SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Replacing steep areas of lawn next to a stream with a *ledge garden*...

...ledge garden

reduces erosion by stabilizing the slope with rock-supported planting pockets
minimizes energy use by reducing mowing and the use of fertilizers
improves water quality by providing a more effective stream buffer than lawn
shades the stream to minimze summer temperatures and retain soil moisture
increases biodiversity (variation of life forms within a given ecosystem)
creates more habitat and nesting sites for songbirds and other wildlife
provides a more diverse food supply for wildlife, especially insects
brings beauty, visual interest, and seasonal variation to the landscape

- A Elderberry Sambucus canadensis
- B Crossvine Bignonia capreolata
- C River Oats *Chasmanthium latifolium*
- D Cherokee Sedge *Carex cherokeensis*
- E St. Andrew's Cross *Hypericum hypericoides*
- F Coralberry Symphoricarpus orbiculatus
- G Oakleaf Hydrangea Hydrangea quercifolia
- H Limestone Ledge
- I Sycamore Platanus occidentalis
- J Dwarf Red Buckeye Aesculus pavia
- K Ironwood Carpinus caroliniana
- L Leaf litter or Duff







This is a demonstration project of the Sustainable Landscapes Initiative, a collaborative effort involving Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Environmental Landscape Design Associates. The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance both the aesthetic appeal and the environmental quality of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory campus landscape. Please visit http://sustainability-ornl.org for more information.