Islamic Garden

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Allen Centennial Garden (ACG) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison intends to design and build a new Islamic Garden — in design collaboration with the Muslim community.

WHY? Allen Centennial Garden is dedicated to creating experiences that deepen relationships among diverse plants and people. Currently, the Allen Centennial Garden features only three garden spaces named for countries or ethnicities – English, French and Italian. In 2022, we introduced plants from African, Latinx, Hmong, and Indigenous cultures on a rotating basis in our Kitchen Garden. The introduction of an Islamic Garden will increase the diversity of cultures permanently represented in the Allen Centennial Garden and is intended to make it a more welcoming space for diverse students and to provide an example of a style of garden design and landscape architecture that is less commonly represented. The Islamic Garden will provide an opportunity to build partnerships on campus and in the surrounding community among those with an interest in Islam, Africa, Asia, and environmentally-engaged spirituality. Because of its rarity in North America, this garden style will also attract local and even national attention to the project. See back for more info!
HOW? The new garden will showcase sustainability by featuring sustainable and water-wise design practices that allow for education and demonstrations about gardening, climate change and other environmental considerations, many of which are integral to Islamic cultures that are adapted to desert environments. Sustainable design might include features that allow water to drain slowly, solar panels for power equipment, and drought tolerant plants. The Islamic Garden will be a more programmable space including areas for prayer and meditation both for individuals and as part of group events. This will enable the Garden to be a more inclusive space for students and enrich ongoing partnerships with groups like RecWell which regularly offers meditation classes.

BUDGET | $25,000 for buildable plans; $250,000 for garden completion

WHERE? The Islamic Garden is planned for the west end of Allen Centennial Garden between the north end of the pond and the southern edge of the pergola and promenade. The site is approximately +/- 3000 sq ft.

WHEN? 

• ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023
  Students in Landscape Architecture developed initial concept plans for the Islamic Garden space in consultation with Muslim community partners.

• FALL 2024 (or as soon as campus allows)
  Hire landscape architect to create buildable plans

• SPRING 2023 - SUMMER 2025
  Fundraise for Garden

• FALL 2025 (dependent on fundraising)
  Approval of project

• SPRING 2026 (dependent on fundraising)
  Construction

• FALL 2026 (dependent on fundraising)
  Grand Opening!

REFERENCE GARDENS

QUR’ANIC BOTANIC GARDEN
qbg.org.qa

AGA KHAN GARDEN, ALBERTA
botanicgarden.ualberta.ca/aga-khan-garden-alberta

UNTERMAYER GARDENS: WALLED GARDEN
www.untermyergardens.org/walled-garden

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