

# *Planting Site Designs*





## Little Laurel Overlook



### Description of Location

Little Laurel Overlook is located on the northern most section of the Scenic Highway on I-50. The site is to the south of the road.

### Design Challenge

The grassy island at the entrance to the Little Laurel Overlook is not a strong representation of the diverse plants of the Monongahela National Forest. These entrances are places where people stop and linger, and could be used as opportunities to showcase native flora. Furthermore, the lack of barriers on this grassy island is leading to resource damage as a result of off-road vehicles.



A view of the current site in June 2011



A view of the site in June after installation of the design

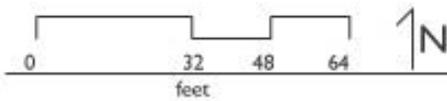
### Design Solution

The entrances to each of the scenic highway overlooks serve as an opportunity to highlight shifts in vegetation as elevation changes. The Big Spruce Overlook is dominated by red spruce; the Little Laurel Overlook is an opportunity to showcase the natural transition away from red spruce at lower elevations. Three red spruce anchor the plan, but are flanked by flowering trees and shrubs including serviceberry, mountain ash, rhododendron, and mountain laurel. These woody plants also serve to discourage off-road vehicles. Sun loving wildflowers replace the remainder of the grass, minimizing maintenance and allowing a clear view of the entrance sign from either direction on the highway.



**Legend**

-  Existing Tree Cover
-  Red Spruce
-  Serviceberry
-  Rhododendron
-  Mountain Laurel
-  Mountain Ash
-  Existing Entrance Sign
-  Existing Building
-  Asphalt Road
-  Wildflower Mix
-  Existing Grass





**Little Laurel Overlook: Plant List**

Type	Common Name	Botanical Name	Quantity	Condition	Flowering Season	Flowering Color	Average spread	Average height
Perennial*	Bigleaf Aster	<i>Aster macrophyllis</i>	N/A	Seed	August/September	Pink/Violet/Purple	3-4'	3'-4'
Perennial*	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	N/A	Seed	August/September	Yellow	2'-6'	1'-2'
Perennial*	Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	N/A	Seed	September/October	Blue	1-2'	3-5'
Perennial*	Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	N/A	Seed	August/September	Pink	2-4'	2-4'
Perennial*	Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	N/A	Seed	April/May	Pink/Blue	1-2'	1-2'
Perennial*	Goat's Rue	<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	N/A	Seed	June/July/August	Yellow/White/Purple	1-2'	1'
Tree	Red Spruce	<i>Picea rubens</i>	3	B&B	n/a	n/a	10'	60'-80'
Tree	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	2	B&B	March/April	White	15'-20'	20'-25'
Tree	Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	3	B&B	May/June	White	15'	20'-40'
Shrub	Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	8	Container	Late May/Early June	Pink, Fades to White	5'-12'	5'-12'
Shrub	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	4	Container	Late June	Pink or White	10'	8'-15'

\* Perennial species should be planted in spring from locally collected, cold-stratified seed. If seeds for specified species are not available, other native seed may be substituted.  
 If perennial seed does not take, may need to substitute with small container plants.