

## Hokona Garden Bee Hotel Final Project

Our project was to bring the Hokona Lobo Garden back to life. We have 3 main projects in the garden: bee hotel, bench/food forest, and sensory garden. Isa and I focused on the bee hotel but helped with various projects as we went along. The bee hotel group's goal was to revamp a bee hotel in the structure that was already there. We wanted to paint the hotel and add new items into the little sections. We also wanted to create a sign that would explain to others what a bee hotel is and how it helps the garden.

In the garden the first item we tackled was weeding the main big bed and envisioning what we want to plant there. In **Image 1** and **2** you can see the work we did the first time we were there which was weeding. There were various weeds in the large bed located in the middle. The next we time we went to the Hokona garden we did different activities assembling the lock box, organized the items to put in the box, pruned the rosemary bush, and moved one of the large planters. **Image 3** is from the day we went on the weekend, and it is a picture of me pruning the rosemary. I participated in other items that the garden needed while working on the bee hotel like watering, pulling weeds, and planting the berries throughout the overall project time.

After we put in work into the overall garden, we had time to focus on the bee hotel. The first item of the bee hotel was to empty and clean the bee hotel which you can see in **Image 4 to 6**. We washed the hotel off with the water and set it out to dry. Next, we sanded the bee hotel and took off the stick in the back as it served no function that we were aware of (**Image 7**). Once we sanded the hotel, we had to think about what colors we wanted to paint the hotel. We chose green because it fits with a garden, and we also chose yellow because bees are attracted to bright colors. We put two coats of primer (the white paint) on the bee hotel first after washing it off one more time. The first coat of paint can be seen in **Image 8 and 9**. We let the primer set for 24

hours before painting the colors on it. We decided to paint the sides green and the top and back yellow, we also chose to paint the inside alternating green and yellow (**Image 10 & 11**). We waited once again for 24 hours to let the paint dry before we added items into the hotel. Isa and I had been saving toilet paper rolls to put into our bee hotel and got others donated. We used bamboo rods and found some hollow plant stocks to fill the hotel. The final look of the bee hotel is **Image 12**. The journey of revamping the bee hotel was straight forward, I am glad we were able to envision what it was going to look like and see it come to life.

This project was an amazing learning experience to see sustainable practices in the garden that we created. Going into this project I was unsure of what to do and then we went to the backyard refuge day. On the backyard refuge day, we made little bee hotels and learned about them. At the time we joked about making it our project, but I am glad we went through with it. I visited the Hokona garden one day and saw that there was a structure already there (**Image 4**) that could be turned into a bee hotel. We thought this would be a great idea as we are turning something we already have and making it new which overlaps with the ideas of permaculture. When finding what to put in the bee hotel natural and organic items are the best so we used some bamboo, wood straws, plant stocks, and toilet paper rolls. We found the plant stocks over in the round bed around the larger bed in Hokona. I was looking around the garden for more hollow sticks and I saw that the plant stocks were perfect for our bee hotel.

Creating the informational signs for the garden is still taking us more time so we are going to work on them and have them done by our project presentation. We have added labels for all the plants we planted in the sensory garden and included a Zen Garden (**Image 13**). We have also added a sign that names the space the Hokona Garden (**Image 14**).

We hope that these improvements and restorations of the Hokona Garden have helped more people enjoy the space. We have gotten a couple of people who have come up to us while working, telling us they love what we have done with space. Our goal of bringing the space back to life for students in that area has been achieved, through the care and effort that we and the garden have put into the space.

Visual Elements (in chronological order):



**Image 1 & 2:** The before and after pictures of the first-time pulling weeds in the garden.



**Image 3:** Me pruning the rosemary so that it would grow better and look more aesthetically pleasing.



**Image 4:** The hotel as we discovered it.



**Image 5 & 6:** Pictures after we removed what was in the hotel and washed it.



**Image 7:** After we sanded and cleaned the hotel once more.



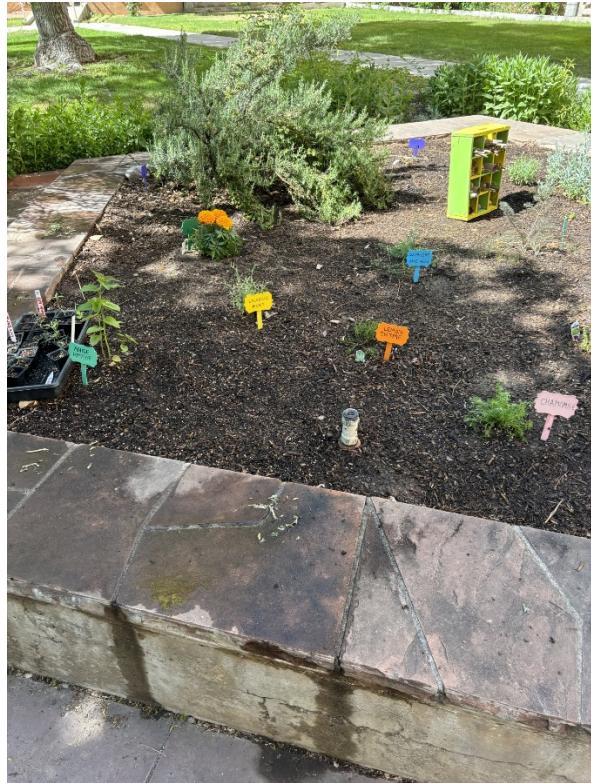
**Image 8 & 9:** The first coat of primer!



**Image 10 & 11:** The final look of the bee hotel before filling it.



**Image 12:** The finalized revamp of the bee hotel.



**Image 13:** The labels we added for the new plants.



**Image 14:** The newly painted sign to label the garden.

#### Education Element:

We have yet to create the infographic for the bee hotel, but we are planning to have it done for our presentation. We plan to create an infographic about the bee hotel and create a QR Code that can be scanned easily. We want to display the QR code by printing it out and glueing it to a rock so that it can be easily accessible.

#### Information to put in the infographic:

- What is a Bee Hotel?
- How does the Bee Hotel help the garden?
- How to continue to care for the Bee Hotel?