



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A small fenced-in backyard gets a new layout designed to maximize the available space while providing a raised deck seating area, a water feature and a lawn area for a four-legged friend.

An existing path through a narrow corridor between the fence and house leads to the backyard. On either side of this path, plantings are proposed to create a green screen of flowering vines along the fence while brightening up the shaded groundplane with a massing of Variegated Liriope. The area where the terminus of this path meets the larger backyard became the natural spot for a new deck seating area.

An existing mature Linden tree lies at the far end of the yard, which is preserved in this plan and serves as the focal point of the seating area. In close proximity of the Linden tree, conditions are too shady for lawn to thrive. Therefore, this area was designed to be planted with shady groundcovers and ferns. In order to eliminate awkward mowing areas and to soften the perimeter of the yard contained by the fence and building, the final shape for the lawn became an oval centered on the deck seating area. A short-cut stepping stone path was added for the resident canine, who predictably wouldn't take the more formal human route to access the lawn. 😊

Flowering shrubs and groundcovers were chosen based on sun and shade conditions, their mature size (compact plants were needed for the narrow spaces), and the colors they would bring to the yard. Siberian Irises, as they look very similar to water irises, were chosen for plantings around the raised deck to evoke the feeling of being at the water's edge.

The final layout organizes the backyard into simple, functional spaces and pathways that offer respite and retreat from world beyond.