

August 14, 2016

<u>Via Email</u>
Terri Simon, President
Scarsdale Public Library Board of Directors
54 Olmsted Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Dear Terri,

The directors of the Friends of the Scarsdale Parks, Inc. wish to share with you some practical ideas that might provide additional economies in the Library's July 2016 Option A-1 "modifications to landscaping and hardscape plan." ¹

FOSP's suggestions are based on: a) the cost saving recommendations of a landscape design professional that were adopted by the Village and its project engineers in connection with the South Fox Meadow Brook Stormwater mitigation project at George Field Park and Cooper Green,² and (b) our experience working with the Village on collaborative landscape projects in Village parks.

Option A-1 modifications as currently proposed would "retain the watercourse buffer plantings [a segment of the South Fox Meadow Brook, a tributary of the Bronx River], rain gardens and basic ground cover, but reduce the scope of landscaping overall and change permeable concrete pavers on the entrance plaza to less-expensive concrete." This modification plan purportedly represents \$155,000 in estimated savings, but does not explain what is meant by reductions in "scope of landscaping overall" nor break out the cost of pavers separate from the proposed changes in landscaping.

FOSP offers the following observations and our top 10 recommendations that might not only achieve additional cost savings but would represent more environmentally appropriate best practices, by:

1. Retaining during construction as many valuable foundation plantings as can be safely protected in place or transplanted and maintained in adjacent parkland, until such time as construction is completed and plants can be safely re-established in the library gardens. Our understanding is that the current foundation design was created by a well-known local landscape design professional. We recommend that the design should continue to be followed and recreated as much as possible utilizing existing plant material;

¹ FOSP, a 501(c)(3) organization operating in the Village since 1957, has been involved in helping to design, plant and maintain the adjacent Library Pond buffer, Japanese Friendship border and wildflower meadow gardens over the past 25 years, and organized dedication of the Dawn Redwoods at the Pond as Village Heritage Trees in 2014.

² B. Isis, Report, November 9, 2011 (copy attached) (consultant retained by FOSP and supported by the Village's Conservation Advisory Council).

- 2. Requiring that any new landscaping will comprise only native plants, which would require modification of the Dattner Architects/Divney Tung Schwalbe landscape consultants' Proposed Plant
 - List.³ Dattner/Divney (page 55) calls for a number of non-native plants that are also invasive or otherwise problematic, such as Boxwood, which is currently subject to widespread fungal diseases in the Northeast, and Japanese *Pachysandra terminalis*, which is not only invasive but non-native and can easily be replaced by native groundcovers such as *Pachysandra procumbens* (Allegheny spurge);
- 3. Using wherever possible landscape plugs from a reputable source, such as North Creek Nursery, instead of gallon or quart size plants, and using native deciduous bareroot shrubs from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Saratoga Nursery, which typically cost a mere dollar apiece. The use of these readily available plants to the trade and/or to the public would be consistent with the recommendations of the attached B. Isis Report ("enormous cost savings, and successful ease of establishment") and the success FOSP and the Village have had planting such materials in the parks;
- 4. Adding sufficient numbers of native, canopy trees of at least 4 inches DBH (balled and burlapped) to replace any trees removed from the Library grounds, consistent with FOSP's recent recommendations submitted to the Village Board for the purpose of amending the Village Tree Code;
- 5. Identifying the 6 trees designated for removal in the Dattner/Toscano Clements Taylor consultant's cost estimates, which appears for the first time in the 148 page report on page 108.⁴ Assuming the 2 additional trees slated for "arborist evaluation" are (2 of the 4) Locust trees closest to the building on the entry plaza, the other 6 trees and their location should be identified. Consideration should be given to preserving not only these trees but also the valuable ornamental evergreens and deciduous trees on the south side of the building, many of which were donated by a resident who curated these unique specimens;
- 6. Rectifying the omission of equivalent replacement trees. Inexplicably, the Dattner/Toscano cost estimate (page 108) does not include the 3-3 ½" caliper Sweetgum listed on the Dattner/Divney Proposed Plant List (page 55), nor any other deciduous canopy tree to replace the 8 trees proposed for removal (at a labor cost for removal of almost \$3,000);
- 7. Similarly, the Dattner/Toscano cost estimate (page 108) lists only one, not 2 understory Redbud trees as originally proposed (Dattner/Divney plant list, page 55), at an exorbitant cost of \$850 for just one tree. Redbuds are relatively short-lived small trees that need sufficient sunlight. A better ecological choice of an understory tree to support birds and pollinators, and to provide attractive spring blooms is the Hawthorn;
- 8. Supplying adequate information on the budget allocated to "landscaping." It is challenging to determine from any of the cost estimate sheets (Dattner/Toscano, pages 101-141) how much of the \$155,000 of estimated savings in Option A-1 are derived from costs allocated for pavers and how much for landscaping. This information should be provided to make the landscape plan more transparent;
- 9. Adjusting actual landscape cost projections. The \$25,000 "Landscaping" cost estimate in the P. Zaicek "15 Year Estimated Capital Expenditures" summary appears to be superfluous. If so it should be eliminated to reduce the total project landscaping costs even further; and

³ Dattner/Divney, pages 54-56 (copy attached).

⁴ Dattner/Toscano page 108, copy attached.

10. Reimaging the scope of the project: a more compact footprint should be considered in order to limit the expansion of the building onto the wetland and parkland.

Option A-1 still appears to include hundreds of unnecessarily expensive, containerized riparian buffer shrubs and grasses (250 at an estimated cost of \$3,000 for shrubs and \$12,000 for grasses), groundcovers and perennials, which require irrigation (non-existent outside of the rain gardens), are inappropriate for the mostly shady conditions, and/or are redundant since the rain gardens already contain numerous flowering perennials and grasses. This cost is hard to justify when a smaller number of bareroot plants would suffice and have a better chance for survival, as demonstrated for example by a recent FOSP buffer planting at Hyatt Field Park.

Paring back the Option A-1 plan also makes sense from the perspective of upkeep. Maintaining the sheer number of proposed plants is unlikely to be performed with any consistency or reliability, a pragmatic assessment based on the neglected condition and failure to maintain the existing rain gardens.

FOSP would be happy to provide additional information in support of these recommendations.

Respectfully,

Madelaine Eppenstein

FOSP Board of Directors

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Scarsdale Village Manager

Superintendents of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and Public Works

The following notes and recommendations are based on review of landscape plans included in the Fox Meadow Brook Detention Improvements- Westchester County Flood Action Program plans prepared by Dvirka & Bartilucci Consulting Engineers for the Village of Scarsdale, May 2011.

Location: All locations

RFP and Installation

The Friends of Scarsdale Parks, and the Village of Scarsdale Conservation Advisory Council Joint Stormwater Committee (hereafter referred to as We), recommend a separate RFP for the landscape installations. This approach will be more likely to secure a landscape professional with experience in low impact development methodologies, bio-remediation techniques, and natural areas management.

Size of plant material

In lieu of the recommended planting sizes for forbs and grasses of 2 gallon to 3 qt., we strongly urge the use of plug material, both for its enormous cost savings, and successful ease of establishment. A combination of wetland plugs and native seed mixes provides the opportunity to achieve the optimum establishment rate at an effective cost. Some sources in the North Eastern U.S. for such material include Pinelands Nursery and Supply, North Creek Nurseries, New Moon Nursery, and New England Wetland Plants.

Seeding

Following initial seeding, we advise an application of Certified Weed Free grain straw at the rate of 2 tons per acre.

Establishment and Maintenance of Native Plants

Ensuring that the bio-remediation landscape practices (such as constructed wetlands and rain gardens) are attractive, and are perceived by the commmunity as adding value to the neighborhood, is a key factor in the acceptance and success of these techniques in a residential setting.

We suggest an approach to the maintenance of these natural areas that would:

Create a maintenance bond, to be held by the Village of Scarsdale's Planning Division, for a 2-year period following initial approval of the installation of the project plantings. It would be equivalent to 25% of the vegetation and installation cost, and would be collected to ensure sufficient establishment of the native plants. The project sponsor would provide a written cost estimate or actual contract amount as a basis for the bond amount.

A pre-installation meeting between the landscaping contractor and the Planning and Public Works Dept. of the Village would be held prior to commencement of the landscape work.

During the first two growing seasons, all areas planted with native seed mixes should be mowed 3 times, at a height of 6-8", in order to control weeds. Beginning in the third year, a mowing regimen should be instituted, mowing once in spring.

Use of fertilizers along the side slopes or within the detention basin would be prohibited.

Permeable Paving

We urge the use of permeable paving- porous asphalt, porous concrete or porous pavers - for all paths and maintenance access roads.

Location: George Field Park Constructed Wetland and Detention Basin

Increase aesthetic qualities of the detention basin

Since the "Highly-Visible" detention basin will continue to function as a natural landscape feature, we suggest the creation of a more irregular and naturalistic shape, accomplished through shaping the banks of the basin in a somewhat undulating outline, rather than a straight line running parallel to the street; this will greatly enhance the space visually. As well, slope transitions at the edge could be somewhat varied. Together, these measures would also create interesting opportunities to stage a circuit-type nature trail through the entire perimeter area.

Landscape treatment for detention basin banks/side slopes

In lieu of the Seed Mix C: Fescue Turf Mix, plantings could include a variety of native wetland and wildflower species, such as those included in the current specified Seed Mix B: Rain Garden Mix, or Seed Mix E: Riparian Buffer. This would provide a number of benefits including habitat for waterfowl, songbirds and other wildlife, seasonal color, and visual interest. These plantings can withstand periods of inundation and drought, and would function to stabilize side slopes. Maintenance would be reduced in these areas to a 1 x per year event in early spring.

Upland Zone/ top of bank elevation

- As little or no regular inundation by storm water may occur in this area, we are concerned about the viability of the Iris versicolor plantings at the corner of Oxford and Greendale Rd.
- Using a rule of thumb of one (1) deciduous shade or evergreen tree and ten (10) shrubs for every fifty (50) lineal feet of perimeter as measured, we suggest the inclusion of additional trees on the perimeter between Eton Rd. and the fore-bay, placement of which is not limited to the top of the bank. Suggested species include Red Maple, Sweetgum, American Sycamore, Pin Oak, and Amelanchier leavis.

Cooper Green Rain Garden and Detention Pond

Although the plant palette for the Cooper Green Rain Garden would undoubtedly create an attractive and colorful planting, we do have a few concerns.

Two plants which are not native, Rosa 'Knockout', and Cornus mas/Cornelian Cherry are on the proposed plant list; we would prefer to use only natives. Suggested substitutes for the rose are Rosa palustris or Rosa carolina; substitutes for the Cornus mas: Amorpha fruticosa/False Indigo, Hamamelis vernalis/Vernal Witch Hazel, Lindera benzoin/ Spicebush, or Nannyberry Viburnum/Viburnum lentago.

Many of the grasses and forbs listed lack a Federal wetland indicator status, while the majority of the others are FacU (Facultative Upland) or UPL (Upland) status, usually occurring in dry upland short-grass prairie settings.

The concern here would be their ability to sustain or thrive in the spectrum of moisture of the rain garden, tolerating the periodic inundation and/or regular moist conditions in this bottom of a hill location, particularly in winter. These plants do not like wet roots and rarely occur in this setting. Some suggested alternates and/or substitutions are listed in the right hand column.

Those without a Federal wetland indicator status include:

Current List

Agastache 'Purple Haze'
Asclepias tuberosa
Dennstaedtia puctiloba
Echinacea purpurea
Eragrostis spectabilis
Geum triflorum
Liatris scariosa
Magnolia acuminata
Sporobolus heterolepsis
Quercus coccinea
Verbena simplex

Possible Substitutions

Lobelia siphilitica, Vernonia glauca Asclepias incarnata Athyrium filix-femina Helenium flexuosum, H. autumnale Acorus americana, Carex radiata Coreopsis rosea 'American Dream' Liatris pycnostachya, L. spicata Mag. tripetala, virginiana Juncus effusus Quercus rubra, lyrata, muehlenbergii Verbena hastata

Those with Federal FACU (Facultative Upland) or UPL (Upland) status which are intolerant of flooding and/or most often do not like wet roots:

Current List

Achillea millefolium
Juniperus virginiana
Lonicera sempervirens
Muhlenbergia capillaris
Schizachryium scoparium
Vaccinium angustifolium

Possible Substitutions

Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'
Alt.: Ilex opaca/American Holly
Wisteria macrostachya 'Blue Moon'
Carex Iurida, Carex vulpinoidea
Andropogon virginicus
Leucothoe axillaris 'Nana'

Tree planting

We propose the development of a forested wetland in the detention basin, to be installed in stages over a 5 yr. period through annual student community service and adult volunteer projects.

Wetland Bench

We suggest the inclusion of a safety wetland bench in the detention basin, given an established pedestrian short-cut through the area, close proximity to a busy public road, and a nearby bus stop.

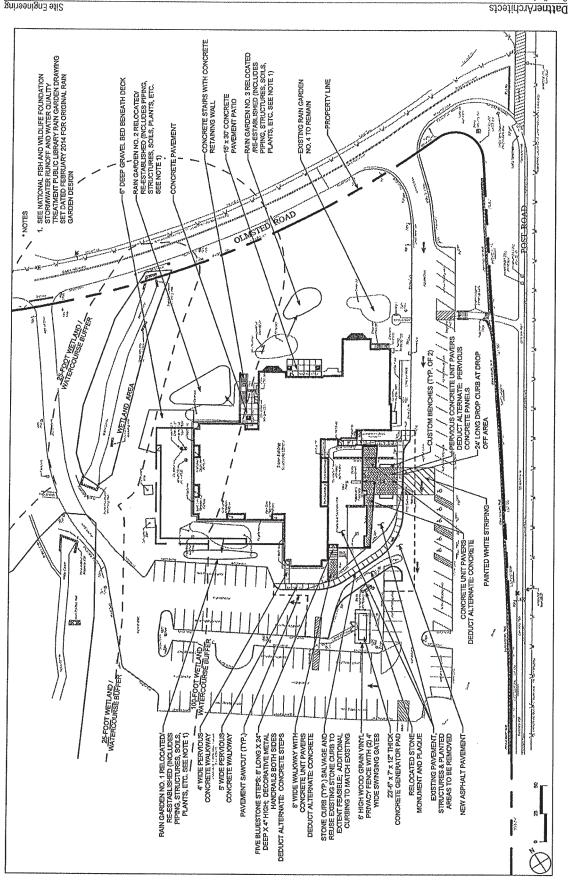
Combining the maintenance access road with the pedestrian path

To reduce the amount of paved surface and disturbance through the area, we suggest re-routing the pedestrian path with the goal of incorporating it into the maintenance access for approximately 2/3 of the total distance. Additionally, this would locate pedestrians further from the Post Rd., increasing their safety, and minimizing exposure to salt and road splash.

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Isis, 4 November 2011.

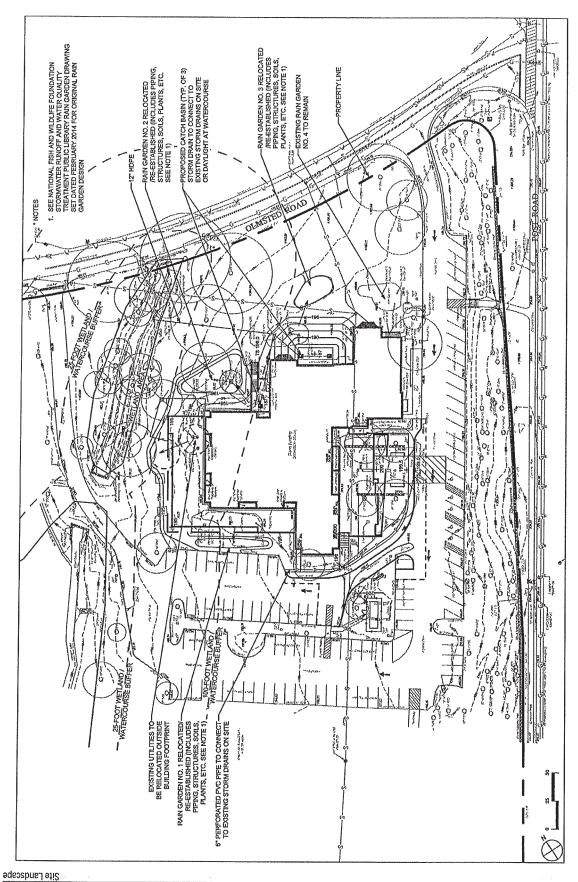
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	SCHEM	SCHEMATIC DESIGN PLANT LIST		
للبل	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	QUANTITY
N	SHADE TREES Liquidamber styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'	Rotundiloba Śweetgum	3-3 1/2" cal.	1
니이	ORNAMENTAL TREES Cercis canadensis 'Ace of Hearts'	Ace of Hearts Eastern Redbud	8'-10' hgt.	2
[6]	EVERGREEN TREES		5'-6' hgt.	3
Ш	llex spp.	Columnar Holly species	ייי אלוי די די די די	-
11	Picea spp.	Columnar Juniper species Spruce species		
	DECIDIOUS & EVERGREEN SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS	IDCOVERS	4'-5' hgt.	10
Ш			30"-36"	20
	Orners dame		24"-30"	20
	dethra alnifolia sop.	Boxwood species		
	Comus spp.	Dogwood species		
_	Hydrangea spp.	Hydrangea species		
_	liex gladra Spp.	inkberry species		
1		Juniper species		
Ш		Bush Cinquefoil species		
		Arrowwood Viburnum species		
ā	PERENNIALS AND ORNAMENTAL GRASSES		1 gal. cont.	250
	Achillea spp.	Yarrow species		
_	Echinacea spp.	Coneflower species		T
Ш	Hosta spp.	Hosta species		
		Japanese spurge		
1	Pennisetum alopediroides son	Switchglass species		
1		Sage species		
13	ATERCOLIBEE BLICEED BLANTING		3,500	
L	Oethra alnifolia spp.	Summersweet species	74-20	2
L	Т	Bayberry		
Ц		Arrowwood Viburnum species		
3	WATERCOURSE BUFFER PLANTING - GRASSES		1 gal. cont	200
	П	Little Sluestem		
_		Appalachian Sedge		
L	ď.	Switchgrass species		Ī
T IN				(\$6)
<u></u>	Lawn Grass: Sun/Shade seed mix with 50% Sonata Perennial Rye, 30% Creeping Red Fescue, 10% (Chewings Fescue, 10% Kentucky Bluegrass	iata Perennial Rye, 30% Creeping Red	Fescue, 10%	i
	RAIN GARDENS			
	See Sheet C4 Landscape Plan of Public Library Rain Garden drawing set. Kardens 1, 2 and 3.		Reconstructed rain gardens include	s include
ž.	NOTES			
	All new and disturbed lawn areas to receive Lawn Grass seed mix.	wn Grass seed mix.		
4	Customers listed in plant list are for reference only. Contractor shall verify all quantities shown on shall be responsible for furnishing all plants indicated on plan.	ny. Contractor shall verify all quantities shown on list and dicated on plan.	les shown on it	st and
ę; ·	All plant beds shalf receive 3" double shredded specifications or defails.	hardwood mulch unless otherwise n	oted on plans,	
4	4. No recycled soil to be utilized in landscaped beds or other planting areas.	ds or other planting areas.		



STIGE Engineering Stemelson Domingo-Gonzalez Hage Engineering YR80 Divney Tung Schwalbe Watsky Associates Shen Millson & Watsky Asso

Consultants:



schematic design cost estimate Scarsdale public library renovation & expa

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Concrete Pavers	2,324 SF		\$11,620	\$22,00	\$51,128	\$27,00	\$62,748	2,324			\$22,00	\$51,128	\$27.00	\$62,748	S
5' Previous Concrete walkway, skrage and reuse stone curb	1,165 SF	\$5,00	\$5,825	\$4.00	\$4,880	\$9.00	\$10,485	1,165 SF			\$4,00	\$4,660	\$9.00	\$10,485	S
4" wide Previous Concrete Walkvasy	324 SF		\$616	\$4.00	\$1,296	\$5.90	\$1,912	324			\$4,00	\$1,296	\$5.80	\$1.912	S
12" Equipment pad	161 SF	_ [\$564	\$7.00	\$1,127	\$10,50	\$1,691	161			\$7,00	\$1,127	\$10.50	\$1,691	S
5 bluestone steps 8"x 18" deep and 4" high steps	+		\$600	\$800.00	\$800	\$1,400.00	\$1,400	-			\$800,00	\$800	\$1,400,00	\$1,400	3
6" deep gravel bed	900 St		\$1,800	\$3,50	\$3,59	\$5,50	\$4,950	900			\$3.50	\$3.150	\$5.50	\$4.950	S
Allowance for additional Lanscaping to option B	0 [5		0\$		0\$	\$0.00	8	-			\$6.000,00	\$6.000	\$11,000,00	\$11,000	\$11.00
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Large Site Sign with footing	- 2		\$3,000	\$2,200.00	\$2,200	\$5,200.00	\$5,200	-			\$2,200.00	\$2,200	\$5.200.00	\$5.200	8
6' Vnyl lence	37 55		\$1,350	\$12.00	006\$	\$30,00	\$2,250	75 LF			\$12.00	\$900	\$30.00	\$7.250	S
6" Vinyfence doble gates	-		\$200	\$400.00	\$400	\$300,00	\$200	-			\$400.00	\$400	\$900.00	2900	30
Custom Benches Entry area benches: Two custom benches 12" E	2 EA		\$7,000	\$1,500.00	\$3,000	\$5,000.00	\$10,000	2			\$1,500,00	\$3,000	\$5,000,00	\$10.000	SD
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Remove trees	6 EA		0\$	\$250.00	\$1,500	\$250.00	\$1,500	9	EA \$0.00		\$250.00	\$1,500	\$250.00	\$1,500	\$0
arborist to evaluate the two existing trees	2 54		2	\$600.00	\$1,200	\$600.00	\$1,200	8	EA \$0.00	8	\$600.00	\$1,200	\$600,00	\$1200	\$
Stone curb alongside drivewey - salvage and reuse exicing stone curb; if additional curb is required. It shall match existing			\$		8	\$0.00	80		\$0,00	0\$	00'0\$	0\$	\$0.00	ş	8
Gravel base beneath proposed northeast deck. 5" deep gravel bed beneath deck			0\$		0\$	\$0.00	8		\$0.00	08	paros	0\$	\$0.00	0\$	ŝ
			05			\$0,00	S		\$0.00		20,00	0\$	\$0.00	\$20	\$0
Landscaping			8			\$0.00	0\$	-	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	S
Omamental Trees			0\$			\$0.00	0\$		\$0.00		\$0.00	20	\$0.00	0\$	20
Cencis canadensis 'Ace of Hearts' (Ace of Hearts Eastern Redbud)	4	\$500,00	\$500	\$350.00		\$850,00	\$850	1 EA	EA \$500.0		\$350,00	\$350	\$850,00	\$850	20
Evergreen Trees	2	_ [\$1,350	\$350.00		\$800.00	\$2,400	e	EA \$450.0		\$350.00	\$1,050	\$800.00	\$2.400	8
Bex spp. Columnar Holy species	-		2		-	\$0.00	ŝ		\$0.00		\$0.00	0\$	\$0.00	Ş	2
Juniperus spp. Columnst Juniper species			8			\$0,00	\$0		\$0.00		\$0.00	80	\$0.00	8	S
Deciduous & evergreen shrubs and groundcovers	50 EA	-	\$20,000	\$350,00		\$750.00	\$37,500	20	EA \$400.0		\$350.00	\$17,500	\$750.00	\$37,500	\$3
Perennials and ornamental gracues.		-	\$11,250	\$35,00		\$\$0.00	\$20,000	250	EA \$45.0		\$35,00	\$8,750	\$20,00	\$20,000	S
Watercourse buffer planting ? shrubs	50 EA	-	\$1,750	\$25.00		\$60.00	\$3,000	20	EA \$35.0		\$25.00	\$1,250	\$50.00	\$3,000	S
Watercourse buffer planting ? grasses	200 EA	\$32,00	\$7,000	\$25,00		\$60,00	\$12,000	200 EA	EA \$35.0		\$25.00	\$5,000	\$60.00	\$12,000	8
Seed Mins	- 3		\$5,000	\$5,000,00		\$10,000,00	\$10,000	-	LS \$5,000.		\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$10,000,00	\$10,000	8
Rein Gardens	5	-	\$10,000	\$15,000.00	\$15,000	\$25,000.00	\$25,000	-	LS \$10,000,00	.00 \$10,000	\$15,000.00	\$15,000	\$25,000.00	\$25,000	8
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			8		8	\$0.00	05		*		\$0.0	0	\$0.00	8	
Total		_	\$159,232		\$658,933	\$0.00	\$817,125			\$9 \$162,078	\$0.00	\$585,858	\$0.00	\$750.946	(\$56.3