



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTIFICATION

Dear Chautauquan,

Chautauqua Institution is coming before the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees to request approval of a formal garden in Lincoln Park.

You are receiving this notice because the Buildings & Grounds Committee would like input and comments from property owners within approximately 350' of the proposed garden site. Plans for this project will be available online no later than Friday, February 20, and may be reviewed online under the Buildings and Grounds Committee (BGC) heading on the ARB News and Notes Page at the following link: www.CHQ.org/ARB

We recognize that community members may have questions, concerns, or alternative perspectives. The upcoming meeting is intended to provide a meaningful opportunity to review the plans in detail, ask questions, and offer feedback before any final determination is made. Input from neighbors and park users will be considered by the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee as part of its decision-making process.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet with the community virtually on March 6, 2026 at 12:00 Noon by Zoom. The link for this Zoom meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84287249182?pwd=iA5Q8jh3jRKP03rqsHg9ZjYa6e3vCa.1>

Please submit any comments you may have in writing for the Buildings and Grounds Committee's consideration. E-mails are preferred and may be submitted to ARB@chq.org. So that we can be prepared to respond to your concerns at the meeting, please submit your written comments not later than March 3, 2026. Alternatively, you may present your comments at the virtual meeting, but we are expecting a large turnout and speakers will likely be strictly limited in terms of speaking time, so we are encouraging written comments.

Respectfully,



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Proposed Formal Garden in Lincoln Park

A new formal garden is being proposed by the Institution in Lincoln Park, bordered by Wythe Avenue, Warren Avenue, and Janes Avenue, envisioned as a peaceful and contemplative space for enjoyment by all members of the community. The garden would be located on the south side of the park along Janes Avenue, nestled among three trees including a large maple situated between the proposed garden and the large grassy expanse often used as a play area by neighborhood children. The garden takes up only a small portion of the overall park, creating a cozy, inviting space within the larger more open areas of the park.

There were a number of factors considered in situating the garden: the desire of the Institution to “complete” the park by having gardens on all sides, the lack of a beautiful formal garden on Institution land in the area bordered by the Vincent Brick Walk, the Clark Brick Walk and the South Gate, the presence of tree roots that could not be disturbed without harming the surrounding trees, making sure that the garden would not encroach on the large grassy play area, and the recognition and respect for the other gardens in the park, such as the Lincoln Memorial Garden, that runs along the Wythe Avenue side of the Park. In our view, the proposed location is the best location that takes all of the factors into account.

Layout and Walkway

The garden is organized around a straight pathway that runs roughly parallel to Janes Avenue. The pathway is made up of rectangular pavers, giving the space a clean and structured feel. This straight path contrasts nicely with the softer shapes of the surrounding plants.

A stone path also connects Janes Avenue to the garden, gently lifting visitors into the space. This creates a clear entrance and makes the garden feel intentional and welcoming.

Within the garden, there is a bench and two small stone chairs, facing the park rather than the street, offering a comfortable place to sit and enjoy the surroundings. Toward the northeast corner, a low granite stone—about 16 inches tall—adds a simple, natural focal point within the plantings.

Planting Style and Seasonal Interest

The plant beds gently curve around the walkway, partially surrounding visitors and creating a sense of being immersed in the garden without blocking views across the park.

The garden features a rich mix of flowering native perennials and ornamental grasses. Plants are arranged in flowing groups creating a natural look while still feeling thoughtfully planned.

The selection includes lavender, little bluestem grass, ladies' mantle, catmint, black-eyed Susans, Japanese anemones, coneflowers, peonies, yarrow, bee balm, astilbe, as well as other complementary plants. The garden provides blooms from Spring through Fall and essential habitat for native pollinators.

Connection to the Park

The larger park remains mostly open lawn with scattered trees. The proposed garden occupies less than 3% of the total park area, allowing it to feel like a special feature within a broader green space rather than overwhelming it. The garden does not encroach on the expanse of grass on the north side of the large maple tree. The garden was reduced in size twice during the planning phase to ensure a proper scale.

The triangular shape of the park makes the garden visible from multiple directions, drawing attention from passersby on nearby streets. At the same time, the plantings and seating areas create a small "outdoor room" where people can pause and enjoy a quieter moment or watch the children at play.

The garden will be edged with barn stone not only to highlight the space but also to help reduce annual maintenance. Landscape and Garden staff propose to use similar stone edging around the perimeter of other gardens in the park over time, to establish visual continuity across garden areas.

Overall Feel

Overall, the garden is welcoming, intimate, and full of seasonal interest. It offers a place to walk through, sit, and experience a wide variety of plants within a small but thoughtfully arranged space.

Community Review

The proposal reflects the Institution's assessment of how a formal garden could enhance Lincoln Park while preserving its primary open lawn and play areas. However, we recognize that community members may have questions, concerns, or alternative

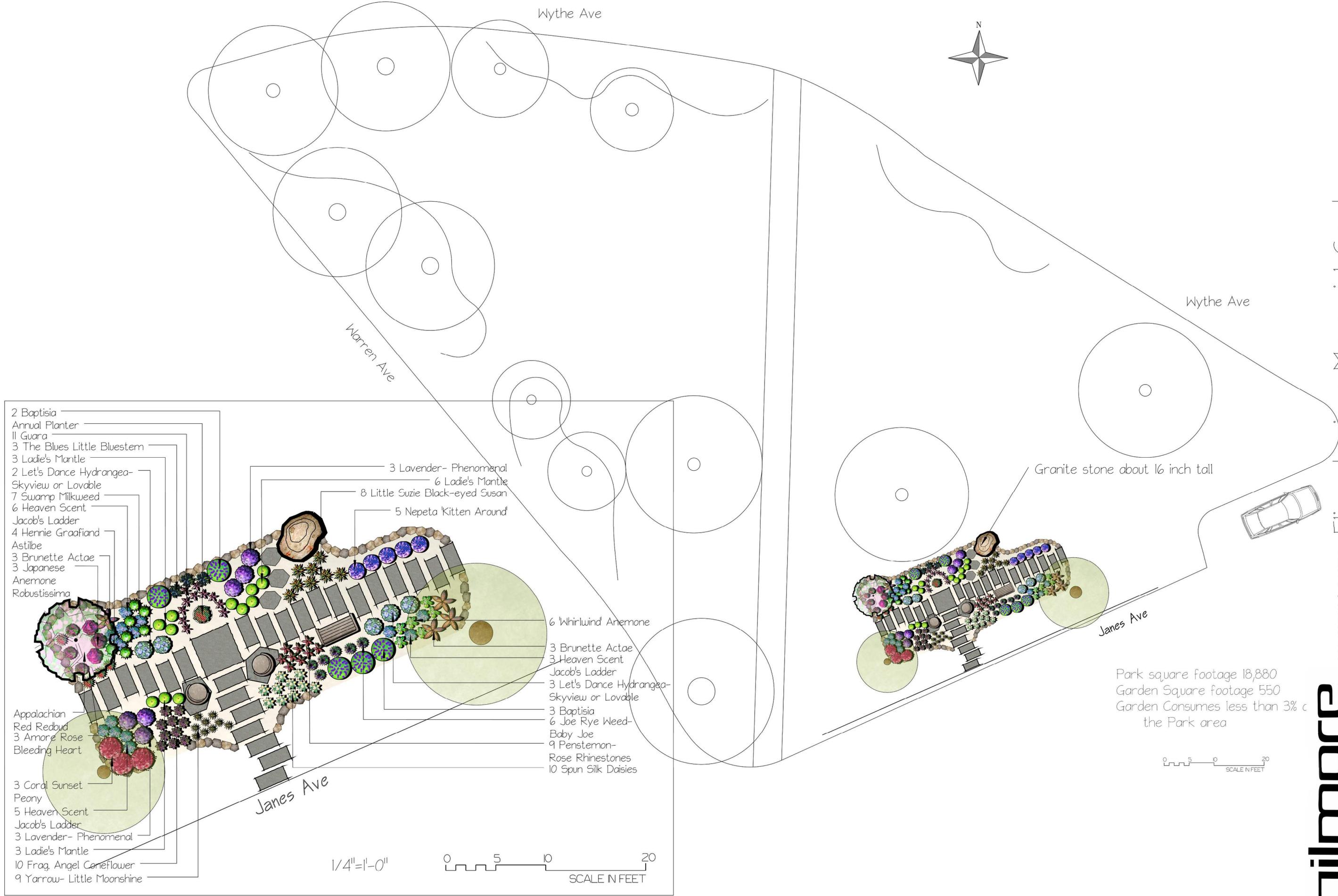
perspectives. The upcoming meeting is intended to provide a meaningful opportunity to review the plans in detail, ask questions, and offer feedback before any final determination is made. Input from neighbors and park users will be considered by the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee as part of its decision-making process.

Funding

The plans call for the project to be fully funded through philanthropic gifts and endowed to ensure its long-term care and maintenance.

Approval

The garden proposal is subject to approval by the Buildings and Grounds Committee (BGC) of the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees.

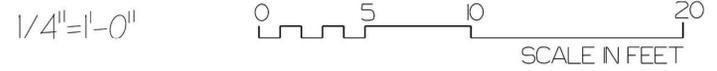
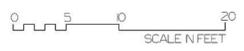


- 2 Baptisia
- Annual Planter
- 11 Guara
- 3 The Blues Little Bluestem
- 3 Ladie's Mantle
- 2 Let's Dance Hydrangea- Skyview or Lovable
- 7 Swamp Milkweed
- 6 Heaven Scent
- Jacob's Ladder
- 4 Hennie Graafiand
- Astilbe
- 3 Brunette Actae
- 3 Japanese
- Anemone
- Robustissima
- Appalachian
- Red Redbud
- 3 Amore Rose
- Bleeding Heart
- 3 Coral Sunset
- Peony
- 5 Heaven Scent
- Jacob's Ladder
- 3 Lavender- Phenomenal
- 3 Ladie's Mantle
- 10 Frag. Angel Coneflower
- 9 Yarrow- Little Moonshine

- 3 Lavender- Phenomenal
- 6 Ladie's Mantle
- 8 Little Suzie Black-eyed Susan
- 5 Nepeta 'Kitten Around'
- 6 'Whirlwind' Anemone
- 3 Brunette Actae
- 3 Heaven Scent
- Jacob's Ladder
- 3 Let's Dance Hydrangea- Skyview or Lovable
- 3 Baptisia
- 6 Joe Rye Weed- Baby Joe
- 9 Penstemon- Rose Rhinestones
- 10 Spun Silk Daisies

Granite stone about 16 inch tall

Park square footage 18,880
 Garden Square footage 550
 Garden Consumes less than 3% c the Park area



Plants listed in order of bloom sequence Spring -Fall - (Not all plants listed will be used -Final decisions still to be made)

Perennials: Creeping Phlox, Dicentra -Amore Rose, Jacob's Ladder -Heaven Scent, Ladies' Mantle, Astilbe -Hennie Graafland & Bridal Veil varieties, Nepeta -'Kitten around', Lavender, Fragrant Angel Coneflower (White), Daisies -'Spun silk', Swamp Milkweed, Yarrow -Little Moonshine, Penstemon, Little Suzie Black Eyed Susan, Guara - 'Stratosphere', Hosta -Terms of Endearment & Blue Angel Varieties, Culver's Root, Japanese Anemone (Late Bloomer) -Whirlwind & Robustissima varieties, Dwarf Joe Pye Plant -Baby Joe, Black Cohosh -'Brunette', Christmas Fern

