

Summary Vision Landscaping Committee

Members: Janet Brandt, Bertha Eades, Glenn Eades, Jim Eichner, Bill Gilbert, Margo Paddock, and John Shepodd

The group would like to create a landscape for Holy Cross that fulfills three goals:

1. To complement and beautify the new and existing buildings (Beauty).
2. To plan and execute environmentally sustainable policies for the landscape at Holy Cross (Environmental Considerations).
3. To create an outdoor sanctuary and destination for congregants and neighbors (Sanctuary).

To fulfill these goals, we would like to request a budget of \$75,000 from the long-range planning committee. Accordingly, we have set for ourselves the following guiding principles and tasks:

Beauty: Create a beautiful, distinctive, elegant environment.

- Select a “theme tree” that repeats throughout the property, unifying the landscape. (Candidate trees are Eddie’s white wonder dogwood and summer snowflake viburnum, among others.)
- Landscaping should soften the harshness of the parking lots.
- Convert the utilitarian nature of the stormwater storage ponds into an attractive feature of the grounds.
- Create a rhododendron dell.

Sanctuary: Create a landscape that has places for contemplation, meditation, quiet thought, and intimate conversation.

- Plant trees as soon as possible (so they can start growing) as a privacy screen from the neighboring properties.
- Relocate as appropriate the Stations of the Cross.

Environmental Considerations: Create a natural, low-maintenance, environmentally responsible landscape.

- Use as many of the existing trees, shrubs, and plants as possible.
- Create an inventory of trees, shrubs, and plants that will need to be moved during construction phase.
- Use rocks, including dish rocks, in the landscape.
- Establish Holy Cross as a National Wildlife Federation certified wildlife habitat.
- Research the possibility of using slope to drain into perking pavement in the parking lots to mitigate stormwater storage requirements.
- Replant the stormwater storage pond.
- Use French drains to channel water, creating a water feature with a “sculptural” effect.
- Place planters at the corners of buildings to collect and use water draining off the buildings.
- Remove all ivy (now classified as a noxious plant) from the grounds.
- Limit the amount of turf/grass to 25 percent of the total landscape.
- Create a compost area on the grounds, perhaps using three-sided bins.
- Explore the possibility of building and using a worm bin for kitchen waste.
- Discuss with Best Beginnings the possibility of their creating a unit for their students on both composting and worm bins.

Miscellaneous Notes

- Use students from Don Marshall’s LWTC class to help plant.
- Create a kid-friendly, tough, and utilitarian landscape.

Submitted by Margo Paddock