

North End Parks

Community Meeting 2014

03.12.2014

Tonight's Agenda

- 2013 in review
- NE Planning – Overview
- Park infrastructure improvements
- Spring 2014 horticulture project
- Boxwood beds renovation
- Park furniture
- Q&A
- Next steps & wrap up

2013 Park Improvements

Furniture



Tree Planting



Bulbs



Pavement Repairs



Planning for The North End Parks - Overview

- Guide to direct ongoing care and fundraising
- Based on community feedback/operations experience and professional expertise
- Objective to enhance the year-round public experience
- Work within strength of existing formal park design
- Integrate best practices of organic care
- Recognize evolution of adjacent development



Park Infrastructure Repair and Improvements

Repair Fountain Leak on Parcel 8

- Water leaks out of the fountain and onto the adjacent path.
- Long-Term Risks: If the problem persists, the structural integrity of the wall could become compromised.



Repair Freedom Trail Lighting

- Lights along the Freedom Trail are not functioning due to electrical issues and condensation build up.
- Long-Term Risks: The park was designed to feature these lights; their absence lowers visual integrity and safety in the park.



Repair Sidewalk Slabs

- Vibration from the tunnels below, combined with frost, has pushed the sidewalk slabs from their footings.
- Long-Term Risks: The sidewalks no longer meet ADA code. Potential for visitors to trip and fall.



Replace Substandard Upright Lighting

- Lighting in the North End was poorly designed and badly-installed from its construction. Lights wobble aggressively.
- Long-Term Risks: Lighting will break and fall over.



Restore Finish on Metal Railings

- The railings are located near the children's fountains where chlorinated water has corroded the railing surface.
- Long-Term Risks: Aesthetic. Railings are rough to the touch.



Resurface Corroded Pergola Support Posts

- Chipping and scratches climb from the bottom of the Pergola support posts.
- Pergola posts in garden beds are corroding, with peeling metal and post degradation.
- Long-Term Risks: Untended, the chipped and scratched metal will rust, compromising the Pergola structure.



Replace worn furniture

- Finishes have worn/chipped from use and from sun & water damage.
- Finish on the double-length benches has worn and chipped from use, sun damage and water damage. The metal beneath is too hot in summer, too cold in winter.

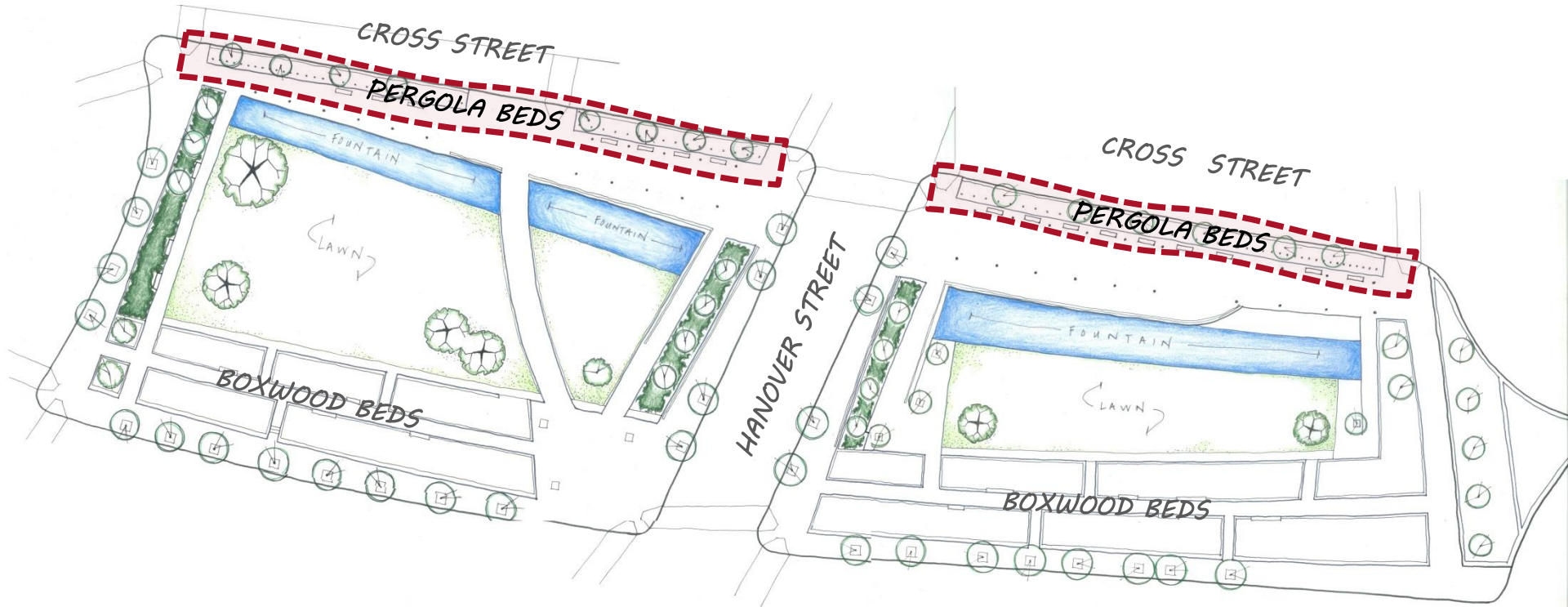


Park Horticulture

1. Pergola Planting Beds
2. Boxwood Beds

Pergola Planting Beds

Objective: A robust 4-season landscape that buffers park users from the busy street



Pergola Design Intent



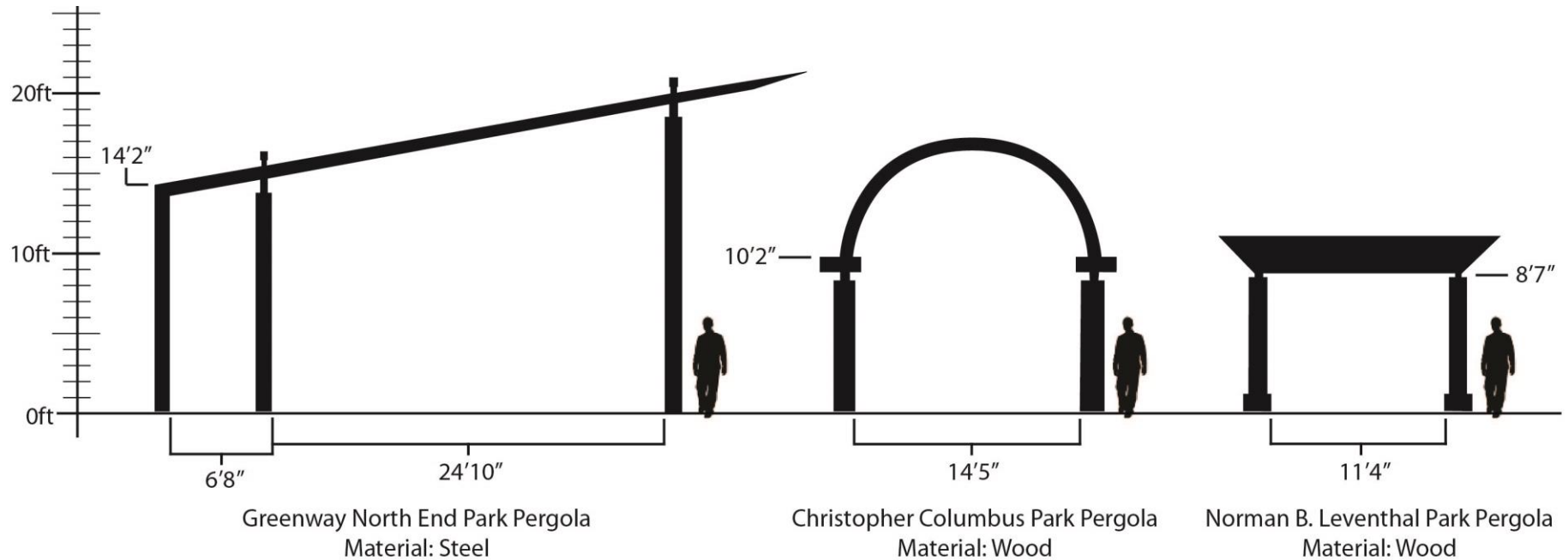
The pergola **WAS** designed to be:

- The “front porch” of the North End
- An over-sized architectural element that allows for transparency through to North End

The pergola **WAS NOT** designed to:

- Support vine growth across the top for shade

Pergola Size Comparison



Vines/trellis not recommended approach

- Wouldn't provide shade
- Vines will not grow up and over pergola
- Metal heats up, poor growing environment
- Armature system expensive
- Less necessary as tree canopy and new plantings fill in

Recommended approach:

Add understory plantings of varying heights, textures and colors for year round interest and a more robust buffer to the street.



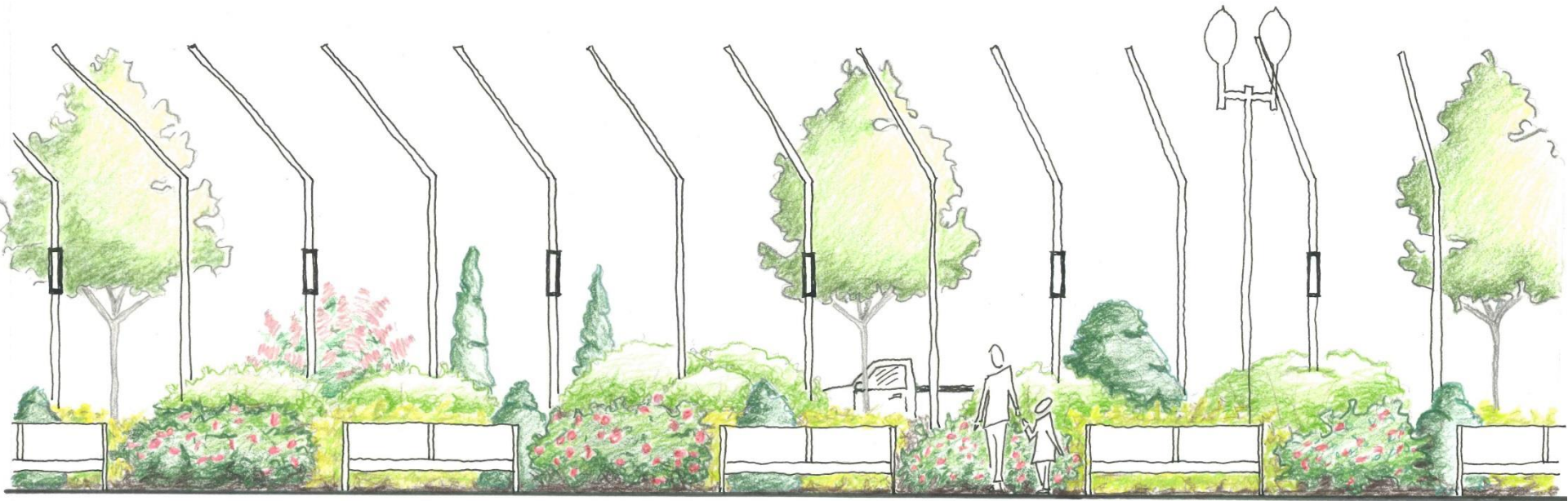
Existing Conditions



A busy environment of light posts, utility boxes, benches and trash receptacles

Recommended Planting Design Approach

- A. Retain street trees and evergreen junipers along street edge because they work
- B. Add more mid-height shrubs for diversity
- C. Insert punches of high color roses



Winter Plant Palette

Structural Plants to anchor the bed year round



Spring Plant Palette

texture, form, color



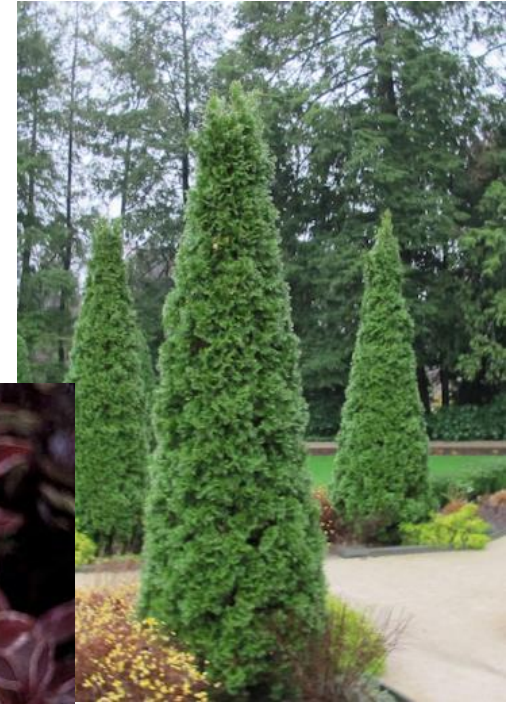
Summer Plant Palette

texture, form, color

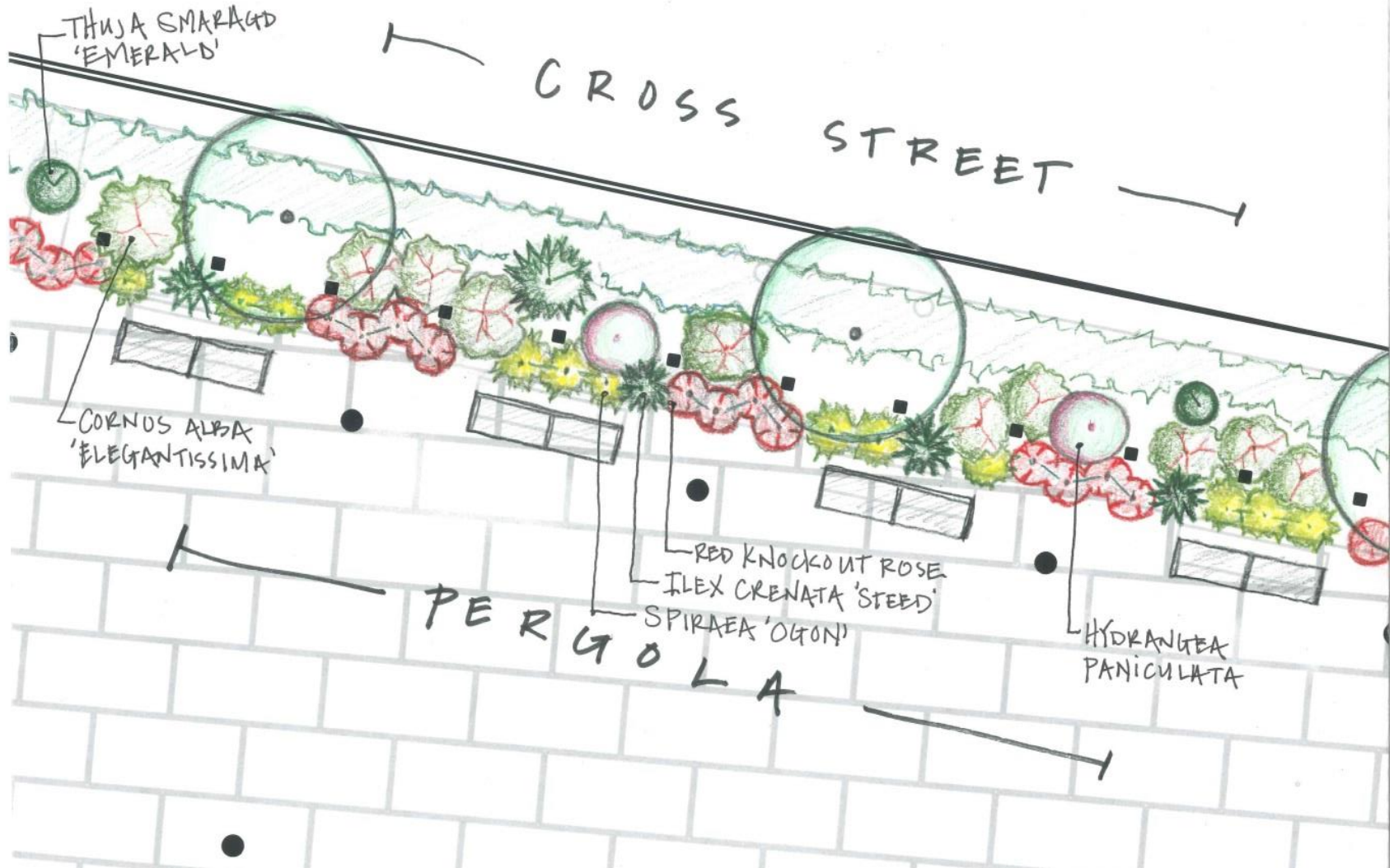


Fall Plant Palette

texture, form, color

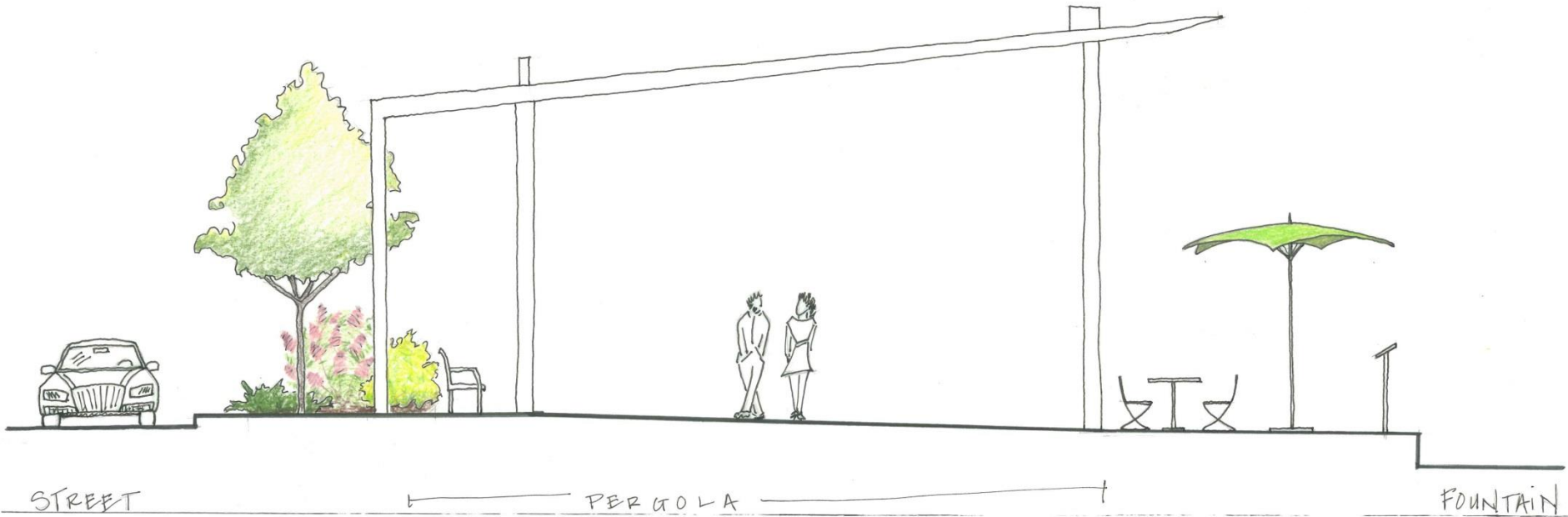


Pergola planting plan



Pergola section looking southeast:

Good scale relationship to street, walking area, furniture and remainder of park

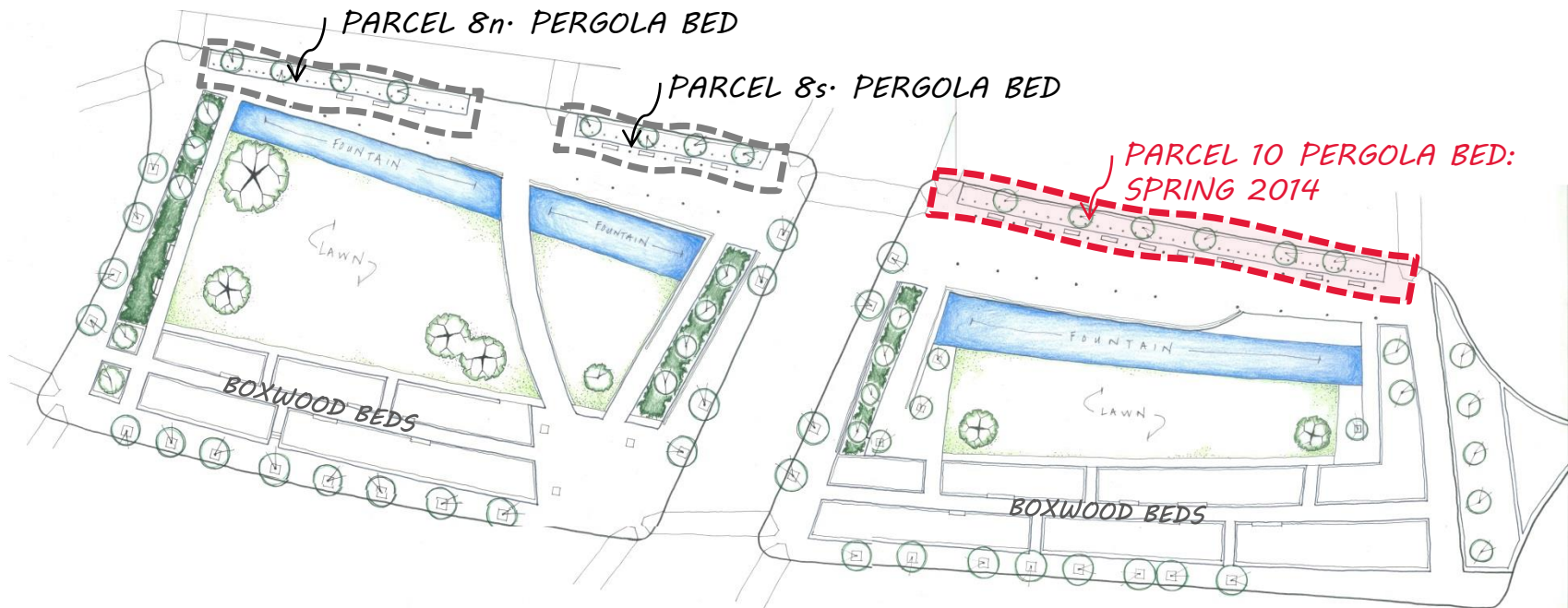


NORTH END PARKS PERGOLA
SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$

Pergola Planting Plan: Parcel 10 budgeted for Spring 2014 renovation

Tasks:

- Engage contractor and order plants
- Prepare beds (remove existing underperforming shrubs/salvage good materials)
- Amend soil as needed
- Install plants
- Rework irrigation
- Top dress with composted mulch



Boxwood Beds Renovation

Seasonality: Increase 4 seasons of vibrancy & interest



Color Palette: Add diversity



Height and texture: Add more variety



Entrances: Create a more welcoming experience



Existing plant conditions: Create a healthy growing environment



Boxwood Beds Renovation: Design Approach

- **Holistic design:** How the whole park works together
- **Optimize public experience of horticulture:** Circulation; passive vs. active use; views from both inside & outside the park; homeless population
- **Plants:** Robust, varied plant pallet that works in 4 seasons; high points vs. quiet zones
- **Environmental conditions:** Micro-climate; soil; sun vs. shade; wind
- **Maintenance & irrigation**
- **Community engagement**

Welcome Lynden B. Miller!

We have engaged nationally recognized landscape designer, Lynden Miller, to support our professional staff



New York Botanical Garden, New York City



Conservatory Garden, Central Park, New York City



Bryant Park, New York City

Boxwood Beds Renovation: Lynden's Approach



Winter Plant Palette

Structural Plants to anchor the bed year round

Structural Plants to anchor the bed year round



Spring Plant Palette

texture, form, color



This collage features a variety of spring plants. At the top left, a large bush of deep red roses is shown. Below it, a cluster of light purple flowers is visible. To the right, a large, rounded shrub with white flowers is featured. In the center, a tall, slender, conical evergreen stands out. Below the roses, a large, vibrant green hosta with broad, ribbed leaves is prominent. To the right of the hosta, a close-up of a blue iris flower is shown. Below the hosta, a large, rounded shrub with yellow flowers is visible. In the bottom left, a cluster of white daisies is shown. To the right of the daisies, a large, rounded shrub with purple flowers is featured. In the bottom right, a close-up of green leaves with water droplets is shown.



Summer Plant Palette

texture, form, color

LM

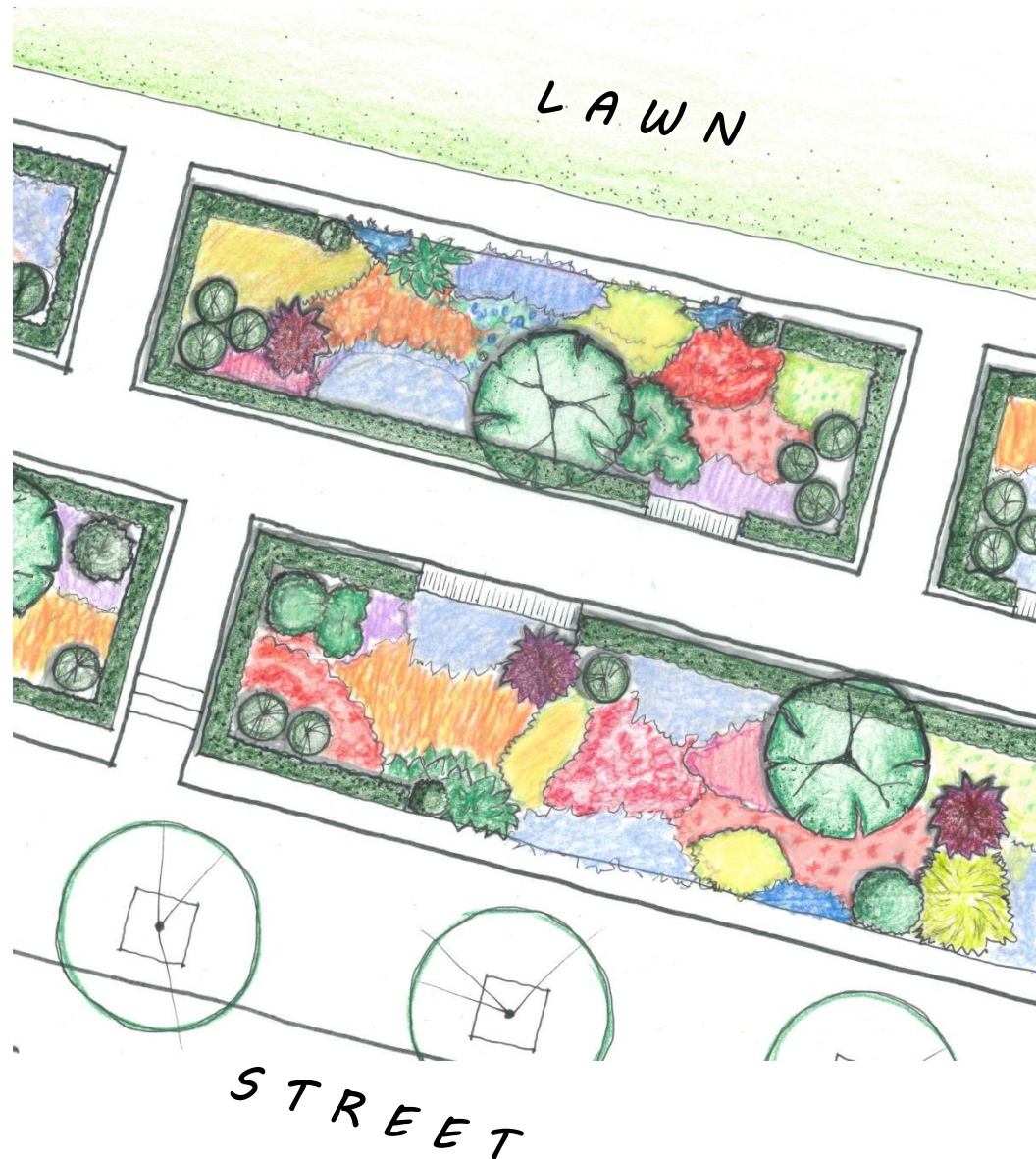


Fall Plant Palette

texture, form, color



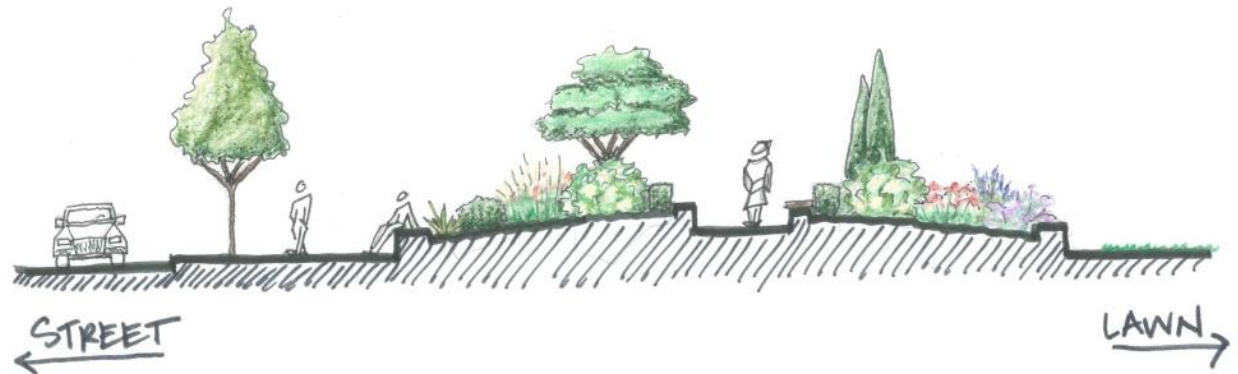
Boxwood Beds Renovation: preliminary design concept



Boxwood Beds Renovation: preliminary design concept



VIEW INTO BOXWOOD BEDS FROM LAWN
SCALE: 1" = 8'



SECTION THROUGH BOXWOOD BEDS LOOKING NORTHWEST
SCALE: 1" = 8'

Boxwood Beds Renovation:

Create a more welcoming experience



Boxwood Beds Renovation Approach

1. Uphold formality of boxwood beds
2. Create/keep buffers from busy city surroundings
3. Create more welcoming experience
4. Increase vibrancy & 4-season interest



Park Furniture

New Ideas for Seating

Existing Park Furniture

- Table & chair sets: 14
- Umbrellas: 11
- Benches: 32



Idea:

Gliding swings to replace some existing benches



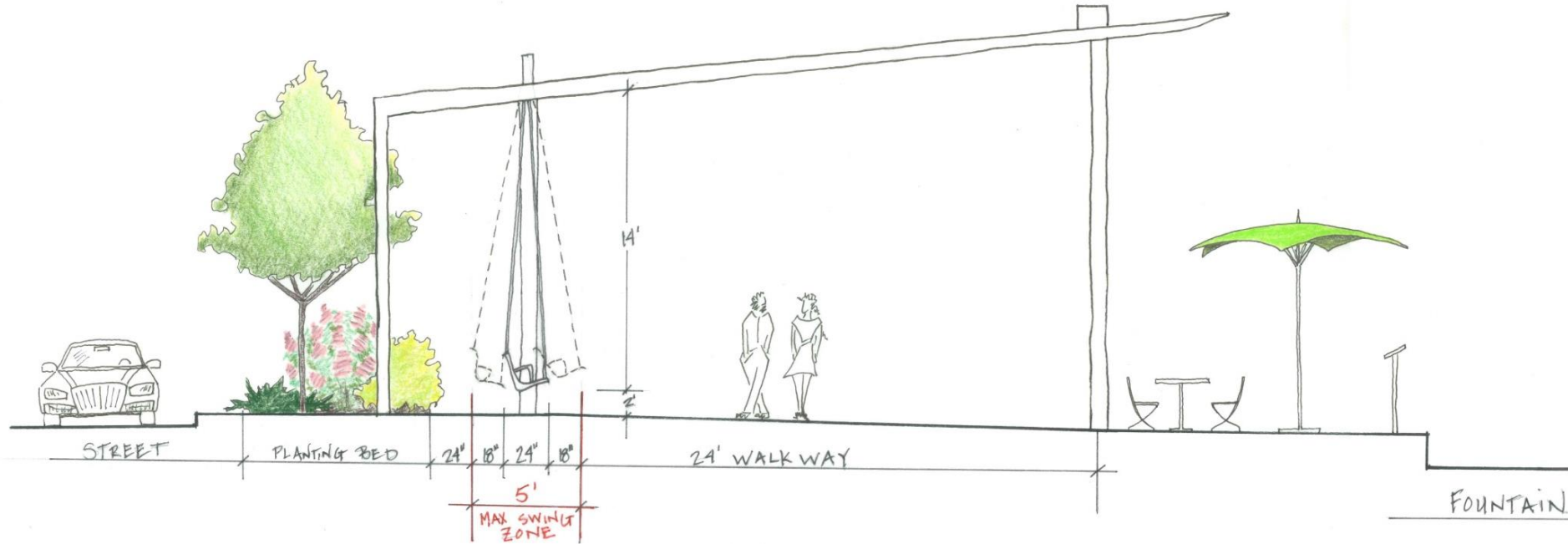
Idea:

Gliding swings alternating with new benches



Idea:

Gliding swings can be supported off of pergola



NORTHEND PARKS

PERGOLA SWINGS SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Idea:

more wood benches on boxwood bed seatwalls



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Questions?



Next Steps

