



Community Reinvestment Committee

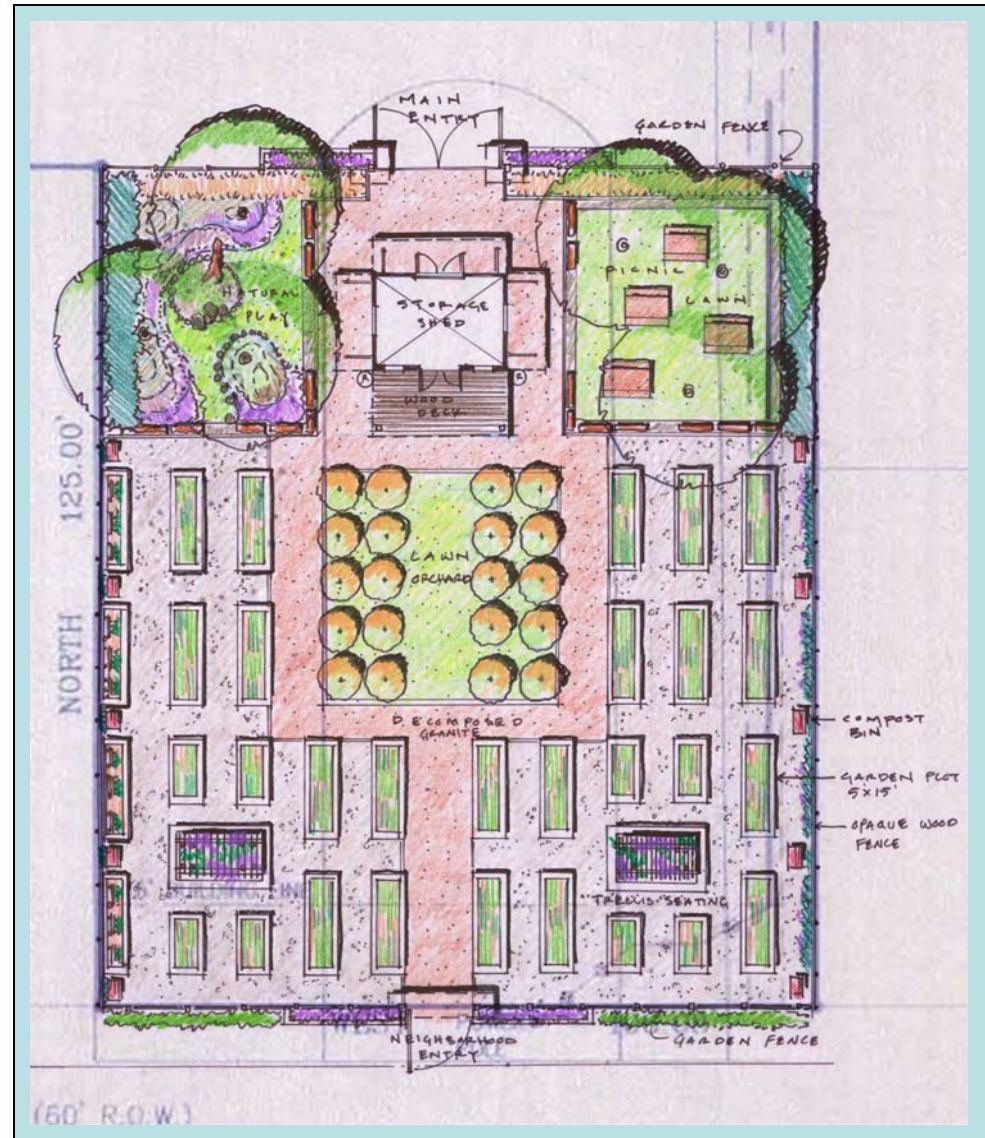
CoreNet Houston Builds Community Garden for Volunteers of America

(Houston) — On Saturday, April 30, 2011, over 100 volunteers met at 4808 Yale to build a community garden for Volunteers of America and the residents of the Independence Heights neighborhood. The plan, designed by landscape architect SWA Group, includes garden plots, a picnic lawn, natural playground, a storage shed, and an orchard area. The new community garden will help the historic Independence Heights neighborhood to achieve its goal of addressing hunger and nutrition by improving access to high-quality fresh foods. The garden will provide a beautiful setting for residents to gather and grow fresh produce, while increasing the availability of healthy foods and educating residents about healthy eating habits.

CoreNet Houston's Community Reinvestment Committee, led by Wendy Guidroz of Herman Miller and Barry Weiner of Jones Lang LaSalle, recruited an impressive list of Houston-area companies who contributed to the project with volunteers, in-kind donations, and monetary donations. Sponsoring companies and individuals are A&E The Graphics Complex, Allsteel, Arvo Realty Advisors, Austin Commercial, Berger Allied, D.E. Harvey Builders, E3 Electric, eBusiness Strategies, EE Reed Construction, ExxonMobil, Furniture Marketing Group, Gensler, Gilbane Building Company, Grubb & Ellis, Wendy Guidroz of Herman Miller, Jim Hardaway of Herman Miller, Brent Harris of Allsteel, Haworth, Haynes Whaley Associates, HOK, Houston Landscapes Unlimited, Houston Fence, I.A. Naman + Associates, ieSmartSystems, InterfaceFLOR, iOffice, JE Dunn Construction Company, Jones Lang LaSalle, Sandra C. Lynch, PageSoutherlandPage, Manhattan Construction, Mannington Commercial, McCoy Workplace Solutions, Bonny McCloud of Gensler, Newton Nursery, Office Pavilion, The OFIS, Papershell: A Garden Gallery, PDR, Pioneer Contract Services, Pyramid Masonry, Ridgway's/ARC, Hal Sharp of Gensler, Southwest Solutions Group, SpawMaxwell – a Balfour Beatty company, Steelcase, StructureTone, SWA Group, Rives Taylor of Gensler, Tejas Surveying/Randy McClendon, Texan Floor Service, The Maddox Group, Trees for Houston, Van De Wiele & Vogler, Waltech Company, Walter P Moore, and Wylie Consulting Engineers.

VOA Community Garden

- **Garden Plots**
 - residents grow fresh produce
- **Picnic Lawn**
 - teaching and demonstration space
- **Natural playground**
 - interactive play space for young children.
- **Storage sheds**
 - tools & equipment
 - wood deck for gatherings
- **Orchard Lawn area**
 - informal meeting space
 - fruit trees
- **Open Spring 2011**





Yale Street Community Empowerment Center



- **Faith-based, nonprofit organization**
- **Committed to serving people in need, strengthening families, and building communities.**
- **Empowerment Center provides community residents with access to a variety of services**
 - **improve their quality of life**
 - **develop new skills for healthy living**

VOA Community Garden

Existing Site – Independence Heights



Aerial View of VOA Yale St. Facility



ExxonMobil and JE Dunn United Way Day of Caring – April 20, 2011



Photo by G. Lyon Photography

THANK YOU

We greatly appreciate all of the sponsors and volunteers who contributed to the CoreNet Houston CRC Project — the Volunteers of America Community Garden on April 30, 2011.

For more information, please visit houston.corenetglobal.org.



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CoreNet CRC Urban Community Garden Event – April 30, 2011







