



Reimagining the Sherborn Library Landscape - Fall 2022

Over the past year, while the Sherborn Library underwent the final steps of its expansion, a committee of landscape designers, volunteers, and residents appointed by the Trustees have been working to reimagine the landscape that surrounds the library. The committee sought to honor the architecture of the original building and its history, while at the same time reflecting Sherborn's natural beauty and anticipating the Town's future needs.

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The new landscape plan incorporates elements of the original landscape design, including the magnificent purple beech on the library lawn, while evoking the region's horticultural heritage by using mostly native perennials, shrubs, and trees. It incorporates new shade and understory trees, resilient and drought-tolerant species that reduce the reliance on irrigation, and a variety of plantings to add color through all seasons. The new landscaping will give residents the opportunity to learn about native plantings and enjoy the newly accessible spaces around the Library.

The Library recently received a \$75,000 grant from the Weezie Foundation that will help fund the beautiful new landscape. A presentation of the three-phase landscape plan developed by Sherborn Resident Hadley Berkowitz (<https://www.hadleyberkowitz.com>), who is part of the landscaping committee, can be found on the Library website.

Phase I of the Landscaping Plan has begun, with tree pruning and repairs already underway. Phase II was originally planned for summer 2022 but was delayed by the severe drought and statewide restrictions on watering so plantings will be installed in early spring 2023.

A key element of the library landscape design is to complement work being done or anticipated on the larger Town Campus. The Select Board (with the support of the Advisory Committee) has awarded ARPA funding to rebuild the steps from the front door of the library down the slope toward the Town Hall parking lot. This phase of the project is part of a larger Town Campus Improvement Plan proposed by Sherborn resident and designer Janet Walsh (<https://www.gardenroomslandscapedesign.com>), in collaboration with landscape committee members and residents Sam Nelson and Margo Powicki. In addition to the staircase, the Town Campus project will include new walkways, improved lighting, and fresh landscaping around Town Hall. Both plans have been shared with Trustees, Select Board, and the Historic District Commission.

The Sherborn Library Landscaping Committee is a group of volunteers including landscape designers, an arborist, and avid gardeners all working together to make the outside as beautiful and enriching as the inside space will be for all residents of Sherborn.

Landscape Subcommittee Members: Abby Fiske, Carol McGarry, Chris Cooney, Dick Stoner, Hadley Berkowitz, Heather Willis, Janet Walsh, Margo Powicki, Mary Moore (co-chair), Sam Nelson (co-chair).

