

McCreery Park ADA Path Plant Guide

Introduction

Welcome to the Plant Guide for McCreery Park's ADA-compliant path. This guide highlights the diverse plants and thoughtful landscaping along our recently completed ADA-compliant path. As you explore this new feature of our park, you'll discover 33 different plant specimens of plants selected to create beauty throughout the seasons while supporting our local ecosystem. We hope this guide enhances your appreciation of the natural elements that make this pathway both functional and beautiful.

Project Background

The renovation of McCreery Park represents an important investment in our town's outdoor spaces. The new accessible path not only makes the park more welcoming to visitors of all abilities but also showcases carefully selected landscaping that enhances the natural beauty of our community park.

About This Guide

This Plant Guide provides information about the landscape design and the various plants you'll encounter along the pathway. Whether you're simply enjoying a stroll, interested in gardening, or curious about the park improvements, you'll find details to enrich your visit.

ADA Path Description

The ADA-compliant path is a 400-foot walkway connecting the lower section of the park to the Pavilion. The path winds up the slope in five distinct sections, each bordered by natural boulders and featuring different plant groupings.

The path's design takes into account the natural topography of the park, providing an enjoyable and manageable experience for users of all abilities. Each of the five sections of the path showcases different plant communities, selected to thrive in their specific microclimates and to provide year-round interest through varying textures, colors, and blooming seasons.

As you move along the path, you'll see a diverse mix of native and adaptive plants, each chosen to play a specific role in the overall landscape. From ground covers that prevent erosion on slopes to flowering shrubs that attract pollinators, every plant contributes to both the aesthetic appeal and ecological function of the path.

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From ground covers that prevent erosion on slopes to flowering shrubs that attract pollinators, every plant serves both a practical and aesthetic purpose. This guide will introduce you to these plants and explain how they contribute to the overall park environment.

About Friends of McCreery Park

The Friends of McCreery Park is a volunteer-led, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing and preserving the park's natural beauty and recreational opportunities. We operate independently from the City, which maintains responsibility for park security and maintenance. Our mission is to identify and implement projects that beautify the park and encourage greater use and enjoyment of this community space. The ADA path landscaping project aligns perfectly with this mission.

Sincerely,

Friends of McCreery Park

Board members as of 2025-04-08

- Kevin Burnett
- Scott Cardais
- Summer Flynn
- Beth Hilton
- Joel Kirby
- Henry Parmalee
- Melanie Talbot

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BEFORE



Immediately AFTER Planting Fall 2024

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Plant Selection Criteria

The following criteria were used to guide our plant selection:

Accessibility: Plants for the ADA path were chosen that are relatively easy to control to maintain unobstructed access on the path for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Drought Tolerance: Plants were selected that can thrive in the park's climate and require minimal watering once established, reducing the need for irrigation and minimizing the impact on the environment.

Maintenance Requirements: Plants were chosen that require minimal maintenance, reducing the need for pruning, trimming, and other upkeep.

Erosion Control: Because of the slope, this was a critical criteria. Plants were selected that help to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion, ensuring the path remains safe and secure.

Seasonal Interest: Plants were chosen that provide interest and beauty throughout the seasons, from spring to fall.

Proven Endurance in Public Spaces: This was another critical selection criteria. Plants were selected that have a proven track record of thriving in public spaces and can withstand the wear and tear of frequent use.

Community Engagement: The ADA path and its landscaping are key to making McCreery Park truly inclusive. By ensuring accessibility and beauty go hand-in-hand, we're not just creating a pathway, but opening up the entire park experience to everyone. This project embodies our commitment to a vibrant, welcoming community space that all can enjoy and cherish.

By considering these criteria, we were able to select a diverse range of 33 species of plants that not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the path but also provide a safe and enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.

Plant Inventory and Characteristics

The information and table on the following pages provides important information about each plant, including its scientific and common names, type, origin, and key characteristics such as drought tolerance, pollinator friendliness, and deer resistance.

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This information is crucial for understanding the diversity and functionality of the plant selections, as well as their roles in creating a sustainable, low-maintenance, and wildlife-friendly landscape that enhances the overall park experience for everyone.

Understanding Plant Origins

Understanding the origins of our selected plants is crucial to appreciating the diversity and ecological impact of our landscape design. Plant origins not only reflect a species' natural habitat and adaptations but also inform us about its potential interactions within our local ecosystem. The following categories classify our plant selections based on their geographical and evolutionary history:

Origin	Description
Native	Plants that occur naturally in the region, having evolved there over thousands of years. They are well-adapted to local conditions and play crucial roles in the local ecosystem.
Native (cultivar)	Cultivated varieties of native plants, selected or bred for specific characteristics while retaining their native heritage.
Naturalized	Introduced plants that have successfully adapted to the local environment and can reproduce and spread on their own, often becoming part of the local ecosystem without human intervention.
Introduced	Plants brought to the region by human activity, either intentionally or accidentally, from areas where they naturally occur. These plants are not originally from the local ecosystem.
Introduced (cultivated)	Non-native plants specifically grown and maintained in cultivated settings, such as gardens or landscaped areas.

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Plant Name	Type	Origin	Drought Tolerant	Pollinator	Deer Resistant
<u>Acer palmatum</u> (Japanese Maple)	Tree	Introduced			
<u>Agapanthus</u> (Lily of the Nile)	Perennial Flower	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
<u>Agastache</u> (Agastache)	Perennial Flower	Native	✓	✓	✓
<u>Ajuga</u> (Bugleweed)	Perennial Flower	Naturalized			✓
<u>Allium avatar</u> (Avatar Onion)	Perennial Flower	Introduced	✓	✓	✓
<u>Amsonia</u> (Bluestar)	Perennial Flower	Native	✓	✓	✓
<u>Calamintha nepeta</u> (Calamint)	Perennial Flower	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
<u>Carex 'Feather Falls'</u> (Feather Falls Carex)	Grass	Introduced (cultivated)	✓		✓
<u>Catmint</u> (Nepeta)	Perennial Flower	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
<u>Cephalotaxus harringtonii</u> (Duke's Garden Yew)	Evergreen Shrub	Introduced			✓
<u>Color Guard Yucca</u> (Color Guard Adam's Needle)	Evergreen Shrub	Native (cultivar)	✓		✓
<u>Cornus angustata</u> 'Elsbry' (Dogwood Empress of China)	Deciduous Tree	Introduced			
<u>Dryopteris ludoviciana</u> (Southern Shield Fern)	Fern	Native			✓
<u>Echinacea purpurea</u> (Coneflower)	Perennial Flower	Native	✓	✓	✓

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Plant Name	Type	Origin	Drought Tolerant	Pollinator	Deer Resistant
Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold' (Gold Hakone Grass)	Ground Cover	Introduced			✓
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'	Ground Cover	Introduced			✓
Hydrangea paniculata (Little Lime Hydrangea)	Shrub	Introduced		✓	
Hylotelephium spectabile 'Autumn Joy' (Sedum 'Autumn Joy')	Perennial Flower	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
Juniperus virginiana 'Grey Owl' (Grey Owl Juniper)	Evergreen Shrub	Native (cultivar)	✓		✓
Lavandula angustifolia (Lavender)	Perennial Flower	Introduced	✓	✓	✓
Muhlenbergia capillaris 'White Cloud' (White Cloud Muhly Grass)	Grass	Native	✓		✓
Nandina domestica 'Lemon-Lime'	Evergreen Shrub	Naturalized	✓		✓
Nassella tenuissima (Mexican Feather Grass)	Grass	Naturalized	✓		✓
Panicum virgatum 'Purple Tears' (Purple Tears Switchgrass)	Grass	Native	✓		✓
Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)	Shrub	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
Salvia	Perennial Flower	TBD	✓	✓	✓
Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues' (The Blues Little Bluestem)	Grass	Native	✓		✓

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Plant Name	Type	Origin	Drought Tolerant	Pollinator	Deer Resistant
Sedum x hybrida (Sedum Lemon Ball)	Ground Cover	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
Sedums (Stonecrops)	Ground Cover	Naturalized	✓	✓	✓
Specimen Conifer Evergreen TBD	Evergreen	TBD			✓
Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)	Grass	Native	✓		✓
Taxus x Media 'Hicksii' (Hicks Yew)	Evergreen Shrub	Introduced			✓
Thuja occidentalis 'Congabe' (Fire Chief Arborvitae shrub)	Evergreen Shrub	Native (cultivar)			✓