

Design Challenges

Problems and Solutions for Landscapes of Today

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January 21 2017

It starts with and idea or a problem

- a new garden space
- new hardscape
- a change of use
- new construction or addition was added
- drainage problems
- moved in to new home reducing maintenance
- renovate outdated or overgrown landscape plants
- Now what? Where do I start?

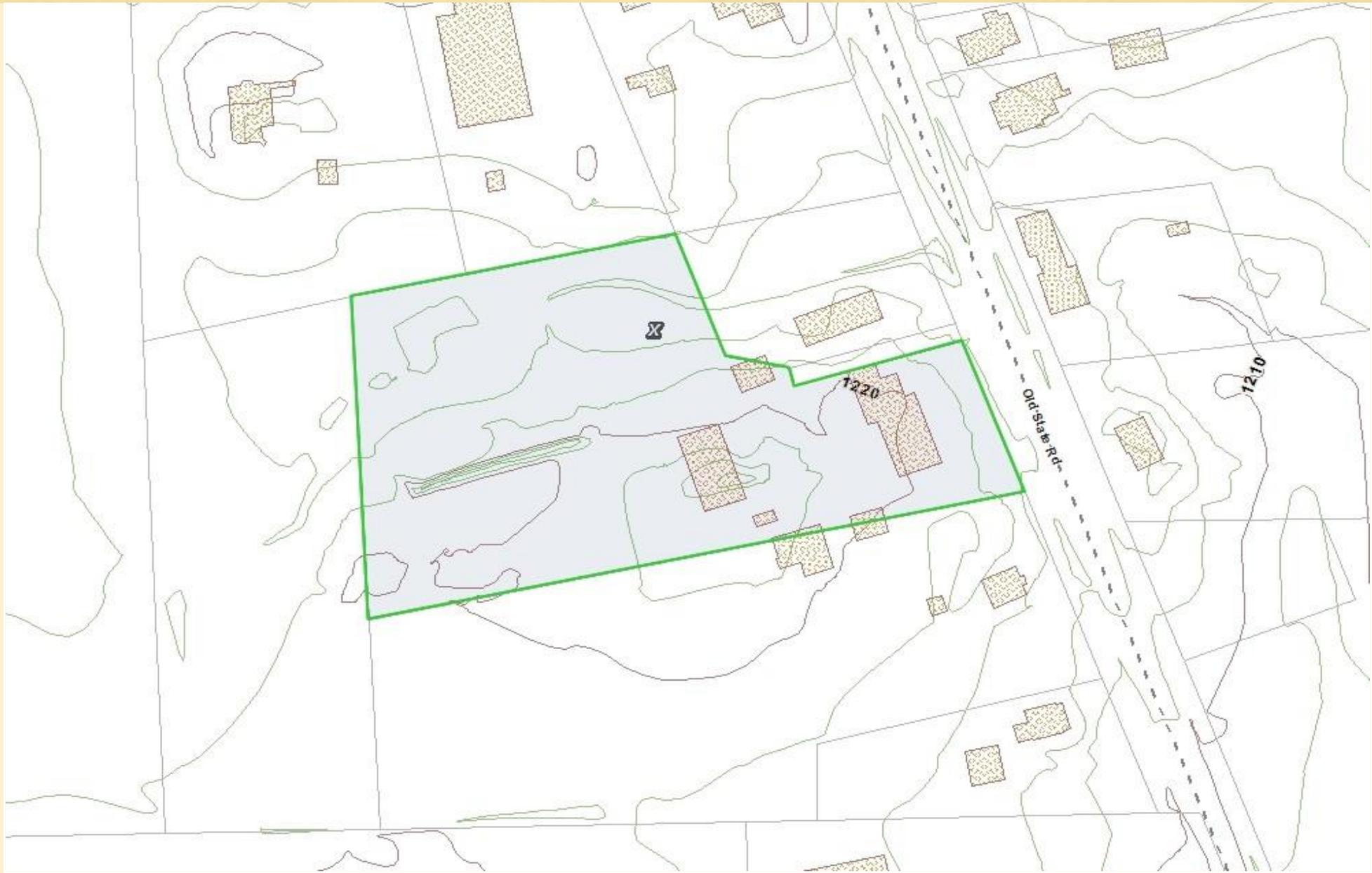
1. Property Search > Log into your county auditor > Property Search > Enter owner or address
2. The parcel will come up > choose map > you can choose a base map and building size > print



The plot will always show North.

The property lines, location of buildings, closest road, and you can also choose to print the gradation layer option. This option will show in feet the topography.

You get an idea of the location of elevation changes: rivers, streams, bodies of water.



Geauga **REALink**



Geauga County GIS

Frank J. Gliha, Geauga County Auditor

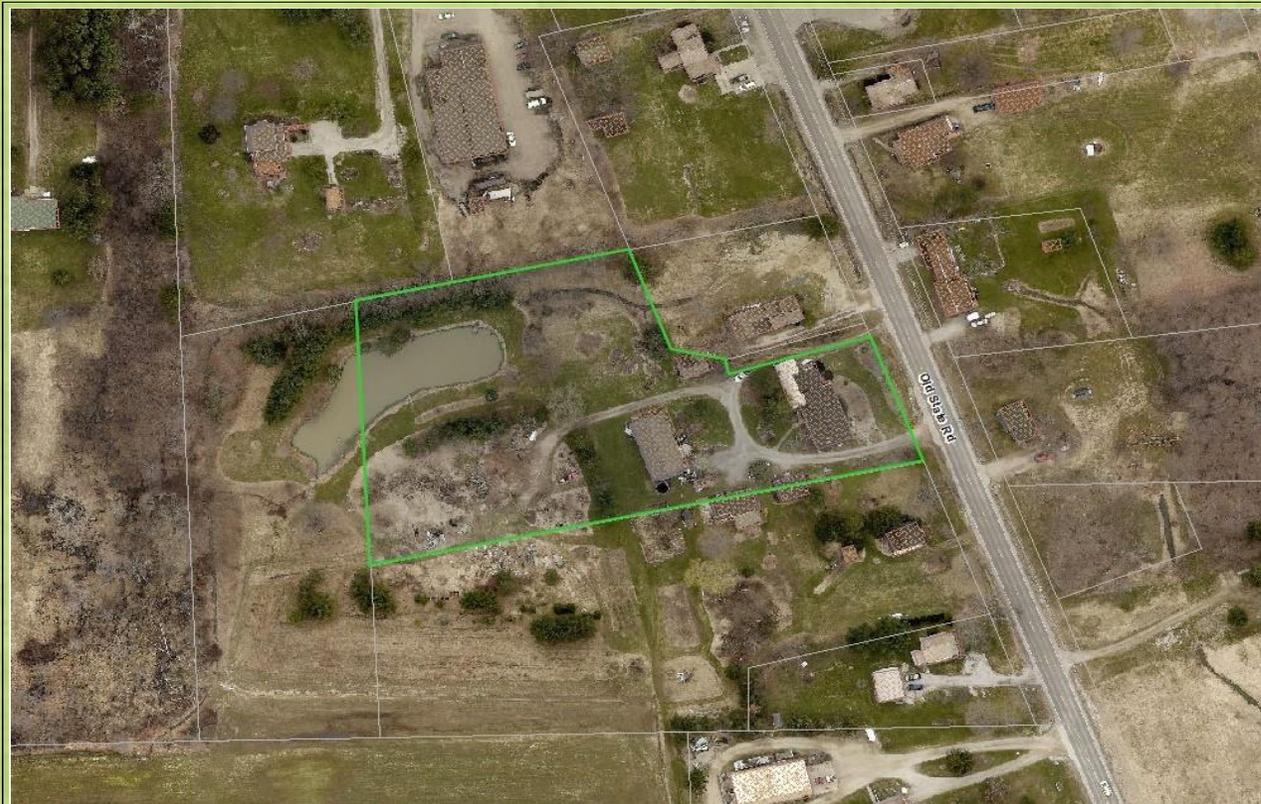


1 Inch = 105.08 Feet | Scale: 1,261

This tax map was prepared by Geauga County GIS in accordance with Section 5713.09 of the O.R.C. Geauga County digital data is a representation of recorder plats, surveys, deeds, and other collected information for use within the Geographic Information System for purposes of public access and analysis. These and other digital data do not replace or modify land surveys, deeds, and/or other legal instruments defining land ownership or use. Geauga County assumes no legal responsibility for this information.

Look at the big picture.

- Aerial photo



Why is this important?

It gives you a broader sense of the area.

No, you don't always need this much initial information, but on most projects, it is a vital tool.

An example: when managing storm water run off. Knowing where your watersheds are and the source & direction of water is key to successful solutions.

This info is public and free!

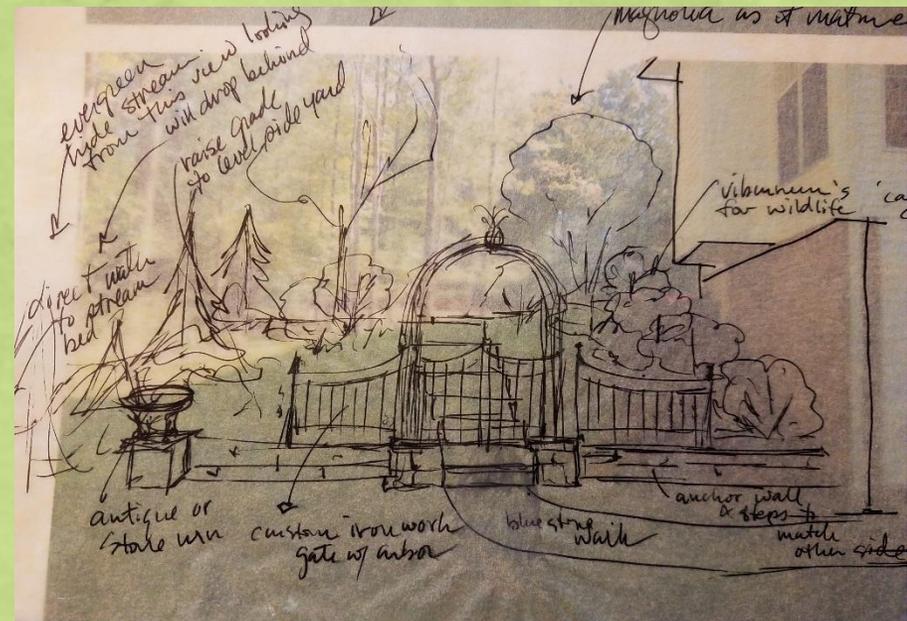
The physical site visit.

Drive the neighborhood, to make observations of the local architecture, slopes of the land, waterways, health of trees. Get a comprehensive overview of the area.

1. Listen to the client
2. Listen to the client
3. *Listen to the client, repeat.*

- Let the client do all the talking. Gather as much as you can to develop a real sense of your clients needs
- Wish list, what is wanted and what are the dreams? Help your client Dream Big!
- Pets? Children? Elderly? Any special needs? Allergies?
- Can you get views from inside the home? It will help get an idea of the style inside.
- Loves-Hates? Plants, colors, fragrances

- Quick sketches of ideas help
- Tablets have apps such as **Tracing Paper**. Take a photo, open in the app and trace over the photo!

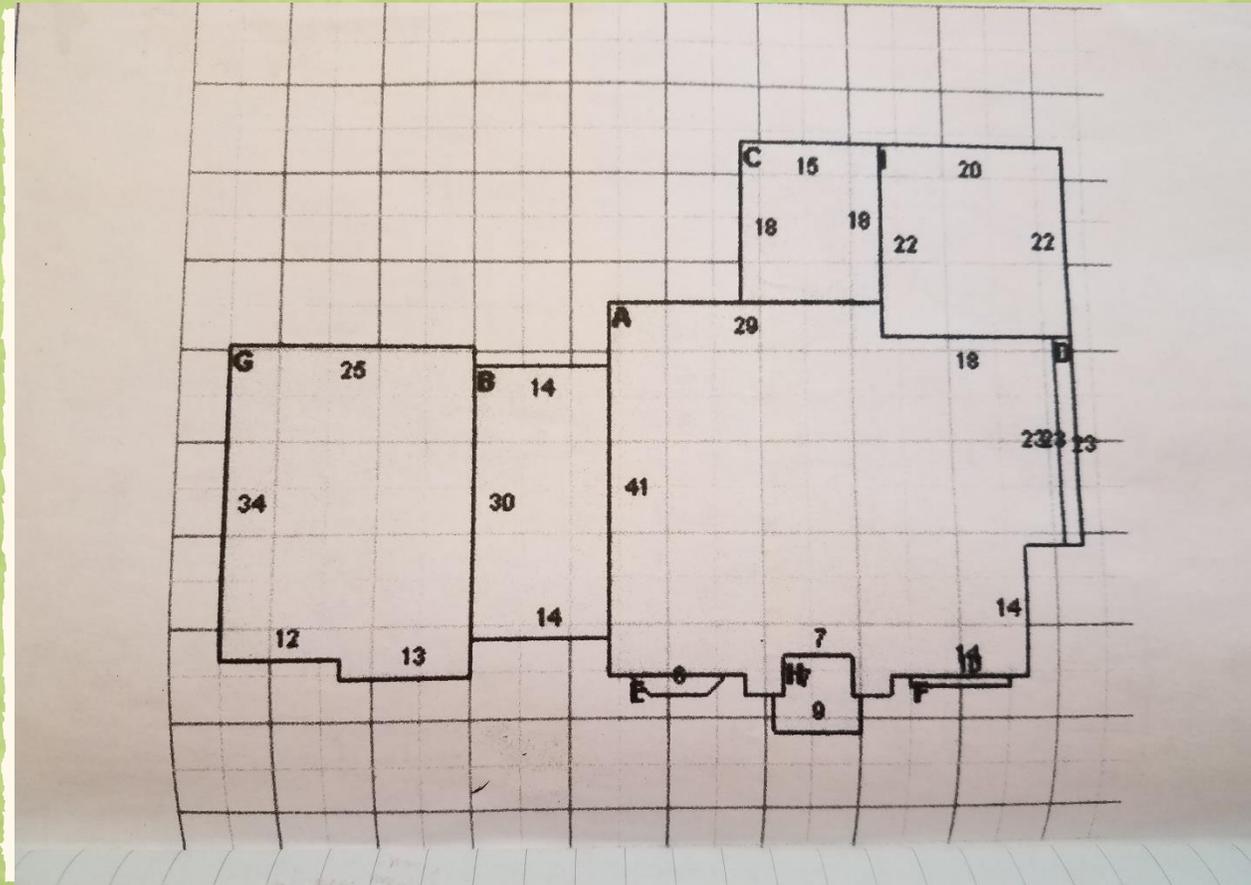


Measuring

Try to have a printed base map of the property. Work notes off of that page.

If not, a general layout of house is first. Drawing straight lines outward from a fixed object, such as the house, helps with all the points you will need to measure. The more notes you take, the *better*.

Take a zillion photos! I take close ups, step back and take a pan of the overall area. Overhead, from back to front, street view. Photos help with any details that I might have missed that day. If you are designing from a one and only site visit be sure to remember that the more pictures you have the *better*.



After all the measurements and photos are taken for the first visit and if no other discussion with the client is needed; this completes the first visit.

Some companies don't allow a return visit and all the information gathered is all that you may have to work problems and design through.

I have the opportunity to return many times before I present a plan. For me, I like to see the property in the am, noon, and evening, and after dark. And, always in the pouring rain.

Elements to consider: Sun, shadows, shade, views, best place for focal points, use areas, flow, access, darkness, lighting.....

Creating a garden is a combined journey of discovery between client and designer. It begins with the understanding of your client's thoughts and wishes and then bringing your knowledge as designer together so that a united vision will transpire. A garden has soul. It brings about feelings. When the senses are awakened by sight-beauty, smell-fragrance, sound-nature, and touch; it can bring about an enduring joy and peace.

DESIGN CHALLENGES

Site considerations

Drainage

- wet areas - standing water, drains but stays boggy, mossy area and no grass grows, anaerobic soil (sites with heavy clay and little or no drainage will smell)
- dry areas – heavy root competition, shallow soil, close to foundations

Water management

- irrigation systems- making sure operating properly, control leaks, overwatering areas not needed like walks, driveways, the road. Test amounts being applied so not wasteful
- natural water flow passing through the property
- storm water run-off from roof/gutters, pavement
- provide water sources for wildlife

Soil and what improvements can or should be made, aeration, compost, mulch

The Natural Elements: sun, shade, wind. How to utilize your site despite the elements by providing shade, open if too shady by pruning or tree removal, protect from wind, shelter spaces, and windbreaks. The elements can also be highlights, by casting interesting shadows or

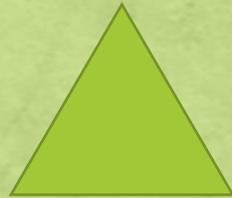
lighting a spot where a focal point will be, providing air circulation: For example, a rose garden or fruit areas

The Necessary Elements: electric lines, overhead & underground lines, gas lines, water lines, sewer, unforeseen underground items, existing fences or barriers, hardscapes, downspouts, faucets, electric outlets.





Above photo
Overflow pipe, placed properly



Below photo
The end of same pipe! ***Not working!***
The neighbor called about her recent
drainage problems.





The drainage problem was not where this client was told around *her* house.

It was next door at her *neighbors* property!

The pond overflow was not working and causing flooding to her house where the grade was a bit lower.

Water will seek its lowest level.

An 8 inch overflow at this distance should not be plugged up, the culprit?

A turtle or log and debris that jammed up inside the pipe.

All it needed was snaked out and problem solved!

This client was faced with large estimates for installing pipe for drainage. With keen observation in following the water beyond her home, a potentially costly project was avoided.

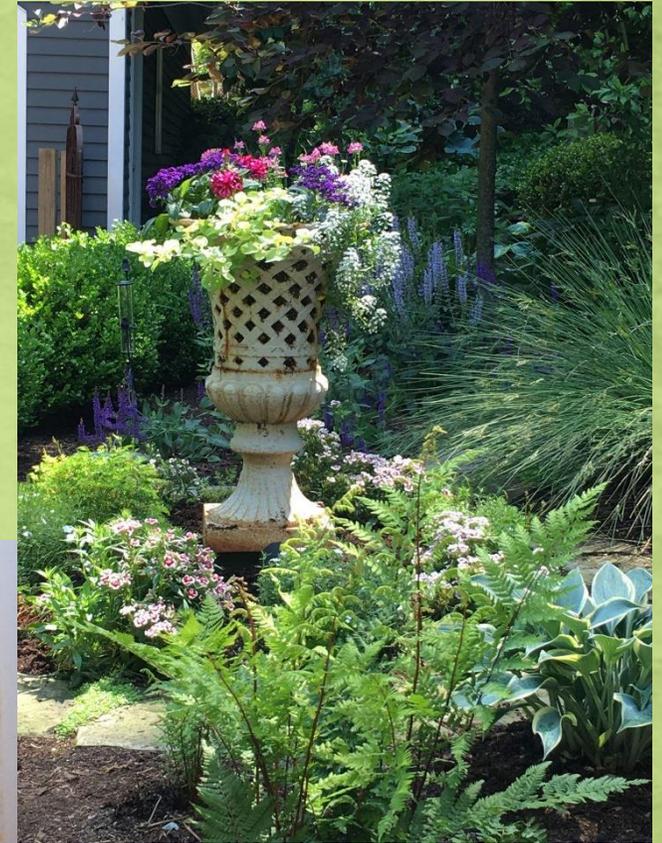
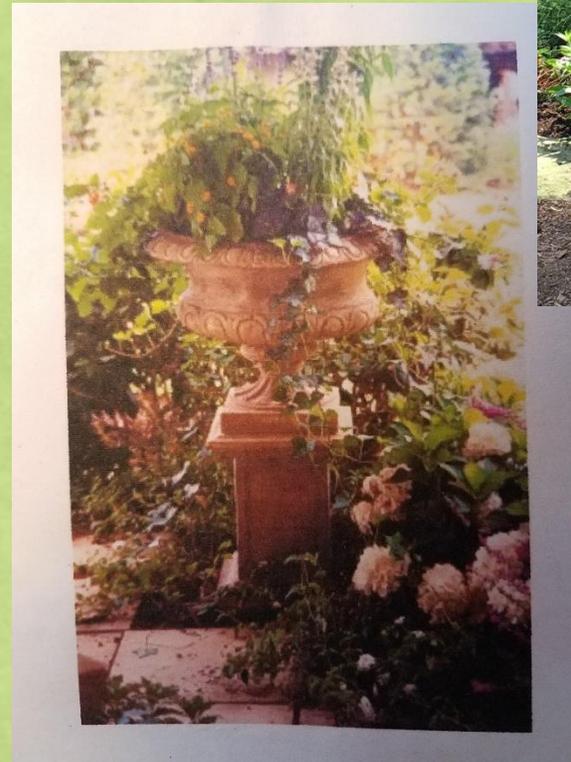
If the pipe were broken or separated, the ground between inlet and outlet would have a hole, in this case, the ground was solid

Sound: create or deflect. For example, water features, can deflect noise and provide a soothing element. A fountain can add a subtle sound and provide a focal point. If desired, hidden speakers can be designed into the site, connected to a sound system to provide soothing cello while you chill in your newly designed space!

Focal Points, Site lines & View: every successful garden has these elements. I try to make every space have a reason, for example, a reclaimed item, a piece of art, an urn on a pedestal for the design of the item, well placed at places you ponder, a view out the window, a wall, end of path. This is the interest uniquely yours to your design. Have a reason for what you design and keep in mind *Form Follows Function!*

Space: limited, narrow, sloping, too big or unused. Maximizing the most you have for its use, such as entertaining, outdoor dining, meditation, exercise, pets, children, privacy, or growing food.

Maintenance: reducing maintenance is then the MOST requested item on wish lists. In today's landscapes where more utilization is wanted, maintenance is a priority challenge. No mow lawns, gardens for food use, cottage gardens, nice lawns for play area, " The lowest maintenance situation is *all turf grass*, no beds, no trees, nothing to mow around, quick in and out," per my maintenance crew's opinion. Of course, it is never on any wish list that I have come across!





Trees: I check the trees. Do the tree or trees in the site of work, or near the home, look sound and cared for? Dead, dying, broken limbs should be removed. Is there a co dominant stem that may pose a hazard? Will any digging be done near trees? Any fungi present at base, on branches? If a plan calls for construction near the trees, there are steps to take to preserve the health of the trees. I recommend air spading instead of a backhoe, if trenching is going to be done. A bad tree now, will be a bad tree later. Sometimes a tree or trees are in the wrong place from the beginning. Improper planting is my main reason for removal if I cannot remedy.

Privacy: always check zoning on adding structures to meet local codes and regulations *before* designing fence, gates, living fences or walls, structures, or anything permanently set in place. It can be disappointing to your client if you make suggestions ahead of what can or can't be done. You are expected to be the person "in the know". A solution I have found to address privacy is to use trellises or folding screens that are stuck in the ground and can easily be moved. Or large pots planted with evergreens. This can be a creative touch as an answer to your challenge.

Unused Areas: the woods or brushy borders can be included in the plan. Often, we stop at wood's edge; yet, the most unique areas can be designed into the woods. Brushy areas serve as areas for wildlife for food and shelter. By adding beneficial trees or shrubs to a brushy border, creates an enhancement rather than an eyesore.



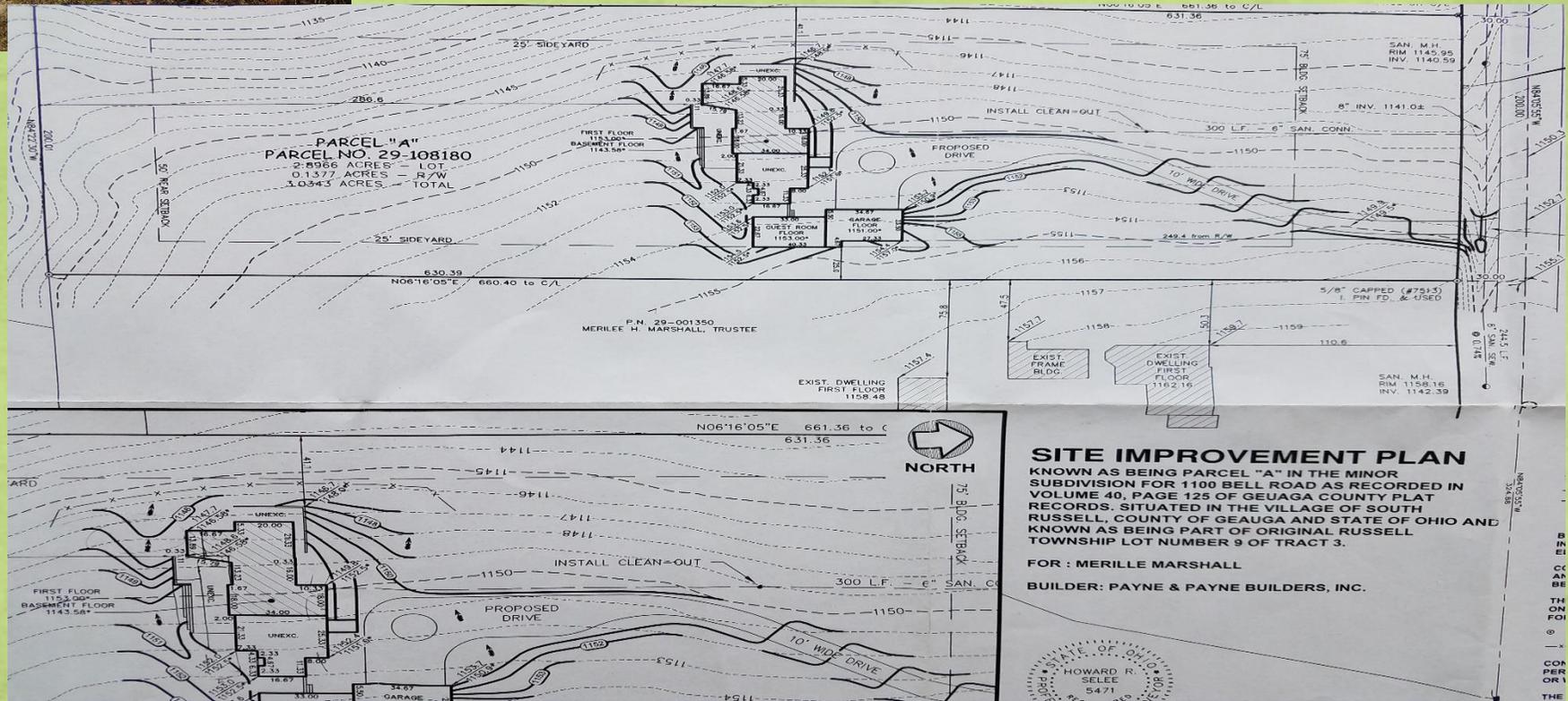
Reuben Huffman :: Landscape Designer :: Dayton



Property Lines and topography map. Verify the property lines, know the grading overall, learn of watersheds

Neighbors be considerate to neighbors in the planning. If you are on site for drainage issues, you may need to visit neighbors if the problems are complex and information is needed. During construction, neighbors can be annoyed with trucks, equipment, mud, noise. Be mindful.

CBUD Call before you dig! Locate utilities before you finalize a design.



Personal taste everyone has different tastes, you are advising the best possible solutions

Architecture keep in the style of the architecture of the home and grounds. Design should complement not compete. Cohesiveness is important.

Flow how will you move about the property? Easy to walk past furniture on a patio, or use steps, walks, how you travel through that make sense. Avoid dead ends. The exception is using the end as a focal point.

Creative Solutions can reclaimed material be utilized? Whenever possible, reuse as much as you can on the site to avoid material to the landfill. It will take more effort and cost to sort and reuse material but it is peace of mind nothing is wasted.





1st site visit – drainage problems – after addition, a landscape renovation was needed.
Create a garden for a gardener.

Observation of garage gutter.
Switch the pitch to the back and add a pipe to the left away from building, allow water to drain through the groundcover. Water from high elevation still comes towards house, but catch basins were installed to help direct water from foundation and to swale between homes to the storm drain.



Challenge: privacy

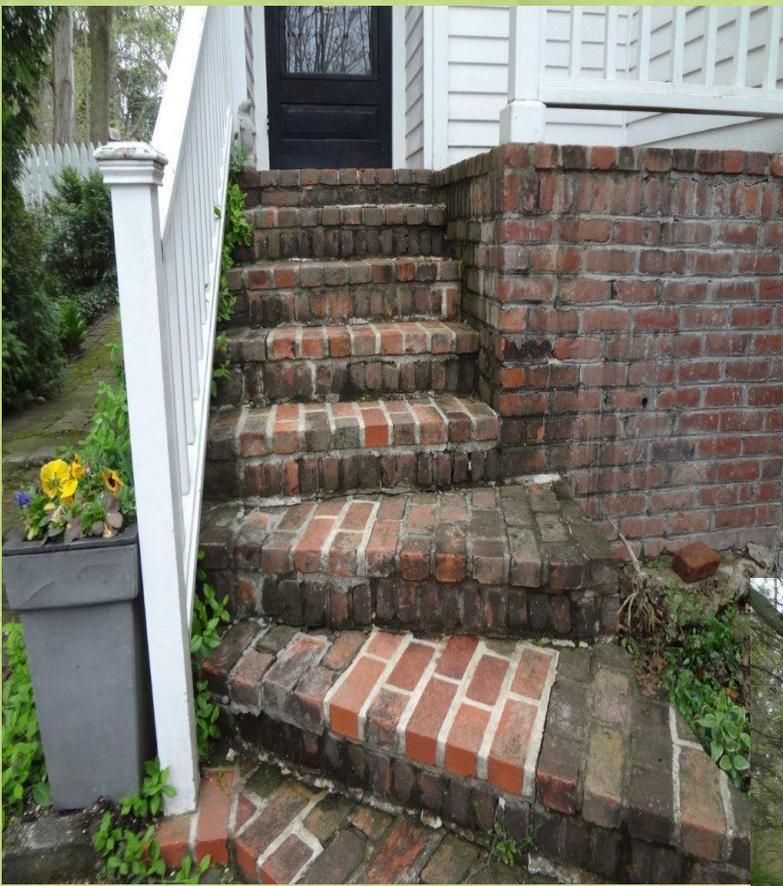
Bigger challenges

- Property line is 1 ft. from that block wall installed by developer
- 10 ft. height at least is needed by 15 ft. ideal
- Not allowed any fencing or plants
- Don't want to spend much money

Solution: a custom made metal panel, folding screen, or trellises offset from each other

Its not a fence and not permanent.

It can be pulled out for access to the right a way



with stucco & stone fireplace, spa-waterfall idea.

2009/July

climbing clematis in purple or honeysuckle or roses to enclose structure & soften

Cassella Crest of "C" or could be carved birds in sandstone block from local artist.

Stucco finish w/ stone & bluestone keystone at the top

evergreen & dogwood background

viburnum or hydrangea shrubs accent ends of woods.

lights on sides or uplight behind the trees.

short raised bench/bluestone faced

stream bed

evergreen backdrop to woods

flower tree waterway

Elevation base w/ rocks & plants

plants - plants - plants!

old red brick 'carpet area'

oak tree.

metal arbor w/ fence

stairs to front

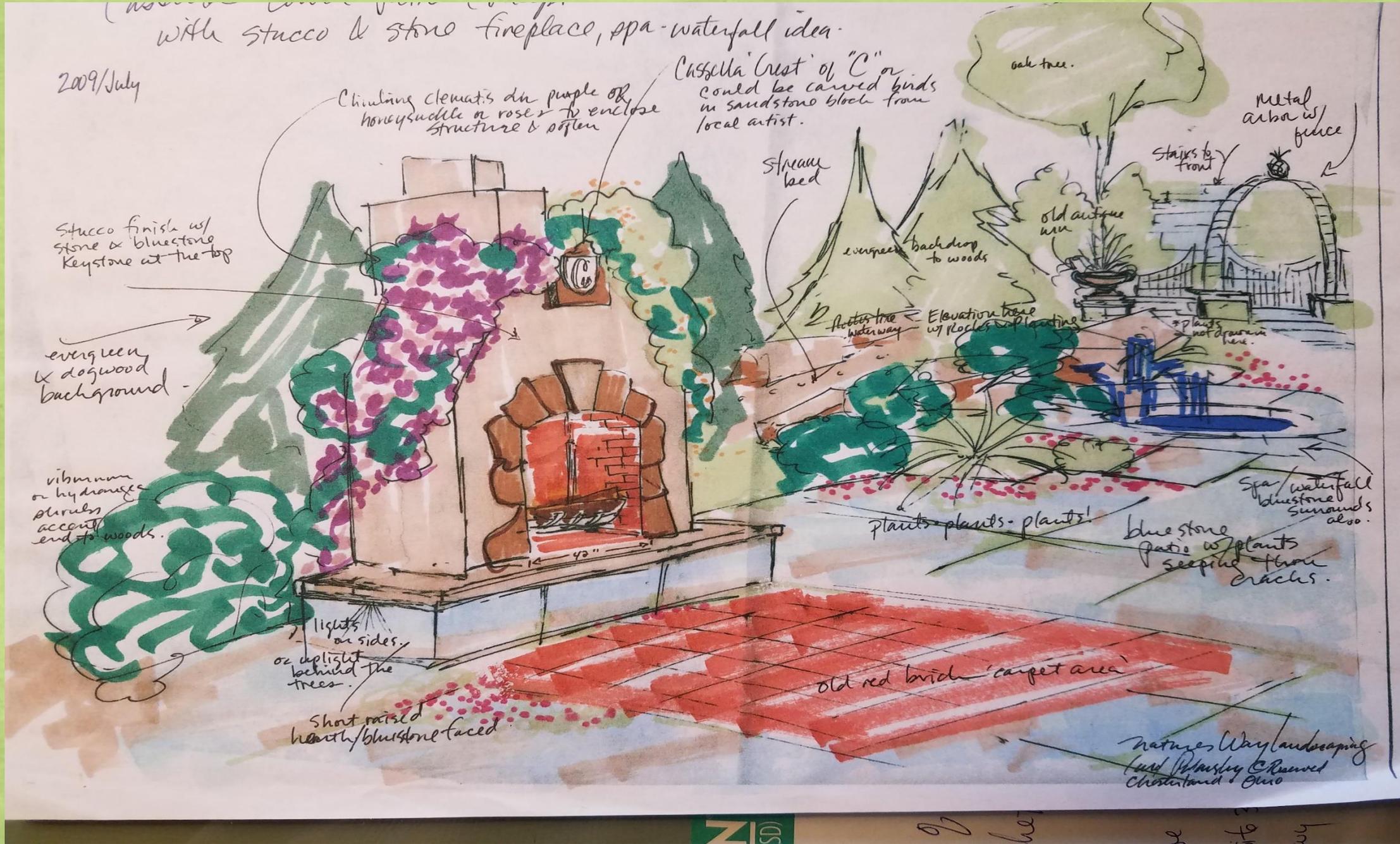
old antique urn

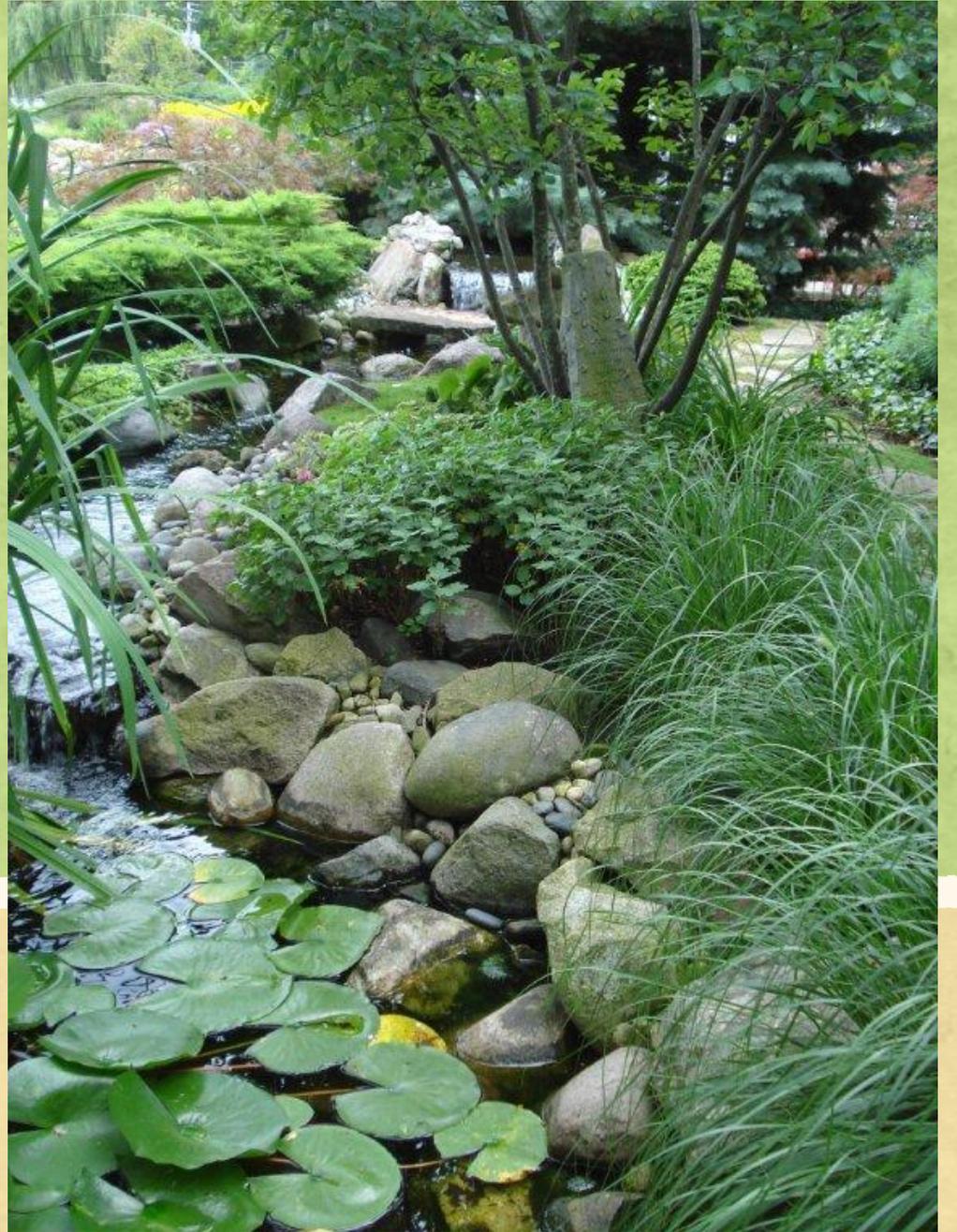
*plants not shown here.

spa/waterfall bluestone surrounds also.

bluestone patio w/ plants seeping thru cracks.

Natures Way Landscaping
Lauri P. Rausby & Crew
Christiansburg, Ohio





Before & After



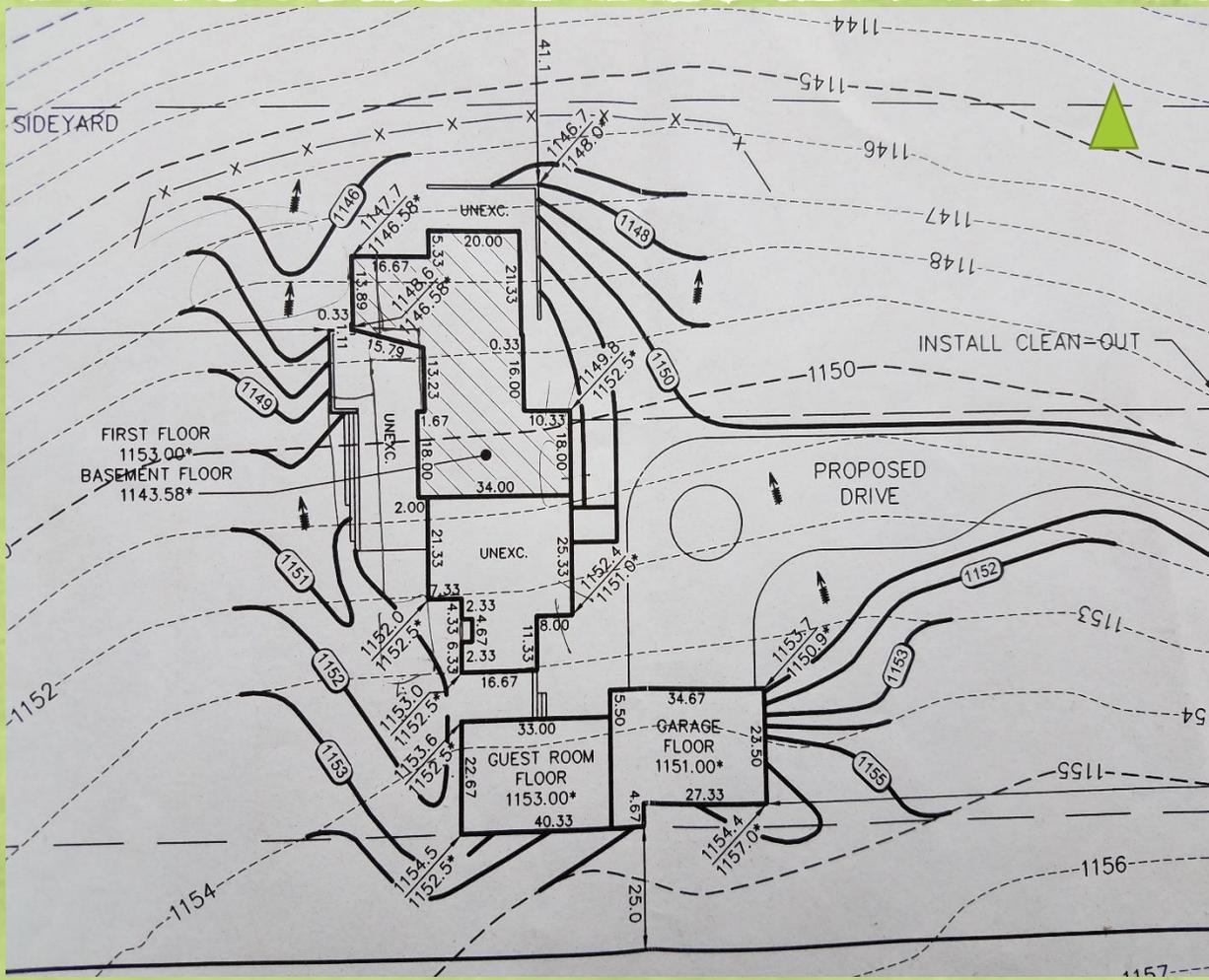
an antique
gate adds
charm to
the garden



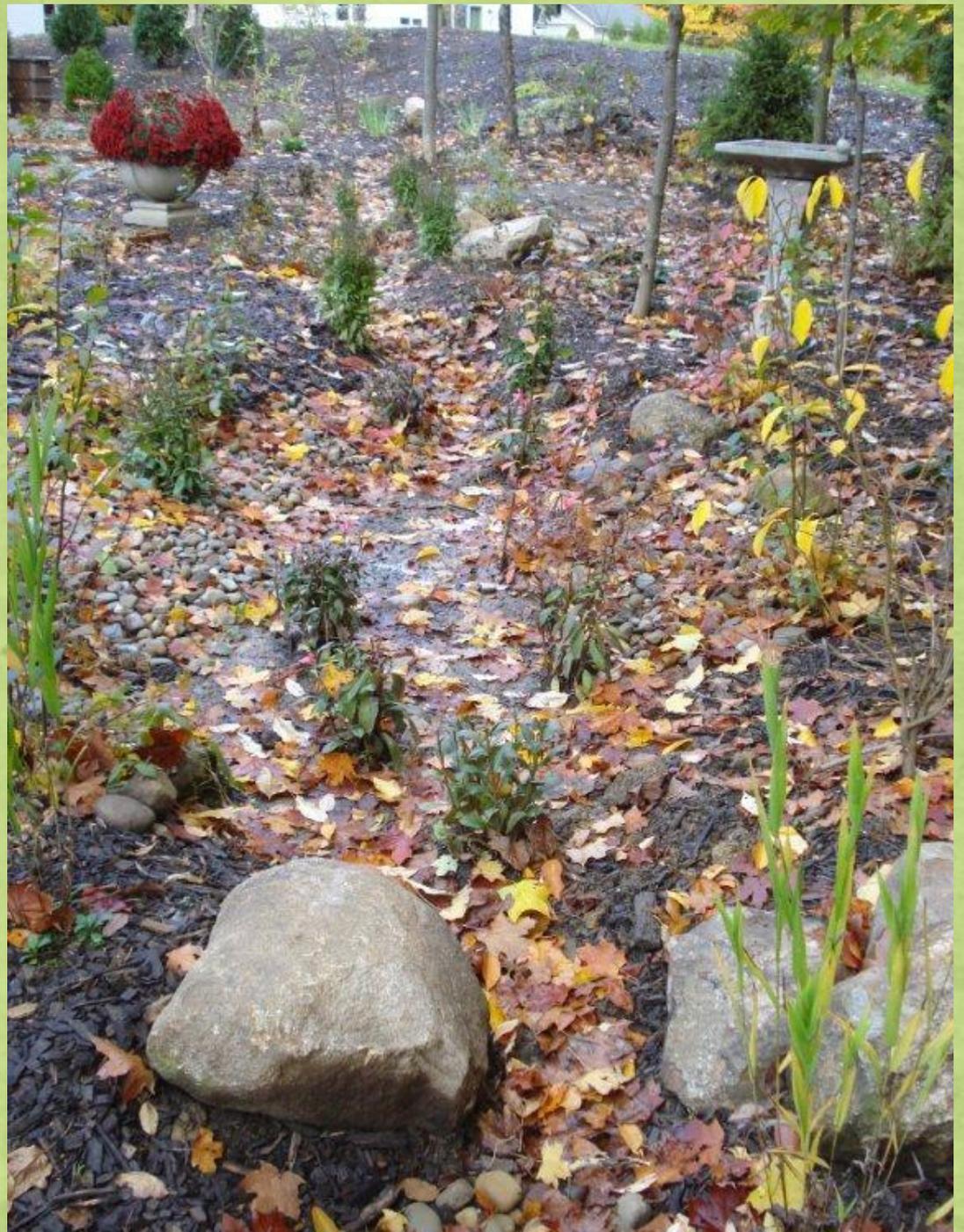


Focal points and site lines

The treehouse project L.E.E.D platinum rating



- The watershed flows through the property from east to west.
- The entire flow area is a series of rain gardens
- All site prep remained on the property, such as stumps, clay, topsoil, chipped wood and was reused to support the landscaping planned
- Tree wood cut down was milled for the interior cabinets, trim, doors, shelving



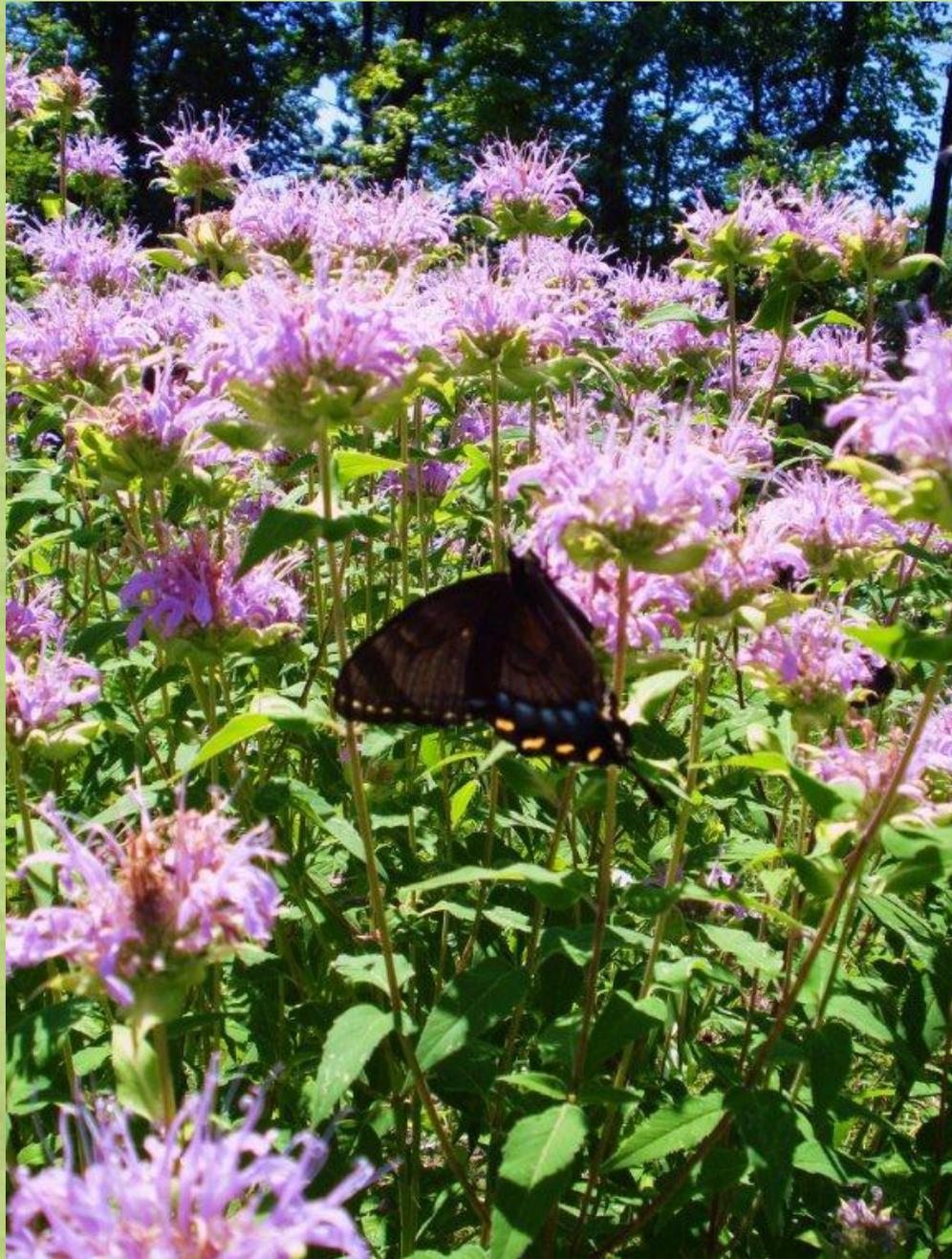












Visiting pollinators

Thank you!

Carol Palansky :: Landscape Designer
Nature's Way Inc

My next presentation march 9, 2017

4th Annual Green Conference

The Social, Economic and Environmental Benefits of Pollinators

March 9 at the Holden Arboretum. Presented by APLDOH.org

Holdenarb.org. for more information