

GCC to create outdoor learning lab

By KATHLEEN McKIERNAN
Recorder Staff

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GREENFIELD — Students studying farm and food systems, sustainability and renewable energy at Greenfield Community College may soon have a new outdoor laboratory to expand their learning.

The Greenfield Conservation Commission is holding a public hearing on Tuesday at 7:10 p.m. in the Greenfield Planning Department at 114 Main St. to review preliminary plans.

The proposed outdoor learning laboratory would include a boardwalk, path system, benches and plantings.

It would take up one acre of land, abutting the existing greenhouse on the school campus.

According to Peter Rosnick, director of the sustainable agriculture and the Green Energy Education Center, the college will go out to bid on the project soon. Designs will be completed by the end of May with construction expected to finish by the fall.

Potential features include a micro-orchard, a wet meadow with a boardwalk, 10 or more organic garden beds and three to four large botanical beds.

You can reach Kathleen McKiernan at: kmckiernan@recorder.com or 413-772-0261 ext. 268 on Twitter, follow @RecorderKatMcK