

CULTURAL HERITAGE



View south along the main garden walk to the bluffs in early spring.



The Bankers Bond Building columns at the entrance to the Park and Gardens.

LEGEND

- — — Assessed Stable Slope Line
- ■ ■ Property Line
- ■ ■ Limit of Study
- ■ ■ Heritage Paths
- ▶ Heritage Views
- Cultural Artefacts
- Heritage Buildings

KEY FEATURES

1. Wishing Well
2. Sculpture Studio
3. Bankers Bond Columns
4. Guild Inn (former Bickford House)
5. Building 191
6. Greek Theatre
7. Osterhout Log Cabin
8. Produce Exchange Building Gateway

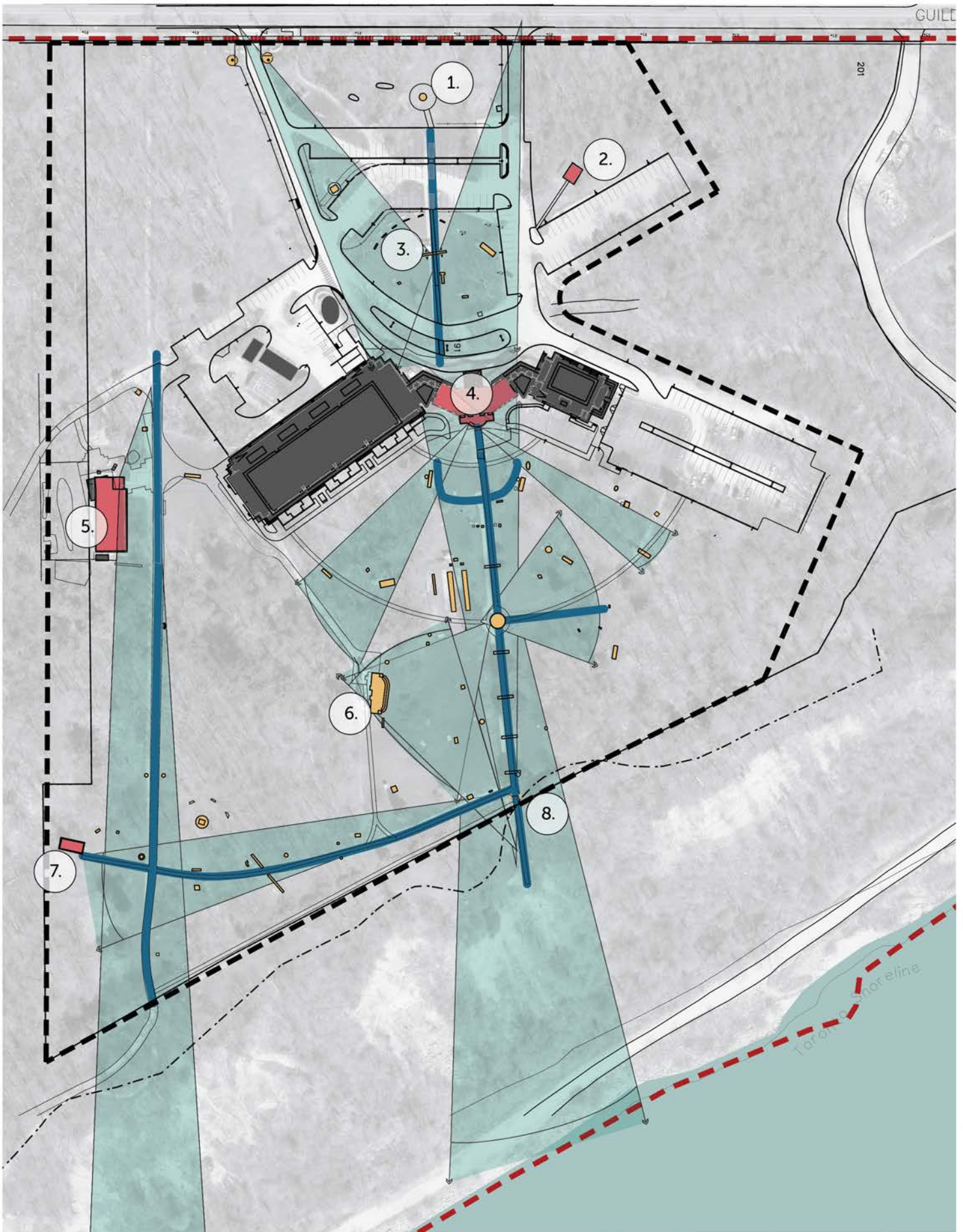
The heritage and culture components of Guild Park & Gardens are one of the defining aspects of the park's identity and park user experience. The heritage components are concentrated in the central, manicured area of the park and are employed to frame entrances and views to the areas east and west of the central, north-south axial walkway. The park currently includes four heritage buildings, a collection of architectural fragments and sculpture, heritage walkways and heritage views. Many of the features are protected under provision of the Ontario Heritage Act. The sculptures and architectural fragments are part of the City of Toronto's Public Art Collection, known as The Guild Collection.

The 2011 Parks Canada 'Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada' defines a cultural landscape as 'any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people'. The document identifies three possible types of Cultural landscapes: 'designed', 'organically evolved' or 'associative'. Guild Park & Gardens is both a designed and an organically evolved cultural landscape. A cultural landscape framework is helpful to comprehend and conserve the cultural value of the site, as it allows for an approach that considers the broader context and relationships of important features, rather than only listing the important features themselves. The value of the buildings and of the artifacts cannot therefore be understood or conserved in isolation from an understanding of the landscape in which they are situated.

In addition to the existing collection of artifacts and sculptures located on site, there is also the potential for the adaptive re-integration of stockpiled artifacts throughout the grounds, especially for those fragments that possess heritage designation (those that were removed and stored from the Guild Inn prior to the demolition and construction for the Banquet Hall).

The Park and Gardens has also become the home for a new wave of cultural significance. The new event venue at the Guild Inn Estate, as well as the grounds of the property, host a wide range of public and private programming. Weddings, private parties, walking tours, plays, musical performances, and bird watching all occur throughout the site, with the highest concentration taking place along the Monument Walk and within the gardens. Annually, the Park also hosts the Guild Alive with Culture Festival, which features local vendors, live performances, food, and a beer garden.

In considering the future of the Park and Gardens the importance of the site as an interpretive cultural landscape cannot be understated. The enhancement of the property's horticulture should respond to the physical cultural heritage elements and cultural programming that exists now, and that is anticipated to exist in the future.



HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS



Wet area near the Registry of Deeds and Land Titles building ionic column.



Surface water near the Imperial Bank of Canada arch.

LEGEND

- Assessed Stable Slope Line
- Property Line
- Limit of Study
- Dry
- Moist
- Swamp
- ▨ Area of Seepage
- Seasonal Wet Area (Spring)

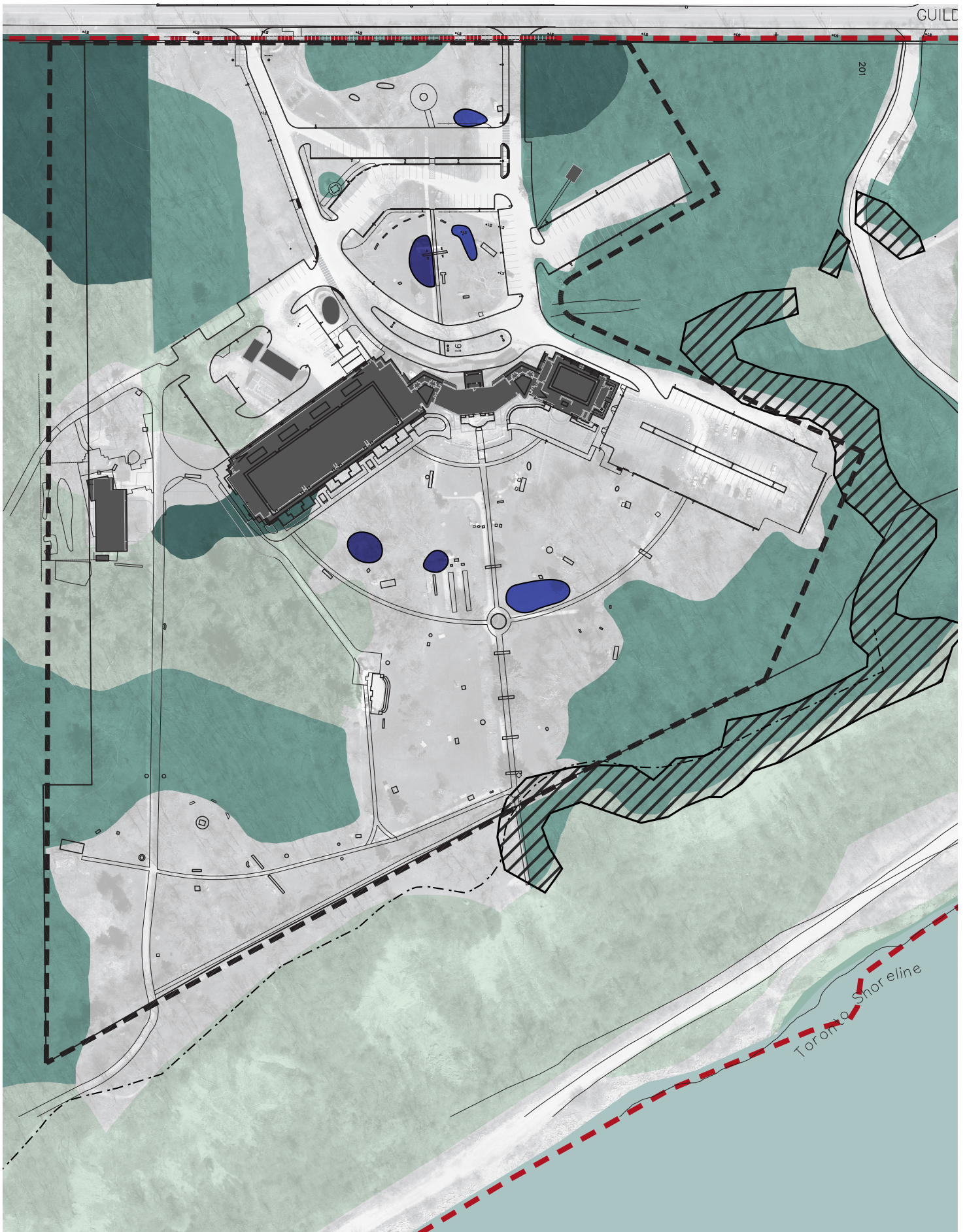
A study of the hydrological conditions for the Guild Park and Gardens property was conducted as part of the Management Plan study process. The moisture regimes were derived through plant indicator species. To do this, the plant indicator species were drawn from data relating to the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) zones. Each zone was analyzed based on the variety of plant species found in the area. From this data, moisture and habitat types were extrapolated based on aggregation of the types of habitat in which each species may be found. For example, the presence of marsh marigold, ash, and hemlock indicate a moist to swampy area whereas the presence of oak, pine, or beech indicate a drier site.

For the manicured areas of the site the existing species composition is highly controlled, but still serves to indicate the conditions present in the soil. Through a combination of species observation, topographic analysis and conversation with individuals familiar with the site, the hydrological conditions for the manicured area were approximated.

For the purpose of this analysis, all areas labeled as seasonal wet areas (spring) exhibit surface water or extremely saturated soil during the spring months. Zones classified as swamp are expected to be wet at all times of year. Zones labeled as moist can be expected to retain water and be wet during the spring and fall when precipitation is higher as well as after large rainfall events due to summer storms. Dry zones are well draining and can be expected to be moist only during or shortly after large rainfall events or during spring thaw.

The areas of water discharge indicated on the map are the areas where moist to swampy soils are the result of ground water surface flow. In these seepage areas we can anticipate that there is increased water flowing over the steep edge of the Bluffs and therefore there is an estimated higher potential for erosion.

The subject property is predominantly tableland with a few areas of steep ravine slopes and the severe relief of the Scarborough Bluffs at the southern edge of the property. Drainage in many areas of Guild Park is poor, while surface rockiness is approximately 3% in most areas. Soils maps indicate sandy loams can be expected within this area, and soil augers performed by TRCA staff indicate silty clay loams within this area.





Trout lily growing near the entrance to the Guild Park and Gardens.



Natural edge surrounding the manicured areas of the site.

LEGEND

- Assessed Stable Slope Line
- Property Line
- Limit of Study
- City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Features Protection Limit
- ▨ Ash Dominated Zones
- Ash Trees Innoculated with TreeAzin
- Environmentally Significant Area

ELC SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION COMMUNITY

- Red Ash - Hemlock Mineral Mixed Swamp
- Fresh-Moist Hemlock - Hardwood Forest
- Deciduous Treed Bluff
- Sumac-Willow-Cherry Shrub Bluff

NATURAL FOREST

- FOD5-4 Dry-Fresh Sugar Maple-Beech Decid. Forest
- FOD6-1 Fresh-Moist Sugar Maple-Ash Decid. Forest
- FOD7-2 Fresh-Moist Ash Deciduous Forest
- FOM6-2 Fresh-Moist Hemlock - Hardwood Mixed F.
- SWD2-2 Red Ash Mineral Deciduous Swamp

NATURAL HERITAGE

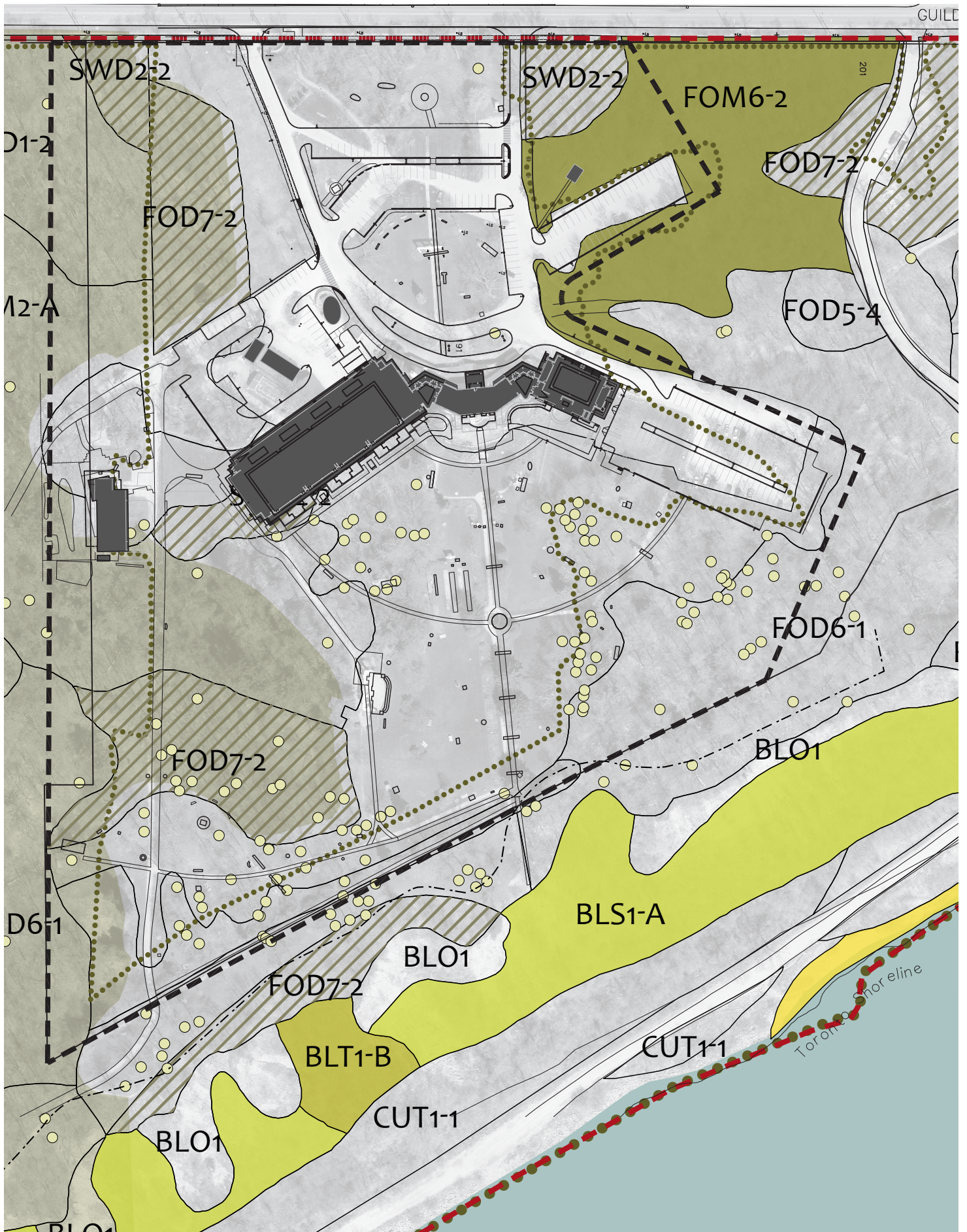
The Monument Walk and Gardens are surrounded by an extensively forested landscape with rare swamp communities. Much of the forested area is flat with visible areas of swamp. The majority of the Guild Park & Gardens site is designated in the City of Toronto's Official Plan under Map 9, Natural Heritage.

Guild Park & Gardens has been assessed as part of an overall Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) study within the City of Toronto. Guild Park is identified as ESA #35, including tableland with Bluffs along the southern edge. The ESA designation is based on the site's habitat for vulnerable, rare, or threatened species and its vulnerable, rare, threatened, or endangered communities. The area also has "ecological function contributing appreciably to the healthy maintenance of a natural ecosystem beyond its boundaries" (marsh and swamp communities that provide water storage area of 3.9ha). The park contains 4 significant vegetation communities, 33 significant plants, 22 native plant natural forest communities, and 6 significant animals.

In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) defines ecological units on the basis of bedrock, climate (temperature, precipitation), physiography (soils, slope, aspect) and corresponding vegetation. This classification of the landscape enables planners and ecologists to organize ecological information into logical integrated units to enable landscape planning and monitoring. Guild Park is located within the transition life zone between the Southern and Great Lake-St. Lawrence Forest systems (TRCA, 2005). This area is characterized by both the coniferous trees of the northern Boreal forest such as white pine, eastern hemlock, and white cedar, mixed with deciduous trees such as sugar and red maples, red oak, basswood, and birch (OMNR, 2012b).

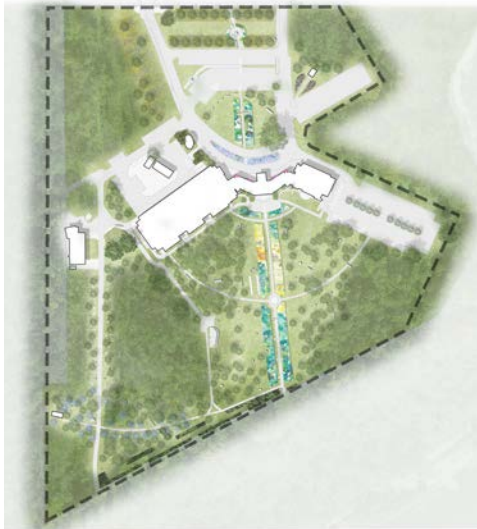
The ash dominant woodland of Guild Park & Gardens has been affected by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB has caused ash decline and death. Trees were removed to reduce risk to park users and workers. The southern portion of the park property forms part of the Scarborough Bluffs, a feature that is recognized globally, provincially, and locally as a significant landform. Ongoing erosion of the Bluffs is being managed by TRCA by stabilizing the shoreline of Lake Ontario. The Bluff face has developed vegetation that reduces soil erosion but does not prevent it. Erosion of the Bluffs is accelerated by point source surface water runoff from the top of the Bluffs.

The City is also working to mitigate the spread of invasive species throughout the site, including dog strangling vine, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard.





Original Concept 1 - Define Horticulture



Original Concept 2 - Arboretum and Garden



Original Concept 3 - Floral Rooms

consultation

In addition to site inspection and precedent research, public and stakeholder consultation was conducted to form the foundation for the decisions and recommendations presented in this Horticulture Plan.

GUILD RESOURCE GROUP MEETING

February 22, 2018

The Planning Partnership attended the February Guild Resource Meeting to present the precedent research, site analysis, and conceptual design work conducted to date. Attendees were presented with a slide presentation that illustrated mapping of existing conditions, a synopsis of other projects and plans occurring within the site, and examples of relevant horticultural styles. The presentation introduced Arts and Crafts style planting as a preferred landscape style for the site. The presentation also introduced three preliminary concept plans - 1) Define Horticulture, 2) Arboretum and Garden, 3) Floral Rooms. The Define Horticulture concept focused on strengthening the central axis walk border gardens and adding new border gardens along the proposed east-west arching pathway. The Arboretum and Gardens concept likewise enhanced the planting beds along the central walk, as well as introducing additional trees into the lawn areas and softening the manicured area edge. The Floral Rooms concept presented a more ambitious approach to horticulture, proposing expanded, undulating horticultural beds that branch out into the lawn spaces to define smaller spaces throughout the Monument Walk and Gardens. Each of the three concepts proposed an orchard area, the planting of Vimy Oaks (to be described later), and a meadow area.

Following the presentation the Resource Group and other attendees were invited to comment on the analysis and design concepts, and their feedback was recorded. Additional comments and suggestions were provided at a later date in report format by the Resource Group. The feedback resulting from this meeting was used to refine the approach to planting and concept development. The resulting concept combined aspects of the Defined Horticulture and Floral Rooms concepts, while addressing the spatial requirements of the annual Guild Alive with Culture Festival, a primary concern of the Resource Group.

PUBLIC MEETING

May 8, 2018

The City of Toronto and the Planning Partnership hosted a public meeting at the Guild Inn Estate. The public was notified of the meeting via local newsletters, postings on the City of Toronto website, social media posts, and email. The meeting was broken into two identical sessions in an effort to accommodate as many participants as possible. The first session ran from 4:00-6:00pm, and the second session from 7:00-9:00pm. The meeting consisted of printed information panels, a formal presentation from the design consultants, and a series of activities aimed at collecting feedback on a number of design decisions, including garden style and plant palettes. The feedback from these activities and the question and answer period were considered in the refinement of the preferred concept plan and plant selections. Key feedback included a preference for Arts and Crafts style gardens, a general request that native species be prioritized, and the suggestion that plants associated with the history of the site, such as Wren Rose, be incorporated into the planting schemes.



Presentation panels displaying potential plant palettes.



Presentation and brainstorming session at the public meeting.

issues

IDENTIFIED IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Horticulture Plan is intended to address several of the issues present within the site as identified by the Management Plan and through additional analysis of site conditions and stakeholder engagement. The issues identified in the Management Plan are listed below with additional specificity as established through the process of developing this Plan. Additional issues not identified in the Management Plan have also been added.

1. LACK OF DEFINED CHARACTER & LIMIT

The manicured area of the Guild Park and Gardens has been evolving and changing since the site was first settled. As such, the character of the Monument Walk and Gardens, as well as their limit, are lacking in definition. The plant species as well as the garden layout lack cohesion and a purposeful continuity that would contribute to a stronger landscape character. The gardens are a signature element to the Park's identity and the park user's experience. The manicured lawn also serves as the staging areas for much of the park programming, and the limits of which directly impact the layout and size of the events.

2. PROTECTING & IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HORTICULTURE

As a destination park and important cultural landscape, a programmed space for artistic and community events, and a permitted park for wedding photography, Guild Park and Gardens has become known for its horticultural displays. Protecting and improving the horticultural quality is necessary for the enhancement of the user experience and the Park's identity. It is also linked to the revenue generating program for the property, which includes the issuance of photography permits. Horticultural quality includes providing seasonal interest and a 'show garden' aesthetic.

3. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESTORATION

The special character of the Monument Walk and Gardens is derived from the unique combination of waterfront estate landscaping in an extensive natural heritage woodland setting on the Scarborough Bluffs, with spectacular views of Lake Ontario. The potential for restoration of horticulture and heritage in the form of garden bed planting design has been identified. Historic photographs are available as a source for heritage research, and to provide guidance and inspiration for any design work.

4. ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY

With regards to parks, sustainability refers to the ability of the park to strengthen the social, economic, and environmental landscape, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors. Sustainability at the Guild Park and Gardens also includes coordination with sustaining the cultural heritage resources. Sustainability is a priority for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation division at the City of Toronto.

5. TRANSITION AREAS & MANAGING INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species that flourish in the moist, natural environmental areas tend to migrate into the more open and sunnier areas of the Monument Walk and Gardens. Invasive species in the park need to be managed to maintain the quality of the natural areas and gardens. Transition areas are one means of cutting down of the spread of invasive species.

6. ACCOMMODATING PROGRAMMING IN THE PARK

There are currently a number of programs that take place in the Park and Gardens, the most significant of which is the annual Guild Alive with Culture event. These need to be managed and coordinated with other objectives for the site. Furthermore, the issuance of permits needs, such as for wedding photography, needs to be examined relative to other objectives for the Park.

7. MANAGING VIEWS AND COORDINATING WITH CULTURE/HERITAGE

The maintenance of the Park and Gardens currently involves planting, pruning, and removal of woody species. Pruning has been minimally undertaken to open key views such as the lake from Bickford House. Additional opportunities for maintaining or enhancing the heritage views described in the Cultural Heritage section of this Plan and the Management Plan should be explored.

8. CONSIDERING THE ROLE OF COMMEMORATIVE TREES

There is a desire by members of the community to plant commemorative trees in Guild Park and Gardens. These trees currently exist on-site in many areas and the potential for future locations is limited. The ongoing requests for commemorative trees needs to be further examined relative to other objectives.

9. FOSTERING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

Engaging and managing community stewardship of the Monument Walk and Gardens area has significant potential to build positive relationships between City staff and the community. Volunteer stewardship can add to the management resources for the park. Capitalizing on community interest and building engagement opportunities has many positive benefits.

Throughout the consultation process undertaken for the development of this Horticulture Plan, other issues have been identified through conversation with stakeholders and the public.

issues

IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE HORTICULTURE PLAN PROCESS

10. INEFFICIENT MAINTENANCE REGIMES

In order to ensure the long-term success of existing and future horticultural features it is necessary to establish more efficient maintenance regimes. Maintenance regimes should take into consideration the scale of the site, the complexity of the planting beds, watering requirements, availability of staff, and site challenges, such as the presence of invasive species and pests.

11. SEASONALLY WET AREAS POSE ISSUES FOR PLANTING

There are several areas throughout the Monument Walk and Gardens area that experience seasonal wetness. These areas are wet during the spring months, and, in some areas, include standing surface water. These areas have posed problems to visitors walking through the site.

12. BUILDINGS NOT SUFFICIENTLY INTEGRATED

Each of the buildings located in the Guild Park and Gardens property have a unique style and history. Over time new buildings have been introduced, and with them new planting beds added. As a result of the piecemeal introduction of new buildings to the site, the landscape has not been adequately integrated into the landscape in a meaningful way.

inspiration

"This design style may be described as ordered chaos, or messy systems with neat borders"

- Guild Park and Gardens
Horticulture Plan



Rodmarton Manor, Gloucestershire



Royal Botanical Gardens at Edinburgh

ARTS & CRAFTS STYLE

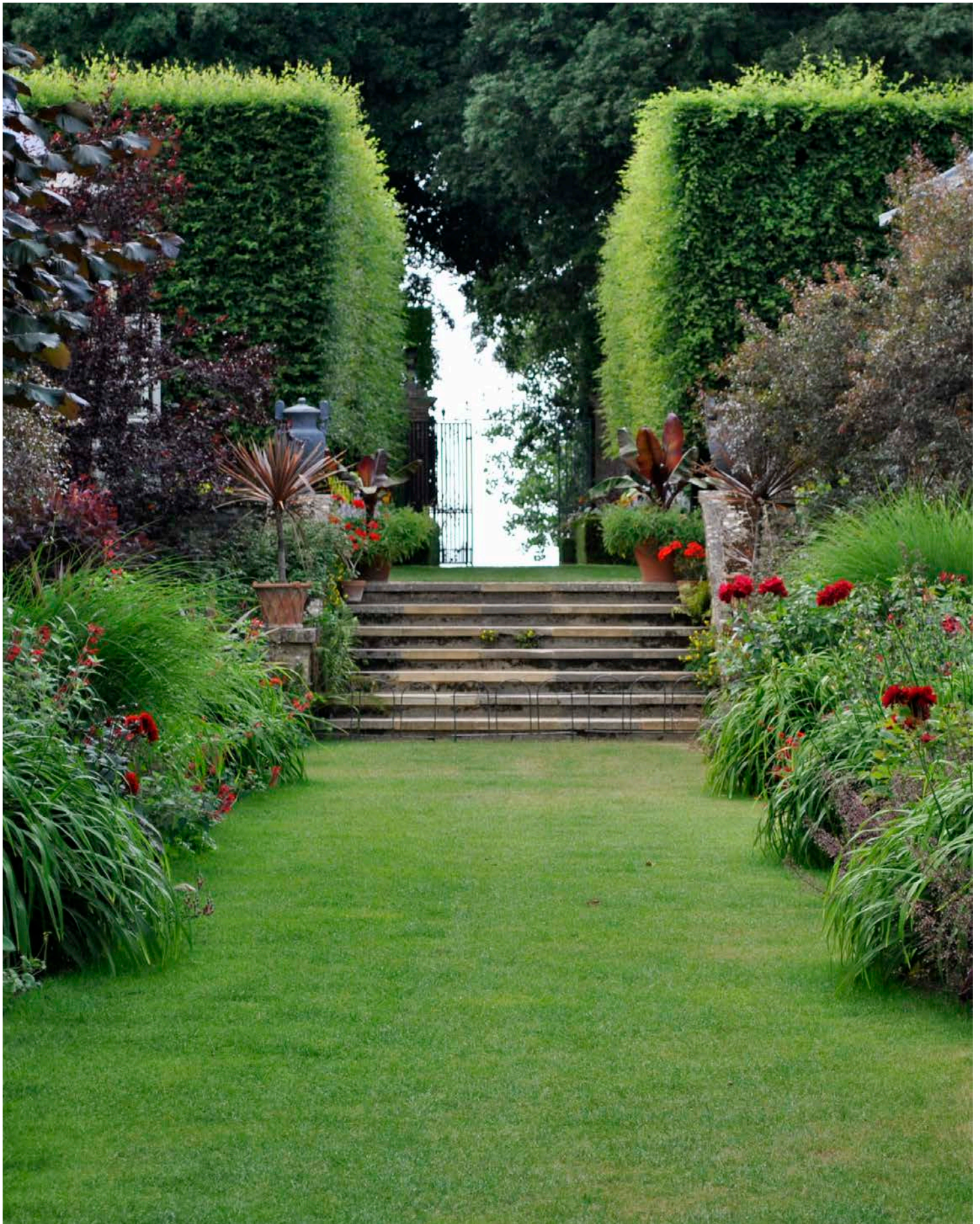
The Arts and Crafts movement flourished in Europe and North America between 1880 and 1920. The movement was in part a reaction to the utilitarian approach to design resulting from the Industrial Revolution. Arts and Crafts style was an attempt to re-inject a degree of craftsmanship into design. Handmade items, hand-tended gardens, and smaller homes were the hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts movement.

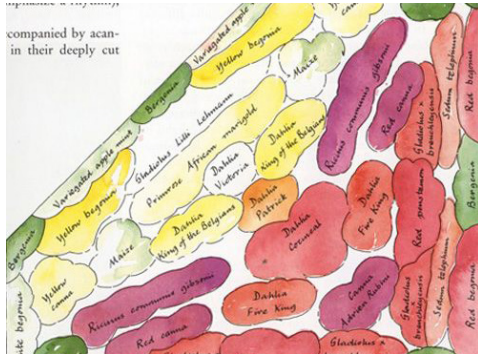
A high degree of reverence for traditional building practices, materials, and architecture was at the center of the movement. The style combines the use of simple forms with romantic or folk styles of decoration. An offshoot of the movement involved the design of more naturalistic gardens, or gardens that incorporated "wild" elements, such as the use of local plants, or a planting style that mimics natural forms.

A key focus of the Arts and Crafts movement was the integration of buildings into the landscape. As Gustav Stickley once wrote in the *Craftsman*, "Let garden and house float together in one harmonious whole."

This style of horticultural design serves as the inspiration for the recommendations of this Horticulture Plan. Already displaying elements of Arts and Crafts style, the Guild Park and Gardens' multitude of horticultural, architectural, and cultural elements would benefit immensely from a landscape style that so purposefully showcases the heritage and tradition. The eclectic aesthetic is conducive to incremental implementation, without the risk of appearing piecemeal, and the era of Arts and Crafts design aligns with the history of the property and the buildings within it. Gertrude Jekyll and Piet Oudolf, both garden designers influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, offer varying takes on garden design that further serve to influence the recommendation of this Plan.

*Right - Hidcote Manor,
designed by Lawrence
Johnston.*

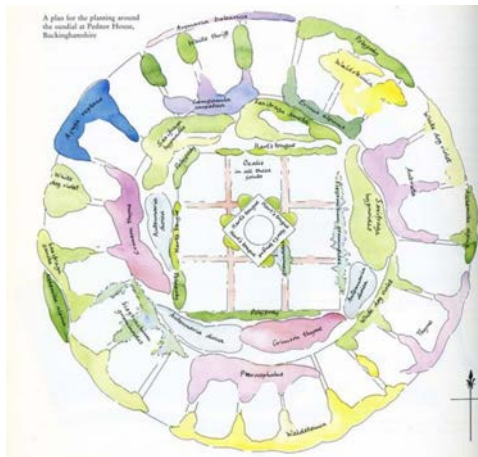




High Glanau Manor landscape, designed by Gertrude Jekyll and Harold Peto.



Folly Farm, designed by Gertrude Jekyll.



Demonstration of colour planting, designed by Gertrude Jekyll.

GERTRUDE JEKYLL - ARTS & CRAFTS STYLE

Born in 1843 in London, England, Gertrude Jekyll's career as a garden design and horticulturist has left a lasting impression on the field of landscape architecture. Often working with renowned architect Edwin Lutyens, Jekyll engaged in, and elevated, a style of landscape design termed Arts and Crafts style. She completed over 400 gardens throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States over the course of her career.

Jekyll's work is quintessentially Arts and Crafts style, featuring rich swatches of colour, texture, and detail. Many of her gardens include elements of wilderness tempered by formal frames and borders and order. A signature element of her designs are the use of hardy herbaceous borders.

A major element in her work was the purposeful use of colour theory. She employed a painterly approach to garden design, using Impressionistic-style schemes of planting. Intricate arrangements of colour and texture abound in some of her most notable pieces, including High Glanau Manor and Folly Farm.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

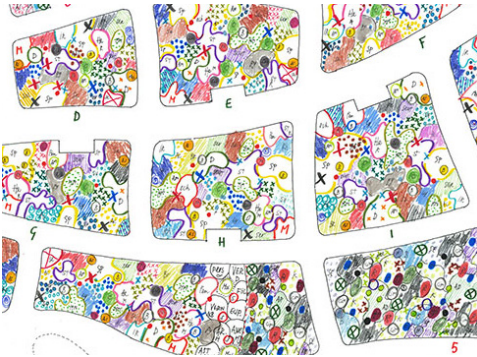
- Colour Theory - the purposeful use of colour in planting material to achieve a "painterly" quality in the landscape.
- Texture - the use of varied leaf and flower forms to add complexity and interest. Textures can be used to complement or contrast proximate plant species.
- Wild & Order - a garden design which features "messy" or chaotic planting schemes contained within more rigid geometries.

Right - High Glanau Manor landscape, designed by Gertrude Jekyll and Harold Peto.





The ground for Hauser & Wirth Somerset at Durslade Farm, by Piet Oudolf.



Planting plan prepared by Piet Oudolf for Vlinderhof.



Piet Oudolf's private gardens at Hummelo in the winter.

PIET OUDOLF - NEW PERENNIAL MOVEMENT

Born in 1944 in Haarlem, Netherlands, Piet Oudolf has risen to fame within the world of landscape architecture and garden design. Building upon the foundation of the Arts and Crafts movement, Oudolf's work characterises the New Perennial movement. This style of garden design introduces a modern approach to the marriage of wilderness and order.

Heavily influenced by nature, Oudolf's work incorporates large swatches of herbaceous perennials and grasses, chosen for their colour, texture, and form. These swatches are woven through the landscape in an organic and naturalistic manner, unbound by rigid geometries.

The selection of plant species is heavily influenced by the seasonal life cycles of plants, including flower, seed, and colour. These features are considered and combined in order to achieve four season interest. As Oudolf explains: "A garden is exciting for me when it looks good through the year, not just at one particular time. I want to go outside and for it to be interesting in all weather, in early spring and late autumn."

Oudolf's approach to design has evolved over the course of his career. Several of his most recent works, including the now iconic gardens of New York's High Line, demonstrate a shift away from a painterly, flower-focused approach to planting design to one informed by ecology and plant structure. This shift prioritizes the long-term success of the plant community, as well as ease of maintenance.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Four Season Garden - planting design that aims to have plant species that provide interest during each season contained within one planting bed.
- Sweeping Masses - larger clusters or groupings of a single species in the garden.
- Resilience in Planting - the selection of location and conditions appropriate plant species, especially native species.
- Planting Matrix (Layering) - a planting design approach that categorizes plants as primary, scatter, or matrix plants.

Right - The Bonn residence by Oudolf, featuring large swatches of plant materials or varying colours and textures



