

Site Plan for Mary's Guest House

1757 Roberts Branch Road
Marshall, North Carolina

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Project Narrative & History

Mary's guest house was previously owned by a woman who did not spend too much focused time on taking care of the land. When the Rubys purchased the property, the house was in disrepair. The walls were chipped, the bathroom was in an awkward location and the house had an unnecessary wood stove located in the middle of the kitchen. On the outside, the flat area up the hill was unmanaged and in dire need of weeding. The outside of the house is a bright pink color with little functional or decorative landscaping. Since purchasing the property, the Rubys have been doing a wonderful job renovating the house in preparation for using it as a guest house for friends and family, and for extra income as a vacation rental. The renovations have taken longer than expected and Mary is eager to have it ready for renters.

Design Goals

Mary's guest house is challenged by water management issues, over grown vegetation and lack of privacy, noise control and plant biodiversity. Our design provides water use strategies, biodiverse gardens, focused entertainment zones and privacy features for satisfied guests and sustained income, with a minimum amount of required maintenance.

Site Observation and Assessment

Upon arrival to Mary's pink guest house, the landscape seemed as if the Rubys were slowly but surely working on renovating the outside area. In the front of the house there is a large shed with nothing around it. When facing the front porch, which is long and lifted off the ground one will see hoses that appear unused and corrugated pipes that are facing away from the house for water management. This makes one wonder about possible flooding. In the back of the house is a propane tank and a wild forest with a creek running through it.

On the other side of the house there is a small back deck with a ramp which is where the clients would like people to gather in order to minimize noise from the front of the house to the neighbors. This might prove to be difficult because of the minimal space provided by the deck as it is now. There is also a north facing slope with unruly plants, and a fire wood pile on the other side of the driveway which is inconvenient located. Next to the wood pile there is a nice mowed pathway up to an area where the bee hives are. The clients have proposed that they would like to keep that area a place for the bees so is an important design consideration for that area. Since the ground is flat and well managed it could be a possible destination for trees or a place to gather. The Rubys would like this to be a place for family and friends and a vacation rental. With time and some adjustments that can definitely be the case.

Challenges:

- The steep north facing slope makes it hard for vegetation to take hold and could prove to cause problems with erosion and flooding.
- The back porch is burdened with little space and a ramp that holds liability for falling.
- The client did mention the gutter system having problems with over flow. For right now it is fixed but there is opportunity for better water management.
- Rain catch system needs improvement.
- The large shed in front of the house is unsightly and the client does not want to keep it on property.

Good Resources Already in Place:

- Well
- There is a gutter which allows water catchment strategies.
- House is already renovated and ready to go.
- Bee lawn is mowed and flat making it perfect for many uses.
- Parking space near house
- Big spruce in front of house which allows the house to be well shaded.

Needs & Yields

Sloped Terrace:

Needs

Erosion Control
Water Management
Vegetation Management

Yields

Flowers
Beauty
Food (herbs)
Medicine
Habitat/Biodiversity
Drainage

Back Deck:

Needs

Seating
Rain Protection
Accessibility
Light
Air Flow
Privacy

Yields

Beauty
Entertainment
Trash/Recycling

Parking Area:

Needs

Drainage
Road Access

Yields

Weeds
Parking

Evergreen Hedge:

Needs

Trees
Water
Sunlight
Soil Nutrients

Yields

Shade
Privacy
Noise Buffer
Organic Matter
Lumber
Weeds
Microclimate/Wind Protection

Rainwater Catchment:

Needs

Containment
Rain intake
Protection from light
Location near roof

Yields

Water
Flood prevention
Fire protection

Bee Lawn:

Needs

Sunlight
Air Flow
Water
Pollen/nectar

Yields

Pollination
Honey
Bee habitat
Entertainment
Biodiversity
Peaceful space
Beautiful views

House:

Needs

Sunlight
Fuel
Electricity
Air Flow
Light
Hot Water
Food

Yields

Temperature moderation
Shelter
Rainwater catchment
Vertical wall space
Microclimates
Trash and recycling
Compost and humanure
Waste water

Vegetable Garden:

Needs

Sunlight
Water
Soil
Pollination
Trellis
Air flow

Yields

Food
Compost
Flowers for pollinators
Weeds

Trash & Recycling:

Needs

Containers
Protection from critters

Yields

Space for waste

Fire Pit:

Needs

Lumber
Fire
Fire Management

Yields

Warmth
Nice ambience
Cooking facility
Gathering place

Random Assembly

Back Deck Patio

Attached to >>>>>>>>>> House
Near >>>>>>>>>>> Recycling
Beside >>>>>>>>>>> Kitchen
Near >>>>>>>>>>> Fire Pit

Fire Pit

Near >>>>>>>>>>> Wood Pile
Near >>>>>>>>>>> Irrigation Hose
Near >>>>>>>>>>> Parking Area
Near >>>>>>>>>>> Back deck Patio

Bee Lawn

Contains >>>>>>>>>> Bee Hives
Contains >>>>>>>>>>> Benches
Contains >>>>>>>>>>> Orchard
Far From >>>>>>>>>>>> Fire Pit
Far From >>>>>>>>>>>> House
Near >>>>>>>>>>>> Berry Hedge
Near >>>>>>>>>>>> Pollinator plants

Plant Species & Source List

PLANTING AREA	SPECIES	SOURCE
<p>Front of House Hedge, Shrubs & Vines</p> <p>40' x 20' slope with swales</p>	<p><u>Hedge Plants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thuja Green Giant (4) 12'-20' w x 30' h - Golden Leyland Cypress (3) 15' w x 35' h <p><u>Shrubs & Vines Near House:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catawba Rhododendron (1) 6'-12' w x 6'-12' h - Spreading Japanese Plum Yew (1) 3'-4' w x 2'-3'h - Climbing Hydrangea (2) 	<p>Reems Creek BB Barns Jesse Israel Useful Plants</p>
<p>West of House Raised Bed Annuals & Vines</p> <p>4 x 7' bed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long Standing Bloomsdale Spinach - Rainbow Chard - Black Seeded Simpson Lettuce - Cascadia Dwarf Snap Peas (trellis) - Red Russian Kale - Lacinato Kale - Tender Grey Zucchini - Ashley Cucumber - Contender Bush Beans - Maypop Passion Flower Vine (in pots with trellis) 	<p>Southern Exposure Seed Exchange Baker Creek Seed Co.</p>
<p>Rock Terraces Garden Perennial Shrubs, Flowers</p>	<p>Echinacea – pollinator, medicinal Thyme – culinary, medicinal Rosemary – culinary, medicinal Culinary Sage – culinary, medicinal Lavender – culinary, pollinator, medicinal Roselle Hibiscus - edible Tulsi – pollinator, medicinal Yarrow – pollinator, medicinal Angelica archangelica - pollinator Bee Balm - pollinator Sochan – edible, medicinal Tansy – insect repellent Artemesia – fruit fly repellent Pineapple sage - pollinator Anise Hyssop – pollinator, medicinal Russian sage – pollinator</p>	<p>Reems Creek</p>

	Wild Flower Mix for cut flowers	
Berry Hedge (North side of pathway to Bee Lawn)	Wine Berries 6' Honeyberries 6' Thornless Blackberries 6' Goumi 6'	Useful Plants Edible Landscapes Reems Creek
Orchard (Bee lawn) 30' x 50' with swales	Dwarf Apple 'Empire' (1) 10' with additional graft of Akane variety for pollination Dwarf Asian Pear 'Shinko' (1) 10' with additional graft of Raja variety for pollination European Hazelnut 'Sacajawea' (2) 12'-20' Black Locust (2) to fix nitrogen while trees are getting established. Coppice to utilize wood and avoid shading out other trees. 40' / coppiced to 12' <u>Support Plants</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian Comfrey (12) for nutrient accumulation • Dill for pollinators • Lupine for nitrogen-fixing 	Forest Service Useful Plants Edible Landscapes Southern Exposure Seed Exchange
Arbor around A/C	Hardy Kiwi	Useful Plants

Phased Timeline & Budget

This budget takes into account the fact that Mary currently receives 15 hours of week of free labor from her tenant Matt in exchange for housing. If that arrangement should change she may need to add some labor costs to this estimate. She may choose to finance Phase III design elements through rental income earned during Phase I and II and vary the timeline accordingly.

PHASE I - 2016	
Activity	Estimated Budget
Move wood pile from west side of driveway to mowed path leading to creek	\$0
Move trash and recycling to west side of driveway	\$0
Remove back entrance ramp; replace with stairs on north side of back deck	\$400
Finish pathway from basement door past existing stairs and around to new stairs	\$250
Buy picnic table and mulch for right (east) side of back deck	\$200
Install arbor/trellis around a/c unit	\$150
Move large shed below front porch off site	\$150
Dig 2 swales and plant hedge trees on north edge of property – Thuja Green Giant, Golden Leyland Cypress	\$375
Plant flowers below front porch – rhododendron, climbing hydrangea, Japanese plum yew	\$100
Dig one swale on north side of Bee Lawn; fill with mulch, plant cover crop of Austrian winter peas and white clover in berm	\$40
Dig one swale at bottom of steep slope	\$0
Purchase 2 benches for Bee Lawn	\$150

Total Cost Phase I

\$1,815

PHASE II - 2017	
Activity	Estimated Budget
Move bee hives from top of Bee Lawn to northwest corner	\$0
Dig second swale higher up the Bee Lawn; Cut cover crop in first berm, till into first few inches of soil; add compost and soil amendments	\$50
Purchase and plant fruit and nut and N-fixing trees: 2 European Hazelnut 'Sacajawea' 3 gal. (\$72); Dwarf Apple 'Empire' and 'Akane' (\$72); Dwarf Asian Pear 'Shinko' and 'Raja' (\$78); 2 black locust bare root (\$25)	\$250
Purchase and plant berry hedge: Goumi (\$25); Honeyberry (\$20), Thornless Blackberry (\$15), Wineberry (\$25)	\$85
Plant support species on Bee Lawn: comfrey, dill, lupine, wildflower mix	\$20
Paint exterior of house	\$2,500
Move picnic table to mowed lawn leading to creek	\$0
Extend back deck as far as A/C. Add railing for safety.	\$500
Purchase portable chiminea fireplace for back deck	\$100
Plant 2 hardy kiwi vines to cover A/C east trellis.	\$40
Install raised bed garden with trellis for annual veggies on west side of back deck, where ramp used to be. Purchase seeds and/or seedlings; plant veggies and vines.	\$200

Total budget Phase II

\$3,745

PHASE III - 2018	
Activity	Estimated Budget
Build two terraces with stone walls approximately 4 feet high from bottom of the bushy slope.	\$1,500
Nestle stone firepit into concave depression of lower terrace on lower east side.	\$100
Amend terrace soil with compost; plant perennial flowers and herbs	\$500
Install 1,000 gallon cistern for watering with rain catch on east side of house	\$750

Total Budget Phase III \$2,850

Total Project Budget **\$8,410**

Stewardship Manual & Monthly Guide

January

Gardens

- Enjoy seed catalogs and start dreaming about gardens

Orcharding

- Pick up leaves to mulch berries
- Take divisions and pot hazelnuts

Maintenance

- Snow removal in driveway, stairs and deck

February

Gardens

- Gather compressed leaves for garden mulch
- Take stock of seeds and acquire new seeds
- Make plan for annual garden

Orcharding

- Prune trees

Maintenance

- Gather, split and stack firewood
- Snow removal in driveway, stairs and deck

March

Gardens

- Gather garden tools, potting soil, pots and watering containers
- Check and repair trellises if needed
- Prepare soil in annual garden bed by adding compost or manure
- Sow spinach, chard, lettuce, peas and kale
- Clear out dead growth in perennial beds
- Top dress perennials with compost or manure

Orcharding

- Coppice black locust trees
- Mulch fruit trees with nutrient dense mulch
- Plant berries and trees that overwintered in pots

Maintenance

- Clear gutters

April

Gardens

- Sow spinach, chard, lettuce, peas and kale if you haven't already!
- Begin weeding around seedlings
- Sow seeds or transplant starts into empty spots in the perennial beds
- Put passion flower pots outside near trellis

Orcharding

- Prune suckers

Maintenance

- Check mower

May

Gardens

- Harvest and enjoy peas
- Sow zucchini, cucumber and bush bean seeds
- Sow dill and transplant comfrey in the Bee Lawn
- Weed around plants

Orcharding

- Notice and treat any early signs of disease

Maintenance

- Mow grass to keep paths clear, use grass clippings as mulch around trees
- Begin watering with rain catch system after last frost
- Weather seal picnic table and deck when needed

June

Gardens

- Harvest spinach, lettuce, chard and kale
- Pick flowers to fill vases in the guest house
- Check for aphids, cucumber beetles and squash bugs – squash them!
- Weed around plants

Orcharding

- Begin harvesting wineberries, honeyberries, blackberries and gomis
- Preserve berries by freezing or drying, make preserves or wine
- Prune berry vines that are getting to tall or crowding the path

Maintenance

- Mow grass to keep paths clear, use grass clippings as mulch around trees
- Use rain catch to water all planted areas as needed

July

Gardens

- Harvest chard, kale and first zucchini
- Clear out lettuce and spinach when it bolts
- Sow spinach, lettuce and pea seed for fall harvest
- Pick flowers to fill vases in the guest house
- Check for aphids, cucumber beetles and squash bugs – squash them!
- Weed around plants

Orcharding

- Continue harvesting wineberries, honeyberries, blackberries and gomis

Maintenance

- Mow grass to keep paths clear, use grass clippings as mulch around trees
- Use rain catch to water all planted areas as needed

August

Gardens

- Harvest chard, kale, zucchini, cucumber and bush beans
- Pick flowers to fill vases in the guest house
- Check for aphids, cucumber beetles and squash bugs – squash them!
- Weed around plants

Orcharding

- Prune raspberries
- Propagate brambles by layering
- Top dress trees with manure or feed with compost tea

Maintenance

- Mow grass to keep paths clear, use grass clippings as mulch around trees
- Use rain catch to water all planted areas as needed

September

Gardens

- Harvest spinach, chard, peas, kale, zucchini, cucumber and bush beans
- Sow untreated lupine seeds in the Bee Lawn
- Check for aphids, cucumber beetles and squash bugs – squash them!
- Weed around plants

Orcharding

- Harvest apples and pears
- Press cider, dry apples and pears, can applesauce and pear sauce

Maintenance

- Spread cool-season grass seed in any bare patches
- Check and improve insulation around water system

October

Gardens

- Harvest spinach, chard, peas and kale
- Clear dead foliage from garden bed after first frost, tidy up for winter
- Bring passionflower pots into the basement for the winter

Orcharding

- Plant and transplant trees and berries
- Harvest hazelnuts (after 4 years of growth)
- Freeze or dry hazelnuts
- Collect leaves for mulch

Maintenance

- Drain water piping system and hoses before freeze
- Buy local winter squash and pumpkin to decorate guest house

November

Gardens

- Harvest spinach, chard, peas and kale
- Add mulch around perennials to protect from deep freeze

Orcharding

- Plant and transplant trees and berries
- Weed around the bottom of the fruit tree and berries, add mulch
- Collect leaves for mulch

Maintenance

- Store garden tools, pots and watering containers

December

Gardens

- Take a break!

Orcharding

- Prune and shape evergreen hedge
- Decorate with evergreens boughs for the holidays

Maintenance

- Gather, split and stack firewood
- Snow removal in driveway, stairs and deck