This design looks into a high-end neighborhood on lakefront property on the outskirts/suburbs of a big city. While budget is practically boundless, there are social constraints. HOA's and neighborhood attitude prevent creative landscaping. The lake is polluted and the state is continually battling invasion of aquatic species without addressing the source of the problem. This design uses pre=arranged planting arrangements but is a "sneaky" or "undercover" forest garden in it's structure to subvert the destructive social order and help clean the lake/provide useful products in subtle ways.

Here, we have a very well established oak tree dominating the yard. Each year, it provides an abundance of acorns and shade from the hot summer sun and functions as a serious windbreak during heavy midwest storms. Aside from that, a grass lawn dominates the environment with conventional landscaping including hostas, among other things. Arbor-vitaes line the north/south property boundaries and survive in the shade between houses, screening views between neighbors.

In this case, our choice of plant elements is limited by requirements of size, hardiness, some shade, need to not be opportunistic/invasive, harmonious interaction with eastern deciduous nut forest dominated soils, and so on. The plants will need to, like the current landscaping, fill the small shrub/large herb layers and be ornamental in value - inconspicuous enough to fit into a stale & bland "conventional" landscape. Here, we fill those functions and also add the functions of edible/medicinal species.

As per research, a set of recommended plants to try that fit such criterion are below:
clintonia borealis - bluebird lily, edible, medicinal

gaylussacia bachata - black huckleberry, fruit
Glycyrrhiza lepidota - american licorice, edible roots, tea
chenopodium bonus - henricus, good king henry, greens
ceanothus americanus - new jersey tea - tea, medicinal
hedysarum Boreal - Sweet Vetch, roots
ligusticum canbyi - Osha, edible greens/roots culinary
lonicera villosa - northern fly honeysuckle edible fruits
oxalis violacea - violet wood sorel
physalis heterphylla - ground cherry, fruits
prunus fruticosa - mongolian bush cherry, fruits
rhodiola rosea - roseroot, greens, medicinal
Ribes Spp. - currents/gooseberries, fruits
sedum reflexum - stone crop, greens
solidago odora - sweet goldenrod, greens, tea, medicinal
viola labradorica - labrador violet, edible greens and other

Though they would be planted in lines, more or less, patterns could be created within the line by jumping different species over others every 2nd, 3rd plant & such. Different areas could be planted out for different kinds of crops, and the whole plant composition could be changed (as shrub species in forest compositions do) every few years to keep things fresh if need be.

This system will require small amounts of maintenance, mainly shaping of the shrubs and herbs to fit what they are “supposed” to look like in the neighborhood. In this way, however, they will require no extra maintenance than the stale, standard, ornamental bushes they replace. Even if they are not harvested by people, neighborhood wildlife will very much appreciate the increase in ecosystem function.
While landowners have not freedom to pursue it due to HOA’s, etc, there is tremendous potential for aquaculture right off the lakeshore and oak-forest understory development.

Even though there are only 3 layers of light capture (canopy of nut tree, small shrub/large herb, ground cover grasses), it can be thought of as having forest garden flavor to it. There are advantages to such a simple design. It could be implemented in a few days at low cost for something that helps draw out deeper connection to the seasons and can provide a healthy addition to someone’s food system. Even small changes such as this make profound differences not only in helping to bolster one’s food security (and society’s stability thereby, in however small a step) but also in reducing harm to the neighboring ecosystems.