The Bud and Susie Rogers Garden transformed a steep asphalt parking lot into a lush and flexible terraced garden for the people of Akron.
The landscape design negotiates a 13-foot grade change with a series of terraces, responding to the form of the museum building, providing myriad programming options for the institution, and framing sweeping views across downtown Akron.
The Event Space is a generous plaza, forming an airy and welcoming entrance to the museum. It is designed to host a wide array of programming, including concerts, community-generated art, weddings, and more.
Performances by local artists are a common sight at the Bud and Susie Rogers Garden.
Along the southern edge of the Event Space, a grove of white birches provides a soft backdrop to the plaza.
The Green forms the next layer of the garden, a wide lawn which provides a flexible area for additional event seating, group events, and all forms of play.
The design team carefully framed views from the museum across the garden. This low planter bursting with native plant species gives the impression that people seated on the Green are floating in a sea of plant life.
The art feature wall, a slim, cast-in-place concrete structure, balances the softness of the garden with the stark steel and concrete of the modern building. The wall is also designed to be an exterior gallery space within the garden.
Custom designed seating in a variety of forms is incorporated throughout the garden, inviting visitors to linger and relax.
The lushly planted Crisscross is a fully accessible series of ramps, gently ebbing and flowing across the site, beckoning visitors to slow down and appreciate the vibrant array of native prairie grasses and flowers.
The Art Oasis at the top of the garden is designed to evoke the nearby Cuyahoga State Park forest. Decomposed granite provides a soft, natural texture underfoot, while the regionally appropriate trees offer dappled shade and a vibrant seasonal display.
Once a sea of cracked asphalt, the new landscape is a celebration of the natural splendor of Northeastern Ohio, welcoming people and pollinators alike.
The garden has become a destination not just for local events and artistic expression but also all forms of spontaneous play.
Every detail of the garden was designed not just to withstand but to accentuate and complement the seasonal dynamism of Akron, including long, snowy winters.
The iconic architecture of the modern museum building was a key point of inspiration to the landscape architect. Views and experiences were carefully composed to balance the architecture. The result is an institutional campus which feels cohesive and timeless.
The garden has become a source of deep civic pride for Akron, where people mingle, relax, play, celebrate, and create.
BUD AND SUSIE ROGERS GARDEN PLANT LIST

PERENNIALS AND GRASSES IN THE PRAIRIE CRISS-CROSS GARDEN

Grasses
Calamagrostis ‘Karl Foerster’
Deschampsia ‘Goldtau’
Secleria autumnalis
Sporobolis heterolepsis

Annuals & Perennials
Allium ‘Summer Beauty’
Amsonia hubrichtii
Asclepias tuberosa
Echinacea pallida
Echinacea ‘White Swan’
Echinacea ‘Big Sky Sunrise’
Echinops ‘Blue Glow’
Nepeta ‘Blue Wonder’
Patrina scabiosaefolia
Penstemon ‘Husker Red’
Sanguisorba officinalis
Stachys officinalis

Trees and Shrubs
Acer saccharum
Amelanchier canadensis
Cornus ‘Constellation’
Magnolia hybrid
Ostrya virginica
Quercus bicolor
Stewartia pseudocamellia
Along with a hedgerow of Carpinus betulus ‘Franz Fontaine’, and a grove of Betula populifolia
Shrubs includes Fothergilla, Hydrangea, Viburnum, Rhus aromatica, and Deutzia