

# UIS Green Project Letter of Intent- Step 1

To complete your Green Project Letter of Intent, download this word document and type all answers to the questions below. Save your completed word document as a new file.

Once completed and saved to your device, return to the Green Projects website at <http://www.uis.edu/greenprojects/get-involved/>

Click the hyperlink titled, **“Submit your completed UIS Green Project LOI”**  
This can be found under **Step 1** of the “Submit a Green Project Proposal” section.

You will be redirected to an external WebQ. Upload your completed application by the deadline which can be found in the **“Timeline”** section of the Green Projects website.

If you have any questions regarding the application or submission process, please contact us at [greenprojects@uis.edu](mailto:greenprojects@uis.edu).

**Project Name: Spiral herb gardens**

## Contact Information:

Project Team

<i>Name</i>	<i>UIS Student/Faculty/Staff &amp; Department (or Office)</i>	<i>UIS Email</i>	<i>Phone #</i>
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Organization/Affiliation: UIS Community Garden Club

## Project Information:

Please provide a brief description of the project. What are the goals and the desired outcomes of the project?  
Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes.

Spiral herb gardens for all/any of the on-campus housing with kitchens/ kitchenettes, and also one for the UIS Community Garden. We would like each complex to have an herb garden to share among its residents. The garden would be placed in a central location and have signage inviting students to take herbs from the garden, as needed. This project would be relatively cheap and low maintenance. The Community Garden Club could help cut back the perennial herbs and straw them over for the winter. We would plant mostly hardy herbs that can survive cold weather, with the option to add additional herbs in the Spring if desired.

How does a Herb Spiral Design Work?

This Permaculture design maximises the natural force of gravity. It allows water to drain freely and seep down through all layers. This leaves a drier zone at the top (perfect for hardy herbs) and a moist area at the bottom

for water lovers. The design also creates microclimates. This allows you to plant a diverse range of herbs in a variety of positions (sunny, sheltered and shady). In a typical garden bed or pot, all plants are grown on the one level. So the growing conditions are the same. The herb spiral design offers you multiple options in a compact space. <https://themicrogardener.com/15-benefits-of-a-herb-spiral-in-your-garden/>

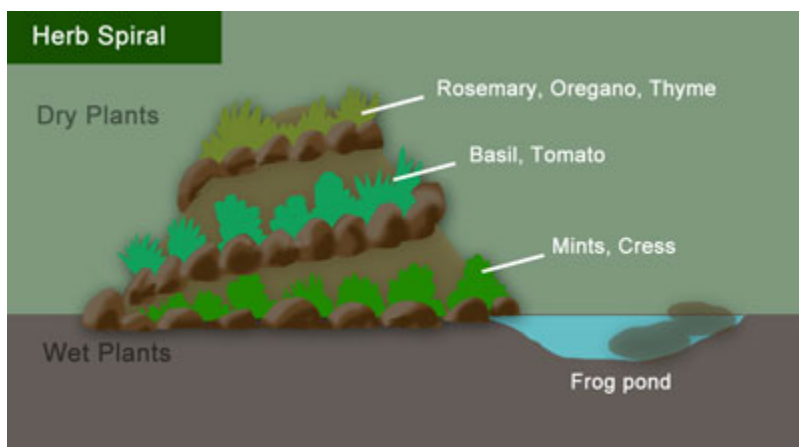
**Best Herbs for Cold Climates** Caring for herbs in cool climates usually means choosing the right plants. Some herbs fare much better in cold climates. As previously stated, herbs that survive winter more often than not, particularly if they're able to overwinter with a good continuous snow cover, include the following: Mint, Chives, Thyme, Oregano, Sage. Lavender is actually quite cold hardy, but is often killed off in the winter by too much moisture. If you want to try overwintering it, plant it in extremely well-drained soil and mulch it heavily in the winter. Some other good cold hardy herbs include: Catnip Sorrel Caraway Parsley Lemon balm Tarragon Horseradish

Read more at Gardening Know How: Cold Hardy Herbs – Growing Herbs That Survive Winter <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/hgen/herbs-that-survive-winter.htm>

Plants that need more drainage (lavender) would be planted at the top, and moisture-loving plants near the bottom of the spiral.

We would want these herb gardens to be placed in medium to high-traffic areas, as to discourage animals from eating the plants.

Each herb garden consists of stones/bricks/or boards placed in a spiral formation. More height is an advantage for easier access to humans and harder access to animals. We would only need materials for building the spiral, soil, established herb plants, and signage for each garden. The number of gardens depends on the number of qualifying housing complexes (with kitchens and an appropriate space for it).



Please describe why this project matters to you and how it relates to sustainability.

How will it aid in promoting the sustainability culture on campus? Describe your long-term vision.

This project relates to sustainability as it encourages gardening, cultivating your own food, and managing a renewable local resource rather than purchasing herbs from the store. It cuts down on transportation and

subsequent carbon emissions, encourages garden-related education pertaining to cold-weather vs warm weather plants, annuals vs perennials, etc.

Where will the project be located?

The number of gardens depends on the number of qualifying housing complexes (with kitchens and an appropriate space for it).

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in or affected by the project:

Are there any relevant opportunities for student or multidisciplinary involvement with your project?

Students will need to cut back the herbs when it gets cool outside and straw over them for the winter. In the Spring, students will need to remove the straw and have the option to plant additional herbs as desired. Students are welcome to harvest fresh herbs for their cooking or other needs at any time. Spiral herb gardens could be overseen by the UIS Community Garden Club or the housing complexes themselves.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline (Most approved projects are proposed in the Fall and implemented in the Spring)

A brief summary of total project timeline and key milestones

We can build and plant all spiral gardens in the Spring. In the fall, herb bushes must be cut back and strawed over for the winter. Replanting and maintenance will be done every Spring.

Please provide a brief itemized breakdown of the funds needed.

We will help you factor in the cost of labor and installation. If you have a plan for where you would like to purchase supplies from, provide it here and include a URL link to each item on the desired retailer's website.

**Stones/Bricks/Boards for the Spiral:** recycled materials or low cost/ per garden

**Soil:** no or low cost

**Herbs:** Mint, Chives, Thyme, Oregano, Sage, and Lavender at the top (can die from too much moisture), and more as desired. \$5-7 per plant, around \$50 per garden. This cost is one-time. Additional plants may be purchased yearly if desired.

**Signage:** Individual labels for herbs and one larger sign per garden that says "(Name of Complex) Community Herb Garden. Please harvest herbs as needed!" or something similar.

Anywhere from 1 to 5 gardens, depending on which complexes qualify (have kitchens and an appropriate location), plus 1 for the UIS Community Garden

Do you have any suggestions for how we could measure the success of this project?

Monitoring the gardens in order to observe if they are being used could be one way to measure success.

Additional comments:

Any additional comments/relevant information about the project proposal