

April 23, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Jeffrey P. Geoghegan, CPA 
Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Project Budget for Peace Garden (formerly known as Reflection Garden)
(Final: \$1,240,000)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approves the Final Budget of \$1,240,000, as detailed in the attached project budget, for the Peace Garden project, an increase of \$440,000 over the previously approved budget of \$800,000. The Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution below.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the use of \$1,165,000 in Gift Funds, and \$75,000 in University Funds for the Reflection Garden project.”

BACKGROUND:

This project was initiated in 2022 by two friends, active donors, and alumni who envisioned an outdoor space that fosters wellness, inclusivity, tolerance, and peace. In coordination and collaboration with the donors, UConn Foundation, the Provost, the Dean of Students, Global Affairs, Student Life & Enrollment, student leaders, and numerous campus stakeholders, the project will renovate an existing tree and lawn area to a garden space on the east side of Babbidge Library in Storrs.

The design framework was inspired by the Golden Spiral – a logarithmic spiral whose growth factor is ϕ , or the Golden Ratio. That is, a golden spiral gets wider (or further from its origin) by a factor of ϕ for every quarter turn it makes. Found in nature like a shell, a plant, a flower, a human ear, a hurricane or an entire galaxy, the Golden Spiral also symbolizes unity, providing a balance within a world full of diversity and change while fostering harmony, understanding, and peace.

Program elements include hardscape, concrete pavement, specialty pavers, and porous pavement. Plantings include flowering trees, deciduous shade trees, evergreen hedges, flowering shrubs and lawn areas. Site amenities include granite block seat walls with inspirational quotes and separately gifted sculptures positioned in the center of the space named "Contemplation" – an interactive installation that invites people to view themselves, their environment, and others as they experience tranquil surroundings. Site utilities include drainage, lighting and electrical relocations required to complete the project.

The Final Budget and artist renderings are attached for your information.

Attachment

CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET REPORTING FORM

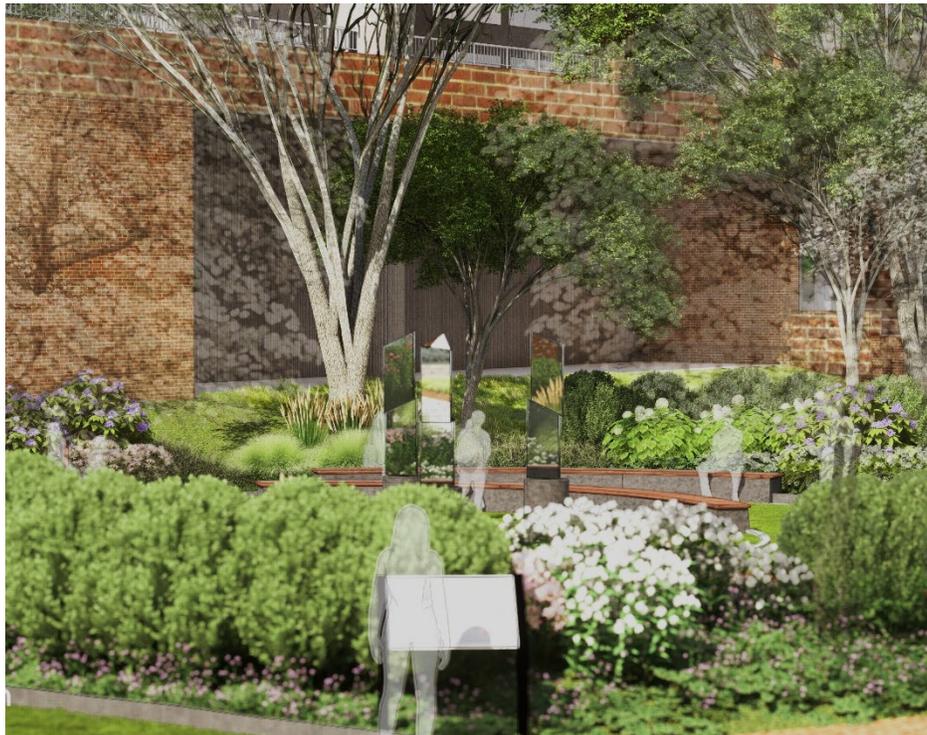
TYPE BUDGET: **FINAL**

PROJECT NAME: **PEACE GARDEN (formerly known as Reflection Garden)**

	APPROVED PLANNING 1/29/2024	APPROVED DESIGN 12/11/2024	PROPOSED FINAL 4/23/2025
<u>BUDGETED EXPENDITURES</u>			
	PRC		
CONSTRUCTION	\$ -	\$ 600,000	\$ 970,000
DESIGN SERVICES	120,000	70,000	90,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	-	12,500	10,000
FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT	-	7,500	25,000
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION	-	15,000	20,000
OTHER AE SERVICES (including Project Management)	20,000	5,000	10,000
ART	-	-	-
RELOCATION	-	-	-
ENVIRONMENTAL	-	5,000	7,500
INSURANCE AND LEGAL	5,000	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	5,000	7,500
OTHER SOFT COSTS	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 145,000	\$ 720,000	\$ 1,140,000
PROJECT CONTINGENCY	46,330	80,000	100,000
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	\$ 191,330	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,240,000
<u>SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING*</u>			
GIFT FUNDS	\$ 191,330	\$ 725,000	\$ 1,165,000
UNIVERSITY FUNDS	-	75,000	75,000
TOTAL BUDGETED FUNDING	\$ 191,330	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,240,000

* This budget reflects the University's current intended source(s) of funding for the specified project. The University may adjust this funding plan in order to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state law(s) or to strategically utilize all fund sources, within the approved budget amount, as appropriate.

PEACE GARDEN
(formerly known as Reflection Garden)
Project Budget (FINAL)
April 23, 2025



Site Plan and View into Garden

December 11, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees 

FROM: Jeffrey P. Geoghegan, CPA
Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Project Budget for Reflection Garden (Design: \$800,000)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the Design Budget of \$800,000, as detailed in the attached project budget, for the Reflection Garden project, an increase of \$608,670 over the previously approved budget of \$191,330. The Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the Resolution below.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the use of \$725,000 in Gift Funds, and \$75,000 in University Funds for the Reflection Garden project.”

BACKGROUND:

This project was initiated in 2022 by two friends, active donors, and alumni who envisioned an outdoor space that fosters wellness, inclusivity, tolerance, and peace. In coordination and collaboration with the donors, UConn Foundation, the Provost, the Dean of Students, Global Affairs, Student Life & Enrollment, student leaders, and numerous campus stakeholders, the project will renovate an existing tree and lawn area to a garden space on the east side of Babbidge Library in Storrs.

The design framework was inspired by the Golden Spiral – a logarithmic spiral whose growth factor is ϕ , or the Golden Ratio. That is, a golden spiral gets wider (or further from its origin) by a factor of ϕ for every quarter turn it makes. Found in nature as a shell, a plant, a flower, a human ear, a hurricane or an entire galaxy, the Golden Spiral also symbolizes unity, providing a balance within a world full of diversity and change while fostering harmony, understanding, and peace.

Program elements include hardscape, concrete pavement, specialty pavers, and porous pavement. Plantings include flowering trees, deciduous shade trees, evergreen hedges, flowering shrubs and lawn areas. Site amenities include granite block seat walls with inspirational quotes and separately gifted sculptures positioned in the center of the space named “Contemplation” – an interactive installation that invites people to view themselves, their environment, and others as they experience tranquil surroundings. Site utilities include drainage, lighting and electrical relocations required to complete the project.

The Design Budget and artist renderings are attached for your information.

Attachment

CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET REPORTING FORM

TYPE BUDGET: **DESIGN**

PROJECT NAME: **REFLECTION GARDEN**

	APPROVED	PROPOSED
	PLANNING	DESIGN
<u>BUDGETED EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>1/29/2024</u>	<u>12/11/2024</u>
	PRC	
CONSTRUCTION	\$ -	\$ 600,000
DESIGN SERVICES	120,000	70,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	-	12,500
FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT	-	7,500
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION	-	15,000
OTHER AE SERVICES (including Project Management)	20,000	5,000
ART	-	-
RELOCATION	-	-
ENVIRONMENTAL	-	5,000
INSURANCE AND LEGAL	5,000	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	5,000
OTHER SOFT COSTS	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 145,000	\$ 720,000
PROJECT CONTINGENCY 10%	46,330	80,000
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 191,330</u>	<u>\$ 800,000</u>
<u>SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING*</u>		
GIFT FUNDS	\$ 191,330	\$ 725,000
UNIVERSITY FUNDS	-	75,000
TOTAL BUDGETED FUNDING	<u>\$ 191,330</u>	<u>\$ 800,000</u>

* This budget reflects the University's current intended source(s) of funding for the specified project. The University may adjust this funding plan in order to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state law(s) or to strategically utilize all fund sources, within the approved budget amount, as appropriate.

REFLECTION GARDEN
Project Budget (DESIGN)
December 11, 2024



Site plan and view into Garden

