The Party Lot brings new activity to a neighborhood by providing a small pocket park, family gathering space, or community hub.

The Party Lot is best installed across multiple lots. When joined together, the perennial beds create outdoor rooms and spaces that can be used for a variety of activities, such as graduations, weddings, or birthday parties, family reunions, and other community get-togethers.

What is the lot design likely to cost?
The estimated cost of the Party Lot is moderate ($1,000 – $2,500) and based on volunteer labor and using potted plants. To save money, you can buy smaller pots or plugs. The cost assumes that residents or volunteers have access to basic safety gear and garden tools.

How much upkeep will this lot design require?
This is a medium maintenance lot design. Maintenance will include watering plants and newly planted trees, especially during times of drought and excess heat.

Will installation of this lot design require a professional?
The installation of this lot design should not require professional assistance if you have the help and support of friends, family or neighbors. Please refer to the Step-By-Step section for guidance. If you do not have the required support or feel unable to tackle this lot design, seek professional assistance.

How long will it take to install this lot design?
While people tackle projects in different ways and at different speeds, the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide estimates installation time of this lot design to be one full weekend with the help of at least three to five healthy adults or youth. The Guide assumes the lot is ‘construction ready,’ and that all required equipment and materials have been acquired and are ready to use.

For more information, refer to UNI Vacant to Vibrant: A Guide to Working with Lots, www.uni-kc.org
Examples of Party Lot Plantings

1 - Lilac

2 - Cedar Sedge

Still too low resolution

Section

The Party Lot can be installed on a single lot or extended across multiple lots. It is also suitable for corner properties.

Where Do I Grow?

The Party Lot includes:

- Pop-Up Tent
- Section

Symbols:

- **Evergreen Tree**
- **Shade Tree and Shrub**
- **Groundcover**
- **Grass or Optional Groundcover**

Image Source: 1) Magnus Manske, “Lilac”. N/A Date via Wikimedia CC BY 1.0; 2) Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, Cedar Sedge “Carex eburnea.”
**Before You Start**

**Call Before You Dig**
Locate underground utilities before beginning your lot design. Call 1-800-DIG RITE (800-344-7483) or 811 at least three days before you plan to start digging on your lot.

**Remove Your Grass**
Need to remove grass in areas where you are constructing your lot design? Refer to the Clean + Green Lot Design template of the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide for step-by-step instructions.

**Test Your Soil**
Harmful pollutants have made their way into many urban soils. To proceed with awareness, consider having your soil tested before construction.

University of Missouri Extension provides soil testing for a small fee. They can test for individual contaminants or for certain categories of contaminants, such as heavy metals. A Soil and Plant Environmental Analysis Form is available at [http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0953.pdf](http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0953.pdf). Additional information can be found at University of Missouri Extension’s Soil and Plant Diagnostic Services page, [http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/soil/](http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/soil/), or by contacting the Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory, at soiltestingservices@missouri.edu or 573-882-0623.

**Till Safely**
Before you till, inspect your lot for signs of buried concrete or rubble that was not removed during the cleanup stage. Large debris can ruin tiller blades.

When tilling, wear appropriate safety gear, such as covered boots with socks, long pants, safety glasses, dust mask, and ear protection. Make sure you understand the safe operating procedures of your tiller. Refer to the user’s manual.

*Image Source: Cladrastis kentukea by Haidamac, (CC BY-SA 3.0).*
What You Need: Shopping List

**Shopping List**

The shopping list provides a breakdown of potential materials, tools, and resources required to construct this lot design.

**This shopping list is designed for a single lot (30 by 100 feet); however, the Party Lot is best installed on multiple lots.**

**Materials List**

**Materials**
- Mulch or Wood Chips, 5 cubic yards

**Planting**
- Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, 1 pot
- Yellowwood, 2 pots
- Eastern Red Cedar, 1 pot
- Sunny Knockout Rose, 11 pots
- Common Lilac, 2 pots
- Cedar Sedge, 1 pot per square foot

**Tools + Resources**

**Suggested Tools**
- Marking Paint and Tape Measure
- Safety Gear: Gloves, heavy work boots, tall socks, pants, long sleeve shirts, dust masks, protective eye wear, ear plugs, and hard hats (if using heavy machinery)
- Garden Tools: Spades, Shovels, Rakes, Trashbags, and Wheelbarrows

**Potential Water Sources**
- Garden Hose with potential extension hose
- Sprinkler
- Rain Barrel in addition to other water source

**Resources**

**Remaining Lot (Optional)**

**Groundcover**
- Fescue Mix, 12 pounds of seed
- Compost Blanket

Image Source: Lilac, Public domain.
Let’s Start

Want to create the Party Lot but don’t want to hire a professional? Here are a few guiding principles to help you construct your lot design.

☑ Check off tasks as you go along.

Lot Design Steps

Volunteer Opportunities:

☐ Prepare Your Lot
☐ Plant Trees
☐ Plant Perennials
☐ Maintain Your Lot Design
☐ Sow Remaining Lot

☐ Plant Trees

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends planting 1.5 inch diameter trees; however, you can plant smaller or larger trees if you prefer. Trees can be purchased in pots or balled and burlapped. If you decide to plant larger trees, speak with a tree professional as older trees can be more difficult to establish.

Plant trees as soon as possible after purchasing. If you cannot plant them the same day, do not leave unplanted trees in direct sunlight. Keep them in shade and well watered until you can plant them. (Trees dry out fast!)

Identify the location where you wish to plant the trees. Dig a hole three times the width of the root ball and equal to the depth.

Pots should be removed before placing the tree in the planting hole. Balled and burlapped root balls should remain wrapped until placed in hole. Unwrap the top 1/3 of the root ball and peel back the burlap once planted. Remove any twine, nails, or stakes. The root flare should be level with the ground when you place the tree in the hole.

Water the root ball, then backfill the hole with the soil previously removed from planting. Add water to the tree every six inches as you backfill the hole. Compact the soil lightly after each watering until the hole is filled with soil and level with the adjacent ground.

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends three foot diameter by three inch depth of mulch or wood chips around trees, keeping it a few inches away from tree trunks.

Party Lot Step-By-Step

☐ Plant Perennials

Sunny to partly-sunny plantings are recommended for the perennial beds. If your lot is in shade, seek alternate planting options.

Place plants in the desired location, then remove plastic pots, loosen roots, and plant.

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends adding three inches (1 cubic yard) of wood chips or mulch over each perennial bed. Adding wood chips or mulch will help suppress weeds.

For more guidance on planting perennials refer to the step-by-step planting instructions available in the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Reference Section, www.uni-kc.org.

☐ Maintain Your Lot Design

Trees and shrubs are relatively low-maintenance. Water and weed plants while they are getting established. Once your shrubs and groundcover are established, they will shade out the majority of any weeds. Prune roses in late winter and lilac after it is done flowering.

Add mulch or wood chips annually to areas without groundcover to help suppress weed growth.

Average Height of Plants

Trees, Shrubs, and Groundcover
Refer to the Construction Package for more details - located at UNI Vacant to Vibrant: A Guide to Working with Lots, www.uni-kc.org
Planting: Full Sun to Part Sun

**Serviceberry**
Amelanchier Canadensis arborea
15’ Height x 15’ Width
Blooms April
**Quantity:** 4 pots or 4 balled and burlapped

**Yellowwood**
Cladrastis kentukea
40’ Height x 40’ Width
Blooms May
**Quantity:** 2 pots

**Eastern Red Cedar**
Juniperus virginiana ‘canaertii’
35’ Height x 15’ Width
**Quantity:** 1 pot

**Sunny Knockout Rose**
Rosa x ‘Sunny’
3’ Height x 3’ Width
**Quantity:** 11 pots

**Common Lilac**
Syringa vulgaris
12’ Height x 9’ Width
**Quantity:** 2 pots

**Cedar Sedge**
Carex eburnea
1’ Height x 1’ Width
**Quantity:** 1 pot per square foot

**Key**

1. **Eastern Red Cedar**
2. **Common Lilac**
3. **Sunny Knockout Rose** (Space approximately three feet apart.)
4. **Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry**
5. **Sedge**
6. **Yellowwood**

**Plant Sizes**

**Pots:** Plants can be purchased in one to five gallon pots. The size of pots can change based on availability. 1.5 inch diameter trees are available at commercial landscape supply stores in pots or balled and burlapped (B & B).

Image Source:
1. Dan Mullen, “Downy Serviceberry” 20 April 2010 via Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0);
2. Chhe, “Cladrastis kentukea.” 06 June 2009 via Wikimedia, public domain;
3. Quadell, “juniperus virginiana.” 09 October 2004, (CC BY-SA 3.0);
4. Tvabutzku1234, “Rose Sunny Sky.” 2013 via Wikimedia, (CC0 1.0);
5. LtPowers, “Syringa vulgaris (common Lilac) cultivar ‘FlowerCity.’” 15 May 2013 via Wikimedia, (CC BY-SA 3.0);
Did You Know?

Helpful Facts

• The plant species recommended for this lot design will flower in the spring and provide a mix of bright fall colors.

• Landscape areas can provide habitat for a variety of birds.

Planting Tips

• Call ahead to be sure the nursery or garden store has the plants you need for your lot design.

• The best time to plant trees and shrubs is the spring or fall.

• Do not plant in extreme heat.

• Water after planting and as needed. Do not let plants dry out.

• Weed weekly or as needed.

• Mulch and wood chips help protect trees and plants from mowers and conserves water.

• If you decide to plant larger trees, speak with a tree professional as older trees can be more difficult to establish.

Image Source: Dan Mullen, “Downy Serviceberry” 20 April 2010 via Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0).
I was unable to find a high resolution photo of carex eburnea