

Client: Pine Street Inn
Brookline, MA

Designer: Geri Sprague
Millis, MA

Design Completion: Spring 2005

Project Funders: Brookline Community Foundation
Walpole Woodworkers
Weston Nurseries



Located in an attractive, residential Brookline neighborhood, Pine Street Inn's nineteenth permanent residence provides low-income men and women with affordable living options.

After completing renovations to the historic building, the staff and residents wanted to extend the restoration by making the landscape as beautiful as the building and surrounding community to reflect Pine Street Inn's continuing commitment to being a good neighbor. With this goal in mind, Pine Street Inn contacted COGdesign for help with a plan.



COG's designer began the process by meeting with the residents and managers and listening to their wishes for the site. She discussed with them the favorite sights and smells which they remembered from previous gardens. The designer then created a low-maintenance, peaceful garden using a palette of white flowering plants.

A highlight of the garden is a white cedar pergola, soon to be covered in climbing hydrangeas, with a table and chairs underneath. This new gathering area for residents serves as an antidote to isolation and gives them a place to sit outside and enjoy the garden.



The new design weaves the home into the neighborhood and enhances the sense of "home" to residents. The garden was installed by residents and COGdesign volunteers.