



A group of Lahey Clinic staff members interested in alternative and holistic medicine wanted to create meditative spaces to be used as healing tools for patients, their families, and the staff. The goals were challenging and site complex, making this a perfect opportunity for a student seeking a thesis project.

The clinic is located on a site with the density of a large city. It is built on the side of a drumlin creating dramatic changes in elevation. Areas of native woodland which were preserved when the clinic was built need to be assessed and inventoried. The role gardens play in the healing process must be integrated into the design. Drawings and models are

needed to help the Lahey team raise funds to build the gardens.

The designer created three gardens: one with a dining deck and pavilion, a stream and pond, and a wildflower meadow and herb gardens; one a meditative space which restores a sense of privacy and offers spaces for one or two people; and one a garden for employees to be among themselves.

This project has given the designer a unique opportunity to bring her academic training to a challenging site, and the opportunity to give the Lahey staff the tools needed to create beautiful healing gardens for patients, visitors, and staff.

Client: Lahey Clinic
Burlington, MA

Designers: Catherine Wiersema
Weston, MA

Completion: May, 2001

