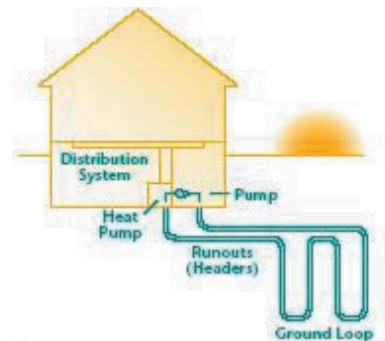

Conclusions



Community gardens (Aggie Horticulture 2004).



A diagram of a geothermal heat pump system (Natural Resources Canada 2002).



A native species of milkweed (Photo by E.J. Heath).

Conclusions

The ideas presented within this document challenge the conventional form of suburban development and provide alternative strategies and technologies that can be used to lessen our impact on the environment. As the Joint Planning Area transitions to urban land use over the next 20 years, following the recommendations of this report will foster long-term community vitality by integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations.

Environmental design strategies can be used to delineate natural areas for protection, reduce the amount of impervious cover and stormwater runoff, and promote alternative transportation methods. Community gardens, restored natural vegetation, and multi-use trails can provide amenities for residents and increase property values. Sustainable building construction methods can be utilized to reduce the ecological footprint of the development by reducing water and energy consumption. Also, creating connections to UWGB will provide multiple benefits for both the development and the University community.

Sustainable development requires commitment and cooperation from a variety of stakeholder groups, including governmental entities, private businesses, and community residents. Suggestions for sustainable development presented in this report can be implemented at different

scales by each of these groups. Finally, it is the hope of the Capstone class that these guidelines will be applied to other developments outside the boundaries of the Joint Planning Area to foster sustainability and environmental sensitivity across the country.