

Cottage garden

Backyard design concept

Prepared for

Sample homeowner

Site

Zone 7a · Full to part sun · About 1,200 sq ft

Date

October 2026

Your yard, before and after



The yard today.

What changes

Oval lawn framed by a pea gravel loop

Deep mixed borders along all three fence lines

Stepping stones from the back door, replacing the slab

A bench at the far end of the path

What stays

The young tree on the left, the fence and the house



Proposed. Cottage garden, shown at maturity (about 2–3 seasons).

Renders



Daytime, at maturity



Golden hour



After dark, with landscape lighting



Autumn



Close-up of the planting

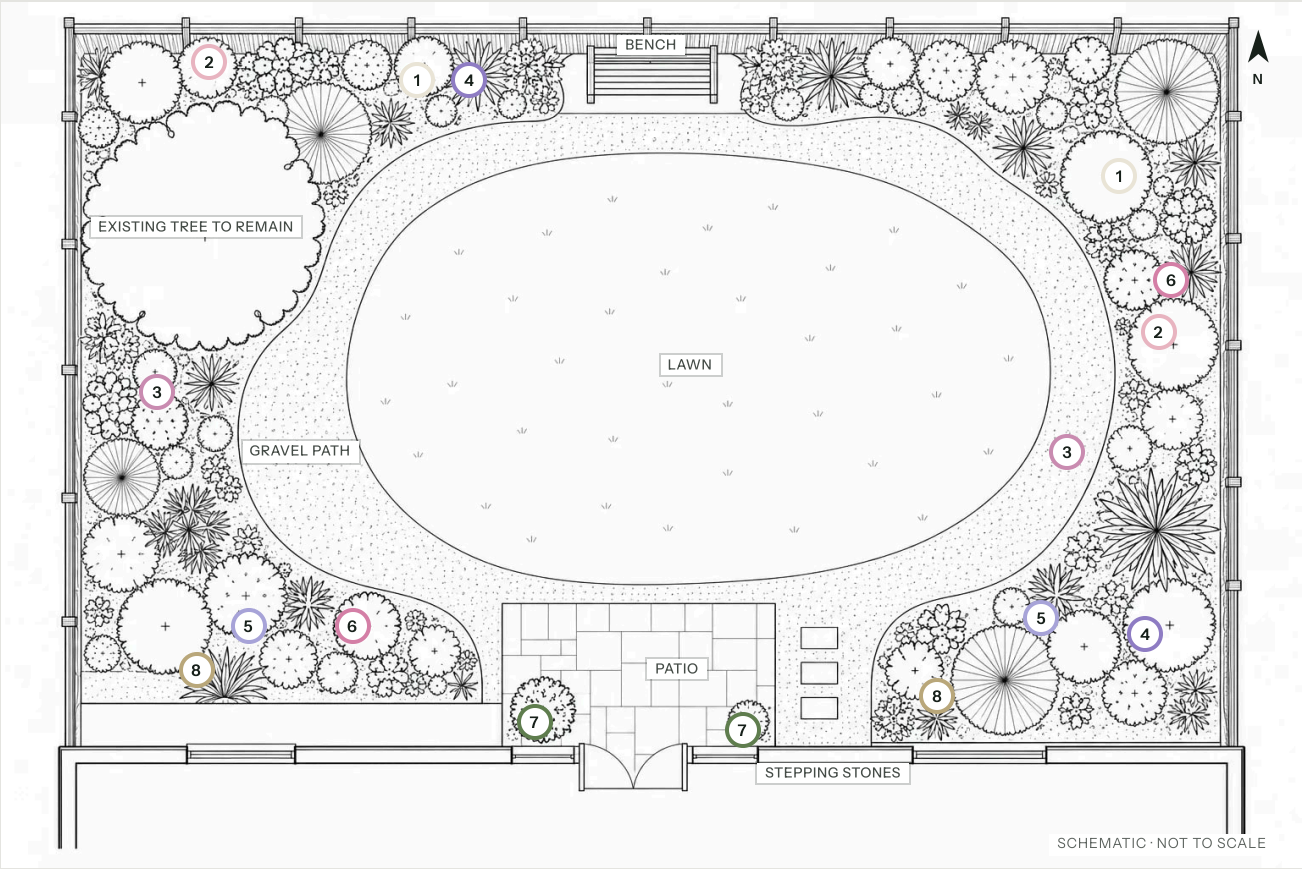


Close-up of paths and paving

Close-ups show the plants and materials up close; the exact arrangement follows the plan.

Design concept, not a construction drawing. Verify setbacks and call 811 before digging.

Planting plan





Limestone stepping stones



Pea gravel path



Shredded hardwood mulch



Steel edging



Teak bench

No. Plant	Qty	Size
1 Annabelle hydrangea <i>Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'</i>	5	3 gal
2 English shrub rose <i>Rosa 'Olivia Rose Austin'</i>	6	3 gal
3 Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	12	1 gal
4 English lavender <i>Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'</i>	18	1 gal
5 Catmint <i>Nepeta 'Walker's Low'</i>	14	1 gal
6 Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	10	1 gal
7 Boxwood <i>Buxus 'Green Velvet'</i>	7	3 gal
8 Little bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	16	1 gal

Total plants

88

Schematic, not to scale. Quantities assume spacing at mature spread. Dimensioned plan available with the designer-reviewed upgrade.

Plants for zone 7a



Annabelle hydrangea

Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'

Sun	Part sun
Water	Medium
Size	4' × 4'
Season	Jun–Aug



English shrub rose

Rosa 'Olivia Rose Austin'

Sun	Full sun
Water	Medium
Size	3' × 3'
Season	May–Sep



Foxglove

Digitalis purpurea

Sun	Part sun
Water	Medium
Size	4' × 1.5'
Season	May–Jun



English lavender

Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'

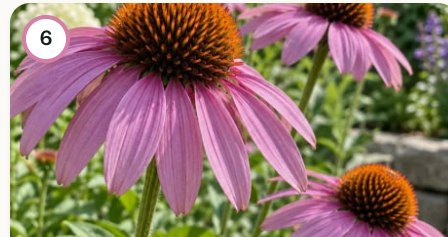
Sun	Full sun
Water	Low
Size	1.5' × 2'
Season	Jun–Aug



Catmint

Nepeta 'Walker's Low'

Sun	Full sun
Water	Low
Size	2.5' × 3'
Season	May–Sep



Purple coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

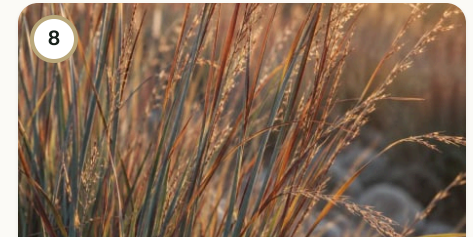
Sun	Full sun
Water	Low
Size	3' × 2'
Season	Jul–Sep



Boxwood

Buxus 'Green Velvet'

Sun	Sun to part
Water	Medium
Size	3' × 3'
Season	Evergreen



Little bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

Sun	Full sun
Water	Very low
Size	3' × 1.5'
Season	Autumn colour

Materials and budget

Materials

	Limestone stepping stones About 24", natural edge	9 pieces
	Pea gravel path 3/8" warm buff, 3" deep	3.4 cu yd
	Shredded hardwood mulch Beds, 3" deep	5.8 cu yd
	Steel edging Black, 4" high	120 lin ft
	Teak bench 5 ft, backed	1

Budget range

Typical installed costs for the Philadelphia area, 2026. Not a quote.

Paths, stones and edging	\$4,200–\$6,800
Plants and soil prep	\$5,600–\$8,400
Mulch and lawn renovation	\$1,400–\$2,300
Bench	\$600–\$1,200
Labor and site prep	\$4,800–\$7,400

Estimated total

\$16,600–\$26,100

Doing the planting yourself typically saves 30–40% of the planting and labor lines.

Brief for your landscaper

Scope of work

- 1. Remove the concrete slab and haul away.
- 2. Strip lawn outside the new oval; regrade lightly.
- 3. Install steel edging around the lawn and beds.
- 4. Lay a 4–5 ft pea gravel loop on compacted base.
- 5. Set 9 limestone stepping stones from the back door.
- 6. Amend beds with compost and plant per the plan.
- 7. Mulch beds 3” deep; overseed and topdress the lawn.
- 8. Place the bench at the far end of the path.

Keep and protect

The young tree on the left: no grade change within its drip line.

The fence on all three sides.

Site notes

Full sun at the back, part shade along the left fence.

Clay loam; expect to amend planting beds.

Access through the side gate, about 4 ft wide.

Quantities at a glance

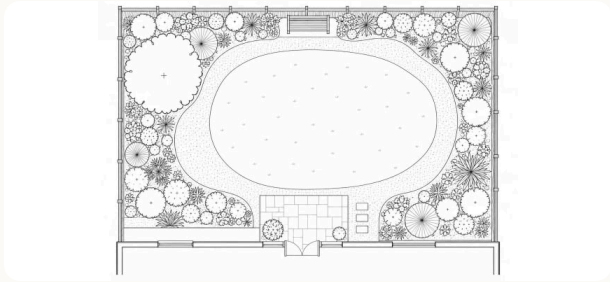
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Existing



Proposed



Plan