

## Woodland Concept

The Woodland area is best considered as two distinct areas: east and west.

The west Woodland includes multiple large trees: American elm, sycamore, chestnut oak, black walnut; multiple medium-sized trees: American persimmon, Eastern red cedar, redbud, sugar maple; and multiple small trees: pawpaw, horse chestnut, dogwood. There are also understory shrubs: possumhaw viburnum, American wahoo, rhododendron (all catawbiense?) and three deciduous azaleas (full or half-native: 'Candystripe'; 'Pierce Whiddon'; 'Big Orange Country'). The area uphill from the further south of the pair of Eastern red cedars includes the stump birdbath, which is proposed to be part of the Meadow Edge area. The understory trees and shrubs will provide a succession of bloom: redbud, horse chestnut, dogwood, possumhaw, azaleas/rhododendrons. The flowers of persimmon, pawpaw and wahoo are inconspicuous, and those of the sugar maple are often not recognized as such.

The grade is steep and the soil is rocky – there are few areas with reasonable soil depth and quality. This area cannot support many more shrubs – we probably can add a few more rhododendrons/deciduous azaleas above the west bench/retaining wall, and perhaps a mountain laurel or two (*Kalmia latifolia*) in the area of the possumhaws. If we overplant the understory it is likely to fail, and if successful may create unwanted visual obstruction from the road into the Park and Garden.

On the other hand, the west Woodland is a great place to plant spring ephemerals, [eg *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty), *Trillium grandiflorum* (white)/*luteum* (yellow), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot), *Dicentra* (multiple species: squirrelcorn (*canadensis*); wild bleeding heart (*eximia*); dutchman's breeches (*cucullaria*)), *Erythronium americanum* (trout lily), *Phlox divaricata* (woodland phlox), *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Aquilegia canadensis* (columbine), *Podophyllum peltatum* (Mayapple), *Silene caroliniana* (wild pinks/catchfly)], particularly as it is protected by afternoon shade as the season progresses to summer.

The east Woodland includes fewer large trees: shagbark hickory, Eastern red cedar, chestnut oak; and a less diverse collection of medium-sized and small trees: redbud, dogwood. Its understory shrubs are limited to *Nandina domestica* and *Mahonia bealii* (both non-native) around the edge of the compost area. There is a misshapen *Ilex cornuta* (?Burford, also non-native) which, along with a medium-sized redbud, is considered part of the Rock and Fern Garden area. One rhododendron ('Sad Sack') that was transplanted from the west Woodland to the east edge of the area behind the north bench/retaining wall is also within the Rock and Fern Garden area. To the east of the drybed is a trio of deciduous azaleas corresponding to those in the west Woodland.

The grade is even steeper and the soil even rockier in the east Woodland than the west Woodland. The area above the east bench/retaining wall is part of the east Woodland, abutting the East Entrance area, which has a semi-structured appearance with a consistent groundcover of *Vinca minor*, dogwoods as the dominant tree species, and symmetrical plantings (holly, sedge, vinca, dogwood) around the stone steps. The area above the east bench/retaining wall has a steep grade excepting a narrow level area just behind the bench/retaining wall. On the lower slope, set back about 2 feet from the wall, we can consider adding some non-aggressive evergreens of modest mature height such as *Juniperus horizontalis*, eg 'Blue Rug' or *communis*, eg 'Green Carpet' (both are native species). The area above the north bench/retaining wall is part of the Rock and Fern Garden. As noted for the west Woodland, the primary opportunity for additional shrub planting in the east Woodland is possible addition of

rhododendrons/deciduous azaleas to the east of the dry bed, but we think this area may become crowded.

In consideration of the afternoon sun exposure, the potential perennial plantings in the lower east Woodland would likely be heat and sun tolerant plants, including some that are often considered “roadside weeds”. Selections will preferably be low-growing (less than 2’ tall). Along the dry bed and along the adjacent paved path we can use erosion-control plants such as the Cherokee sedge or short clump-forming grasses. Borrowing from Bebe Miles’ ‘Wildflower Perennials for Your Garden’, examples include: pearl everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*); butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); stiff-leaved aster (*Aster linariifolius*); harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*); threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*); wild larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*); evening primrose (*Oenothera fruticosa*); figwort (*Penstemon hirsutus*); creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata* and *stolonifera*); wild petunia (*Ruellia strepens*); fire pink (*Silene virginica*); and Stokes’ aster (*Stokesia laevis*).

The east Woodland groundcover plants include wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and *Vinca major*. While none of these three are native, we propose keeping the wintercreeper because it holds the bank and is easy to control. The ivy should be controlled/discouraged with preference for extension of wintercreeper and *Vinca minor*. The *Vinca major* can be expunged. At this time, we propose to keep the nandina and mahonia around the compost area.

The composting function can be moved to across the street. The soil in the current compost area may support ferns and other woodland perennials not limited to the aforementioned spring ephemerals.

Diagrams of Woodland west and Woodland east follow this text.



