The landscape design for Grace Farms underscores the value of ecological stewardship and the natural landscape, and strengthens the connection between people and nature, enhancing both habitat vitality and the human experience.
Situated within nearly 80 acres of rolling topography, woodlands, meadows, and wetlands, the design effortlessly blends architecture with nature, creating a welcoming environment for visitors of all ages to engage with the natural realm.
The "River" building is made up of a series of buildings with a shared roof and connected walkway. The architecture's glass facade creates a feeling of immersion within the landscape, offering panoramic views of the site.
The building meanders through the site, creating pockets of open space in its curves and leaves much of the landscape untouched. Approximately 77 acres of the existing site were preserved or restored.
Land affected by construction was regraded and replanted with native and non-invasive species to restore it to its naturalistic setting. The planting design was key in preserving the site’s authenticity and vitality in accommodating this new facility.
The allée welcomes visitors into Grace Farms, setting the tone for their experience. The new entrance addresses expected traffic increases and preserves the existing tree-lined drive with the addition of a new, wider road parallel to the existing entry drive.
An existing barn on the site was partially removed to make room for a plum and apple orchard. The two flanking wings of the old barn were preserved and now provide classroom and office space overlooking the orchard.
Other design considerations included the addition of a recreational field and 1,920-square-foot community vegetable garden, providing visitors with a variety of ways to engage directly with nature.
Drives, permeable walks and trails, and various gathering spaces are woven throughout the site and embody a range of character, from a cultivated town village to Agrarian fields and managed woodland.
The expansiveness of the site is made more accessible to visitors with the addition of mowed walking trails, inviting travelers to experience a wide variety of flora and fauna each step of the way.
One of the most striking features of Grace Farms is the replacement of once-cultivated pastures with meadows.
The meadows are fairly low-maintenance and offer a richer habitat of perennial grasses, flowers, bulbs, and corms while repressing weeds, controlling erosion, and reducing flood risk—a sustainable, aesthetic, and practical design choice for the client.
The site’s restorative design also considered the many habitats and respective inhabitants found on the property. These include emergent marshes, gardens, brush, wooded bedrock knolls, pastures, mixed hardwood forests, old fields, ponds, wet meadows, and wooded swamps.
The ephemeral, year-round wetlands found on the low-lying, eastern side of the site have been preserved or revitalized. Similar to the meadows, the grasses surrounding the wetlands are low-maintenance and serve as breeding and feeding grounds for insects and wildlife.
Out in the meadows or behind glass panes, the landscape serves as the pastoral backdrop for visitors to experience the many cultural, spiritual, and educational opportunities offered at Grace Farms.
Today, the site embodies the qualities of thoughtful design, blending architectural aspirations with ecological preservation and providing a beautiful respite for all who visit.
# GRACE FARMS PLANT LIST

## TREES

### Deciduous Trees
- Red Maple
- Commemoration Sugar Maple
- Green Mountain Sugar Maple
- Legacy Sugar Maple
- Shagbark Hickory
- American Beech
- Tulip Tree
- Sweet Gum
- Tupelo
- Sawtooth Oak
- White Oak
- Swamp White Oak
- Willow Oak
- Red Oak
- Common Sassafras
- Smooth Shadbush
- Gray Birch
- Alternate Leaf Dogwood
- Flowering Dogwood
- Black Gum

### Evergreen Trees
- Easter Red Cedar
- Lacebark Pine
- Limber Pine
- Eastern Red Pine
- Eastern White Pine
- Eastern Hemlock

### Understory Trees
- Flowering Dogwood
- Witchhazel

### Fruit Trees
- Jona Gold Apple
- Red Delicious Apple
- Mt. Royal Plum
- Superior Plum

## SHRUBS

### Deciduous Shrubs
- Bottlebrush Buckeye
- Summerweet Clethra
- Sweetfern
- Grey Twig Dogwood
- Northernbush Honeysuckle
- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Winterberry
- Fragrant Sumac
- Lowbush Blueberry
- Blackhaw Viburnum
- American Cranberrybush Viburnum
- Shadblow
- Red Chokecherry
- Sweet Pepperbush
- Red-osier Dogwood
- Winerberry
- Pussy Willow
- Meadowsweet
- Arrow-wood
- Nannyberry
- American Cranberry Bush
- Highbush Blueberrys

### Evergreen Shrubs
- Sheep Laurel
- Mountain Laurel
- Northern Bayberry
- Catawba Rhododendron
- Rosebay Rhododendron

### PERENNIALS
- Coneflower
- Ivory Prince Hellebore
- Christmas Rose
- Phlox
- Foam Flower
- Canada Anemone
- Wild Columbine
- Swamp Milkweed
- Smooth Aster
- New England Aster
- Marsh Marigold
- Black Snakeroot
- Spotted Joe-pye Weed
- Bottle Gentian
- Blue Flag
- Canada Lily
- Turks Cap Lily
- Cardinal Flower
- Wild Bergamot
- Mountain Mint
- Cut-leaf Coneflower
- Golden Ragwort
- King of the Meadow
- Fringed Sedge
- Tussock Sedge
- Pickerelweed
- Wool Sedge
- Soft-stem Bulrush
- Burreed
- Culver’s Root
- Ironweed
- Golden Alexanders
- Fringed Bluestar
- Pearly Everlasting
- Worled Milkweed
- Stiff Aster
- Lesser Yellow False Indigo
- Blue Grama Grass
- Flowering Spurge
- Northern Blazing Star
- Lance-leaved Loosestrife
- Meadow Phlox
- Appalachian Mountain Mint
- Ohio Spiderwort
- Big-leaved Aster
- Downy Wood Mint
- Wild Geranium
- Downy Skullcap
- Golden Groundsells
- Eastern Star Sedge
- Blue Flag Iris
- Monkey Flower
- Arrow Arum
- Arrowhead
- Lizards Tail
- Dark-Green Bulrush
- Spatterdock
- Fragrant Water Lily
- Fragrant Aster
- Hybrid False Indigo
- Helen’s Flower
- Blazing Star
- Sundrops
- Tawny Ironweed
- Calico Aster
- Southern White False Indigo
- Purple Coneflower
- Robins Plantain
- Big Leaf Mountain Mint
- Bradbury’s Bee Balm
- Hairy Beardtongue

### BULBS
- Crocus
- Snowdrops
- Scilla
- Narcissus

### FERNS
- Maidenhair Fern
- Cinnamon Fern
- Royal Fern
- Christmas Fern
GRASSES, SEDGES, AND RUSHES
Blue Grama Grass
Junegrass
Little Bluestem
Autumn Bent Grass
Fringed Brome
Loose-headed Oval Sedge
Fox Sedge
Bottlebrush Grass
Purpletop
Hair Grass
Bushy Beardgrass
Bebbs Oval Sedge
Openfield Sedge
Torrey’s Rush
Broomsedge
Prairie Brome
Virginia Rye
Canada Rush
Red-Top Panic Grass
Indian Grass
Sheeps Fescue
Shoreline Slender Fescue
Navigator II Creeping Red Fescue
Jasper II Creeping Red Fescue
SR5130 Chewings Fescue
SR53210 Blue Fescue
SR3150 Hard Fescue

FORBS
Nodding Pink Onion
Butterfly Weed
Aromatic Aster
Partridge Pea
Prairie Tickseed
Tennessee Coneflower
Cream Gentian
Stiff Gentian
Rough Blazingstar
Spike Lobelia
Prairie Sundrops

Appalachian Beardtongue
Purple Prairie Clover
Meadow Phlox
Slender Mountain Mint
Golden Groundsell
Virginia Spiderwort
Heart-leaf Golden Alexander
Blue Wood Aster
Hairy Tickseed
Tickseed
Tall Larkspur
Woodland Sunflower
Hairy Bush Clover
Wild Bergamont
Horsemint
White Beardtongue
Hoary Mountain Mint
Hairy Beardtongue
Black Eyed Susan
Wood Sage
Ohio Spiderwort
Columbine
Downy Wood Mint
Bradbury’s Monarda
Zig-Zag Goldenrod
Early Meadow Rue
Swamp Milkweed
New York Aster
Blue False Indigo
Indian Painbrush
Fringed Gentian
Marsh St. John’s Wort
Obediant Plant
New England Aster
Purple Coneflower
Boneset
Thin-leaf Goldenrod
Helen’s Flower
Great Blue Lobelia
Blazing Star
Blue Vervain

NURSECROP
Winter Wheat

Pearly Everlasting
Heath Aster
Hairy Wood Mint
Robins Plantain
Wild Quinine
Slender Bush Clover