

Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan Implementation Open House July 31, 2003

Comments Received at the Open House on July 31, 2003:

From Lisa Boland: "I will be beginning an Americorps Vista position with Meany Middle School this September 2003. The Washington Park Arboretum plan is of great interest both professionally (sic). I am a 2002 B.S. graduate from the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. My main priority and as a Vista member will be to implement a service learning project with 6th to 8th grade middle school students. The intention is for the project to continue on an annual basis or as an on-going service learning project. Please contact me if the Washington Park Arboretum could include Meany Middle School volunteers."

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From Iain Robertson: "Thank you for the opportunity to participate. I am writing to request that careful consideration be given to the Japanese Garden and that the possibility of making the improvements a higher priority be considered for the following reasons:

1. The JG is an authentic Japanese Garden that is considered one of the finest gardens outside Japan. It may indeed be the single most important cultural treasure in the arboretum. Visitors from Japan come to study it as one of the best remaining examples of Mr. Iida's work in the world.
2. The garden offers tremendous opportunities to solicit support from beyond the traditional funding sources for the Arboretum.
3. In 2004 the city will host the International Japanese Garden Symposium. This will bring important visibility to the Garden, the Arboretum and Seattle.
4. The Japanese Garden has a very active program of events throughout the summer. These broaden and diversify the population of visitors to the Arboretum – important goals for the Arboretum to increase visitors and broaden interest."

Thanks!
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(Japanese Garden Advisory Committee)
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From Susan Black:

1. Phase II of Implementation Plan: Work in the Campbell Report Funders priorities split then apply to timeline and report.
2. History. overlay – Needs to be done for LWB scenic views."

Susan Black

From Boone Barker: "The recent land swap between the City and Broadmoor Golf Club changed the boundary lines – Also, the Golf Club is constructing a driving range with a large net structure. Maybe that changes how implementation is done at that location? Also, the Golf Club and the Broadmoor Homeowners Association would be very interested in proposed changes in Foster Island drive, etc. Perhaps you should schedule a review with them. (I can provide names/numbers of contacts for each)."

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Comments Received after the Open House (via email, letter, etc.)

From R. Stettler: "I hope that, whenever in doubt, you view the three key missions of the Arboretum, i.e.

XXX Education
XX Conservation
X Recreation

in descending order of importance!

The general education of the public in science is critical for the future of our society - and the Arboretum can play a significant role in it."

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From Judy Phillips: "First phase of implementation must include upgrading of maintenance of areas beside Lk. Washington Blvd. the grass, curbs and areas both sides of the Blvd have been woefully neglected. As this is part of the arboretum most people see, it sets the stage for our Master Plan fund raising. If we want people to join us in the master plan we must show them good maintenance beside the road they drive regularly or occasionally, if we can't do that, why will they think we can do a good job with the rest of the master plan?"

Yes, updates."

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From Paul Gibson: "I have two thoughts to offer.

Given the scarcity of resources I think it would be a shame to spend money on relocating parking lots, especially those at the north end. Relocating the road will be a nice improvement. But I think the concentration of the parking lots is not widely desired outside the heads of the authors of the plan. I suspect the real objective is to create a situation that insures that visitors spend time at the visitor center. In fact tons of visitors have little interest in going to the visitor center. It also fries my butt to read assertions from the planners that parking south of the GVC is "close enough" for visitors to the water areas of Duck Bay, Foster Island, etc. (Master Plan, page 27). Who is doing the walking here? I personally never drive to any place in the Arboretum, but I don't see how one can cavalierly say that those who do won't be injured by closing and reducing the north end lots. I am also mystified as to why the practice of morning commuters using Foster Island Road as a turn around, is so offensive to some. In any case, reducing the Duck Bay parking capacity promises little to end the practice. So I would separate relocating the road from relocating much of the north end parking, putting the latter in a low priority.

I believe it makes sense and would be widely agreed that refurbishing what we have is more practical than extending a collection that already taxes the ability of the staff to maintain. I believe that this was the understood intent of the plan as may be seen from the first two paragraphs of page 7, the bottom of page 30 where "plant collection maintenance and renovation" is explicitly given first priority and from the very name of the plan itself. Though it is not explicitly mentioned in the plan, there has been favorable discussion at the ABGC of raising funds to create endowed staff positions such as gardeners in order to maintain the collection. I consider this a brilliant strategy for carrying out the first priority of the plan, namely refurbishment of the existing collection."

Paul Gibson
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From Helen Santibanez: "I think an emphasis should be placed on having a visually appealing design. It should not just be a collection of one type of special plants or another, but walking from one collection to the next should have an element of excitement. In order to get the broadest possible range of ideas to create such an area within the arboretum, we should open the design competition internationally. Why not go with a firm that will be as memorably etched in history as the Olmsted brothers?"

Helen Santibanez
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