Mission / Purpose
The UWA Black Belt Garden is dedicated to the preservation, education, and study of the native flora of the central Black Belt and to provide teaching, research and service opportunities to the people and culture of West Alabama and Black Belt.

I. Goals and Outcomes/Objectives, with Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

A. Goal: Address the major educational, social, cultural, and economic issues of the region
   The University will address the major educational, social, cultural, and economic issues of the region and in doing so promote a positive self-image of the institution and the area.

1. Objective: Grant Writing
   To seek and secure external funding to support and sustain the BBG.

   a. Measure: Grant Writing
      Continue to apply for other funding sources that can realize BBG project goals. Many of these may become increasingly smaller as the bulk of the Garden infrastructure is realized.

      1. Achievement Target:
         Continue work on a competitive (vote-driven) community orchard grant and work with the Black Belt heritage Area to secure an ALDOT grant to further develop areas of the Garden and campus. Administer an awarded ADECA grant to construct a trail system throughout the Black Belt Garden.

      2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met
         Community Orchard installed. Made possible by a grant of $8,500 from the Sumter Alliance for Health (via Alabama Department of Public Health, via the Centers for Disease Control). Trail System constructed. Came in under budget and so were allowed to add additional lengths of trail, drainage upgrades, and interpretative signage. Was unsuccessful in effort with the BBHA to secure funding from ALDOT.

   b. Measure: Black Belt Orchard
      Work with granting agencies, the University, community, and local extension agencies to establish a community orchard as part of the Black Belt Garden. The purpose of this will be threefold: first, to add to the beauty of the UWA campus, secondly, to provide information and practical examples of horticultural practices, and thirdly, to encourage healthy nutrition.
1. **Achievement Target:**
   Locate funding sources to install the Community orchard.

2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met**
   BB Garden was awarded $8,500 from the Sumter Alliance for Health (via the Alabama Department of Public Health, via the Centers for Disease Control).

2. **Objective: Environmental Education Outreach Center**
   Establish an Environmental Education Outreach Center tied intrinsically to the Black Belt Gardens, the Center for the Study of the Black Belt, and historic examples of the Black Belt's past.
   
a. **Measure: Campbell House restoration**
   Continue the restoration of the Campbell House to realize its goal of becoming an Environmental Education Outreach Center.
   
   1. **Achievement Target:**
      Repair window casings and install window sashes. Paint exterior. Begin work on interior (such as smoke and/or mold removal, floor refinishing, insulation and painting.) Have structure ready for mechanical systems. Develop plan for landscape.
   
   2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met**
      The Campbell House is now painted, all windows repaired, and all interior smoke and mold damage has been removed/repaired. A contract has been awarded to install wiring—the first of our "mechanical systems".

3. **Objective: Black Belt Botanical Garden**
   Develop the Black Belt's only native botanical garden to showcase the region's unique flora and fauna and to serve as a place of inspiration, recreation, and repose. This will be a living, learning laboratory for the University and community.
   
a. **Measure: Weir construction**
   Construct a solid weir downstream of the University Duckpond in order to create a wetland environment for the Black Belt Garden.
   
   1. **Achievement Target:**
      The Black Belt Garden will complete repairs and/or construction of weir.
   
   2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Not Met**
      The Black Belt Garden has had a few experts visit the site to give recommendations, but has yet to have a stamped plan from an engineer.

3. **Action Plan:**
   **Engineer search**
   The Black Belt Garden has found a landscape architect who is interested in taking on this job. However, he is consulting an engineer to see if this is something that his expertise would be able to cover.
Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Continue to work with landscape architect until we have a stamped construction plan
Responsible Person/Group: Stephen Liverman
Additional Resources Requested: Repairs and construction are estimated to cost up to $8,000.
Budget Amount Requested: $8,000.00 (one time)

b. Measure: Wetland Construction
Establish a wetland area to hold native specimens of flora and fauna and to serve as a living classroom for the University and community.

1. Achievement Target:
The Black Belt Garden will install appropriate wetland plant species once the weir is repaired.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Not Met
The Black Belt Garden has many of the plants at the garden facility, in pots, waiting to be installed.

3. Action Plan:
   Wetland plant installation
   Once the weir has been repaired, many of the plants that have been growing into the wetland area will be moved.
Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Will work with Dr. Stanton's ecology class to have students aid in plant gathering and installation.
Responsible Person/Group: Stephen Liverman

c. Measure: Irrigation System
Develop an irrigation system to ensure the viability of newly established plant material in the Black Belt Garden.

1. Achievement Target:
   Design irrigation system and find appropriate contractor to do the installation.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met
   The Garden has designed the system and located an appropriate contractor for installation which should begin in the fall.

d. Measure: Black Belt Garden Trail System
Construct a series of trails that run as a corridor through campus and its developing Black Belt Garden, providing a place of beauty, learning, and recreation for the University and community.
1. Achievement Target:
Complete installation of trails in the proposed Black Belt Garden.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met
The Black Belt Garden has completed the trail installation in the Black Belt Garden. Because the contractor came in under budget, BBG was also able to request additional trail footage not specified in the original plan and grant.

e. Measure: Black Belt Orchard
Work with granting agencies, the University, community, and local extension agencies to establish a community orchard as part of the Black Belt Garden. The purpose of this will be threefold: first, to add to the beauty of the UWA campus, secondly, to provide information and practical examples of horticultural practices, and thirdly, to encourage healthy nutrition.

1. Achievement Target:
Install Community Orchard, educational panels, and an irrigation system.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met
Orchard, educational panels, and an irrigation system have all been installed.

f. Measure: Road Re-surfacing
Work with ADECA, private contractors, and/or the University Physical Plant to resurface the road dividing the Black Belt Gardens from the University Duck Pond.

1. Achievement Target:
Resurface the service road running along the Duck Pond dam.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met
Road is paved.

II. Other Plans for Improvement:

A. BBG Trail System
Using ADECA funds we plan on installing the trail system for the Black Belt Garden. This is a high priority for the Garden because the implementation of planting material is dependant upon an established trail structure. Once established, however, we plan on installing plant material, irrigation, and lighting throughout the trail system. Provisions and renovations to work areas must be undertaken as well.

Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: Finished
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Install trails. Begin work on irrigation, lighting and planting.
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2012
Responsible Person/Group: Liverman
Additional Resources Requested: Riding lawn mower to maintain area around the Gardens. ($2,500) Irrigation for trails. ($15,000) Lighting. ($15,000) Plant material ($8,000). Office space (current Head House) upgrades to include
weatherization adequate ventilation, heating and cooling ($5,000); equipment shed for mower ($3,000)

**Budget Amount Requested:** $48,500.00 (recurring)

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**B. Campbell House Restoration**

Restore the exterior and then interior of the Campbell House. The priority is high to ensure the Campbell Houses timely transition into a useable asset of the University environment.

- **Established in Cycle:** 2011-2012
- **Implementation Status:** In-Progress
- **Priority:** High
- **Implementation Description:** Through one large contract or a series of smaller ones, shore up the building envelope, restore interior walls, floors and ceilings to a comfortable, workable environment.
- **Projected Completion Date:** 08/30/2012
- **Responsible Person/Group:** Center for the Study of the Black Belt, Stephen Liverman

- **Additional Resources Requested:** Money will be needed to fund window restoration, mold and smoke removal, floor refinishing, and painting of the exterior.
- **Budget Amount Requested:** $50,000.00 (recurring)

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**C. Community Orchard**

Continue to pursue grant money to expand and maintain the orchard. Implement educational signage around the orchard and host workshops on nutrition, care, and implementation, as they relate to a community garden. If grant funds cannot be secured, divide orchard into manageable sections and use garden funds and volunteers to begin its implementation.

- **Established in Cycle:** 2011-2012
- **Implementation Status:** Finished
- **Priority:** Medium
- **Implementation Description:** Design signage and work with the local extension office to host community-based workshops.
- **Projected Completion Date:** 08/30/2012
- **Responsible Person/Group:** BBG Committee

- **Additional Resources Requested:** Pursue grant money for signage, workshops and additional trees as needed. If grant funds cannot be procured use Garden divide project into smaller units and use Garden funds to begin implementation. The Orchard will need fertilizer and organic treatments and basic yearly maintenance (mulch, irrigation repairs, tree stakes, etc). The Garden will need additional funds to put on community workshops focused around the Orchard.
- **Budget Amount Requested:** $2,500.00 (recurring)

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**D. Trail Lighting**

Implement lighting around strategic parts of the Garden Trail System.

- **Established in Cycle:** 2011-2012
- **Implementation Status:** Planned
- **Priority:** High
- **Implementation Description:** Bid out contracts for the lighting system. Pursue grant money to implement. Use garden funds if necessary.
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2012  
Responsible Person/Group: Stephen Liverman  
Additional Resources Requested: Pursue grant money to purchase and install lighting. Use garden funds if necessary.  
Budget Amount Requested: $15,000.00 (one time)

III. Analysis Questions and Analysis Answers

A. What specific strengths did your assessments show? (Strengths)  
The Black Belt Garden has been successful in obtaining grant money for projects and making substantial progress in the goals set forth for the garden. Some projects, like the wetland/weir, have not been realized due to continuous breaches in the weir structure.

B. What specific weaknesses or challenges did your assessments show? (Weaknesses)  
The Black Belt Garden has realized that perhaps more than any other Center project, the operations of the Black Belt Garden are heavily influenced, sometimes governed by weather. Better planning and more thought-out contingency plans could help to alleviate problems.

C. What plans were implemented?  
The following plans were implemented: Black Belt Garden Recreational Trails have been installed. Installation of Black Belt Garden Community Orchard. Planned renovations on the Campbell House. Design and hiring of a contractor to install an irrigation system in the Black Belt Garden. Resurfacing of service road along the Duck Pond dam. Much of the plant material for the wetland has been gathered and is being grown in pots awaiting transplant into the wetland garden.

D. What plans were not implemented?  
The wetland is the only project that does not have a degree of completion. This is due to its dependency on a solid weir.

E. How will assessment results be used for continuous improvement?  
Assessment provides a solid map of our goals and allows us to chart our progress.

IV. Annual Report Section Responses

A. Key Achievements  
   • Awarded $87,000 from ADECA to construct the garden trail system.  
   • Awarded $8,500 from Sumter Alliance for Health for the installation of a Community Orchard within the Black Belt Garden  
   • Completed installation of trails as outlined in the ADECA grant, as well as the design of 8 interpretive panels to be displayed along the trails.  
   • Completed installation of the Black Belt Community Orchard, an automated irrigation system, and 2 interpretive panels.  
   • Completed all exterior repairs to the Campbell House, as well as removal of all smoke, mold, and bird damage from the interior and attic space.
B. Staff Achievements

- Wrote and administered grant from ADECA for $87,000 for the installation of recreational trails in the proposed Black Belt Garden.
- Managed and oversaw all construction on the Black Belt Garden.
- Developed a master plan for the Black Belt Garden.
- Wrote and administered a grant for $8,500 for the installation of a Community Orchard by the Campbell House. Worked with extension agents to design the orchard.
- Developed a fund-raising booklet for the Black Belt Garden.
- Designed, coordinated, and co-authored 10 interpretative panels to be installed inside the Black Belt Garden.
- Coordinated, managed, and oversaw all construction on the Campbell House Environmental Outreach Center.
- Coordinated and oversaw the annual Sucarnochee Folklife Festival.
- Wrote and received $500 from the Black Belt Heritage Area as a special grant for the Festival.
- Wrote and received a grant of $2,500 from the AL Tourism Dept. for the Sucarchee Folklife Festival.
- Coordinated and oversaw the annual Sucarnochee BBQ & Blues Cook-off.
- Coordinated and oversaw the Center's annual Kansas City BBQ Society Certified BBQ Judging Course.
- Co-coordinated and designed Earth Day and Earth Day activities with Dr. Lee Stanton.
- Worked committee to achieve "Tree Campus USA" recognition for UWA.
- Working to establish a prairie restoration program on campus—to date have completed a restoration plan with Sam Ledbetter, Gail Barton, John Hall, Lee Stanton, and Robby Limerick.
- Selected to be amongst Dr. Harvard's "Magnificent Eight" grant-writing workshop team.
- Attended Rosenwald Conference in Tuskegee.
- Attended Alabama Historical Commission conference in Auburn.

C. Public/Community Service

- Worked in Tuscaloosa following last April's tornadoses to help clear roads, roofs, and sidewalks of trees and other debris.
- Worked with a relief group to rebuild a roof damaged by the tornado.
- Wrote and received a grant for $3,000 for the Sumter County Fine Arts Council.
- Wrote and received a grant for $15,800 from the Alabama Historical Commission on behalf of the Sumter County Historical Society for the restoration of Cedarwood.
### ANNUAL PLAN

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goals</strong>&lt;br&gt;Goals are broad statements describing what the unit wants to accomplish. Goals relate to both the unit's mission and the University's mission. The goal(s) is stated as the University goal(s) a unit is attempting to meet.</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td><strong>Outcomes/Objectives</strong>&lt;br&gt;Outcomes and objectives are statements that describe in some detail what the unit plans to accomplish. Outcomes/objectives are associated with all applicable goals, strategic plans, standards, and institutional priorities.</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objectives are active-verb descriptions of specific points or tasks the unit will accomplish or reach. Outcomes are active-verb descriptions of a desired end result related to student learning and the unit's mission.</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td><strong>Measures</strong>&lt;br&gt;Measures are statements to judge success in achieving the stated outcome or objective. Measures contain information on the type of evidence and assessment tool that a unit will use to verify if stated outcome/objective has been met.</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td><strong>Achievement Targets</strong>&lt;br&gt;Achievement targets are the thresholds that the measures must meet for the unit to determine that it has been successful in meeting its specified outcomes/objectives. Achievement targets are measurable statements.</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td><em>While most of the findings relate to specific ways in which objectives goals were met, the targets themselves need to change more specific measurable thresholds to help us move in more directly.</em></td>
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**Planning and Assessment Approval**

**Department or Division:** Black Belt Garden / Center for the Study of the Black Belt / Division of Education

**Chair or Director:** Stephen Liverman / Tino Nascimento Jones

**Dean or Vice President:**
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<tr>
<td><strong>Findings</strong></td>
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<td>Findings are indications whether an outcome/objective was met or not. Findings are put into the system under each achievement target. Findings include an interpretation of results, possible uses of results, reflection on problems encountered, indicated improvements/changes and strengths or weakness.</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td><strong>Action Plans</strong></td>
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<td>Action plans are detailed plans created by the unit to meet an outcome/objective that was only partially met or not met or to make improvement to those outcomes/objectives that were met but still need some strengthening. The plan includes a projected completion date, implementation description, responsible person(s)/group, resources required, and budget amount (if applicable).</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>Action plans created in previous cycles have been updated with implementation notes.</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Report</strong></td>
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<td>Grant achievement was impressive</td>
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<td>The Annual Report section contains information on key achievements, faculty and/or staff achievements, and community/public.</td>
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<td><strong>Analysis Report</strong></td>
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<td>The unit has reflected on and created narratives for each of the following areas: specific strengths and progress made on outcomes/objectives, specific weaknesses or challenges, plans that were and were not implemented, and how assessment results will be used for continuous improvement.</td>
<td>YES</td>
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Approved by: 

Signature of Dean or Vice President 

Date: 7-31-12

Received by OIE: 

Signature of Coordinator of Planning and Assessment 

Date: 8-8-12