

Add Some Nature to Your Workplace with a Planter Box!

Many NIH campuses are home to considerable natural features and nature areas. Locations like the NIH Stream on the Bethesda campus and Discovery Lake on the Research Triangle Park campus bring some relief from the office and lab buildings where we spend the majority of our time. There are also some ways we can individually increase the amount of nature in our daily lives. For example, bringing in potted plants can allow us to add some nature to our workplace setting.

A recent initiative by members of the Virus Persistence and Dynamics Section (VPDS) and the Tissue Analysis Core (TAC) of the Vaccine Research Center within NIAID brought a couple planters to the 2nd floor balcony of Building 40 on the Bethesda campus. These 2'x8' planters were seeded with quite a few varieties of winter-harvest crops: cauliflower, brussels sprouts, cabbage, beets, carrots and lettuce. These planters consume very little space on the large balcony, while also providing a good amount of added greenery and utilizing the abundance of natural sunlight. Mr. Eli Boritz, from the VPDS, built the planters at home and the crops are cooperatively maintained by a group of volunteers. The plants have really sprung to life in recent weeks! Check out some pictures of the planters below!

These types of projects are great for the NIH because they benefit everyone that encounters them. If you have taken part in an initiative similar to this one, we would be very interested to hear about it! Please contact [Josh Haines](#) with any details.



