Lincoln Garden Club
Plan for Station Park Native Plant Bed Project
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Why are we doing this? What were some of the goals for this project?

- a fair amount of the plants in this garden bed were not native. The Korean Azalea for example, as well as the Spirea, Hosta, and lily of the valley.
- Opportunity to remove lily of the valley which is an aggressive nonnative.

Goals:

In the interest of a more ecologically friendly design, the garden will be planted with plants that grow in New England naturally, which are low maintenance, low watering, and there is no need/desire to use pesticides. The garden will also be geared toward attracting pollinators and birds for food and habitat. Additionally, the garden should incorporate more interest year round, including in winter, since other parts of the park has a lot of summer interest. Another important thing New England Wild considers is the use of pesticides like neo-nics to treat plants growing in the nursery. NEWFS grows and sources plants that have not been treated with harmful pesticides due to their links with bee decline and harm to other beneficial insects.

What's so good about native plants?

- provide genetic diversity
- grow reliably in local conditions in the right place
- no pesticide and fertilizers needed
- do not require power equipment like lawn mowers to maintain (no air or noise pollution!)
- less water usage (except during establishment)
- eventually create self-sustaining communities, therefore very low maintenance- no deadheading, mulching, weedwacking or mowing necessary
- provide plants that can be a food / habitat source for insects and animals.
- Using native plants means that you are using plants that the native pollinators have evolved with, and providing similar food value to birds.
- can be used in some situations to aid in soil retention and for stormwater management.

What kinds of plants are going in? What plants are you using?

- We are installing plants that are native to the Northeastern United States, mostly within our eco-regions, or plants that grow naturally in the plant communities that existed in New England before the Europeans settled here.

- I chose the plants based on soil conditions, light conditions, and season of interest. I had to think about where the sunlight shines on the bed and for how long, but also think about keeping things interesting through the year.
- The progression of seasonal interest is as follows:
    - Spring: *Mertensia, Stylophorum, Maianthemum, Polygonatum, Aquilegia, Tiarella, Phlox, Scutellaria*,
    - Summer: *Penstemon, Clethra, Gillenia, Aralia, Chrysogonum*,
    - Late summer: *Chelone, Eurybia (Aster*),
    - Fall: *Symphyotrichum, Gillenia* (fall color), *Fothergilla* (fall color),
    - Winter: *Ilex verticillata, Polystichum*

What is going to be changed besides the plants?

The garden bed will no longer have a turf access path for pruning the forsythias, but will have a stepping stone path instead. In addition, the bed will be extended to the bench to ease management (less small spaces to mow) and provide the opportunity to plant around the tree and incorporate the tree into the design.

Project Tasks:

- dig out azalea, ball and burlap
- dig out spireas and deutzia, transplant or ball and burlap
- dig out other garden plants, compost
- clear out the lily of the valley, trash
- eliminate turf path
- recreate the bed border line, and dig up the turf to extend garden bed to bench, encircling tree

Once everything is out, I can go in and mark out where all the plants will go, where swaths will go.

- plant perennials
- plant shrubs
- set in the stepping stones
- edge the garden bed
- apply mulch