



Healthy Home
HABITATS

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FRONT PLANTING: A large planting area holds a Purple Plum Shrub, Violets, Tulips, Daylilies, a Miss Kim Lilac shrub, Daffodils and Iris. This is the primary entrance view as one pulls up to Ms. McMillan's home. The area could be enhanced with a mix of perennials that could create additional seasonal interest, color and texture as well as provide abundant nectar sources for our native pollinators and area honeybees.



SPRING-FLOWERING BULBS: Some tulips are present and have become perennial. A fuller planting of spring flowering, dependable returning bulbs such as [Daffodils](#) and [Crocus](#) would enhance the spring greeting display with very little maintenance. As John Scheepers says, Narcissi are "The Art and Soul of Spring". Personal Note: After buying sale bulbs for years after Home Depot's fall season, and ending up with a lovely but definitely Willy Wonka spring display of definitely not the bulbs I thought I was buying, I will be buying my bulbs from Scheepers for the HHH garden.

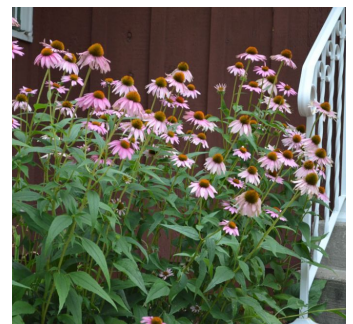
PERENNIALS: The current Iris and violets are doing well in this bed but the large area of weed barrier with shredded bark mulch does not have much interest throughout the season. The following plants are appropriate for this full sun circumstance. They would provide a sequence of blooms that could be quite satisfying and dazzling throughout the growing season. Once established they will require an annual removal of old stems after a week of 50 degree weather in the spring (this allows overwintering pollinators to wake up from their winter slumber and begin life anew):



[New England Aster 'Alma Potschke'](#) is an amazing burst of 3' tall, fall-blooming aster with a brilliant 'daisy-like, bright, rose-pink flowers', blooming from August to October. This plant is a great source of nectar for butterflies as well.

[Purple Coneflower, Echinacea purpurea](#) - very sturdy once established, 36" tall, purple bloom in July to October, orange-yellow cone.

Purple Coneflower is a sturdy, reliable, native perennial with a three-season bloom and attractive seedheads. This plant will spread and fill in to create a mound of color blooming from July through October.





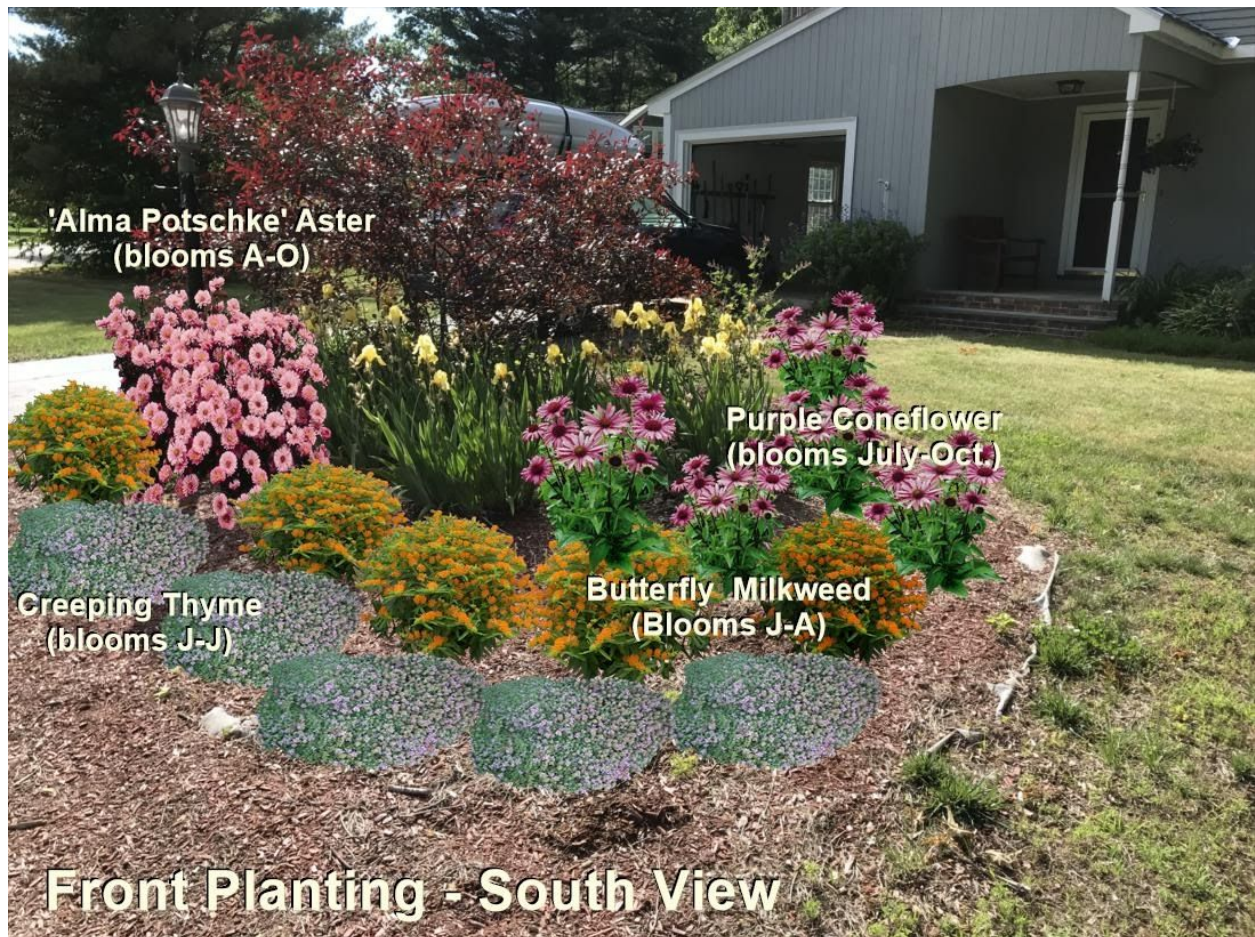
Red Creeping Thyme is a very sturdy, 3" groundcover that tolerates poor soil, drought conditions and is road salt tolerant. This would be a great plant to cover this area in a mat of color over time.

Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa* is a 2-3' tall, drought tolerant, orange bloomer from July to September. This plant comes up a bit later in the spring



(similar to the Blue False Indigo) does not like to be transplanted/moved. However it is a very sturdy perennial which will spread to be a mass of color for a several-month bloom period.

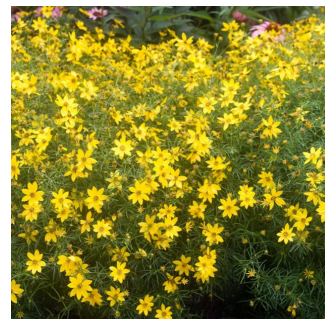
This could result in a change like this photo. However, the view shows all of the plants in bloom simultaneously so a note explains the bloom period of each proposed plant:



The other side of this planting area faces the house and could repeat the Orange Butterfly weed and utilize a perennial geranium variety named 'Rozanne' which appears earlier in the season and has small fuschia blooms through to the fall.



The front foundation planting would benefit from an [Azalea](#) or a [Mountain Laurel \(Kalmia latifolia\)](#) in the open hole to the right of the front stoop. These are smaller shrubs with solid green foliage and showy blooms. The front area in front of the Blue False Indigo at the garage door would be a great location for '[Zagreb](#)' [Coreopsis \(Coreopsis verticillata 'Zagreb'\)](#) which would do well in this full sun, dry situation.



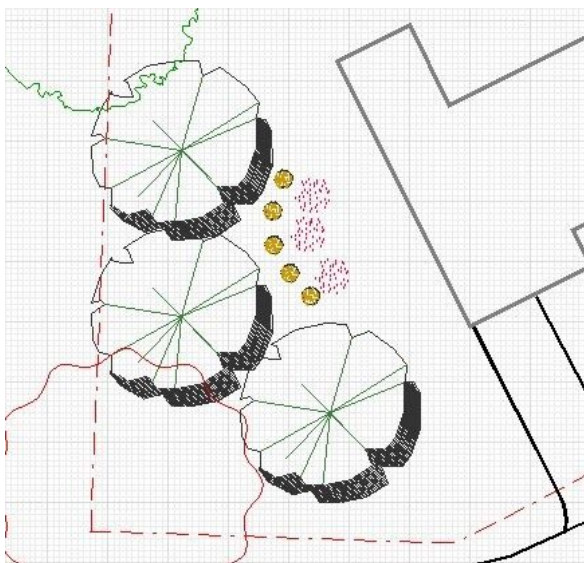
WEST SIDE OF HOUSE/YARD: This is a large expanse of open lawn that previously held a huge, tall spruce tree which was recently removed. There is a Maple and two Oaks along the property line as well as a Flowering Quince but the area is open lawn to a spotty foundation planting along the home's west wall. The desired tree, a single Hawthorn, of which [Washington Hawthorn](#) is the most hardy here, is likely to feel dwarfed in this expanse of open lawn. *"Washington hawthorn trees attain a height of 25 to 35 feet, with a spread also of 25 to 35 feet. They produce attractive white blooms in clusters, in late spring to early summer. These flowers, known for their distinctive odor, yield to first green and then red berries that persist throughout winter. These berries are a favorite snack of wild birds, such as cedar waxwings."*



The bark of the Washington hawthorn tree is pretty enough to add further visual interest to the winter landscape, and its branches bear thorns. Its summer leaves are a shiny, dark green; its fall foliage ranges in color from orange to red." ["In the home garden, hawthorn attracts](#)

butterflies and a number of songbirds, including cedar waxwings, bluejays and northern flickers.

There are several Washington Hawthorns right here in Keene doing differently depending on how much exposure the trees have to our winter NW winds. I have visited them recently to find that what I thought was split bark is actually a plating bark. They are indeed fine and safe here in our USDA Zone 4-5.



This part of the property offers a unique opportunity to frame the year-round view from the good-sized, picture window that the family looks out quite frequently when in the house/kitchen and from the screen porch. I am recommending a semi-circle of three Hawthorns curling away from the property boundary to frame the window view. Currently the view over lots of grass views the street. Three Hawthorns would offer a terrific, white, spring bloom, great red berries that will feed a variety of birds through the fall and fabulous red, fall leaf color. This semicircle would then be faced with a lower, drought resistant, sun/part-sun shrub, massed for mid-summer color. It could also be great to repeat the textures and colors of either the

Purple cornflower or the Orange Milkweed used in the front. Two appropriate shrub alternatives would be the Double-Play Spirea (Spirea bumalda 'Double Play', Anthony Waterer Spirea (Spirea x bumalda 'Anthony Waterer'), or Goldflame Spirea (my favorite) for its terrific early summer and mid-summer color and foliage.



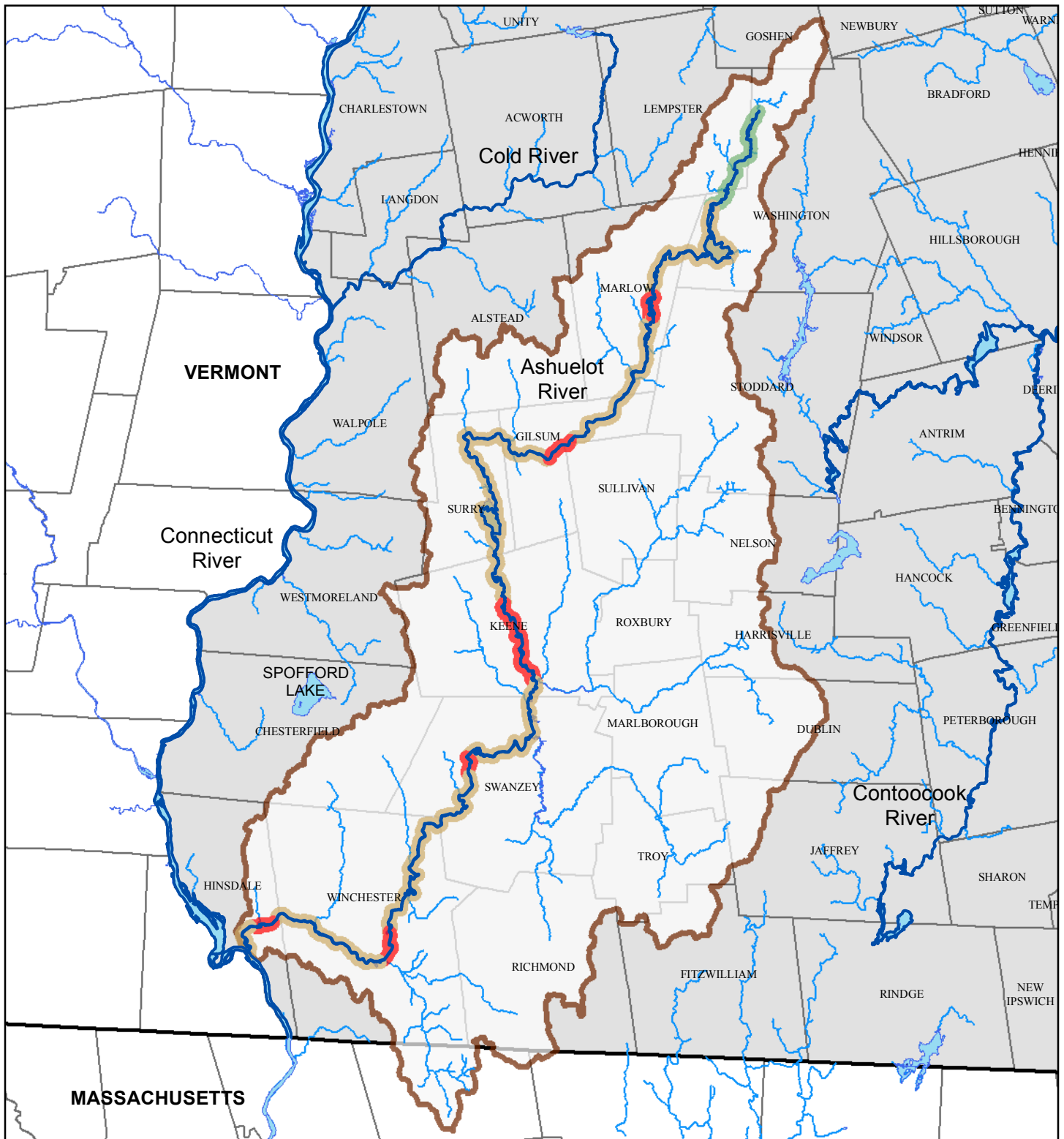
BACK YARD: The back yard is currently an open lawn with a trampoline, a well-placed, small raised garden bed, a garden shed toward the back of the yard, a stand of mature Lilacs on the east side of the house around a shade tree. [These lilacs would benefit from rejuvenation over the next several years.](#) There is also a stand of various, lovely shade trees at the far northeast end of the yard. A decent sized [Buckthorn tree](#) in the Northwest corner of the back yard along the fence would be best removed as this one of [NH's exotic and invasive species](#) that are spread by birds eating their fruit and then invading natural areas to crowd out other, more productive native shrub species.

I thank you for this opportunity to hear of all of your yardwork and ideas for your lovely home landscape. I appreciated being able to brainstorm with you and hope that this follow-up summary will serve as a resource to consider and ruminate over. If you decide that you like aspects, the report can be a resource when you go shopping for plants.

As we discussed, I am available on an hourly basis to assist you in dividing your hosta for the front foundation planting. My goal is to inspire you to create a space that you love and that also supports other members of our ecosystem such as pollinators and songbirds. By specifying plants that are either native or specifically appropriate to our climate and your soil conditions, you will be able to manage this enhanced landscape without chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Please note the hotlinks for each suggested option which provide additional image and plant information for your convenience.

Sincerely,
Michele Chalice

Ashuelot River Watershed Base Map



LEGEND

Designated River Classification

Quarter Mile Buffer

- Natural
- Rural
- Rural-Community
- Community

- Watershed Boundary
- Major Lakes and Ponds
- Rivers
- Designated Reach
- New Hampshire Towns
- Town Boundaries

3 1.5 0 3 Miles



Source: The data layers are derived from DES data and are under constant revision. DES is not responsible for the use or interpretation of this information. Not intended for legal use. Watershed Management Bureau, June 2012.



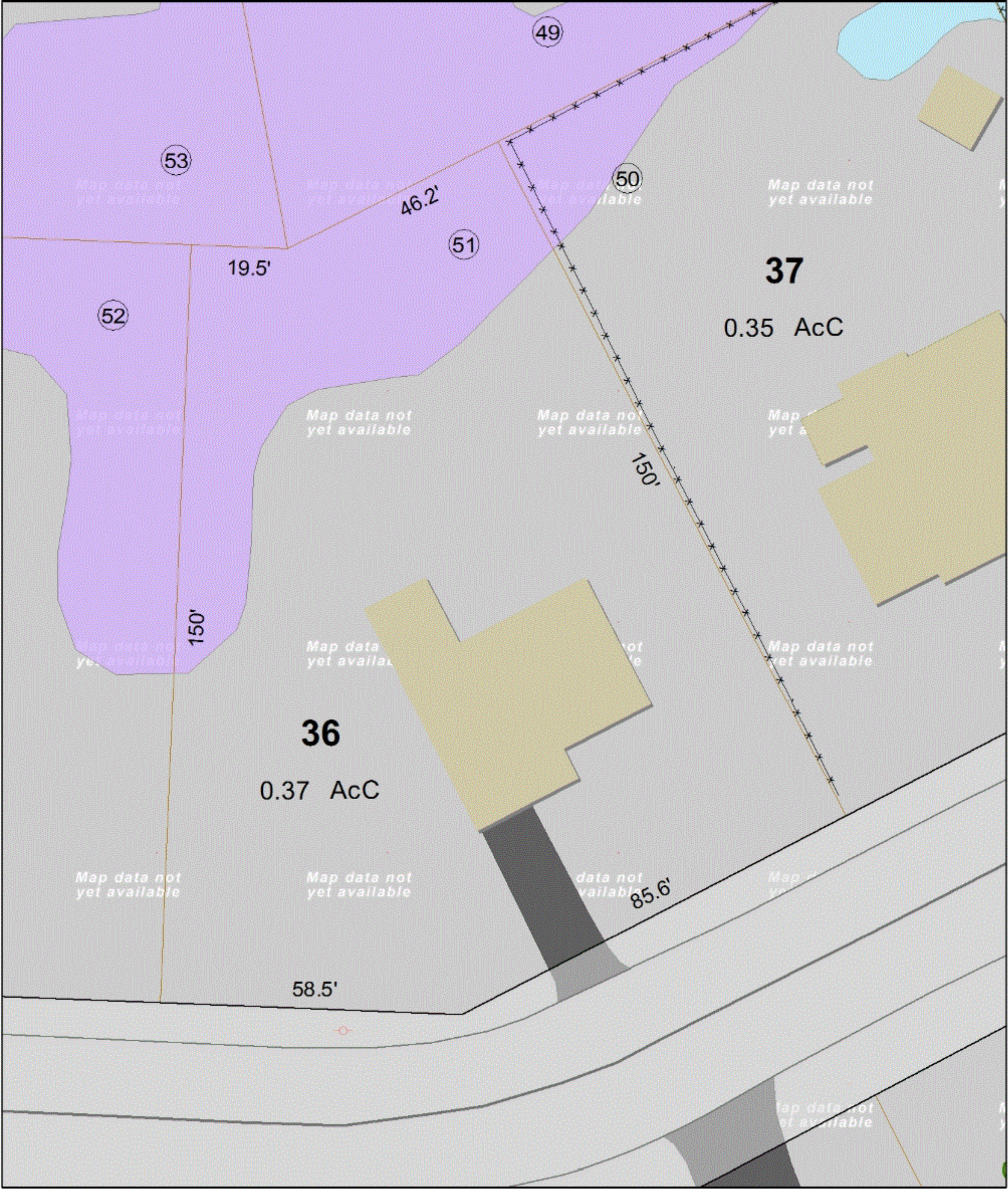
Molly McMillan Residence

Keene, NH

1 inch = 20 Feet



May 27, 2020



	Property Line		Street Centerline
	Public Road		Deck_Patio
	Buildings		Driveway
	Shadow		Evergreen
	Right of Ways		Mixed
	Utility Pole		Roadway
	Edge Of Street		
	Fence Wall		
	Hedge		

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