

# Sustainable Agriculture Design Project

*Conscious Cultivation*

Abrar Aleebani

Yasmin Ashkanani

Daniel Monar

Tonowynn Sam





# Acknowledgements

- Grading Instructor: Mark Lamer
- Technical Advisors: Dr. Terry Baxter and Gerjen Slim
- Northern Arizona University Green Fund
- Northern Arizona University Facility Services
- Northern Arizona University Office of Space Management
- Northern Arizona University CECMEE Department
- Growing Spaces



# Project Description: Location

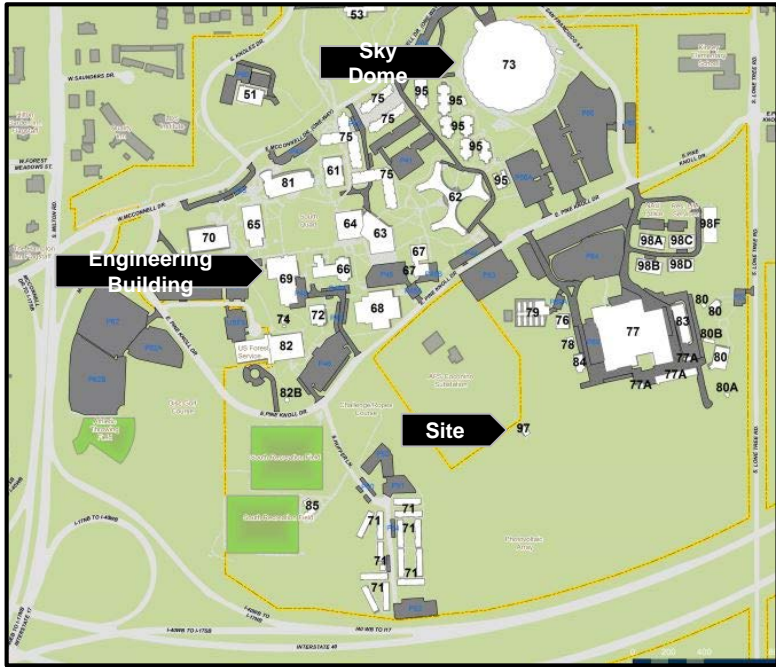


Figure 1: Project Site [1]



Figure 2: Building 97 [2]



# Project Description: Constraints/Limitations

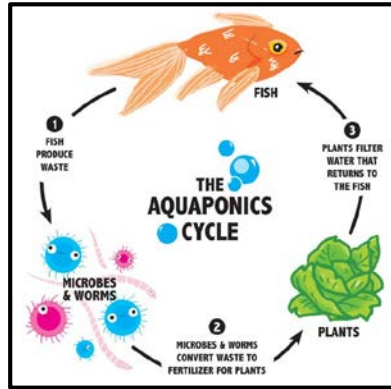


Figure 3: The Aquaponics Cycle [3]



Figure 4: Growing Dome by Growing Spaces [4]

## Original Scope

Aquaponics System in a 22' Growing Dome at the CECMEE Field Station

## Limitations

Northern Arizona University Office of Space Management rejected proposal to have a growing dome erected at the CECMEE Field Station

## New Scope

Design and construct an aquaponics system to be used indoors during the winter months and outdoors during the summer months utilizing Building 97.



# Project Description: Tasks

## **Task 1: Funding**

1.1: Green Fund

~~1.2: Donations~~

## **~~Task 2: Greenhouse Acquisition~~**

~~—2.1: Site and Size Determination~~

~~—2.2: Considerations for Renewable Energy~~

## **Task 3: Technical Research**

3.1: Biofilter Design

3.2: Clarifier Design

3.3: Vegetation

3.4: Aquaculture

## **Task 4: Analysis**

4.1: Hydraulic Analysis

4.2: Water Quality Analysis

4.3: System Space Requirements

4.4: Economic Analysis

## **Task 5: Design**

Sub-task 5.1: Aquaculture

5.1.1: Fish Selection

5.1.2: Fish Tank Design

5.1.3: Clarifier Design

5.1.4: Biofilter Design

Sub-task 5.2: Hydroponics

5.2.1: System(s)

Selection

5.2.2: Pump Selection

5.2.3: System(s) Design

## **Task 6: Material Acquisition**

~~6.1: Greenhouse~~

6.2: Aquaponics

## **Task 7: Construction**

~~7.1: Greenhouse~~

7.2: Aquaponics

## **Task 8: Testing and Monitoring**

8.1: Water Stabilization

8.2: Fish Introduction

8.3: Plant Propagation

8.4: Plant Introduction

8.5: System Monitoring

## **Task 9: Operation and Maintenance Manual**

## **Task 10: Project Management**

10.1: Meetings and General Management

10.2: Schedule

10.3: 50% Design Report

10.4: Final Design Report

10.5: Final Presentation

10.6: Website



# Testing/Analysis: Hydraulic Analysis

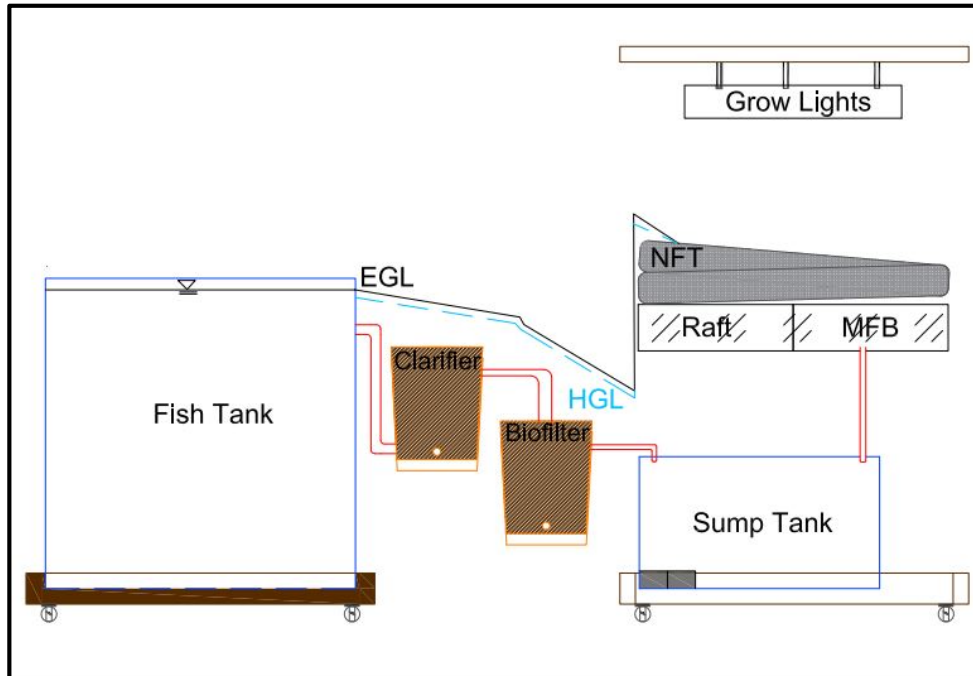


Figure 5: EGL and HGL Lines

## Assumptions

Pipe Diameter = 1"

$h_{p,max} = 5$  ft

## Calculations

Using the Energy Equation:  $\frac{P_1}{\gamma} + \frac{V_1}{2g} + Z_1 + h_p = \frac{P_2}{\gamma} + \frac{V_2}{2g} + h_t + h_l$

$$v = (2gh_{p,max})^{1/2} = ((2)(32.2 \text{ ft/s}^2)(5 \text{ ft}))^{1/2} = (322 \text{ ft}^2/\text{s}^2)^{1/2} = 17.94 \text{ ft/s}$$

$$Q = vA = (17.94 \text{ ft/s})(\pi(0.0415^2 \text{ ft}^2)) = 0.097 \text{ ft}^3/\text{s}$$

$$P = (Q\gamma h_{p,max}) / (550 \text{ ft}\cdot\text{lb/s}) = ((0.097 \text{ ft}^3/\text{s})(62.4 \text{ lb/ft}^3)(5 \text{ ft})) / (550 \text{ ft}\cdot\text{lb/s})$$

$$= 0.055 \text{ hp} = 41.03 \text{ W}$$



# Testing/Analysis: Water Quality Analysis

## Parameters of Interest

1. Dissolved Oxygen
  - a. >6 ppm
2. pH
  - a. 6.0-8.5
  - b. Phosphoric Acid
  - c. Potassium Hydroxide
3. Temperature
  - a. Effects DO and ammonia concentrations
4. Total Nitrogen
  - a. Ammonia converts to nitrite and nitrate (nitrification)
  - b.  $\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow \text{NH}_4^+ \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_3^-$
5. Water Hardness
  - a. Total hardness and carbonate hardness

## Parameters to be Measured

1. pH
2. Ammonia
3. Nitrite
4. Nitrate
5. Temperature



Figure 6: Water Testing Kit [11]



# Testing/Analysis: System Space Requirements

## Criteria

1. 275 gallon IBC Tank donated by Mark Lamer
2. Less than 60 ft.<sup>2</sup> of space to house system in Building 97
3. Water to fish ratio
  - a. 3 gallon water/1 pound fish
4. Fish to plant ratio
  - a. 100 grams fish feed/m<sup>2</sup> plant space/day

## Decision

- 15 fish
- 50 plants



Figure 7: IBC Tank [12]





# Testing/Analysis: Economic Analysis

- Green Fund approved project for a total of \$2,500.00
- Based on analysis thus far, how can we design our system to fit in the given budget?
- Created a materials list based on research to fall well below budget.



Figure 8: Green Fund Logo [13]



# Identification of Selected Alternatives

## System Selection

- Educational
- Space requirements met
- Funding met



Figure 9: MFB System [5]



Figure 10: Raft System [6]



Figure 11: NFT System [7]

## Fish Selection

- Survive in wide range of temperatures
- Withstand higher levels of toxicity
- Other species could be selected after further evaluation of system

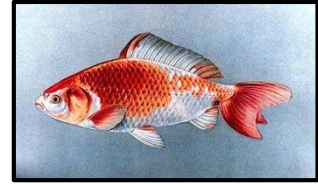


Figure 12: Koi [10]

## Site Selection

- CECMEE Field Station
- Easier access for stakeholders
- Able to build all 3 systems
- Able to grow edible plants
- System can be mobile



Figure 13: Building 97 [2]

## Plant Selection

- Winter plants
- Plants currently growing
  - Chard
  - Endive
  - Tatsoi
  - Romanesco
  - Calabrese
  - Cauliflower
  - Lettuce
  - Spinach



Figure 14: Propagated Plants [2]

# Final Design: System Schematic

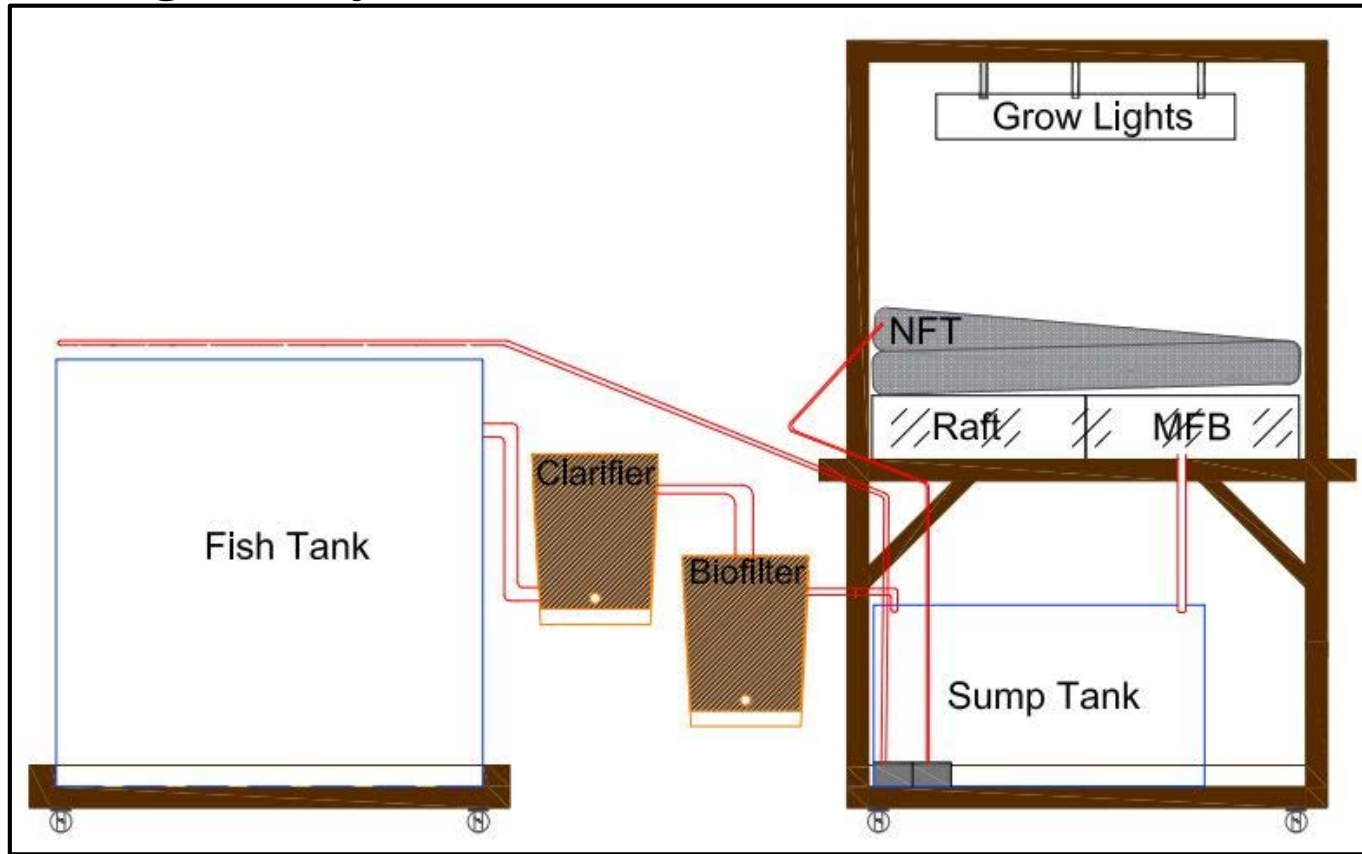


Figure 15: System Design



# Final Design: Biofilter and Clarifier

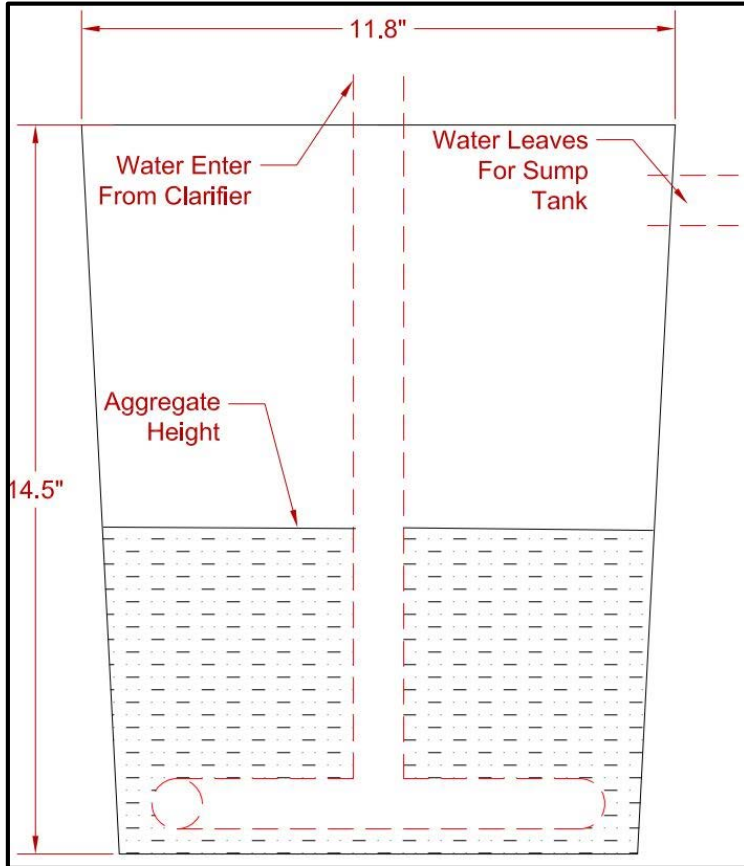


Figure 17: Biofilter Design

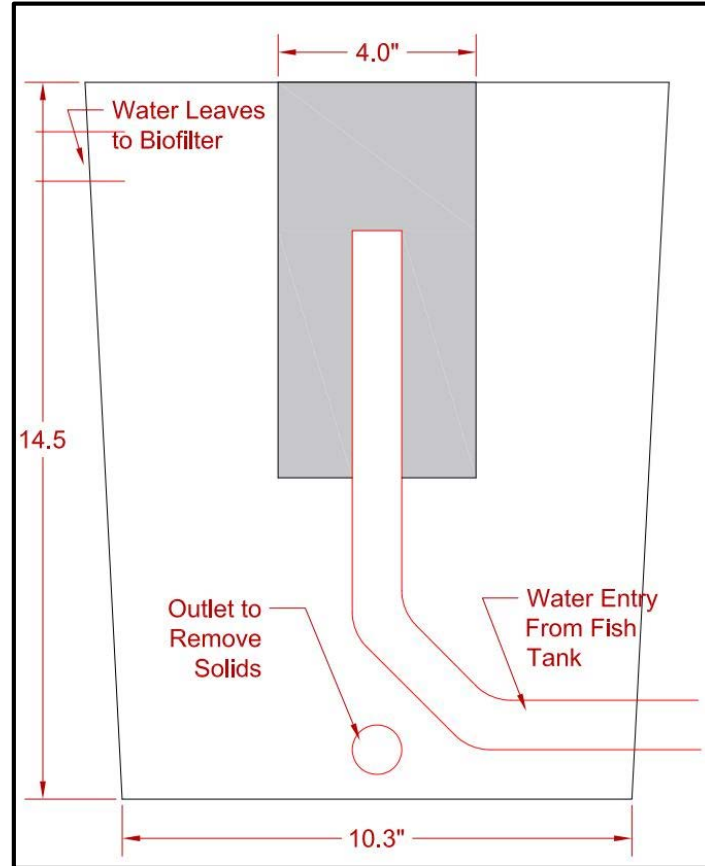


Figure 18: Clarifier Design

# Cost of Implementing Design



## Total Cost of Aquaponics System:

- \$2,500.00

## Future Costs of Aquaponics System:

- Propagation cubes
- Seeds
- Fish feed
- pH chemicals
- Water quality testing kit

## Simple Payback Period (Hypothetical): Fish

- Tilapia can be harvested every 6 months
- Adult tilapia is 6 lbs.
- Average price for tilapia: \$3.51/lb.
- Tilapia fingerling \$1.25
- **Savings per year = \$594.30**

## Plants

- Broccoli can be harvested every 3 months
- Average price for broccoli: \$3.00/lb
- Broccoli seed: \$0.10
- **Savings per year = \$580.00**

**Payback Period: 2.13 years**

# Summary of Project Costs: Schedule

Task	Original Start Date	Original End Date	Start Date	End Date
<b>Task 1: Funding</b>	April 1	December 1	April 1	December 1
<del>Task 2: Greenhouse Acquisition</del>	<del>April 1</del>	<del>May 15</del>	<del>April 1</del>	<del>October 1</del>
<b>Task 3: Technical Research</b>	April 1	December 1	April 1	December 1
<b>Task 4: Analysis</b>	Mat 16	June 10	May 16	November 25
<b>Task 5: Design</b>	May 16	June 10	May 16	October 1
<b>Task 6: Material Acquisition</b>	May 16	June 10	May 16	November 25
<b>Task 7: Construction</b>	June 7	Jun 22	June 7	June 22
<b>Task 8: Testing and Monitoring</b>	June 7	June 9	June 7	June 9
<b>Task 9: Maintenance and Operations</b>	June 10	June 14	June 10	June 14
<b>Task 10: Project Management</b>	June 15	June 17	June 15	June 17



# Summary of Project Costs: Cost Estimate

1.0 Personnel	Classification	Original Hours	Actual Hours	Rate, \$/hr	Original Cost	Actual Cost
	SE	40	90	187.43	\$7,497.00	\$16,869.00
	E	297	263	75.60	\$22,455.00	\$19,883.00
	AA	55	30	59.06	\$3,250.00	\$1,772.00
	EI	315	241	28.59	\$9,005.00	\$6,890.00
	L	220	130	19.64	\$4,320.00	\$2,554.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$54,025.00</b>	<b>\$47,968</b>
2.0 Materials	Project				Original Cost	Actual Cost
	Aquaponics System				\$1,555.00	\$2,500.00
	Greenhouse				\$18,445.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

\$50,470.00

**Total Cost**





# References

- [1] <http://www2.nau.edu/nau-map/>
- [2] Photos taken by Daniel Monar
- [3] <http://www.howtoaquaponic.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/the-aquaponics-cycle.jpg>
- [4] [http://geodesic-greenhouse-kits.com/greenhouse\\_pictures/](http://geodesic-greenhouse-kits.com/greenhouse_pictures/)
- [5] <http://mybulldiy.blogspot.com/2015/04/aquaponic-4-u.html>
- [6] <http://tucsonap.org/types-of-aquaponics-systems/>
- [7] <http://www.backyardaquaponics.com/guide-to-aquaponics/running-of-the-system/>
- [8] <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/species/identification/yellowperch.htm>
- [9] [http://grahambassff.com/Our\\_Products.htm](http://grahambassff.com/Our_Products.htm)
- [10] <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2404#b>
- [11] [https://www.amazon.com/API-Freshwater-Master-Test-Kit/dp/B000255NCI/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/157-3045498-5353403?ie=UTF8&qid=1480545104&sr=8-1&keywords=aquarium+fresh+water+test+kit](https://www.amazon.com/API-Freshwater-Master-Test-Kit/dp/B000255NCI/ref=sr_1_1/157-3045498-5353403?ie=UTF8&qid=1480545104&sr=8-1&keywords=aquarium+fresh+water+test+kit)
- [12] <http://www.directindustry.com/industrial-manufacturer/ibc-container-217519.html>
- [13] <https://nau.edu/green-nau/nau-green-fund/>

