

Project - Green Manyame Clean

Overview

We envision an area clean of rubbish and dump, with a clean brook, plants, herbs, trees being enjoyed by the local people and the neighborhood in the heart of Manyame Park. The garden has a



variety of purposes and functions; it is used by the community as a space to engage with other community members as well as educational space for the community,

Churches and schools within the neighborhood and specifically experience our own rich flora. Part of the site has been used by the Evangelist Apostolic church for services and some parts are being used as vegetable gardens by the community. The biggest concern is the wild and uncontrolled dumping of waste and public defecation. This project is aimed to convert this negative space into something positive for the community as well as the

environment. Already existing positive gardening activities are to be supported by showing improved and more environmentally friendly methods.

Project Rational

Manyame Park is part of the urban Township of St. Mary's of Chitungwiza where green beautiful spaces for individuals to relax and unwind are rare and where refuge for indigenous fauna and flora is increasingly limited. While the City Harare has Parks and Recreational areas within its boundaries the rate of biodiversity loss in the surrounding Townships are alarming with many species being extinct or endangered.

The vision of this project is thus two fold, firstly there is the community aspect whereby the garden aims to contribute to the wellbeing of the people of Manyame Park on a variety of levels and secondly there is the conservation aspect aiming to provide habitat for indigenous plants and animals in order to help preserve some of the rich biological heritage of South Africa.

Community

Large parts of Chitungwiza is wide spread high density residential space that lacks vegetation besides some little grass and a few sparse trees. Many studies have shown the positive impacts of plants and nature on the stress levels and overall health conditions of humans. The creation of an indigenous garden in the heart of Manyame Park therefore would go a long way in increasing quality of life for residents in the neighbourhood.

There are several Schools, Crèches and Churches in the immediate vicinity of the proposed garden. Collaborations with these institutions are planned by means of providing tours for school classes where they can gain first hand experience with some of African indigenous plants some of which can be used culinarily or medicinally. The garden would enable such an experience with fairly little effort for the schools as they are just next door. Especially in our rapidly changing environment characterized by climate change and fresh water scarcity the reconnection to natural elements of our environment is critical and helps build environmental awareness among children, our future generation.

The buy-in of the community for this project is critical for the long-term success of the garden. This will be achieved by encouraging public participation from the get go in the form of community meetings at which the project can be discussed and community voices can be heard. Further,

the implementation or in other words the planting up of the space will be conducted together with community members. This not only helps to create a feeling of ownership amongst neighbours but also creates opportunities for conversations around environmental issues as well as the facilitation of skill transfer. This skill transfer is particular relevant for a number of unemployed youth living in Manyame, allowing them to learn skills which can be first steps for employment or starting own businesses. Specifically for this garden project we are planning to engage qualified trainers from Environment Africa for a senior citizen und a local young person, to take care of the garden maintenance and earn a stipend for her/ his work.



wareness



vision



improvement



Conservation

In addition to the concerns for the community the garden fulfills an important role in the conservation of the rich biodiversity in Zimbabwe. Even though Zimbabwe has formally protected National Parks, due to urban sprawl and conversion of natural habitats to agricultural fields, biodiversity is lost at great speeds. As such even private gardens, small indigenous parks or indigenous community gardens can help immensely in conserving Zimbabwe's natural heritage. By planting waterwise indigenous gardens, plant populations are increased and thus strengthened. And very importantly these plants are a food source and habitat for a wide array of animals and pollinating insects such as bees which are critical for the functioning of our ecosystems and our food production. Further, as bigger vision, once a number of indigenous gardens are established, even predatory birds such as owls may be able to move back into the urban space, functioning as pest controls taking care of the ever increasing rat populations.

Who we are?

We are residents of the neighborhood of Manyame Park and want to make a positive impact in our community with this project.

Ronika Tandi, Takunda Shungu Trust, 8709 Manyame Park
Evangelist Apostolic Church, Pastor Philip
Ignatius Zhuwakiyi, artist and landscaper
Ross Chidarara, 3853 Manyame Park
Franz-L: Keck, littleZIM Manyame Park
Franz-L: Keck together with Bienenwald Stiftung – Supporter/Sponsor

Mission

The conversion of the partly derelict site to a beautiful, safe garden which helps to increase the wellbeing of the community on multiple levels.

Objectives

- Create a positive, safe space
- Beautify the neighbourhood with an year-around flowering indigenous garden.
- Plant up an indigenous garden together with the community
- Engage community in the implementation process (skill transfer/ exchange)
- Collaborate with local artists to create painting/ graffiti/ sculptures
- Provide tours for school classes from the neighbourhood.
- Rainwater harvesting
- roduction of some natural medicine and foods
- Create employment and learning opportunities for at least two one local people

Implementation Strategy

Phase 1: Community Buy-In

This is to share the idea with the community and hear any suggestions or concerns with the idea. After we have the approval of the ward councilor we deem it of utmost importance to give everyone a chance to be heard in order to make this project truly inclusive. After all the garden belongs to the community so participation from the beginning is a must.

We are planning to use the communication channels created (Whats App group) as well as flyers to invite to the meeting and communicate any other information.

Phase 2: Securing the Area/ Plot

Securing the Plot means clearing the Plot of all dump, especially dangerous items with the supervision of Environment Africa. Protective Clothing for the clearers is to be provided by donors (Paramount Garments/Keckwear). A further step is providing containers for future collection of valuables and waste as well as creating several composts in order to improve the soil in the area..

Phase 3: Garden Layout

Environment Africa and EMA as well as overseas experts to advise and discuss

With the community o best layout the garden whilst including already existing planting and cultivating activities to achieve a good mix of activities and benefits.

Phase 4: Plant Up

Plants to be provided by Donors such as “Bienenwald Stiftung” and “Keckwear/littleZIM ”Germany and will be bought through Environment Africa as well as Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe. All planting to be done by trained Community Members guided by Environment and planting Experts.

Phase 5: Maintenance Year /Training

Keckwear, littleZIM and Bienenwald Stiftung through Takunda Shungu Trust to finance and ensure the training of at least 2 Community Members at Environment Africa with subjects covered such as Waste management, Composting, Tee-Planting, Herbs for Medical and Culinary use, Herbs as natural Pesticides, Landscaping, Seed-collection and planting.



Bougainvillea is very resistable and makes the environment colorful.



Community at Manyame taking part at cleaning up a trench as well as planting 50 Trees and 50 plant of Vertiva-Grass.