

Orchard Downs Multifunctional Landscape

**SSC Proposal
Concept and Design**

Site considered for SSC proposal and Studio Project





Pollinator Strip

Tour of Trees

"Organic Art" Trellis

Woodland Planting

Play pod berm

Picnic Plaza

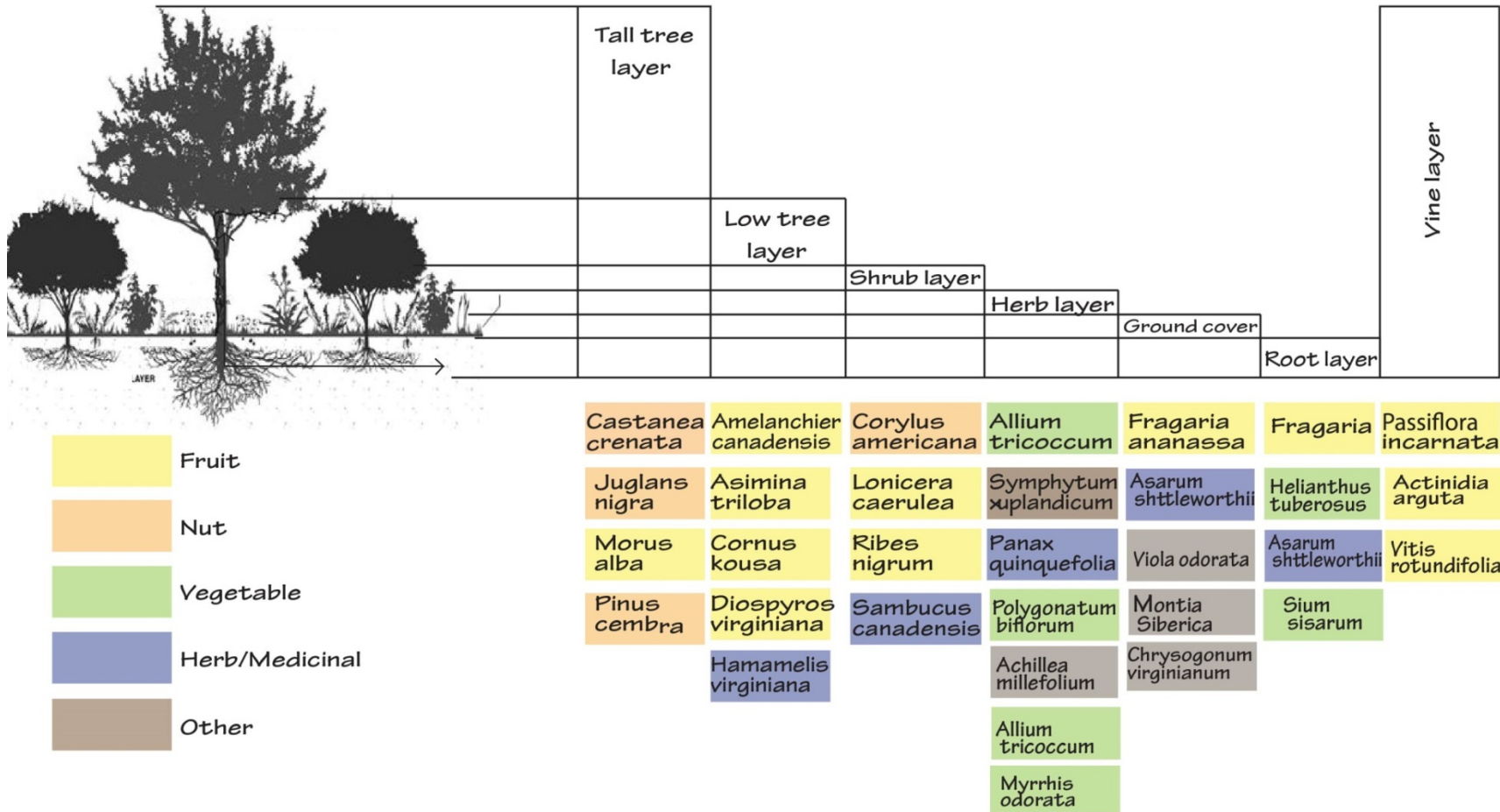
"Organic Art" Feature

- Woodland plantings in understory near Race St entrance
- Honeysuckle trellis made from girdled shrubs to create organic art
- Pollinator strips with a diversity of native plant species adapted to shade conditions



“Tour of Trees” along existing road and sidewalk

Edible Forest Garden: Plant List



Most of the tall tree layer already exists. The SSC proposal will focus on establishing the low tree layer and shrub layer in the “Tour of Trees” area along the existing road and sidewalk. Some test plot areas for the shady herb layer will also be included.

Pedestrian Circulation

- Primary features will be located along the existing sidewalk
 - Tour of trees
 - Pollinator strips
 - Educational signage
- Maybe some accessible connection to the picnic plaza
 - Crushed gravel path to a picnic table/grill

Vehicle Circulation

- Propose existing road be used only for maintenance vehicles and special events, regulated by collapsible bollards
 - Allows access for delivery trees and mulch
 - Could be open for parallel parking during special events
 - 28' road would allow 10' parallel parking and one-way traffic
 - Typical parking – metered spots at OD?

“Tour of Trees” edible landscaping

- Trees and shrub selections will be prioritized based on:
 - Low maintenance
 - Species native to Midwest US
 - Edible fruits/nuts (e.g. Pawpaw, Serviceberry, Hazelnut, Currants, etc)
 - Ornamental value – flowering, fall color, structure
 - Other unique functions – willows to create living sculptures

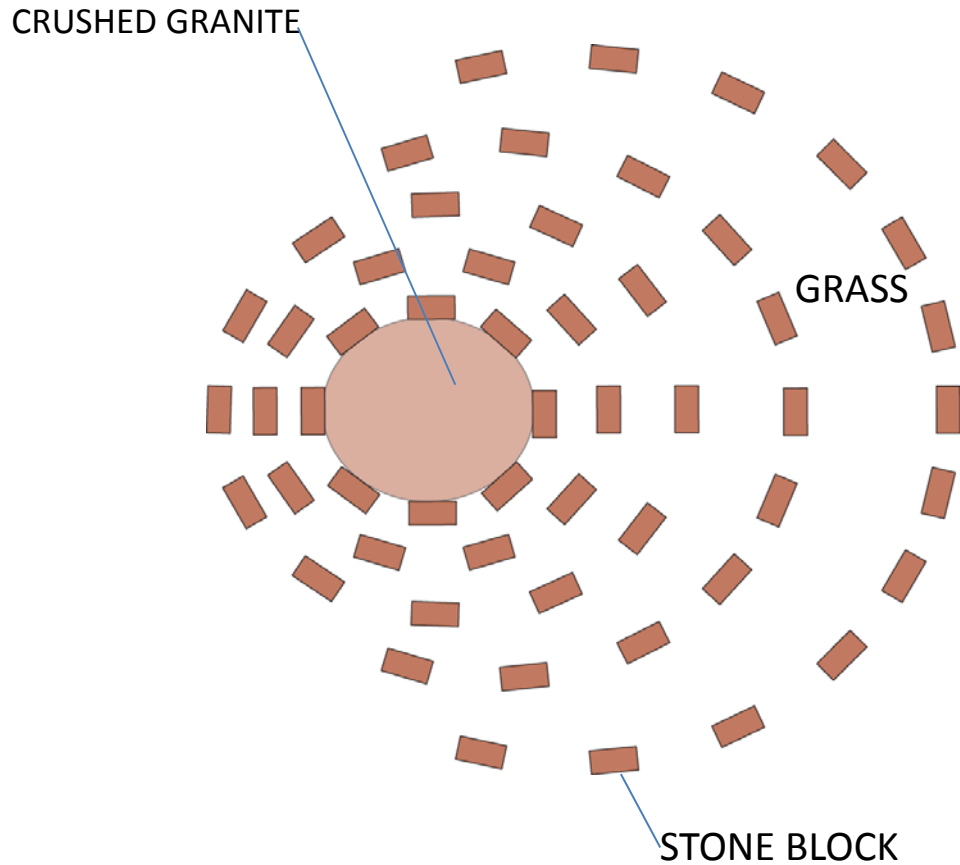
Pollinator strips in 8’ between road and sidewalk

- Plant community structure for complementary species
 - Plant species native to Midwest US
 - Combinations specific for sun, part sun, or shade conditions
 - Plants restricted to 48” height for good visibility in this zone
 - Plants selected to cover long-range blooming for pollinators
 - Pollination is particularly beneficial for the project because of the crop of fruit and nuts from trees

- Plaza area with picnic tables and grills
- Earthwork berms to encourage active recreation for children to expand playspace
- Organic art at the turnabout engages the community in a participatory creation



Picnic area plaza construction

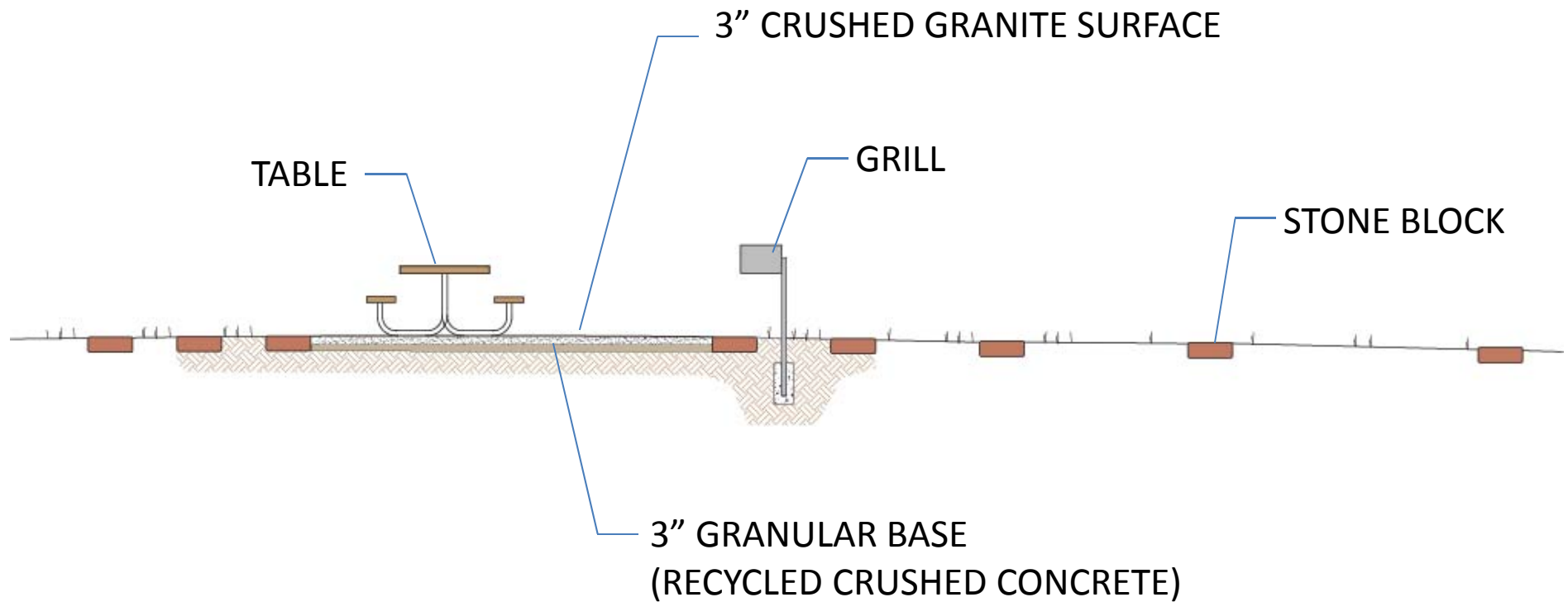


PLAN VIEW



PRECEDENT:
Memorial & Nature Preserve
Long Island, New York

Picnic area plaza construction



SECTION VIEW

Picnic area features

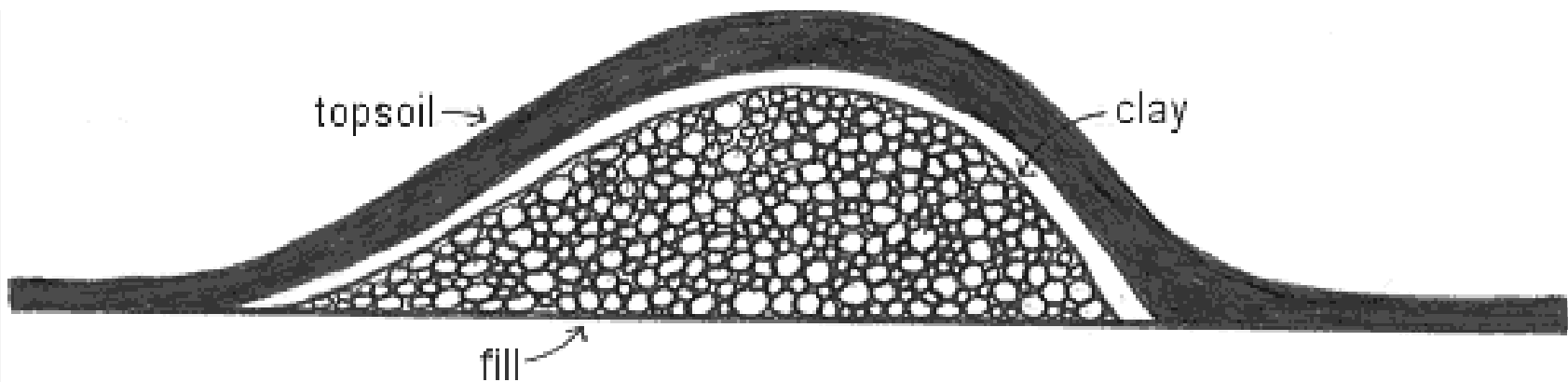
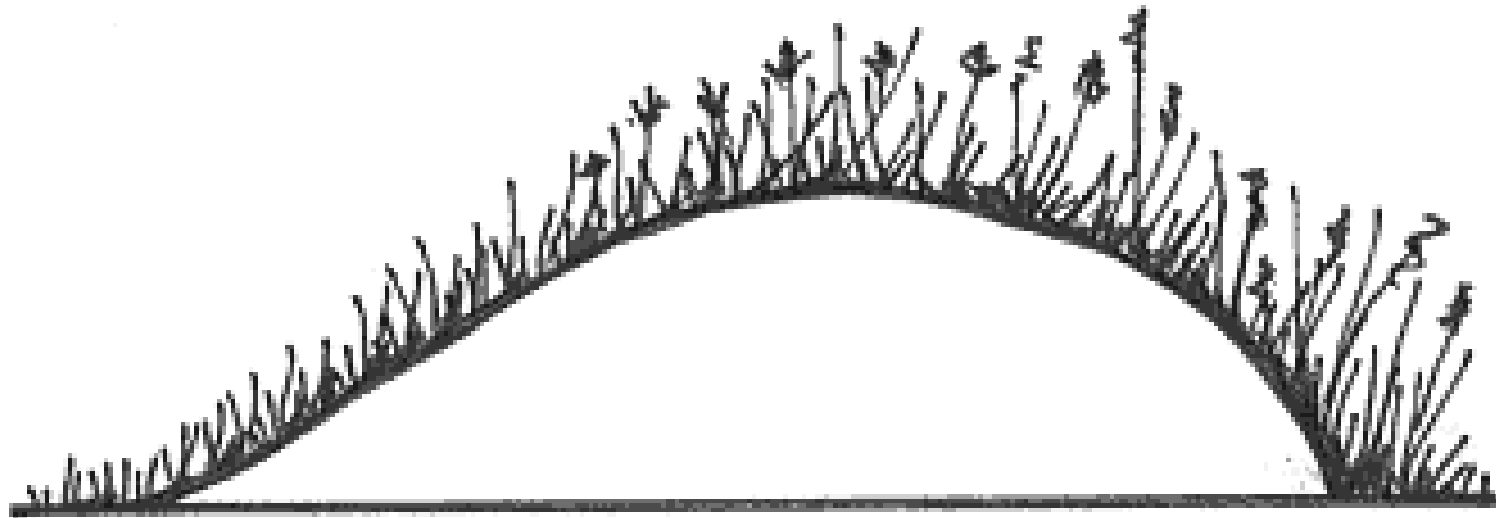
Post-mount, round picnic tables
- plastic coated metal, ~\$800



Post-mount, commercial park grill
- Various sizes, starting at ~\$150



Playground Berm



Location and Design Justification

- OD serves an important group of students (married, international, multigenerational) that might have more difficulty adjusting to campus life
- Site is not designated for anything in particular at this time, and future development could incorporate a valued landscape
- Take advantage of existing trees as overstory for multi-layered system
- Important infrastructure already exists – access roads and accessible sidewalks – the perfect reuse of infrastructure that currently serves little function (since those homes have been removed)
- Creates goodwill with the Urbana residents, serving as an interface with the University and demonstrating value of SSC projects for multiple stakeholders including neighbors (community plant sharing events?)
- Potential site to “collect” Solar Decathlon Houses in one location
- Serves as a model for adaptive reuse of a landscape, for students, residents, and campus

Opportunities

- Collaboration between Housing and ACES
- Public engagement events
 - Rent to RSO's (like Illini Grove)
 - Weddings and special events
- Test concepts in a low-risk location
- Benefit from existing infrastructure
- Living sculpture, “Organic Art” – community participation to create interactive installations