

Campuses and Developments — Big Spaces = Big Potential

CHALLENGE



KIM PHILLIPS

JUDY ARCHIBALD

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Existing large spaces or those slated for future development can actually regain ecological value and exist symbiotically with surrounding natural environments, rather than in direct opposition.

This isn't Texas, but that doesn't mean we don't like things big here in Pennsylvania. A short drive around the Delaware Valley will prove that when it comes to school campuses, business and industrial complexes, hospitals and churches, we like spacious expanses of grass interspersed with ornamental trees and shrubs. These landscape elements contrast sharply with the natural forests and fields they replaced while keeping

industrial-sized lawnmowers running at full bore during the long growing season.

These large sites can benefit from the same habitat and environmental enhancements we apply to our backyards but with even greater wildlife value and conservation outcomes. From meadows and water gardens to forest plots and flower beds, existing large spaces or those slated for future development can actually regain ecological value and exist symbiotically with surrounding natural



Large expanses of turf grass are commonplace in school and corporate campuses.

STEVEN J. SAFFER

NOTES



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A high-maintenance parking lot divider — potential low-maintenance wildlife corridor.

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As you begin to shift your thinking and recognize the intrinsic value of naturalistic landscaping, other benefits become clear. With the reduction or elimination of large areas of turf grass comes the reduction or elimination of pesticides and fertilizers, direct contributors to water contamination. There will be less need for water itself because there will be less thirsty grass and, as discussed in other sections of this guide, any

decrease of lawn size immediately cuts down the maintenance hours, gasoline usage, and noise pollution.

For every ornamental in need of pruning and care, there exists an alternative native plant, equally as strong, better suited for our climate and soil, and adapted to provide for local birds and other wildlife. The native deciduous shrub which lacks winter foliage may be temporarily sparse, but offers the promise of spring in its developing buds. Having this perspective will bring you to greater

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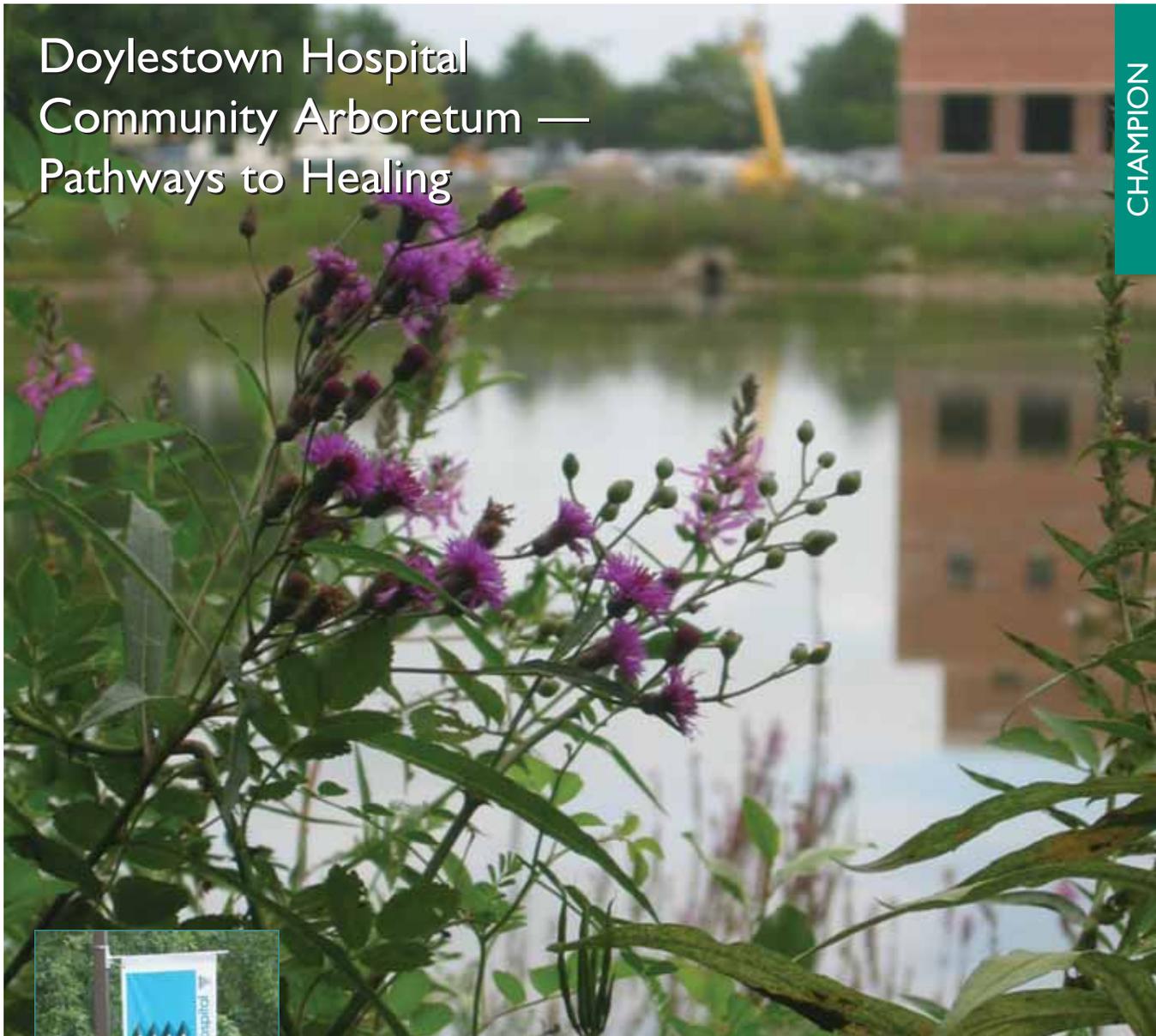


Wild bergamot

PAUL GREEN

Doylestown Hospital Community Arboretum — Pathways to Healing

CHAMPION



DOYLESTOWN

MAGGIE STRUCKER

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Elsie White, the Director of the Community Arboretum, lights up when talking about the Doylestown Hospital Healing Gardens. You can tell that this project is very close to her heart. When she began this project in 1998 she had no idea how it would tie a community together.

It wasn't until 2000, after the Board gave approval for a master plan and landscape architect Peter Fernandez

(Carter Van Dyke Associates) was hired, that the first gardens were installed and dedicated. Fernandez worked with the hospital to design seven different gardens for the 56-acre site where patients, employees, volunteers and the community would be able to enjoy the arboretum's beauty throughout the seasons.

Visitors can now walk through the Azalea Amble and the Medicinal Trail to



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Visitors can walk through the Azalea Amble and the Medicinal Trail to be greeted by a sign that says "*May all who walk here be graced by nature's healing.*"

NOTES



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Doylestown Hospital workers take a break in one garden.

be greeted by a sign that says “*May all who walk here be graced by nature’s healing.*” A path leads to the Wetland Garden and the bird blind that overlooks a pond. Follow a caravan of baby strollers to the Native Shade Garden that resides outside of the Children’s Village daycare facility. This garden will soon include a nature cabin for storytelling and instruction.

“People are connected in a variety of ways to the hospital,” explains Elsie when

asked how she got the project moving along so quickly. “The people who come to use and enjoy the grounds become involved in enhancing it. The Arboretum has become a very meaningful place to many people.” The sculpture you will find in the gardens has been donated to remember loved ones. The many benches along the way have been donated by staff as memorials. A hospital radiologist and his wife, both avid birders, donated the Wetland Garden and Bird Blind. The

Elsie's Healing Thoughts

- Healing gardens are unique and beneficial in a healthcare setting and are in line with the mission of hospitals.
- Eagle Scouts are always looking for projects and can be a wonderful, enthusiastic source for construction and other aspects of garden implementation.
- Contracting with local businesses and purchasing from local vendors is a win-win relationship. In turn, they often become in-kind donors.
- Hospital gardens tap into the hobbies (gardening, birdwatching, etc.) of the hospital family — associates, volunteers, and medical staff — who will support an arboretum's development with their time, in-kind, and monetary donations.
- An arboretum can be a wonderful tool for people to honor or memorialize special individuals and offer a new avenue of financial support for a hospital.



Sculpture by a trail.



A dedication sign.

widow of a rose gardener offered her husband's collection, now lovingly maintained in the garden by a hospital worker during her daily breaks. There are many stories like this in the Healing Gardens, all of which are key to its success. In Elsie's words, "Many hands make it work."

It seems as soon as something is designed, people come forward to make it happen. On any given volunteer work morning, people show up at different times for an hour or two to help restore a stream bank or to plant home-grown perennials. A local Eagle Scout troop from Carversville built the bridge and Bird Blind and the project's landscape architect often returns with his sons to help support the garden.

In 1998, Doylestown envisioned the addition of the arboretum as an expansion of the hospital's mission, which is "...to provide a responsive, healing environment for patients and their families and to improve the quality of life for all members of the community." When one walks through the Doylestown Hospital gardens today, it becomes obvious that this vision has come true.

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