



EMANUEL
MEDICAL CENTER

The Children's Garden at Emanuel Medical Center

Date of Design Process: March - June 1996

Date of Construction Completion: 1997 and Phase 3, June 1999

Designers: Gretchen Vadnais, LA; Johnson Design Studio; Brian Bainson, ASLA, Quatrefoil, Inc.

Disciplines Involved: Physical, Occupational, Speech, Recreational, Child Life and Horticultural Therapists, Rehabilitation Managers, Director of Pediatrics, School Teachers, Nursing Staff, Current and Former Patients and Families, Horticultural Therapy Volunteers, Spiritual Care Staff, Facilities Staff, Landscape Architect and Architect.

Goal of Design; Create a therapeutic and restorative garden with main focus on pediatric patients and their families, pediatric rehabilitation, and other priorities for adult rehab, all hospital patients adult and pediatric, hospital visitors, staff and our neighbors.

Populations Served: Acute care inpatient children and adults, outpatients, families, visitors, neighbors and staff, 24-7 in a public garden.

Significant elements as they relate to therapeutic garden design:

1) Scheduled and programmed activities---

Children and their families use the garden as a place to play and explore in a home-like setting. Each rehabilitation therapy uses the garden to help meet patient goals year round, as weather permits. Plant signage and other educational devices provide information to garden visitors. Staff appreciation activities are scheduled in the garden. An arts focus includes commissioned art works in the west hallway, which replicate aspects of the garden. The south hallway focuses on wildlife arts. The Therapeutic Gardens program schedules year round Nature Stations outdoors weather permitting and indoors in the garden hallways during inclement weather. July 2019 is our 22nd garden birthday!

2) Features modified to improve accessibility----

Rehabilitation therapies need various walking surfaces, stairs, ramps, inclines, and opportunities for cognitive and physical activities. Some of the garden needed to be raised up to the patient to accommodate wheelchair users and those unable to bend to the ground. Seating walls accommodate patients with decreased balance and decreased endurance. Each modification to the therapeutic garden allows patients to explore and interact with the garden to touch, study, smell and enjoy moving about the garden on their own terms and at their own pace. The garden is designed to support independent use by patients during unstructured time and for families and visitors all hours and in all seasons. The view out the window from all sides supports patient restoration and engagement with nature benefits year-round.

3) A profusion of plants and people/plant interactions---

This is a rich, lush intriguing botanical collection for four seasons of sensory stimulation. People/plant interactions are encouraged by botanical signage, plant placement for touch and smell and regularly scheduled activities for patients and visitors. Simple patterns of

paths, seating options and workplaces for horticulture, therapies and socialization encourage people/plant interactions.

4) Benign and supportive conditions---

The garden provides a safe, secure and comfortable setting for users. Patients and families choose areas to meet privacy and social support needs. Visitors enjoy watching hummingbirds, butterflies and birdlife in the garden. Pest and disease resistant plants are selected for the garden to avoid use of pesticides and chemicals. Shade is provided by the pavilion and trees. Yes, patients and families do request a room with a garden view!

5) Universal design---

The garden is designed and programmed for the widest range of abilities. It accommodates the needs of outpatients, ambulatory children and their families to siblings who need to “run off steam” to the inpatient child pulled in a wagon by the family as they explore and discover the garden on their own schedule together. Adult patients use the garden during unstructured time. Adult rehab therapists use the garden for patient therapies. The garden stimulates the full range of senses including memory, hearing, touch, smell, and taste by careful selection of plant materials, way finding, garden accessories and programmed activities.

6) Recognizable placemaking---

The design and plantings provide for a simple, unified and easily comprehended setting. Visitors are focused on plant-related sensuality, comfort and independence in this therapeutic garden.

Funding Sources: Randall Children’s Hospital Foundation at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center Foundation

Size: 9,000 sq. ft.

Cost Sq. Ft.: \$17.00 initial construction phase 1997

Maintenance Plan:

Directed by Coordinator of Therapeutic Gardens

1. Nine hours paid HT Gardener (contractor) weekly: grooming, pruning, planting, soil amendments.
2. Fifteen hours Garden Volunteers weekly: weeding, sweeping, watering, grooming.
3. Irrigation repairs, tree grooming, fountain maintenance and power washing managed by Emanuel Facilities Dept.

Additions Pending/Complete:

Phase 4: Activity Pavilion completed June 2007, \$56,000 designed by Quatrefoil, Inc. replacing temporary activity tent of 8 years. 2010 Yellow brick road update to thermoplastic product. Problem solving tribute bricks placement to insure better cleaning maintenance into seating wall completed February 2011, Quatrefoil. 2015-16 Yellow brick road to be replaced with concrete stain product, as thermoplastic product under performed.

Awards:

2000 American Horticultural Therapy Association, Therapeutic Garden Design Award

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