Mission
In the context of the redesign competition of the Countway Community Garden, two students from Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health and three students from Harvard Design School formed a team to design a sustainable and well-utilized garden that promotes health, generates knowledge, and enables dynamic community participation.

Overview
We carefully take all design needs into consideration and finalized a garden design named “The Crystal Skywalk Garden”. This is a two-level design with a sunken garden, a glass skywalk on street level and a shutter-like shading.

3D Landscape Plan

Perspectives
The Glass Skywalk
The structure of “The Crystal Skywalk Garden” is two levels. The top level is a glass walkway that opens to public at street level. We can set up the glass walkway as a venue of school’s social events, or a place for studying or relaxing. It is accessible from SW direction with three steps of wooden stairs, and brings a refreshing view of the botanical garden underneath, without blinding the sunlight of the garden and the library.

Shutter Shade Roof
The inclined shutter shade roof is above the glass skywalk and stretch to the left wing. It not only shades the garden in the rainy days, but also help adjusting sunlight in sunny days.
Sunken Botanical Garden
And the sunken level is designed to be community garden that cared by stake holders. More wooden raised beds are placed there in order to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers, and even to build a living laboratory. The SW inclining cement wall will be pushed back to make wooden grandstand seats and embedded wooden raised beds. The grandstand seats can serve as the audience of any social event. All the other raised beds that are not embedded are movable, and they can be easily converted to desks and seats for study and relax.
We surrounds the generators by fences to insulate the noise. It is optional to set up movable blackboard there.
Core Pillars

One of the main considerations for design is promoting health, both physically and mentally. We added the number of the plant beds to 35 or more, which improves the productivity of the garden. More student volunteers can join gardening, which is a great way of aerobic exercise. It provides fresh and nutritious food to student volunteers.

When the garden is locked to prevent theft, people can view this living showcase of healthy diet/exercise habit from glass walkway above. In this design, we provide place for aerobic exercise and relax, and it helps work-life balance of students. It promotes health both mentally and physically to the community.

In addition, we aimed to improve community participation. The glass walkway is an attraction, and when arranging with tables and appliances, it can serve as a perfect meeting or relaxing area. The skywalk only has one entrance from the street level. And three entrances of botanical garden remained as before.

Also, we valued knowledge generation in this world-class medical area. First, the garden and tiny living laboratory generates knowledge itself, we will set up small knowledge board on each raising bed, especially ecology and nutrition knowledge. Secondly, we provide study space. The raising beds can convert to tables and seats. That largely increases the utilization of the space, and provides decent study environment.