

## Campus-Community Partnership Project

### NATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION: CENTRAL PARK WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

#### Goals

- A. Extend the Central Park native garden to the Central Park boundary.**
- B. Labor and design for the project (working in conjunction with the Conservation Trust) will come from Rollins students enrolled in the “Nature in the City” course.**

On October 22, 2002 the Winter Park City Commission approved the Central Park Master Plan (Figure 1). This vote was the culmination of a two-year process to access and plan, Winter Park’s “sacred heart.” Winter Park’s founding fathers made Central Park a centerpiece of the town they laid out in 1884. The highest elevation in town, the park’s prominence gave Winter Park a distinctive character. This pleasant stretch of green enfolded the railroad station, which served to anchor the town’s civic buildings and its commercial center. Apartments, homes, churches, and Rollins College were all placed within walking distance of the park’s mix of technology and Nature. More than a century later, Winter Park’s special character still emanates from this human scale design.

The Central Park Master Plan not only builds on the past, it seeks a new vision for the future. The plan envisions an expanded park that will increase the site from 4 to 7 acres by turning a parking lot into a park. Given the Intensive development planned immediately adjacent to the park’s western and northern boundary, the city is looking to implement the civic and natural spaces slated on the natural plan. This grant proposal builds on the success of a 2002 CCP grant that produced a design for the Central Park Ramble Native Garden, which the Winter Park Parks Board approved in November 2002 (Figure 2). Rollins students planted the garden and have worked with faculty and the city park’s department to maintain it. The Native Garden (outlined in red) is the centerpiece to the Ramble, a proposed stretch of Florida native habitat colored in yellow in Figure 1.

Since the Master Plan was approved in October 2002, a private donor has funded a new Rose Garden in Central Park. This achievement is an important step in realizing the Master Plan, which is moving to fruition because of the city’s desire to offset the intensive development on the Park’s periphery. The Rose Garden is adjacent to the Ramble and a third of the plantings are native Florida species. **The success of the Rose Garden and its link to Native Garden are the basis of this proposal—to extend the native garden to the park boundary on New England Avenue.** This will provide a continuum of native habitat, and build on the momentum to complete the entire Ramble over the next several years. This project will also better link the Winter Park Historical Museum, which lies directly to the south of the proposed Ramble extension. The design concept is for citizens to step out of the museum and encounter the habitat that existed when the city was founded. The xeriscape planting will also provide a model for low-consumption water use, given that one-third of Florida’s water supply is devoted to lawn irrigation.

The Rollins Environmental Studies Department will partner with the City of Winter Park and the Central Park Conservation Trust. Although the Master Plan is approved, the city

requires a licensed landscape architect to prepare any planting plan. The CCP Grant request is for \$1,504: \$300 for the landscape plans (provided by the Winter Park Conservation Trust at cost) and \$1,204 for plants and border materials. The City and local business will provide additional plants and materials, and site preparation work totaling \$1990. The costs are itemized in Figure 3. **Labor and design for the project (working in conjunction with the Conservation Trust) will come from Rollins students enrolled in the “Nature in the City” course.**

**Time Table**

Landscape Design Completed and Approved	March 15, 2006
Planting Completed	March 31, 2006

**Dissemination**

Presentation to Rollins Faculty, appropriate ACS meeting, and Winter Park Parks Board.

Submitted by,

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