

~RIVER-GRASSES~

Following is a list of the plants, grasses and shrubs, with their descriptions, which have been planted at the riverfront. None of these plants are fertilized barring the annual application of compost. There is some mulching and occasional weeding. The grasses are cut back in very late winter or very early spring depending on the species. The grasses will need to be divided in about 3-5 years, producing more plant material. The grasses have an extraordinary root system which stabilize the soil and assists in storm water runoff issues. ALL of these plants can be translated into our home yards and the grasses specifically look best in mass. They will need little water once they are established.

The more each of us can shrink our lawns, the less fertilizer is used, the less mowing is done and the less watering is needed. Times our neighbors to the right and left, times the street, times our town, the impact is remarkable.

~GRASSES~

- *CAREX pennsylvanica*/ Pennsylvania Sedge.
Native to thickets and woods in eastern North America.
Can be adapted as a lawn alternative. Plant thickly in dry sunny or shady sites. Delicate clumps of slender leaves to about 9" Very resilient. Salt tolerant. Does not need to be cut back. Though short, it catches the wind.

-*DESCHAMPSIA caespitosa*/ Tufted Hair Grass.

Native dense, tufted grass with delicate tan panicles in June. 2'. Sun or some shade.

-*PANICUM VIRGATUM*/ Switch grass/panic grass. This IS the main species at the river because they are indigenous, hearty and thrive in poor soil and are drought tolerant once established, There are many cultivars and all very distinctive:

-v. Cloud Nine- Tall switch grass. To 7'. Tall in flower, yet 'hazy' Erect through the winter, a pleasing dark gold in the autumn.

-v. Rotstrahlbusch- 3-4' red plumes in August. Green foliage turns a brilliant red.

-v. Shenandoah- 2-3'. Red switch grass. Leaves turn red-burgundy in fall.

-v. North Wind- 4-5'. Steel blue-green. Super upright, wind proof. Stands proud.

-amarum Dewey Blue- Coastal Switch Grass. At home in dry sandy conditions. Striking plumes in late summer. Vase shaped. Lots of movement. 4'

-*SCHIZACHYRIUM scoparius*/ Little Blue stem. Native ornamental grass reaching between 2'-4' forming

upright clumps of slender green leaves which have a tinge of blue. Purplish-bronze flowers appear in the late summer. The flowers give way to fluffy seed heads.

-SORGASTRUM nutans/ Indian Grass. A native which will grow from 3'-5'. Upright with blue-green foliage. Golden plumes appear in the late summer and then the plant turns an orange-yellow.

-SPOROBOLIS heterolepis/ Prairie Dropseed.
Grows in 2' mounds with delicate panicles (seed heads or florences) that shoot out to about 3'. Turns orangey-tan in autumn. Durable and drought resistant. Easy to grow. Great for small-scale OR large scale groundcover. Sun to light shade. A plant valued for how it captures the light when backlit by the sun.

~SHRUBS~

-ILEX

-glabra g.' Compacta' / Holly.
A compact form with dark green leaves. Grows slowly. Currently about 2 plus feet.

-MYRICA g. pennsylvanica/ Bayberry.
Glossy green foliage is followed by silvery gray berries. Reaches about 4' plus, height and spread.

-PRUNUS g. maritime/ Beachplum.

Seaside shrub, salt tolerant, loves sandy soil. Early May covered with small white blossoms, appearing before the leaves. Produces fruit and is wind-pruned adding winter interest.

-ROSA/ Rose.

- rugosa. Dense with bristly thorns, Fragrant, large wine-red flowers June- September followed by large orange-red hips in autumn.

-r. alba – white flowering form of rugosa.

-VACCINIUM/ Blueberry.

-angustifolium ‘Top Hat’. Lowbush blueberry. Low growing and spreading shrub for dry acid soils. With berries. 18-24”.

-corymbosum ‘Blue Crop’. Highbush blueberry. Glossy green foliage. Great fall color followed by red stems for winter. Blueberries! 36-48”.

-VIBURNUM/ Viburnum.

-carlesii- dense flower heads in May. Fragrant. Full sun. Best planted in the fall. Grows up to 4’.

~PERENNIALS~

-ERYNGIUM planum ‘Blue Hobbit’ / Sea Holly.

A dwarf sea holly. Long lasting purplish-blue spiny flowers and silvery-blue stems. Blooms in mid-Summer. 12”.

-NIPPONANTHEMUM nipponicum/ Montauk Daisy.
Shiny green foliage with huge daisies in September – October. Shrub-like. To 3’.

-SOLIDAGO/ Goldenrod.
-canadensis ‘Golden Baby’. Bright golden-yellow sprays on compact 2’ stems. June thru August. Full sun.
-rugosa ‘Fireworks’. Fine sprays of fragrant yellow blossoms in late summer-fall. 2’ plus.

-STOKESIA laevis ‘Blue Danube’/ Stokes Aster.
Broad silvery blue upward facing flowers. June-August. Native that is a butterfly magnet. Compact and low growing.

~The River Grass Plantings~

Consider how these plants can be easily translated into your own garden. The riverfront project is a great tool to watch how each species grow since the majority of the plant material is native or indigenous. Once established,

they are –almost- maintenance free and most will give year round interest to your yard.

The general plan of the planting is a ‘spine’ of native grasses running through the planted area. This area is intermixed with native shrubs.

Closer to the boardwalk there are pockets of native perennials which are adapted to a generally inhospitable area. There are markers which will identify the majority of the plants with their genus and common name.

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