

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Submitted by: Michael K. Young, President
Texas A&M University

Subject: Approval to Amend the FY 2016-FY 2020 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to Add The Gardens at Texas A&M University Project at Texas A&M University with a Fiscal Year 2016 Start Date

Proposed Board Action:

- (1) Amend the approved FY 2016-FY 2020 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to add The Gardens at Texas A&M University Project for Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) with an FY 2016 start date and a total planning amount of \$6,578,770.
- (2) Appropriate \$540,000 for pre-construction services and related project costs.

Funding/Planning Amount:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Planning Amount</u>	<u>Debt Service Source</u>
Local Funds – Cash (gifts)	<u>\$6,578,770</u>	N/A
Total Project Funds	<u>\$6,578,770</u>	

Project Justification:

Texas A&M seeks to construct an outdoor teaching facility with gardens, a riparian greenway, and amenities to support educational activities for college and K-12 students. In addition, the facility will enhance research opportunities and provide outreach and service activities. This facility will be named The Gardens at Texas A&M University (The Gardens).

White Creek is a natural landform asset of the West Campus of Texas A&M. This riparian way was designated the West Campus Greenway in 1998 by the Board of Regents. It extends from the front of the Horticultural/Forestry Sciences Building and follows White Creek behind the AgriLife Complex to the Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

The Gardens will consist of approximately 45 acres, north of Kimbrough Boulevard behind the Texas A&M AgriLife Complex. The West Campus Greenway extending south of Kimbrough Boulevard behind George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum to George Bush Drive will be included in the Site Plan regarding the White Creek restoration only.

Scope:

The mission of The Gardens is to restore, preserve, and develop a portion of the West Campus Greenway into a public garden and green space/reserve. The facility will create an aesthetic,

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functional public garden to conduct formal teaching, research, and extension/outreach activities consistent with the mission of Texas A&M.

Core Functions

- Education, Research, and Demonstration. Educate college students, K-12 students, the university community, and the public in the natural sciences and arts. The Gardens will serve as an outdoor classroom used to provide experiential learning opportunities in a variety of academic disciplines.
- Sustainable Natural Habitats and Built Environments. Restore and preserve natural habitats for flora and fauna. The preservation of the natural creek habitat is critical to sustaining native flora and fauna, specifically nearly 50 bird species. Create beauty through environmentally sustainable landscapes and gardens. Landscape beauty is valuable for quality-of-life on campus for students, faculty, and staff. Constructed gardens and natural planting will showcase environmentally sustainable principles and practices.
- Recreation, Special Events, and Tourism. Rejuvenate, recreate, and entertain students and visitors. The Gardens will provide a place for restful solitude, leisure, and passive recreation. It also provides a venue for the performing arts, films, celebrations, and social events.
- Ag Culture and Heritage. Illustrate and interpret the importance of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Students and visitors will encounter agriculture throughout The Gardens – its historical significance to Texas and Texas A&M, as well as its value in today’s urban environment. One focus would be food security with education, demonstration, and events supporting urban farming, local foods, and farmers’ markets.

Other Major Fiscal Impacts:

None.

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

March 11, 2016

Members, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Approval to Amend the FY 2016-FY 2020 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to Add The Gardens at Texas A&M University Project at Texas A&M University with a Fiscal Year 2016 Start Date

I recommend adoption of the following minute order:

“The request to amend the FY 2016-FY 2020 Texas A&M University System Capital Plan to add The Gardens at Texas A&M University Project for Texas A&M University with an FY 2016 start date and a total planning amount of \$6,578,770 is approved.

The amount of \$540,000 is appropriated from Account No. 02-513115 – Gardens Project, for pre-construction services and related project costs.”

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Michael K. Young, President
Texas A&M University

Approval Recommended:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

John Sharp
Chancellor

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

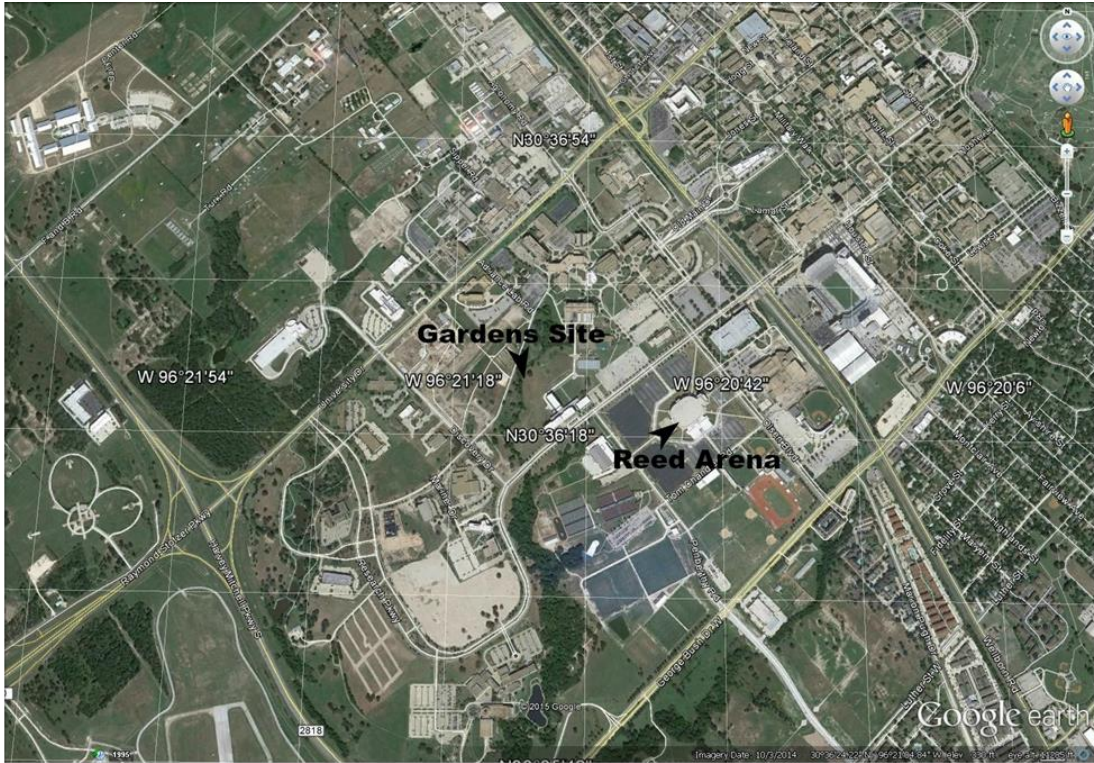
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Billy Hamilton
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

THE GARDENS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PROJECT NO. 2014-04482	PROJECT BUDGET
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Amount Available for Construction.....	\$4,490,000
A/E Fees.....	1,178,770
SSC Project Management Fees.....	180,000
Contingency.....	382,000
Fiber Optics Interface.....	50,000
Hazardous Material Survey & Monitoring.....	2,500
Energy Management System.....	100,000
Environmental Systems Balancing.....	6,000
Construction Testing.....	100,000
Physical Plant Services.....	39,500
Furniture and Equipment.....	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT.....	<u>\$6,578,770</u>

1. Schematic Design (SD) September 24, 2015
2. 100% Design Development (DD).....March 1, 2016
3. 75% Construction Documents (CD) June 1, 2016
4. 100% Construction Documents (CD) August 1, 2016
5. Board of Regents Approval for Construction April 27, 2016
6. 100% Construction Documents Released September 1, 2016
7. Start ConstructionJanuary 1, 2017
8. Final Inspections November 1 2017
9. Beneficial OccupancyDecember 1, 2017



The Gardens at Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University

Project No. 2014-04482