

Charlotte Sagoff Library Memorial Garden Recommendations

Date: May 5, 2009
To: Mary Michelman and Charlotte Sagoff Memorial Committee
From: Cathy Fochtman / 978-263-5806 / fochtman@verizon.net
CC: Tom Tidman, Dean Charter, Joan Yatteau, Celia Kent, Bruce Carley
Attachments: Suggested Plant List, Notated Site Photos, Conceptual Design Sketch

Mary,

It is with great enthusiasm that I share my recommendations for implementing the much-anticipated planting and maintenance of the Charlotte Sagoff Memorial Garden, located at the main entry to the Acton Memorial Library. <http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/garden.htm>
I am volunteering to help organize this effort and offer you the following information.

During this winter and spring, I've collected the thoughts and ideas of your committee members and sought the same from other suggested individuals and groups, including Celia Kent, Bruce Carley and members of the Acton Garden Club. It is clear that there is a strong interest in creating a sustainable tribute to Charlotte, with flower/foliage characteristics that include drought tolerance; use of native plants, herbs, daisies, groundcovers, bulbs and wildflowers; easy care; fragrant; tall plants along the sidewalk to provide screening and between the children's library windows; spring to fall continuum of bloom; tapestry of varied foliage.

Maintenance

When approaching any garden installation, the planning of maintenance must be a primary consideration. Here are several points to keep in mind:

The garden must be maintained with volunteer labor. Town employee manpower is not available for routine maintenance, so this garden will be a labor of love. Weekly weeding, watering when necessary, and deadheading spent flowers must be routinely performed to keep the site attractive. I am forming a committee of volunteers that are willing to serve any two weeks over the summer and fall to help maintain the garden. Two 1 – 2 hour visits each week are recommended. Instructions will be supplied. Please contact me to sign up.

Due to the necessity of snow removal from the parking lot and sidewalks during the winter, care must be taken to minimize mechanical damage to the garden accessories that are installed above ground level, including benches and urns. I recommend that these items be removed and stored in a sheltered storage area over the winter. We must also anticipate that garden volunteers will be responsible for correcting any snow plow mechanical damage, particularly along the sidewalk. This may include garden bed erosion and replacing plants in the spring.

For any ongoing site requirements, we will consult with Town Department Director Dean Charter of Municipal Properties, keeping him informed of the status of the project and seeking his approval for any changes.

Materials

I propose that the plant material be obtained from a solicitation of donations. I have drafted a list of suggested plants and will circulate it to the above parties. Additional recommendations for plants that match the site criteria are welcome. Donations will be collected at my home, beginning SATURDAY, MAY 9, along my driveway at 184 Nagog Hill Rd., over the next three weeks. Donators are encouraged to notify me of their intended donation, and to supply a plant label including name, height, and color when they drop off their much appreciated gift. I will leave a supply of blank plant labels and writing tools at the collection area. The installation date will be Saturday, May 30 at 7:30 AM and if you are interested in volunteering, please let me know.

The lighting conditions at the entryway to the Acton Memorial Library are unique and challenging due to deep morning shade and hot afternoon sun (see attached photos). In keeping with the goal of sustainability, plant choices should have the ability to thrive without intensive care and with minimal watering. Invasive or rampantly spreading plants should be avoided.

Garden material donations would be welcome: shredded leaves and compost. When the plants are installed, a 3-inch layer of mulch, including these materials, will be applied. This should be replenished each spring to keep down weeds and maintain moisture in the soil.

Garden Design

- Need plants that can take morning shade and afternoon sun.
- Install a few shrubs and grasses that will surround the dogwood tree, and edge the garden bed. They will provide a windbreak, close the garden from foot traffic and provide winter interest.
- Avoid putting flowering plants which attract a LOT of bees (like asters, sedum, hyssop...) right next to the benches
- Place plants that can be more easily replaced near sidewalk

Color

Spring: Pink, purple, white, blue, yellow

Summer and Fall: Blue and hot colors: blue, white, yellow, orange, red, coral...

Winter: The garden will go to bed for the winter; planters and benches will be removed

Shrubs, tree and grasses will provide winter interest

Planters

Three large cast stone urns, the Greenwich Urn from Campania (27" W x 26.5" H) will be located on cement pads surrounding the brick walkway and patio. They are on order from Cavicchio Nursery and will be shipped in two weeks. I will arrange to have them installed on site and will purchase potting soil and container plants for them.

Plant Candidates Charlotte's Garden

Needs to tolerate dry site, morning shade - afternoon sun

Spring: Pink, purple, white, blue, yellow

Hellebore (Lenten Rose) 18", mounding, leathery leaves, early pendulous flowers

Camassia (Wild Hyacinth) , 2-3', native bulb, March – May

Tiarella cordifolia (Foamflower) 10", groundcover, white, bottlebrush blooms

Amsonia (Bluestar) Blue flower clusters, blooms May – June, mounding, 18-20", part shade, tolerates dry soil

Doronicum orientale 'Little Leo' (Leopard's Bane) yellow, 10-14", very early, daisy like flower

Erythronium 'Pagoda' (Dog Tooth Violet) 12", full sun – partial shade, yellow lily flowers

Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells) April, 1 ½', blue

Summer and Fall: Blue and hot colors: blue, white, yellow, orange, red, coral...

Agastache (Hyssop)

Chrysanthemum x superbum (Shasta Daisy)

Eryngium (Sea Holly)

Coreopsis verticillata (Threadleaved Coreopsis)

Gallardia (Blanketflower)

Heuchera (Coral bells)

Kniphofia uvaria (Red Hot Poker)

Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue)

Asclepias (Milkweed)

Carex (Sedge)

Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)

Thymus (Creeping Thyme)

Santolina ericoides (Lavender Cotton)

Verbena bonariensis

Fall Blooming

Liatris (Blazing Star)

Echinacea purpurea (Coneflower)

Origanum 'Herrenhauser' (Ornamental Oregano)

Sedum (Stonecrop) upright & prostrate

Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed)

Shrubs & Grasses

Vaccinium augustifolium (Low bush blueberry)

Aronia melanocarpa 'Iroquois Beauty' (Black Chokeberry)

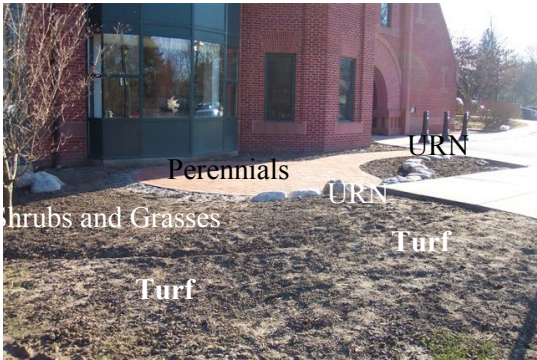
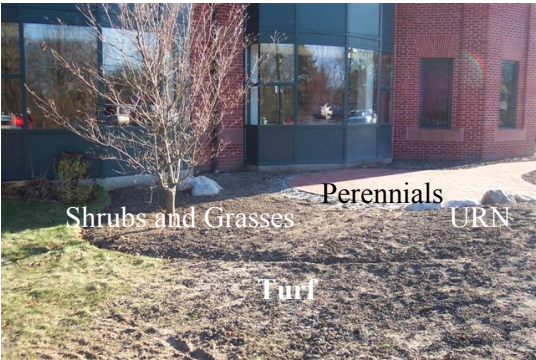
Viburnum dentatum 'Patzam' (Arrowwood)

Caryopteris 'Heavenly Blue', or 'Kew Blue' (Blue Mist Shrub)

Pennisetum 'Hameln', or 'Little Bunny' (Dwarf Fountain Grass)

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light' (Maiden Grass)

Charlotte Sagoff Garden Views – Acton Memorial Library - November 2008, 2:00 PM



Charlotte Sagoff Garden – Acton Memorial Library – April 2009, 3:00 PM



Campania "Greenwich Urn" 27" Diameter

Charlotte Sagoff Memorial Garden

Conceptual Design

