

## South Entrance Concept

The South Entrance serves as a visual break “protecting” the Park and Garden, and particularly the initial view of the bowl/raingarden. The defining hardscape features are the rail fence and the paved path connecting Circle Lake Dr and the loop surrounding the turf/raingarden. The plantings are currently arrayed linearly along the fence in two rows: the back row is 7 *Itea virginiana* and the front row is 5 *Fothergilla gardenii*. This garden space is highly structured.

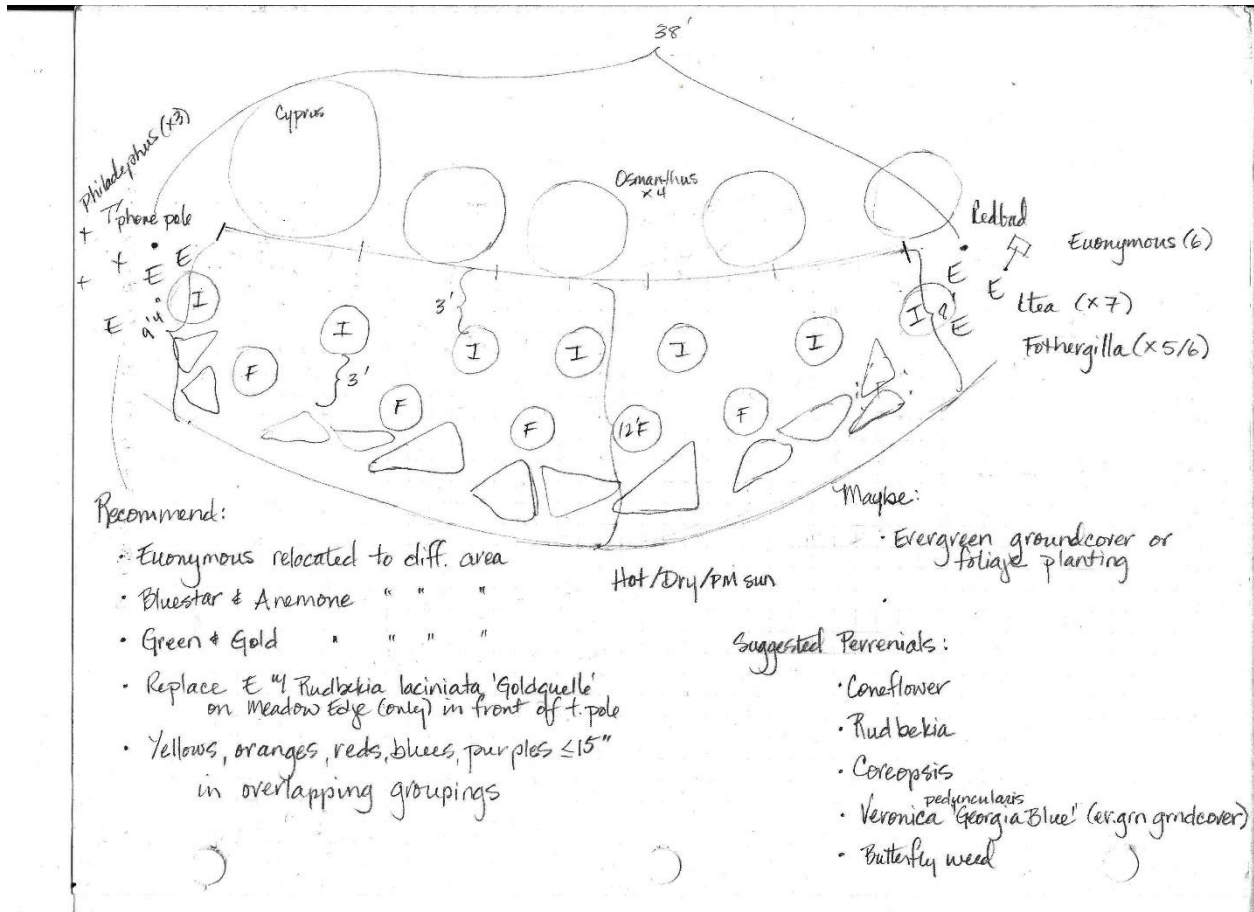
Assuming the aforementioned shrubs thrive and mature, they will form continuous lines, and the rows may merge to create a mass of shrubbery. At this time there are spaces between the shrubs, and particularly the *Fothergillas*, and space in front of the shrubs. While not part of the South Entrance, it is relevant that 4 *Osmanthus fragrans* are behind the rail fence, which are evergreen and are anticipated to grow to at least 6 feet high and wide. If/when that occurs, the South Entrance will be fully visually separated from everything that is behind the rail fence except as viewed from the entrance paved path. Because of this visual break we have latitude regarding the plantings, but as this is the entrance to a “natural” garden, we should avoid adding to the existing structured appearance.

This space has plenty of sun as it has east, south, and west exposure. The pavement is a heat sink and the tulip poplar and redbud trees draw on the soil moisture. The plantings, particularly those that will occupy the space in front of the *Fothergillas*, should prefer full sun and tolerate dry conditions. These plants should not be taller than the *Fothergillas* (there may be exceptions for certain “feature” plants). Low-growing plants with exceptional heat tolerance will be preferred near the street. These low- and mid-height plants will be arrayed in overlapping groupings and not symmetrical. There is space for approximately 3 low- and 3 mid-height varieties of plants, assuming the grouping of several of each variety.

A key attribute of these planting will be interesting and attractive foliage that will endure from late spring/early summer through fall. The *Itea* and *Fothergilla* have interesting fall leaf color in addition to their late spring/early summer flowers. The winter interest in this area will be carried by the hardscape accented by dead/dormant perennial foliage and seed heads that persist into the winter. The dominant summer flower colors are yellow and red, which will show well at a distance, ie as one approaches the entrance. Blue and purple may be included for variety.

Perennials under consideration for the South Entrance include natives, eg *Coreopsis verticillata* (threadleaf coreopsis), *rudbeckia* (black eyed Susan), *echinacea* (coneflower), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and non-natives that can be blended into a “natural” setting, eg *Veronica peduncularis* ‘Georgia Blue’. Some of these (eg coneflower) are typically taller than 18-24”, but shorter varieties are available. While the “typical” color for coneflower is purple, red and other colors are available.

Regarding the perennials currently residing in the South Entrance plot, the *Chrysogonum virginianum* (green and gold) has not performed well, probably because the area has too much sun and gets too dry. The *Anemone huphensis* (pink anemone) and *Euonymus americanus* (hearts a bustin) are already targeted for removal as they also prefer part shade and humusy moist soil. The *Amsonia tabernaemontana* (blue star) is too tall (2-3’) and spiky for the space, and the flowers are pale blue and not particularly long lasting.



Note: The Euonymus indicated in the drawing above are Euonymus americana (hearts a bustin, native). There are also two Euonymus alata (burning bush, non-native) not shown in the drawing that are further to the right (east), and are also to be relocated to a different area.