

*Sprengren & Keller*

**LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN**





we make paradise possible

## LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN

### PRIMARY DESIGN IDEAS:

Every property presents unique opportunities and challenges, and every client has particular desires and uses for their landscape. Through repeated visits and conversations, we try to understand your special site, its surroundings, and your goals for us. Our task is to marry possibility and practicality in innovative ways for you, and create gardens that bring lasting pleasure.

#### For your site, we've identified the following design goals:

- **RELATE RESIDENCE TO SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE:** The new plantings are conceived to create a natural and tranquil transition between the human made elements of the landscape and the surrounding woods. The design goals are to better integrate the house into the landscape, to build a garden that looks native and unfussy, and to soften and visually enhance the residence.
- **FOCUS VIEWS AND CREATE MEANINGFUL SPACES:** The lot is gracious, but most of the space beyond the patios—open lawn and encroaching woods—feels empty, purposeless and unwelcoming. We want the outdoors and the indoors to feel seamlessly connected and visually dynamic. This will be achieved through better circulation and sight lines created by planting beds, the artful placement of trees and shrubs or other large/permanent elements of the landscape (stone, lighting, patios), and the addition of beckoning physical or visual destinations — seating, garden ornament.
- **ESTABLISH COHESION:** It is important in any landscape to unify the gardens through repetition of plant material; this provides a flow from area to area and allows the entire landscape to feel like a cohesive space. In your landscape, our emphasis will be on utilizing masses of native plants to create the illusion that the gardens are natural, not planted.
- **PROVIDE YEAR ROUND INTEREST:** With the right selection of plants, interest can be assured in all seasons. Tree branching, bark, evergreen foliage, seasonal flowers, deciduous foliage color, and plant form all provide interest, structure, contrast, and appeal.
- **MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE:** No residential landscape is maintenance-free, but we have made design decisions and plant selections to keep your maintenance as minimal as possible while still achieving other design goals.
- **SCREEN UNDESIRABLE VIEWS:** Although you don't seem terribly concerned about screening any views, this seems like an opportune moment to consider screening views of the neighbor's pool and the house across the street.



## SPECIFIC DESIGN IDEAS (see drawing for corresponding numbers)

### Area #1 - front of residence

The idea here is to enhance curb appeal, minimize paving dominance, create a more dynamic front entrance, and to partially screen the house across the street. This will be achieved with a new curving driveway layout and landscape plantings (see detail on attached concept sketch and additional notes below). New driveway lighting and mailbox are also advisable (images below provided for inspiration only).

The current driveway layout is straightforward, but uninspired; the proposed driveway layout encourages a slower, more thoughtful approach to the house and allows us to screen the driveway from both front door and road. A turn-around space and extra parking will be retained, but reconfigured as shown. Surface of the new driveway can be asphalt or, if budget permits, oil & stone with cobblestone elements (see images).



oil & stone, belgian block



driveway lighting



mailbox



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## Area #1 (continued):

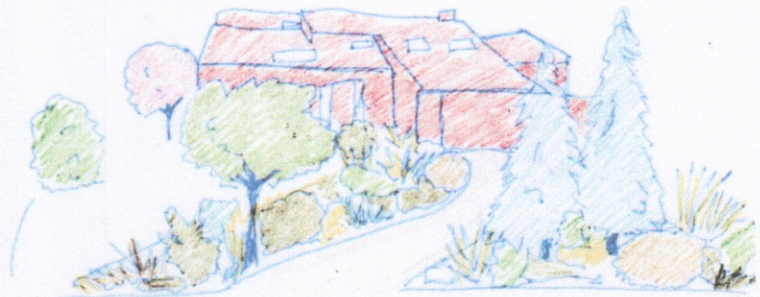
A swath of natural-looking, cohesive plantings are proposed to hug the driveway, road frontage and front patio to soften the hardscapes, anchor the human-made elements into the landscape, offer visual interest to complement the residence, and screen unwanted views. Recommended plant palette includes conifers, boxwood, ornamental grasses, bayberry, azaleas, blueberries, mountain laurel, and herbaceous perennials — plants chosen for a *relatively* low-maintenance, native, unfussy garden. A few specimen trees are noted on the plan - evergreens (japanese cedar) and a deciduous tree (a pin oak, ginkgo, or cornelian cherry). The new plantings are conceived to create a natural and tranquil transition between the human made elements of the landscape and the “wild” surrounding woods. Some native rocks, which relate to the stone ledge found in the area, can be placed in the planting beds for interest and mass.



inspirational planting: a mix of shrubs and ground covers for texture and color



curved driveway flanked by plantings, slower approach to entrance



quick concept sketch - your residence from road



## Area #2: North/Right side of residence

The third garage adds a bit more interest and complexity to the house's architecture. However, the slope of the lot makes this side of the residence read very tall; trees are called for to both soften the expanse of siding and improve human scale for the new patio area.

The proposed trees are a combination of Japanese maple, paperbark maple, and dogwood.



Japanese maple, paperbark maple, native dogwood - pink

These trees will frame the exposed side of the new patio and create a courtyard effect, which should make spending time there pleasant and peaceful. Although the original drawings showed sufficient space for planting along both sides of stairs, the actual construction does not allow for that.



We propose creating a very narrow planting strip along back side of garage wall to allow for clematis vines on trellis. A small planting bed should be created on other side of stairs to screen propane tank.



**Area #2 (continued):**

Ideally these trees would be underplanted with low maintenance, robust, deer resistant perennials - ferns, perennial geranium, hellebores, and shade-tolerant ornamental grasses. A proposed path into lawn is indicated on drawing and would be roughly aligned with new woodland path. New furniture for the patio should have simple, clean, strong lines - nothing too ornate or delicate. A focal point of some kind would enhance the patio - possibly a small water feature, but this may be more involved than you want. One specimen tree —a katsura — is proposed for the back corner of the lawn as a counterpoint to the house and the surrounding woodland and screening of neighbor's shed. (Option: clear a spot in the woodland edge to plant evergreen trees to screen neighbor's pool.)

**Area #3: Back side of house/screened porch**

The recommended plantings for this area are minimal. The focal point is newly opened views to the dramatic woodland behind house. Sides of new deck require some planting —a mass of Viburnums is suggested to wrap around the sides. These might require some protective, low visibility fencing to curb deer browsing.



Viburnums



Some simple, very natural-looking plantings (naturalized deer-resistant perennials, masses of ferns) at the entrance to, and in pockets along, the new woodland path are suggested for understory interest and rhythm.



naturalized woodland perennials



**Area #3 (continued):**

A simple, rustic bench or hammock along the new woodland path— somewhat visible from the porch— would provide a nice resting spot and visual interest.



bench along woodland path

Finally, the new deck and outdoor living configuration might involve some furniture and decor changes. ? To my mind, the woodland setting calls for materials, colors and designs that seem to belong in such a setting - wood or concrete, simple and strong.

**Area 4: south side of house - along chimney**

The current planting bed footprint would be retained and populated with a simple combination of plants used both behind house (Viburnum) and in front beds (Mountain Laurel, Azaleas, boxwood, grasses). The existing plants would be re-utilized in front planting beds. A grouping of three Viburnums would be planted along woodland edge to smooth transition between cultivated and wild spaces and also to relate to Viburnums planted around porch.