

# Robbins Farm Garden

## ADA Compliance & Fence Proposal

October 2015

### Overview

After meeting with the Park & Recreation Commission in March and reviewing IHCD's ADA Self-Evaluation Report, the Robbins Farm Garden group has identified the following issues to be addressed:

1. The garden gate is not wide enough.
2. There are no garden beds within accessibility ranges.
3. Most of the garden paths are not wide enough.
4. The garden paths are not firm, level and slip-free.
5. The garden sign doesn't include information about application and rules, and doesn't specify the plan and timeline for the garden's accessibility.
6. The grade on north side of garden may be too steep.

We have attempted to address these issues in this proposal, which also includes replacing the garden fence, gate and entry arbor. It's important to note that the Garden was considered a pilot program when originally installed, so was treated as an impermanent feature of the park.

#### **1. The garden gate is not wide enough.**

We propose to replace the current salvaged chain link garden gate with a custom built gate that is nominally 5' wide and constructed to integrate with the proposed fence and entry arbor. See attached drawings for details.

#### **2. There are no garden beds within accessibility ranges.**

We propose to construct raised garden beds as part of the project. However, we are unsure of the best overall plan for raised beds. We are proposing to raise the main beds on the north side of the garden to compensate for the grade, but have explored other options.

#### **3. Most of the garden paths are not wide enough.**

We propose to expand the limited inventory of accessible garden paths by widening the perimeter path from 2' to 3'-3" as part of this project. This will create a network of accessible paths with no dead ends.

As part of the proposal, we are requesting that the garden be expanded by 1.3' in each direction (from 30' x 68' to 32.6' x 70.6'). This is to compensate for the gardening area lost to widen the perimeter paths and to facilitate simpler construction of the new fence.

#### **4. The garden paths are not firm, level and slip-free.**

We propose that the compliant paths in the garden be resurfaced using turf mesh. This is a relatively new material. Turf mesh has the advantages of being green and softer than stone dust. It's probably more slippery when wet, and would require watering, mowing and edging. Installation and removal would be simple.

#### **5. The garden sign doesn't include information about application and rules, and doesn't specify the plan and timeline for the garden's accessibility.**

We propose replacing the current garden sign with one that includes information about application and rules this fall. Once we have an approved plan for the accessibility changes, we propose to add this information to the sign.

## **6. The grade on north side of garden may be too steep.**

We measured a 3' vertical drop in the 30' between the front and back on the north side of the garden, representing a 10% grade. The 2010 ADA doesn't specify maximum allowable grades for garden paths. However, the Federal Highway Administration lists a 10% over 30' as a maximum acceptable grade for recreational trails.

Using raised beds on the north side of the garden would mediate the grade for the growing beds and bring portions of them into accessible reach ranges. Adding some soil to the north east corner of the garden and adjacent grassy area could be considered to reduce the steepness of the grade. This would likely mediate the runoff that is currently directed in that portion of the park.

## **Schedule & Coordination**

We propose that the construction be done in the following sequence.

**2016: replace west side of fence (with entry), install ½ of raised beds**

**2017: replace north & south sides of fence, install ½ of raised beds**

**2018: replace east side of fence, install grass mesh on paths**

We would like to coordinate our construction with the Town's installation of a path in the park to the garden. Because the garden is organic, we request that the path leading to it be composed of non-toxic materials.

If the Town chooses to make any grade changes adjacent to the north side of the garden, we would like to coordinate our construction with those as well. We are flexible to revise the schedule if there are conflicts with other work at the Park.

## **Finances**

A cost estimate for the project is included in the proposal. The estimate only includes materials. We propose that the labor be donated by members of the garden group.

We have endeavored to design with affordability in mind. Nevertheless, the cost is high for our group of 12-20 members to shoulder. Consequently, we request that the Town's funds for ADA compliance be made available for this project.

## **Additional (Rock Removal) Request**

As part of the project, we request help to move a large rock from the garden. We can roll the rock outside the fence, but equipment will be required to relocate it in the Park. We would be glad to coordinate this task with equipment at the park for other construction.

## **Conclusion**

We understand that bringing the Town's facilities into compliance with state and national accessibility obligations is a process, and that this project will move Robbins Farm Garden significantly closer to that goal.

We are thankful for the privilege of gardening at Robbins Farm Park since 2010. Moving forward, it is our desire to make the garden even more of an asset to the community. We welcome your suggestions.

# Cost Estimate: ADA compliance & Fence replacement

## Robbins Farm Garden

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### Entry Gate and Arbor (sub-total \$301.37)

<u>Item (pricing source)</u>	<u>price</u>	<u>qty</u>	<u>total cost</u>
4 x 4 x 8' Wood posts (Home Depot)	\$10.58	4	\$42.32
Metal post brackets (Home Depot)	\$17.48	6	\$104.88
2 x 4 x 8' for wood top rails (Home Depot)	\$2.46	2	\$4.92
1 x 4 x 8' for wood side rails (Home Depot)	\$1.98	2	\$3.96
2 x 2 x 8' for wood top lattice (Home Depot)	\$1.92	4	\$7.68
Stainless Gate hinges (Home Depot)	\$15.63	6	\$93.78
Stainless Gate latch (Home Depot)	\$13.85	1	\$13.85
Galvanized Arbor bolts: box of 10 (Home Depot)	\$29.88	1	\$29.98

### Raised Main Beds (sub-total \$1,248.02)

<u>Item (pricing source)</u>	<u>price</u>	<u>qty</u>	<u>total cost</u>
6" Raised Bed Corners, sets of 2 (Gardener's Supply)	\$22.95	6	\$137.70
15" Raised Bed Corners, sets of 2 (Gardener's Supply)	\$32.95	8	\$263.60
6" Pivoting Bed Corners, sets of 2 (Gardener's Supply)	\$24.95	4	\$99.80
2 x 6 x 16' lumber for main & center beds (Home Depot)	\$9.22	14	\$129.08
2 x 10 x 16' lumber for main beds (Home Depot)	\$19.24	10	\$192.40
2 x 12 x 16' lumber for center bed (Home Depot)	\$24.48	3	\$73.44
Organic screened compost: cu yd. (Lalicata Landscape)	\$44.00	8	\$352.00

### Fence Replacement (sub-total \$998.25)

<u>Item (pricing source)</u>	<u>price</u>	<u>qty</u>	<u>total cost</u>
4 x 4 x 4' wood posts from 4 x 4 x 8' (Home Depot)	\$10.58	13	\$137.54
Metal post brackets (we have 4) (Home Depot)	\$17.48	22	\$384.56
1 x 4 x 8' wood rails (Home Depot)	\$1.98	78	\$154.44
4' x 50' 14-ga galvanized fence, 2x4 mesh (Home Depot)	\$37.47	5	\$187.35
1-5/8" Galvanized Screws: 1# box of 200 (Home Depot)	\$8.47	2	\$16.94
Galvanized barbed staples: 1# box of 52 (Home Depot)	\$3.99	12	\$47.88
½" Water pipe: 100' roll (Home Depot)	\$16.71	2	\$33.42
½" PVC Pipe clamps: bag of 25 (Home Depot)	\$3.01	12	\$36.12

**Pathway Resurfacing (sub-total \$337.15)**

Item (pricing source)	price	qty	total cost
Grass Mesh: 3.3' x 40' rolls (Gempler's)	\$37	8	\$296.00
Steel Anchoring pins: case of 500 (Gempler's)	\$41.15	1	\$41.15

Sub-Total Cost	\$2,884.79
MA Sales Tax (6.25%)	\$187.55
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$3,072.34</b>

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**Yard Protection Mesh 40'L x 3.35'W**

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Item No: 167789

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1 - 5	\$39.35
6 +	\$36.30

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<input type="checkbox"/> DeWitt Steel Anchoring Pins - Pack of 12	1	\$3.15
<input type="checkbox"/> DeWitt Steel Anchoring Pins - Case of 500	1	\$41.15

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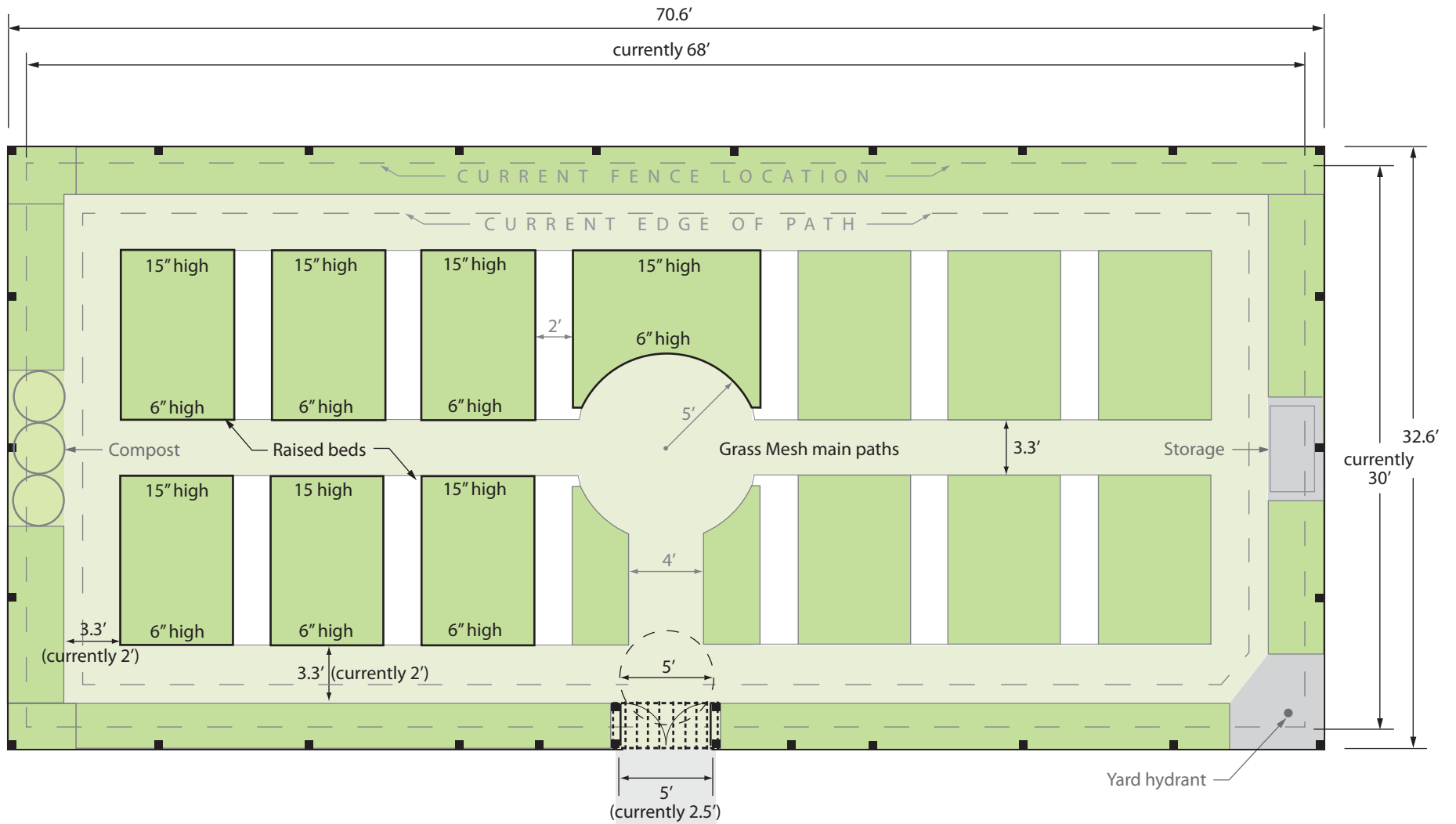
**40'L x 3.35'W Turf Reinforcement Mat**

- Yard Protection reinforces turf to minimize rutting
- Protects grassy areas from cars, light trucks, golf carts, ATVs, etc.
- 1-1/4" x 1-1/4" UV-stabilized honeycombed mesh

Yard Protection is a high-density polyethylene green mesh designed to reinforce and protect grassy areas used by cars, light trucks, golf carts, ATVs, etc. Rolls out easily over your turf just after mowing and is held in place by plastic or metal pins (sold separately) to provide a year-round protective barrier. Turf can be mowed as normal and hides the 1-1/4"x1-1/4" UV-stabilized honeycombed mesh once it grows through the openings. Turf reinforcement mat is ideal for applications where traffic is less frequent and the turf has time to recover between passes. Package contains two 20'L x 3.35'W sections and weighs 5.5 lbs. USA made.

[2015 Master Catalog: Page 410](#)

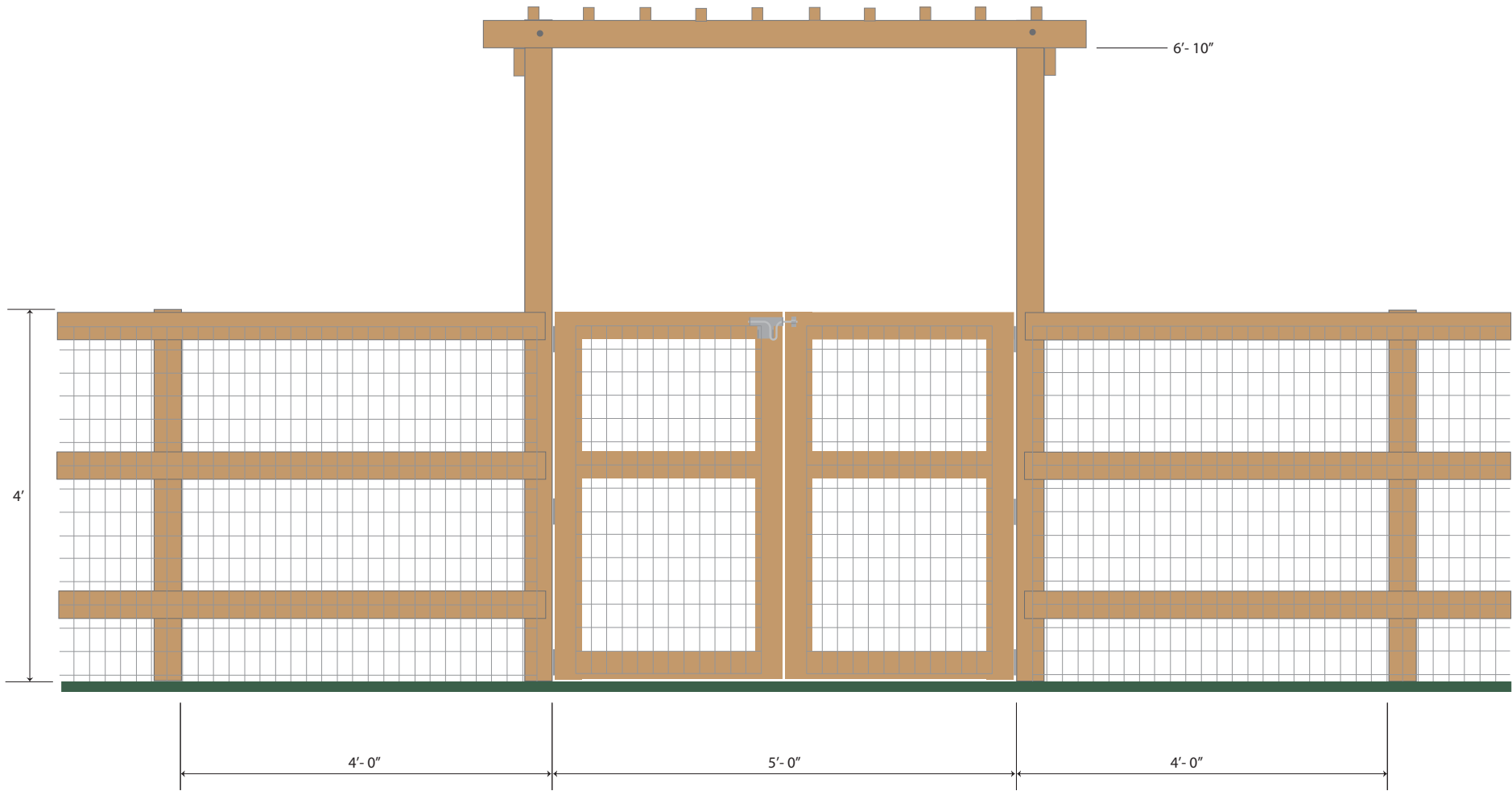
Screen shot of grass mesh from gemplers.com



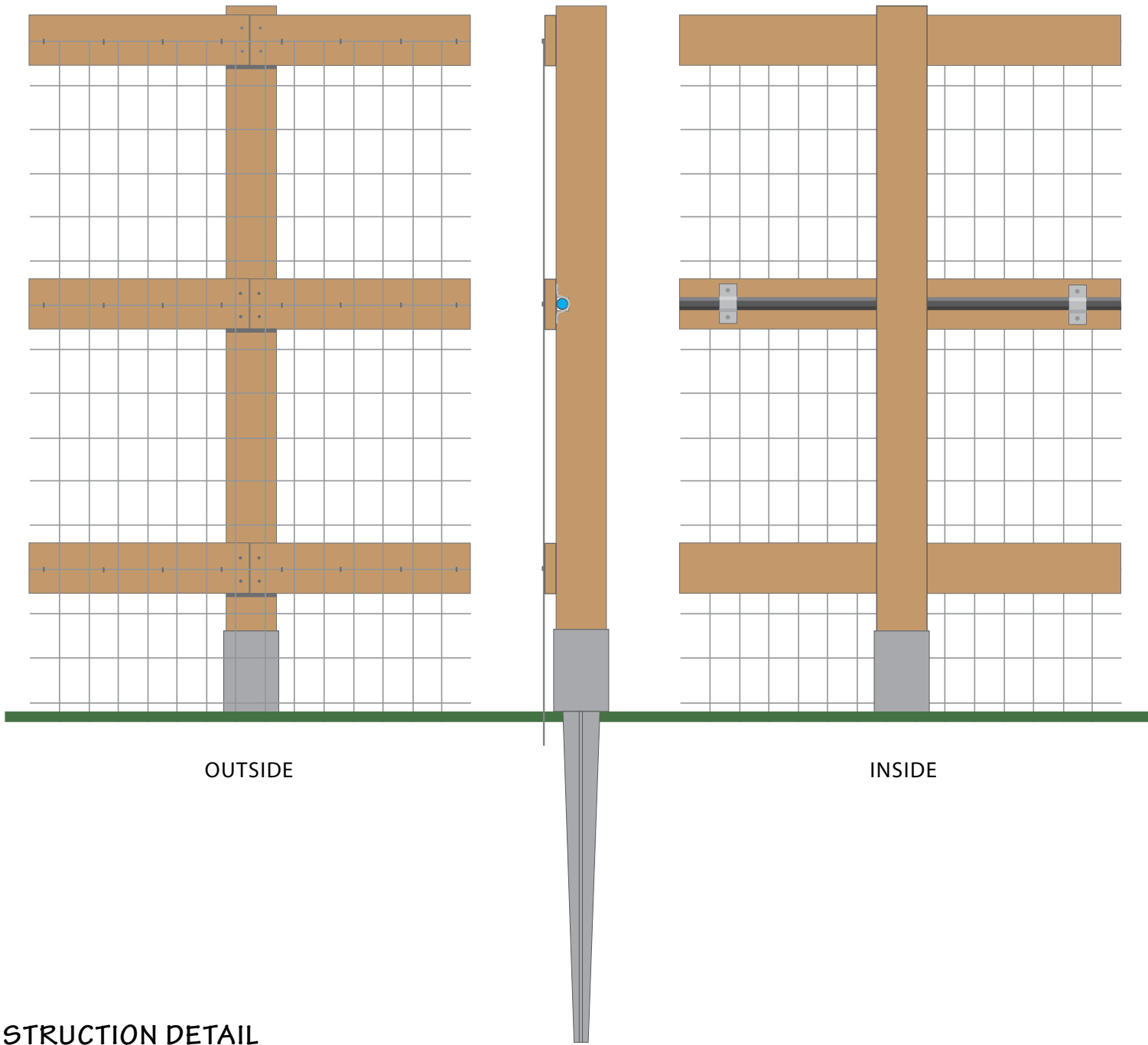
Current total area = 2,040 sf  
 Current gardening area = 1,182 sf

Proposed total area = 2,240 sf  
 Proposed gardening area = 1,195 sf

### PLAN OF GARDEN FENCE, ENTRY GATE, ARBOR & RAISED BEDS



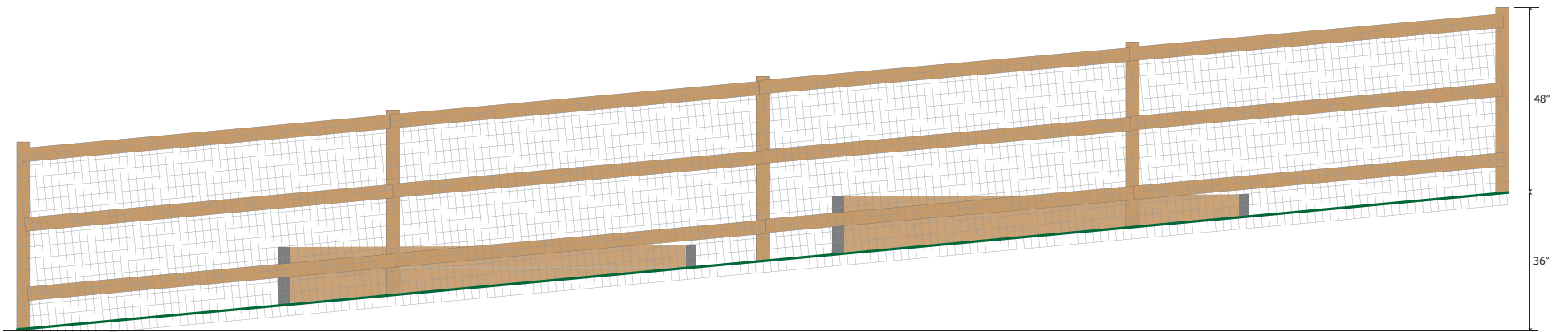
ELEVATION OF ENTRY GATE, ARBOR & FENCE



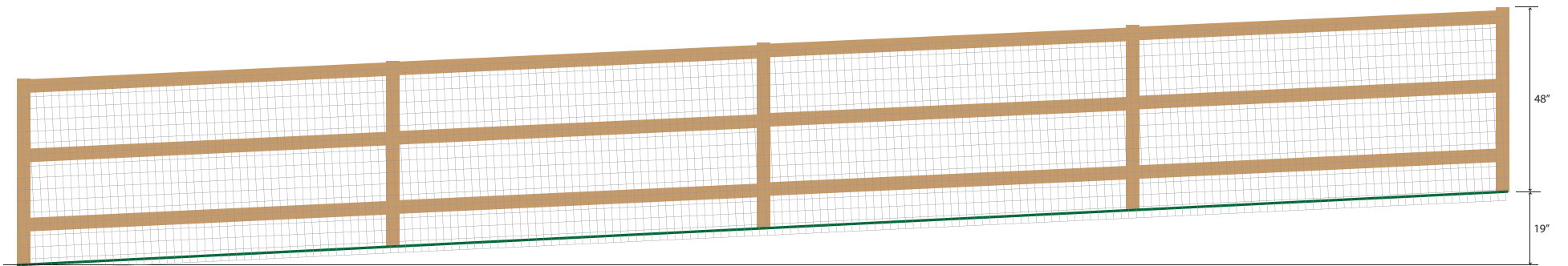
OUTSIDE

INSIDE

FENCE CONSTRUCTION DETAIL



CURRENT 10% GRADE - SHOWING RAISED BEDS



GENTLER 5% GRADE

NORTH ELEVATION OF FENCE ILLUSTRATING CURRENT 10% GRADE & GENTLER 5% GRADE