- Beta vulgaris 'Bull's Blood'
- Brassica juncea 'Ruby Streaks'
- Colocasia esculenta 'Fontanesii'
- Foeniculum vulgare 'Purpureum'
- Lactuca sativa 'Dancine'
- Origanum 'Hot and Spicy'
- Rumex sanguineus var. sanguineus
- Salvia dorisiana
- Salvia officinalis 'Purpurascens'
- Thymus 'Argenteus'
- Elephant's Ear
- Dill
- Beet
- Mustard Greens
- Taro
- Bronze Fennel
- Lettuce
- Oregano
- Bloody Dock
- Fruit-Scented Sage
- Purple Sage
- Silver Thyme

alo ha `äina

International Flower Show

front

2012

cultivated garden takeaway card

(4"w x9"h)

Visitors learned the definition and function of a cold frame and shade structure on the card front. A list of all plants included in the cultivated garden can be found on the back, along with some photos.

alo ha `äina • a return to life with the land
The forested mountains of ancient Hawaii teemed with a wide variety of insects and animals. To conserve resources and protect habitat, Hawaiians restricted who entered and what was taken.

Today, many plant species grow far away from their homeland. Some produce more seeds and offspring than native plants or grow more aggressively. Either way, forests become less diverse. Animals and insects have fewer preferred foods and places to find shelter.

Our exhibit’s woodland garden includes plants that are native or hardy to the Mid-Atlantic states yet appear sub-tropical, and have culinary, medicinal, or ecological uses.

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**woodland garden interpretive sign**

(16”w x 14”h)

This sign briefly implied how native or hardy plants may help recreate sacred, rich habitats in currently disturbed forests.

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*aloha 'āina • a return to life with the land*
A woodland garden provides shade and a nutrient-rich soil for shrubs, ferns, and flowering ephemerals. It's also a good place for song birds, which nest and forage in the canopy.

To make a woodland garden, start by getting rid of invasive plants. Invasives produce more seeds and offspring than natives and grow more aggressively. Spraying invasives with a glyphosate herbicide like Roundup® is considered by many to be the best method of removal.

Next, plant natives or hardy substitutes. When selecting the plants, keep the adage “right plant, right place” in mind. Determine whether the area is usually wet or dry, shady or sunny, and windy or calm. Finally, test the soil for texture and pH.

Woodland invaded with garlic mustard

Healthy woodland floor

Aquilegia canadensis
  'Little Lanterns'
Asimina triloba
Calycanthus floridus
  'Michael Lindsay'
Carex pensylvanica
Cercis canadensis
  'The Rising Sun'
Cornus sericea 'Bailey'
Dryopteris filix-mas
Dryopteris marginalis
Erythronium americanum
Fothergilla gardenii
Kalmia latifolia 'Minuet'
Magnolia virginiana
Matteuccia struthiopteris
Polygonatum biflorum
Polypodium virginianum
Polystichum acrostichoides
Rhus typhina 'Tiger Eyes’
Sassafras albidum
Uvularia perfoliata
Columbine
Pawpaw
Carolina Allspice
Sedge
Redbud
Red-Twigged Dogwood
Male Fern
Marginal Wood Fern
Trout Lily
Dwarf Witchhazel
Mountain Laurel
Sweet Bay
Ostrich Fern
Great Solomon’s Seal
Rockcap Fern
Christmas Fern
Staghorn Sumac
Sassafras
Bellwort
Norway Maple
Acer platanoides
Empress Tree
Paulownia tomentosa
Tree-Of-Heaven
Ailanthus altissima
Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica
Mile-A-Minute
Polygonum perfoliatum
Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata

2012
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Woodland garden takeaway card
(4”w x 9”h)
Why and how to create a woodland garden at home can be found on the front. The back lists some of the plants included in exhibit woodland garden, and shows photos of common invasive exotic plants in the region.

Aloha ‘āina • A return to life with the land
In ancient Hawaii, families with lots of freshwater, or wai, were wealthy. Why? There was just so little of it.

Although water covers much of Earth, we can use only a small percentage. Using as little as possible helps, but more can be done.

In the rain garden, crushed asphalt and pavers let rain seep into the ground. Closely spaced, upright plants slow and clean rainwater that runs off paved areas. The natural materials of straw wattles and coir logs trap silt and sediment before it enters streams.

clean, harvest, and infiltrate rainwater

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rain garden interpretive sign
(16"w x 14"h)
Here we recalled how precious water is and has been in peoples' lives, and suggested simple methods of infiltrating, cleaning, and slowing rain water.
Rain water leaving downspouts, gutters and paved surfaces can cause erosion and contribute to flooding. A rain garden or rain barrel can help solve these problems.

A low point in your yard can become a rain garden. Amending the soil with gravel and/or sand to promote drainage may be necessary. Choose plants that tolerate standing water.

If you have limited space, try harvesting rain water. Connect your downspout to a barrel and use your faucet less.

Aloha `āina

2012

International Flower Show

front

Rain garden takeaway card

(4”w x 9”h)

On the card front, the function and components of rain gardens and barrels are defined. A list of all plants included in the exhibit rain garden can be found on the back, along with some photos.

Aloha `āina • a return to life with the land
recycled materials interpretive sign

(16”w x 32”h)

All recycled materials used to construct the exhibit were located and described, along with how show visitors may use the materials at home.
exhibit entrance
Positioning the exhibit entrance at the intersection of main show aisles drew visitors from all directions. The brightly colored entrance walls attracted visitor attention, screened the exhibit interior, and enticed visitors to explore within.

aloha `āina • a return to life with the land
cultivated garden

Visitors could have conceivably tasted the vegetables planted within the cold frame and felt the temperature differential outside of and beneath the shade structure. Mushroom wood from a local farm and unused fieldstone from campus clad the cold frame.
exhibit exit
Visitors exited beside the rain garden wherein plants conceptually slowed, cleaned, and infiltrated rain water. Coir logs retained mulch and plants for the rain garden, whereas straw wattles performed this function in the sloped woodland garden, at right in one.

aloha `āina • a return to life with the land
woodland garden

Redbuds, pawpaws, rhododendrons, and ferns were some of the plants included in the woodland garden. Each is native or hardy to the mid-Atlantic U.S. and looks tropical. Straw wattles and papercrete walls were used to create slopes and terraces.
ahu towers and pavement
Five ahu towers, each four or six feet high, marked exhibit areas. Natural materials like mussel and oyster shells, little bluestem clippings, and log rounds from campus were included within. Crushed asphalt and hexagonal pavers are also shown below.
rain water cistern

Located within the taro planter, an overflowing five-foot high concrete cistern audibly signaled the harvest and reuse of rain water to grow food. The “controlled” environment beneath the shade structure permitted our limited use of exotic plants like taro.

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mountain water feature

Reclaimed lumber, chicken wire, and newspaper were recycled in the construction of an eighteen-foot high water feature. At each of three tiers, water changed forms from misting to seeping and trickling before (conceptually) running beneath the exhibit path.

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