

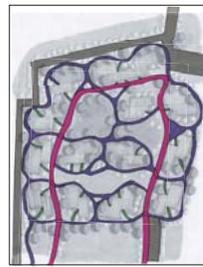
A plan for the Cottage Gardens Community

Yonkers, New York

Meeting the needs of the Community of Cottage Gardens, addressing issues of the site, creating a better, healthier place to live using a layered, seemingly pastoral approach; while providing opportunities for play, peace, exercise, privacy, interaction, reflection, congregation, contemplation, celebration, movement -- living -- through a series of "moments" organized on a grid.

The layers include:

1. Regrade, reduce impervious surfaces, increase planted areas, establish green roofs, install on-site storm water management system to address erosion issue, reduce contribution to municipal storm sewer system and provide a softer, cooler, shadier, more aesthetically pleasing site.
2. Safer, more pedestrian-friendly circulation system, with direct routes and extensive, winding paths for strolling, exercise or play.



Circulation

- Vehicular circulation and parking
- Major pedestrian circulation and emergency vehicle access
- Minor pedestrian circulation

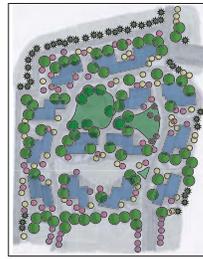


On-site Stormwater Management

- Green Roof
- Pond & Wet/dry stream system
- Porous paving
- Biofiltration swales

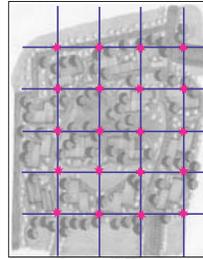


Community Drum Circle



Planting

- Evergreens
- Shade trees
- Minor deciduous understory /or flowering trees
- Lawn alternative
- Green roof



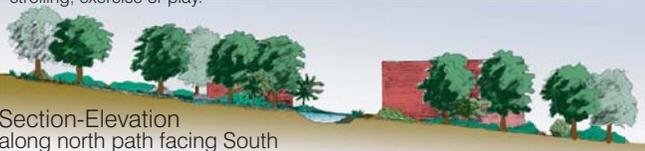
Moments organized on a Grid

* "Moments"

GREEN ROOF



LAWN ALTERNATIVES



Section-Elevation along north path facing South



Section-Elevation along south path facing North



Section-Elevation through the Meadow



World View Chairs



Section-Elevation amphitheater with world view chairs

SHRUBS



TREES



3. Plantings and water system to create habitat for wildlife.
 4. Careful selection of plants due to the high incidence of asthma/allergy sufferers in urban environments, resulted in plant choices which are determined to be low pollen producers, low VOC emitters and/or high pollutant trappers.
- Plants along wet/dry stream bed and in bio-filtration swales along roadway and below lower path will slow movement of water to encourage percolation, will tolerate changing moisture conditions and may provide some filtration of pollutants.

The benefits of trees in an urban environment are many, including those already mentioned and others.

5. The "moments" consist of sculptural and/or structural elements at various points on the site positioned based simply on a grid. Examples include a wood deck meditation platform for connecting with the inner or spiritual self, the drum circle for connecting with community and the contemplation - "World View" chairs for connecting with nature and the "bigger picture".

Ideally there would be twenty "moments" in all.



Plan View



Meditation Platform

WATER PLANTS



USDA Living Memorials Project
 Design Collaborative
 City College of New York
 Professor Weintraub/UL
 Design Studio
Susan Leitner
Dawn McKenzie



Section-Elevation along lower path facing East