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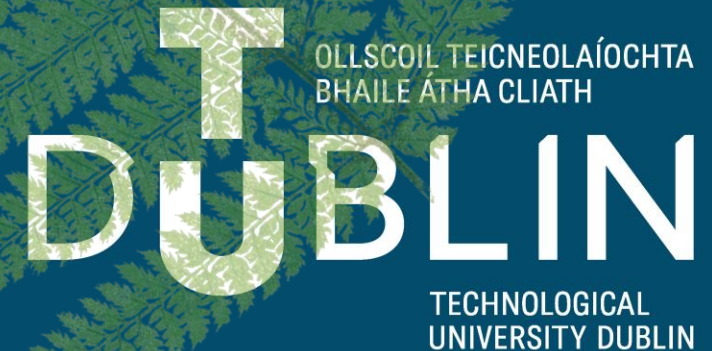


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The Library Garden as a Sustainable Sensory Space

Linda Bennett
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Tallaght

Féidearthachtaí as Cuimse
Infinite Possibilities



What is the goal of the sensory sustainable TU Dublin Library Garden?

- We want to create a space that all our staff and students can use as an oasis of calm away from the noisy university corridors.
- The planting around the raised areas will create a sensory space where our students can **see, touch, hear, smell and taste** a selection of plants in this area.
- We hope both students and staff will get involved in helping out with the planting and harvesting of produce in the garden space.



Why create a sensory sustainable Library Garden?

- During Covid our staff and students were forced to work from home. Some of them were not lucky enough to have an outside space. The idea was sparked by wanting to provide an **inclusive, calm outside space**.



Why create a sensory sustainable Library Garden?

- Today, [55%](#) of the global population lives in cities: by 2050, this proportion is expected to increase to [68%](#), some [6.5](#) billion people. The vast majority of urban growth will occur in lower- and middle-income settings. (World Economic Forum)



How will the Library Garden be a sustainable space?

- **1.** TU Dublin actively encourages community engagement and we are seeking groups we can swap seeds and plants with.



- **2.** We hope our students and staff will share the seeds they gather from their mature plants.

- **4.** We will encourage our garden users by example to create their own compost in their gardens.

- **3.** Recycling discarded materials, such as the plastic bottles for bug hotels, helps encouraging biodiversity, which in turn helps with pollination.

Building a bug hotel from recycled materials.



Bug hotels from recycled materials.





The calming sound of
water from the
fountain.

Library Garden images.

Tactile planting for
students to touch.





Composting garden
waste to be sustainable.

Library Garden images.

Bug hotels created from
discarded plastic bottles.





Photography students getting the benefit of the colours, textures and light in the Library Garden.

Alignment with TU Dublin Strategic Plan.

Pillar	Action	Achievement
PEOPLE	Creation of an inclusive calm space for staff and students to use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A calm relaxing space for staff and students.
PLANET	Being mindful of sustainability in creating the Library Garden space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using discarded plastic bottles and twigs from the garden to make bug hotels.• Compost bin.
PARTNERSHIPS	Start-up plant and seed swaps with fellow gardeners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seed and plant swaps with staff and others.• Link in with our Botanical Cuisine and Horticulture students.• Link in with Glas community garden in Blanchardstown campus.

Alignment with TU Dublin Strategic Plan into the future.

Pillar	Action	Goal
PEOPLE	Creation of an inclusive calm space for staff and students to use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the use of the garden to students and staff to get more engagement.
PLANET	Continue to be mindful of sustainability in curating the Library Garden space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop two further court yard gardens on campus for the use of staff and students.• Continue composting.
PARTNERSHIPS	Reaching out to community groups to use the Library Garden during the summer months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite book clubs etc.

Branching out from our Library Garden.

Please take some seeds and plant them and share the images of the sunflowers in bloom on social media with the following hashtags:

#TUDublinLibraryGarden

#GrowOn

Creating a better world together.



Féidearthachtaí as Cuimse
Infinite Possibilities

Go raibh maith agat
Thank You

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