

UF FLORIDA

Wilmot Botanical Gardens

College of Medicine

PO Box 103560 Gainesville, FL 32610 Phone 352-273-5832 Fax 352-273-6302

April 28, 2025

Mr. Wayne Smith Rotary Club of Gainesville Sunrise

Dear Mr. Smith.

We are extremely grateful to be able to work with your organization to help us enhance our Outdoor Working Garden project. Our operating funds are derived largely through extramural grants and philanthropy, and we rely heavily on organizations and individual volunteers to maintain, operate, and improve the Garden.

The Therapeutic Horticulture Program at Wilmot Botanical Gardens is limited to indoor greenhouse gardening at present because of the absence of an accessible outdoor venue for gardening activities. This Outdoor Working Garden project includes a 3,000-square-foot working garden with raised and at-grade planters, espaliers, and wheelchair-accessible planters to facilitate hands-on involvement outdoors. A key aspect of the project is a secure storage facility within the garden. It is important that horticultural supplies and materials are stored safely and securely while being readily available to users of the garden.

We have cost estimates for materials for this storage area of approximately \$5000, and \$7000 for construction costs.

We are also grateful that your organization has offered to assist with the landscaping and maintenance of the storage area and garden following construction. Volunteers and donations are the lifeblood of Wilmot Botanical Gardens, and this beautiful place and the community at large would be much diminished without the help of organizations such as yours. Thank you again, and please let me know if you have any questions.

With kindest regards,

Jim Stribling

Assistant Director

Wilmot Botanical Gardens