



**SECTION 3 :**  
recommendations



**TO GUIDE & INFORM  
THE FUTURE OF THE  
GUILD PARK & GARDENS'  
FORMALLY MAINTAINED  
GARDENS, & THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP TO  
THE SURROUNDING  
ECOLOGY, MONUMENTS,  
& ARCHITECTURE.**

# vision

This vision for the Horticulture Plan builds upon the one established by the Management Plan, and suggests key strategies and design interventions that realize the eight pillars for the future of the Guild Park and Gardens. The eight pillars are:

## **1. DESTINATION PARK**

The Horticulture Plan recognizes the importance of the Guild Park and Gardens as both a local community park and as a destination park for visitors from throughout the city and beyond. As such, the recommendations for the enhancement of the Park's horticulture were developed with the intention of reinforcing and improving the Park's identity and unique character. The introduction of expanded and new planting beds, and the revised planting palette elevate one of the Park's most prominent attractions, the horticultural displays. Furthermore, this Plan also considers the cultural elements of the site, including the architectural features and sculptures, and the numerous events, and how to preserve and enhance the user experience of them.

## **2. WHERE ART MEETS NATURE**

Horticulture is a form of art; a created and controlled interpretation of the landscape, at once part of and separate from nature. The horticultural areas of the Guild Park and Gardens are nestled between two swatches of environmentally significant natural lands. This relationship between wild and manicured contributes to the unique experience of the site. Under the recommendations of this Plan, the juxtaposition of these two landscapes is exaggerated, with the intent of drawing more attention to the contrast of land and vegetation typologies. Furthermore, scattered throughout the Monument Walk and Gardens are literal pieces of art, sculptures and fragments of architecture. This plan recommends that the existing collection be expanded through the introduction of additional pieces currently in storage, and that the planting beds be staged such that these elements are framed and highlighted.

## **8 PILLARS OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**1.**  
DESTINATION PARK

**2.**  
WHERE ART MEETS  
NATURE

**3.**  
ENHANCE PASSIVE  
RECREATION

**4.**  
CONSERVE CULTURAL  
RESOURCES

**5.**  
FAMILY FRIENDLY

**6.**  
REVITALIZE  
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE  
STRUCTURE

**7.**  
PROTECT NATURAL  
HERITAGE SYSTEMS

**8.**  
TELL THE STORY

### 3. ENHANCE PASSIVE RECREATION

The Guild Park and Gardens is frequented by visitors seeking a space for quiet, passive recreation, including walking, sitting, and observing the landscape. This Plan recognizes the importance of these restorative activities, and seeks to encourage them through the expansion of the horticultural areas. The introduction of new planting beds, new plant species, and outdoor rooms provide additional areas for passive recreation and new points of interest for visitors enjoying the site.



*Architectural pillar on the monument walk.*

### 4. CONSERVE CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Guild Park and Gardens is home to a wide collection of sculptures, architectural fragments, and heritage buildings. This plan ensures that these artifacts are preserved, and enhanced through the strategic design of planting beds, and the staging of plant materials. Furthermore, the Plan ensures that ample open space is retained to accommodate the growing list of programming that takes place throughout the property, including the annual Guild Alive with Culture event.

### 5. FAMILY FRIENDLY

With their vibrant colours, ever changing floral displays, and chorus of buzzing and fluttering pollinators, gardens serve as an engaging and delightful attraction for the whole family. The introduction of a four-season planting scheme will ensure that the gardens are attractive during all times of the year. Open lawn areas are further defined and the cultural elements enhanced, providing the perfect spot for family picnics, flying a kite, or attending an outdoor performance.

### 6. REVITALIZE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE STRUCTURE

In addition to preserving the existing collection currently on site, this Plan recommends that select additional pieces from the City's stockpiles, and potential new pieces obtained by the City, be incorporated into the Monument Walk and Gardens grounds. The central axis walkway is reinforced through enhanced planting beds, while the heritage views are maintained. New opportunities for injecting culture into the landscape include the planting of two Vimy Oaks.



## 7. PROTECT NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS

All plant species included in the plant palette proposed by this plan have been selected for their appropriateness for the context, their ability to support native pollinators species and other native fauna, and inability to spread into the natural heritage system. A large proportion of the plant palette comprises native species. Invasive species are already present on site and are to be removed by staff. New species proposed for the site, where not native, will not be capable of germinating in the natural areas.

## 8. TELL THE STORY

The Guild Park and Gardens is a property steeped in history, particularly relating to the arts. The original Bickford Residence is designed in the Arts and Crafts style. The property played host to artists for generations and has produced and collected many artworks over the years. Through the revitalization of the horticultural landscape, the preservation of important heritage views and circulation patterns, and the preservation and enhancement of cultural artifacts throughout the site, the Plan seeks to tell the story of this remarkable site. The Horticulture Plan is based in the Arts and Crafts style, enmeshing the planted landscape with the design history and style of the property. The proposed planting bed layout guides visitors through the site, from artifact to artifact, and down the central axis walkway that has been present on the site since the construction of Bickford House. The addition of two Vimy Oaks and the planting of AC Navy Lady Rose fills a gap in the history of the property, drawing attention to the property's role in World War I and II, as both a hospital and a training ground for the all women Canadian Naval Service, the Wrens.



*Polar Bear by E.B. Cox, assisted by Michael Clay, 2018*

# principles & objectives

The proposed landscape plan and recommendations are intended to address the issues identified by the Management Plan, and confirmed during the analysis phase of the Horticulture Plan. These principles and objectives respond directly to the issues outlined in Section 2 - Plan Context.

## 1. DEFINE CHARACTER & LIMIT

To address the piecemeal growth and incremental changes that have occurred to the Monument Walk and Gardens, the new vision for the gardens seeks to foster a more unified character to the manicured area of the site and establish a set of rules for future garden development. The existing planting beds have been consolidated, expanded, or removed, and the forms refined to be more cohesive. The result is a landscape of garden beds that work together to highlight the heritage elements of the site, direct visitors through the property, and create a series of outdoor rooms. Surrounding the manicured area is envisioned a tall beech hedge. This stunning horticultural element not only delineates the boundary between the natural and manicured areas of the site, but also serves as a backdrop to the cultural events and features of the site.



*Enlargement of render of new gardens.*

## 2. PROTECT & IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HORTICULTURE

Under the recommendations of the Horticulture Plan, the planting beds have been redesigned and a planting scheme developed that will elevate the quality of the horticulture, exhibit the heritage qualities of the property, and reflect contemporary trends in gardening. The new species palette is intended to increase resilience, and can be introduced incrementally, and includes species with high visual impact and schemes designed for four-season interest. These proposed changes to the Monument Walk and Gardens area are intended to achieve a more diverse and innovative horticultural experience for visitors to enjoy, with more seasonal interest and a more 'show garden' quality.

### 3. IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESTORATION

The proposed landscape concept for the Park and Gardens draws heavily from the historic landscape design of the property. Referencing historic photographs, the design emphasizes the original primary walk, which stretched from Bickford House south towards the bluffs, as the central organizing axis of the property. The Plan also seeks to retain and expand key horticultural features already present on site.

### 4. ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY

The planting palette for the site has been developed with sustainability at the forefront. Regional native species make up a high proportion of the plant list, and have been selected with pollinator species and other native fauna in mind. Additionally, several areas of the site are recommended for restoration or naturalized plantings, including the front woodland gateway. These areas are intended to expand the natural areas to the east and west of the Monument Walk and Gardens, complimenting the ESA and improving habitat connectivity throughout the site and subsequently increasing habitat resilience. The expansion of the garden areas also coincides with a slight reduction in lawn area, increasing the area of the site occupied by native species. The goal of these interventions is to achieve other nature-related objectives such as attracting and supporting pollinators and providing habitat and food sources to wildlife, such as native songbirds.

### 5. ESTABLISH TRANSITION AREAS & MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES

The City has been responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the horticultural and natural areas of the site, including the removal of invasive species. These efforts are to be continued, and aided by the proposed changes to the horticultural areas. The proposed planting approach calls for the dense planting of species appropriate for the site conditions, which is intended to reduce the likelihood of invasive species taking root. A staff-led volunteer force focusing on the removal of invasive species from all horticultural areas and edges would also benefit the site.



*Bickford Residence terrace from Guildwood Village Community Association.*



*Guild Alive with Culture Event Photo: [www.guildalivewithculture.ca](http://www.guildalivewithculture.ca)*

## **6. ACCOMMODATE PROGRAMMING IN THE PARK**

The recommended expansions to the planting areas, as well as their forms, have been informed by the programming of the park. The expanded gardens provide a vibrant backdrop for the wedding photography and other events. The proposed changes to the manicured areas still accommodate existing festivals on the site, including the Guild Alive with Culture event, by allowing space for a minimum of 100 10x10 foot vendor tents and seating for at least 300 people at the Greek theatre. The creation of horticultural rooms provides the ideal location for the meeting of small groups, and can serve as meet points for all-season outdoor classes and educational programs. The programming facilitated by the site appeals to visitors of all ages, abilities, and demographics.

## **7. MANAGE VIEWS AND COORDINATING WITH CULTURE/ HERITAGE**

The proposed changes to the planting bed compositions, layout, and forms takes into consideration the cultural artifacts and heritage views throughout the site. With established height set-backs established, the proposed plan ensures that new planting does not disrupt cultural heritage views as established in the Management Plan. The addition of two Vimy Oaks provides another new heritage view to the property.

## **8. CONSIDER THE ROLE OF COMMEMORATIVE TREES**

Given the space restrictions present in the Monument Walk and Gardens areas, which are used for a variety of events and programming, it is recommended that any commemorative trees be planted as part of natural area restoration work. Trees can be sponsored by donors to be planted in the natural areas of the site by City staff as part of EAB remediation activities. It is recommended that these trees not be fitted with any tags for identification by the donors.

## **9. FOSTER COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP**

As a result of the recommendations of the preceding Management Plan and Trails Master Plan a volunteer initiative has been put in place. It is recommended that this initiative continue as a means of engaging more closely with the community, instilling a sense of pride



for the Monument Walk and Gardens, and harnessing the potential of additional maintenance assistance through the park. The volunteer gardening squad should be used to supplement weeding and watering work on a regular basis.

## **10. DEFINE EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE REGIMES**

The planting strategy proposed for the Monument Walk and Gardens area has been developed with ease of maintenance in mind. Plant species were selected for their hardiness and appropriateness for the site, reducing the maintenance they require to survive and thrive. The intended planting approach employs large swathes of plant material, planted densely, a strategy aimed at reducing the likelihood that an invasive or weed species would take root. Furthermore, plant species have been vetted for drought tolerance, reducing the frequency of watering. The maintenance regime is outlined in further detail at the end of this section.

## **11. DEVISE STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH SEASONALLY WET AREAS**

The areas of the site identified as experiencing seasonal wetness have been addressed through the introduction of new planting beds. These beds are meant to function as rain gardens, with plant species that thrive in moist conditions. The installation of new horticultural elements addresses stormwater management issues that have long been present on the site without the risk of relocating the water to another area of the site where it may cause harm to existing plant communities or pose a risk to visitors.



*Darmera peltata* will grow well in moist to wet soils.

## **12. INTEGRATE BUILDINGS INTO THE LANDSCAPE**

The proposed landscape plan addresses the site as a whole, providing a unified horticultural approach. The planting beds respond to the existing buildings, each of which have been built at a different point and time and which exhibit different architectural styles. As such, the horticultural elements, especially the herbaceous borders, provide a point of commonality and continuity between these elements. They also serve to highlight the entry points to the buildings and enhance their facades.

# landscape plan

This landscape concept is the result of extensive site inventory and analysis and consultation with key stakeholders and the public. This represents a vision for the entirety of the manicured areas of the Guild Park and Gardens site, and a goal to move towards during the incremental implementation of the Plan's outlined recommendations.

This landscape concept draws influence from the likes of Gertrude Jekyll and Piet Oudolf to provide a vibrant and exciting landscape of dazzling floral displays interspersed with hardy feature shrubs and trees. Designed to accommodate a range of programming, the proposed horticultural enhancements and expansions provide increased opportunities for active and passive recreation, including photography, without jeopardizing the site's utility regarding cultural events and theatre performances. The undulating outside border of the gardens lining the paths are lively and playful, providing an intriguing counterpoint to the formal border running alongside the walkways and the buildings. These herbaceous borders widen and narrow, responding to the cultural artifacts dotted throughout the manicured areas of the site, at times unfurling into the lawn area to form loose floral rooms. These floral rooms are visually open to the surrounding area, but define a smaller space within the landscape, perfect for quiet reflection or a clustering of activity.

This landscape concept reconciles the often competing interests of aesthetics and maintenance. Though the garden areas are expanded, the planting approach, discussed in greater detail in the following sections, is simplified. Through larger massings of location-appropriate plant species, the maintenance of these gardens can be kept minimal. Transition areas along the edges of the manicured area also serve as a much-needed buffer along the sensitive natural areas.

The result of this landscape concept is a space that frames and highlights the significant heritage and cultural elements of the site, respects the natural heritage of the site, and accommodates the growing intensity of community and private events.

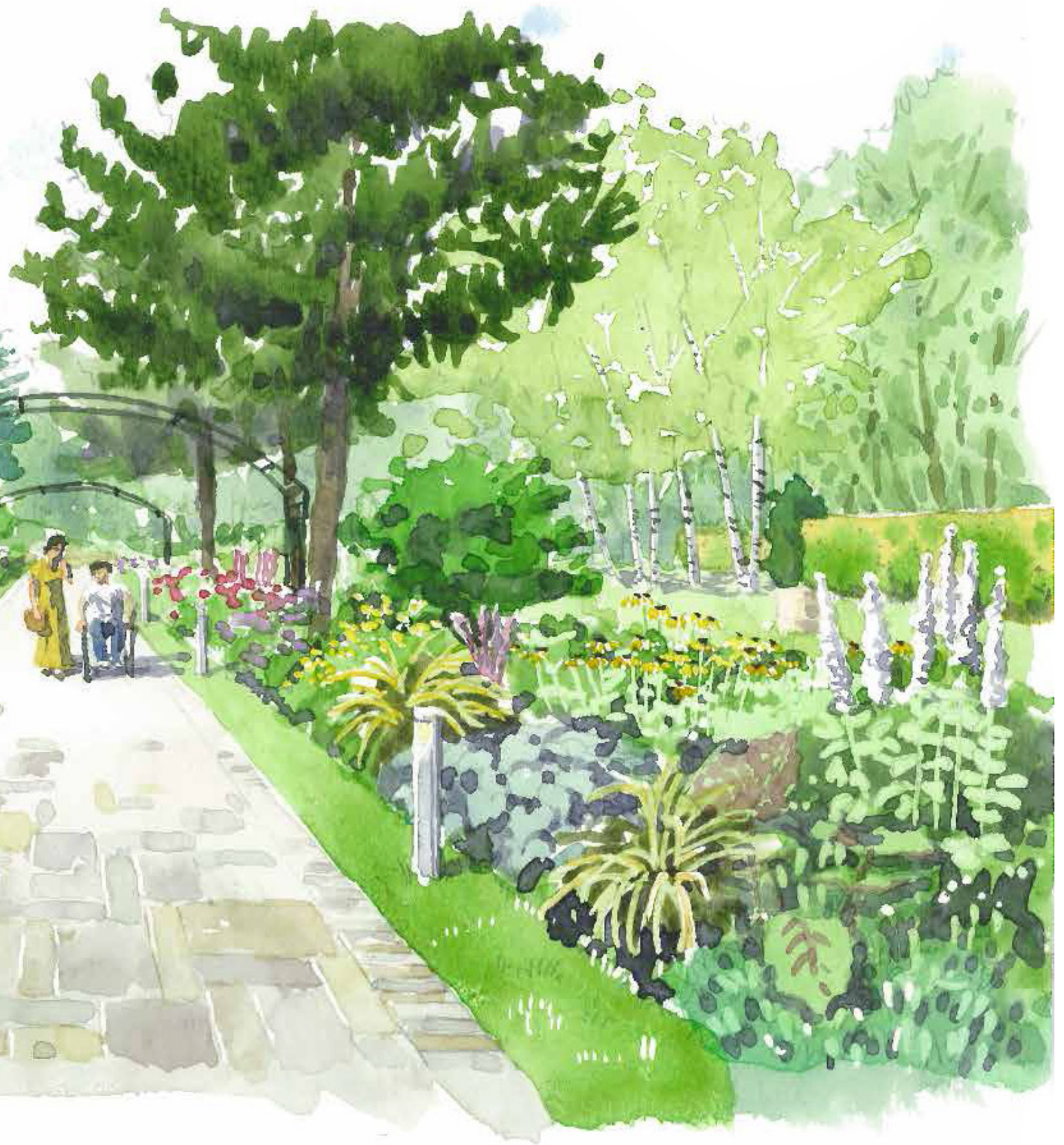






*Perspective - The central axis walk, lined with high impact herbaceous borders.*









*Perspective - View of the herbaceous planting beds at the Guild Inn Estate.*





# key elements



## HERBACEOUS BORDERS

The primary focus of the Horticulture Plan and manicured areas will be the enhanced herbaceous borders. The proposed planting approach will rely heavily on colour theory for the layout of plants, which will be applied in massings and drifts. The plant typologies - matrix, primary, scatter, will be discussed in detail in the following sections. Complimentary and contrasting colours, textures, forms, and heights will be employed to create gardens that are interesting, dynamic, and resilient. The herbaceous borders will be punctuated throughout with outstanding large shrubs and small tree specimens.



## OUTDOOR ROOMS

The form of the herbaceous borders will be aligned to the pathways that they abut, but will undulate along their outside edge. This varied outside edge, at times, flares outwards into the lawn area to create smaller spaces encircled by gardens. The planting design for these areas will be such that visibility into and out of the garden room is maintained, such as through the use of low to mid-height species. This approach to planting design will foster a sense of place, while also ensuring safety and security.



## BULB GARDEN

Originally located along the southern fence line and hedge, the proposed vision for the Park relocates the community bulb garden to the Sculptor's Cabin. This new location, at the north entrance to the property, situates the bulb garden in an easily accessible and highly visible area. Furthermore, this revised location provides much more sunlight to the plants, a crucial element contributing to vibrant floral displays. Planted by volunteers, this garden will serve as a meet point for the community, and the cabin will double as a storage space for the tools required to tend to the garden. The size and shape of the garden should be such that it compliments the scale, style, and function of the cabin entrance and the greater Park and Gardens context.



## NATURAL WOODLAND GATEWAY

In the early days of the Park and Gardens the property was access via a meandering road that wound its way through the forest. Glimpses of the Bickford residence were offered here and there along the drive, hiding and revealing views with each turn. This space remained natural up until the construction of the new parking lots. It is this experience that the natural woodland gateway is meant to emulate. A proposed hydroseeding of upland wildflowers was meant to restore some of this natural look after construction. Currently dotted with trees, this area should be supplemented with additional native trees and hydroseeded with a lowland native perennial seed mix as this low-lying area requires more woodland species that thrive in moist environments.

Space will be left for the community Christmas tree, and around the wishing well to accommodate gathering. This wooded area will serve to expand the existing natural areas east and west of the entrances, and present a continuous natural face towards Guildwood Parkway. In order to maintain a kept and orderly appearance, a 2m mow strip is proposed along the sidewalk and curbs as well as around the well and Christmas tree to allow open space for gathering.



## CHRISTMAS TREE

A new feature to the site is a community Christmas tree. Located at the north-west entrance to the property, the white spruce will be preserved to serve as the focus for the community tree lighting ceremony, and to grow as a community icon.



## ANNUAL PLANTERS

This Plan suggests the use of annual planters as entrance markers and opportunities for eye-catching, decorative elements. The planters should be of a design and style that is consistent with the Inn and its expansion.





### **FLOWERING ORCHARD GROVE**

The area around the Ousterhout Log Cabin is located west of the main gardens area, at the end of the Monument Walk. This plan suggests that this area be enhanced through the planting of flowering trees, especially those that are fruiting and native, such as Nannyberry, Pagoda Dogwood, Serviceberry, and Red Mulberry. The flowering fruit trees provide a different ambiance to the gardens, in addition to brilliant, showy spring displays. They will also signal the transition between the border gardens and the surrounding natural woodlands.



### **TALL BEECH HEDGE**

A common element for many Arts and Crafts gardens, including in Piet Oudolf's personal garden at Humello, are tall beech hedges. European beech hedges are used to define and contain the manicured area, providing a sense of structure to the planting. In addition to this, Beech has a marcescent leaf that remains on the branches throughout the winter, providing a gentle rustling sounds and a much needed shock of colour to the snowy landscape with their rusty golden tinge. Used behind the Greek Theatre, the hedge would provide a lush, green backdrop to the outdoor performances. A hedge such as this would be an ideal investment in the long future of the Guild, often living 100 years or more.



### **VIMY OAKS LEGACY LEGS des CHÊNES de VIMY**

### **VIMY OAKS**

A special element to introduce into the Park is the planting of a pair of Vimy Oaks. Following the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I, a Canadian soldier brought home a special souvenir - a handful of acorns. After returning home he planted the acorns in Scarborough, Ontario, on what he named 'Vimy Oaks Farm'. To this day several of the original oaks survive.

The trees proposed for the Guild are propagated from cuttings taken from the original Vimy Oaks. The Plan proposes the placement of these specimen trees alongside the wishing well, visible from Guildwood Parkway. The trees are quite small when they are first planted, only a few feet tall, and as such will require protection fencing for the first 5 to 10 years of life. A descriptive plaque should be coordinated with the City of Toronto Culture Department.

## THICKET GARDEN

The thicket garden provides a defined border between the formal garden plantings and the informal dog run. Both permeable and impermeable at the same time, the thicket gardens are designed in a jigsaw pattern to permit unobstructed access through, while appearing as a continuous edge to the unsuspecting canine that may be tempted to enter the dog-free area of the park. The species intended for these gardens are low-growing, allowing for unobstructed views to the bluffs. The deterrent value of the gardens are enhanced through the use of thorny native shrubs, such as Meadow Rose, Purple Flowering Raspberry, Gooseberry, Red Raspberry, and Pasture Rose.



## EDUCATION GARDEN / INDIGENOUS MEDICINE WHEEL

A meaningful addition to the Guild Park and Gardens would be the creation of an education garden or Indigenous medicine wheel garden. Typically divided into four quadrants associated with the cardinal directions - North, South, East, and West, medicine wheel gardens are designed with education and symbolism at the forefront. Plant species are selected for their significance in traditional medicines and ceremonies. For additional information regarding the design and history of medicine wheel gardens please refer to the TRCA document, *Medicine Wheel Garden - Plant Identification & Maintenance Guide*.



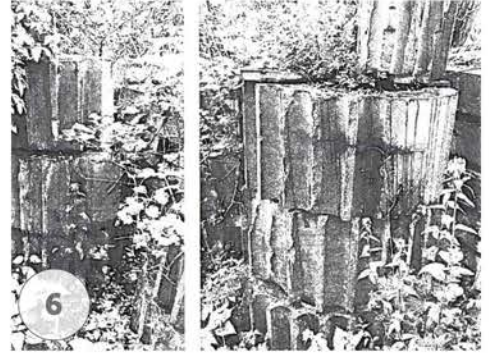
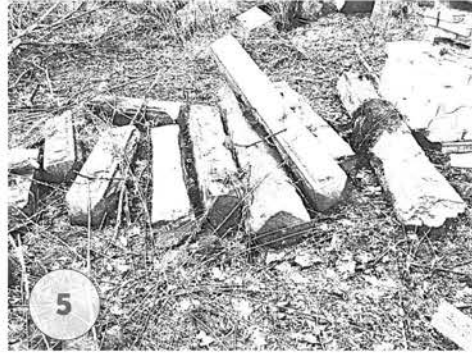
## ADDITIONAL CULTURAL ARTIFACTS AND ACCESSORIES

Where appropriate, additional cultural artifacts may be incorporated into the design. There are many artifacts on site and in storage that may be introduced, or in some cases reintroduced, back into the landscape. The following page looks at the potential placement of these artifacts in more detail.

There also exists room in the plan for habitat accessories such as bee hotels and bat boxes. These may be scattered through the site where deemed most appropriate from an ecological perspective. Designs of these items could come from artists or could be developed through community workshops.

Any signage introduced to the site, whether for wayfinding or education, should be minimal in design so as not to detract from the gardens.





## CULTURAL ARTIFACTS

### 1. Bas Relief portraits of Rossini and Moliere (x2)

These two reliefs are proposed to mark the walkway through the north parking lot

### 2. Bas Relief Panels with Flower Pot Carvings (x4)

These four carved panels are proposed to be placed evenly spaced and raised 40cm above grade in the new gardens facing the new small arch path.

### 3. St. Andrew Panel from the Mercantile Building (x1)

This two piece panel is proposed to be placed in the new gardens raised 70cm above grade.

### 4. Marble Bas Reliefs from Bank of Toronto (x4)

These reliefs are proposed to mark the passages through the thicket garden. They may be placed on grade.

### 5. Red Sandstone Columns (multiple)

These sandstone columns measuring 200mm x 200mm and up to 2 metres in length are proposed

to be placed upright within the new garden bed and spaced randomly.

### 6. Fluted Columns (x2)

These two fluted columns match those used in the Greek Theatre. They are proposed to be stacked to flank the Sculptor's Cabin.

### 7. Bank of Toronto Letter Panels (x13)

These latter panels are proposed to be scattered throughout the Guild Parkway naturalized area, raised 1.5m above grade.

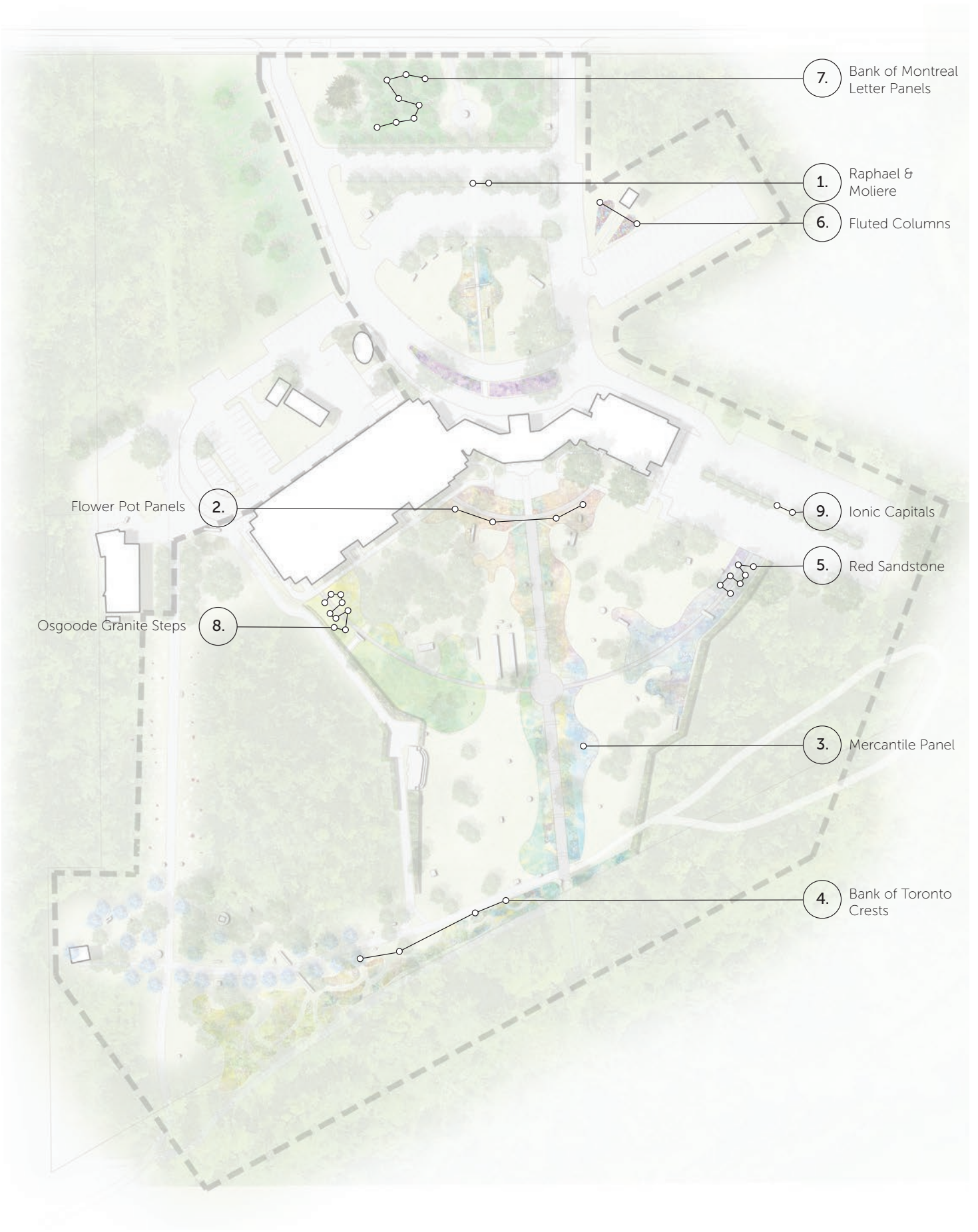
### 8. Osgood Granite Steps (multiple)

These black granite steps varying in size are proposed to be placed upright within the new garden bed and spaced randomly.

### 9. Ionic Capitals (x2)

These two Ionic capitals are proposed to mark the path through the east parking lot.





7. Bank of Montreal Letter Panels

1. Raphael & Moliere

6. Fluted Columns

Flower Pot Panels 2.

9. Ionic Capitals

5. Red Sandstone

Osgoode Granite Steps 8.

3. Mercantile Panel

4. Bank of Toronto Crests



## EVENT LAYOUT

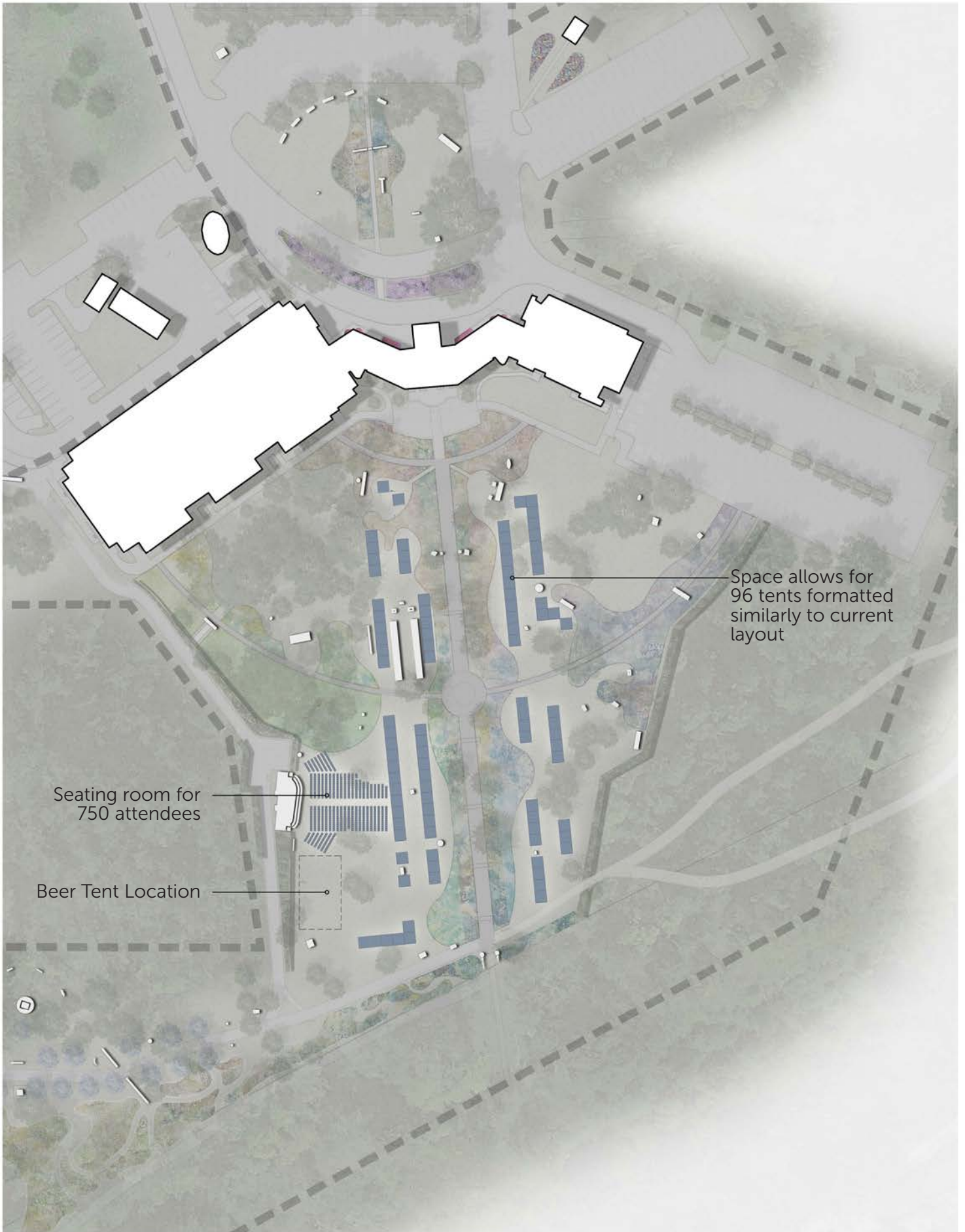
The Gardens at the Guild host a number of cultural events each year, the largest and most influential being the Guild Alive with Culture event and the ongoing summer theatre performances held at the Greek Theatre. The annual Guild Alive with Culture event typically features approximately 96 temporary event tents, laid out in the southern portion of the Monument Walk and Gardens area. Additionally, the Greek Theatre is used during the festival as an outdoor stage, with temporary seating provided in front of it for viewers. Finally, a large beer tent and garden area has become a popular attraction at the event, and is typically located close to the Greek Theatre.

The proposed expansion of the garden beds has carefully considered both the existing size and potential expansion of each of these events and will not have any negative impact of the way the gardens function during these crucial functions.



*Guild Alive with Culture Event.*  
Photos: [www.guildalivewithculture.ca](http://www.guildalivewithculture.ca)





Seating room for 750 attendees

Beer Tent Location

Space allows for 96 tents formatted similarly to current layout



# planting strategy

The planting strategy to be deployed at the Guild Park and Gardens is derived from the tenets of the Arts and Crafts Movement as described in the preceding chapters of this document. This design style may be occasionally described as ordered chaos, or messy systems with neat edges. The main principle is to evoke a wild planting idea, while maintaining an overarching sense of order and containment. Drifts of wildflowers and grasses flow and meld together rather than sit stoically on their own. Such melding of species allows the garden to exist as a whole and provides opportunity for the viewer to engage with it throughout the 4 seasons as each specimen exists both as a stand alone species and in relation to its interactions with its surrounding neighbours.

A balance has been struck between native species and exotic species. Exotics are not to be confused with invasive species. **No invasive species are to be planted within the park.** No exceptions are to be made. Incorporating native species into a highly designed and manicured planting experience as is proposed here, allows visitors to see these specimens in a light different to that of the natural environment where they are normally found and often encountered. **Where native species are used, ensure that all plants come from a local reputable native plant nursery that follows the Growing Standards for the Society of Ecological Restoration Guidelines.** Promoting our native species as a viable garden option will serve to educate visitors on the potential of native plants. That said, in order to provide the most robust, diverse, and visually stunning gardens possible, it is beneficial to also incorporate non-invasive exotic species to provide addition colour, form, and texture options.

There are many existing trees scattered through the gardens. These trees should be retained in all cases unless deemed hazardous due to decay or disease. Along the main axis walk, all existing trees should be limbed up to provide a minimum of 4m clearance between the ground and the lowest branch. This will serve to open views between the bluff edge and the Bickford Residence as well as throughout the different sectors of the garden. When large trees along the main axis path eventually die, they should not be replaced. The intention is to, in time, have an open walkway and open views without obstructions. Canopy trees within the remainder of the grounds may be replaced as deemed practical by parks staff.

Planting typologies proposed for the Park fall under 4 categories:

- a) High Impact Border Gardens
- b) Thicket Shrub Gardens
- c) Orchard Trees, and;
- d) Naturalized Woodland Planting.

## **HIGH IMPACT BORDER GARDENS**

The majority of newly proposed planting falls within the new high impact perennial border gardens. The planting strategy for these gardens is taken from the planting plans and designs developed by Gertrude Jekyll and later, Piet Oudolf. The garden beds are defined by colour, and corresponding suggested plant species for each colour bed can be found in the following pages. The new beds are intended to be largely planted with perennial wildflowers and grasses, both of native and exotic specimens. Throughout these beds though, will be dotted large flowering shrubs and small trees, providing added focal points and counterpoints to the artifacts and sculptures throughout the garden.

Perennials and Grasses suggested for these gardens fall into one of three categories. **Primary plants**, used en masse in drifts through the gardens; **scatter plants**, used in single clusters as highlights or focal points - often noteworthy for their structure in addition to any flower or colour association; and **matrix plants** - those which form the backdrop or base over which the scatter and primary specimens flourish. As a general rule, no garden should contain more than 10% of a single species. Piet Oudolph provides the analogous reference to a fruitcake whereby the nuts and fruit (Primary and Scatter Plants) are scattered through a dough matrix.

### **PRIMARY PLANTS**

Primary Plants are those providing the greatest impact on the garden. These plants have strong colour or structure playing off of the lower impact matrix plants. Generally planted in swaths or bands, some examples of primary plants would include Goat's Beard or Large-flowered Tickseed.



### **SCATTER PLANTS**

Scatter plants are those literally scattered individually or in small clusters of 3-5 specimens throughout the garden in a semi-random pattern. These specimens often have strong structural or textural characteristics and perform the role of adding a sense of naturalness to the design. Some examples of scatter plants would include Black Snakeroot or Rattlesnake Master.

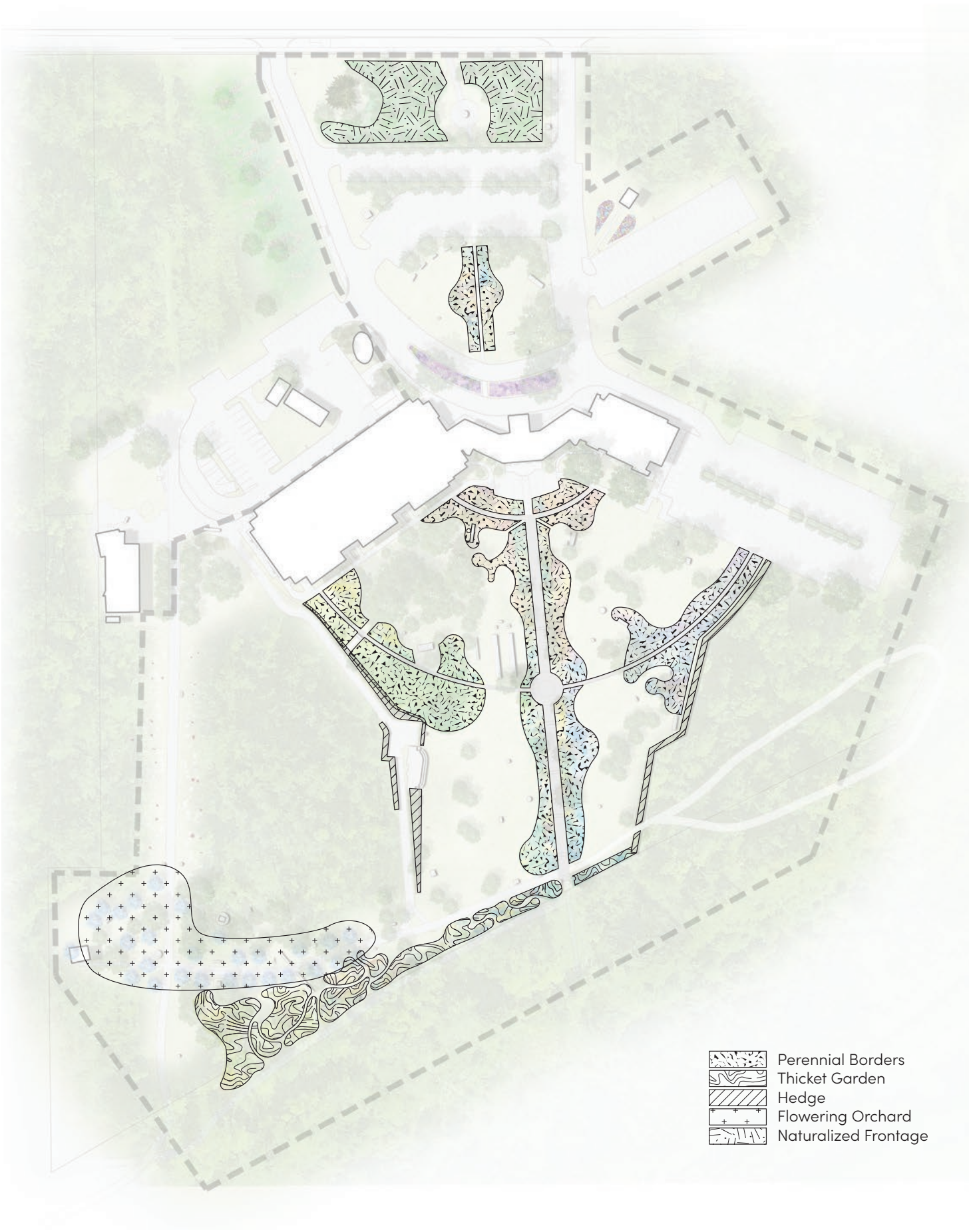
### **MATRIX PLANTS**

Matrix plants provide the backdrop to which the primary and scatter plants perform. Generally, a matrix of planting will spread through the garden as a unifying element out of which the primary and scatter plants protrude. The matrix is made up of a small number of species that largely remain quiet but impactful through the seasons so that a relatively continuous backdrop is retained throughout the year. The number of species selected for a matrix can range between 1 and 10 but should always be planted in a random pattern. This said, species should still be clustered in groups of no less than 3 specimens so that no matrix plant is surrounded on all sides by different species. Some examples of matrix plants would include Tufted Hair Grass or Silver Sagebrush.

The existing arbor structures should be retained and climbing species planted at their base and trained through the structure.

### **THICKET SHRUB GARDEN**

The Thicket Garden is intended to replace the failing Yew hedge and associated chain link fence that runs along the southern edge of the formal gardens. The area south of the existing fence - the lawn with scattered Ash and Walnut trees between the gardens and the bluff edge - is currently informally used as an off-leash dog run. While the Management Plan and Trails Master Plan call out a new path to be used as an off-leash dog area, we expect that this space may continue to function in this way. As such, the proposed thicket planting is intended to ensure that any off-leash dogs remain in this area and will be discouraged from entering the formal gardens and monuments area. The thicket will be comprised of native thorny shrubs and is to be maintained at a height that allows for views out of the gardens toward the bluff edge and Lake Ontario. Shrubs will be densely planted so as to not allow easy passage between specimens.



- Perennial Borders
- Thicket Garden
- Hedge
- Flowering Orchard
- Naturalized Frontage

## ORCHARD TREES

The Orchard Grove proposed for the new monuments area around the Osterhout cabin is to be comprised of a variety of small statured flowering trees - a veritable arboretum of spring flowering specimens - intended to produce an incredible display of pinks and white early in the season followed by an abundant food source for local and migrating birds. Specimens are to be comprised of both native and exotic species and may include: crabapple species, serviceberries, hawthorns, cherries, dogwoods, redbuds, mountain ash, plums, etc.



*Skunk Cabbage in the Guild Forest.*

## NATURALIZED WOODLAND PLANTING

The naturalized woodland planting fronting onto Guild Parkway is to be over-seeded with a native lowland seed mix at a rate of 250 grams per 100 square metres. This may then be bolstered by planting of individual specimens of 1 gallon perennials in clusters of no less than 12 specimens. The intention is that over time, this frontage will mature into a forest patch matching that on either side along Guildwood Parkway, presenting a unified woodland edge. As the tree specimens are currently not large or dense enough to provide the required shade for typical woodland perennials, a lowland seed mix will grow well in the mean time while the forest canopy establishes.

Species that may be used in this planting area include Trillium, Virginia Waterleaf, Foamflower, Large Flowered Bellwort, Skunk Cabbage, Blue Flag Iris, Ferns, Dutchman's Breeches, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Bloodroot, False Solomon's Seal, Mayapples, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Wood Poppy, Trout Lily, Wild Ginger, and Canada Mayflower. Potential tree additions may include native tree species such as Paw Paw, Musclewood, Wahoo, and Ohio Buckeye.

## ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Where appropriate horticultural features, including the natural woodland planting areas, orchard, and high-impact border gardens, could benefit from the addition of garden accessories. These accessories can also contribute to the enhancement of local pollinator and fauna habitats. Potential accessories can include bee hotels or bat and bird houses. Furthermore, educational signage, such as information plaques identifying pollinator beds, are encouraged. Community events, such as a birdhouse building day at the Sculptor Cabin, could be used to create many of these features, and foster community stewardship.



## COLOUR THEORY

Inspired by the theories developed by Gertrude Jekyll and Piet Oudolf the colour theory applied to the Monument Walk and Gardens plant palettes seeks to inject riots of colour and texture into the manicured property of the Guild Park and Gardens. Each colour palette, as shown in the following planting lists, has been blended with complimentary and contrasting colours. As such, the 'Blue' plant list, while largely made up of blue flowering species, also includes some yellow, white, coral, etc. The intention is to have the gardens transition from one colour to another subtly.



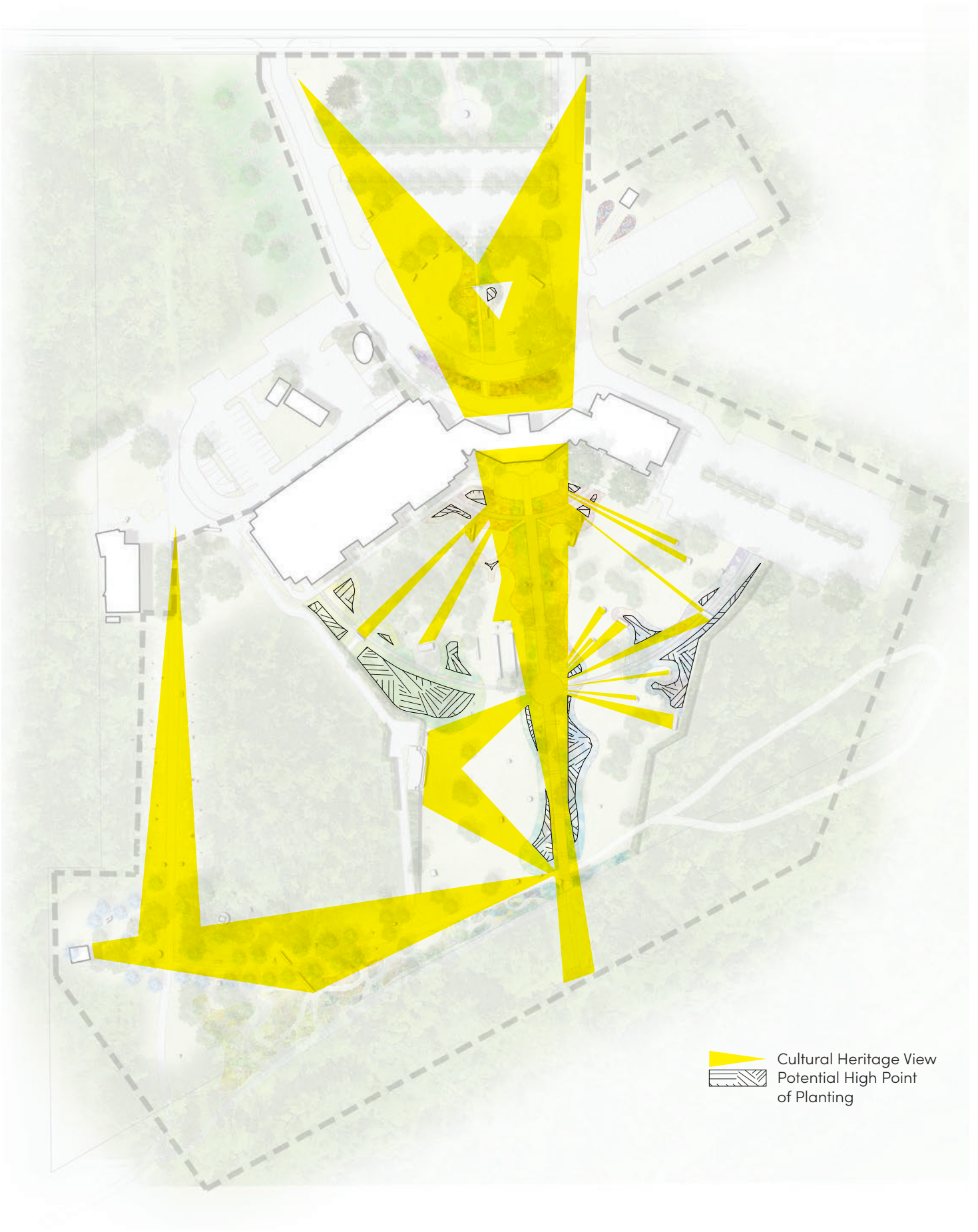
*A colour wheel is overlaid on the new high impact border garden beds suggesting the proposed division of colour gardens which is to remain fluid and blend rather than show as a hard line.*

## **MAINTAINING HERITAGE VIEWS**

A key design objective for the revised planting beds is the preservation and enhancement of existing heritage views located throughout the site. In many cases these views are down the main pathways of the site, including the central axis walk and do not require additional horticultural interventions to accommodate them. Other views, however, cut across the manicured grounds to key cultural artifacts, which traverse the existing and proposed garden beds. In these circumstances additional care should be given to the design of the planting beds and species selection.

To ensure that key views and elements are free of obstruction tall plantings have been restricted to areas that do not conflict with these sight lines. Potential planting high points need not adhere to a maximum height, and can include taller herbaceous plantings as well as shrubs and ornamental trees. These tall swatches, in addition to providing visual interest, serve to direct viewers' gazes and frame key views.

In areas that fall within a heritage view sight line low plantings or gaps in planting beds are more appropriate. Considering the average height of visitors, low plantings, not in excess of 1000mm in height, including berming, do not pose a risk of blocking views. Low plantings can also occur around artifacts and sculptures, so long as key features of the pieces are not hidden.

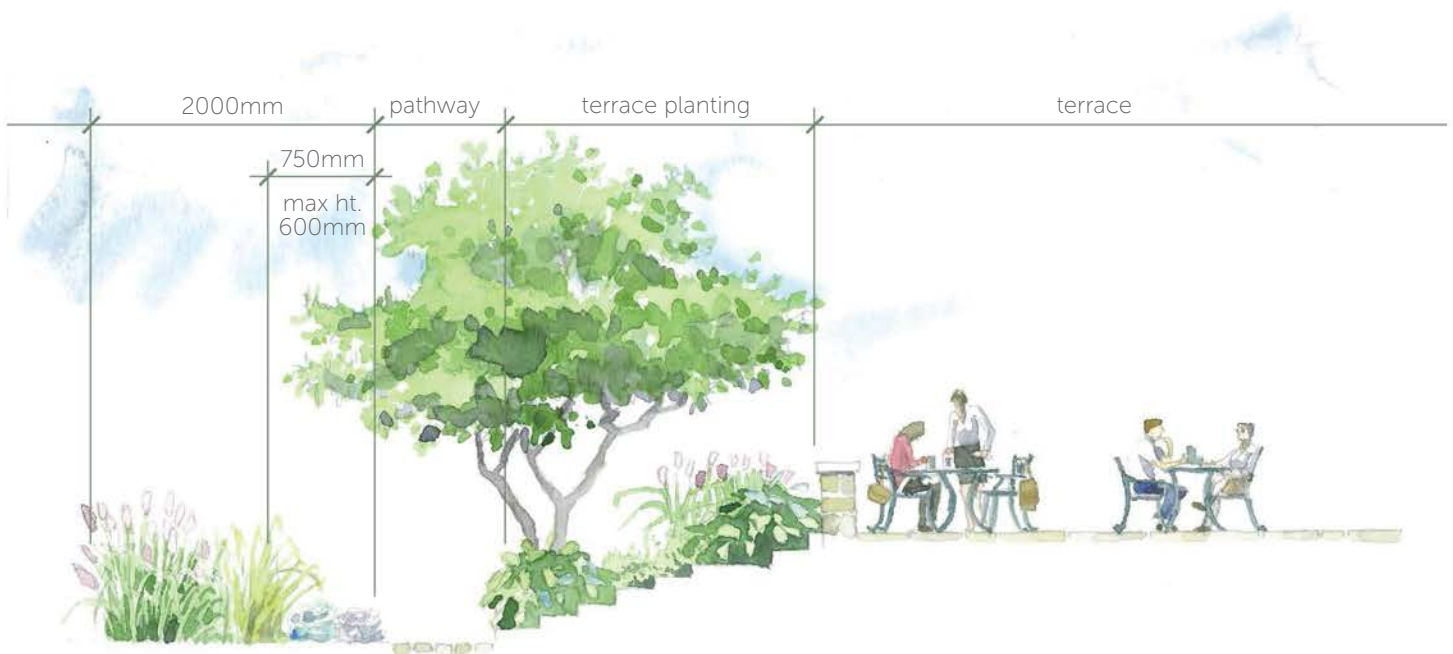


 Cultural Heritage View  
 Potential High Point  
of Planting

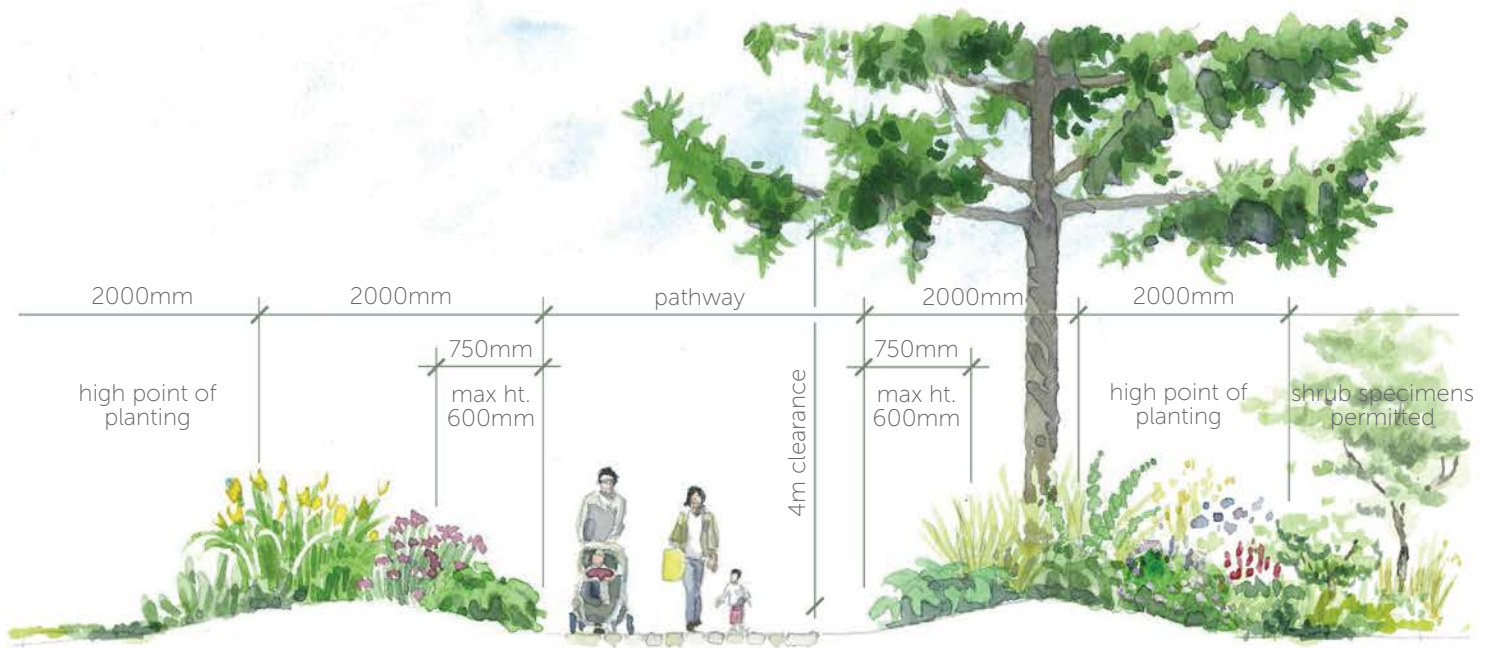


## PLANTING STAGING & SETBACKS

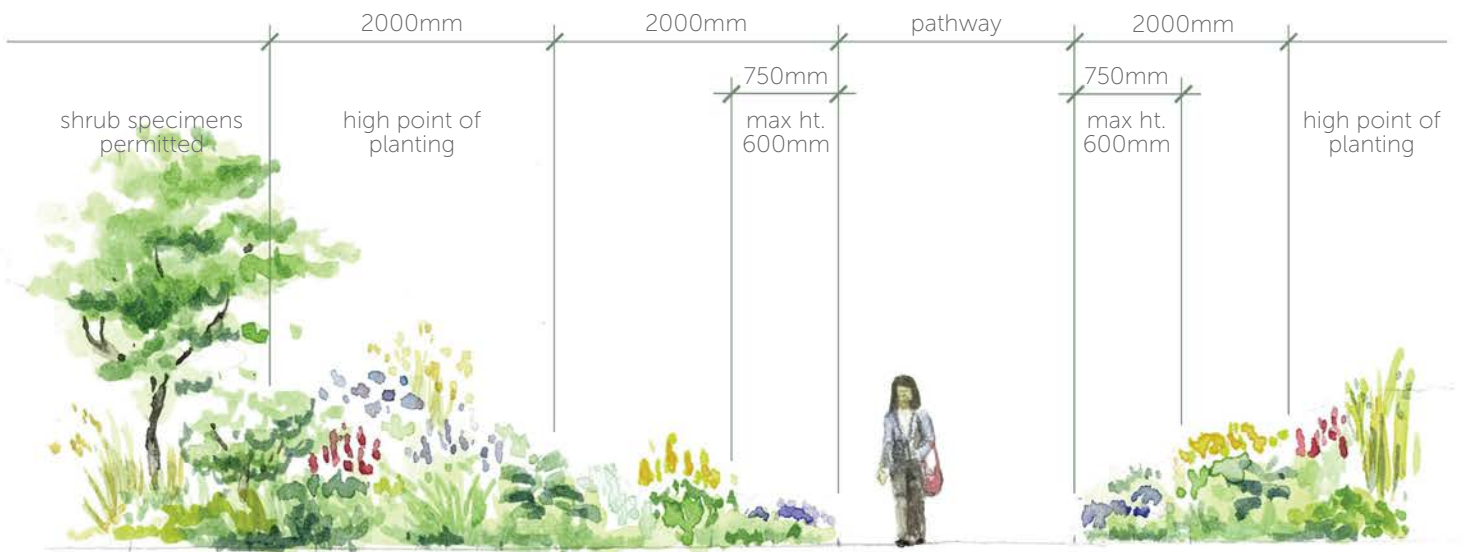
A key element of an interesting and dynamic garden landscape is the strategic use of height and form. In general, it is recommended that plant species be laid out such that plants with the lowest mature height are located along the outside edge of the horticultural beds, especially along pathways. A 750mm setback from path edges should include plant species that are no taller than 600mm. The plant heights beyond this low zone can vary in height, while generally increasing in height towards the center of the horticultural bed. The tallest species in the proposed plant palette should be planted a minimum 2m from the outside edge of the horticultural beds, while shrubs and ornamental trees planted in the horticultural beds should only occur 4m from the edge. The resulting tiered gardens offer a more visually diverse landscape, while not creating an uncomfortable sense of enclosure or obstructing views through the site.



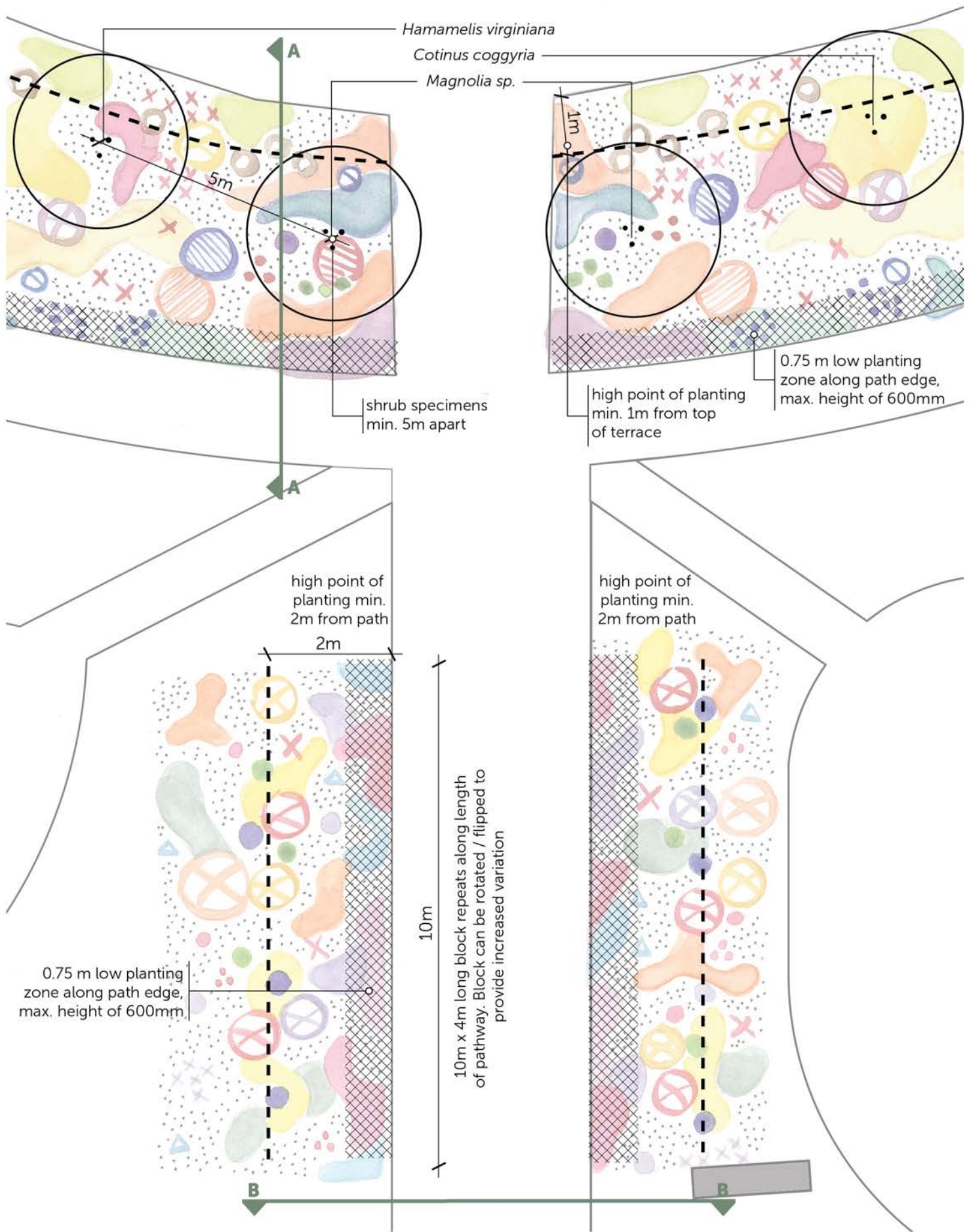
Section A-A - The Guild Inn Estate south terrace and planting beds.



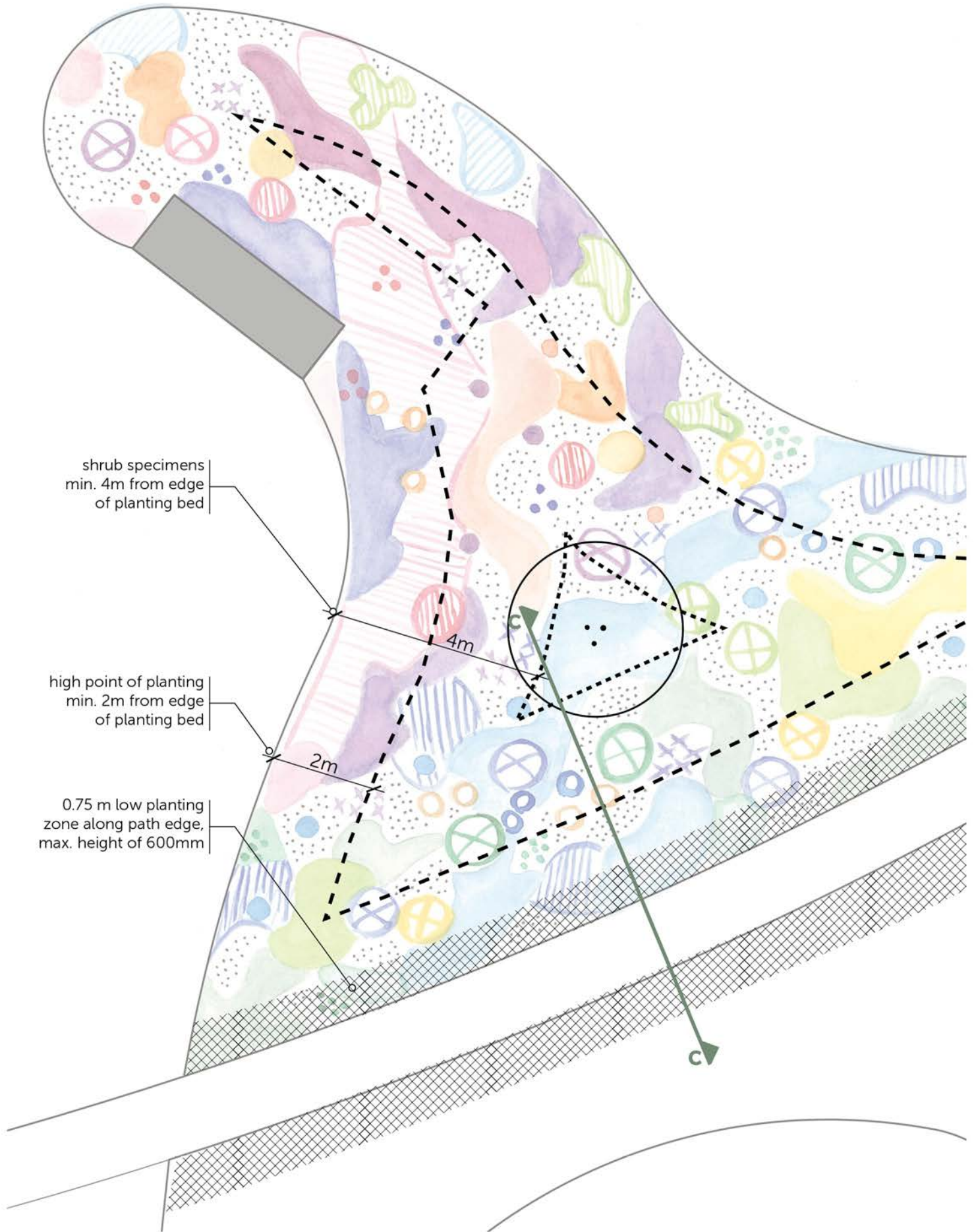
Section B-B - The central axis walk, lined with high impact herbaceous borders.



Section C-C - Typical herbaceous border massing.














# detailed planting plans


## TERRACE GARDEN SCATTER PLANTS

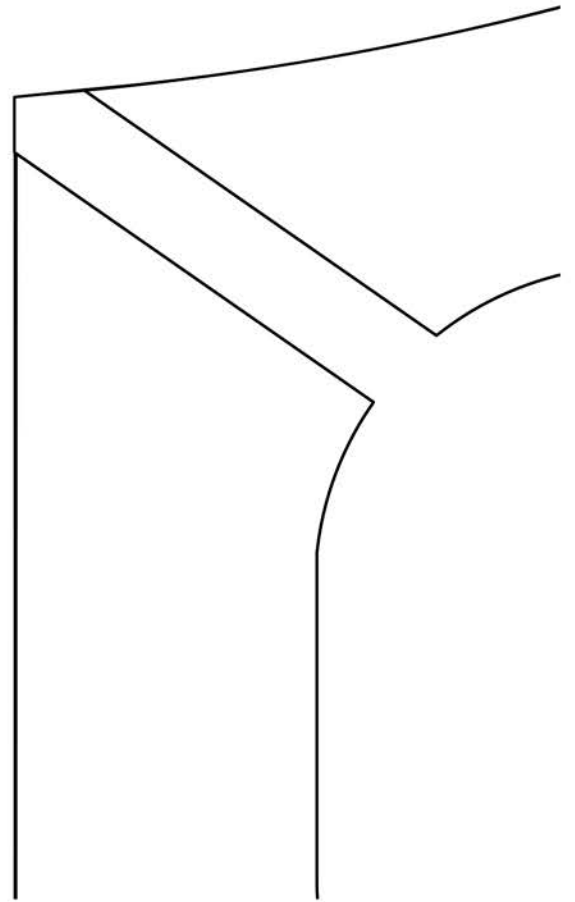
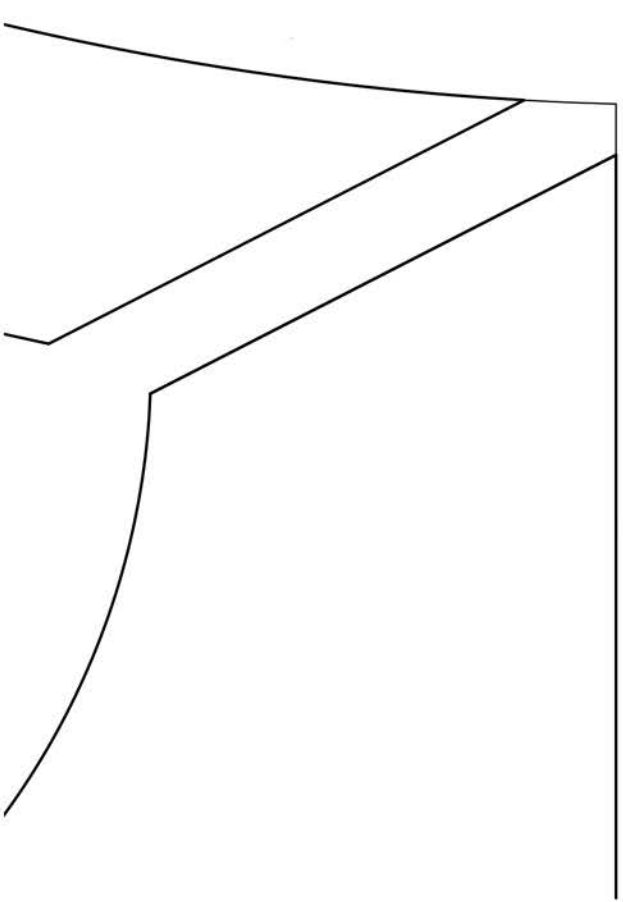
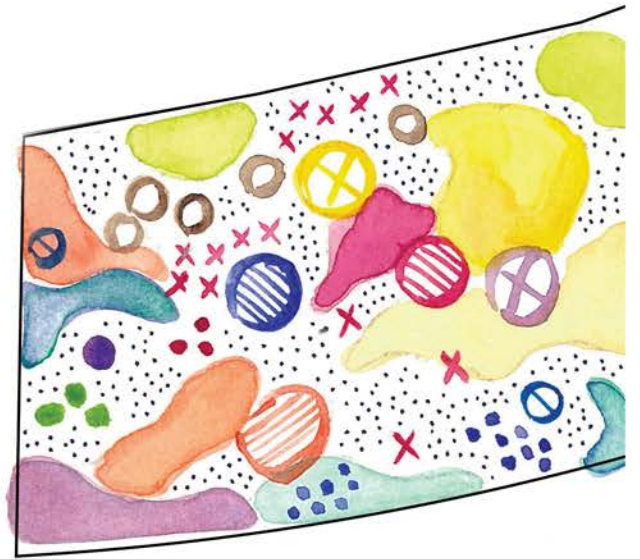
- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <i>Andropogon gerardii</i><br>30cm O.C.       |  <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i><br>7 per spot       |
|  <i>Asphodeline lutea</i><br>1 per spot        |  <i>Monarda hybrida</i> 'Bergamo'<br>9 per spot |
|  <i>Baptisia australis</i><br>1 per spot       |  <i>Paeonia</i> 'Bowl of Beauty'<br>1 per spot  |
|  <i>Baptisia x 'Solar Flare'</i><br>1 per spot |  <i>Panicum virgatum</i><br>7 per spot          |
|  <i>Chelong glabra</i><br>cluster 3            |  <i>Silphium laciniatum</i><br>1 per spot       |
|  <i>Eryngium 'Jackpot'</i><br>cluster 7        |  <i>Verbena hastata</i><br>3 per spot           |
|  <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i><br>cluster 5   |  |
|  <i>Liatis spicata</i><br>5 per spot         |  |

## PRIMARY PLANTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i><br>30cm O.C.  |  <i>Ratibida pinnata</i><br>45cm O.C.   |
|  <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i><br>35cm O.C.    |  <i>Thymus citriodorus</i><br>20cm O.C. |
|  <i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i><br>30cm O.C. |  |
|  <i>Desmodium canadense</i><br>50cm O.C.   |  |
|  <i>Mertensia virginica</i><br>30cm O.C.   |  |

## MATRIX PLANTS

-  5% *Adiantum pedatum*  
20% *Artemisia ludoviciana*  
35% *Bouteloua curtipendula*  
10% *Carex dipsacea*  
30% *Schizachyrium scoparium*



scale 1:100









## MAIN AXIS GARDEN SCATTER PLANTS

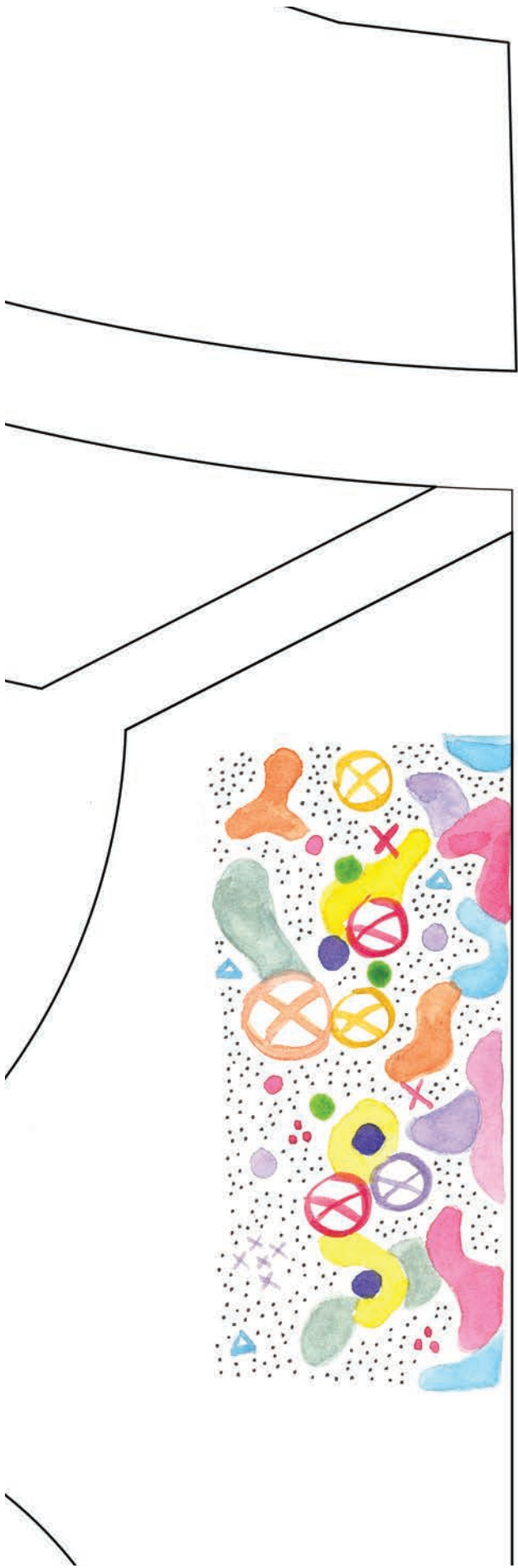
- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|    | <i>Asclepias incarnata</i><br>7 per spot            |  | <i>Papaver rhogas</i><br>3 per spot           |
|    | <i>Asclepias syriaca</i><br>1 per spot              |  | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i><br>3 per spot       |
|    | <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i><br>5 per spot           |  | <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i><br>3 per spot  |
|    | <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i><br>cluster 5          |  | <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i><br>7 per spot |
|    | <i>Geranium maculatum</i><br>3 per spot             |   |   |
|    | <i>Kniphofia hirsuta</i> 'Fire Dance'<br>9 per spot |   |   |
|  | <i>Liatris spicata</i><br>5 per spot                |   |   |
|  | <i>Paeonia itoh</i> 'Scarlet Heaven'<br>1 per spot  |   |   |

## PRIMARY PLANTS

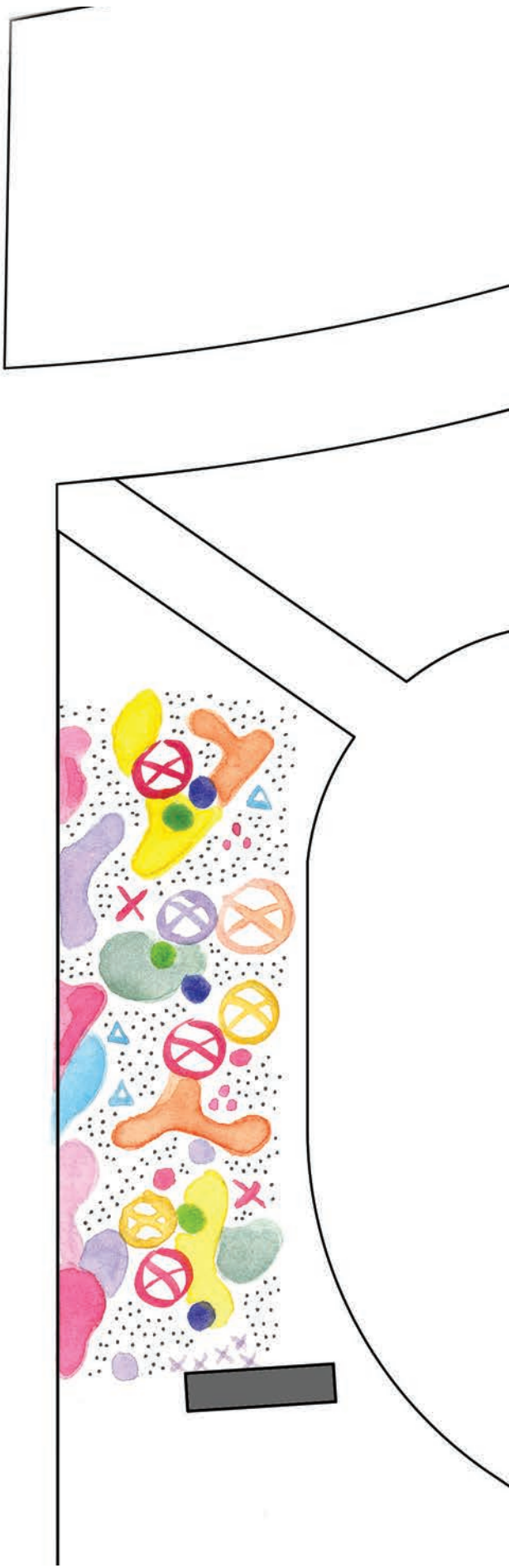
- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i><br>30cm O.C.                |  | <i>Phlox subulata</i> 'Fort Hill'<br>25cm O.C. |
|  | <i>Geum triflorum</i><br>25cm O.C.                      |  | <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i><br>45cm O.C.        |
|  | <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> 'Munstead'<br>30cm O.C.   |   |  |
|  | <i>Linum perenne</i> var. <i>lewisii</i><br>25cm O.C.   |   |  |
|  | <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> 'Filigran'<br>60cm O.C. |   |  |

## MATRIX PLANTS






















-  10% *Anemone canadensis*
-  20% *Carex eburnea*
-  20% *Euphorbia polychromia* 'Bonfire'
-  15% *Liriope muscari* 'Monroe's White'
-  5% *Penstemon hirsutus*
-  30% *Sesleria autumnalis*



scale 1:100




## GENERAL GARDEN SCATTER PLANTS

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i><br>10 per spot                |  <i>Delphinium elatum</i> 'Coral Sunset'<br>6 per spot      |  <i>Liatris spicata</i><br>5 per spot               |
|  <i>Asclepias incarnata</i><br>7 per spot                  |  <i>Delphinium elatum</i> 'Tessa'<br>6 per spot             |  <i>Monarda hybrida</i> 'Bergamo'<br>9 per spot     |
|  <i>Aster laevis</i><br>5 per spot                         |  <i>Delphinium grandiflora</i> 'Summer Morning', 6 per spot |  <i>Papaver rhoeas</i><br>3 per spot                |
|  <i>Baptisia australis</i><br>1 per spot                   |  <i>Eryngium</i> 'Jackpot'<br>7 per spot                    |  <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> 'Sioux Blue', 7 per spot |
|  <i>Baptisia</i> x 'Purple Smoke'<br>1 per spot            |  <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i><br>5 per spot                |  <i>Verbena hastata</i><br>3 per spot               |
|  <i>Baptisia</i> x 'Solarflare Prairieblues'<br>7 per spot |  <i>Helleborus</i> x 'Grape Galaxy'<br>12 per spot          |  <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i><br>3 per spot       |
|  <i>Baptisia</i> x 'Vanilla Cream'<br>1 per spot          |  <i>Hosta</i> 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'<br>1 per spot        |  |
|  <i>Chelone glabra</i><br>3 per spot                     |  <i>Liatris aspera</i><br>5 per spot                      |  |

## PRIMARY PLANTS

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  <i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i><br>40cm O.C.   |  <i>Iris sibirica</i> 'Ruffled Velvet'<br>30cm O.C.      |  <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i><br>50cm O.C.          |
|  <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i><br>35cm O.C.      |  <i>Lavandula angustifolium</i> 'Munstead', 30cm O.C.    |  <i>Salvia sylvestris</i> 'Mainacht'<br>30cm O.C. |
|  <i>Aster novae-angliae</i><br>40cm O.C.     |  <i>Linum perenne</i> var. <i>lewisii</i><br>25cm O.C.   |  <i>Veronica spicata</i> 'Rotfuchs'<br>30cm O.C.  |
|  <i>Geranium</i> x 'Blue Blood'<br>30cm O.C. |  <i>Mertensia virginica</i><br>30cm O.C.                 |  |
|  <i>Heuchera</i> x 'Obsidian'<br>30cm O.C.   |  <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> 'Filigran'<br>60cm O.C. |  |

## MATRIX PLANTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  3% <i>Calamintha nepeta</i> 'White Cloud' | 2% <i>Euphorbia polychroma</i>           |
| 5% <i>Campanula glomerata</i> 'Alba'  | 5% <i>Geranium sanguinea</i> 'Album'     |
| 20% <i>Carex eburnea</i>  | 20% <i>Molinia caerulea</i> 'Moorflamme' |
| 5% <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>  | 30% <i>Sesleria autumnalis</i>           |
| 5% <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>   | 5% <i>Stachys byzantina</i>              |



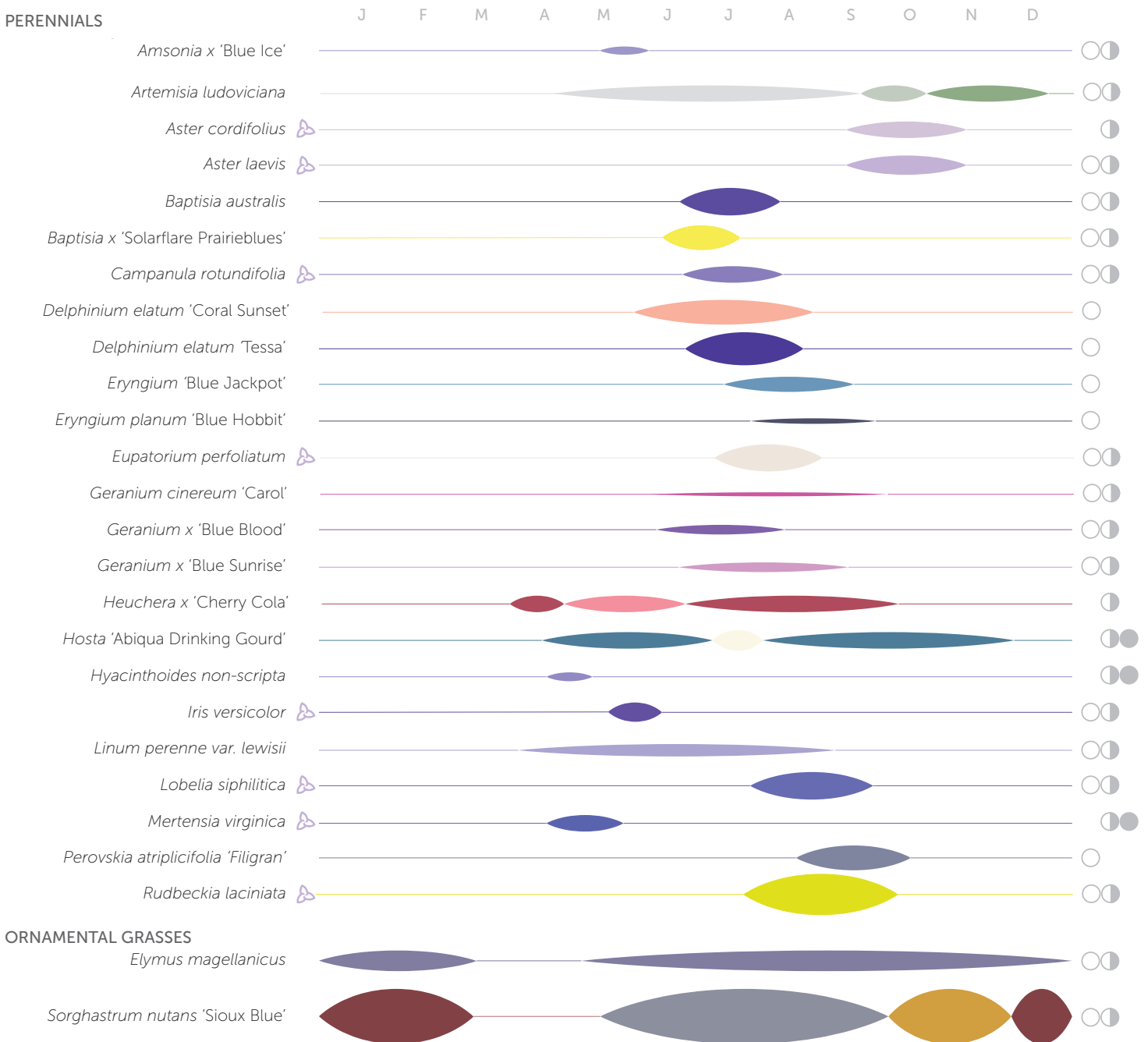


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# planting lists

## KEY SPECIES: BLUE

### PERENNIALS



indicates height of plant, colour & bloom time  
 indicates native species





*Linum perenne* var. *lewisii*  
Wild Blue Flax



*Heuchera* x 'Cherry Cola'  
Cherry Cola Coral Bells



*Hosta* 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'  
Abiqua Drinking Gourd Hosta



*Mertensia virginica*  
Virginia Blue Bells



*Artemisia ludoviciana*  
Silver Wormwood



*Iris versicolor*  
Blue Flag Iris



*Delphinium elatum* 'Tessa'  
Tessa Larkspur



*Geranium* x 'Blue Sunrise'  
Blue Sunrise Cranesbill



*Baptisia australis*  
Wild Indigo



*Eupatorium perfoliatum*  
Boneset



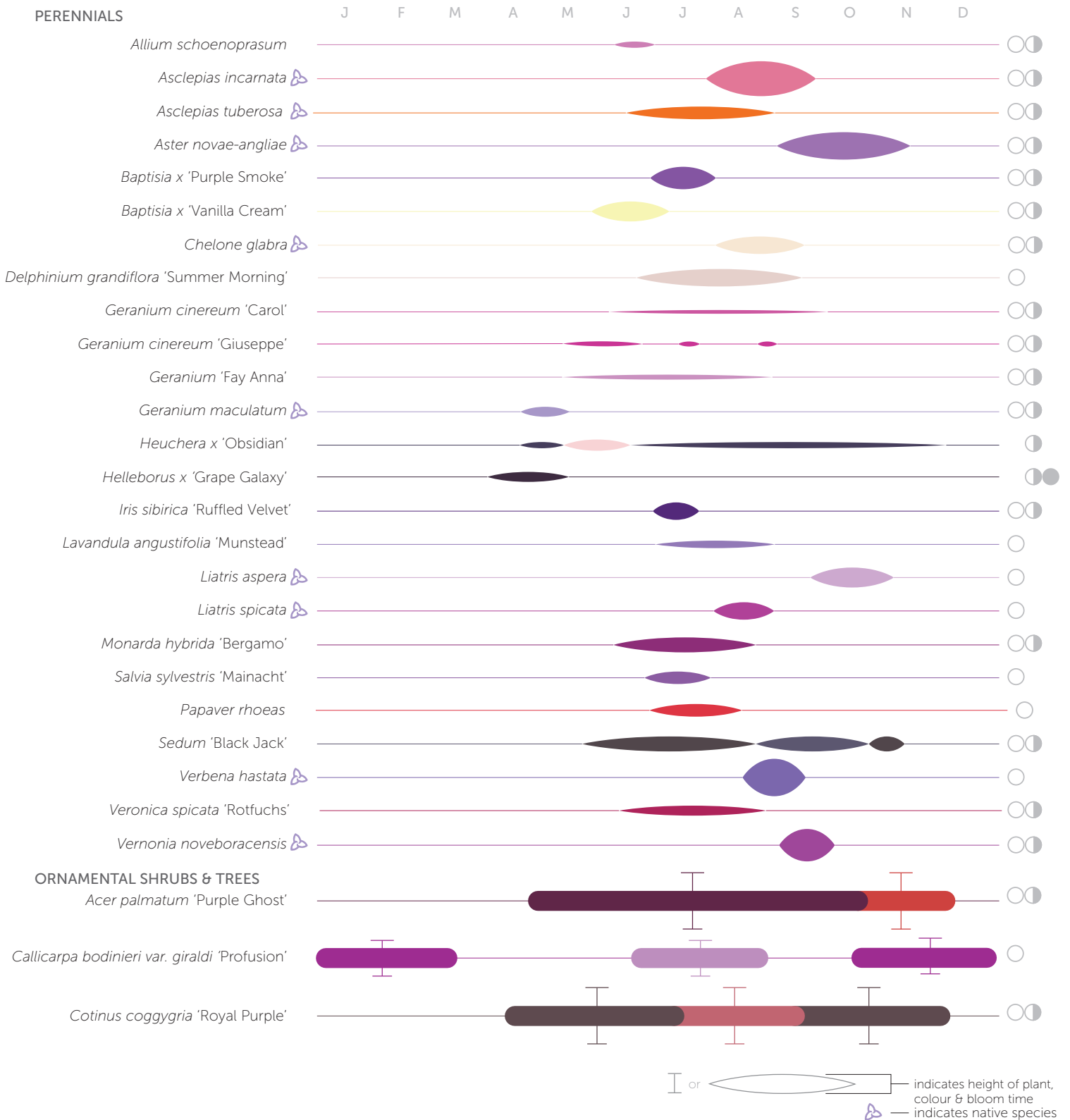
*Eryngium* 'Jackpot'  
Jackpot Sea Holly



*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Filgran'  
Filgran Russian Sage



## KEY SPECIES: PURPLE





*Helleborus x 'Grape Galaxy'*  
Grape Galaxy Christmas Rose



*Heuchera x 'Obsidian'*  
Obsidian Coral Bells



*Geranium 'Fay Anna'*  
Fay Anna Cranesbill



*Baptisia x 'Vanilla Cream'*  
Vanilla Cream Indigo



*Monarda hybridia 'Bergamo'*  
Silver Wormwood



*Allium schoenoprasum*  
Chives



*Asclepias tuberosa*  
Butterfly Milkweed



*Salvia sylvestris 'Mainacht'*  
May Night Wood Sage



*Iris sibirica 'Ruffled Velvet'*  
Ruffled Velvet Siberian Iris



*Chelone glabra*  
Turtlehead



*Liastris spicata*  
Dense Blazing Star

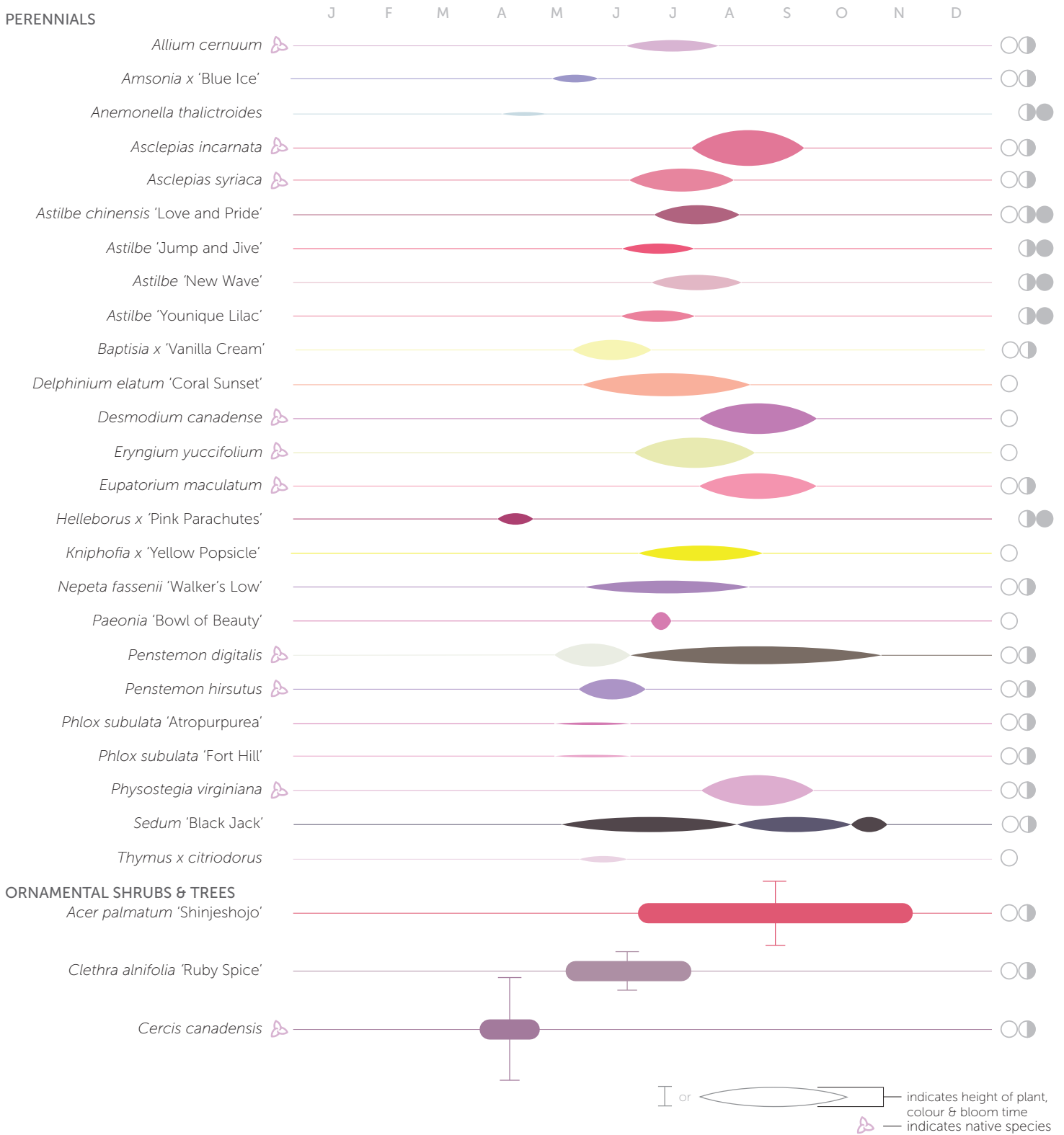


*Vernonia noveboracensis*  
Ironweed



## KEY SPECIES: PINK

### PERENNIALS







*Anemonella thalictroides*  
Rue Anemone



*Phlox subulata* 'Atropurpurea'  
Purple Moss Phlox



*Penstemon hirsutus*  
Hairy Beardtongue



*Delphinium elatum* 'Coral Sunset'  
Coral Sunset Larkspur



*Nepeta fassenii* x 'Walker's Low'  
Walker's Low Catmint



*Astilbe* 'Youngique Lilac'  
Youngique Lilac Astilbe



*Thymus citriodorus*  
Lemon Thyme



*Allium cernuum*  
Nodding Wild Onion



*Asclepias syriaca*  
Common Milkweed



*Eryngium yuccifolium*  
Rattlesnake Master



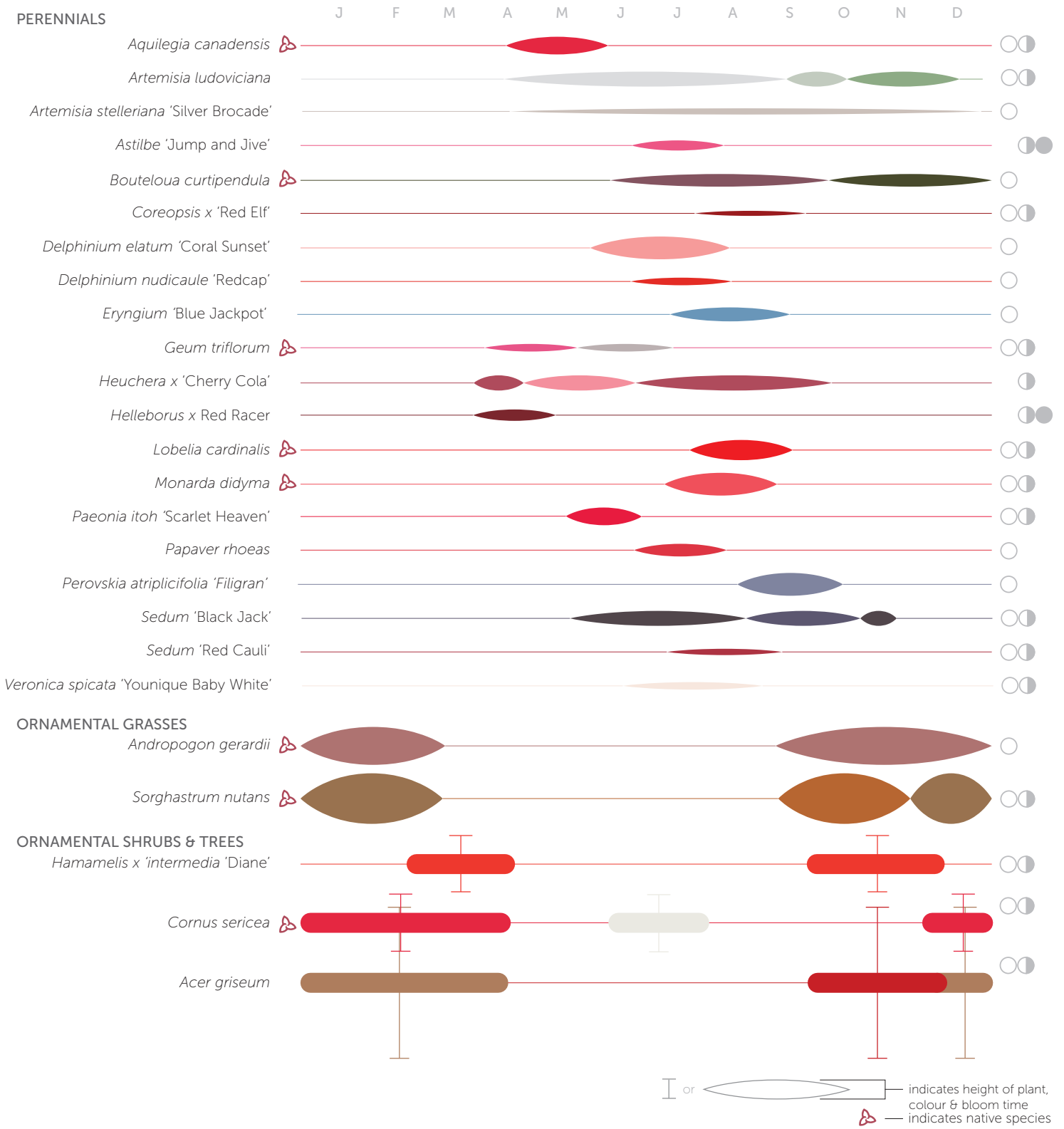
*Paeonia* 'Bowl of Beauty'  
Bowl of Beauty Peony



*Asclepias incarnata*  
Swamp Milkweed



## KEY SPECIES: RED





*Helleborus x 'Red Racer'*  
Red Racer Hellebore



*Artemisia ludoviciana*  
Silver Wormwood



*Aquilegia canadensis*  
Eastern Columbine



*Paeonia itoh 'Scarlet Heaven'*  
Scarlet Heaven Peony



*Sedum 'Black Jack'*  
Black Jack Stonecrop



*Veronica spicata 'Baby White'*  
Baby White Speedwell



*Andropogon gerardii*  
Big Bluestem



*Astilbe 'Jump and Jive'*  
Jump and Jive Astilbe



*Mondarda didyma*  
Bee Balm



*Sedum 'Red Cauli'*  
Red Cauli Stonecrop



*Lobelia cardinalis*  
Cardinal Flower

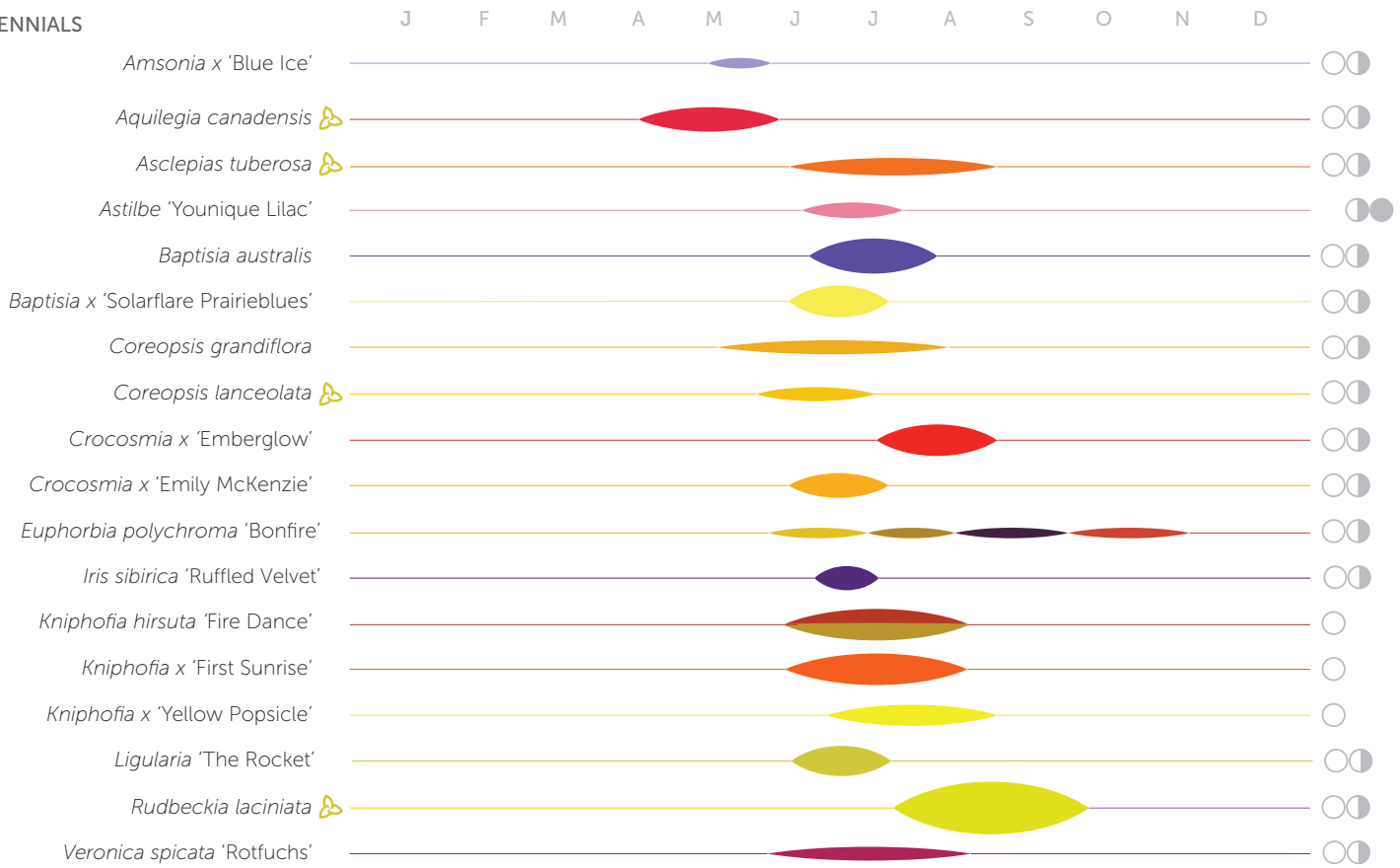


*Coreopsis x 'Red Elf'*  
Red Elf Tickseed



# KEY SPECIES: YELLOW-ORANGE

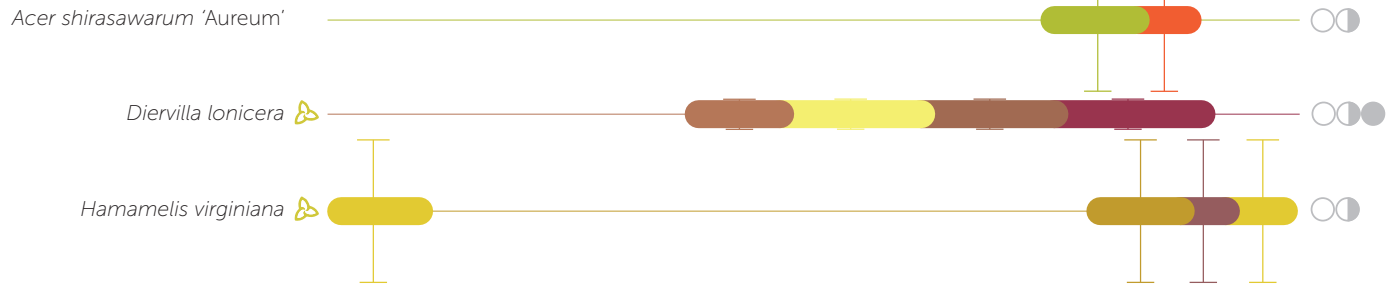
## PERENNIALS



## ORNAMENTAL GRASSES



## ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS & TREES



I or indicates height of plant, colour & bloom time  
 indicates native species



*Coreopsis grandiflora*  
Big Flower Coreopsis



*Amsonia 'Blue Ice'*  
Blue Star



*Euphorbia polychroma 'Bonfire'*  
Bonfire Cushion Spurge



*Baptisia x 'Solar Flare'*  
Solar Flare Wild Indigo



*Crocosmia 'Emily McKenzie'*  
Emily McKenzie Crocosmia



*Kniphofia hirsuta 'Fire Dance'*  
Fire Dance Torchlily



*Kniphofia x 'First Sunrise'*  
First Sunrise Torchlily



*Baptisia australis*  
Wild Indigo



*Iris sibirica 'Ruffled Velvet'*  
Ruffled Velvet Siberian Iris



*Rudbeckia laciniata*  
Cutleaf Coneflower



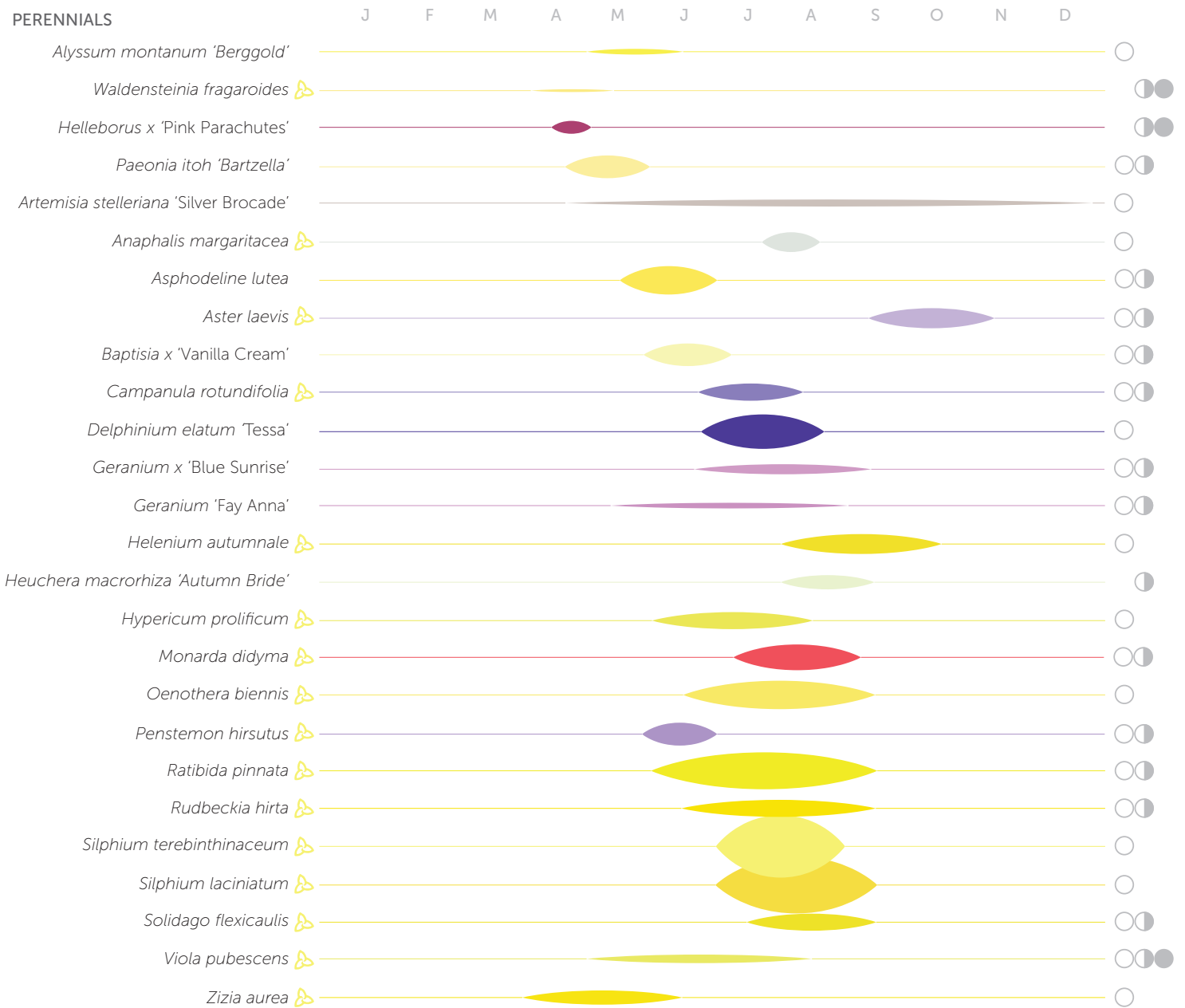
*Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'*  
Shenandoah Switch Grass



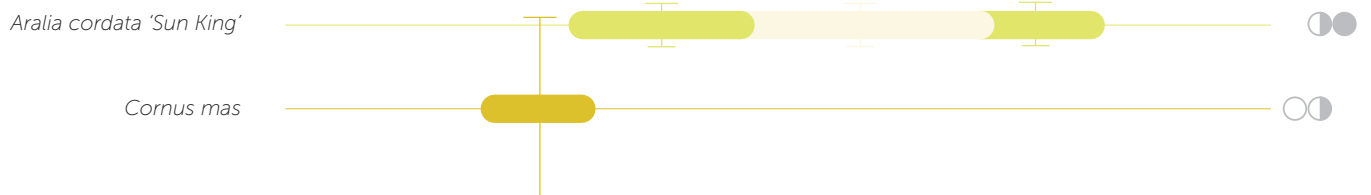
*Acer shirasawarum 'Aureum'*  
Golden Full Moon Maple



## KEY SPECIES: YELLOW-GREEN

### PERENNIALS



### ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS & TREES



I or  indicates height of plant, colour & bloom time  
 indicates native species





*Zizia aurea*  
Golden Alexanders



*Waldensteinia fragaroides*  
Barren Strawberry



*Paeonia itoh* 'Bartzella'  
Bartzella Peony



*Artemisia stelleriana* 'Silver Brocade'  
Silver Brocade Artemisia



*Alyssum montanum* 'Berggold'  
Mountain Gold



*Asphodeline lutea*  
King's Spear



*Ratibida pinnata*  
Grey Headed Coneflower



*Geranium* x 'Blue Sunrise'  
Blue Sunrise Geranium



*Solidago flexicaulis*  
Zig Zag Goldenrod



*Anaphalis margaritacea*  
Pearly Everlasting



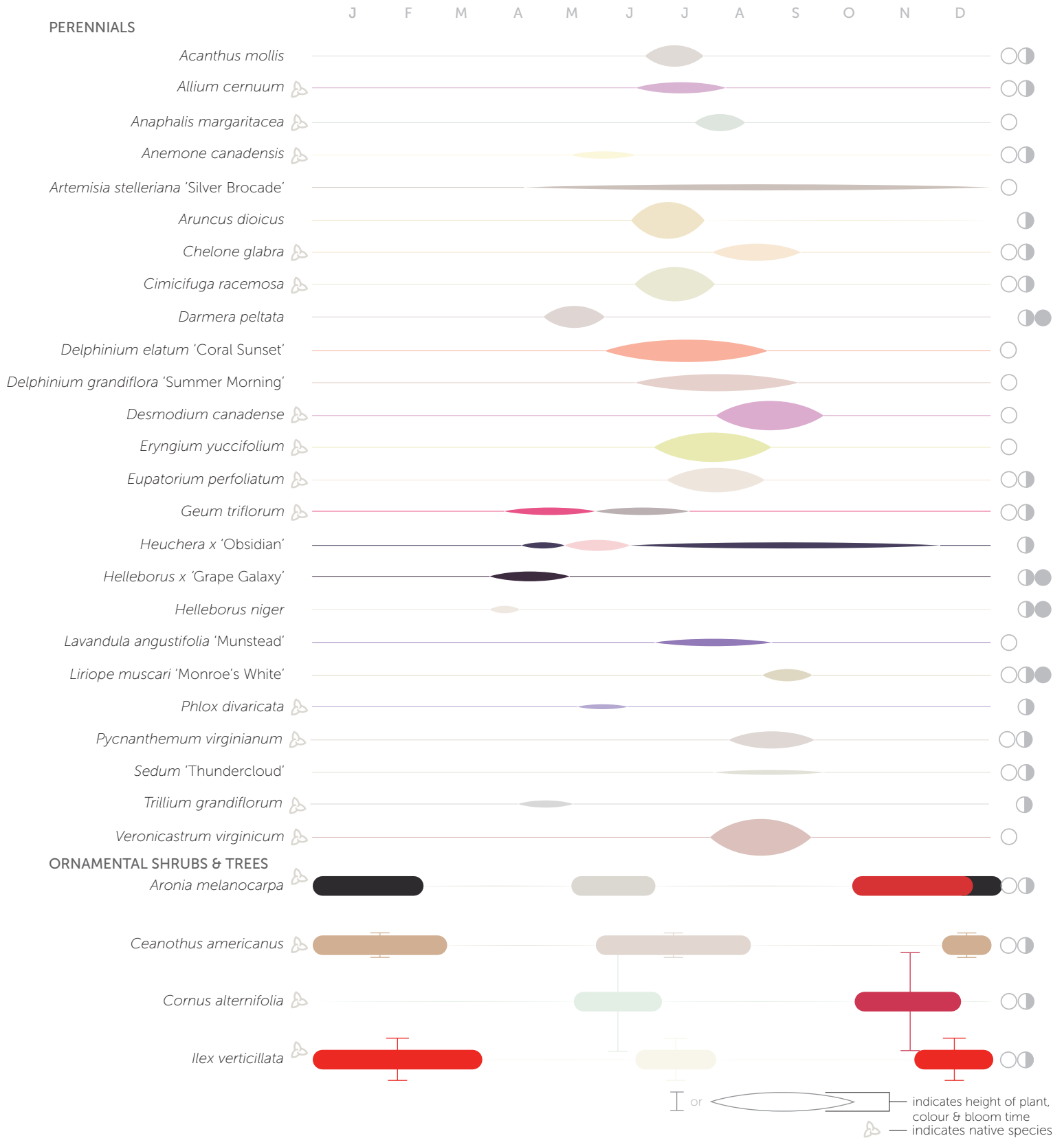
*Helenium autumnale*  
Sneezeweed



*Heuchera macrorhiza* 'Autumn Bride'  
Autumn Bride Coral Bells



## KEY SPECIES: WHITE





*Helleborus niger*  
Christmas Rose



*Geum triflorum*  
Prairie Smoke



*Heuchera x 'Obsidian'*  
Obsidian Coral Bells



*Aruncus dioicus*  
Goatsbeard



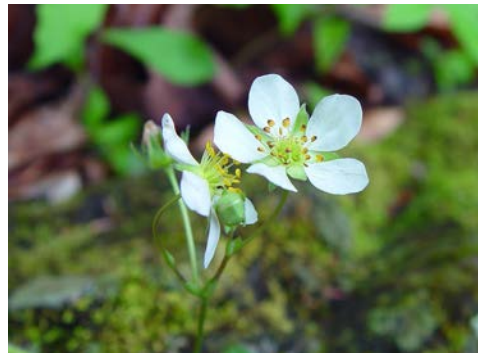
*Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Brocade'*  
Silver Brocade Artemisia



*Anemone canadensis*  
Canadian Anemone



*Cimicifuga racemosa*  
Black Cohosh



*Fragaria virginiana*  
Strawberry



*Lavandula angustifolia 'Munstead'*  
Munstead English Lavender



*Eupatorium perfoliatum*  
Boneset



*Anaphalis margaritacea*  
Pearly Everlasting

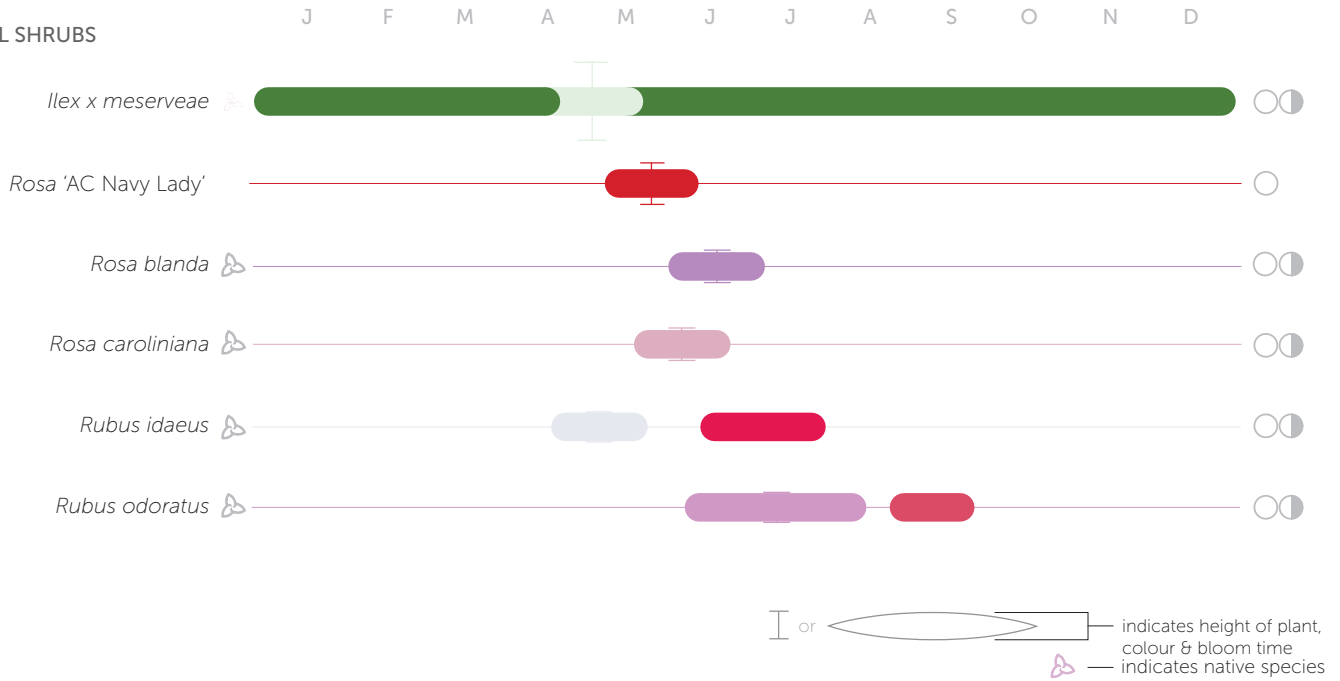


*Sedum 'Thundercloud'*  
White Stonecrop



# THICKET GARDEN

## ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS





*Ilex x meserveae*  
Hybrid Holly



*Rosa 'AC Navy Lady'*  
Navy Lady Rose



*Rosa blanda*  
Early Wild Rose



*Rosa caroliniana*  
Carolina Rose



*Rubus idaeus*  
Red Raspberry



*Rubus odoratus*  
Purple Flowering Raspberry



# construction practices

## **CENTRAL AXIS GARDEN**

- All new perennials and forbes should be planted in as 1 Gallon Containers.
- All new shrubs planted in perennial border gardens should be a minimum of 5 Gallon Size
- Spacing - Perennials should be spaced at 30cm O.C. on average unless otherwise stated
- All specimen shrubs / small trees should be spaced 5m apart at minimum and should be set at least 2m from the garden edge)
- Existing trees along the axis path are to remain, however, when these trees fail, they should not be replaced. The objective is to create a more open view between the Bickford House and the Bluff Edge

## **PERENNIAL BORDER GARDENS**

- All new perennials and forbes should be planted in as 1 Gallon Containers.
- All new shrubs planted in perennial border gardens should be a minimum of 5 Gallon Size
- Spacing - Perennials should be spaced at 30cm O.C. on average unless otherwise stated
- All specimen shrubs / small trees should be spaced 5m apart at minimum and should be set at least 4m from the garden edge (except in the central axis walk garden where shrubs may be set a minimum of 2m from the garden edge)
- Refer to Appendix A for species list

## **THICKET**

- All new shrubs to be planted in the thicket garden should be a minimum of 3 Gallon size
- Spacing - 50cm O.C.
- Maintain at maximum height of 1.2 m

## **HEDGE**

- Beech hedge specimens should be 125cm height, 5 Gallon Container
- Spacing - 60cm O.C.
- Maintain annually at 6ft height with hedge trimmer

## **NATURALIZED WOODLAND**

- All new perennials planted in the naturalized woodlands should be 9cm pot or plugs
- All new trees should be maximum 50mm in size
- Plant in early spring while in leaf
- Native savannah-style seed mix to be sown until such a time that the woodland has established. Ongoing stewardship required to foster adaptation from open savannah to closed woodland.

## **ORCHARD**

- All new trees should be minimum 60mm in size, balled and burlapped
- Spacing - 3-6m O.C.
- Planting locations to be determined on site so as not to conflict with existing trees and their root systems

## **LAWNS**

- Existing lawns should be aerated and over-seeded with a mix of turf quality perennial Ryegrass, Creeping Red Fescue, and Chewings Fescue and maintained to City of Toronto standards
- Aerate lawn annually in late spring, and following high volume events

## **SITE PREPARATION**

- Native soil preferred
- All planting to occur between May 25th (or 2 weeks after last frost) and June 20th, or else between September 15th and November 1st
- Soil test to be carried out for new garden beds and appropriate soil amendments made if necessary

## **GENERAL RULES**

- All final planting placement decisions should be made on site. Those undertaking planting should make note of soil moisture levels and shade levels prior to making final planting selections.
- In general, plant spacing is intended to be tight and massed for higher resilience
- All new garden beds, where rounded, to have a minimum radius of 3m to allow for efficient lawn mowing. (there are two locations showing where existing beds tie in with new planting where it is not possible to maintain this radius as the existing beds show smaller radii)
- Edge treatment of planting beds to be brick or stone. Final detail to be defined through Landscape Plan.



# maintenance

The success of the new horticultural strategy will hinge upon a rigorous maintenance program. There are currently two gardeners on staff as well as a number of general maintenance staff who perform grass cutting and cleaning duties. This plan proposes the addition of a volunteer force to help maintain the gardens in pristine condition. Volunteer programs have been established successfully in other City parks including Berczy Park, Allan Gardens, and the Toronto Botanical Gardens. These parks may provide valuable insight into how such a volunteer program might be established.

## **ON-SITE COMPOST**

Organic natural compost may be added to gardens annually as long as the pH levels of the soil will be unaffected. An on-site compost system should be established in order to close the loop on garden waste. Dead or cut plant material will be composted on site and used as soil amendment in the following seasons once the vegetative material is broken down into a texture more resembling soil free of large fragments.

## **LAWN MAINTENANCE**

A 1-2m wide mowing strip should be maintained around all natural areas. This strip will identify the edge of natural systems and reinforce the concept of messy systems in clean frames.

Lawns should be mowed weekly throughout the gardens, and every 2-3 weeks in orchard and beyond thicket

## **ON-GOING WEEDING CYCLE**

As with any garden, regular weeding should take place to ensure intended planting is not overtaken by invasive species. It should be noted that this style of garden, once established, should require less weeding than traditional planted gardens. Under proper maintenance new plant material will become established after 2 growing seasons. Up until the 2 year establishment period, aggressive weeding may be required approximately once per month during the height of the growing season (June - August). Volunteers may undertake weeding responsibilities if they are educated on which species are intentional and which are invasive and require removal

## **REPLACEMENT OF DEAD SPECIMENS**

In the occasion that a perennial or shrub specimen dies, it should be replaced with same species unless there is more than 30% loss two seasons in a row or more than 80% loss in a single season. The replacement species must be of a similar size, colour and plant typology (primary, scatter, or matrix). All planting replacement must take place between May 25 (or 2 weeks after last frost) - June 20 or September 15th to November 1st.

## **WATERING SCHEDULE**

Irrigation is encouraged throughout the perennial beds. Watering frequency should be kept to watering during drought periods when there are more than 2 weeks without significant rainfall or when temperature remains above 30 degrees Celsius for 3 days or more. Watering should always be done in the evening or early morning to reduce loss due to evaporation. The volume of water used should be enough to penetrate the soil to a depth of 10cm. As a general rule, gardens should receive 2.5cm of water per week.

## **TREE PRUNING**

All trees within the gardens (not within the ESA boundary or natural areas) should be pruned by an ISA certified arborist to remove any deadwood and/or hazard limbs. All trees along the main axis walkway should be pruned to provide clearance of 4m allowing for more expansive views. Any suckering from the base of trees and shrubs should be removed annually.

## **PERENNIAL BEDS - WINTER MANAGEMENT**

Cut all perennials to minimum of 20cm height in late winter / early spring. If perennials are cut shorter, they may suffer from frost damage and may not grow back in the spring. Add mulch (hardwood chip) only when new material is planted or when there are gaps or openings in the bed due to dead material.



