



**Massasoit Community College  
Brockton, Massachusetts  
Habitat - Sustainable Landscaping**

## **SCHOOL**

Massasoit Community College is a two-year, public college with approximately 7400 students. The College has two campuses and offers associate degree programs in arts, sciences, and applied sciences, and one-year and short-term certificates for a range of occupations and interests.

The Brockton campus is a 100 acre facility, with a number of academic buildings, a student center, library, day care, two theatres, radio and TV studios, and a field house which houses a swimming pool, basketball court, racquetball courts and weight room. The Conference Center at Massasoit is adjacent to this campus and is available for meetings and functions.

The Canton Campus is a multi-level facility on 18 acres in the Blue Hills area south of Boston. Specialized labs, arts studios, and CAD and Mac computer labs support the technical and visual arts programs on campus. The campus is home to the Milton Art Museum, Akillian Gallery and the College's Professional Development Center.

In August 2007, Charles Wall, President of Massasoit Community College signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. Shortly thereafter, Sustainability Committees were established on the Brockton and Canton Campuses. These committees created subcommittees, which included the following: Recycling, Green Purchasing, Curriculum, Community/Campus Awareness, Campus Watchdogs, Event Planning/Public Relations, Grants/Donations/Incentives, Cafeteria Products and Earth Day Program. The final subcommittee to be established was the Sustainable Landscaping Subcommittee. The Landscaping subcommittee which consists of faculty and staff were responsible for the projects and initiatives that have taken place on campus. Their hard work and leadership has been instrumental in the development of sustainable landscaping practices.

## **GOALS AND OUTCOMES**

### **Goals**

To educate the campus and the community about the benefits of sustainable landscaping by planting native species that would provide habitat for native wildlife. Also, to promote the use of environmentally responsible landscaping practices that respect natural ecosystems, reduce the campus footprint and minimize the overall, long-term monetary costs of landscaping at the college.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Fall 2008

Installation of the first Native New England Plant Garden in the quad area of the Brockton Campus. Invasive burning bush was removed and replaced with plants native to the area, which will begin to provide habitat to various insects and birds. A partial list of the plants included: New England Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Butterfly Milkweed, Foamflower and



## Barren wild Strawberry.

### Spring, 2009

Installation of the second Native New England Plant Garden, this garden was also located in the quad area of the Brockton Campus. Invasive multiflora rose was removed and replaced with native plants. A partial list of the plants included: Eastern Red Columbine, Bearberry, Dwarf crested Iris, Arrowwood, Sweet Fern and Woodland/Wild blue Phlox.



Creation of the first “No Mow” area on the Brockton Campus. This area located adjacent to the Administration Building will create critical meadow habitat that will provide shelter and food for a wide variety of animals. Signs to educate the public were posted. In the future this area will be seeded with native New England vegetation and mowed on a strict schedule to best promote the growth of desired species.

## **ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

### **Funding**

The first Native New England Plant Garden was funded by the college and installed by an Introductory Biology class. The second Native New England Plant Garden was funded by a \$500 grant from the Raise Your Voice Presidential Civic Engagement Activity Fund of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Campus Compact. The signs for the “No Mow” area were funded by the college and the land is being maintained by the college’s Facilities Department.

### **Future Initiatives**

Reopening of a Community Garden on the Brockton Campus to promote responsible land usage and encourage interaction with the land. Students from Introduction to Nutrition classes will take the lead by installing infrastructure and implementing the initial planting and harvesting. Students will learn that growing their own food is an easy, inexpensive way to eat nutritiously and that by eating locally grown food that they will be reducing their ecological footprint.

The installation of a Native New England Rain Garden on the Brockton Campus. This project will highlight new species and will help control water run-off on campus. The hope is that this project will be grant funded and installed by an Environmental Science class.

Minimizing mowed areas and replacing the lawn grass with native species thereby restoring larger areas of habitat on campus.

The installation of a Nature Trail through natural ecosystems on the Brockton campus highlighting key species.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Melanie Trecek-King  
Sustainable Landscaping Committee, Chair  
Instructor of Biology  
Massasoit Community College  
One Massasoit Blvd.

Brockton, MA 02302  
Phone: 508-588-9100 x1667  
Email: [mtrecek-king@massasoit.mass.edu](mailto:mtrecek-king@massasoit.mass.edu)