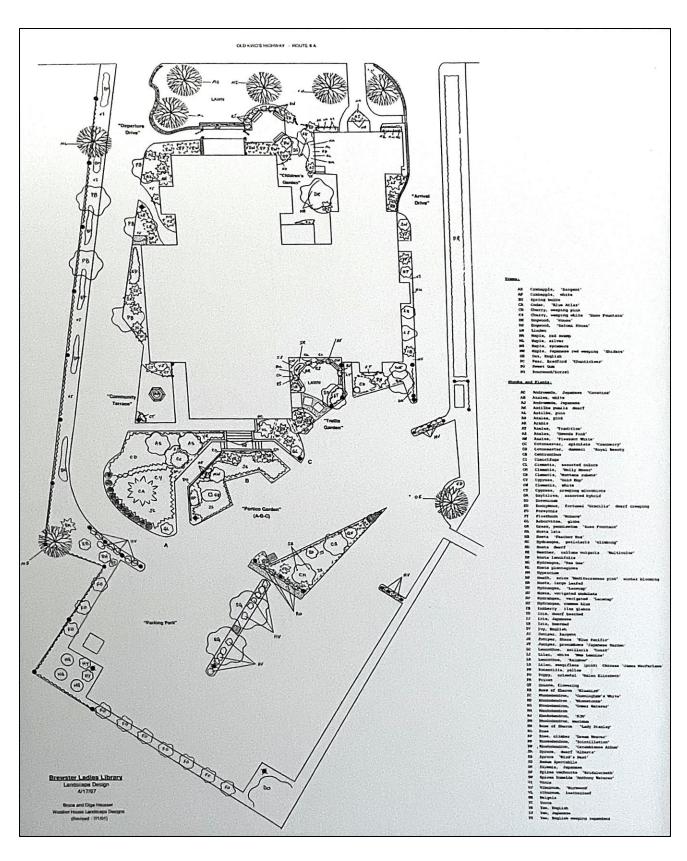


Brewster Ladies' Library Landscapes

We left Brewster Ladies Library last Wednesday with a strong sense the mulched planting areas have huge potential to become beautiful, semi-wild, educational spaces themed around Cape Cod natural communities and native plant appreciation. We admired the bare bones of this landscape and its features which subtly evoke the design-conscious formality and mystery of Japanese gardens, as well as a few spots which evoke more lush, floriferous English gardens. We hope to preserve some of these charming idiosyncrasies which will give some direction to the final design, especially regarding accessibility and legibility to the public eye, while pushing for a selection of plants and a management regime which is more resilient, more ecologically functional, and more situated within cape cod. While we are not professional designers, we offer some guiding ideas along with a list of native plants that will do well in each location, along with a basic design concept. We hope the library will take these ideas and run with them, and maybe even hire a professional ecological designer to ensure that these landscapes turn out the best they can be.



Previous Landscape Design

Hot, Sunny Spot (In front of staircase, with Japanese maple and evergreens) - "Tidy Coastal Pollinators"

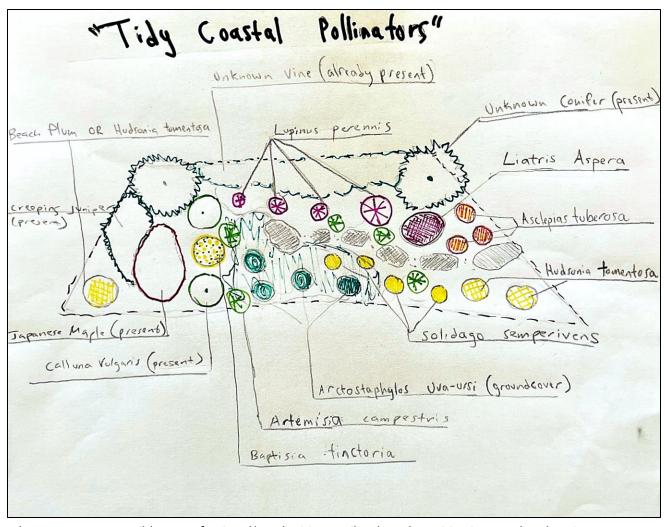
Located between the parking lot and the stairs to the entrance. This area is very evocative of Japanese gardens with well-shaped evergreens and a beautiful Japanese maple, and we want to preserve some of that orderly, relaxing framing. A garden with more tidy, well-behaved clumps of native plants with a path of rocks to hop across will make this area accessible for educational tours and light maintenance, while still providing habitat for wildlife. Coastal heathlands have many kinds of vegetation that grows in sparse patches similar to the evergreen mounds found in Japanese gardens. Our design includes some of these interesting specimens such as Wooly Beach Heather (Hudsonia tomentosa), Seaside Goldenrod (Solidago semperivens), Beach wormwood (Artemisia campestris), Sundial Lupine (Lupinus perennis), and Bearberry, along with a few other classic pollinators for hot sunny areas like butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) and rough blazing star (Liatris aspera). Since this area is somewhat small, these plants should be encouraged to form vigorous clumps, but we leave out any native plants that are real spreaders. Some minor weeding may be needed here until the bearberry and over perennials cover the bare ground - but look out for non-intrusive native weeds like oldfield toadflax, which is charming, on-theme, and good for tiny pollinators.







Sample Design:



Please excuse my terribly unprofessional handwriting. Hailey does the writing in my other drawings. - Ben





Above, *Lupinus perennis*. Left, *Hudsonia tomentosa*.



Above, Asclepias tuberosa blooms in front of Liatris aspera.
Right, Solidago semperivens.





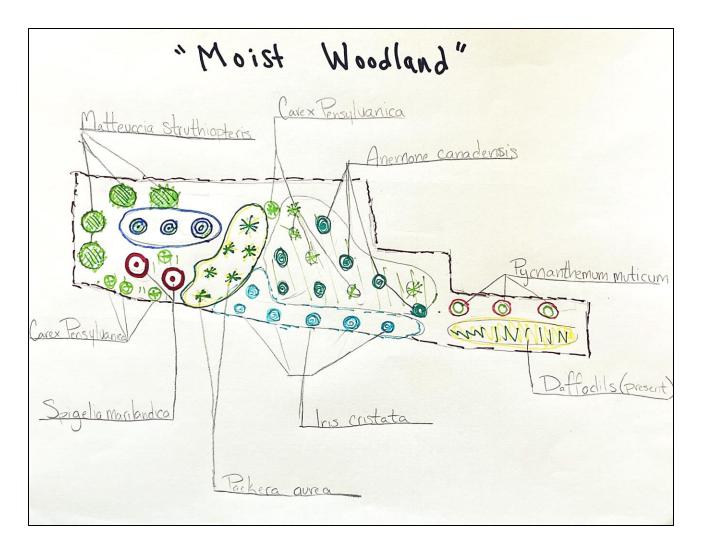
Shady Spot (formerly Rhododendrons and English ivy) - "Moist Woodland"

This planting area sits right against the building along the exit road, and is mostly in shade, although a thin section closer to the rock wall and the road seems to get more sun. The soil is relatively rich and moist, especially closer to the building in the deeper shade. The soil is a bit compacted, but this could be quickly fixed with a bit of raking/forking, and most of the plants we list here will be tolerant of those conditions no matter what. Since this area is tucked into a corner and is not highly accessible, we recommend planting this place out with a simple, low maintenance cover of something that spreads and then just leave it to itself. We offer here a plant list of good groundcovers plus a few perennials that could be snuck in for a pop of color.

In our design concept, we put tall, elegant Ostrich Ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*, edible fiddleheads in the spring!) in the wetter, shadiest location closest to the walls of the building. A small patch of great blue lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica) grows in front of the ferns for a pop of color in the late summer, along with an early summer hummingbird magnet, Woodland pinkroot (Spigelia marilandica). The rest of the area we cover with a mix of groundcovers such as Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), Canada anemone (*Anemone canadense*), golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) and dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*). A small stand of mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum sp.*) behind the daffodils ensures some later season interest once the daffodils die back and is a very consistent source of nectar for pollinators throughout the summer. All these plants require little maintenance beyond watering to get established and removing invasive weeds. These natives should be encouraged to spread as they please.



Sample Design:









From Left to Right: Lobelia siphilitca, Spigelia marilandica, and Matteuccia struthiopteris



Anemone canadense and Carex pensylvanica elegantly cover the ground.

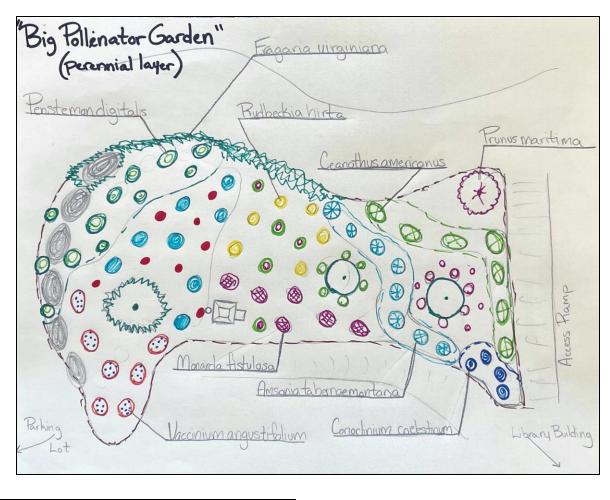
The Big Spot (with crabapple trees) - "Rambunctious Meadow Garden"

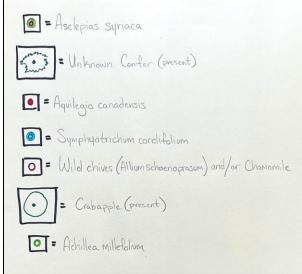
The largest unplanted area sits at a corner between the entry road and the back parking lot. This area contains two small crabapples and some kind of spruce, but otherwise it is in full sun. Since this area is very large, we think it should be planted out with large drifts of aggressively spreading native wildflowers with some ornamental grasses interspersed throughout, giving the effect of an open meadow/sparse woodland. Some wildflowers we would include in this planting would be Blue Mistflower (Conoclinium coelestinum) Foxglove beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis), Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa), Eastern Bluestar (Amsonia tabernaemontana), Canada Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis), and blue wood aster (Symphyotrichum cordifolium). Purple lovegrass, canada wild rye, and little bluestem would make up the grass layer, along with some wild strawberry (Fragaria virginiana) along the edges. Some small shrubs like a beach plum, New Jersey tea, and a few lowbush blueberries could break up some of this wild growth with more orderly clumps and rows. To protect the crabapples from grass encroachment, they could be surrounded with a ring of wild chives (Allium schoenoprasum) and Yarrow (Achillea millefolium), which are common companion plants in orchards. When the plants are put in, seeding the area out to the native nitrogen-fixer partridge pea (Chamaecrista fasciculata) in the first year could provide an early burst of growth and protect the establishing plants from getting roasted. The grass layer can also be broadcast seeded or interspersed as plugs throughout the planting based on moisture/light conditions.





Sample Design:







Above, penstemon digitalis (left) and vaccinium angustifolium (right)



To the right, Rudbeckia hirta blooms within a field of Eragrostis spectibilis, purple lovegrass

Above, *Ceanothus* americanus, New Jersey tea

Right, Monarda fistulosa, Rudbeckia hirta, and Asclepias syriaca bloom together in a summer meadow





Additional Resources

Sources for Purchase of Native Plant and Seed

Mail Order

- Prairie Moon Nurseries plants & seeds https://www.prairiemoon.com/
- Izel Native Plants –bulk plugs https://www.izelplants.com/
- Ernst Seeds (seeds by the pound) https://www.ernstseed.com/
- Wild Seed Project, Maine (seeds) https://wildseedproject.net/

Specialty Nurseries

- Native Plant Trust, Garden in the Woods, Framingham https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/for-your-garden/buy-nativeplants/
- Polly Hill Arboretum, West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard http://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/
- New England Wetland Plants, Amherst https://newp.com/
- Bluestem Natives, Norwell https://www.bluestemnatives.com/
- Cochato Nursery, Holbrook https://www.cochatonursery.com/
- Cape Coastal Nursery, South Dennis http://www.capecoastalnursery.com/

Other Nurseries Who Carry Some Natives

- Sylvan Nurseries, Westport http://sylvannurseries.com/retail
- Cape Abilities Farm, Rt 6A, Dennis https://www.capeabilitiesfarm.org/
- Soares Nursery, East Falmouth https://www.soaresflowergardennursery.com/
- Crocker Nursery, Brewster https://crockernurseries.com/
- Hyannis Country Garden, Hyannis https://www.hyanniscountrygarden.com/
- Ponderosa Market Place & Garden Center, Eastham https://ponderosagardencenter.com/
- Bayberry Gardens, Rt 6, Truro https://bayberrygardens.com/

Guidebooks about Ecological Garden Design

- **Planting in a Post-Wild World by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer (2015)**
- The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden, Rick Darke and Douglas Tallamy (2014)
- Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead, Chase-Rowell, et. al. (2012)

Eco-Landscape Practioners:

- Alex Kent, Kent Land Design, Wellfleet https://www.kentlanddesign.com/
- Wilkinson Ecological Design, Orleans http://www.wilkinsonecological.com/
- BlueFlax Design, Harwich Port https://www.blueflaxdesign.com/
- Crawford Land Management http://crawfordlm.com/contact/
- Tyler Gadreau, Environmental Landscape Solutions, Mashpee https://elscapecod.com/about
- Colleen Curley, Truro <u>naturalisticgardendesign@gmail.com</u>; <u>coleencurley@ymail.com</u>, Phone # 786-848-3798
- Harrow & Seed, Orleans http://www.harrowseed.com/
- Barbara Conolly, Gardens by Barbara Conolly, Falmouth https://www.gardensbybarbaraconolly.com/
- Julie Esteves, JuliaGardens, Osterville https://www.juliagardenosterville.com/about
- Marie Chieppo, EcoPlant Plans, Sagamore Beach https://ecoplantplans.com/about/
- Shannon Goheen, Second Nature Gardenworks, Dennis Port https://www.secondnaturegardenworks.com/
- Ecological Landscape Alliance member directory: https://www.ecolandscaping.org/member-directory/