

Future Ancestors Library Garden Pilot Project

In-Kind, Reused & Repurposed Resource Wishlist (Comprehensive)

1. Structural & Building Materials	
Natural & Low-Toxicity Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bamboo (especially salvaged from invasive stands)• Untreated or naturally rot-resistant wood (cedar, redwood, black locust)• Reclaimed lumber (untreated, non-painted preferred)• Cork, clay, stone, brick, or urbanite (clean concrete)• Natural fiber rope (jute, hemp, sisal)	Fencing & Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chicken wire (galvanized or coated, non-PVC preferred)• Hardware cloth• Natural or untreated fence posts• Reclaimed metal fencing panels• Wooden stakes or trellising poles
2. Greenhouse, Season Extension & Vertical Growing	
Greenhouse & Cold Frame Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reclaimed greenhouse panels (glass or polycarbonate preferred over PVC)• Cold frame windows or doors• Hinges, framing hardware• Thermal mass materials (stone, brick, water containers)	Vertical & Intensive Growing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vertical trellis systems• Wall-mounted planters (non-plastic or food-safe materials)• Food-grade containers• Grow racks or shelving (metal or wood)• Hanging basket systems
3. Hydroponic / Aquaponic / Water-Based Systems	
Water-Safe Components <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food-grade tubing (polypropylene or silicone preferred)• Food-safe barrels or tanks• Pumps (low-energy)• Filters and filter media• Grow media (expanded clay, lava rock, coconut coir)	Aquaponics-Specific <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fish-safe tanks• Biofilter components• Aerators and air stones• Water quality monitoring tools
4. Water Catchment, Filtration & Stewardship	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rain barrels or cisterns (food-safe materials)• First-flush diverters• Gutter screens• Gravel, sand, charcoal (for educational filtration demonstrations)• Water-testing kits (pH, nitrates, turbidity, contaminants)• Drip irrigation tubing (polypropylene preferred)• Hose timers and splitters (low-leach materials)	

5. Soil Health, Compost & Testing	
Soil & Compost Inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished compost • Leaf mold • Biochar • Worm castings • Mulch (wood chips, straw, shredded leaves) 	Testing & Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil testing kits • Compost temperature probes • Moisture meters • pH meters • Water infiltration test supplies
6. Fabrics, Shade & Learning Area Elements	
Shade & Weather Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas fabric (cotton or hemp preferred) • Sail cloth • Burlap • Shade structures or frames • Grommets, ropes, and tension hardware 	Learning Space Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor rugs or mats (natural fibers) • Cushions (washable, non-toxic materials) • Benches, stools, logs, or seating • Tables (portable or fixed)
7. Tools, Safety & Volunteer Support	
Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand tools (new or gently used) • Wheelbarrows, carts • Buckets and tubs (food-grade preferred) 	Volunteer Comfort & Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work gloves • Sunscreen • Hats • First aid supplies • Water coolers or dispensers
8. Apparel & Identification <i>(Preference for organic cotton or natural fiber blends.)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer shirts (short- or long-sleeve) • Aprons • Hats or bandanas • Tote bags for tools or harvest 	
9. Educational, Outreach & Creative Materials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclaimed wood for signs • Paints and sealants (non-toxic) • Chalkboards or whiteboards (outdoor safe) • Graphic design services 	
10. Cultural, Creative & Joyful Additions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden gnomes • Sculptures or folk art • Story poles or carved posts • Musical elements (chimes, drums) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-made art pieces <p><i>(Yes — joy, whimsy, and storytelling are part of stewardship.)</i></p>

11. Skilled & Professional In-Kind Support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arborist services • Native plant consultation • Soil or water testing services • Carpentry or metal fabrication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant writing or fundraising assistance • Graphic design or marketing • Educators or facilitators
12. Solar, Energy & Sustainable Power Systems	
Solar Components	Solar Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale solar panels (new or gently used) • Portable solar kits • Charge controllers • Inverters (appropriate to system size) • Deep-cycle or lithium batteries • Solar mounting hardware • DC wiring and connectors (non-PVC preferred) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar-powered irrigation timers • Solar lighting systems • Charging stations for tools or educational demos • Monitoring displays for educational purposes
13. Sustainable Outdoor Lighting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar pathway lights • Low-voltage LED fixtures • Motion-activated lights • Warm-spectrum bulbs (wildlife-friendly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shielded or downward-facing fixtures to reduce light pollution <p><i>(Preference for repairable, modular systems.)</i></p>
14. Pathways, Drainage & Ground Cover	
Permeable Walkway Materials	Drainage & Stabilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River rocks, stones, and gravel • Decomposed granite • Crushed limestone • Mulch paths (wood chips, bark) • Pavers designed for permeable installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel grid systems (non-toxic materials) • Landscape fabric (natural fiber preferred) • Sand and base materials
15. Cardboard & Sheet Mulching Materials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain, uncoated cardboard • Brown corrugated cardboard • Paper-based materials free from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Glossy coatings ○ Plastic layers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heavy inks or dyes • Paper tape (not plastic) <p><i>(Cardboard is used for sheet mulching and soil-building education.)</i></p>
16. Hardware, Fasteners & Building Supplies	
Fasteners & Hardware	Fencing & Structural Hardware
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screws, bolts, nuts, washers • Hinges, brackets, corner supports • Wire ties (metal preferred) • Eye bolts, hooks, anchors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate hardware • Fence staples • Post anchors • Latches and locks (for tool storage)

<p>17. Irrigation & Hoses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden hoses (drinking-water safe) • Hose reels • Hose repair kits • Drip irrigation connectors • Timers and flow regulators <p><i>(Preference for polypropylene, silicone, or food-safe rubber over PVC.)</i></p>	<p>18. Electrical & Safety Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor-rated extension cords • Conduit (non-PVC preferred) • Junction boxes • GFCI outlets (for approved installations) • Lockable enclosures for electrical components
<p>19. Monitoring, Data & Education Tools</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather stations • Soil moisture sensors • Temperature and humidity sensors • Data loggers • Educational displays explaining systems (solar, water, soil) 	

<p>Materials We Prioritize</p>
<p><i>We prioritize materials that are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Non-toxic and low-leaching</i> • <i>Free from PVC and unnecessary plastics</i> • <i>Safe for soil, water, pollinators, and people</i> • <i>Durable, repairable, and reusable</i> • <i>Ethically sourced or reclaimed</i>
<p>Materials We Avoid When Possible</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PVC plastics</i> • <i>Pressure-treated lumber</i> • <i>Synthetic fabrics that degrade into microplastics</i> • <i>Coated or glossy paper products</i> • <i>Materials with unknown chemical treatments</i> • <i>Rubber tires/mulch</i>

Why This Matters:

Every material choice is an educational opportunity. By using safe, sustainable, and regenerative materials, the garden becomes a living classroom for environmental stewardship and community care.

Donation Coordination:

All in-kind donations are coordinated with Friends of the Balch Springs Library & must meet safety, site, & library requirements.

Top 25 In-Kind Needs

We prioritize safe, sustainable, & reusable materials that benefit the environment, community, & educational programs.

Structural & Building

1. Bamboo (especially salvaged from invasive stands)
2. Untreated or naturally rot-resistant wood (cedar, redwood, black locust)
3. Reclaimed lumber (untreated, non-painted preferred)
4. Natural fiber rope (jute, hemp, sisal)
5. Chicken wire or hardware cloth (non-PVC preferred)
6. Wooden stakes or trellising poles
7. Gate hardware, hinges, bolts, and fasteners (see Section 16 for details)

Soil, Compost & Water Systems

8. Finished compost
9. Leaf mold or mulch (wood chips, straw, shredded leaves)
10. Soil testing kits (pH, nutrients, infiltration)
11. Water-testing kits (pH, nitrates, turbidity, contaminants)
12. Rain barrels or cisterns (food-safe materials)
13. Drip irrigation tubing & connectors (polypropylene or silicone preferred)

Planting & Growing

14. Vertical trellis systems or wall-mounted planters
15. Food-grade containers for raised beds or planters
16. Hydroponic or aquaponic components (tanks, pumps, filters)
17. Grow media (expanded clay, lava rock, coconut coir)

Shade & Learning Areas

18. Canvas, sailcloth, or natural fiber fabric for shade structures
19. Benches, stools, or seating logs
20. Outdoor rugs or mats (natural fibers)

Solar, Energy & Lighting

21. Small-scale solar panels or kits (new or gently used)
22. Solar-powered irrigation timers or low-voltage LED pathway lighting

Tools, Safety & Volunteer Support

23. Hand tools (shovels, rakes, trowels)
24. Work gloves, hats, and sun protection for volunteers
25. First aid supplies for project activities

Notes for Donors:

- Materials should be **non-toxic, low-leaching, and durable**.
- Reused, recycled, or salvaged items are strongly preferred.
- Many items may be donated in partial quantities (e.g., a few logs, a few containers) — **all contributions are welcome**.
- Donations are coordinated through **Friends of the Balch Springs Library** to meet safety and site requirements.