

# Capitol Restoration Landscaping Project Proposal

Combining the resources of Kansas service clubs, Master Gardeners, and Department of Administration oversight, we may save several million dollars in restoration of the north capitol lawn. During tight budgetary times, this is a fantastic opportunity to not only showcase K-State Research and Extension's messages of "Right Plant, Right Place" and good maintenance practices, but also the heart and soul of Kansas volunteers.

The visitor's entrance would be beautiful and educational as the Master Gardeners would design an overall plan with the Capitol grounds crew part of the conversation since they would be responsible for maintenance. They are capable, well-trained professionals, and we would want to coordinate our efforts to ensure maximum efficiency and cooperation.

Signage would identify flora and where it is found in Kansas. With over 100 species and creativity, we could host a state lawn like no other in the Union.

On a walking tour of the grounds, school groups could see our state grass, our state flower, and statuary by Kansan artists could highlight our state animal, state reptile, state amphibian, state insect, and possibly our new state dog. Weather permitting there could be an exhibition tank with the Ornate Box Turtle and the Barred Tiger Salamander, and some of the 144 species of fish that reside in Kansas. We might even conduct good old fashion turtle races and watermelon seed spitting contests!

The only legislative action I would see is a House Resolution proposed at the completion to recognize parties involved and the cost of club recognition signage of the area each organization landscaped. The cost of the concrete work would still need funding from the SGF.

The service clubs I have spoken with are excited about the possibility to participate and have asked me to come speak to state level organizations. With your approval, I hope to soon do so. There is enough lead time for them to raise funds to purchase the assigned plants, trees, vines, and flowers. Park benches could be label with the donating club's name. The first question was usually, "And we get to help plant them, right?" This project would be a statewide expression of Kansas pride and ingenuity.

KS State Research and Extension must have been bragging about the project already because the John C. Pair Horticultural Center contacted me to offer their assistance. One Master Gardener wrote, "I do hope your dream for the capitol comes to fruition. Seems to be a win, win, win proposition and I feel so proud and satisfied to have played a tiny part in your--and His--mighty plan."

In service to Kansas,

*TerriLois Gregory*

# Resources to Date:

## **K-State Research and Extension**

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## **John C. Pair Horticultural Center**

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## **Horticulture K-State Research & Extension**

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## **Kansas Lions State Council of Governors**

District L is all of Western Kansas, Ralph Rogers. His email address is [rer45@hotmail.com](mailto:rer45@hotmail.com).  
District I is North Central Kansas, Marion Schroll. His email address is [mschroll@twinvalley.net](mailto:mschroll@twinvalley.net).  
District O is North Eastern Kansas, Clint Vawter. His email address is [clintv@aol.com](mailto:clintv@aol.com).  
District N is South Central Kansas, Helen LeBlanc. Her email address is [hleblanc33@cox.net](mailto:hleblanc33@cox.net).  
District S is South Eastern Kansas. Greene. His email address is [melgreene@columbus-ks.com](mailto:melgreene@columbus-ks.com).  
Council Chair who presides at the State Council Meetings is Michele Hufferd [mhufferd@ymllc.com](mailto:mhufferd@ymllc.com).

## **Rotary District Office 5710**

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John Vandawaller 913-558-5706 in OPKS South club is the current District Governor,  
Kevin Tubbing from Shawnee 913-562-5608 will be Governor July 2012,  
Gary Duggan from Edgerton 816-926-7499 will be Governor July 2013.

## **Business & Professional Women's Club**

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