

HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL

PLANTING GUIDE

The following guide explains the planting choices made at the Memorial site, the three Millstone Gardens, entrances, pathways and mounds. Each element is defined by a theme that is interpreted through the use of a unique planting pallet. Each page contains explanations that delve into further detail on the history and importance of the planting types suggested.



INTRODUCTION

The planting design for the Holodomor Memorial strives to recreate the textures, colours and richness of the regional landscapes in which the Holodomor took place. As many of the native Ukrainian flora symbols fail to thrive in Toronto, substitutions have been carefully selected to evoke a similar atmosphere. With the constraints imposed by our Canadian landscape in mind, an opportunity arises. Using native plants to our region would provide a garden that is very resilient and durable. Native plants also provide food and shelter for song birds and pollinators such as butterflies. The memorial location is very close to the lake and Coronation Park, so it is highly likely that many species of migratory birds will discover the garden. Creating a place of sustenance for wildlife adds a deeper layer of meaning. The Holodomor Memorial could become a place of refuge to more than just people.

A couple of different approaches for species selection have been used. Alternative species for important flora symbols of the Ukraine of the same colour, season of bloom, leaf texture, shape and growth habit were chosen. Species that are of very high value nutritionally and provide sources of food for birds and butterflies that would likely be near the site were also selected. All of the plant types used throughout the Memorial site were carefully selected to ensure that they can thrive in the harsh Canadian climate, yet evoke the natural landscapes of Ukraine.

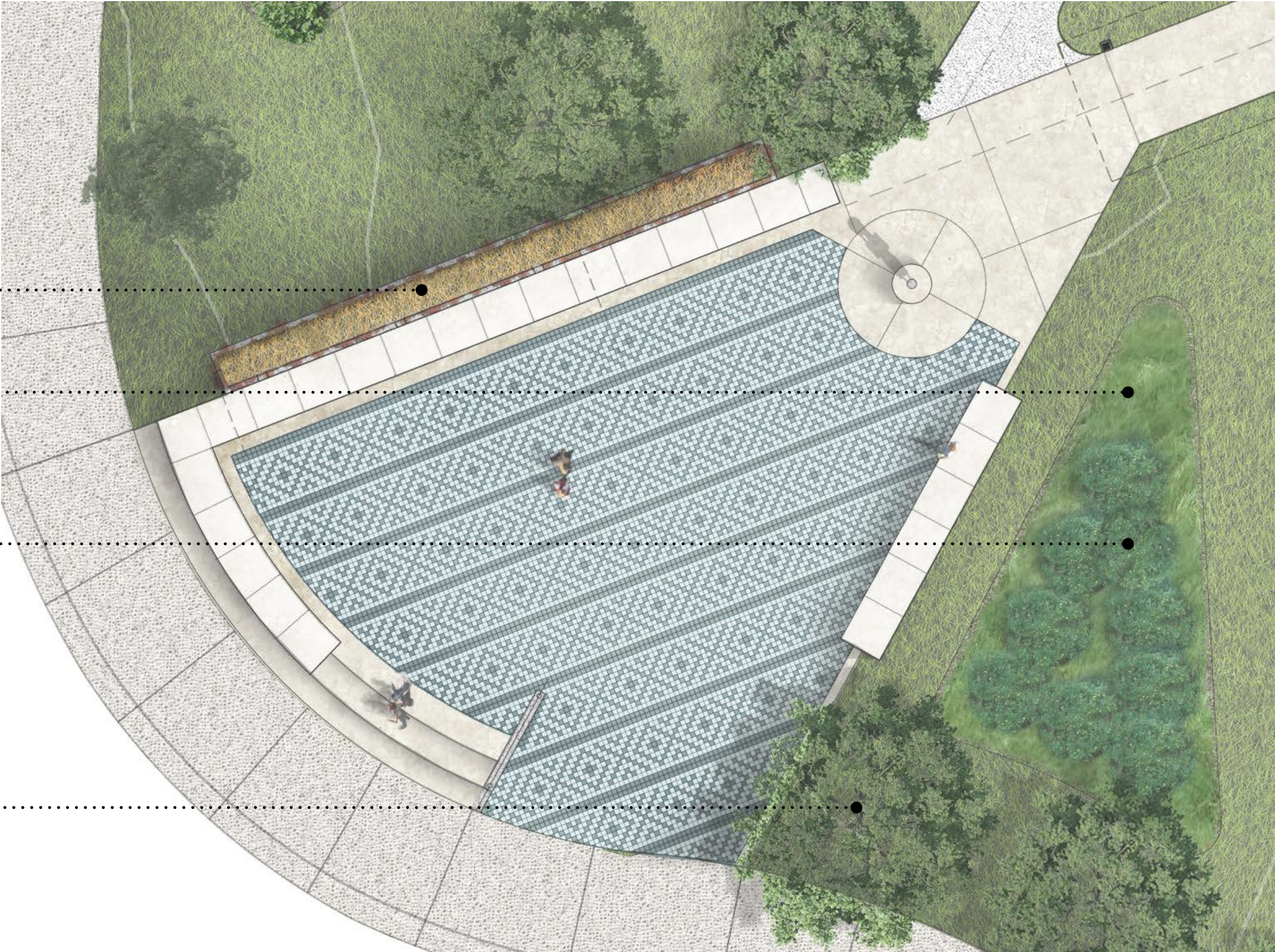
MAIN MEMORIAL SITE

Canada Wild Rye

Pennsylvania Sedge

Bebb's Willow

Kentucky Coffee Tree



MAIN MEMORIAL SITE



CANADA WILD RYE

Canada wild rye (Elymus canadensis) is a perennial grass with a large seed head that is somewhat similar to wheat. The foliage of the plant is a blue colour in the spring and summer before turning bronze with the seeds remaining intact late into the fall. This grass is very tolerant of dry situations and will move in the wind like a field of wheat, yet taller in height.



KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE

The Kentucky coffee tree is a highly resilient native tree, very tolerant of urban conditions. The tree features leaves of a compound type, large bean seed pods, and white/green flowers on a stem. The leaves drop very early in the fall enabling sun warming into the space below during cooler weather.

The seed pods are edible when roasted, used in times of poverty as a coffee substitute similar to chicory. The pods were also used by First Nations peoples for medicinal purposes.



BEBBS WILLOW

Bebbs Willow is a very important native species as it has many uses traditionally. It can be shrubby or more tree-like depending on if it is pruned or grazed. Bebb's willow is very hardy and tolerant of drier conditions. Willows flower in the early spring and are an important pollinator food.



PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE

Planted among the willow will be a native sedge, Carex pennsylvanica. This low growing grass as perennial is low-maintenance and will eliminate the need to mow turf around the willows.

MILLSTONE GARDEN 1
“REMEMBRANCE”

Cornflower

Nannyberry

Wild Geranium

Poppies



“REMEMBRANCE”

The feature plants of the Remembrance garden are the poppy and the cornflower. Both of these native Ukrainian species do not lend themselves easily to this location – yet the symbolism of each is very important. Both of these traditional plants have beautiful flowers. Once finished flowering, the leaves left behind are far less attractive, or in the case of poppies, disappear completely.



PAPAVER RHOEAS

The poppies found in Ukraine grow from seeds and do not transplant well, therefore the memorial garden will use an Oriental poppy. This variety will be the same bright orange colour, yet are more long lived than the European variety and can handle transplanting. The poppies will be planted in a bed along with a late season ornamental grass so after they flower in early June and die back, they will be hidden by the leaves of the grass by the middle of July.



CORNFLOWER

The same strategy is proposed for the cornflowers. They will be planted within a bed of Canada wild rye. The blue grey foliage of the cornflower with the deep blue of the Canada wild rye will offer an interesting effect. The cornflower will be done flowering before the Canada wild rye is tall enough to conceal it. Once the cornflower has died back to, the taller grass will grow over and hide the foliage.



NANNYBERRY

Nannyberry was selected because of its very interesting shape – it is more columnar so will be used to make a structured wall to enclose the garden. It is also rated as a superfood plant, providing pollinators with a food source in the spring and birds and chipmunks with berries in the fall. The fall leaf colour is a deep red to burgundy colour.



WILD GERANIUM

Cranesbill or wild geranium (Geranium maculatum) is planted along the edge of the plaza to provide a pale bluish/mauve flower in early spring. It has attractive leaves not dissimilar to an ornamental geranium.

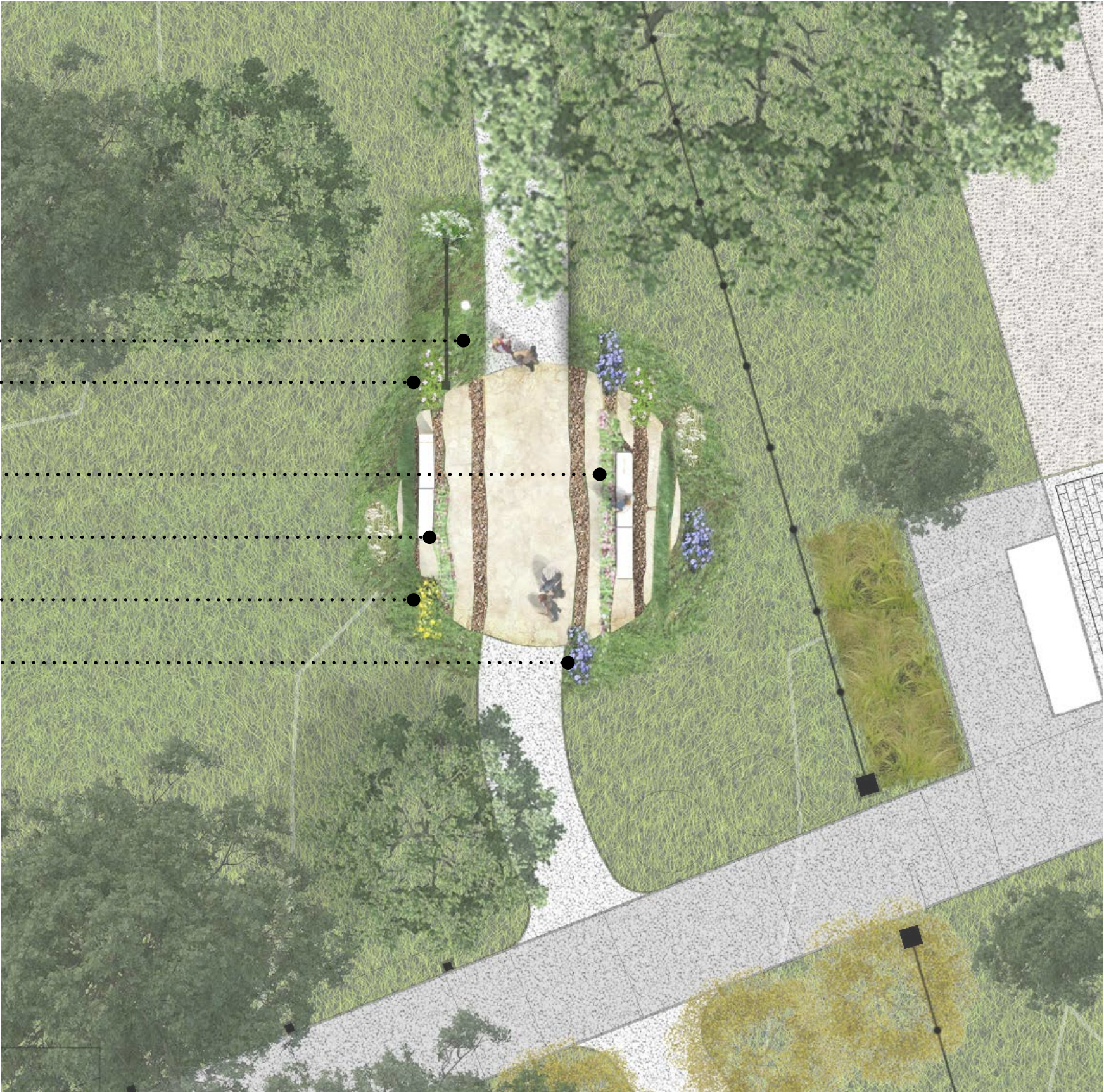


NATIVE BASSWOOD

Three new canopy trees – native basswoods (Tilia americana) are located along the east pathway. This native tree would have been found in this location in the past. The tree has very fragrant yellowish -white flowers in the early summer. The nutlet is a food source for chipmunks, squirrels and mice. The large leaves provide deep shade and are a good food for many different species of butterfly larvae.

MILLSTONE GARDEN 2
“RESILIENCE”

- Wild Strawberry*
- Wild Geranium*
- Nodding Onion*
- Pearly Everlasting*
- Evening Primrose*
- Perennial Flax*



“RESILIENCE”

The plants chosen for this garden are all very well suited to growing in narrow spaces. They are small, tough and resilient plants that tolerate hard conditions, suggesting endurance. The flowers are blue or white.



WILD STRAWBERRY

The garden is surrounded by a large circular bed of wild strawberry (Fragaria virginiana). Wild strawberry played an important role in First Nations culture. They are the first fruit of the new season, signaling summer and the potential of a good harvest. They are tiny but sweet.



NODDING ONION

Nodding Onion (Allium cernuum) is an edible plant that has white flowers similar to those on a traditional cooking onion, and is a food source for pollinators.



PEARLY EVERLASTING

The blooms of pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea) is very similar to a cornflower in shape, but its white flower remains on the plant.



PERENNIAL FLAX

Perennial flax, while not native to Ontario, is tolerant of dry conditions and is found along the roadsides and field edges of Europe.



WILD GERANIUM

The wild geranium (Geranium maculatum) has a violet/blue flower in the early spring.



EVENING PRIMROSE

Evening primrose (Oenothera biennis) flowers bright yellow in the very early spring.

MILLSTONE GARDEN 3
“REBIRTH”

Higan Cherry

Milkweed

Sneezeweed

Gelder Rose

Oak Tree



“REBIRTH”

The overarching theme for the planting in this garden is abundant growth with a bursting exuberant quality.



HIGAN CHERRY

The Higan cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* ‘*Autumnalis*’) is selected for its disease resistance. Native to Japan, it is hardier than European varieties but far showier than the native species.



GELDER ROSE

Gelder rose (*Viburnum opulos*) will provide a brilliant early summer display.



MILKWEED

Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is included in clumps among the ornamental grasses, little blue stem, and indian grass.



SNEEZEWEED

More cornflower makes an appearance as well as an unfortunately named sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnalis*) and tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*). The sneezeweed has an orange flower and a delicate leaf that suggests an early version of marigold, but is a native perennial that is very attractive to pollinators.



BRUNNERA

This blue flowering perennial will be used in the circular planting bed. The leaves are dark green or silver speckled, and like periwinkle, flowers very early in the spring but it is not an invasive plant threatening the local ecosystem.



OAK TREES

In the background are some additional Oak trees to provide replacement canopy for the trees that were removed.

MAIN ENTRANCE AREA

Pearly Everlasting

Ninebark

Nodding Onion

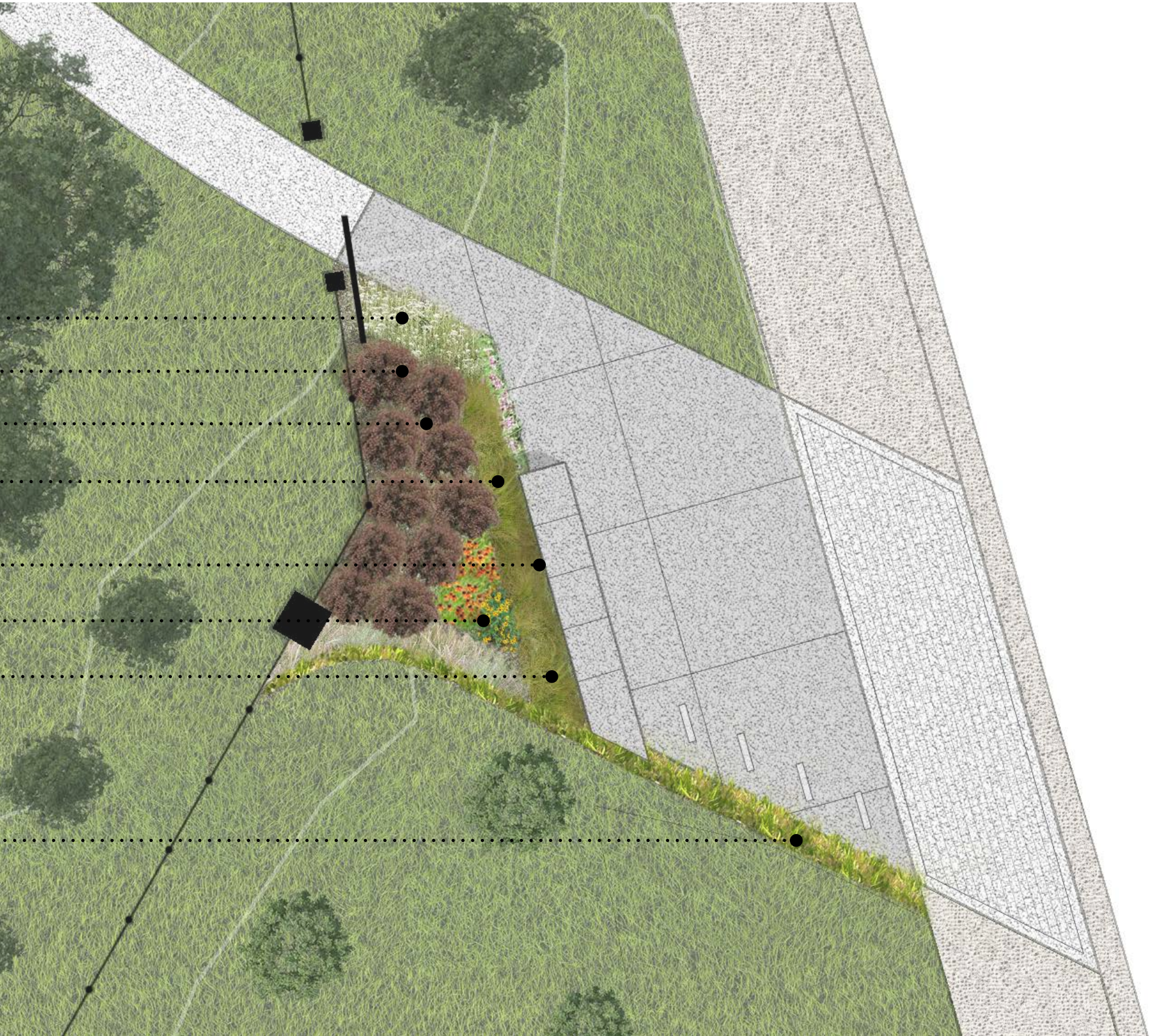
Panic Grass

Sneezeweed

Brown Eyed Susan

Side Oats Grama

Sea Oats



MAIN ENTRANCE AREA



NINEBARK

Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius) has a number of similar characteristics to Gelder rose, with a similar leaf shape and white flower but less showy. What differentiates the Ninebark is that it is a drought tolerant native plant. It is a very good plant for spring pollinators and its bark in winter looks like it is peeling and has a distinctive texture.



SEA OATS

A number of ornamental grasses are used to represent wheat including sea oats, side oats grama and panic grass.



SIDE OATS GRAMA

A number of ornamental grasses are used to represent wheat including sea oats, side oats grama and panic grass.



PANIC GRASS

A number of ornamental grasses are used to represent wheat including sea oats, side oats grama and panic grass.



BROWN EYED SUSAN

Along with some flowering perennials, brown-eyed Susan's and pearly ever lastings will add colour punctuations to the entrance.

False Sunflower

Maple Leaf Viburnum

Beaked Hazelnut



MOUND 1



MAPLE LEAF VIBURNUM

Maple-leaf viburnum features showy white flowers and berries in the late summer, followed by an attractive fall colour. This plant is highly adapted for dry conditions.



BEAKED HAZELNUT

The native beaked hazelnut (Corylus cornuta) features edible and tasty nuts enjoyed by squirrels.



FALSE SUNFLOWER

False sunflower plantings dispersed through the mound will add some bright yellow colour.

MOUND 2

Purple Flowering Raspberry

Canada Anemone

Pincherry

Smooth Wild Rose



MOUND 2



PINCHERRY

Pin cherry is a great source for pollinators. It is red and very sour to humans – but so popular with song birds that is also called bird cherry.



PURPLE FLOWERING RASPBERRY

The purple flowering raspberry is a great source for pollinators and has interesting red fruit that is edible but sour.



SMOOTH ROSE

The smooth rose is another great source for pollinators.



CANADA ANEMONE

Canada anemone are used as a groundcover to provide some early spring white flowers.

MOUND 3

Running Serviceberry

Nannyberry

Witch Hazel

Wild Geranium



MOUND 3



NANNYBERRY

A native shrub with a distinctive shape in the winter, that along with serviceberry and witch hazel, will provide a structure of fall colours. The nannyberry has showy white blooms in the spring.



RUNNING SERVICEBERRY

A native shrub with a distinctive shape in the winter, that along with nannyberry and witch hazel, will provide a structure of fall colours. The serviceberry has showy white blooms in the spring.



WITCH HAZEL

A native shrub with a distinctive shape in the winter, that along with nannyberry and serviceberry, will provide a structure of fall colours. Witch hazel has a discreet yellow flower in the late fall and creates a haze of yellow when everything else is dead and gray.



WILD GERANIUM

Some wild geranium will add some texture to the ground.