

PLANTS of the SWANN MALL NATURALIZED LANDSCAPE

Welcome to Swann Mall, a contemplative open space with a naturalized landscape. Naturalized landscaping refers to the practice of purposefully bringing back native plants to an area. Once properly established, naturalized areas provide many environmental, social and economic benefits, such as reducing irrigation and maintenance demand and supporting local biodiversity.

For the university, naturalization also allows the campus landscape to be more representative of the land that we reside in: a unique junction between the foothills and the prairie. Non-invasive adapted plants are also selectively used in Swann Mall. Some of the more common species are introduced here.

TREE & SHRUBS



Trembling Aspen

Populus tremuloides

- A native tree with white bark & green leaves that turns gold in fall; adds colour, sound, & movement to the landscape
- Propagates itself mostly through root sprouts into groves



Wild Rose / *Rosa woodsii*

- A native, deciduous woodland shrub with scented pink flowers in spring followed by bright red hips; and orange leaves in autumn
- Indigenous medicinal use of hips
- Drought tolerant & attracts bees



Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

- A native, hardy shrub with pink flowers
- Produces many ornamental white berries from early to late autumn
- Very adaptable to poor soil condition & shady conditions



Compact Cranberry

Viburnum trilobum "Compactum"

- A variety of a native species
- Adaptive plant with clusters of white flowers in spring & fruit in autumn
- Sour berries can be used for preserves



Golden Flowering Currant

Ribes aurem

- A native deciduous shrub
- Features fragrant yellow flowers in spring, followed by small black berries
- Attracts birds & pollinators



Western Sandcherry

Prunus besseyi

- A native shrub featuring showy white flowers in spring,
- Produces tart, black cherries in summer that can be used for jams
- Drought-tolerant & likes full sunlight

GRASS & FORBS



Slender & Awned Wheatgrass

Elymus trachycaulus

& *Agropyron subsecudum*

- Native, hardy grasses with narrow, linear spikelets
- Birds and animals utilize the seed for food and foliage for cover



Tufted Hairgrass

Deschampsia cespitosa

- A native grass that turns gold late in the season, keeping colour & form during winter months
- A larval host to native butterflies



Blue Grama / *Bouteloua gracilis*

- A drought-tolerant grass that is native to dry, shortgrass prairies
- Can be distinguished by its dense, curved, brush-like spikes with spikelets
- A larval host to native butterflies



Canada Milkvetch

Astragalus canadensis

- A native, adaptable plant commonly found in wetlands, woodlands, & prairies
- Indigenous medicinal use of roots
- A common nectar source for bees



Blue Flax / *Linum perenne*

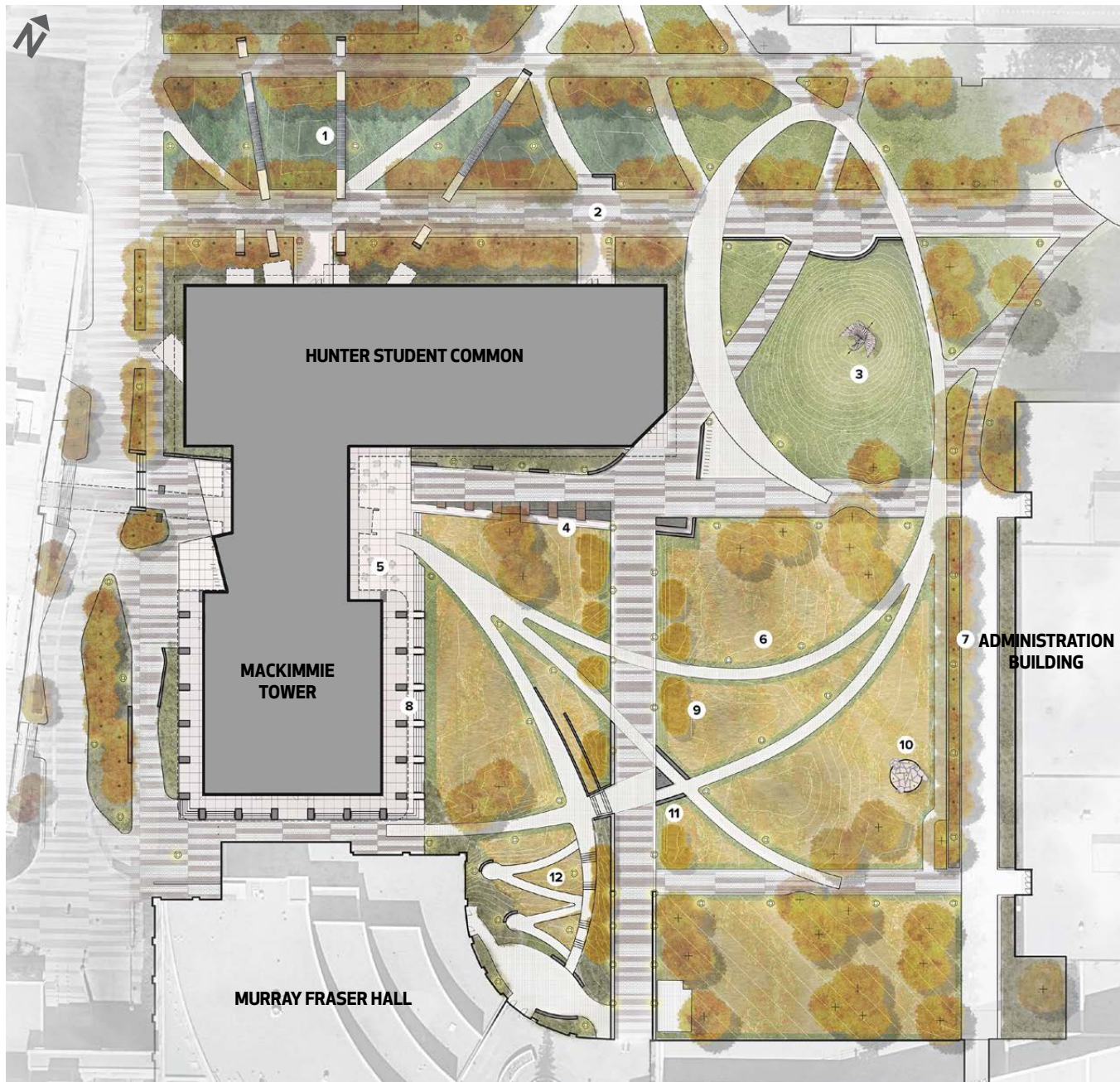
- A hardy, non-native adapted plant that produces sky blue flowers from June to August
- Self-seeding & drought tolerant
- Attracts birds & pollinators



Prairie Sagewort

Artemisia frigida

- A native, aromatic plant with silvery foliage & yellow flowers
- Also known as prairie sage, it has a variety of uses for Indigenous peoples of the area



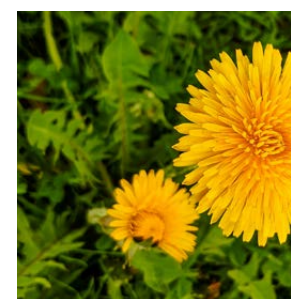
SITE PLAN OF SWANN MALL*

- 1. BIOSWALES
- 2. PROMENADE
- 3. TURF HILL. ART: *Untitled* (1975), by George Norris (aka the *Prairie Chicken*)
- 4. SEATING ISLANDS & BICYCLE RACKS
- 5. LINK TERRACE
- 6. PRAIRIE MEADOW: **grasses & forbs**
- 7. PLANTER WALL: **wildrose & sandcherry**
- 8. ARCADE WITH SEATING STEPS
- 9. NATIVE ASPEN GROVES
- 10. ART: *Garden of Learning* (1996) by Katie Ohe
- 11. FLAG POLE & SEATING ISLANDS
- 12. PATHWAY & STAIRS TO LOWER MURRAY FRASER HALL TERRACE: **snowberry, cranberry & currant**

*design has evolved over time

SOME INVASIVE PLANTS ON CAMPUS

Invasive plants are non-native species that have been introduced, intentionally or unintentionally, and threaten our ecosystems. Some of the more common invasive plants are listed below:



Dandelion

- Not listed as noxious but a prolific seed producer with deep, penetrating taproots
- Bright yellow flowers that produce pappus, spheric seedheads to be disseminated & carried by wind
- Edible qualities



Foxtail, varied species

- Not listed as noxious weeds but fast spreading & able to grow in all soil types
- Has a shallow, fibrous root system; can be effectively picked
- Harmful to animals when digested



Thistle, varied species

- Many of them designated as prohibited noxious plants under Alberta Weed Control Act
- Aggressively spread with creeping root systems
- Commonly feature spiny leaves or stems



Burdock, varied species

- Designated as noxious under Alberta Weed Control Act
- Flower heads have curving hooks that stick to animal fur or skin
- Feature tall plants, large, heart shaped leaves, & purple flowers