

Ecovillage Gardens and Landscaping



1. CDL Teaching Gardens



The Child Development Laboratory's (CDL) gardens will be an integral part of the curriculum for the CDL's one to five-year-olds. The teaching gardens engage the children's interest in local flora and fauna, stimulate their love for the outdoors, and foster an understanding of the natural world. The design includes border gardens fashioned to create outdoor rooms for story time and quiet play, vegetable gardens to demonstrate food production, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, wildflowers, and native trees and grasses. The gardens showcase Kentucky natives.

2. Apartment Gardens



The residents' gardens are a means of community building as residents gather out-of-doors. They offer outlets for personal creativity and self-expression as residents individually design and experiment with their garden plot. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, the residents' gardens provide alternative sources of healthy and sustainably grown fruits and vegetables.

3. SENS House Gardens



The SENS House Gardens are used for demonstration of organic and environmentally friendly gardening methods. As part of their goal to eat locally produced and organic foods, SENS Directors partially subsist on the vegetables and fruits grown there.

4. Subsurface Wetlands



The subsurface wetlands receive water from the Ecological Machine biological wastewater treatment greenhouse, and provide further improvement in water quality. Because the water level remains below the gravel surface, there is no possibility of mosquito larvae breeding or child hazards. Water from the wetlands passes through an ultraviolet sterilizer and then returns to the Ecovillage apartments for use in flushing toilets. This saves up to 350 gallons per day of municipal water.

5. Food Forest



The permaculture food forest is a low-input agricultural system in which trees, shrubs and perennial herbs produce fruits, nuts, berries, edible greens and medicinal herbs. Permaculture, derived from **permanent agriculture**, is defined as the design of environments for food, shelter, economic security and social well-being that are locally self-sustaining. The multi-storied canopy and the high species diversity are modeled on Eastern Kentucky ecosystems, primarily using native species. Initial planting was completed during the fall semester of 2003. As the food forest develops during the next 30 years, it will be an excellent teaching and research site.

6. Composting/Vermiculture



The compost and vermiculture (earthworm production) operations at the Ecovillage convert much of the food and garden wastes of the residents into fertilizer for Ecovillage gardens. They also help to educate residents and visitors about nutrient cycles.