

Divided courtyard area into 3 zones



Empty spaces with garden potential
In courtyard outside of library



Zone 1: Zen garden



Zone 2: Bookable space for receptions. Also suitable for independent and group study



Zone 3: Sensory emphasis: plants, containers, and objects that can be experienced with the senses



IF YOU HAVE A GARDEN AND A LIBRARY : DEVELOPING A LIBRARY SENSORY GARDEN TO APPEAL TO NEURODIVERSE STUDENTS

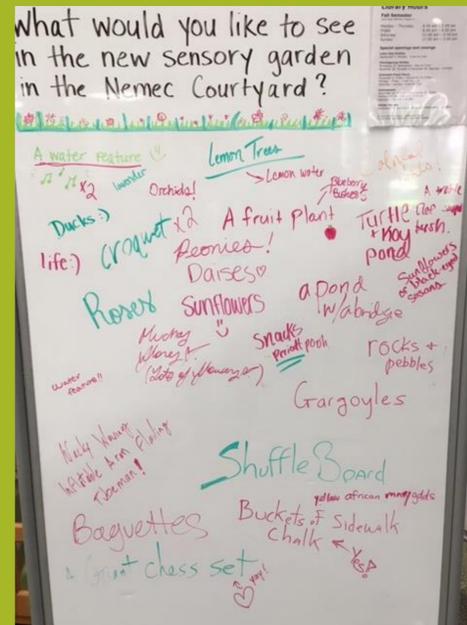
Debbi Dinkins, duPont-Ball Library, Stetson University

Neurodiversity - a concept where neurological differences are to be recognized and respected as any other human variation.

For many people on the autism spectrum, neurodiversity is viewed as a concept and social movement that advocates for viewing autism as a variation of human wiring, rather than a disease.

What We Learned – Opportunities and Challenges

- Work and expense to begin – it takes a lot of time, effort and coordination.
- You need storage for tools, potting soil, wheelbarrows, and other supplies.
- When you are finished with planting, you are not finished. Gardens need maintenance!
- If you build it, they will come – students love to spend time in the garden.
- Hurricanes – have an emergency plan for your garden space to save the plants and accessories.
- A true sensory garden needs elements of sound, touch, taste, and smell and it should be visually appealing.
- Gardens attract friends – butterflies, lizards, frogs, and other little visitors.
- Volunteer gardeners have different skill levels. More experienced gardeners need to suggest tasks for the less experienced.
- Remember the mission of the garden – to provide a relaxing and safe place for students to study and enjoy.



Student suggestions for the garden space



References:

- Banks, Carrie Scott, and Cindy Mediavilla. *Libraries & Gardens: Growing Together*. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2019.
- Rodgers, Emily Puckett. "Promote Learning, Wellness, Environmental Benefits, and Economic Opportunity for Patrons and Communities Outside," *Library Journal*, Sep 20, 2017.
- Jones, Alexandra. "Norristown in Bloom," *Audubon*, Winter 2018. pp. 30-33.
- National Symposium on Neurodiversity at Syracuse University.