

SF State Grounds Department Internship Program – Spring 2011

Objectives:

Increase campus-wide collaboration:

Contributions from all academic disciplines are welcome. We hope that by engaging the full diversity of the SFSU community, we can learn from each other, foster creativity, enrich our campus environment, and encourage a more participatory society.

Increase resource efficiency: Interns and volunteers can help reduce fossil fuel consumption by propagating plants or by replacing high-maintenance lawns; reduce pesticides and herbicides by removing invasive species; reduce water consumption by planting rain gardens, bioswales, and low-water native plants; or recharge groundwater reserves through permeable paving and green stormwater management projects.

Increase education and support for sustainability: The transition to a sustainable campus requires a change in infrastructure as well as individual behavior. Interns and volunteers can help get the message out by designing educational material concerning sustainable values such as environmental stewardship, resource conservation, waste and pollution reduction, ethical consumerism, natural design, social equity, local participation and global responsibility.

Possible Projects:

Sustainability Outreach and Education - Research, design and produce outreach material for signs, campus sustainability tours, workparties and other events to the campus community.

Wildlife Habitat Design and Monitoring - Research, build, install and monitor nesting boxes for campus owls, bees, and other animals.

Plant Research and Design – Help build a database of the plants of the campus, work with staff to design new garden areas.

Seed Saving and Propagation Program - Collect seeds from campus plants, clean and store them in our seed bank, propagate new plants from seeds and cuttings.

Invasive Species Removal - Learn to identify and remove invasive plants to reduce our use of Round-Up and increase campus biodiversity.

Grant Writing - Research, identify, and apply to grants to fund projects including green stormwater management, rainwater catchment, permeable paving, and low-water native habitat gardens.

Project suggestions welcome! Help us make the campus a better place - contact Davin Wentworth-Thrasher davinwt@sfsu.edu or Jacqueline Sarratt jacquelinesarratt@yahoo.com



Alpha Phi Omega volunteers help plant the Science Building bioswale.



Fall 2010 intern Oliver Franco and a newly-built nest box for solitary bees.



Fall 2010 interns removed the lawn to build the Science Building bioswale.