

Posted: December 13, 2020

Request for Qualifications: Landscape Architect/Designer for Wangari Gardens and Park Enhancement Project

The [Wangari Gardens](#) Board and community of gardeners seeks a qualified and creative local landscape architect, designer, or sustainable design team to work with the non-profit organization and neighborhood stakeholders to design an Open Space Master Plan and create a Plans, Specs, and Estimates set that captures and synthesizes desired improvements to the park and community garden.

Budget: \$17,000

Applications Due: January 29 at 5:00 p.m

[Apply Online](#)



Overview:

With a mission inspired by a passion for community involvement and Professor Wangari Maathai's legacy, we are building a park to benefit everyone.

Supported by funding through a Pepco Sustainable Communities grant to develop an Open Space Master Plan for Wangari Gardens, as well as grant funding from Nature Sacred, we seek design support to help us finalize a vision for the future of this green space – an urban oasis in our neighborhood.

To date, Wangari Gardens has worked with landscape architecture students from the University of Maryland to host an in-person design workshop, which resulted in a dozen concept designs of the garden space. Additional community input was garnered through online surveys to rank and gather preferences among the top 4 designs, as well as details on how Wangari Gardens and the surrounding park can best serve our community. This information will serve as a baseline for the Open Space Master Plan.

- Latest Community Survey Example: <http://bit.ly/wangari20>
- Aggregated Survey Responses and Summary: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YKSYoohU7DaljrTqrx-PIR04f-LhWGvOJKcB2aJc3as/edit?usp=sharing>

The priorities and preferences expressed by our community include the following:

- Community-selected conceptual designs include: 1) *District Feeding Grounds* and 2) *Wangari Gardens: Noble Roots, Peaceful Grounds*
- Most important features include: 1) Picnic area, 2) resting spaces, and 3) gathering spaces/shelter
- Preference to locate a *Sacred Place* in the orchard area
- Priority to keep the park as open, natural, green, unpaved, and flexible as possible -- homegrown and not overplanned/developed
- Priority to have trees/plants for more shade and buffer the surrounding roads
- Preference for natural walking paths for better circulation, and ensuring the park is segmented in such a way as to complement each part instead of creating spaces that are too small to be useful
- Priority to develop sustainable water management (ex. underground cistern)
- Priority to ensure a dog park doesn't become the main attraction of the park -- if there is one, it is hidden/naturalistic/separate

Location & Ownership:

The garden and park site is located between Kenyon Street, Irving Street, and Park Place NW. We are next to the Washington Hospital, Soldiers' Home, McMillan Reservoir, and the Park View and Pleasant Plains neighborhoods. Find us in Ward 5, bordering Ward 1.

Wangari Gardens is a 2.7-acre garden park home to:

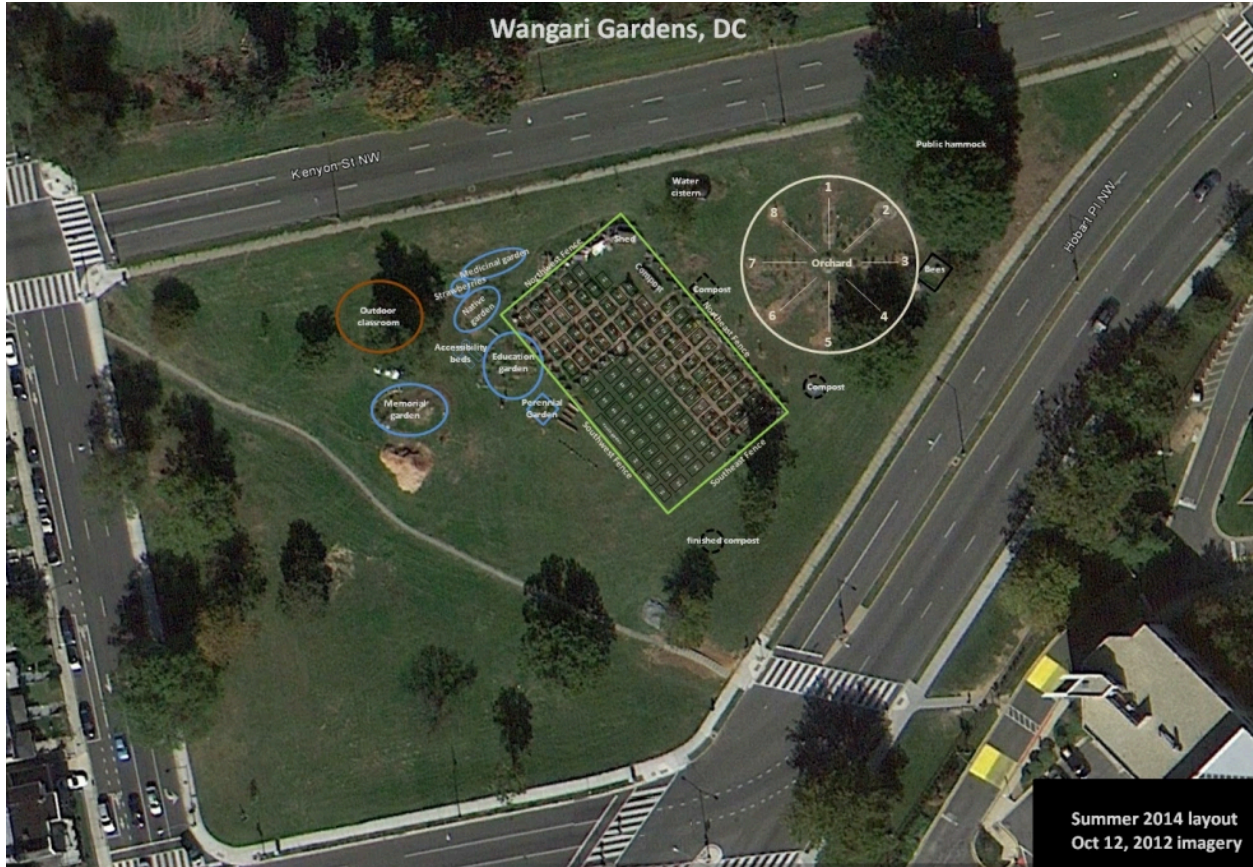
- Over 100 personal plots rented annually and taken care of by plot holders
- Many plots in the public vegetable, herb, medicinal, and berry gardens, where vegetation is available for anyone to harvest
- A 50-fruit tree forest garden / orchard
- A Compost Cooperative of trained and invested composters actively working towards creating high quality compost from garden and food waste

Friends of Wangari Gardens is the support team for the park, and is led by a rotating volunteer Board of Directors. We have 501(c)(3) non-profit status to help us accomplish the following mission:

The Friends of Wangari Gardens is a community-led non-profit that promotes neighborhood enrichment and environmental sustainability by protecting, managing, and increasing accessibility to Wangari Gardens, a public garden and park, while working with local communities to develop and implement educational, recreational, therapeutic, environmental, and agricultural programs throughout the DC area.

The land currently belongs to the DC Department of Transportation, which granted permission for its current use, and we are actively seeking a conservation easement to ensure it remains a public green space in perpetuity.





Scope of Work and Responsibilities:

Wangari Gardens seeks a qualified, creative, and community-minded landscape architect, designer, or sustainable design team to work with the project team (including Board members, gardeners, and community members) in the design of an Open Space Master Plan for the park, to include Plans, Specs, and Estimates (PS&E), including a 60% construction documentation (CD) set for review and a final 100% CD set.

In addition, this project will require a detailed site design and installation of a Sacred Place, which may be a specific area of the park or apply to the entire park. Sacred Places are spaces intentionally designed to foster mindful reflection, respite and renewal. The applicant should be familiar with the requirements of the Sacred Place design, to learn more visit:

<https://naturesacred.org/get-started/product-design/>

Deliverables:

The selected contractor will deliver work over two phases: Design and Installation.

Design Phase – February 2021-May 2021. During the Design phase, the contractor will work with the garden team to:

- Finalize the Open Space Master Plan

- Develop Plans, Specs, and Estimates (PS&E) for the park, including a 60% construction documentation (CD) set for review and a final 100% CD set.
- Participate in a minimum of two community charettes, one to garner final community input on the Open Space Master Plan, and one to inform the design concept for the Sacred Place. The charettes will engage Wangari garden members and the local community, as well as representatives from neighborhood organizations.

Installation Phase – May 2021-Sept 2021. Once the Open Space Master Plan and Sacred Place design are approved, the contractor will:

- Lead the installation phase of the Sacred Place by creating, assembling and installing the enhancements they have designed. Wangari Gardens can provide manual labor for installation through garden volunteers and neighbors.

Budget:

The initial budget for this project is \$17,000, divided as follows:

- Design Budget - \$6,000: Time and materials to work with garden team and stakeholders to finalize the Open Space Master Plan and complete PS&E set.
- Sacred Place Site Design/Installation Budget- \$9,000: Materials, time, tools, fabrication expenses, soil prep and plantings, engineering fees, etc. to build and safely install improvements
- Contingency- \$2,000: Will be held for unexpected costs or overages.

Pro-bono contributions are deeply appreciated.

Additional in-kind labor available, provided by volunteer garden members and neighbors.

Application Process:

Note: This is a Request for Qualifications asking landscape architects and designers to submit examples of previous collaborative, community-based artworks. Proposals or renderings for the Wangari Gardens project will not be accepted.

Applications are accepted via Google Forms at this link: <https://forms.gle/RckkyPQbzi3aFE4v7>

Application Requirements include:

- Contact information: name, phone, email, mailing address
- Statement of Interest- describe your interest and qualifications for this project (300 word max)
- Previous work Samples 3-5 samples of previously completed artwork. Work samples should represent the applicant's unique artistic style or approach or reference similar design/build, community-based or collaborative projects. Images should be saved as JPG files.
- Work Sample Descriptions: Describe the work samples you provided as title, medium, size, budget, and location (if applicable).
- CV or Resume

- Professional References: Contact information for two professional references

Eligibility:

This opportunity is open to landscape architects/designers or sustainable design teams residing in the United States (preference for native Washingtonians and those residing in Wards 1 and 5) with public or community-based experience that matches the scope of the project, and have successfully managed and completed at least one prior funded commission on schedule and on budget.

Selection Criteria:

- Design Quality and Vision: Applicants should be able to produce a creative and functional plan that meets the goals and the specifications set forward for this project. .
- Previous experience: Applicants work samples should reflect previous experience doing similar work or collaborations on projects with similar goals to the Wangari Gardens project.
- Accessibility and Availability: This project requires collaboration and a familiarity with Washington, DC. Applicants should maintain reasonable availability to perform this work and complete the project.
- Equity and Justice in Architecture/Design: BIPOC architects/artists, DC natives, and multi-lingual (including Spanish-speaking) applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Timeline:

December 13, 2020 RFQ Open

January 29, 2021 Application Deadline

January 30-31, 2021 Interview of Candidates (As Needed)

February 14, 2021 Notification of Application Status

May 2021: Anticipated Completion of Design Phase

September 2021: Anticipated Completion of Installation Phase

We're Here to Help:

This Request for Qualifications is distributed and managed by the Wangari Gardens project team, comprised of Board members, gardeners, and community members. For questions regarding this call, or the garden park in general, please contact: srl50@georgetown.edu (and please copy wangarigardens@gmail.com)