Section C.
Landscape Design Guidelines



Mature and varied landscaping in the Queen's Park neighbourhood, including a combination of grass, flowering plants, bushes and mature trees.

The residential landscapes in the Queen's Park neighbourhood are quite successful, with residents taking pride in garden design and maintenance. They are diverse, with a tendency to reflect the architectural style of the home and express the personal style of the resident. A pedestrian strolling through the neighbourhood might see in turn a formal design of clipped hedges; a wildly floral cottage garden; a front-yard vegetable garden; a garden of native plants; a contemporary xeriscape garden, and more. This diversity of styles makes the residential landscape an important factor in the neighbourhood's streetscape. The residential landscapes are richly layered and well-composed, creating a strong impression.

As new developments occur, these guidelines provide a resource for enhancing the neighbourhood's landscape character. In new construction, the design of the architecture and the landscape should ideally happen in tandem, so that the house and garden will be in harmony, as was the case historically. Homeowners, builders

and developers should consider retaining a landscape architect or designer as well as an architect or home designer.

The intent of the heritage design guidelines in the landscape is not to mandate a certain historical style, even when the house may be protected. Contemporary landscape expressions can suit a heritage home, especially since gardens are inherently changing places where plants grow, die, and are replaced. The intent is to ensure that the landscape design of residential homes contributes to the existing character of the neighbourhood and to encourage variety and individual expression, not to mandate uniformity.

The design elements and approaches suggested in these guidelines are largely based on existing patterns seen within the neighbourhood. The guidelines are performance-based rather than style-based. This means there is no requirement to plant only "heritage" species in a garden. Layout is the most important element in contributing to the streetscape character, followed by quality of hard materials, then plant materials.

General Provisions

The following landscape design principles should be considered:

1. The residential landscape design should be well-crafted and sensitive to the character of the neighbourhood. The result should be layered, rich, attractive, and reflect the Queen's Park heritage.
2. The residential landscape design should enhance the streetscape interface to create a safe and pleasant walking environment for pedestrians.
3. The selection of landscape materials should enhance the aesthetics and unique character of the neighbourhood.
4. The landscape design must promote landscape best practices and maintenance. The selection of trees and planting should enhance biodiversity.
5. The public open space should reinforce the heritage quality and character of the neighbourhood.

C.1 TREES

Intent: *Mature trees should be preserved so that they may continue contributing to the environmental benefits and character of the neighbourhood.*

General Provisions:

Mature trees are one of the unique characteristics of the Queen's Park neighbourhood. Wherever possible, all existing trees on the property should be retained, protected, and integrated into the site layout and planning.

All existing trees to be retained or removed must meet current City standards. Refer to the City of New Westminster's Tree Protection and Regulation bylaw for information on tree removal, protection and permitting requirements.



Mature maple tree provides screening to a protected house in the Queen's Park neighbourhood, without obstructing the view of the home from the street.

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
All existing trees preserved. New construction and garden layout should be designed to accommodate existing trees as a design feature. If appropriate, valuable trees could be designated as Heritage resources.	Existing trees preserved as per current City bylaws.	Removal of valuable mature trees due to new construction. Construction or other activity that is likely to damage or compromise the future health of existing trees.



Mature conifer tree on private property in the Queen's Park neighbourhood. Refer to the City's Tree Protection and Regulation bylaw for more information about retention of these valued trees.

C.2 HARDSCAPE

Intent: *Existing heritage landscape features in private gardens should be preserved and celebrated. New landscape features should complement the traditional character of the neighbourhood.*

General Provisions:

Many homes in Queen's Park have landscape features that contribute to the public realm and heritage character of the neighbourhood. Historic elements must be retained and rehabilitated or restored, including stone fences, retaining walls, and statuary.



Stone steps.

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Existing hardscape elements in the landscape should be preserved and restored. New garden layout should be well-designed to highlight the value of these landscape features. New landscape features which use stone, wrought iron, wood, or metals that develop patina such as copper or zinc.	Discrete existing heritage features, such as stones, statuary, or pieces from non-preservable features, are relocated or repurposed within the garden. The use of high-quality contemporary materials, such as stone, metal or concrete, including concrete pavers.	Removal of heritage landscape features. Very contemporary features that are incongruous with the traditional character of the neighbourhood. Landscape features made of aluminium (i.e. fences and gates). Use of cultured stone, plasticized wood products, or stamped/coloured concrete (especially red, brown, green and blue. Asphalt paving. Artificial turf. Gravel or mulch, except underneath plantings.



Stone wall with new planting.

C.3 SITE LAYOUT

Intent: *Organization of the front yard should respond to the house design; balance privacy and community; consider views, especially inward and towards the Fraser River; minimize impermeable surfaces; provide useful garden space; and allow room for growth.*

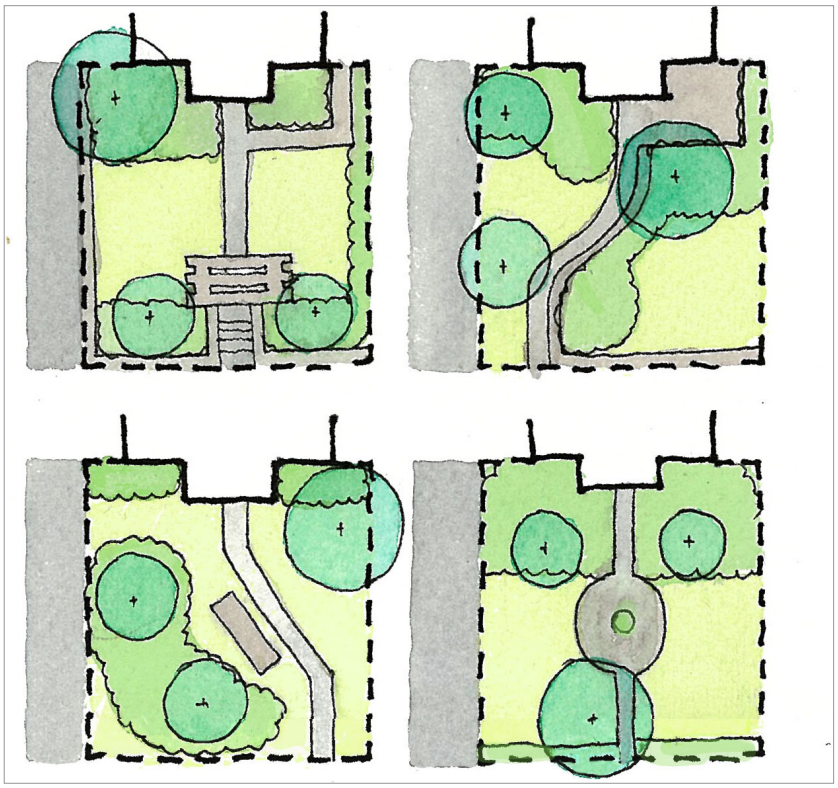
General Provisions:

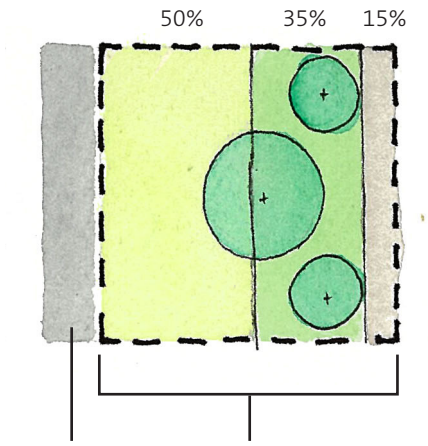
Gardens provide residents with an opportunity for personal expression, which contributes to the overall character of the neighbourhood. Thus, it is not the intent of the Guidelines to mandate a specific historic or regional style for gardens. The layout of each site should take several factors into consideration to continue the tradition of a harmonious streetscape.

Living vegetation should be the primary focus in the front yard. Of the landscaped front yard space not taken up by driveways and walkways, plantings (i.e. trees, shrubs, perennials and non-lawn groundcover) should make up at least 35%. Lawn may cover a maximum 50% of landscaped front yard. Hardscape landscape features, such as patios, decks and paved dining areas should cover a maximum 15% of landscaped front yard.

The neighbourhood provides many examples of both heritage and contemporary garden approaches. Take cues from these gardens, as well as from the house design. For example, a symmetrical house façade may inspire a symmetrical garden layout.

Apply the principles of screening, filtering and revealing the house using vegetation and built elements. For properties with a generous sideyard, allow screened views towards the back. Take advantage of views towards the Fraser River or Queen's Park by framing these views. (Do not remove mature trees to facilitate views.)





There are many different possible layouts that meet minimum standards for vegetation coverage. Arrange trees, shrubs, lawn and hardscape in a way that suits the location. Source: PWL Partnership, Landscape Architecture



A variety of garden styles, both historic and contemporary, add to the character of Queen's Park. These diagrams show a few examples of form and planting design: formal, cottage garden, woodland, and vegetable. More styles and layouts are possible. Source: PWL Partnership, Landscape Architecture

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Garden layout should account for house footprint, windows and doors, views, circulation, existing features, privacy, permeability, and best practices of sustainability. Forms should be compatible with the style of the house The garden should provide an overall sense of richness that contributes to the streetscape pedestrian experience. A small yard should include at least 1 tree in the front yard, while larger yards should have at least 3-5 trees and shrubs. If desired by the resident, a garden style that reflects the heritage style of the home; this may be a well-researched period garden, a site-specific restoration, or a contemporary take on heritage elements.	Garden layout meets City standards, including adequate vegetation coverage.	Removal of trees to facilitate views – pruning may be acceptable under arborist recommendation. Garden layouts that prioritize vehicles over pedestrians. Gardens consisting of only turf lawn or non-vegetated materials. It is not encouraged to conspicuously replicate an old-fashioned style, if that style is older than the house.

C.4 VIEWS AND PERMEABILITY

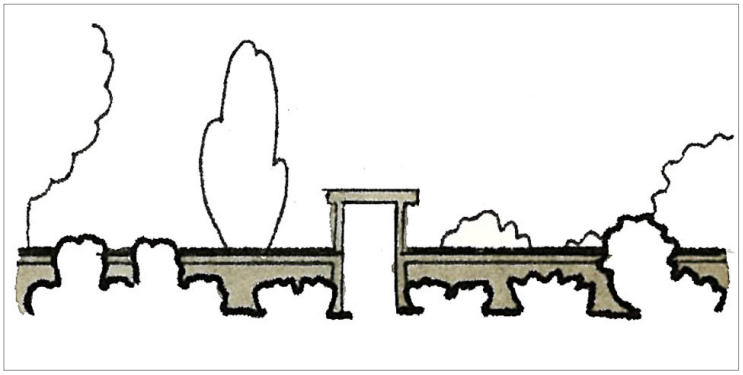
Intent: *Garden design should enhance the streetscape, which will provide safety, comfort and interest for pedestrians. Showcase residential homes and gardens by allowing select views from the public realm, while maintaining a sense of privacy and ownership.*

General Provisions:

Historically, fences in Queen's Park were only used symbolically, rather than for secure enclosure. These low fences provided a semi-public visual open space in the front yard. Therefore, elements along the front property line should either be low (under 1.25 metres) or permeable (with gaps allowing filtered views inward). These elements could include plantings, fences, trellises, stone walls, and more. Consider emphasizing the pedestrian entry to the home or walkway by using an entry trellis or a gateway at the place where the walkway meets the sidewalk.

Often, a narrow strip (under 0.5 metres) of special material such as paving stones or bright planting is located at the property line next to a taller element like a fence. Consider using this type of layering to enhance character. The boundaries between neighbouring lots are not always strictly delineated. Front lawns can appear to be shared between neighbours, especially in the case of subdivided lots.

Where necessary, utilize denser landscape elements to screen views to parked vehicles and to create a sense of backyard privacy.



Plants or garden structures of varying heights help to add interest to a continuous fence or hedge line. Source: PWL Partnership, Landscape Architecture

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Any proposed fencing along the front lot line is low (under 1.25m), made from authentic materials such as wood or metal. Fence which does not enclose front yard completely. Proposed planting along the front lot line is not a dense and uniform hedge that would completely block views. Cedar and laurel should be avoided, while trimmed boxwood may be acceptable. Taller plants with a looser habit that allow screened views are acceptable. Elements along the front lot line, including structures and plants, should not be all of uniform height; gaps allow select views inward, while taller elements screen features as necessary. Elements along the front lot line should be designed to have depth – for example, plants of various heights on either side of any fence; lower elements that provide interest along the sidewalk.	Simple, readymade fencing or low hedge that is not higher than 1.25m. If it is a corner lot, hedge may be planted along one edge to allow private use of backyard. It is not necessary to have a fence if not desired. Complete enclosure by fence if required for safety and security purposes, as per current bylaws. Trimmed boxwood hedges, or taller plants with a looser habit that allow filtered views.	Front lot line planted along its whole length with plants that have the potential to grow into a tall hedge exceeding 1.25 metres. Chainlink fences. Proposed planting along the front lot line which is dense, and uniform hedges which completely block views such as cedar and laurel.

C.5 GRADING DESIGN

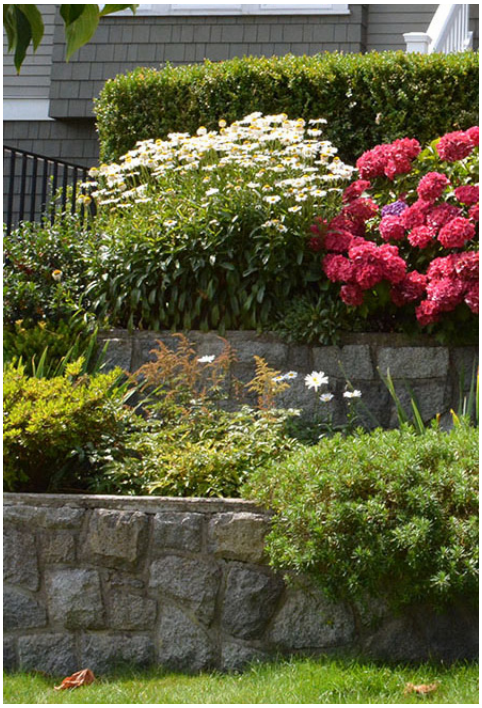
Intent: *Design solutions should take advantage of grade change to add interest to the streetscape.*

General Provisions:

Many homes are sited at a grade above that of the street. This offers an opportunity to add interest to the streetscape through considerately designed retaining walls and planter boxes. If possible, universal access should be facilitated by a sloped access path of less than 5% grade.

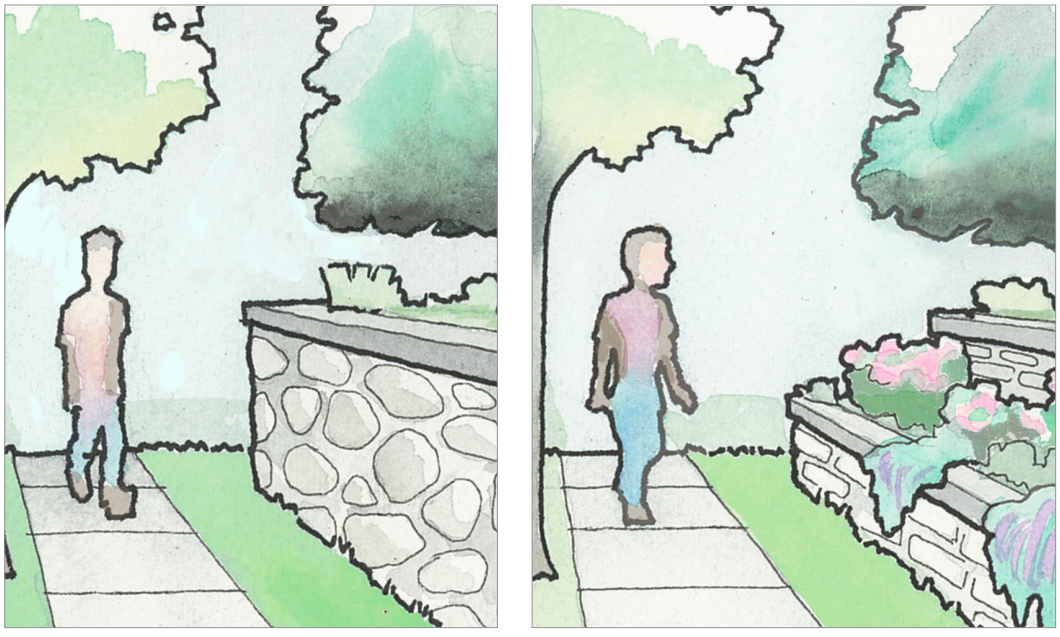


Stone planter.



Terraced wall.

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Existing heritage retaining walls should be preserved. New walls from natural materials, such as stone. Terraced retaining walls that incorporate planting.	Contemporary boardform concrete wall under 1.25m. Architecturally finished concrete walls under 1.25m. Sloped grade vegetated with turf or other plantings. Sloped grade with rocks or boulders and plantings. Stairs as needed.	Timber retaining walls, such as rail ties. Split-faced or construction-grade stacked unit wall (i.e. Allan Block). Traditional Edwardian cast concrete blocks with a faceted stone look may be appropriate. Cultured stone walls.



If a retaining wall must be high to make the grading work, consider using terraces and adding planting (right). This adds interest from the pedestrian's point of view. Source: PWL Partnership, Landscape Architecture

C.6 PLANTING DESIGN

Intent: *Planting design should be richly layered and structured in order to promote good aesthetics and useful habitat. Design should consider the role of trees, foundation planting, border planting and lawns as seen in the traditional style of the neighbourhood.*

General Provisions:

Carefully select and configure trees, shrubs, groundcover and lawn to create harmony with the built form and the streetscape. Consider the principles of screening, filtering, revealing, layering, filigree, and skyline interrelationship.

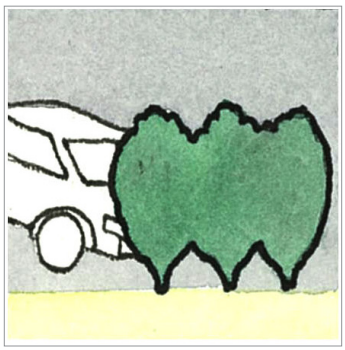
Specimen trees are a very worthwhile investment for the future of a garden. Select a species and size appropriate for residential application. Avoid placing a tree too close to the house.

Foundation planting is a row of shrubs right up against the house. This works particularly well where the main floor is raised above grade, with a heavy base of stone or wood; hence it is often seen against many of the older homes of Queen's Park. Plant material should be selected and maintained at an appropriate height to minimize blocking the view from windows.

Planting beds can be rectilinear or curvilinear depending on the desired style and layout. These beds often line the front boundary of the lot to add streetscape interest. The intent is not to plant a tall hedge that blocks views, but to keep a low and layered perennial and shrub border that allows some screened views inwards.

Lawns can provide play opportunity, functional space, and a sense of openness. Select grass varieties that are low-maintenance and drought-tolerant. Consider the use of alternative lawn species such as thyme or microclover.

Principles of traditional residential planting design.



Screening
Dense plants tha conceal structure or an activity, for complete privacy.



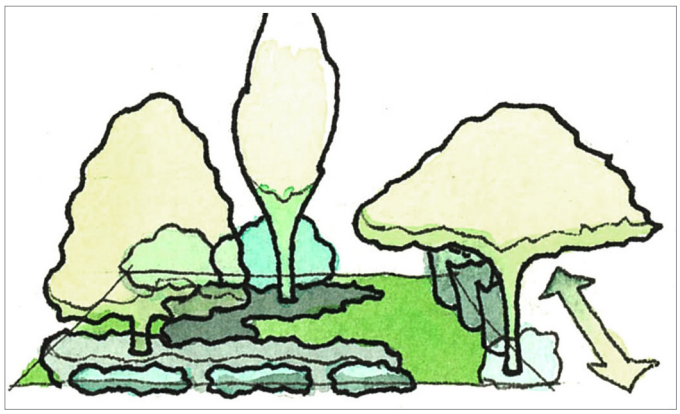
Filtering
Loosely structured plants that allow some light through for semi-privacy.



Revealing
Plants that frame and emphasize a feature or a view.

Source: PWL Partnership, Landscape Architecture

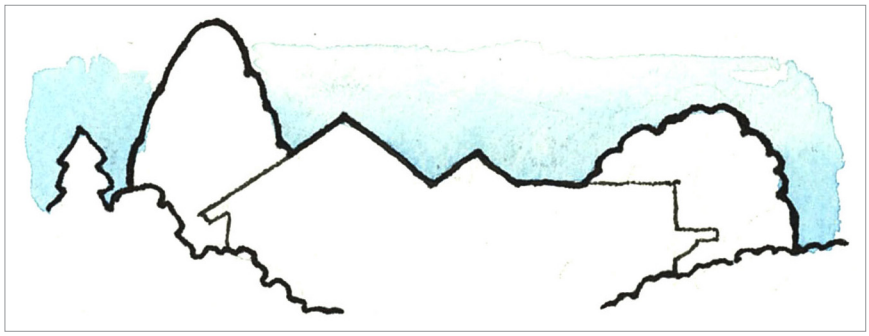
Principles of traditional residential planting design.



Layering
Different sizes of plants, positioned forward or backward to enhance the depth and structure.



Filigree
The delicate details of plant material that enhance architectural detail



Skyline Interrelationship
Plants that frame and act as a backdrop for buildings, creating an interesting silhouette

Source: PWL Partnership, Landscape Architecture

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Landscape plantings should be custom designed to provide garden structure and cohesive layout. New, high-quality specimen trees should be proposed where appropriate in order to contribute to the future character of the neighbourhood. Trees, shrubs and groundcover should be laid out to provide aesthetic and habitat value. Plant material should be used to complement the house and other landscape features, such as against a foundation wall or blank wall, or vines integrated with porches or trellises. If desired, lawn area is well-integrated within overall composition to provide a restful pause, and to be useful for play and entertainment. Boulevard plantings should be undertaken as per City guidelines.	Landscape plantings can be based upon a ready-made design from a trustworthy source (such as local government websites, regional plant sources, or heritage resources) that accounts for location, aesthetics and sustainability.	Landscape plantings that lack adequate variety of form and species, reflecting a bare-minimum approach to satisfying softscape requirements. Plantings that are invasive, require high water usage, or do not promote habitat and biodiversity. Yards that are entirely lawn and lack other plantings.

C.7 WALKWAYS

Intent: *Walkways should enhance the pedestrian-friendly character of the neighbourhood.*

General Provisions:

Walkways from the street to the house, as well as towards the side and backyard, should be distinct from driveways. This enhances safety and the perception of a pedestrian-friendly, walkable neighbourhood. Consider extending the main entry walkway to the City curb with the same paving material.



Hedged walkway.

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Walkways should be distinct from driveways, leading from sidewalk to front door in a direct or indirect path. Plantings should be integrated with walkways in formal or informal designs. If desired and appropriate, walkway may be enhanced by pergolas or gates that emphasize the pedestrian entry.	Simple walkways with minimal impermeable surfacing from the sidewalk to the front door.	Use of driveway space as pedestrian walkway.



Landscaped walkway.

C.8 WALLS, FENCES AND PERGOLAS

Intent: *The tradition of distinctive built elements in the residential landscape should be acknowledged, and their successful integration into the garden layout should be encouraged. Fences should be low, structures should emphasize entryways or functional areas, and both historic and contemporary materials can be successful.*

General Provisions:

Front yard fences in Queen's Park are historically used to symbolize the private realm, rather than for total privacy and enclosure. These structures shall not exceed 1.25 metres in height. Along the side yard, fences should not exceed 1.83 metres in height.

Small pergolas or archways where the front walkway meets the street are a historic way of emphasizing the pedestrian entrance to the residence. A wide range of designs are seen in the neighbourhood, including both historic and contemporary materials, patterns and expressions. Many historic examples include a pergola over the sideyard, as an extension of the house where the driveway passes beneath.

The City of New Westminster defines a retaining wall as "a structure constructed of any material and designed to hold back, stabilize or support an earthen bank resulting from differences in site grades". Retaining walls in the front yards may be constructed up to a maximum height of 1.25 meters (4 feet).



Fence with landscaping.



Retaining wall with plantings.

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Existing heritage walls, fences and pergolas should be preserved if they are in good condition. Consider researching and replicating original designs from site, if such information is available. Fencing, walls and pergolas should have a cohesive palette of materiality and form. Place structures in such a way as to emphasize circulation, privacy and activities within the site. Integrate planting, including vines, with these structures.	A landscape design without any walls, fences or pergolas is acceptable.	Walls, fences and pergolas in a decorative style that is significantly different from the architectural style of the house. Properties entirely walled or gated off. Avoid gates for vehicles.



Pergolas at the front walkway and street emphasizes the pedestrian entrance to the residence.

C.9 PLANT SELECTION SUGGESTIONS

Intent: *Plants should be chosen for the garden based on their site suitability and environmental benefits, and for how they work together as a whole. It is not necessary to include specific plants for their perceived heritage value.*

General Provisions:

It is not the intent of these Guidelines to mandate that only "heritage" varieties of plants be used in the garden. Any appropriate plant, whether native to BC, used in early settler gardens, or recently introduced, can contribute to environmental sustainability and heritage character. It is more important that plants be in the right place, allowing for growth, composition, and views.

Consider using native plants, which can be drought-resistant and require minimal watering once established. Many plants, whether native or introduced, have habitat value for birds and pollinators, adding to the biodiversity of the neighbourhood. Food plants, such as in a vegetable garden or fruit trees, can make a great addition to the front yard. Be aware of the potential for fallen fruit or seeds, especially near hard surfaces.

A specimen tree is a high quality, rare or unique tree. In private yards, these trees can contribute to the arboretum character of the neighbourhood, eventually becoming valued mature trees.

Many plants work well for a residence, such as vines growing on pergolas, stone walls or house facades. Bright plantings in containers can be placed on wide steps or on hardscape areas. Hanging baskets and window boxes add a lot of charm, and there are many annuals and perennials that work well with them.

Heirloom varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials or agricultural plants can be successfully integrated within a heritage-oriented garden if desired.

APPROACH		
RECOMMENDED	ACCEPTABLE	NOT RECOMMENDED
Plants should be selected according to their values, such as habitat value, native provenance, edibility, drought tolerance, specimen value, heritage value, and more. If desired, lawn species that requires less irrigation and maintenance. Lawn alternative such as microclover, sedum, thyme or other groundcover.	Plants typically available at nurseries; species should be selected and placed according to their mature size and their sun/shade requirements. Typical turf grass for lawn, with accompanying trees and shrubs as required.	Invasive plant species. Plant species that may grow too large for their selected placement, and block or damage the house. Plant species that will not thrive in an unsuitable location. Artificial turf, or lawn alone with no accompanying planting.



Mature tree on boulevard, contributes to park-like feel and pedestrian experience of the neighbourhood.

Invasive Plants

It is prohibited to plant species that are considered "invasive" (out-compete native species for space and resources and some can have serious environmental, economic and human health consequences). The two most aggressive invasive plant species which are of high concern and provincially classified as "noxious" – include Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) or the Knotweed species (Fallopia sp.). There are a number of non-noxious invasive species found in New Westminster. The City of New Westminster has been active in supporting local community groups in the removal of these invasive plants:

(a) Himalayan blackberry (Rubus discolor)

(b) English ivy (Hedera helix)

(c) Scotch Broom (Cytisus scoparius)

(d) Policeman's Helmet (Impatiens glandulifera)

(e) Yellow Lamium (Lamium galeobdolon)

(f) Morning Glory (Convolvus arvensis)

(g) Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)

(h) Daphne Laurel (Daphne laureola)

(i) Oranage Hawkweed (Hieracium aurantiacum)

(j) Common Periwinkle (Vinca minor)

(k) Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolate)

(l) Yellow Flag Iris (Iris pseudacorus)

Source: Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver and City of New Westminster





Owners, especially those designing new gardens, are not to plant invasive species, regardless of their historical use in the neighbourhood. Pictured above are native plantings used throughout the neighbourhood including fern and a Sedum Garden.