Daylesford Abbey

The site is Daylesford Abbey, a Norbertine community and Spirituality Center located on 80 acres near Paoli in Willistown Township, Chester County.
Daylesford Abbey is beautiful gently rolling landscape comprised of 80 acres of woodlands, fields and a small meadow bisected by a tributary of Crum Creek. It also includes a Spirituality Center, the Abbey, large parking lots, an apiary and gardens.
There are six different soil types on the Abbey property dominated by silt loams. These developed over a varied geology of Diabase, Ultramafic and Glenarm Wissahickon rock. The soil in the northeast quadrant is the best agricultural land.

The elevation changes gradually from 410’ to 475’. Small valleys slope towards a tributary of Crum Creek. Concerns were expressed about flooding events during large rainstorms adjacent to the tributary.
We identified four plant communities. Wet meadows with hydric woody and herbaceous plants. Dry meadows included grasses with flowering broad-leaved perennials. Woodlands dominated by the Piedmont Oak-Hickory climax plant association. Cultivated landscapes including native and ornamental plants.

**Wet meadows** run adjacent to Crum Creek tributary. Typical woody plants include Black Willow, Black Walnut and Spicebush. Herbaceous species include White Snakeroot and Common Rush. Invasive species including Multifora Rose, Mile-a-Minute weed and Canada Goldenrod (frequently) were also observed. These need to be removed and additional native wet meadow species added.

**Dry meadows** contain mostly grasses and flowering perennials. Bluejoint Grass, Little Bluestem, and Indian Grass were predominant. Broad-leaved perennials include Tall Tickseed, Flat-topped Goldenrod, and New England Aster. All of these plants are adapted to mesic to xeric conditions.

**Woodlands** are composed of mostly hardwoods, a shrubby understory and a minimal herbaceous layer. Predominant canopy trees are Red Maple, White Ash, Tulip Poplar, and Red Oak. Understory trees include Dogwoods and the woodland floor is composed predominantly of ferns. There are a number of exotic invasive species evident including Burningbush and Wineberry.

**Cultivated landscapes** are the immediate areas surrounding the Abbey. They include native and ornamental plants in gardens, lawns, and landscapes for contemplation.
The overarching intent was to incorporate a variety of meadows, utilizing the natural topography of the site. The meadows emphasize the importance of the connection between people and nature by providing a natural “touched by the hand of God” design.

Program Key:
1. Parking Lot
2. Perennial Meadow
3. Spirituality Center
4. Labyrinth
5. Stations of the Cross
6. Re-purposed Existing Exit Drive
7. Entrance/Exit Drive
8. Native Grassy Meadow
9. Boardwalk
10. Hermitage
11. Perennial Meadow
12. Memorial Tree Grove
13. Amphitheater
14. Path System
15. Vegetable Garden
16. Columbarium
17. Wetland Meadow
The amphitheater will be located in the grassy meadow where the Crosses on the Hill are located. The crosses have been restored and now make for a destination area for visitors and community members. The space is located amidst captivating views of the Spirituality Center and gardens. The amphitheater allows for gatherings and celebrations that over-look the pastoral Daylesford Abbey landscape. A fire pit is added to the center of the 4-tier amphitheater for ceremonies and events.
Columbarium Section

The columbarium is a unique feature that serves as a destination for remembering those who have passed. The message of the columbarium is a reminder that even though a life may have ended; another life begins, represented by the plantings.
The Stations of the Cross purpose is to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. The stations exist on a mile long loop through the woodland.
This rendering displays an educational destination point located in the grassy meadow adjacent to Waynesborough Road. The space will be used for reflection and observation and connects with the outermost trail system.
The Entrance Garden design reflects the spiritual character of Daylesford Abbey. The focal point is an area of reflection, which includes a low fountain and plantings. The design maintains sight lines toward the Spirituality Center while increasing the overall aesthetic.
This second master plan is designed around a theme of color, derived from the stained glass windows featured in the Abbey. Color memorializes the history and celebrates the future of this Norbertine Community through a journey of color experiences.
This detail plan and section display the new columbarium and wildflower meadow. The meadow is established within the 100-year floodplain to create a buffer in storm events. Locating the columbarium near the Abbey makes it easily accessible to visitors.
The labyrinth is bounded by a sloping water feature. The bridge entrance represents a bridging over one’s problems into a place of tranquility, heightening one’s ability to meditate. Arrival at the center of the labyrinth represents acceptance of God.
This garden is focused upon the five senses and how they can assist in the process of meditation. A stone marks each sense with a bible verse relating to that specific sense.

**Plant Key Attributes**

- A. Attracts Pollinators
- B. Colorful
- C. Unique Texture
- D. Edible
- E. Fragrant
- F. All Season Interest
- G. Rabbit Resistant
- H. Deer Resistant

**Touch:**

1. River Birch
2. Sensitive Plant
3. Pussy Willow
4. Lambs Ear

**Sound:**

1. Big Quakinggrass
2. Fountain Grass

**Smell:**

1. Chocolate Cosmos
2. Appalachian Mountain Mint
3. Lavender
4. Spice Bush
5. Lemon Mint

**Taste:**

1. False Indigo
2. Eryngium
3. Sneezeweed
4. Coral Bells
5. Beardstongue

**Plant List and Attributes**
This section of the Love and Forgiveness walk is taken through the “Touch garden.” This shows the close interaction that one will have with the plant material. The trees in the foreground provide privacy and enclosure for personal reflection.