



Arboretum Foundation

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan Campaign

Washington Park Arboretum is a unique amenity and public resource in the Pacific Northwest. It is both a collection of woody plants of international significance and an urban greenspace. With over 4,400 species and cultivated varieties, the 230-acre Washington Park Arboretum contains one of the three most diverse collections of woody plants in the United States. As such, the Arboretum is unique among Seattle's many urban parks.

The Arboretum is managed cooperatively by Seattle Parks and Recreation and the University of Washington College of Forest Resources. The City owns the land and buildings and maintains the park functions. The University owns, maintains and manages the plant collections and education programs. The Arboretum Foundation is the Arboretum's major support organization. These three organizations collaborated to prepare a much-anticipated Master Plan for renewal of the Arboretum which was adopted by the City and University in May 2001.

The Master Plan embraces the three core elements of the Arboretum's mission—conservation, education and recreation—and provides substantial enhancements for each. As a comprehensive plan, it also addresses volunteerism, community outreach, maintenance and administration. Implementing the plan will take twenty or more years and require an estimated \$60 million in private and public funding support.

#### **Phase I: The Madrona Terrace Campaign (2004-07)**

In summer 2003, Madrona Terrace was identified as the first priority for Master Plan implementation—a 12-acre project heralding Lake Washington Boulevard and the Arboretum's southern entrance. A four-year estimated **\$6 million campaign** to fund the Madrona Terrace project is in the early planning stages. Of the target goal, \$1 million is earmarked for a Maintenance Endowment.

A highly visible project, Madrona Terrace reflects the mission of the Arboretum and will re-establish the area as the key entry point for visitors. Project elements include:

- **Five Eco-Geographic Immersion Gardens** will offer educational and recreational experiences to visitors and students in accurate, naturalistic recreations of selected Pacific Rim forest communities suited to the growing conditions of the Pacific Northwest. Gardens will represent East Asia, East Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Cascadia (Northern California, Oregon and Washington). Exhibit pathways interspersed with stairs will traverse the 12-acre site, allowing for enhanced visitor experience. Interpretive waysides, located in four of the gardens, will provide places of respite and opportunities to educate visitors about the adjacent plant communities.

- **A 300-sq. ft. Interpretive Shelter and 30-space Parking Lot** will support tour groups and enhanced accessibility of Madrona Terrace. Visible from Arboretum Drive, the shelter will serve as a focal point for the Arboretum's south end, shielding visitors from inclement weather while providing cultural and botanical interpretation of the nearby eco-geographic gardens for visitors of all ages. Trial shrubs and groundcovers alongside the parking lot will allow for landscape reestablishment and plant screening. The use of innovative, permeable parking surfaces will demonstrate new techniques in soil and water conservation.
- **Collection Preview Gardens** representing each of the five eco-geographic regions will showcase plants suited to Northwest gardens. Situated along the perimeter of an organizing meadow and interpretive shelter, these garden vignettes will offer visitors an introduction to the larger Madrona Terrace exhibits. The grassy open meadow will attract visitors from Arboretum Drive and allow for community and family gatherings at the prominent south entrance.
- **A Renovated Historic Rockery** above Lake Washington Boulevard will announce the south entry of Washington Park Arboretum and expose the sunny slopes of the terrace. Designed by Otto Holmdahl and installed by Works Progress Administration laborers in 1938 using basalt stone from Cle Elum, WA, the rockery is currently obscured from view by overgrown vegetation. The redesigned rockery will showcase vibrant Chilean plants suitable for warm, sunny environments created by southern exposure. The restoration will be the first step in creating a strong sense of entry to the Arboretum.
- **A \$1 million Maintenance Endowment** for Master Plan renovations will support annual garden maintenance at Madrona Terrace. With the creation of this endowment fund, the Arboretum Foundation is working toward building a base for future endowment growth to sustain Arboretum-wide garden maintenance for generations to come.

The Portico Group is finalizing schematic design of the Madrona Terrace project in January 2005. Planning and advancement for the estimated \$6 million campaign is currently underway with counsel provided by The Collins Group. Active fundraising is scheduled to begin in early 2005.