

A Garden for Gathering

Proposal for the Berkshire Botanical Garden

Drawing on the tradition of the Berkshires as a retreat, our design seeks to evoke the salon tradition, offering a space for gathering during the day with ample seating meant to inspire conversation between returning friends and new acquaintances, whether while waiting for a tour to depart or enjoying a treat from the cafe. The space is meant to be open and inviting, with the noise from Route 2 diminished

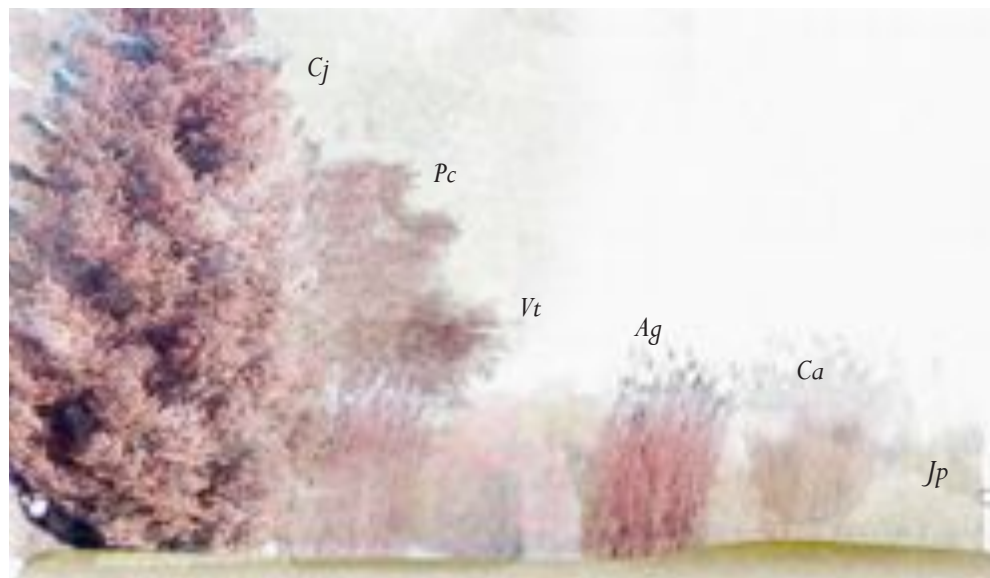
by a carefully considered perennial planting that attracts birds and butterflies to visit, with gravel and non-linear benches to encourage a slower, meandering pace through the garden. As a refuge for both people and pollinators, the space is meant to be a regenerative moment that encourages curiosity while leading visitors into the gardens.





Planting Palette

<i>Cryptomeria japonica (Cj)</i>		\$445.00/2-2.5 IN x 5
<i>Prunus cerasifera (Pc)</i>		\$437.00/2-2.5 IN x 3
<i>Viburnum trilobum (Vt)</i>		\$63.00/2-2.5 IN x 4
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' (Ca)</i>		\$29.00/Flat x 10
<i>Andropogon gerardii 'Red October' (Ag)</i>		\$12.25/Flat x 12
<i>Juniperus x pfitzeriana (Jp)</i>		\$31.25/Flat x 10
<i>Vaccinium pallidum (Vp)</i>		\$445/Flat x 5
<i>Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' (Cs)</i>		\$37.25/Flat x 4
<i>Asclepias tuberosa (At)</i>		\$11.25/Flat x 6
<i>Daphne x transatlantica 'Blafra' (Dt)</i>		\$40.00/Flat x 6
<i>Potentilla fruticosa (Pf)</i>		\$31.50/Flat x 10



Vegetative Noise Mitigation

Using a holistic approach to noise mitigation, blocking and masking, we are proposing a dense planting along Route 2 in place of the suggested earth berm. A wall of Japanese cryptomeria, often used as a windbreak and a privacy screen, serves as a strong diffuser of sound. It is backed here by the densely branched and bird-attracting sweet plum tree and cranberry viburnum, followed by sound attenuating and producing grasses and dense juniper groundcover.

Estimated Project Budget

Calculated based on research of average retail costs

Seating	\$10,775.00
Excavation	\$1,800.00
Landscape edging	\$1,215.00
Weed barrier	\$393.00
Gravel	\$3,570.00
Plants	\$7,534.00
Total (before installation/labor)	\$25,287.00

A Garden for Learning



A Garden for Celebrating



Planting Beds

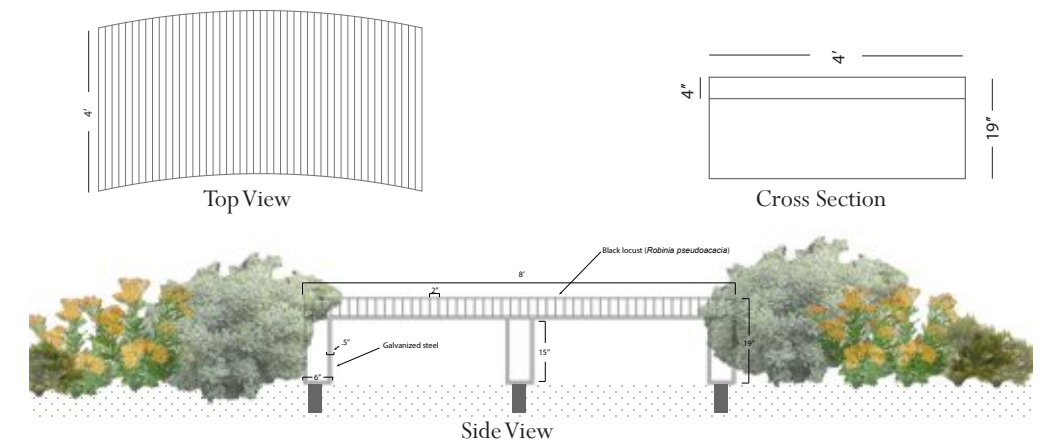
We propose using the finish gravel being used in front of the house to define the garden's edge. Planting beds are cut from this gravel surface and continue the sweeping lines of the seating configuration. The site should be excavated four-and-a-half inches, with this topsoil repurposed for the new sound barrier planting. The curved beds are defined by steel landscape edging, and a prepped by tamping the soil and laying a weed barrier before placing new top soil.



Excavation Area (SQFT)	Excavation Depth (in.)	Excavation/Gravel Volume (CYD)	Excavation Cost (\$) ³	Gravel Cost (\$/CYD) ¹	Total Gravel Cost (\$)
~3000	4.5	42	4,800	85	3,570
Weed Barrier Cost (\$/Roll) ²	Total Weed Barrier Cost (\$)	Landscaping Edging (FT)	Landscape Edging Cost per 40LF (\$) ⁴	Total Landscaping Edging Cost (\$)	
131	393	281	585	4,215	

1 Assume \$35/cyd + \$50/cyd for color (<https://www.homeadvisor.com/cost/landscape/pea-gravel/>)
 2 Assume \$129 for 5'x250' roll of Dewitt Pro-5 Weed barrier (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B002HJDL4E/ref=asc_df_B002HJDL4E5239549/?tag=hyprod-20&creative=394997&creativeASIN=B002HJDL4E&linkCode=df0&hvadid=167139575215&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrand=18151661678637419615&hvpone=&hvpstwo=&hvmqmt=&hvdvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvllocint=&hvllocphy=9002004&hvtargid=pla-329311984954)
 3 Assume 42cyd for 02162 zipcode (https://www.homewyse.com/services/cost_to_excavate_land.html)
 4 Assume Permaloc Cleanline XL Landscape Edging 3/16" x 5" Mill Finish 8ft x 5 Piece 40ft Box 13350 - \$281 (https://www.elitemetaltools.com/tool-shop/products/permaloc-cleanline-xl-landscape-edging-8ft-sections-40ft-box?sku=Permaloc-13350&gclid=EAlaQobChMI_uyp3t2W1wIVUaAGCh0RzAM-TEAKYASABEgLnVd_BwE)

Bench construction



Black Locust Cost (\$/SQFT)	Total Black Locust Cost (\$)	Galvanized Steel Framing Cost (\$/SQFT)	Total Galvanized Steel Framing Cost (\$)	Concrete Base Cost (\$)
5.44	6,960	5.63	3,715	100