

# Alternative Landscape Plan Narrative

## "The Shire at Old Ranch"

Our purpose for developing "The Shire at Old Ranch" is deeply rooted in the desire to foster meaningful connections between people and the natural world around them. With decades of combined experience designing, building, and enhancing landscapes around the Pikes Peak Region, our objective is to harmonize functional spaces with natural beauty, integrating the ethos of suburban, rural, and wild design.

One of the primary design components is the establishment of Natural Transition Zones. Our location stands as a bastion of natural beauty, bridging the ambiance of suburban areas like Cordera and Northfork with the rustic charm of Black Forest. Visitors and residents alike will experience the gentle gradient from suburban to natural, each step filled with wonder and learning.

Our existing and intended patchwork of forest, meadow, and forest-meadow biomes are more than just scenic features. By carefully selecting plant palettes to introduce to different biome areas, we're creating valuable demonstrations of good land stewardship focused on developing healthy, resilient landscapes free from dependence on human inputs like water and fertilizer. "Naturescaping" in this manner lends itself to a scene where grazing small ruminants like sheep and goats, and fowl like chickens and ducks, fits aesthetically and creates great land management outcomes like rich soil and pest population reduction. These animals will not only be a delightful sight but will also aid in controlling unchecked vegetation growth, all while enriching the soil with organic matter.

A significant element in our design is the development of Edible Landscapes, or as we like to call them, Food Forests. These multi-layered plantings, carefully designed and constructed, will not only be a source of fresh produce but will also act as a living testament to the symbiotic relationships plants can share. They'll stand as proof that with thoughtful selection, plants can coexist, support one another, and provide sustenance.

From dense, mysterious woodlands to sun-kissed meadows; from scrub groves humming with life to fields carpeted with wildflowers, each patch is curated to be a feast for the senses and a sanctuary for local wildlife.

Of course, the practical elements of our project haven't been overlooked. We are committed to Beautification & Screening. Essential, yet potentially unsightly features like parking zones or infrastructure backends will be seamlessly integrated with the natural surroundings. This ensures the holistic beauty of our project remains uncompromised.

Guiding visitors through this mosaic of landscapes will be our Educational Pathways. These paths, more than just connectors, will serve as channels of learning. Interspersed with insightful signages, every journey will offer nuggets of wisdom about the flora, fauna, and the principles that underpin our design.

In conclusion, we firmly believe our vast experience in plant design, soil management, and curating spaces that resonate with the rhythms of the natural world gives us a unique advantage. While we hold the utmost respect for the guidelines laid out, we seek a measure of flexibility, confident in our ability to shape a landscape that goes beyond mere compliance to touch the very soul of all those who step into "The Shire at Old Ranch".

Thanks for your consideration.