



A Landscape That Welcomes, Heals, and Inspires

Beacon's new landscape is more than an outdoor space — a living extension of its mission. Working in close collaboration with the design team at Louis Cherry Architects, Viridian created spaces that invite reflection, celebration, and connection.

The Beacon Unitarity Universalist Congregation is committed to uplifting all people and building a more sustainable, inclusive, and connected world — a mission close to our hearts. To support their expansion into a larger sanctuary, we designed a landscape that amplifies their values, so Beacon's light can shine even brighter.

A Sustainable and Sacred Landscape

The new landscape nourishes the spirit and the planet. Porous hardscaping, underground water storage, and rain gardens manage water responsibly, while native plantings support biodiversity. A solar canopy advances Beacon's sustainability goals and creates a shaded place for gathering and reflection. These interventions touch the ground lightly, honoring the quiet power and beauty of natural ecosystems.

Designed for Connection — and Growth

The landscape engages the congregation at every scale. A great lawn invites gathering, performance, and celebration, while more secluded spots allow for quieter moments. A nature-based play area encourages exploration of new ideas, while a memorial walk weaves in old stories, from the Ramapo Munsee Lenape Nation to present-day congregation members. These spaces don't dictate activity; they create opportunities so the site can evolve with the community.

Wholeness Through Diversity

We integrated the landscape with the building design by connecting Indoor circulation routes with garden paths, linking classrooms and worship spaces with outdoor gatherings. Hardscaping echoes the warmth of the building's materials, including a labyrinth framed by the curving entry — together conveying a sense of welcome and respect for individual spiritual journey.

Location: Summit, NJ
Client: Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Status: Under Construction