

New rooftop garden's purpose questioned

Is this glimpse to the great outdoors worth more than \$100,000?

by Helen Fagan

New Trier's new rooftop garden is receiving mixed reviews from students. Some are appreciative of the new outdoor space, while others question if it's necessary.

Tucked away on the 4th floor, the garden seems to be one of the less well-known parts of the construction.

Senior Noah Flanagan said, "What? The rooftop garden is open? I heard it wasn't going to open until later in the year."

Sophomore Barbara Neumann remarked that she hasn't had the energy to make the trek up to the roof. "I haven't been up there yet, but I want to because it looks really cool," said Neumann.

Students who have been to the garden commented that the new rooftop allows them to be a part of the high school of their dreams.

Sophomore Kathleen Hopps remarked, "It reminds me of High School Musical 3, the scene where Troy and Gabriella are dancing on the deck. It's really pretty and I think it will be really nice when the weather's warm."

High School Musical 3 took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a city that sports a much warmer climate than here in Winnetka,



New roof deck offers a supervised outdoor area for students to meet with friends and eat in the fresh air | Zervas

Illinois.

Senior Hope Baisley expressed her concern about the utility of the garden during the winter months. "I like the idea of it, but I'm not sure that people will go up there and study when it's colder and raining. I feel like it will be useful in the spring and the beginning of the school year, but I'm not sure about the rest of the year."

Students expressed interest in wanting to study in the new space. A PowerPoint shown to advisories last

week that informed students about the deck stated "Seating will be added to the area within the next month." Many Trevians commented that they will make more use of the space once there are tables and chairs available on the deck. "I think it would be a good place to study if they got some furniture, but right now I don't really know what I'd do up there."

The new construction has created many new relaxation spots that students are taking advantage of. In a PowerPoint publicized to the

student body, the garden is called "a vegetative oasis resulting in a place where students can relax."

Sitting at a table in the crowded Trevian Commons, junior Roshan Raj showed appreciation for the new space, "I think the rooftop garden is a cool idea. It's a place where students can relax and take a break from their day. I think it's a really smart investment for the school."

The garden will allow students to spend time outside during their school day. Freshmen can walk

outside between buildings during their passing periods, which is something that many upperclassmen miss when they transition to Winnetka. Sophomore Molly Van Gorp said, "Especially because this campus is all-enclosed compared to the Northfield campus, I think it will be nice to be able to go outside and get some fresh air during the day."

Others remarked that the amount of fresh air available at the East Campus is already satisfactory. Flanagan said, "Is it beneficial? Sure. It allows people to go outside during the day when it's stuffy in here sometimes. But necessary? You can hang out on the front lawn if you want to."

As with all aspects of the new construction, members of the community are nervous that NT students will abuse the new space. Some Trevians are fearful that their fellow classmates will ruin the garden for the rest of the student body.

To ensure that the space remains beautiful, the administration publicized that the space will be monitored by security personnel.

The PowerPoint shown to advisory rooms informed students how to use the garden responsibly by observing the signs throughout the garden and sitting only on paved areas.

The garden was partially funded by New Trier's Girls Club and Tri-Ship who donated \$100,000 towards the construction of the roof.

ROTC's benefits attract student interest

ROTC is an option for many students concerned with paying for college

by Tia Rotolo

For seniors deciding post high school plans, ROTC offers a unique college experience with benefits and an opportunity to honor one's country.

According to senior Jack Kempf "ROTC is a commissioning program for all branches of the military. If you're accepted after applying, you get a full scholarship to your university. Following graduation, you are required to serve five years active duty and three years reserve."

ROTC gives individuals the ability to be part of the armed forces while still attending and receiving the traditional college experience.

An anonymous senior said she wanted to do more during her time at school, "I've always looked up to people in the military and it's a great opportunity to be part of something greater than myself."

Most high school students don't want to involve themselves in something with a high risk factor and little reward. However, family ties can often sway a student's desire to join.

Senior Mason Mcquet has a family history of military involvement. He feels as though joining ROTC would keep the tradition going, with added benefits. "I'm mostly attracted to the benefits of serving," Mcquet said.

The benefits range from financial to career-based. Most ROTC programs include a 2-4 year full ride scholarship for the participant, while also providing access to plenty of jobs post-college.

Ewing notes the ROTC's ability to help kids commit to jobs when needed. "You're gonna have a career in the army following the program if you want it. You can do social work, infantry, armor, or pilot, just to name a few. There's a career for everyone who wants one," Ewing said.

Ability to find jobs is consistent for all of the branches, but branch-choice will vary with the student's involvement and commitment.

Ewing, as a first year ROTC member, already faces a minimum of six hours a week of active participation in the program.

The weekly commitment for college kids is minimal compared to what students would face after college.

For Kempf, NROTC (the Navy branch) will allow him to begin commission as soon as he graduates. "NROTC will give me the chance to go to the Marines Officer Candidate School between my junior and senior year of college, so that I will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant the day I graduate. After I graduate college, I will be obligated to serve in the Marine Corps for 5 years active duty and 3 years in the reserves," Kempf said.

As rigorous and time consuming as the program is, it still allows time for a minimal college experience as long as a consistent sleep schedule is maintained.

According to Ewing, free time has to be devoted to studying. "Classes with ROTC just means you have to be time efficient. You don't have a lot of time to waste around doing miscellaneous college stuff."

For students wanting to join ROTC, they must consider specific colleges, since not all universities offer ROTC programs.

Branches offered vary depending on college, therefore Kempf's interest in NROTC limits his college



The ROTC Program at Tulane University in New Orleans goes for a run during training | Zervas

search. "There are approximately 150 schools nationwide that offer Naval ROTC. This means that I can only apply to these schools if I want to do NROTC," Kempf said.

The search can be difficult given that not all schools offer specific branches, on-campus facilities, or financial aid.

An anonymous senior notes the difficulty in finding a school that offers full necessities for her. "Some schools don't offer ROTC programs, some only offer through other schools, and some don't offer any financial help. I'm only looking at schools with ROTC on campus with benefits and reputable Pre-Med

programs," She said.

In committing to the perfect school, one needs to be willing to dedicate time to maintaining their physical health as well.

"It is important to get in shape and stay in shape. Before you can apply for an NROTC Marine option scholarship, you must take a physical fitness test or PFT.

The PFT is very important to the Marine Corps and weighs heavily on your application," Kempf said. Maintaining good grades and being involved in various extracurriculars and athletics can help in differentiating one's self from other candidates in the highly selective

process.

If ROTC is desirable for a student, it has to be well-thought out before committing. While the benefits would be helpful for any college student, an internal desire to serve one's country is necessary.

Senior Sam Yavitt notes the positive and negative factors to having a career in the armed forces. "A recruiter told me if someone only wanted to obtain the financial benefits received from ROTC without a genuine interest in serving your country, the person would be completely miserable," Yavitt said.