

**Landworks Studio, Inc.**



PROJECT:	<b>MAINE SUMMER RETREAT</b>
LOCATION:	WESTERN MAINE
CLIENT:	WITHHELD AT CLIENT'S REQUEST
BUDGET:	\$200,000
STATUS:	ONGOING, PHASE 1 COMPLETED 1998

The site is a family summer residence that also serves as an occasional workshop and retreat for the couple's theater group. Sited on a lake in western Maine, the ten-acre grounds consist of nine cabins within a mature pine forest.

Landworks Studio's masterplan is composed of two groves of trees, a network of paths for pedestrians and vehicles, earth forms that control site drainage, and small geometric plantings of grasses, blueberries, and other native flora.

A hedgerow and basin define a quiet theatrical space that integrates circulation, water detention, and plantings. The two hundred foot long hedgerows and shrub groupings create a unique central space, offering a foil to the strong presence of the lake.

The project is built on the site of an overly used 1920's-era campground that exhibited typical problems of land subjected to high use. Most topsoil from the site was depleted due to storm-water runoff that in turn was a major source of sedimentation of the adjacent lake. The remaining soil was densely compacted by vehicles and human activity so that no plants would grow, exacerbating the runoff problems. Introduced plant species such as Boston Ivy grew rampant overtaking and choking the existing hardwood trees, and invasive exotic species crowded out native plants in the areas where growth was possible.

Reclamation of the site by was done by introducing storm-water runoff impounding structures to control erosion and topsoil loss. These structures also act as siltation fences that allow the deposition and accumulation of topsoil carried by storm-water, creating new areas of fertile ground for plant growth without importing material from off-site sources. Additionally, plants were strategically placed to ameliorate winter winds and create shade to shelter buildings in the summer. These environmental elements became the design features around which the retreat is composed. Planted only with native trees, shrubs and vines the landscape requires no irrigation and only minimal annual maintenance of mowing field grasses, removing invasive/colonizing species, and paved area upkeep. The clients also expressed a strong interest in creating wildlife habitats and enhancing migration corridors. This interest resulted in both plant and wildlife research to develop a plant palette that provided food for animal life that used the site as part of its migration path.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

A. PROJECT NAME & LOCATION:	Maine Summer Retreat
B. EXECUTION:	DATE 1998 - Current BUDGET \$200,000
C. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:	Landworks Studio, Inc. 10 Derby Square, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Salem, MA 01970 Tel. 978-745-7181 Fax. 978-740-2823
D: CONTACT PERSON:	Michael Blier mblier@landworks-studio.com
E. OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE:	James Burnham Otisfield,