

AMY B.H. GREENWELL ETHNOBOTANICAL GARDEN COMMUNITY FOREST



“This purchase represents a remarkable group effort. When the garden closed, our Friends organization sprang into existence, determined to open the Garden’s gates once more.”

MAILE MELROSE, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF AMY B. H. GREENWELL ETHNOBOTANICAL GARDEN

The Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden (AGEG) will be re-opening as a community forest purchased with grants from county, state, private foundations, and federal programs including: State of Hawaii’s Legacy Land Conservation Program, U.S.D.A. Forest Service Community Forest Program, Hawai’i County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission. The Friends of Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, a non-profit organization, has purchased the property and plans to manage it for the benefit of the community.

The AGEG Community Forest is a living treasure located in the historic town of Captain Cook, Hawai’i Island. The AGEG was operated for 40 years by Bishop Museum and was closed in 2016. When it re-opens in 2020, this 11.8 acre community forest will highlight over 250 native and Polynesian-introduced tree and plant species/varieties. This site has been a staple in the local community for decades as a cultural landmark full of rich history, cultural, and botanical wonders. Now, with its expanded function as a community forest, it will serve as a hub for sharing cultural knowledge of Hawaii’s native plants, trees, and ethnobotany. The community will be invited to provide input on the draft management plan through the AGEG website and a community open house.



Left: An ‘Ulu or breadfruit tree, a staple food and example of agroforestry; Right: View of tree canopy from property tour



Left: Surveying Native Trees with AGEG Manager Peter Van Dyke; Right: Kona Field System- agricultural archeological site

Forestry and Conservation

The AGEG Community Forest mirrors a traditional Hawaiian ahupua'a with a heavily forested upland zone, agricultural zone, open dry forest, and coastal zone. Native species such as 'ōhi'a lehua, koa, māmakī, loulou, and maile create an opportunity for people to experience an authentic Hawaiian landscape.

Agroforestry

AGEG features a world-class collection of kalo, banana varieties, kō, wauke, 'ulu, and heirloom Hawaiian cultivars used for food and fiber. Archeological sites include the remnants of the traditional agriculture features known as the "Kona Field System" described by the National Register of Historic Places as "the most monumental work of the ancient Hawaiians". This system fueled sustainable resource management and created a flourishing agricultural economy even in the face of frequent droughts and lack of access to freshwater.

Community Benefits

The Community Forest will restore public access and facilitate opportunities for cultural events, education, and recreation. Educational opportunities with school gardening programs will foster 'aina or land based learning for K-12 students. These opportunities will expand to college and post graduate studies for archeological and botanical research. In addition, the AGEG's nursery program will be revived for plant restoration and rehabilitation of native species with opportunities for community sales and plant propagation workshops.



COMMUNITY FOREST



PROGRAM

This program provides financial assistance to local governments and qualified non-profit organizations to acquire private lands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

- Lands must be at least five acres in size and 75 percent forested.
- Public access is required.
- Full fee title acquisition is required. Conservation easements are not eligible.
- The program pays up to 50% of the project costs with a 50% non-federal match.
- Lands are managed with a community forest plan to provide economic benefits, clean water, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and public access for recreation.



Above: Kalo or Taro plant

Community members can participate in volunteer workdays at the garden every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

For updated information on events, garden re-opening, management plans, and community opportunities please visit

www.amygreenwellgarden

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)

Community Forest Program

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/lap/community-forest-program/>

DOFAW IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

Information sheet updated: 1/22/2020



"In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs. To file a complaint of discrimination: write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 - W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."