

Tree Board
Town of Hillsborough
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Dorothy Johnson Community Center Landscaping Improvements Request

Proposal Overview

The Fairview Youth in Action program respectfully requests technical and financial support from the Town of Hillsborough's Tree Board to improve the landscaping around the Dorothy Johnson Community Center located at 501 Rainey Avenue in Hillsborough, NC. The primary goal of this project is to improve the exterior of the community center. By doing so, we aim to create an inviting space that is engaging, functional, and attractive for Fairview and Hillsborough residents to enjoy.

Background

The Fairview Youth in Action Program is a paid summer program for high-school aged youth living in or connected to the Fairview community in Hillsborough, NC. The program is sponsored by the Fairview Community Watch (FCW), the UNC Food, Fitness and Opportunity Research Collaborative (UNC FFORC), and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County (Habitat).

In 2022, the Fairview Youth in Action program interns developed the *Fairview Active Living Plan 2022-2027 ("Activate")*, a youth-driven, community-engaged plan that outlines goals and recommendations to make the Fairview neighborhood a healthier and more active place to live. The plan addresses the several elements that work cumulatively to promote active communities. This request aligns with goals outlined in the Public Places section of the *Activate* plan. Find the full report [online](#).

Scope

The youth interns specifically request support from the Tree Board to determine how to improve the landscaping around Town-owned areas at the community center, including:

- Remove existing vegetation and add shrubbery and flowers to the front and side of center.
- Clean out and thin existing vegetation between Rainey Avenue and the parking lot.
- Plant fruit trees (such as fig, persimmons, and pecans) between Rainey Avenue and the parking lot.

Location

The proposed planting sites are outlined in the attached concept map. The locations include the front and side of the community center building and the existing natural area between Rainey Avenue and the parking lot area.

Plant Selection

The following is a list of potential plants that the youth interns are interested in planting at the proposed site. Specific plant types are subject to change based on what is viable for the site and on the advice of the Tree Board.

Flowers

1. Purple Cone Flowers
2. Foxglove
3. Beardtongue
4. Basswood
5. Black-eyed Susan
6. Joe Pye Weed
7. Wild Bergamot
8. New England Aster

Trees

1. White Oak
2. Willow Oak
3. Red Maple
4. Dogwood
5. Persimmon
6. Paw Paw
7. Fig
8. Pecan

Additional Improvements in Progress

In addition to the proposed landscaping improvements, the Fairview Youth in Action program is actively partnering with the Town and local nonprofits on the following improvements to the space:

- Install a bike rack, additional bench, picnic table, and new bus shelter. (Town's Public Space and Sustainability.)
- Examine and improve the drainage systems along Rainey Ave. See if any nature-based stormwater management strategies may work there. (Town's Stormwater and Environmental Services)
- Install a cistern to collect rainwater alongside the center (Stormwater and Environmental Services).
- Install a rain garden along the park-side of the parking lot to effectively manage stormwater. Current proposal is funded by the Triangle Community Foundation grant. (Outdoor Sciences Lab and Fairview Community Garden.)

Maintenance

The Fairview Youth in Action program understands that proper care and maintenance are essential to sustain the requested improvements at the community center. The interns are invested in working with the Town of Hillsborough to establish best processes to ensure that any newly planted trees, shrubs, and flowers are regularly taken care of, including watering, mulching, and other needs. Furthermore, we are committed to actively engaging local

Fairview residents and partners (such as the Fairview Community Watch and Fairview Community Garden) in these processes to foster a sense of ownership and community involvement.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering our proposal. We are excited about the potential of working together to positively impact the Fairview and Hillsborough community. We look forward to discussing it further at the upcoming Tree Board meeting. Please let us know if additional information is needed at this time.

Appreciatively,

Edith DeJesus Sanchez

Program Coordinator
Fairview Youth in Action Intern Program
flords@live.unc.edu

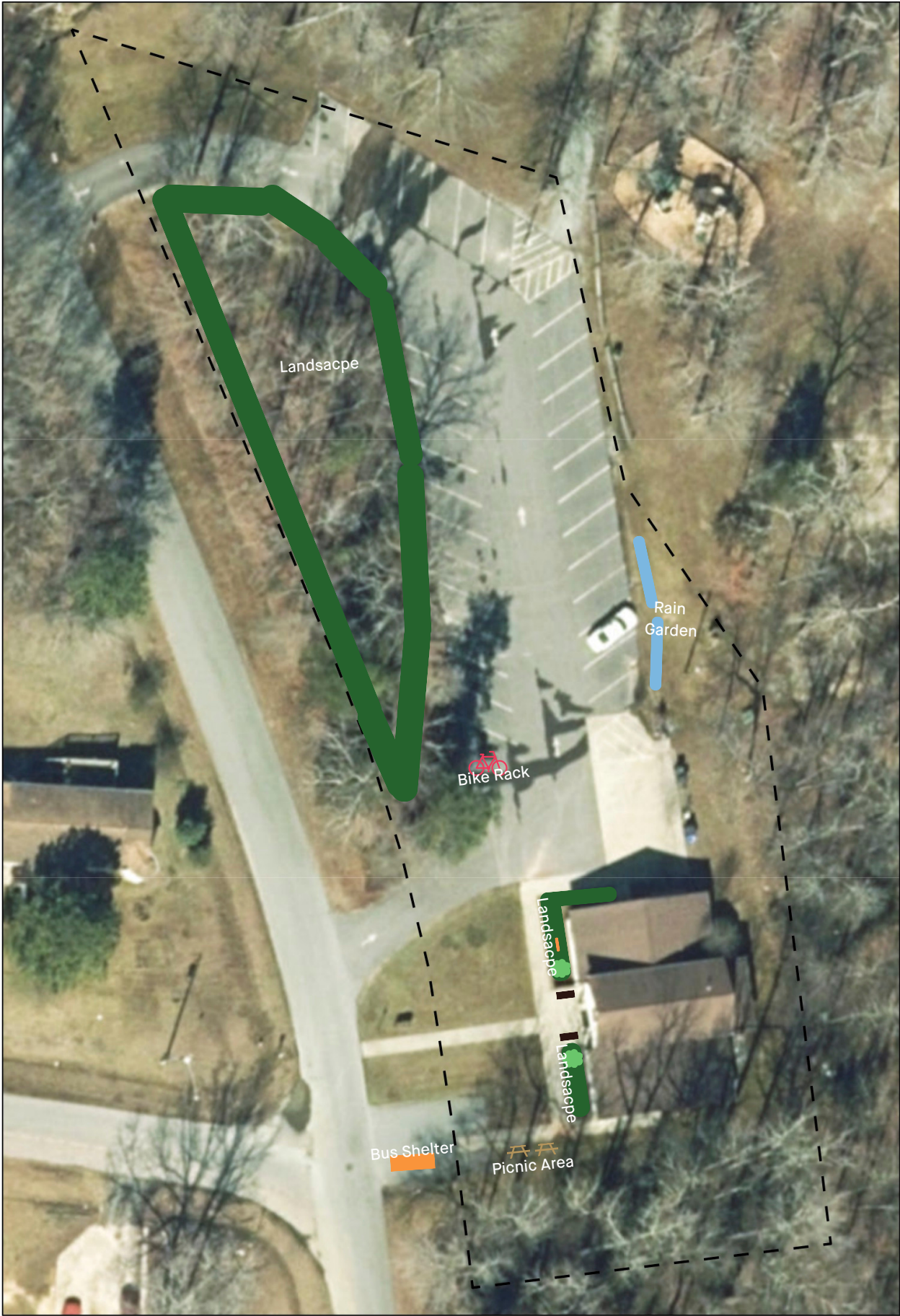
Judit Sarai Alvarado

Field Coordinator
Food, Fitness, and Opportunity Research Collaborative (FFORC)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
jsa@email.unc.edu

Kevin Giff

Community Programs Implementation Specialist
Community Practice Lab
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
giff@live.unc.edu

Dorothy Johnson Community Center Proposed Exterior Improvements



0 0 0.01 0.01 Miles

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----- Town-owned Property Line

NC CGIA, Maxar, Microsoft

