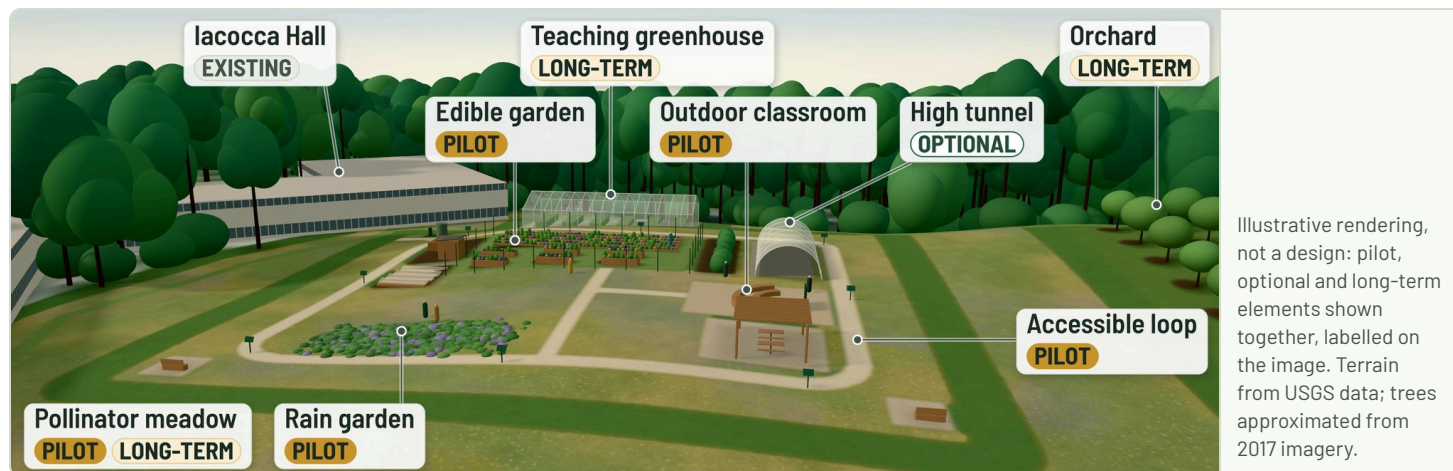


Mountaintop Discovery Gardens

A student-initiated idea for an accessible native-plant, food and learning garden on Lehigh University's Mountaintop Campus.

Planning phase. An independent plan; nothing is funded or built yet. Not an official project of, or endorsed by, Lehigh University. No work is happening on campus, and none would start without the university's written permission.



ILLUSTRATED PILOT

≈0.74 acre

About 190 × 170 ft, within a 0.5–1 acre pilot range, on the gentle terrace of the East Summit Lawn beside Iacocca Hall.

POSSIBLE STUDY AREAS

3

About 7 acres of open lawn or meadow in separate pieces, found in a desktop review. None has been offered, and none has site permission.

LONG-TERM POSSIBILITY

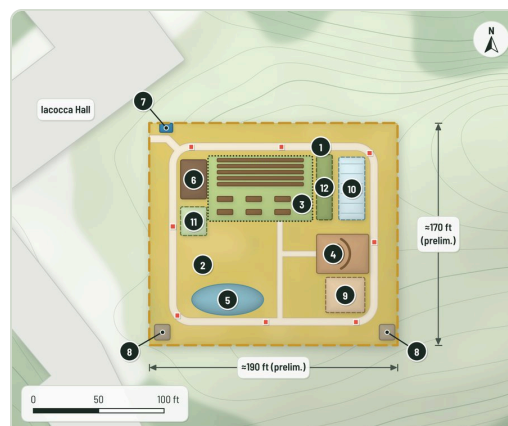
≈6 acres

Only if the pilot works and with site permission, soil and utility studies, funding and a year-round maintenance plan.

What the pilot would include

- A 6 ft accessible loop path (about 550 ft) with quiet seating
- Native pollinator meadow and borders, covering most of the pilot
- A deer-fenced edible garden (about 80 × 50 ft) with 6 accessible raised beds
- An outdoor classroom for 24–30 people, with a shade pergola
- A rain garden (about 55 × 24 ft) and rodent-resistant compost
- A water point with bottle filler and cistern (connection to be confirmed)
- **Optional:** high tunnel, shaded picnic area, seed nursery, native berry hedge

The numbers on the pilot plan are explained in the key of the three-page plan PDF. Long-term ideas (a teaching greenhouse, an orchard and more meadow across the three areas) would only be studied after the pilot is reviewed.



Illustrative pilot plan on a simplified map. Not a survey.

Ground rules

- No tree removal or woodland clearing.
- Soil tested before any food is grown on this former industrial research site.
- The BC Lawn stays an event lawn; the 2021 native meadow is protected.
- Every location, size and dimension is preliminary and unverified.

What we're asking the university

1. Is a Mountaintop garden compatible with the campus plan and Transform Mountaintop? Could any of the three areas be considered?
2. Who could sponsor and host the garden, and who would maintain it year-round?
3. Where are water and power, and how would soil testing and an accessibility review be arranged?
4. What would a small pilot need to be considered, and what funding route and cost estimate would Facilities suggest?