BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan Update

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Bellevue Botanical Garden
Master Plan Update
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Table of Contents

List of Appendices

List of Figures

I. Executive Summary

This report describes the Bellevue Botanical Garden's Master Plan Update, which was completed in September 2008. In the past 16 years the Garden has grown in popularity, with increased visitation from City residents and visitors to the region. Many elements of previous planning efforts have been implemented since the Garden opened in 1992. In 2006, with financial assistance from the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, the City acquired an additional 17 acres immediately adjacent to the existing 36-acre Garden. As a result of this dynamic growth, the City of Bellevue's Parks & Community Services Department decided to reassess previous planning efforts, before further developments are made, to ensure that the Garden's original goals remain appropriate and future developments remain consistent with the master plan.

This Master Plan Update focuses on specific areas of change while building upon the successes of previous planning efforts. That body of work includes: The 1989 Wilburton Hill Park Master Plan; the 1995 Management Plan, the 1997 Master Plan Update (including the 1997 Study & Implementation Guidelines), and the 2002 Visitor Center Study.

The 2008 Master Plan Update is a response to a number of factors including:

- acquisition of an additional 17 acres immediately adjacent the existing Garden;
- increases in visitation and related needs such as parking;
- adequate and properly - sited maintenance facilities; and
- an expanded pedestrian trail system around the Garden's perimeter.

The Garden is managed by the City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department, and operates in partnership with the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. This public/private partnership model requires ongoing assistance form volunteers in all areas of Garden operations and programming.

Master Plan Update Process

In the Spring of 2007, the City of Bellevue, with assistance from the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society Board of Directors, selected JGM Landscape Architects Inc (JGM), of Bellevue, as the design team to assist the City and Society in preparing the 2008 Master Plan Update. An advisory Task Force was formed consisting of Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members, Parks staff and JGM Landscape Architects. The group met at least monthly, beginning in May, 2007. Meetings were held with the community, the Wilburton Community Association, the Parks & Community Services Board, and the City Council throughout the process. And finally, an environmental review was completed for the plan. The scope and timeline of the public process is included as *Appendix 1.*

The 2008 Master Plan Update *(Figure 1)*

Bellevue Botanical Garden's success results from addressing the needs and interests of the citizens of the City and the region. The City of Bellevue has created an aesthetically pleasing educational resource which encourages the health-conscious lifestyle and outdoor focus of Bellevue residents.

The 2008 Master Plan Update retains and reaffirms Bellevue Botanical Garden's original mission and purpose; thus, the updated plan clarifies and improves upon the original purpose rather than altering it. Although some details of the original 1989 Master Plan and 1997 Master Plan Update are modified, the

Garden's basic structure remains substantially the same as expressed by the circulation and the types of garden exhibits and experiences. The Garden retains developed or ornamental garden features and exhibits in appropriate proximity to the Visitor Center. Progressively less intensively developed, more natural garden experiences are located with increasing distance from the Visitor Center.

The 2008 Master Plan Update's major changes respond to the Garden's success in the last 16 years. They include the need to expand built facilities for visitors, increase visitor parking, and expand access to the Garden's grounds via a fully accessible loop-trail system. In addition, the Master Plan Update simplifies and clarifies the proposed garden features and links these together into a more coherent and unified whole. It retains the goal of developing gardens which are small-scale so that visitors can apply the gardens' design lessons to their own yards. The plan retains the goal of demonstrating successful uses of native plants and native plant communities in gardens, and the retention of lowland Puget Sound ecosystem functions within developed areas. It also includes preliminary designs for the Ravine Garden and the Wetland-Sun Terraced Gardens, which were both included in the original Master Plan. Their locations remain unchanged.

The 2008 Master Plan Update documents allow for flexible and non-prescriptive plans, while the detailed report provides clear descriptions of the intent and purpose of the Garden's exhibits and features. This makes the Update more useful as a document which guides future development according to the Garden's mission rather than prescribing particular forms.

Bellevue Botanical Garden's success responds to a deep and pervasive need among the citizens of the City and the region. We hope that the 2008 Master Plan Update will permit the City of Bellevue to respond in a positive, engaging, and educational way to this need and provide garden models which assist Bellevue to better adapt to the ecology and aesthetics of urban and suburban life in lowland Puget Sound.

II. Introduction

Since opening to the public in 1992, Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) has developed into a successful and heavily-visited park within the City of Bellevue's park system. The rate at which the Garden has grown and the interest expressed in it by the public and by horticultural organizations indicate that it provides a much needed service to the community that is not available through other Puget Sound and Eastside facilities or organizations. Thus the appropriateness of the idea of developing a botanical garden in Bellevue appears to have been proven by the public's positive response to the Bellevue Botanical Garden. The convenience and accessibility of the site in Wilburton Hill Community Park have contributed to its success. Bellevue Botanical Garden's success is a result of addressing the needs and interests of the citizens of the City and the region. The City of Bellevue has created an aesthetically pleasing educational resource which encourages the health-conscious lifestyle and outdoor focus of Bellevue residents. However, the desire for information about horticulture, gardening and plants that the Garden provides to the public has most clearly led to its success. The City, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, and Garden volunteers should be congratulated for their accomplishment, and their continued involvement encouraged during the next phase of Garden development.

Bellevue Botanical Garden is one of many gardens in the region which are successfully providing a much needed and highly valued function--horticultural education, garden experiences, and nature/environmental education. The large numbers of people who visit the Northwest Flower and Garden Show suggest that the market for these types of experiences could expand use of the Garden much more. At the national level, studies by the American Horticultural Society have shown that gardening is one of the most popular pastimes in the country, and research by Rachel and Stephen Kaplan has documented that gardening and contact with "nearby nature" contribute significantly to the health and well being of individuals and communities. Thus, Bellevue Botanical Garden is not simply a place that provides superficial recreational experiences; it is an important institution which contributes to the education, health and welfare of visitors. The education program is not confined to horticultural education but includes environmental education in ecology and native plants which can promote conservation and stewardship values in our society.

The Master Plan's Update's major changes respond to the Garden's success in the last 16 years. They include the need to expand built facilities for visitors, increase visitor parking, and expand access to the Garden's grounds via a fully accessible loop-trail system. In addition, the Plan simplifies and clarifies the proposed garden features and links these together into a more coherent and unified whole. The revised Plan retains the goal of developing gardens which are small-scale so that visitors can apply the gardens' design lessons to their own yards. The plan retains the goal of demonstrating successful uses of native plants and native plant communities in gardens, and the retention of lowland Puget Sound ecosystem functions within developed areas. The Plan includes preliminary designs for the Ravine Garden and the Wetland-Sun Terraced Gardens, which were both included in the original Master Plan. Their locations remain unchanged.

The 2008 Master Plan Update documents allow for flexible and non-prescriptive planning, with clear descriptions of the intent and purpose of the Garden's exhibits and features. This makes the plan more useful as a document which guides future development according to the Garden's mission rather than prescribing particular forms.

The problems, which this Master Plan Update addresses, are primarily responses to the effects of the Garden's success and the development of new 'needs' that the Garden has generated. The Bellevue Botanical Garden has become the nucleus for many

horticulture-related interest groups in the region and, in a sense, its greatest problem is that it has been smothered by the affections of residents in the Puget Sound basin. As a result, the current developed area and Visitor Center are too small to accommodate all visitors comfortably.

There is a clear need for additional building space beyond the space available in the Visitor Center or any conceivable expansion of that building with its small-scale, residential character. An analysis of built space needs has been prepared and the structural framework for accommodating outdoor garden spaces reassessed. Other needs may be added to these horticultural needs. The Garden is also being asked to accommodate many uses unrelated to the garden itself, such as community meetings, weddings, and commercial photo shoots.

The Garden serves important public needs beyond the provision of ornamental gardens and horticultural education. The Garden is, and should continue to be, a place to 'escape' from the city into landscapes dominated by plants and nature. Because of its location a short distance from downtown Bellevue, the Garden possesses the unique potential to provide downtown workers and users of downtown hotels with these educational/therapeutic experiences. In addition, the Garden should recognize that it is becoming a destination beyond Bellevue's boundaries and should plan its facilities to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors unfamiliar with the plants and landscapes of Puget Sound.

The sense of release from the pressures associated with urban environments and the feeling of being enclosed within nature are important to Garden visitors and should be fostered. These experiences should extend from the provision of small-scale, intimate experiences of plants and nature to contrasting feelings of large-scale expansiveness that are typical of open natural landscapes or wide, sweeping lawns.

Also implicit in natural experiences such as these is the goal of being immersed in natural environments that do not appear to have been visibly or obtrusively modified by man's actions. While the Garden should subscribe to this goal, it may be necessary to make modifications to and provide stewardship for areas that are currently natural or semi-natural to achieve these goals most effectively.

III. History

In the earliest part of the 20th Century, the trees on the present site of the Bellevue Botanical Garden were over 200 feet tall and blanketed the land to the edge of Lake Washington. By 1903, M. Wilbur was logging the slope that became known as Wilburton Hill. The timber was hauled to the shoreline by oxen and towed to Seattle by tug. Within a few years, a mill stood at the former site of Bellevue City Hall and the settlement of Wilburton began. The trees soon disappeared and the area was left to regenerate itself on its own.

In 1932, a Mr. VonBuskirk from Montana built a log cabin adjacent to the site of the present Visitors Center. In 1947, the log cabin - complete with cherry orchard, chicken house, pig pen and barn - was purchased by Calhoun and Harriet Shorts. The Shortses tried their hand at farming. At various times they raised chickens, steers, rabbits and goats, in addition to maintaining a vegetable garden. Cal managed his plastics business and added rhododendrons to the garden.

By 1957, the aging log cabin was replaced by a new Paul Kirk-designed home, complete with atrium garden. The garden surrounding the new home continued to grow and expand. It included a re-circulating pond - now renovated and located above the Ground Cover Garden - and an ever- increasing collection of rhododendrons.

In 1984, the Shortses deeded their home and seven acres of gardens to the City of Bellevue to become a public park. In the same year, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society was formed to promote the use of the Shorts property as a botanical garden. In 1989, the Bellevue City Council set aside 17 acres for the botanical garden, including the Shorts property. Another 19 acres south of the garden was set aside as a botanical reserve. 1989 was also the year the original Master Plan for Wilburton Hill Park, including the Bellevue Botanical Garden, was completed.

Planning and construction filled the years from 1990 through 1992. The Shorts' residence was converted into the Visitors Center. Minor remodeling was done to include public restrooms and a gift shop. The entry plaza and rill were constructed along with a 1/2-mile loop trail meandering through the site. The Ground Cover Garden and the Perennial Border were added, and the original Rhododendron Glen was rearranged to accommodate the loop trail. The Sister Cities' Yao Garden at Kelsey Creek Park was relocated to the Bellevue Botanical Garden to become the first stage of a larger Eastern Garden. The Eastside Fuchsia Society developed the Fuchsia Garden at the entrance to the Visitor Center.

The Bellevue Botanical Garden has been a popular attraction for Bellevue residents and visitors since it opened to the public in June, 1992. Since that time, garden features have been built, acreage added to the grounds, mission-based programming developed, community events established, and a strong volunteer program has been built. In 1997 the first Mater Plan Update was complete with the help of Iain Robertson. The 2008 Master Plan Update process was initiated to reassess previous planning efforts, to reconsider garden needs and goals, to develop plans for the recently acquired 17-acre Wilburton Hill Property, and to plan for future growth.

IV. Assessment of the Garden's Purpose

The original master plan was based on a program developed by the Garden Advisory Committee (a group of public garden professionals convened by the Parks Department to advise on the planning of the proposed garden). This committee's first task was to consider the range of functions that botanical gardens typically serve. These may be classified into the following four broad areas:

1. Scientific Research - with associated plant collections that are often taxonomically based.
2. Conservation/Stewardship - with associated biological reserves that may be undisturbed natural areas or replicated habitats.
3. Display/Amenity/Recreation - with associated demonstration/display gardens and collections, an aesthetic structure or organization to the garden and associated public open space for passive recreation.
4. Education/Teaching - with associated collections and garden exhibits, and suggesting the need for building space for educational programs.

Early in the committee's discussions of the specific program for the Garden, it was decided that the last two of these activities would be the most appropriate focus.

It was agreed that narrowly-focused scientific research (taxonomic, biological or ecological) did not fit into the mandate for the Parks & Community Services Department. Such needs are met by organizations such as UW's Center for Urban Horticulture and Edmonds Community College. However, applied horticultural research or research that was ancillary to functions such as education programs would be desirable.

The roles of conservation and stewardship, in a narrowly scientific sense, were considered less appropriate for the Garden, as they suggest rigorous scientific research and typically restrict access to those conducting the research. However some aspects of conservation of the region's native flora were deemed very appropriate and desirable parts of the Garden's program, widely and strongly promoting the values of environmental stewardship and conservation. The original master plan attempted to demonstrate how the Biological Reserve, now called The Cascadia Experience, could demonstrate and display desirable native plants, natural settings, and maintenance techniques appropriate to naturalistic settings or native plant communities as distinct from ornamental or horticultural gardens.

It was agreed that the roles of the Garden should be to demonstrate, display and promote the use of native and ornamental plants suitable for use in gardens in the maritime northwest and to design Garden exhibits at a scale comparable to the sizes of typical Bellevue properties. These gardens and exhibits should be aesthetically pleasing, should not be exclusively 'ornamental' in design, and must possess educational or teaching value.

Thus the Bellevue Botanical Garden should:

- Demonstrate the value of being sensitive to and working with native vegetation and natural features of the site, thus promoting or developing a regional aesthetic that fits the natural character of the area.
- Be appropriate to the climate and environmental conditions of the region.

- Explore and promote aesthetic styles that result from the above considerations; i.e., develop new aesthetics rather than copy current or historic design styles. The new aesthetics should arise out of an understanding of the unique qualities of the land and the regional culture.
- Demonstrate maintenance and horticultural techniques that conserve materials such as water and energy resources.
- Display a representative portion of the wide range of plant species and horticultural techniques that may be used in this region; i.e., explore the potential of the climate to successfully grow different plants. (This should NOT take the form of traditional plant introduction and assessment programs such as are common in botanical gardens. Programs which evaluate the commercial viability of introduced plants are more rigorously scientific undertakings than are reasonable for a public garden like this.)
- Fit the scale, resources and needs of typical residential and commercial property owners in Bellevue. This suggests focusing collections on small rather than large plants since space is at a premium both in this site and in typical Bellevue properties. This would minimize the overlap between the collections and focus of Bellevue Botanical Garden and Washington Park Arboretum (WPA), thus making them complementary to each other rather than repetitive. In Bellevue, lot sizes range from 5,000 to 8,000 SF, with a building footprint of 3,500 SF, at the smaller end of the scale up to 1/4, and 1/3 acre lots (11,000 to 14,400 SF respectively). There are relatively few one-acre lots in the city.

- Introduce visitors to a range of different garden experiences to broaden their appreciation of the possibilities available to gardeners in the northwest. For example, this would be done through gardens suitable for different types of site conditions and different solar exposures.

Gardens and exhibits should explore and express the character and culture of Bellevue which will make Bellevue Botanical Garden a unique expression of the region and emphasize the importance of the contribution of plants and gardens to the physical and mental health of society.

The Garden would be most valuable, by itself and as a component of the region's public garden network, if it developed a unique niche distinct from that occupied by other gardens of the region. For example, the Garden should not (and cannot) attempt to develop the most comprehensive possible collection of plants that can grow in the Pacific Northwest. Overlap between Bellevue Botanical Garden and the predominantly woody collections of WPA or the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden should be avoided. Further, the Garden should not be exclusively composed of ornamental display gardens, such as Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver, but all garden exhibits should possess underlying educational purposes.

These goals remain appropriate and suitable for the Garden and have been retained as the basis for the revised master plan. As the Garden has developed over the last few years, greater emphasis may have been placed on one goal over another, but together they still define a unique mission appropriate to the needs of residents of the region.

V. Assessment of Previous Planning Efforts

The basic structure of the original master plan remains appropriate to the Garden's mission and program. The underlying assumptions about the type of institution the Garden should be remain the same--it is primarily an educational display and demonstration garden rather than a collection oriented toward research or plant conservation. The Garden's published Mission Statement expresses this mix:

"The Bellevue Botanical Garden develops, maintains and displays plant collections in a park setting for the purposes of research, horticultural demonstration and passive recreation. It provides a forum for public education in botany, horticulture and related fields.

Community involvement at many levels of garden operation is a fundamental goal and is essential to the garden's continuing development and maintenance."

The following synopsis of the conceptual basis for the original master plan design is broken down into the headings:

- Distribution of Gardens/Plant Collections On Site
- Circulation System
- Scale
- Composition of Gardens

A. Distribution of Gardens/Plant Collections on Site

Most of the Garden collections are located in areas cleared prior to the development of the Garden. They responded to the varied conditions of the site such as sun, woodland edge, and shade. The existing natural areas were mostly under forest cover or were under shrub/wetland plants. One small clearing in the natural area was covered with non-native meadow grasses, but this was invaded by Himalayan Blackberry when mowing was discontinued. Native areas in previous planning efforts included native forests, natural clearings and woodland gardens composed of ornamental plants from different regions. The plan also included a sequence of 'Eastern' gardens that would incorporate the relocated Yao Garden as well as other possible Sister City gardens from Pacific rim countries.

Locating and sizing plant collections and gardens remains a desirable and appropriate planning goal for the Garden by responding to existing site conditions, and developing a varied sequence of garden experiences from ornamental to natural.

B. Circulation System

Previous planning efforts developed a loop circulation system that was clear and unambiguous. The loop that has been developed begins and ends at the Visitor Center. It was graded to meet existing accessibility requirements without the need for handrails.

A second loop trail allows access to The Cascadia Experience beyond the first loop. These trails were designed to ensure that visitors experienced the variety of different gardens but would not feel lost or confused on the grounds. The two main loop trails were sized to accommodate light maintenance vehicles.

Smaller trails are shown on the plan. These trails would provide closer contact and involvement with plants of different gardens and would be designed with different materials to provide varied garden experiences.

These trails provide safe, convenient and accessible routes to the majority of the site and thus remain substantially unaltered in the revised plan. Access to the wetland area to the east of the Visitor Center was less fully developed in the original plan. This has been addressed in the revised plan to make this area accessible via the re-routed Lake to Lake trail along its perimeter.

C. Scale

One of the Master Plan's guiding philosophies was that the Garden would be most useful as an educational institution if it developed facilities and ornamental gardens that were of a scale comparable to the sizes of lots owned by visitors, and maintained a less disturbed and managed Cascadia Experience which could explore and demonstrate alternative management approaches to natural and semi-natural sites in urban locations. Thus, in the developed parts of the Garden, the design deliberately proposed relatively small 'garden rooms' and experiences that were at a scale similar to the size of residential lots in Bellevue rather than the biggest and best possible gardens or collections.

To prevent the design from becoming cluttered and chaotic, these 'garden rooms' were disposed among a park-like context, of lawns or woods, along the main loop trails. The residential scale of the Shorts' house, which became the Visitor Center, and the entry courtyard further emphasized the residential scale of the Garden. This goal still appears to be reasonable for educational as well as experiential purposes.

Maintaining or expanding the open, expansive scale of the lawns that surround the Shorts' residence is important if the Garden is to avoid becoming a tight and congested experience for visitors. Contrasting small-scale, intimate and enclosed places with the larger scale of lawns and woods is an important design goal. The Master Plan Update expands the scale of the Garden by extending views from the Visitor Center into portions of the Garden that are currently developed, thus increasing the sense of expansiveness of the current lawns.

D. Garden Composition

Previous planning efforts were based on the assumption that it would be more valuable for the Garden to develop plant collections as 'gardens' rather than specific taxonomic plant collections. The former classification is more appropriate for the Master Plan's goal of illustrating the range of possible things that Bellevue residents could do in their own gardens. Thus the Master Plan Update does not include any taxonomic collections. 'Collections' in the Master Plan are based on a variety of factors. These include collections based on:

- environmental conditions (sun, shade gardens, etc.)
- geographic or cultural origin (Eastern gardens, woodland gardens from different parts of the world)

- horticultural or use distinctions (ground covers, etc.)
- ecosystem or plant community gardens based on naturalistic maintenance techniques (meadow gardens, meadow maze, alder grove, etc.)

In addition, the Master Plan design seeks to break down existing preconceptions about what gardens 'should' look like, and what sort of gardens 'should' be included in the Garden. The Plan does this, in part, by not using conventional labels, such as rose gardens, etc., for garden types. This was done because the adoption of common names for garden or collection types typically calls to mind existing examples, thus encouraging stereotypic responses which make it more difficult for designers and visitors see the Garden in new ways. The "Waterwise Garden" is a good example of a garden experience that breaks with conventional terms and thus encourages visitors to see it from a fresh perspective.

One main goal of the master plan is to suggest exploration of garden and plant possibilities from different perspectives.

VI. Analysis of the Subsequent Development

Development in the Garden includes projects initiated and designed through the City's Parks & Community Services Department and projects developed by private organizations and other City agencies.

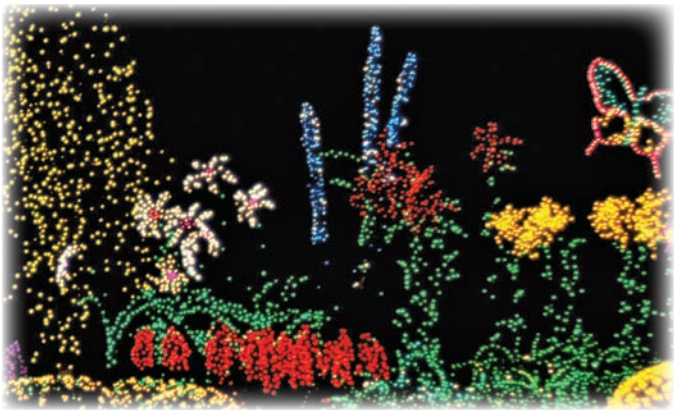
Completed projects include:
- renovation of the Shorts home to function as a Visitor Center,
- development of the loop trail system
- development of the Yao Garden and attendant storm water detention basin
- development of parking
- development and planting of the entry courtyard, including the Rill water feature
- relocation and restoration of the Sharp cabin
- development of a temporary fenced maintenance area
- development of the section of the Lake to Lake Trail through the park and installation of a post and rail fence along Main Street
- signs at the entrances to the Garden
- restoration and reconstruction of the terrace at the Visitor Center
- initial clearing of blackberries invading the southern meadow
- development of the Lost Meadow Trail
- development of the Ravine Trail
- creation of an interpretive program

Facilities developed in partnership with private organizations and other agencies include:
- the Perennial Border
- the Waterwise Garden
- the Fuchsia Display
- the Dahlia Exhibit
- the Ground Cover Garden and water feature
- the Tateuchi Viewing Pavilion
- the Alpine Rock Garden
- the Native Discovery Garden
- the Rhododendron Glen and hardy fern collection
- the Ravine Loop Trail

Facilities proposed for development:
- new visitor center and education facility
- ravine garden
- wetland-sun terraced gardens
- eastern garden
- sun garden sequence components
- woodland garden sequence components
- tree house
- satellite restroom on Main Loop Trail

The success of the original Master Plan completed in 1989 was in the clearly defined loop circulation system it proposed, the first phase of which was completed (graded but not planted) before the Garden was opened to the public.

The greatest failing of the original Master Plan was that it did not provide a sufficiently strong physical 'structure' within which the gardens of specific interest groups could be accommodated. This has resulted in much of the new development being attached to existing features. These new developments fail to create associated open spaces, with plant beds or physical structures that fit comfortably with the circulation system of the Garden as a whole.



To date, most development has consisted of small-scale 'gardens' or plant collections. Although large in extent, the Perennial Border also falls into this category relative to the scale of the site as a whole. Most development has taken place within the confines of the existing lawns, taking the form of the lawns as a given rather than modifying their shape to make 'garden rooms' or consciously-designed spaces. The

forest edge has also been taken as a 'given' rather than seen as something which may be modified depending upon design needs, and this approach has unfortunately limited the range of possibilities that designers have considered.

Recent storm damage makes it clear that the forest edge is neither static nor an immutable line that cannot be modified. With the loss of trees it is now possible to see further into the forest, suggesting that the new plan should modify the approach proposed earlier.

The problem with simply adding gardens around the lawn's perimeter is that unless these are clearly enclosed, the large scale of the lawn will contrast awkwardly with the small scale of the garden. Further, the lawn's shape will become relatively incoherent and appear as left-over space rather than a structure or form that allows the added gardens to relate well to each other. This is true around the Visitor Center too, where small-scale gardens cluster around the building perimeter but do not integrate the Visitor Center with the open space beyond.

VII. Updated Master Plan Proposals Overview

The proposals described below should be read in conjunction with the 2008 Master Plan Update graphic, which makes changes to the original plan. The proposed changes to previous planning efforts center around the following:

Lake to Lake Trail - address existing conflicts between this trail and the Garden entrance, and with pedestrian and vehicular circulation in the Garden's parking lot.

Buildings and Parking - provide new buildings for garden programs and functions, with a corresponding increase in the need for parking space.

Circulation Loop Trails – Future development should continue to integrate major loop trails to strengthen the garden experience into a coherent sequential whole. Redesign the western edge of the Main Loop Trail to integrate into the future Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden and Mound at the western end of the site. Make a stronger entry sequence from Main Street and the expanded parking area.

Maintenance Area and Service Vehicle Access - resolve visual, spatial/functional, and circulation problems resulting from the location and character of the maintenance area, and propose alternate location for maintenance area.

The Lawns and Garden Experiences - modify the shape of the lawns around the Visitor Center to give a bolder and stronger structure to the small-scale garden experiences; integrate lawn/sun garden sequences with the wooded areas beyond; and maintain the goal of residential-scaled garden rooms within the context of a larger park-like scale.

Vegetation Screens at Perimeter of Site - add evergreen tree masses to screen the large apartments to the southwest of the Visitor Center, and consider further measures to protect the boundaries of the site.

Forest Management - The Garden Tree Management Plan was developed in 2007. It's guidelines and proposals for active forest management create diverse forest communities and respond to the structural condition and biological composition of the existing forest.

Tree House - although the idea of a tree house was not originally included in the Master Plan, a tree house at the Garden would be one of series within the City's Parks System.

Satellite Restroom - provide restroom mid-way along the Main Loop Trail.

The Updated Master Plan continues to be based on the following concepts:

- provide simple, conceptually comprehensible main loop trails,
- proposed garden development that responds to existing site conditions,
- develop varied garden experiences that are integrated into a coherent whole,
- create residential-scaled garden experiences,
- emphasize 'garden' or 'experienced-based' collections rather than botanical collections and research.

VIII. Site Content Issues

A. Lake to Lake Trail

During the development of the original Master Plan, there was considerable discussion about the best alignment of the Lake to Lake Trail, which connects Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish across the City of Bellevue. At that time it was strongly suggested that the trail be routed to the north of the Garden site along Main Street.

The 2008 Master Plan Update further separates this recreational trail from the Garden entrance and adjusts the alignment of a portion of the Lake to Lake Trail to follow along the south side of Main Street, cross the parking lot entrance and parallel the eastern edge of the parking lot. Paths leading to the Garden from the Lake to Lake Trail compel visitors to make an intentional choice to enter the Garden. This alignment separates Garden foot traffic from Lake to Lake Trail walkers, runners and cyclists. This change reduces conflicts between Lake to Lake Trail users and garden users while still presenting a positive view of the Garden from the trail.

B. Site Security

Security is a constant concern for all botanical gardens. Sensitive areas cannot be protected without taking measures to control access to the Garden.

The development of the Garden is likely to follow the pattern common to many public gardens - as investment in garden development increases, so does the need to protect the plant collections. Even within the context of a public park, it is important to control access to the Garden and be able to manage the activities within the Garden for both the visiting public as well as Garden partners. The presence of an uncontrolled access point to the site is a problem that is likely to increase rather than diminish.

The trail access to the western edge of the Garden from the Park Highlands residential development is of particular concern. It is recommended that pedestrian access from this development be closed when the sidewalk along 118th St. is connected, creating a continuous safe alternative walking route to and from the Garden for these residents.

IX. Buildings and Parking

A. Visitor Center Buildings

The Garden's success has generated a need for additional building space for projected future programs and activities. The 2008 Master Plan Update proposes changes in the size and location of the Garden's visitor service buildings and parking based on assessment of existing use, programming projections, and peer institution studies.

1. Site Selection & Program Considerations

Site selection factors which influenced the choice of location for the new Visitor Center components include:

- proximity to the Shorts House and Garden entrance
- orientations to provide a sunny south and west facing courtyard
- the preservation of existing gardens
- grade changes which can make access to the Garden less difficult
- vehicular service and visitor drop off
- convenience of nearby parking
- visibility from Main Street
- noise blockage
- desire to retain residential scale

Other considerations included the need for administrative offices, education/meeting rooms, operational efficiencies, future expansion, cost, and additional parking. Thoughtful deliberation and evaluation of past planning efforts, including the original 1989 Master Plan, the 1997 Master Plan update, and 2002 Visitor Center study, as well as the exploration of new site locations and program capacities are outlined here.

Projected program growth cannot be accommodated in the existing Visitor Center without major changes to the pleasant, domestic scale of the house or the surrounding gardens. The amount of building space required by the proposed activities would either require a significant expansion of the house into the surrounding gardens, or the construction of a much larger building on another site. Throughout the planning process, the community expressed its desire that the scale and architecture of any proposed building remain in keeping with the residential character of the Garden and its surroundings, and allowing the Garden to remain the focal point for the visitor. This desire, coupled with desire to minimize the need to expand parking, led to the current plan to develop a campus of three small buildings. This approach also provides greater flexibility for phased construction or further expansion, should either be desirable in the future.

Four sites were studied to locate additional visitor center facilities. The 1997 plan proposed that an expanded Visitor Center be located west of the main garden entry in the area now occupied by the garden office along Main Street. This location would enable staff to monitor and control Garden access in a way that is not currently possible, and provides opportunities for western and southern exposures into the Garden. Its less prominent location than the hill-top site of the Shorts House is desirable.

The 2002 Visitor Center Plan clustered the Visitor Center facilities around the main pedestrian entry, immediately west of the existing Shorts House ***(Appendix 3 - 2002 Visitor Center Plan)***. While achieving the desired low-profile architectural feel, the clustered buildings created an undesirable congested area at the garden entry.

The third location was on the Wilburton Hill Park soccer field west of the Garden along the Lake to Lake Trail. Although an ideal site for construction, with a potential to share parking with the adjacent park, this option would eliminate a lighted sports field, a valuable city asset. This, as well as its distance to the Garden, eliminated this option. A fourth site was considered south of the existing parking lot between the Yao and Ground Cover Gardens in the area now occupied by the Rhododendron Glen. Pedestrian access challenges, the need to relocate an existing garden, and the likely removal of significant trees eliminated this option as well.

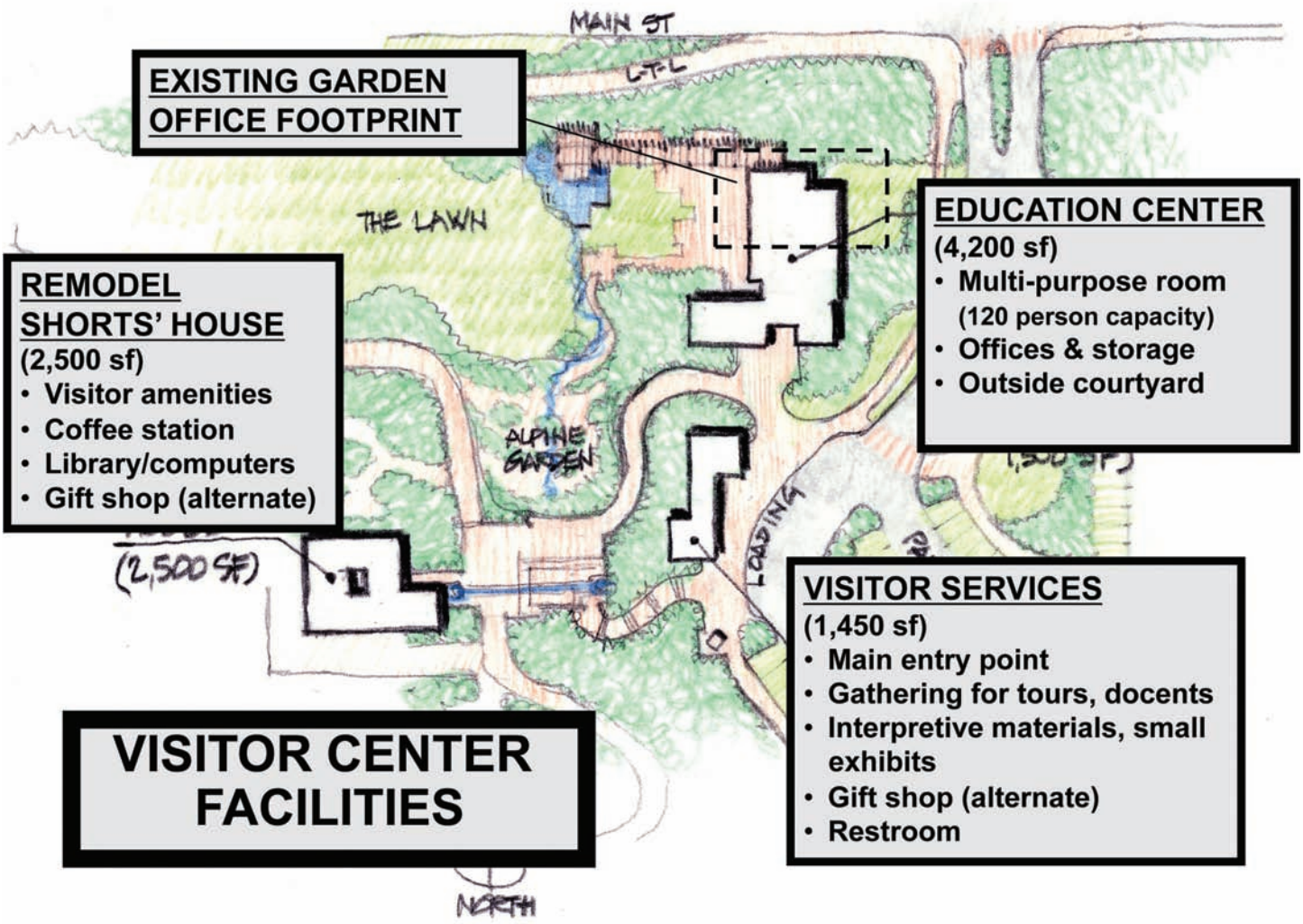
After careful analysis, the proposed site for a new education center is west of the garden entry drive, in the area occupied by the existing garden office, as originally proposed in the 1997 plan. A smaller visitor services building is proposed near the main pedestrian entry, similar to the location identified in the Visitor Center study. Separate buildings will force the garden visitor to make an intentional decision to either access the education center for a planned class or activity, or to enter into the main garden experience. This will help reduce the potential for congestion or confusion that could affect visitor experiences while classes or activities are scheduled during normal hours of operation. A description of the three components of the Visitor Center are provided below, with a depiction of the plan presented in ***Figure 2***. More detailed descriptions are provided in ***Appendix 4***.

2. **Visitor Services Center**
   Approximate 1,450 SF visitor services building will be located at the current public entry point.
   Components: Tour gathering place; way-finding; interpretation, small exhibition; donor recognition; gift shop (and shop support); restrooms
   Description: Located at the entrance to the Garden, this building, staffed by volunteer greeters and docents, gives visitors their first impression of the Garden. It is intended as a visual icon, integrated into the site topography, and fully accessible. Visitors are welcomed, oriented, and encouraged to visit the gift shop. They have access to garden guides, maps and other print materials. A small exhibition space allows rotation of interpretive displays consistent with the Garden's education program objectives and areas of current special interest.This is where all garden tours begin and end, with room for docents to greet and orient tour groups.

3. **Shorts House**
   Existing 2,400 SF structure located at the entry plaza, currently functions as the Visitors Center.
   Components: Restrooms; food service; resource center (reference library, computer stations)
   Description: A comfortable, welcoming space for visitors to enjoy "light fare" in a small café, along with access to computer stations and small reference library. It is intended as the "sweet spot" from which to enjoy views of the Garden, seek shelter, linger over horticultural and botanical publications, and access the searchable on-line database. The gift shop may be located here, pending further study. Very limited modifications are anticipated to the existing Shorts House.

4. **Education/Administration Center**
   Approximate 4,200 SF facility serving educational and administrative functions will be located at the current garden office site on Main Street.
   Components: Classroom/workshop/meeting;

Figure 2



administrative offices; restrooms; storage; catering kitchen.

Description: This space would accommodate a broad spectrum of multipurpose use, designed in keeping with large-residential scale architecture, and opening onto an outdoor courtyard. Offices and storage to support education and event programming will be housed here. The largest space would accommodate up to 120 people for a meeting, but could be divided into two classrooms.

Accommodation of mission-based programming provided the basis for size and scope of the proposed buildings described above. Other considerations included feedback from the community and the desire for buildings to remain in keeping with the residential character of the Garden and its surroundings. Programs and events consistent with the Garden's mission would receive priority consideration when programming these facilities. Requests for programs or events that do not align with the Garden's mission will require City staff to evaluate these requests relative to public benefit, Garden impact, timing and relevance to Garden policies. If these requests can be accommodated without compromising general Garden visitation or mission-based programming, Garden management may consider a protocol for scheduling such events.

B. Sharp Cabin

The Sharp Cabin would be relocated from its current location to another location within the Garden when Visitor Center and parking expansion takes place. The prospect of moving the cabin creates many positive opportunities since one of the Garden's goals is to develop spaces that relate to the scale of residential lots in Bellevue. Buildings of the size of the cabin offer tremendous opportunities to fit garden spaces to residential-scaled buildings, providing examples of good integration between buildings and gardens.

The cabin has a character and scale that would make it a welcome addition in many parts of the Garden as a shelter which can be used by garden programs, interpretive programming in cooperation with Eastside Heritage Center, or rented out. This might be especially appropriate in the orchard area to the east of the Garden's entrance, for its proximity to the proposed Education Center and new Lake to Lake Trail route. A final location will determined as part of the final Visitor Center design process.

C. Garden Shelters

The Master Plan Update encourages the development of residential-scaled shelters throughout the Garden in locations where they enhance Garden features and experiences. Not only can they be pleasant features, but may extend the use of the Garden during wet weather if visitors know that shelters are available. Because shelters are often prone to vandalism, they must be sited in visible locations.

D. Satellite Restroom

The Master Plan Update recommends building a public restroom mid-way along the Main Loop Trail.

E. Maintenance Facilities

The existing Garden maintenance base is located directly adjacent to Main Street, approximately 600 feet west of the existing parking lot entrance. The facility's location is dependent upon staff and volunteer parking and vehicular access for delivery, or disposal, of materials and storage of related equipment. Main Street was the only vehicular access available at the time of the Garden's creation. The facility is unsightly and considered a poor aesthetic location that needs to be relocated to a less visible area.

1. Staff Maintenance Facility

Acquisition of the 17-acre property adjacent to the Garden's southern margin includes a former single-family residence, level site and access suitable for a maintenance base. The proposed facility will be adequately screened from Garden visitors and the adjacent community. The location's access/driveway alignment will be modified to eliminate a 180 degree turn and reduce the gradient. A convenient service access connecting to the Lost Meadow Trail is proposed.

The maintenance area will consist of materials storage and working areas, covered equipment storage and work space, and hand tool and small equipment storage. The maintenance area will also accommodate staff services including changing/shower and lunch facilities, maintenance staff office, and workroom. While the selected site appears large enough to accommodate these functions for the foreseeable future, they will not support the Garden's maintenance at build-out and supplemental maintenance capacity should be sought.

An ideal site for a supplemental maintenance area would require acquisition of a small parcel of land along 118th Street adjacent to the Garden. It would provide easy vehicle access

from the road, in contrast to the adjacent Garden property that is elevated above the street and separated by a tall rock retaining wall. The property would be ideal as a secondary maintenance and storage site.

2. Garden Sheds

The maintenance area is inappropriate for use by volunteer groups to store tools, and sharing staff service facilities with volunteers is undesirable. As the Garden expands and the new maintenance base is developed in a more remote location, the need for small satellite facilities increases. To meet that need, appropriately-scaled garden sheds will be strategically located throughout the Garden. The architectural design of each structure will complement its setting and provide space for small tool storage, secure lockers for volunteers and preferably nearby space to store landscape materials such as soil and mulch. One alternative would be to incorporate these facilities into shelter buildings for garden visitors, and locations for several such facilities are suggested on the Master Plan Update. They could contribute positively to the goal of developing domestic-scaled garden spaces throughout the Garden.

F. Visitor Parking

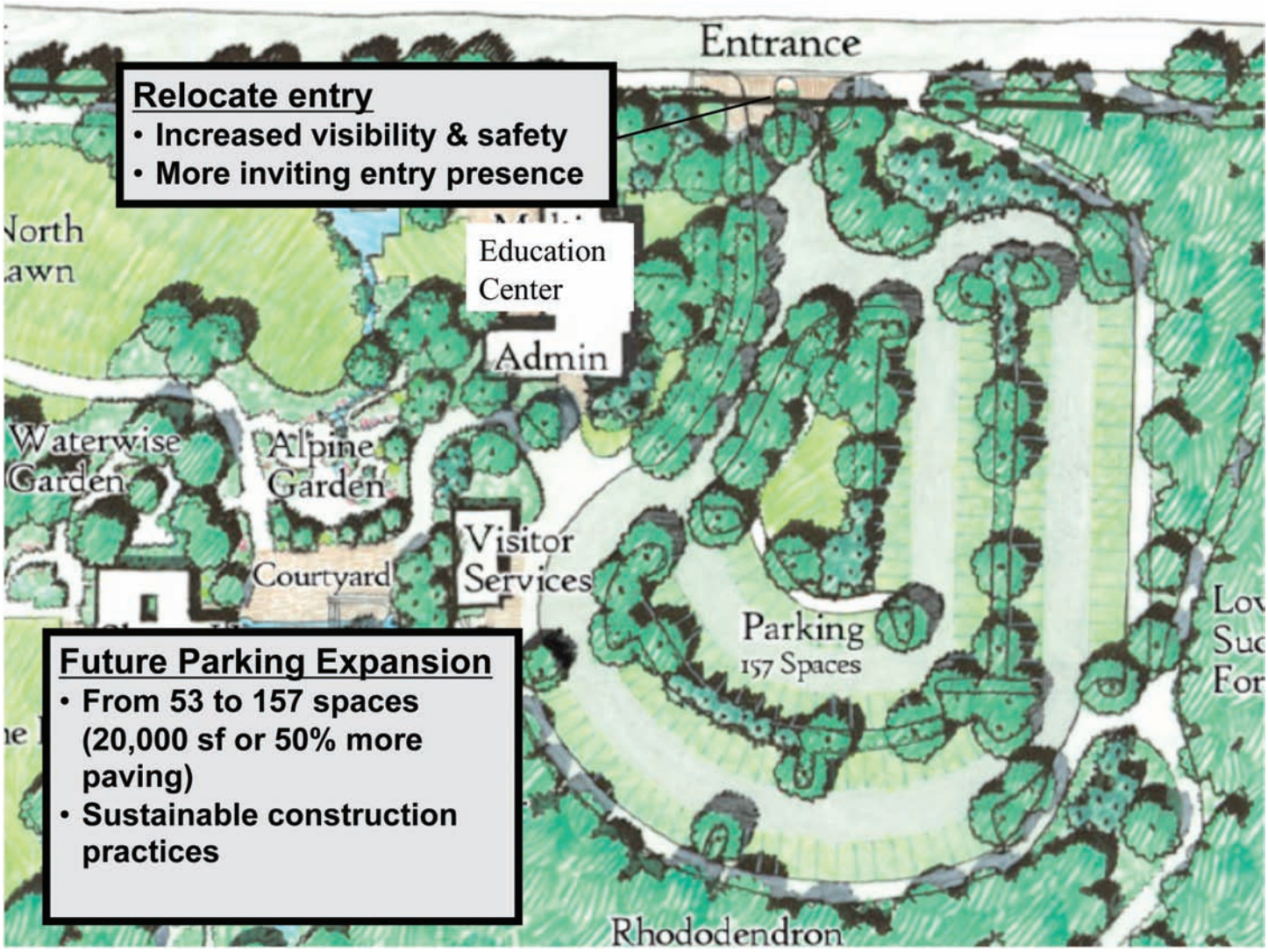
The Master Plan update recognizes the need to substantially expand visitor parking. The existing parking lot capacity is 53 spaces. The Master Plan Update proposes the addition of approximately 100 spaces. The original Master Plan provided a generous curvilinear loop road with parking along its length. While this design provides an elegant, estate-like character to parking and vehicular access to the Garden, it is inefficient in terms of the amount of pavement required for each parking stall provided. The proposed parking lot layout ***(Figure 3)*** would triple the number of spaces with only 50% more paved area. The proposed parking expansion will require extensive re-grading, and should occur in conjunction with the expansion of the Visitor Center.

Most visitors travel to and from the Garden by automobile. There are currently no public transit routes serving the site. Tour buses load in a pullout on the south side of Main Street, immediately west of the parking lot entrance. The expanded parking lot will be designed to provide for bus pullouts and loading.

Even with a larger parking lot there will not be sufficient parking to accommodate all vehicles during peak use times, festivals and Garden events. Adjacent parking lots at the Bellevue School District's W.I.S.C. site (73 spaces) and Wilburton Hill Park (155 spaces with a potential for 82 additional spaces) have functioned as overflow parking for the Garden on weekends and evenings. While the school-owned parking lot north of Main Street has also served as overflow space, uncontrolled pedestrian movement across Main Street from this lot presents safety concerns. The development of a safe pedestrian crossing is important to continue to use this as a temporary overflow lot. Careful programming and cooperation is essential for continued mutual use of these parking resources.

The parking lot is the first point of contact for many Garden visitors and must create an exceptional first impression. The expanded parking lot design must be executed with the same care and attention given to any other garden room. The design will integrate and interpret environmental sustainability, from storm water collection and treatment, to plant selection.

Figure 3


Relocate entry
• Increased visibility & safety
• More inviting entry presence
Entrance
North
Lawn
Education
Center
Admin
Waterwise
Garden
Alpine
Garden
Courtyard
Visitor
Services
Parking
157 Spaces
Future Parking Expansion
• From 53 to 157 spaces
(20,000 sf or 50% more
paving)
• Sustainable construction
practices
Rhododendron

X. Main Street Frontage & Garden Entry Improvements

A more inviting, visible, and safe Garden entry are high priorities. The existing parking lot entrance is difficult to see from Main Street when approached from the west. First-time visitors frequently drive past. Better traffic sightlines and a stronger entry presence are needed for safety and aesthetic reasons, so the plan proposes a modest (15'-40') relocation of the entry to the west, along with additional landscape modifications to improve sight visibility and to create a more inviting entry along Main Street. Creating landscape improvements and a stronger pedestrian connection along Main Street, especially along the adjacent school-owned WISC site and Wilburton Hill Park, are recommended to add to the Garden's presence for passersby and to add to the convenience for overflow users attending special garden events.

XI. Garden Circulation & Loop Trails

Botanical gardens frequently grow in an ad hoc manner, resulting in incoherent, confusing circulation systems. To avoid this possibility, previous planning efforts provided a simple, clear and accessible main trail system throughout the site.

A. Garden Circulation

The Master Plan Update reinforces previous planning efforts' intention to create a pedestrian circulation system that is served by a single public point of access – the Garden entrance. The design strives to make visits to the Garden intentional by restricting the entrance and exiting options, protecting the Garden from becoming a short-cut or corridor for other pedestrian, jogger, or bicycle routes. This approach is a realistic and appropriate way to protect the Garden's integrity, mission, and plant collections.

B. Lake to Lake Trail Alignment

The existing Lake to Lake Trail (LLT) enters the Garden and hugs the western and southern edges of the parking lot. This Plan proposes to realign the trail to follow along the south side of Main Street, to cross the parking lot entrance and parallel the eastern edge of the parking lot. Paths leading to the Garden from the LLT compel visitors to make an intentional choice to enter the Garden. This alignment separates Garden foot traffic from LLT walkers, runners and cyclists.

The realigned Lake to Lake Trail will traverse the Lowland Successional Forest on the Gardens eastern boundary. This will be retained as buffer with some succession enhancement to include thinning existing trees, underplanting with native understory plants, and planting native evergreens to screen winter views of the W.I.S.C. building. Notable features include a large stand of native ash and a small wetland.

C. Lost Meadow Loop

At the time that the original Master Plan was developed, the meadow area was an open grassy area (located in a small valley) with a further open area containing an old home site and abandoned lawn (on the adjacent hilltop to the south). Himalayan Blackberries eventually filled the low meadow with a dense thicket of canes, rendering it inaccessible. The meadow was cleared of blackberry and other invading woody plants and seeded late in the fall of 1995, and has become a destination for Garden visitors. Construction of the Lost Meadow Loop trail in 2002 allows visitors into this part of the Garden and provides an access road for continued maintenance of the open spaces. This trail descends through the forest toward the western boundary of the Lost Meadow. It passes an existing pedestrian gate leading to a nearby apartment complex, then traverses the meadow and descends into the forest again at the northern edge of the Cascadia Experience. The path then turns northward and begins to ascend along the meadow's edge to its point-of-origin. Significant segments of this trail exceed ADA gradients. The Master Plan proposes several modest trail realignments to achieve a fully- accessible route.

D. Secondary Trails

Secondary trails are intended to provide a more intimate and complex interaction with the land and its plant communities. They will be developed with a very different design vocabulary, materials, forms, scale, character, etc., from the spacious and simple

main trails. The interaction of these contrasting circulation systems can add variety and cadence to enrich the experience of each.

These trails respond not only to site conditions (slopes, water features, etc.) but also reflect the desire to introduce forms and materials that are non-traditional and express contemporary artistic concepts and practices. Developments in landscape art, earthwork sculpture and other explorations of contemporary interpretations of the relationship of human culture to the land are considered appropriate for these paths, assuming they are also sensitive to natural features and processes.

The conceptual design for secondary trails reflects one of the basic principles underlying the Master Plan, which is that the Garden should be a part of its time and place. This approach will encourage the development of innovative and interesting design solutions to contemporary garden and landscape problems. In this respect, every part of the Garden's design should be seen as having an artistic component. The 2008 revised Master Plan update strongly advocates this philosophic or conceptual approach to the development of the circulation system but does not propose specific forms or design.

E. Accessibility

The Garden is a public facility. As such, accessibility is a legal requirement and ethical obligation.

An analysis of the existing facilities discovered a few occurrences of Garden paths that were not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Measures will be taken to bring Garden paths into compliance. While not all areas are required to be accessible, a good faith effort will be made to provide opportunities for all visitors to fully experience the Garden. Compacted crushed rock trails will remain as the Garden's primary paving surface.

F. Sign Systems

All signs within the Garden are scaled and sited to complement, not dominate, the Garden ambience, and established graphics standards are strictly adhered to. The Garden has implemented a sign system which addresses the following categories:

Entrance Identification - The Garden entrance is identified with the City of Bellevue's standard park entrance sign. While the standard sign is appropriate, the combination of the road's geometry and close proximity of adjacent earth forms and plants render the sign invisible until the visitor is virtually upon it. The Master Plan Update envisions a relocated, safer, more visible Garden entrance complemented with an inviting and gracious garden landscape. (see item X).

Wayfinding - Since 2006 a series of customized wayfinding signs have been installed throughout the Garden. Mainly located along trail junctions, these signs provide guidance to the visitor as they explore the various garden experiences. As the Garden expands, additional wayfinding signs will be needed. The signs should include distances and accessible routes as well as garden room names and themes. Location of other visitor services, such as restrooms and the Visitors Center, and identification of accessible routes would also be featured.

Interpretive Signage - The Garden has implemented an interpretive signage system which should be expanded as future garden rooms are created. This system can be complemented with integrated computer technologies.

XII. The Lawns and Garden Experiences

A. Lawn Structure

The Master Plan Update supports the previous planning efforts' intentions and philosophy of The Lawns. The Update does, however, extend the continuous sweep of The Lawns north around the Shorts' Visitor Center, to be incorporated into future development of the Sun Garden Sequence. The Master Plan does not specifically shape lawn spaces. To adequately do so would require the development of a detailed plan which would have to consider site grading in detail to provide level areas for gathering and slopes for plant displays, and the design of garden types and beds. This is not feasible at the Master Plan stage, and to attempt to be too specific might inhibit creativity at the design development stage, implying that garden areas have been fully designed rather than conceptually master planned.

Several techniques were used in the original plan to unify the site. Circulation was carefully managed on coherent loop trails--which have proven effective--and small 'jewel' or pocket gardens were proposed along the trails. These were intended to be smaller in scale and more contained than the surrounding gardens. The plan also proposed that these garden rooms would adopt more adventurous or 'modern' approaches to garden and planting design than is common in most botanical gardens which tend to favor traditional garden aesthetics. Throughout the more developed and ornamental parts of the site, the open space structure would be expressed by lawns. This 'structure' is the spatial counterpart of the trail circulation system. It helps organize and unify the different gardens and features of the site as a whole. This structure provides needed unity for the Garden but also allows different garden experiences to be developed around, and to contain, individual lawn spaces.

The Master Plan Update proposes that the lawns be conceived of and consciously shaped as a positive element of the Garden design, serving visual as well as circulation needs. As a unifying feature of developed ornamental areas of the Garden, lawns will extend beyond their current confines around the existing Visitor Center, eastward along Main St. to link with the new Visitor Center, and westward along Main St. to include the wetland lawn and gardens. Future gardens may be considered within the Sun Garden Sequence in this area. Lawns will be shaped to provide large and small gathering spaces in the midst of gardens or plant collections. They will be designed to encourage visitors to circulate from one part of the Garden to another in a smooth, flowing manner. They will also be designed as room-like spaces to encourage visitors to stop, rest and observe gardens and collections more closely. Through shaping, lawns may encourage visitors to leave the primary loop trails at specific points and enter garden experiences or, at other points, to remain on the trail. Because lawn shape and garden sequences are so completely integrated, one cannot be described without reference to the other.

B. Garden Sequences

Previous planning efforts differentiated ornamental plant collections/gardens from native or natural character gardens. These gardens would differ not only in species composition and aesthetic and experiential character but would require different types of maintenance. Differences between the garden

types might suggest to visitors a wider range of horticultural relationships that could be developed with the natural world on their own properties than are commonly found in Northwest urban and suburban settings.

Ornamental collections are concentrated in the northern section of the Garden and natural collections in the woods to the south, extending into the Cascadia Experience. The ornamental gardens were conceived in response to different types of site conditions, which are also common in residential properties in the city:

- Sun Garden Sequence located in open, sunny areas
- Woodland Garden Sequence beneath the canopy of trees

This organization of garden types in response to site conditions remains the fundamental rationale for locating gardens and features. However, changes in site conditions between the original 1989 Master Plan and today have altered existing site conditions. For example, tree blow-down and removal along the edge of the forest has considerably opened up that area, and the Master Plan Update responds to the new site conditions. However, the conceptual organization remains appropriate and is essentially the same as that used in the original plan.

The current plan more fully integrates the different types of gardens with each other than occurred in the previous planning efforts. The separation of the site into distinctly different garden types, each of which is separated from the others in space, is undesirable. It fragments the site and fails to develop it as a single, unified Garden experience. Dividing the site into distinct pieces, regardless of whether each is beautifully designed, risks losing sight of the overall experience and the larger picture. This is not to say that different experiences are undesirable in the Garden--they are essential to the successful development of a botanical garden. But the need for a larger unity remains equally compelling and must precede diversity as a master planning goal.

As suggested, careful shaping of the lawn can provide desirable design unity and experiential continuity while at the same time providing spatial separation between garden experiences. This would promote the development of distinctly different spaces with their own unique character, a desirable goal for the Garden. In other words the lawn can be shaped and graded to provide a larger-scale framework which will contain and unify the diverse, smaller-scale garden experiences. Further, Garden circulation can be designed in conjunction with the lawns to provide transitions between each garden or abrupt changes between them, continuity or contrast. Each of these is a distinctly different experience and may be designed to provide rhythm to the Garden experience. The Master Plan Update emphasizes how existing and proposed features and gardens might be linked together into a unified whole with transitions between the distinctive parts.

1. **Sun Garden Sequence**
   The Sun Garden Sequence includes the existing Entry Gardens, Alpine Rock Garden, Waterwise Garden, Perennial Border, and upper Ground Cover Garden. Planned gardens include The Wetland-Sun Terraced Gardens, Garden Mound and other future gardens developed in open, sunny sites.

a. The Perennial Border

The Master Plan stresses the importance of establishing a direct physical and visual connection between the Visitor Center building, terrace and lawn, and the large area of the Garden to the west.

The Perennial Border has grown in size, shape and required maintenance since its beginnings, warranting renovation. The perennial vegetation has expanded outward to encroach into the lawn space and swallow up the narrow footpaths originally intended to allow the public close access. The border has now become a mass of vegetation viewed from the outside perimeter rather than a sequence of plant types and layers experienced from many vantage points. As the perennials have flourished, the garden has required more maintenance than can be expected from the current volunteer base. Special attention must be given to the following items during the renovation design:

- Integrate the Perennial Border into the lawn edge and the future Wetland-Sun Terraced Gardens.
- Establish the lawn shape and reinforce the edges while eliminating slippery wet slope.
- Provide for visual and physical connections between the Perennial Garden and the future Garden mound.
- Balance the size and complexity of the Perennial Border with available maintenance activities.
- Explore the opportunity for interpretive tools including signage and interactive systems.

Achieving these objectives will require re-grading a portion of the Perennial Border to shape the beds and the lawn edge in a way that makes the border more accessible and visible and the lawn more usable.

The steep grades make it necessary to use steps on the cross slope trail rather than a continuous ramp. This is consistent with the approach taken to circulation in the original 1989 Master Plan. Paths that cut across steep slopes are smaller and not always handicapped accessible, while the main loop trails are designed to follow the contours and provide easy access for all Garden visitors.

The importance of overcoming the real and perceived separation between the upper lawn and gardens to the west cannot be overemphasized. Without a strong physical and, more importantly, a visual/perceptual link, this western part of the Garden is likely to continue to be neglected and considered 'too far away' to visit or develop. It may continue to be nibbled at rather than developed in a comprehensive manner. Integrating the wetland area with the developed core of the Garden is essential if the Garden is to develop beyond the original boundaries of the Shorts' garden. Clear and direct visual and physical links are essential to that purpose. Physical integration of this area with the rest of the site is essential for service and maintenance vehicle access.

b. The Garden Mound and Wetland-Sun Terraced Gardens
Extending west from the current perennial border, and surrounding the north and east sides of the wetland, is a large band described on the master plan as the "Wetland-Sun Terraced Gardens." These capitalize on the site's south and west facing slopes which overlook the wetland.

In 2008, the Task Force and City of Bellevue selected this Garden for further design development. A wetland delineation and habitat study were completed for the design of this new garden room. Graphic representations of the proposed plan and overview into the garden are included on ***Figures 4 & 5***. The Garden Mound recalls the 1997 Master Plan's Poplar Hill Viewpoint. This created knoll will provide territorial views into the Garden, with seasonal views toward Downtown Bellevue when the leaves have fallen. The knoll will be created on the current location of the existing maintenance base after the facility's relocation. It will reduce the perception that the area north of the Visitor Center is dominated by street traffic on Main St. Designing the Garden Mound as a single physiographic retains the character of the rolling topography of the Garden site but is nevertheless a commanding and interesting feature.

Slopes in this location are quite variable but on average are of the order of 1:4 to 1:5 or 20-25%. These moderate grades allow the Garden to demonstrate

Figure 4: Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden - Plan View

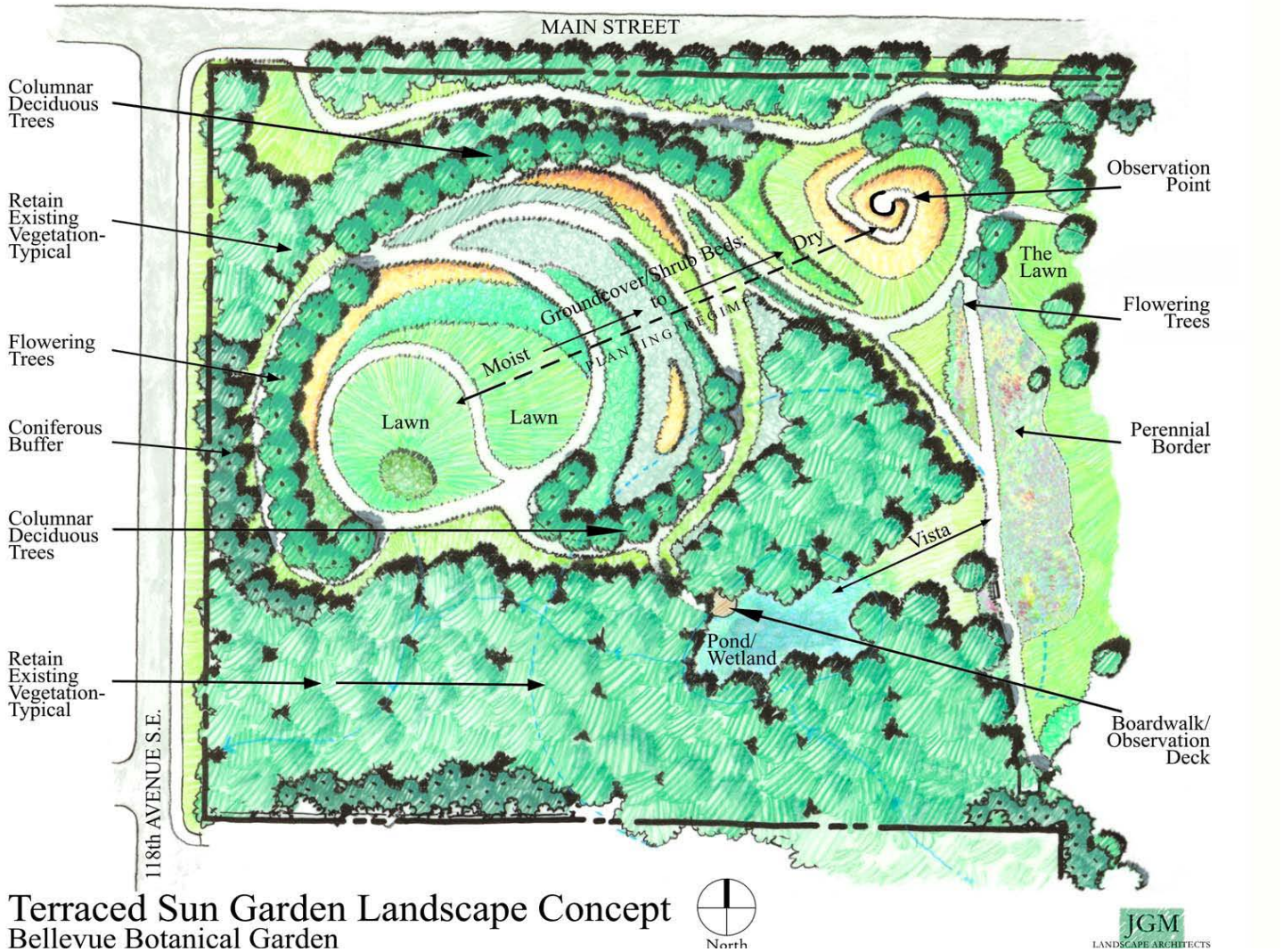


Figure 5: Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden - View from Mound

suitable garden design techniques for sloping land. They will be developed as a series of terraced garden areas with ideal hot, sun exposures. Grading will allow for the development of easily accessible trails throughout the terraced area. The types of plants or collections grown in this area could vary considerably. The decision as to what to plant should reflect the Garden educational mission goals and collections policy. For example, a portion of the area could be developed as a demonstration garden with specific educational goals and functions that fit the Garden mission.

The terrace gardens will consider the relationship between developed gardens and the wetland--yet another type of situation faced by property owners in the region. As the terraces progress down the slope, they will become wider and flatter as the slopes decrease around the wetland itself. Demonstrating how a wetland like this can be modified to retain its natural functions while accommodating some garden development is an important challenge for this design. This area addresses the differences in aesthetic character of native vegetation in wetlands and designed gardens. A modification of ornamental aesthetics to respond to natural processes is essential for this area to demonstrate appropriate ways for homeowners to live adjacent to wetlands. Control of invasive species, particularly Himalayan Blackberry, is one of the intractable but

important subjects which development and management of this area will address.

2. Woodland Garden Sequence

The Woodland Garden Sequence includes the existing Lower Ground Cover Garden, Rhododendron Glen, Yao Garden, and Native Discovery Garden. Future garden development in this sequence include the Woodland Edge, Woodland Gardens, Shade Gardens, Eastern Garden, Tree House, The Madrona Grove, and other features developed within shady, wooded sites. The Master Plan Update suggests different treatments for varying degrees of canopy density within these regions.

a. The Woodland Edge
Woodland edge and shady conditions are common in urban areas in the region; thus, this garden would serve as a useful demonstration of plants suitable for these frequently-encountered situations. Perimeter planting should not be so dense and continuous that all views into the space from the lawn are eliminated. A wide range of small and medium-sized shrubs could be planted in this location, however, the masses should be visually unified in character and should step down from the tall native trees to the Garden's low or prostrate ground cover and woodland herbaceous plants.

b. The Woodland Gardens
Woodland Gardens are an important type of garden to develop as part of the program to demonstrate garden design possibilities in different contexts typical of the Northwest. The Woodland Gardens should illustrate how visitors may deal with the commonly-encountered conditions of native deciduous and conifer forest remnants on their property. Previous planning efforts proposed developing gardens with very different

canopy density and shade ranging from the Coniferous Woodland Garden, a predominantly evergreen canopy of cedar and fir at the eastern end of the ridge, through an area with a big-leaf maple canopy, to the lightest and most open canopy in the Deciduous Woodland Garden. It will be necessary to augment the evergreen plantings in the Coniferous Woodland Garden; to open and lighten the maple canopy, which tends to become too dense and shady for most understory species; and to replant the cherries in the Deciduous Woodland Garden, as the existing trees are at the end of their life spans.

As the topography in this area is relatively flat, it should be possible to provide accessible trails throughout the gardens. These trails should respond to the character of the gardens, be much smaller in scale than the Loop Trail, and should be more convoluted and 'involved' with the plants of each garden. The gardens should consider opportunities to integrate benches and covered shelters with the trails and plant masses.

It would be desirable to make the physical and visual expressions of each garden distinctly different to demonstrate to visitors different options for planting in woodland

conditions. Although the environmental conditions of these gardens are similar to the shade gardens, the latter are far smaller in area and are more intensively manipulated and developed. However the forest canopy provides a strong unifying feature that provides a perceptual link and continuity between these gardens.

c. The Shade Gardens
The 2008 Master Plan Update retains the concept of developing shade gardens on the level bench area and gentle slope between the Woodland Edge gardens (lining the lawn) and the wetland hollow. Like other development proposals, it is not specific about the form that these might take. The idea of developing some garden responses to shady conditions within a forest canopy is valid and important as an experience that contrasts with the open garden conditions, and is an opportunity for BBG interpretive programs.

Previous planning efforts proposed four small garden 'rooms' (the largest 40x40 feet), spaced out along trails in this forest area. The idea was to develop intimate spaces that would be physically separated from, but related to, the surrounding forest. In addition to the rooms, the surrounding forest would be enhanced by the addition of more native plant species. Space limitations required that the shade garden rooms be small and thus concentrate on small ground plane plants rather than larger understory plants, although the latter could be included in the surrounding forest context.

Specific design ideas included a room with a moss-dominated ground plane, another dominated by plants native to a forest (or forests), from other parts of the world, a third could display plants native to damp forest floor conditions, and finally, a small room could be suitable for displaying native and introduced spring bulbs/corms suitable for growing in shady settings, for example, some lilies and Cardiocrinum giganteum. Since these plants are of interest during a relatively short spring season it would be more appropriate to locate this garden room on a spur trail rather than along a trail that visitors must follow.

In all cases the goal of the Shade Garden rooms are to demonstrate different approaches to gardening in shady conditions that don't resort to clearing or cutting trees back heavily. To make these garden ideas work from the design perspective, it is essential to provide clear and unambiguous spatial differentiation between the forest context and the small garden room character. Decisions about the exact location and size of each room can only be made on-site, where the specific environmental conditions within this area of woods can be adequately assessed.

d. The Eastern Gardens
The original 1989 Master Plan located "Eastern" Gardens to the east of the Woodland Garden ridge where the land slopes down to the WISC site and the lighted soccer field. These gardens included the Yao Garden--celebrating Bellevue's sister city in Japan--and other gardens which Bellevue might wish to develop in the future to celebrate the cultures of other sister cities in East Asia, such as China and South Korea.

The Eastern Gardens plan included extensive terracing and the development of rock retaining walls with visual characteristics drawn from Eastern design traditions. The plan did not propose specific garden types but suggested a blend of different Eastern traditions. Depending on the City's needs, this approach may be altered to allow specific areas to be dedicated to the garden traditions of future sister cities. It would, however, be unfortunate if this approach were carried to the point where it segmented this part of the Garden into discrete and relatively small parts, rather than developing a more unified blend of various eastern design influences which fit into the naturalistic character of this portion of the Garden.

The main problem is that the location originally proposed for the Eastern Gardens is relatively densely wooded and contains some of the largest native conifer trees in the Garden. The desire to retain this portion of forest resulted in relocating the Eastern Gardens to the northwest shore of the pond near the Garden's center. Thematic development will focus on a fusion of Pacific Rim and Pacific Northwest Garden cultures and traditions.

e. The Tree House
The idea of a tree house was not originally included in the Master Plan. A tree house structure would be located on the northern edge of the Great Meadow where an existing large Douglas fir tree has been identified to support this structure. The structure would provide an accessible overview into the Great Meadow, and would allow the visitor to experience the tree canopy This tree house is envisioned as one of several complementary structures throughout the park system.

f. The Madrona Grove
On the northern edge of the Great Meadow, where a limited number of firs and Madronas exist, the Master Plan Update proposes planting a Madrona grove on the sloping land and backing this up with a fir forest which will extend over a portion of the flat, better drained ridge top to the north.

3. Cascadia Experience (Formerly the Biological Reserve)

The original 1989 master plan did not leave the Cascadia Experience undisturbed but included a number of design proposals within it and a loop trail through it. The design intent differed from those proposed in the open, developed portion of the site where radical changes to the form and character of the landscape and plant

communities were suggested to accommodate new garden types and different program functions. Changes in the Cascadia Experience were based on a different set of priorities from those used in the open spaces. These were to use the landscape and plant communities of the Cascadia Experience to preserve, enhance, and explain the natural environment and plant communities of the region rather than substitute new or ornamental horticultural plant communities in it. However, this does not mean that some of the proposals were not dramatic in their approach. Described below are features of previous planning efforts which have been retained or changed in the Master Plan Update.

a. The Ravine Garden (formerly the Hanging Gardens):
In 2008, the Task Force and the City selected this garden for further design development. Graphic representations of a proposed suspension bridge spanning the ravine were completed, and are shown on ***Figure 6***. The proposed garden takes visitors along a loop trail and into the steep-sided small ravine in the southeast corner of the Reserve. This garden entails construction of one 75' long (rigid), and one 150-185' long suspension bridge. Both bridges, which span the ravine in different locations, allow for a loop trail connection starting and ending at the Lost Meadow Trail. This allows close proximity and intimate views of the plants growing along either side of the ravine, and visitors would experience the dramatic feeling of enclosure that containment within this small-scale landform offers.

To increase the educational and aesthetic value of the Ravine Garden, the plan proposes augmentation of the current understory vegetation with more native shrubs and herbaceous plants to increase the ravine's biological diversity and to avoid introducing non-native plants into the Cascadia Experience. The goals of the design were to make visitors familiar with, and appreciative of, the plant communities of the region and to allow interpretation of hydrologic processes and resulting physiographic characteristics of the regional landform. From this garden, interpretive programs could demonstrate and suggest how such delicate landform features might be preserved, conserved and augmented in other locations.

In other words, the basic design philosophy underlying this garden feature was to work with the natural features and processes on the site and interpret these to visitors as part of an educational program. This same philosophy applies to all other proposals made in the original plan and remains the guiding philosophy of the Master Plan Update.

b. The Meadows
The Master Plan Update simplifies the proposals for the meadows, recognizing the need to provide a more passive and less-manipulated open space at the center of the lower part of the Garden site. In addition to reducing the number and extent of obtrusively manipulated designs, the Master Plan Update proposes changing the scale of the spaces by combining them into a single,

Figure 6


0'
30'
60'
90'
120'
150'
Site Section Looking North Through Ravine
Ravine Garden
Bellevue Botanical Garden
JGM
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

much larger, open space. This is accomplished by eliminating the narrow band of young alder saplings which occur along the north-facing slope between the spaces. This would create a much larger open space with a scale sufficiently large to prevent it from appearing dominated by the surrounding forest.

Many of the proposals, such as managing the grassland to encourage more wildflowers and mowing patterns into the meadow, would provide interesting experiences for visitors. However, their adoption must be tempered by the ecological management problems that must be overcome--principally by managing invasive plants.

During the six year period between the original site survey in 1989 and fall 1995, the lower meadow was transformed from an open grassy meadow to an impenetrable Himalayan Blackberry thicket. Only by clearing and grubbing the site has blackberry been removed--but not eliminated. Himalayan Blackberry is among the most aggressive and vigorous non-native colonizer of such open spaces, and seed sources are such that repeated invasion is inevitable--an unstable truce or cold war exists between open space managers and blackberry. Only through a continual program of eradication--principally mowing and weeding/spraying--can this space be maintained as an open meadow. It may be impossible to develop maze and braided trail patterns while continuing to suppress blackberries through mowing.

If left to themselves, the natural dynamic of all wet open spaces in lowland Puget Sound is to become forested, first with alder and maple--as is evident along the slope between the two open spaces and in the surrounding forest--and, over longer periods of time, for deciduous species to give place to a conifer forest. This has implications for the forests of the Cascadia Experience as well as for the meadow open space. The Master Plan Update suggests a more naturalistic plant community orientation to the space and to the forests. The Master Plan Update divides the forests into general blocks with somewhat similar site and existing plant community characteristics, and proposes each area be managed to encourage the development of a forest with slightly differing general characteristics.

XIII. Evergreen Screens at the Site Perimeter

The large apartment development to the south of the wetland had not been built when the original 1989 Master Plan was prepared and that plan did not anticipate the extent to which these buildings would visually dominate the site, particularly during winter months. Only a narrow band of mature alders now remains on the Garden property to screen the Garden from this development. One of the goals of the Master Plan Update is to plant a wide screen of evergreen trees to screen out views of the apartments from the Garden. The screen should also extend along the perimeter of the site at 118th Street.

The Tree Management Plan specifies trees which should be incorporated into the screen planting. The tree massing should be informal and naturalistic in character to merge with the native forest as much as possible.

The evergreen screen should be planted as soon as possible, as it will take a decade or two to develop to a height that will screen out the buildings. Typically trees are quicker to establish and begin to grow more vigorously when planted in small sizes, 3-4 feet for conifers. In this situation, however, it may be necessary to plant the trees in larger sizes, 8-10 feet, to prevent them being swamped by blackberries. A vigorous program of cutting back woody vegetation and mulching the ground to discourage competition from herbaceous plants will provide the best possible conditions for quick establishment and growth of the trees

XIV. Forest Management

Most forests on the Garden site are composed of deciduous or mixed deciduous/evergreen tree species. The site history is one of disturbance in the late 19th or early 20th century. This was followed by a period of 70-100 years of re-growth of forests of early succession tree species. Currently the deciduous canopy, composed of alder, bitter cherry and big leaf maple, is in a state of decline and will become more open over the next two or three decades as trees gradually fail. Under natural conditions, the deciduous canopy would be replaced by evergreen trees--cedar, hemlock and fir. However, the forest is unlikely to develop following the natural succession pattern as the site is subject to continual disturbance from human use and continued invasion by non-native species, such as Himalayan Blackberry (Rubus procera), Clematis (Clematis vitalba), and English ivy (Hedera helix). These weed species disrupt natural succession patterns and may result in monoculture plant assemblages replacing the natural forest succession or development patterns.

The Tree Management Plan, completed in 2007, consists of an active planting plan to establish a new canopy of desirable tree species in areas where alder and maple are in decline, along with tree pruning and removal to manage canopy density and allow light to reach understory plants. The planting plan cannot and should not be implemented all at one time. It should continue indefinitely, with a balance of tree planting and removal to ensure continuity of the desired forest conditions.

The Cascadia Experience's goal is to provide Garden visitors with a variety of forest experiences, each located where site conditions are most suitable. Fir is favored on dry ridge tops, cedar and hemlock in shady, low moist areas; alder in open wet areas; and madrona on hot dry exposures. The site has sufficient physiographic and hydrologic variety to allow a wide range of different Puget Sound lowland forest expressions to be developed and sustained over time. The development of biologically rich expressions of many different forest types (i.e., canopy and understory) should be the design and management goal of the Garden's Cascadia Experience.

Where the Master Plan proposes the development of gardens or collections of native or non-native species beneath a native tree canopy, it has been necessary to adopt different management methods and different goals for the canopy--typically a lighter and more open canopy composed of deciduous species. There are three places in which this occurs:

- the large flat ridge top immediately north of the meadow,
- the Eastern Gardens, and
- the Shade Garden Sequence on the level bench immediately south of the lawns and above the wetland in the hollow.

XV. Other Considerations

A. Art

Public gardens are attractive outdoor settings in which to display sculpture. Thus they frequently acquire pieces of art, often through unsolicited donations. Art can enhance the experience of gardens, contribute to their design, and provide a unique dimension to gardens' educational roles. However it is essential that gardens establish policies for the acquisition of art. Gardens may elect to resolve potential problems by not acquiring any art, or the acquisition of art collections must be managed to meet specific, explicit, pre-established goals, in the same way that plant collections are developed, curated and controlled for programmatic reasons.

The Garden is a particularly attractive setting for outdoor sculpture. The Garden's programmatic goals are not just amenable to, but would potentially benefit from, the inclusion of art in the Garden's landscapes. However, it is essential to reiterate the point that art collections must serve the Garden's programmatic goals rather than being allowed, overtly or unconsciously, to dictate goals.

The Master Plan Update retains the original plan's philosophical approach to art. Art at Bellevue Botanical Garden should be conceived of as an integral part of the Garden's design, rather than applied after the garden experiences have been designed. Further, art should emphasize 'applied' art, or materials craftsmanship, rather than 'fine' art. ('Applied art' is 'art for function's sake' in contrast to fine art which is 'art for art's sake.') In other words, the inclusion of art in the Garden should be considered as an opportunity to introduce artistry and craftsmanship into functional garden features and facilities such as benches, retaining walls, fences, paving, bridges, gates, and entrances.

This approach contrasts with an art collection consisting of 'plop' art; i.e., 'installations' or art 'pieces' that are designed elsewhere and are not site specific, and are 'dropped' into a location after the design has been completed. Art should be integral to, rather than applied onto, the gardens and should express garden functions and program needs. Recent trends in 'landscape art' and 'earthwork sculpture' suggest directions for the Garden to follow that are more appropriate than studio art. Art in the Garden should be specific to site, context, function, and culture rather than conceived of in isolation, as 'pedestal' art.

The design philosophy that underlies the Master Plan Update proposes that the interaction of the site and the Garden's programs be conceived of as a source of inspiration out of which unique and exciting art may evolve.

B. Children's Garden

A similar point may be made about the Gardens approach to the development of a 'children's garden.' The idea of a children's garden has appeal for botanical gardens particularly if its focus is educational, introducing topics such as the living world of plants and nature, rather than merely providing children with a play environment in a garden setting. However, if the idea of a children's garden is expressed as an active play area, this falls outside the mission of the Garden and would be more appropriately located in another city park setting.

The Master Plan adopts a different philosophical approach to the objective of education from that of providing a specifically and designated children's garden. The Master Plan Update seeks to provide

stimulating experiential and didactic learning opportunities throughout the entire site that will respond to the child that resides in all Garden visitors. The entire garden experience should be designed to evoke and celebrate, in all visitors, child-like attitudes and perceptions such as engagement, enchantment, interest and immersion. The design of sequential experiences in the Garden should also evoke qualities of exploration and wonder that are commonly associated with childhood but which make all visitors more open and receptive to experiences.

Rather than designating specific areas for specific population groups, such as a 'Children's Garden', the design hopes to evoke appropriate and positive child-like qualities in each visitor. The idea of adopting 'whimsical' attitudes to design eloquently expresses this attitude toward art and toward children's education. Whimsy suggests a lightness of spirit and deftness of touch that should make visitors feel that they are engaged in an artistic experience rather than looking at art objects. Thus, Garden experiences themselves are intrinsically educational as well as any specific interpretive or didactic teaching that programs may employ.

C. Water Features

Because of its lively, moving, changing qualities, water is one of the materials most commonly used to evoke whimsy and engagement in gardens. Water may be incorporated in gardens in a variety of ways ranging from passive appreciation of static water bodies, ponds, pools, basins, to more active expressions of streams, rills, and fountains. The Garden has developed a rill and fountain in the entry courtyard which establish an interactive, playful, and relatively small-scale approach to the use of water suitable for the Garden's site and program, and a significant water feature is incorporated into the Ground Cover Garden.

Previous planning efforts suggested more water features along Main Street as functional barriers and aesthetic features. These have been reduced from a series of small ponds in the original plan to enhancing the existing wetland pond area in conjunction with an outdoor courtyard planned for the education center/administrative building, reflecting a more realistic scale and range of possibilities given existing topography.

D. Technology in the Garden

Technological advances present new and affordable opportunities to enhance educational and interpretive programs within the Garden. Plant identification and collection databases could be accessed in the Visitor Center, in classrooms and in the field. Remote-controlled digital cameras could provide real time images from a lofty coniferous canopy to specific wildlife habitat sites. Provisions for technological integration should be a consideration in future Garden development, but should only be considered when their use enhances the visitor experience and does not distract visitors from the plants nor detract from the Garden's beauty.

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan Update

Appendices

Appendix 1
Public Involvement Process and Timeline

Appendix 2
1997 Master Plan Update

Appendix 3
2002 Visitor Center Plan

Appendix 4
Visitor Center Proposed Facility Program

Appendix 5
Needs Assessment for Garden Maintenance Program

Appendix 6
Signed Resolution of Adopted Master Plan

Appendix 1

Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan-Public Planning Process

March 2007: Internal review team created made up of three Bellevue Parks staff and three Garden Society representatives.

April 16, 2007: City Council approves design contract with JGM, Inc.

May 2007-Current: Internal review team begins semi-weekly meetings to discuss site analysis, key planning and programmatic issues, develop design alternative and preferred master plan.

October 2, 2007: 1st BBGS Board Meeting- three alternative master plans presented.

October 9, 2007: 1st Parks Board Meeting three alternative master plans presented.

October 25, 2007: 1st Community Meeting held at Three Cedars School three alternative master plans presented

- 25 attended (1,800 households invited by mail)
- 3 written comments received

Nov. 2007: Request for information and meeting with Garden partners to determine need and frequency for Visitor Center use study

Nov.7, 2007: Wilburton Home Owners Assoc. (Merrick Residence) alternative master plan ideas presented. Neighbors concerned with growing traffic impacts on neighborhood (cited Bel-Red corridor, WISC, International School) and concerns regarding regular large events at Garden i.e. weddings.

Nov. 2007: Internal review team begins meeting to develop preferred master plan based on feedback received from community. Recommendation to build a meeting facility 9,000sf meeting facility with 2500 meeting room and 250 capacity.

Dec. 2007-Current: Project web site created and updated regularly

Jan. 8, 2008: 2nd BBGS Board meeting. Preferred master plan recommendation presented.

Jan. 17, 2008: 2nd Community Meeting held at Three Cedars School

- 50-60 attendance (7,000 households invited by mail)
- 9 written comments received
  Changes reflected in new Master Plan include reduced size and capacity of Educational/Admin. facility to 4200sf total including 1,500sf meeting room with 120 capacity.

Feb. 8, 2008: 3rd BBGS Board meeting, preferred master plan presented, unanimous BBGS board approval for master plan.

Feb. 12, 2008: 2nd Parks Board meeting, preferred master plan presented 3 board member absent PB defers recommendation decision until March PB meeting

March 11, 2008: 3rd Parks Board meeting, preferred master plan presented in PowerPoint presentation. PB motions 4-2 to recommend BBG MP for council approval.

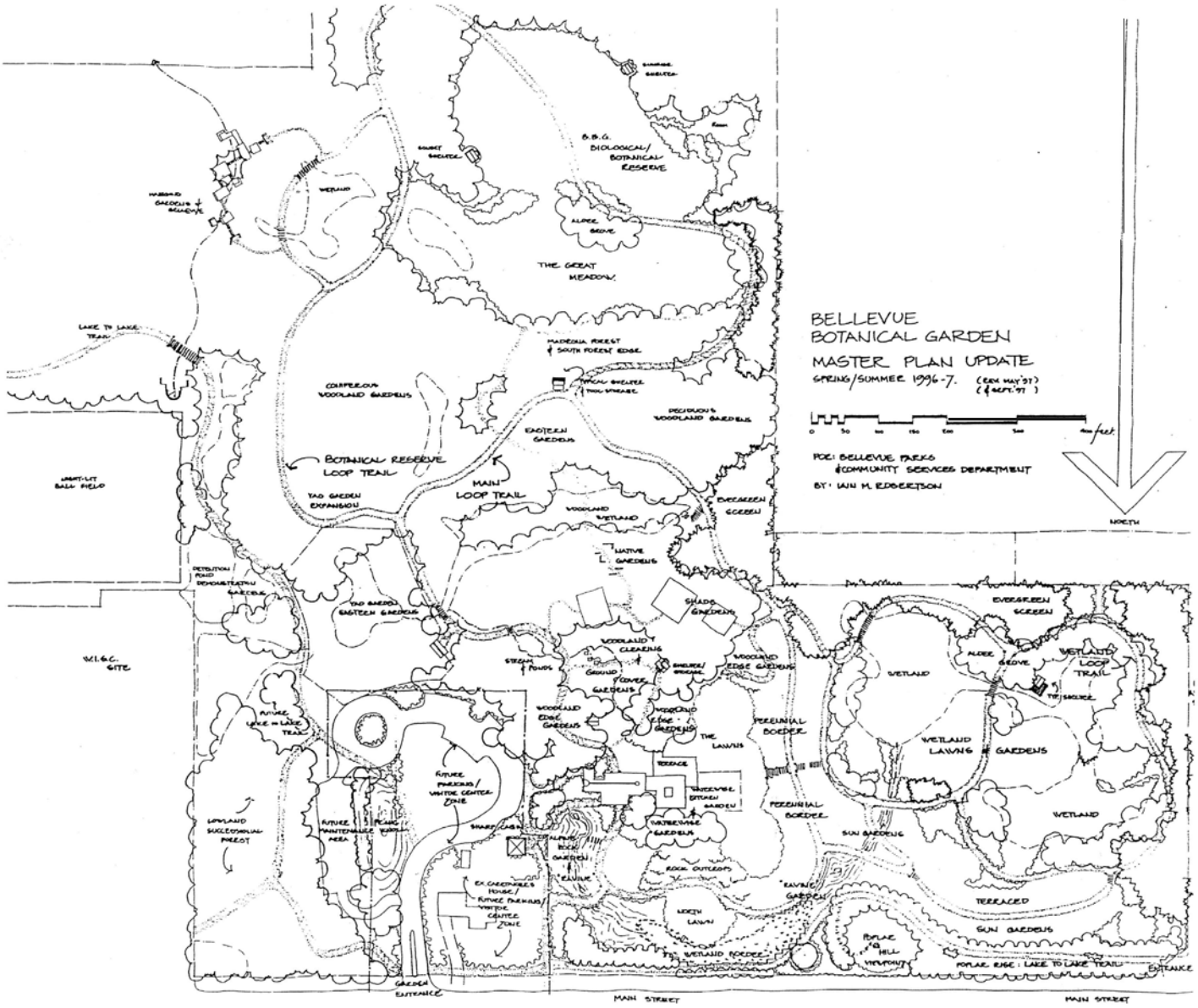
April 7, 2008: City Council Meeting, preferred master plan presented in PowerPoint presentation.

August 28, 2008: SEPA process complete, determination of non-significance issued.

January 5, 2009: Bellevue City Council unanimously adopts Master Plan Update.

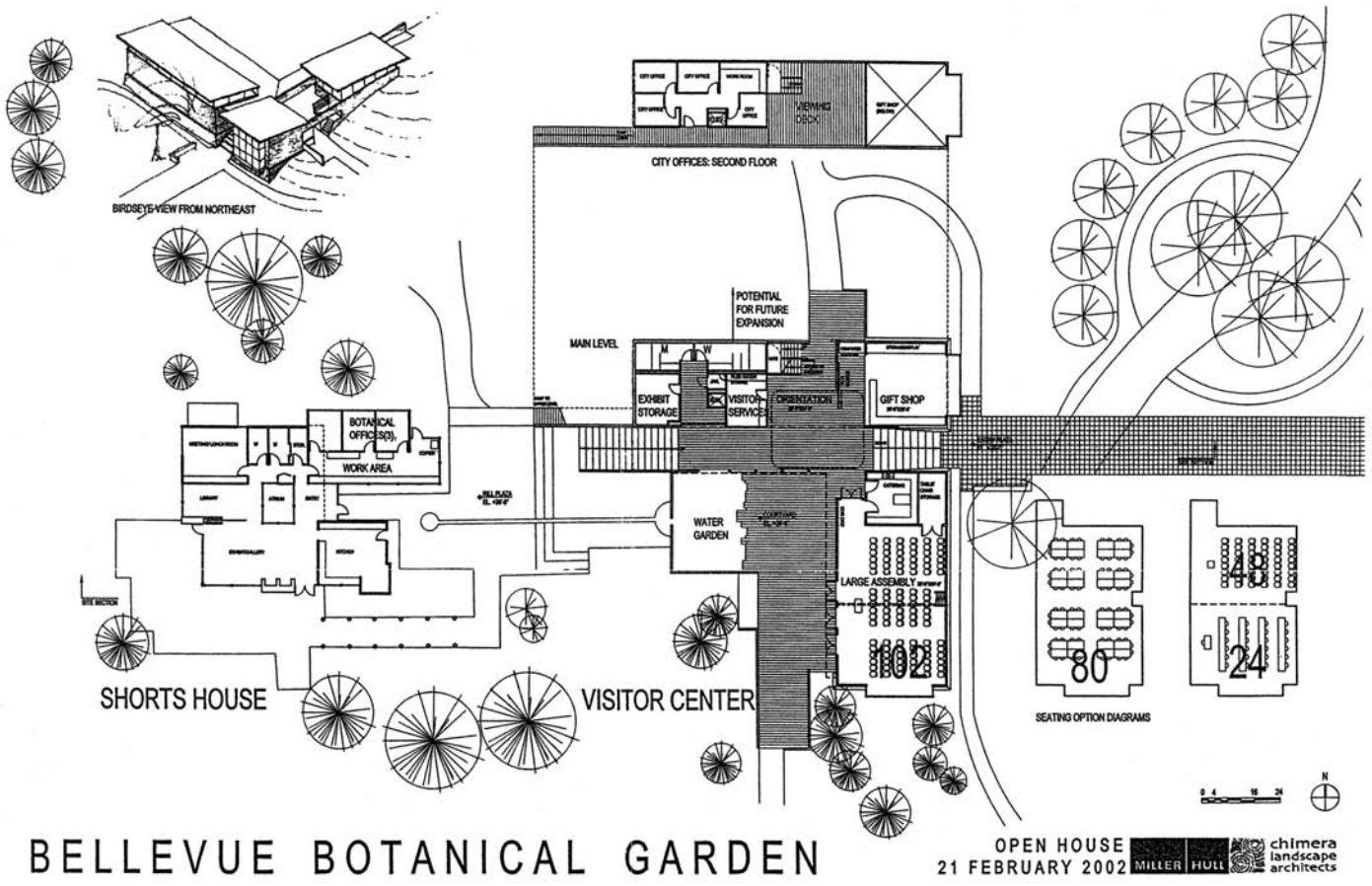
Appendix 2

1997 Master Plan Update



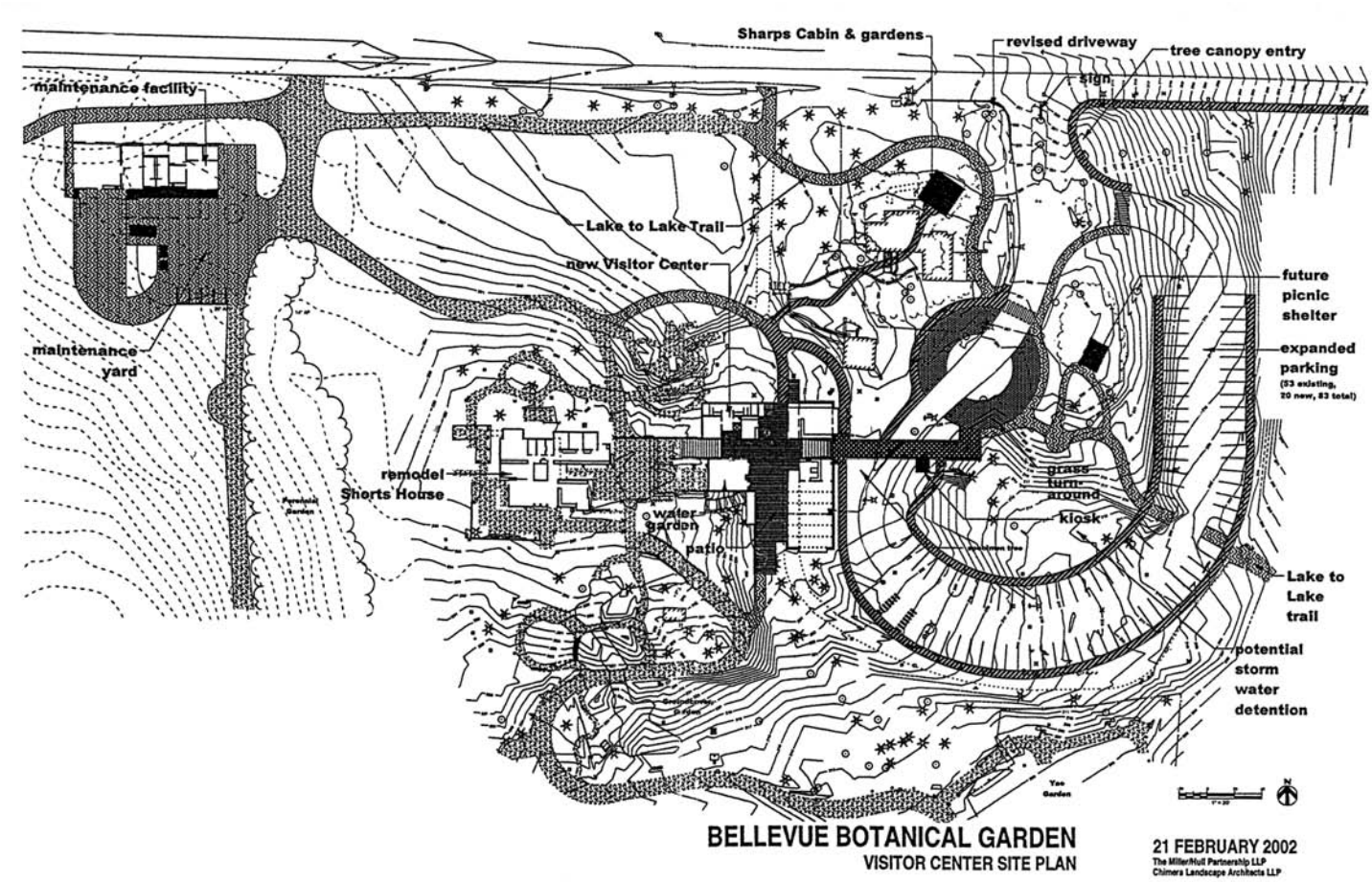
Appendix 3

2002 Visitor Center Plan



Appendix 3

2002 Visitor Center Plan



Appendix 4

Bellevue Botanical Garden
Proposed Facility Programming

Visitor Services Center

Function: Visual/Physical Sense of Entry, Greeting and Orientation

Components: Tour gathering place; way-finding; interpretation, small exhibition; donor recognition ; gift shop (and shop support); restrooms

Description:

Located at the desired entrance to the BBG, this building, staffed by volunteer greeters and docents, gives visitors their first impression of the Garden. It is visually stunning, well integrated into the topography of the site, and fully accessible. Visitors are welcomed, oriented, and encouraged to visit the gift shop. They have access to garden guides, maps and other print materials. A small exhibition space allows rotation of interpretive displays consistent with BBG education program objectives and areas of current special interest within the garden. This is where all garden tours begin and end, with room for docents to greet and orient their tour groups before heading into the garden.

Shorts Center

Function: Visitor Amenity

Components: Restrooms; food service; resource center (reference library, computer stations)

Description:

We envision a comfortable, welcoming space for visitors to enjoy "light fare" in a small café, along with access to computer stations and small reference library. This space in not suitable for exhibitions, lectures or interpretive displays. Rather, it is a "sweet spot" from which to enjoy views of the garden, seek shelter, linger over horticultural and botanical publications, and access our searchable on-line database. The gift shop may be located here, pending further study. We anticipate very limited modifications to the existing Shorts house.

Education Center

Function: Education, Special Event, Administrative

Components: Classroom/workshop/meeting; administrative offices; restrooms; storage; catering kitchen

Description:

We envision a space that is as modular and flexible as possible to accommodate a broad spectrum of multipurpose use, beautifully designed to be in keeping with large-residential scale, and which opens out onto courtyard space to blur the line between indoor/outdoor and gives the sense of meeting "in the garden". Administrative offices and storage to support education and event programming will be housed here.

We anticipate a broad spectrum of mission-based programming to include adult education programs, workshops, and expanded Living Lab children's education program. The assembly room would accommodate approximately 120 people in a lecture-style seating configuration, though a modular design will allow multiple concurrent uses for smaller groups in either workshop, conference, or lecture-style configurations within partitioned spaces. The ability to open the room onto a courtyard will allow some flexibility to host small exhibitions, fund-raising events, plant shows and sales, and public events. We intend to provide flexibility to allow for potential expansion to accommodate future programming needs.

Revised February 1, 2008

Appendix 5

Botanical Garden Master Plan Update – Maintenance Facility Space Needs

Assumptions:

Space needs based on full development of garden based on Master Plan Update
Administration function and garden manager occupy the visitors center
Curatorial function remains at the visitors center
Special events storage remains on-site
Krei Architecture space allotments used for calculations
No on-site composting program

Staffing – Field staff:

FTE Field Staff	540 square feet
1 Garden Supervisor	75 square feet
5 interns 45 sq. ft x 5	225 square feet
Total	**840 square feet**

Indoor Space: Heated

M/F Restroom	80 square feet
Lunchroom	200 square feet
Shower Room	40 square feet
Meeting room	200 square feet
Kitchen space	80 square feet
Locker storage FTE and volunteers	150 square feet
Copy Room	30 square feet
Total	**780 square feet**

Equipment Storage: Covered/unheated

11 gators	1,500 square feet
1 small tractor	162 square feet
Total	**1,620 square feet**

Equipment Storage: Outdoor/unheated

1 dump truck	162 square feet
1 pick-up truck	162 square feet
Total	**324 square feet**

Small Equipment Storage: Covered/unheated

Hand tools, misc. small equipment	1,000 square feet
Storage for special events	2,000 square feet
Total	**3,000 square feet**

Outdoor Dumpster Space

Yard waste bin	300 square feet
Garbage waste bin	200 square feet

Material Storage Bins: Covered/unheated

4 bins 10 x 20 sq. feet each	800 square feet

Pesticide Storage: Covered/unheated

1 storage unit	50 square feet
Gas/oil	50 square feet

Chemical Clean out and wash down station – sanitary sewer:

150 square feet

Employee Parking

21 dedicated improved stalls on asphalt 21 x 162 square feet	3,402 square feet
4 over flow parking area, unimproved	648 square feet

Total square footage without circulation factor: 12,164

Appendix 6

Signed Resolution of Adopted Master Plan

1974-RES
12/16/2008

ORIGINAL

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 7868

A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager or his designee to approve the 2008 Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan Update.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to approve the 2008 Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan Update, a copy of which Master Plan Update has been given Clerk's Receiving No. _____.

Passed by the City Council this 5th day of January, 2009, and signed in authentication of its passage this 5th day of January, 2009.

(SEAL)

Grant S. Degginger, Mayor

Attest:

Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk