FINCH ARBORETUM

MASTER PLAN

12.13.2018

John A. Finch Arboretum Master Plan Prepared for the City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Division and Urban Forestry Program

• WE CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE WORLD OF TREES TO INSPIRE THE DISCOVERY OF NATURE, COMMUNITY, AND THEMSELVES. **9**

Acknowledgments

CITY OF SPOKANE PARKS & RECREATION

Leroy Eadie, Director of Parks & Recreation Garrett Jones, Planning and Development Manager Nick Hamad, Landscape Architect Angel Spell, Assistant Director of Natural Resources Ryan Griffith, Assistant Director of Recreation Carl Strong, Assistant Director of Park Operations Kacey Burke, Finch Arboretum, Gardener II Mattie Whitney, Park Operations, Gardener II

CITY OF SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Nick Sumner, President Rick Chase, Vice President Chris Wright Ted McGregor Greta Gilman Sally Lodato Jennifer Ogden Jami SiJohn Mike Fagan Bob Anderson

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Karen Carlberg - West Hills Neighborhood Council Hilary Nickerson - Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Council Steven Wilson - Finch Arboretum Community Garden Teya Kuhle - Spokane Community College Cindy Deffe - Spokane Community College Kelly Chadwick - Spirit Pruners Amanda Parrish - The Lands Council Garth Davis - Spokane Conservation District Stacey Selcho - Spokane Conservation District Tim Kohlhauff - WSU Spokane County Extension Marcia Davis - City of Spokane Integrated Capital Management Eric Lester - City of Spokane Environmental Programs Deborah Bisenius - City of Spokane Environmental Programs

CONSULTANT TEAM AHBL, Inc. – Landscape Architecture

ADOPTION DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2018







Table of Contents



- 6 Executive Summary
- 8 Master Plan Graphic
- 10 Chapter 1: Background
- **11 History** Site History Human History
- Arboretum History **14 Site Analysis** Site Context Site Amenities Site Circulation Plant Collections Specialty Gardens

- 24 Chapter 2: Planning Process
- 25 Stakeholder Meetings Visioning Session Final Draft Review Meeting
 30 Planning Meetings Open House #1 Concept Ideas
- 45 Public Survey Methodology Results



46 Chapter 3: Master Plan

47 Woodland Center and Surroundings

50 Collections

Preserve and Enhance Existing Collections Shrub Collections Inland Northwest Habitat Collection

- 60 Master Plan
- 62 Site Features

Trails Signage Site Furnishings Community Garden Garden Springs Creek

Executive Summary





Nestled among the Ponderosa pines and surrounding Garden Springs Creek lies a hidden oasis -- the John A. Finch Arboretum. The City of Spokane's Parks and Recreation and Urban Forestry Departments and other critical stakeholders set out to develop a master plan for the Arboretum to strengthen it as a community asset. The Arboretum's master plan is a guide to continue its development into an iconic regional experience and ensure its preservation as a botanical wonderland for generations.

Laying the groundwork and historical context for the Arboretum, the master plan first examines the site's history, both geological and human. A site analysis by the landscape architects inventories and documents the existing site amenities, site circulation, plant collections, landscape typologies and overall tree health.

Essential to developing this document was the guidance of the community's diverse stakeholder groups. The extensive planning process is documented within. Over the course of a year, community members, stakeholder groups and city staff participated in visioning meetings and multiple open houses. From this community engagement developed a five-point vision to guide the master plan: Education, Conservation, Experience, Aesthetics and Community. Using these five guidelines as a lens, the Arboretum's grounds were studied and 13 key areas were identified for improvement or preservation.

Based on the five guidelines and focus areas, a comprehensive master plan developed that suggests recommendations and next steps regarding the Arboretum's botanical collections, buildings, signage and site features. With this document's guidance, Spokane's much loved treasure, the Finch Arboretum, will be an example of botanical education and conservation to be experienced and enjoyed by the community for years to come.









Chapter 1: BACKGROUND

Background

The unique context of the Finch Arboretum is influenced by three predominant factors: Site History, Human History, and the history of the Arboretum itself.

SITE HISTORY

NATURAL HISTORY

The land currently occupied by the Finch Arboretum lies near the nexus of three distinct ecoregions; the Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion to the east and northeast, the Okanogan Ecoregion to the north and northwest, and the Columbia Basin Ecoregion to the south and southwest.

GEOLOGY

The geology of the area is defined by two large series of flood events, the first involving lava and the second involving water. Around 16 million years ago, during the Miocene Epoch, massive lava flows covered much of the Inland Northwest, partially covering and subsuming older continental crust found here. Today's Spokane lies near the northwest edge of these lava flows, which hardened into the deep and multi-layered basalt deposits that underlie the area. Later, wind-blown silt deposits, or loess, were laid down over the basalt to form a fertile plateau. During the last lce Age, much of this loess was swept away or moved around by the massive Missoula Floods, which brought 500 cubic miles of water at a time rushing through the area in up to 40 successive events. These floods left the landscape of silty plateaus, rocky basalt outcrops, and sandy glacial outwash plains, sometimes referred to as the "channeled scablands," that today define the area in and around Spokane.

All three of these signature landforms can be seen in the Finch Arboretum. Basalt deposited during the Miocene lava flood events underlies the entire park, forms distinctive outcroppings along its northern edge, and exists in the form of boulders, which can be found throughout the park. Soils in the western section of the Arboretum are remnants of the silty, wind-blown plateau deposits laid down during earlier ice ages, and those found in the eastern part of the arboretum, where most of the tree collections are located, are sandy loams deposited by the churning waters of the later Missoula Floods.

HYDROLOGY

Garden Springs Creek is a Class F stream running from west to east through the park. The creek later flows into Hangman/Latah Creek near its confluence with the Spokane River.





VEGETATION

The native vegetation of the site, still evident in many areas of the Arboretum, is emblematic of much of the natural landscape around Spokane, consisting of closed or partially open stands of Ponderosa pine with an understory of low grasses and mixed shrubs. Ponderosa pine can be found throughout western North America, but is especially associated with the Spokane area due to its local abundance, the naming of the species by explorer David Douglas along the nearby Spokane River in 1826, and its status as the Official Tree of the City of Spokane.

CLIMATE

Spokane has a dry summer continental climate, (Dsb under the Koppen Classification), with warm, dry summers, relatively cold winters, and short fall and spring seasons. The area receives approximately 16 inches of annual precipitation in the form of rain and winter snow. The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone is 6b.

HUMAN HISTORY

The first human inhabitants of this area arrived between 8,000 and 12,000 years ago, hunting, fishing, and gathering local plants for food. The pre-contact population of the Spokane people, the Salish-speaking tribe that lived in the area, is estimated to have been upwards of 2,500. They lived in semi-nomadic bands, each moving from place to place during the summer and settling in winter villages. They hunted deer and smaller game, fished for trout in small streams, and collected local plants, but the centerpiece of their economy revolved around salmon runs. The first contact with Euro-Americans occurred with fur trappers in the late 18th century. Members of the Spokane tribe likely encountered the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, and by the time David Thompson arrived from Canada in the 1810 looking to expand the North West Company's fur trading empire, the Native American population had already begun to be affected by smallpox and other foreign diseases. By 1829, their numbers were estimated to have been less than 700. A period of Euro-American settlement followed, interrupted by frequent conflicts between settlers and local tribes. The establishment of nearby Fort Spokane and the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway coincided with the official incorporation of Spokane Falls (the original name of today's Spokane) in 1881. The city grew quickly, and became a regional center of transportation, mining, forestry, and commerce. The late 20th and early 21st Centuries have seen modest growth and a move toward a more service-oriented economy. A 2017 estimate places the population at around 217,000, making Spokane the second-largest city in Washington, behind Seattle. A vibrant Native American Culture remains, with



Tribal Headquarters now located about 50 miles to the northwest on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Spokane remains the largest city in the Inland Northwest, and is generally viewed as the commercial and cultural capital of the region.

ARBORETUM HISTORY

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND THE OLMSTED PLAN

The first photograph of what was to become the Finch Arboretum is believed to have been taken in 1903, and shows a rustic building owned by Daniel Dwight, with his wife cooking on a stove in the background. Dwight, a local businessman, had built the modest summer cottage on land he owned along Garden Springs Creek. He sold the land to the City in 1912, the same year the nearby Sunset Highway was constructed. Some of the trees in the current Arboretum collection are believed to have been planted by Dwight. The date of the sale might have coincided with a larger series of events taking place in Spokane that would play a definitive role in the development of the Finch Arboretum.

The early development of Spokane's park system consisted of a small collection of open spaces being informally set aside for recreational use, and administered by City officials with many competing priorities. In 1907, the voters adopted a charter amendment that established a new Park Commission, to be led by Aubrey White. The amendment had been supported by many local business leaders as a means to establish a body that would operate independently from the rest of city government. One of the first actions of the new board was to hire the Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, MA to develop a comprehensive plan for the City's park system. The plan envisioned improvements to existing parks and roadways, but also identified a number of locations for future parks. Among these was a tract of land identified as Queen Anne Park, which lay in the ravine along Garden Springs Creek, on land that was owned by Daniel Dwight



and a neighboring property owner named John A. Finch.

JOHN A. FINCH

John A. Finch was born in Cambridgeshire, England in 1850, and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He migrated to Spokane in 1887, hoping to capitalize on the silver strikes in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains, and founded a profitable mining business along with Amasa Campbell. He later diversified his business activities to include banking, fruit packing, hardware sales, lumber production, and real estate development. By the first decade of the 20th century, Finch was considered to be one of the most prominent business leaders in the City. In 1912-1913, he sold his tract of land along Garden Springs Creek to the City. Finch died in 1915, leaving 60% of his estate to a trust, which was to distribute it for civic and charitable purposes. The following decades saw the property sit largely unused while the Finch monies were put to other uses, then serve briefly as a site for temporary housing for workers during WWII. It was not until 1947 that the Finch trust released the final \$250,000 to the City for an arboretum that would be named in his honor.



TOP, OLMSTED PLAN FOR SPOKANE PARKS BOTTOM, OLMSTED BROTHERS+ PETER GALLAGHER OPPOSITE BOTTOM, SPOKAN TRIBE MEMBERS

Site Analysis

Collecting data and relevant information helps us to understand Finch Arboretum today - and inform it's tomorrow.

The Finch Arboretum lies on a 56-acre site in a valley along Garden Springs Creek near the western edge the city of Spokane. Its collection contains over 2,000 trees and shrubs representing 600 different species. It is bounded by Sunset Highway on the north, South F Street on the east, private commercial property along South Rustle Road to the west, and Interstate 90 to the south. It also contains a Street Tree Exhibit in the public right-of-way along West Woodland Boulevard. The Woodland Center, a small building that acts as both a community and visitor's center, lies along South F Street near the entrance to the park. Garden Springs Creek arises near the southwest corner of the park and flows northeast along its center.

Visitor services are concentrated near the eastern edge of the park. Maintenance infrastructure includes a small service building near the northeast corner of the park, a maintenance yard near the southwest corner of the park, and a small number of maintenance roads. In addition to the creek, natural features of the park include significant basalt outcroppings along the northern boundary, several dozen small to large boulders, significant native stands of Ponderosa pine, several small waterfalls along the creek, with some riparian areas near its banks. Steep terrain defines much of the northern boundary, and somewhat hilly topography can be found in the western one-third of the park. The remaining landforms are relatively gently sloping. Other site amenities include bridges, benches, a restroom building, a gazebo, and drinking fountains.

Plant collections fall broadly into three categories: the main collection consisting of large, stately trees that are generously spaced within wide expanses of lawn, a handful of specialty garden areas, and open/intermittent stands of Ponderosa pine with ornamental trees and shrubs interspersed among them. Pedestrian circulation occurs in walkable lawn areas, along maintenance roadways, and on an informal collection of intentional and social footpaths.



SITE CONTEXT

SUNSET BOULEVARD

Sunset Boulevard, which forms the entire northern boundary of the Arboretum, is a busy, four-lane collector road with a 45 mph speed limit. It serves as a major route for cars traveling between downtown and both Spokane International Airport and Fairchild Air Force Base. It forms a barrier for pedestrians moving between the Arboretum and residential neighborhoods to the north, with crossings widely spaced. It lacks an improved sidewalk, but a social path has developed along its southern edge. It is significantly elevated relative to the Arboretum along most of the boundary, but the speed, traffic volume, and rising grade of the roadway create significant noise within the grounds of the Arboretum.

INTERSTATE 90

Interstate 90 (I-90) forms the entire southern boundary of the Arboretum. Traffic climbing uphill on this roadway is audible and visible from many areas inside the park. The noise from I-90 has been identified as having a major impact on the visitor experience in several areas. The freeway also blocks access to pedestrians, bicyclists, and autos between the Arboretum and the neighborhoods to the south.

HOTEL/COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Two large commercial buildings exist across the west boundary of the park, and one vacant lot. Among these, the northernmost building, which currently houses the Quality Inn and Suites Airport, has an impact on the way visitors enter the site. A snapshot using Strava's heat map technology shows a significant number of fitness app users entering the Arboretum from the parking area to the east of this building. It is unclear whether visitors may be using this private lot as a parking area or whether they are simply using this corner as a pedestrian access point when walking or running from other areas.



NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS

The Garden Springs neighborhood, which occupies the ravine around Garden Springs Creek immediately to the east of the Arboretum, is the only nearby residential area with safe, direct, at-grade access to the park. The Street Tree Exhibit runs along West Woodland Boulevard, the small arterial that collects the neighborhood's streets. The neighborhood's character and identity are an important part of the visitor experience, as Arboretum users approaching by auto drive through the neighborhood to reach the main entry. Pedestrians from other neighborhoods to the north and south must navigate the barriers created by Sunset Highway and I-90, and must also negotiate the significant grade differences between the Arboretum and much higher ground to the north and south.

NEARBY PARKS AND TRAILS

Whittier Playground lies in the neighborhood to the north of the Arboretum, with Grandview Park lying to the south across I-90. High Bridge Park, a large park and natural area positioned along Hangman/Latah Creek, lies to the northeast. Of particular significance is the Arboretum's proximity to the trailhead for the Fish Lake Trial, and the planned Susie Stephens trail that will provide a direct connection to it from the Arboretum. This trail is part of a system that might someday provide a connection between Fish Lake near Cheney, WA and the 37-mile Centennial Trail.

SITE AMENITIES

MAINTENANCE BUILDING

A small maintenance building exists near the northeast corner of the park. The maintenance building is well positioned for easy access to South F Street and the main service road through the park, but is visible from the street and from some of the collection areas, and could be better screened from public view. In addition, there is a need to provide a protected parking area for the maintenance vehicles and equipment. This would limit the exposure to weather elements, potentially extending the life of equipment.

RESTROOM BUILDING

A small restroom building is positioned along the northern edge of the Arboretum, roughly halfway between the east and west boundaries of the park. The building is in fair condition and provides a necessary service to visitors who either enter the park from the west or who arrive from the east and venture away from the restrooms at the Woodland Center.



FENCING AND BARRIERS

Guardrails exist along much of the I-90 and Sunset Highway frontages, with chain link fencing completing the barrier along I-90 and located along the property line shared with the hotel. All parts of the park, exclusive of some maintenance areas, are free and open to the public, with no current need for a system of fences and gates that would control pedestrian entry outright. Stone bollards have been placed along South F Street to prevent unwanted vehicular access.

GAZEBO

A small gazebo near the western edge of Corey Glen provides a focal point in this area. The gazebo has been described as a meaningful landmark within the park. It is in need of some refurbishment, but a high value has been placed on preserving its presence in the Arboretum.

BENCHES

A variety of benches have been placed over time throughout the park. They are of varying ages, designs, materials, and conditions. They are located primarily along major pathways, with a few, especially in Corey Glen, having been located in quieter, less traveled areas. Overall, they are few in number compared to similar facilities of this type and size, lack cohesion, and could benefit from a more comprehensive view of placement strategies.

TRASH RECEPTACLES

Trash is collected via a dumpster near the southeast corner of the park along the maintenance road. This dumpster is presumably used by staff only, but it is possible that the public utilize this dumpster due to its visibility. Other trash receptacles throughout the park are of the open, round, galvanized steel variety.

MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

In addition to the maintenance building, other maintenance infrastructure includes a maintenance yard south of Corey Glen with two main service roads connecting to it; one along the south property line connecting to South F Street, and a second that crosses Garden Springs Creek and runs along the northern section of the park to connect to the maintenance building.

MISCELLANEOUS SITE FEATURES

Miscellaneous site features include a drinking fountain, a weather station, a birdbath, a peace pole, and a popular "Bug Hotel".



LEFT + TOP, EXISTING SITE BENCH MIDDLE, MAINTENANCE BUILDING BOTTOM, WOODLAND CENTER



KEY



2

VEHICLE FEATURES

Vehicles enter the site on South F Street into a 49-car parking lot. Half of the lot was recently completed, utilizing new stormwater management methods. There is a gravel access road along the southern edge of the site leading to an informal storage yard.



BUILDINGS + STRUCTURES

The Finch Arboretum Woodland Center is adjacent to the parking lot. Nearby maps educate visitors on the new parking lot, and trails throughout the arboretum. There is a service building and restroom along the northern property edge. Benches and trashcans are placed throughout the site.

SITE CIRCULATION

PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS Walkable Lawn Areas

Much of the pedestrian circulation that occurs in the Arboretum is across large areas of walkable lawn. Because of the health of the lawns, the variety of possible travel routes and, perhaps due in part to the presence of sandy, well-drained soil, a surprisingly small number of social pathways have been worn into the turf. However, the turf surface may be difficult to walk on by some users, may not be usable during or after wet weather, and the few areas that do display bare ground due to wearing (especially where bridges concentrate movement across the creek on low ground) can be muddy and unsightly. It may also be difficult for visitors to establish or follow a route of travel when no pathway is visible.

Maintenance Roads

Much of the pedestrian circulation within the Finch Arboretum occurs on the maintenance roads that are used by service vehicles. Most of these roadways appear to have been maintained with a light application of crushed stone. This, along with their clear and direct route, easy access across the creek, and manageable grade, has made them a major collector for pedestrian activity, especially among runners. A conflict likely exists as pedestrians and maintenance vehicles interact on these roads. Even if they do not actually encounter a vehicle, users of these pathways can clearly see the wearing caused by tire indentations and may feel some discomfort about walking on a trail that appears to be intended for vehicles.

Smaller Pathways

A variety of smaller pathways exist in various parts of the Arboretum. Some appear to have been intentionally created, as in Corey Glen or The Touch and See Nature Trail. Others appear to be social trails, created over time by pedestrians moving efficiently through the landscape, as in the natural areas at the west end of the park. These pathways are surfaced variously with compacted earth, crushed stone, and forest duff. None are paved with concrete, asphalt, or other hard surfaces. In some cases, these smaller trails are well connected with other, larger pathways and each other. In most cases, they are somewhat isolated and do not appear to be associated with a cohesive system of pedestrian circulation. During some parts of the year, these smaller social pathways can become inaccessible due to overgrowth of adjacent understory plants.

Bridges

Several bridges have been built along the course of Garden Springs Creek to allow visitors and maintenance vehicles to cross between the northern and southern sections of the park. The memorial bridge is the most prominent of these, due largely to its location near the Woodland Center. Several small bridges carry pedestrians across the creek along the intricate trail system within Corey's Glen. Only one bridge, along the maintenance road connecting the maintenance yard to the maintenance building, is able to be used by vehicles, although South F Street crosses over the creek and provides easy vehicle access between the north and south maintenance roads at the east end of the Arboretum.

Accessibility

Most pathways within the Finch Arboretum are not surfaced or graded in a way that would allow for accessibility for visitors in wheelchairs or with other forms of impaired mobility. Many areas within the park, especially in its eastern half, feature topography that is gentle enough to allow for such accessibility if surfacing were to be addressed.

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION AND PARKING Entry Sequence

Nearly all visitors to the Finch Arboretum arrive by car, and nearly all of those cars arrive via the small roadway that connects West Sunset Boulevard to South F. Street. The approach along fast-moving West Sunset Boulevard is not well signed, and the route is rather unclear even after the turn has been made. A first-time visitor is unlikely to easily find the entrance to the Arboretum without using





ABOVE, BRIDGE CROSSING AT TOUCH AND SEE TRAIL BELOW, BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR COREY GLEN

SITE CIRCULATION







I-90 Noise and Visual Impacts

Sunset Highway - loud and fast

Smaller Neighborhood Streets with Fast moving traffic

2 Interior maintenance roads



Leaving the parking area, no defined pathways

Trail system is largely overgrown and difficult to locate

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

Trail access into the Arboretum can be gained from behind the Red Lion Hotel and from Sunset Boulevard. Neither are identified through signage, and both are difficult to access. The central connection is from South F Street and is Auto-centric. GPS navigation, as two turns are necessary to reach the entry with no directional signage to point the visitor in the right direction.

Parking

Vehicles enter the site into a 49-car parking lot, half of which was recently completed with permeable paving and other green stormwater infrastructure strategies. Several additional stalls, including accessible parking areas, are available directly adjacent to South F Street near the Woodland Center. An accessible route of travel does not currently exist between the main parking lot and the Woodland Center.

Signage and Wayfinding

As mentioned above, the signage that leads visitors to the Arboretum along the vehicular route may not currently be meeting the needs of visitors. An interpretive signage kiosk is located near the parking lot. Trees are well labeled with stake signage near their bases indicating botanical and common names. Wayfinding/informational signage also occurs at the entrances to the Touch and See Nature Trail and Corey Glen. There is also informational signage near the parking lot describing some of the green stormwater infrastructure techniques that were used in its construction. Overall, signage and wayfinding provide good information on individual trees, stormwater strategies, and orientation for visitors leaving the parking lot, but do not serve the needs of drivers well, and lack a sense of cohesion throughout.

PLANT COLLECTIONS

TREES IN OPEN PARKLAND

Visitors arriving at the Finch Arboretum via the parking lot can walk directly out into an open parkland that features a high quality collection of large, well-spaced, healthy trees representing temperate forest habitats throughout the world. The trees in these primary collection areas are generally grouped taxonomically, most often by genus, but



LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES



in some cases by division (as in the conifer collection), or by horticultural grouping within a genus (as with the crabapple collection). An analysis of the geographic origins of the trees in this collection revealed a rather even distribution within the taxonomic collections, with little or no intentional or inadvertent groupings of plants associated by their origins. Some of the shorter-lived or more disease-prone varieties are showing some decline. but the vast majority of the trees in this collection are in excellent health and vigor, and appear to have received good care and pruning for most of their lives. The tree collection is under-planted with lawn in most areas. This open parkland with taxonomic tree collections forms the primary impression of most visitors of the Finch Arboretum, and occupies much of the eastern two-thirds of the park.

SHRUB COLLECTIONS

Flowering shrubs are displayed in a series of informal

linear beds interspersed throughout the large lawn area in the southeast quadrant of the Arboretum. These shrubs are grouped taxonomically. Other shrub displays are located in more isolated sections of the park, including the mock orange and cotoneaster collections. A large area in the more prominent eastern part of the Arboretum has been reserved for lilacs, presumably due to their strong association with local civic identity. A large variety of native shrubs occupies the understory of many of the native pine stands. Corey Glen features a variety of shrubs chosen for their ornamental value, including a noteworthy collection of rhododendrons.

SPECIALTY GARDENS

COREY GLEN

Lying along the upper reaches of Garden Springs Creek in the western part of the Finch Arboretum, Corey Glen, named for William Corey, the executor of the Finch estate who made his own gift that allowed for the purchase of this land, has a much more intimate feeling than most other parts of the Arboretum. It contributes significantly to the perception of the park as a place of refuge. A network of small, informal paths winds along the bottomlands of Garden Springs Creek, crossing over it with small bridges in several places. There are a handful of benches along these pathways. A well-developed canopy of native and ornamental trees provides shade and cover to the rich collection of rhododendrons and other shade-loving plants below. The understory plantings consist of a combination of ornamental perennials, small shrubs and unmowed grassy areas. The pathways are narrow and are primarily surfaced with compacted earth.

TREE HEALTH + ORIGIN



TREE HEALTH, Score out of 100: 0 025 50 60 70 80 95



TREE HEALTH AND ORIGIN

The graphic on the left shows the health and original native location for each surveyed tree, with information provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. The health of the trees was surveyed and recorded by the Parks and Recreation Department, and includes nearly all of the non-native and some of the native trees in the park.

TREE HEALTH

The red dots indicate a very unhealthy tree, of which there are relatively few across the site. There are large areas of trees with a health rating of 60 (indicated by yellow dots), which could be considered fair. The yellow dots are grouped together generally where the tree canopy is denser and has a steeper grade. Most of the trees in great health, with 80 to 95 ratings, are located in open lawn and are widely spaced. These trees include many of the most valuable and iconic specimens at the Arboretum.

TREE ORIGIN

The trees at the Arboretum have origins from all around the world. Most of the perimeter evergreen trees are native to Western North America. As we move into the internal sections of the Arboretum, groupings of species from other ecoregions are more common. There is not a consistent pattern across the site that groups trees according to their geographic origin. Rather, most nonnative trees are grouped together with other members of their genus.





Chapter 2: PLANNING PROCESS

Stakeholder Meetings

The planning process involved meetings and visioning sessions with stakeholder groups, three open houses, and a public survey.

VISIONING SESSION - 12/15/2017

The AHBL consultant team gathered at the Woodland Center with a stakeholder group to establish a vision for the master planning effort. Staff and officials from City of Spokane Parks and Recreation and Urban Forestry departments, along with representatives from WSU Extension, The Lands Council, and other groups, discussed strategic goals and guiding principles for the project. We began by presenting some broad questions for open discussion. We then presented our site analysis findings and reported on six precedent studies that were conducted using arboreta of similar size and type around the United States as examples. We also discussed what participants liked and didn't like about the current facility and its organization, and expressed their hopes and ideas for the direction of future development. The results, documented on pages 26 through 29, were presented to the stakeholder group following the meeting.

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

A visioning workshop was held on December 15, 2017 to set the direction for the Finch Arboretum Master Plan. Through a collaborative process, stakeholders identified five overarching concepts, a defining vision for each concept, and elements that will help drive the Master Plan Report. Workshop participants were given dots to identify topics they feel are most important, or would like to prioritize for the Finch Arboretum Master Plan Report.

RESULTS

Each topic fit into an overarching concept: **Education**, **Conservation**, **Community**, **Aesthetics**, and **Experience**. Stakeholders then prioritized elements they would like to see included in the visioning process and master plan.





CONCEPT ONE: EDUCATION

Vision Statement:

The Arboretum will provide opportunities for formal and informal education, for children and

adults, about plants and habitats, both local and global, using events, demonstrations, and informational signage.

Summary:

The Education concept received the most votes in the dot exercise and should remain a central theme within the Master Plan for the Finch Arboretum. Five topics received more than eight votes: Passive Education, Experimentation and Demonstration, Connection to Natural World, Experience Nature/Living Classrooms, and History.





CONCEPT TWO: CONSERVATION

Vision Statement:

We will promote conservation and biodiversity through proper planning and management.

Summary:

The Conservation concept received the second highest number of dots. Three topics, Biodiversity, Responding to Climate Change, and Trees Defining Design, all received eight or more votes. Trees should remain the focal point of the Arboretum. The visioning stakeholders determined that it is important that Finch Arboretum recognizes its role in conservation and protecting species throughout changing periods.



3

themselves.

Summary:

Experience received the third most amount of dots. The two most popular ideas were Exploration and Organization, and Serenity and Relaxation. Providing calming, peaceful areas for relaxation within nature is an important role the Arboretum plays for the larger community. While providing an opportunity to unwind, stakeholders also prioritize exploration and discovery at the Finch Arboretum. In order to achieve those goals, internal circulation should be open, safe, and accessible as the Arboretum develops.

CONCEPT THREE: EXPERIENCE

We connect people to the world of trees to inspire the discovery of nature, community, and

Vision Statement:



CONCEPT FOUR: AESTHETICS

Vision Statement:

The establishment of an iconic regional experience in the urban environment that immerses citizens in a botanical wonderland.

Summary:

Components of the Aesthetics concept received the second fewest amount of dots. Three topics, Nature Immersion, Connection to Nature, and Regional Character, all received eight or more votes. Immersion in Nature, while considering the adjacent noise and land uses, is a clear priority for the stakeholders. The regional character of Spokane should be reflected at Finch Arboretum in the species of the plants and in the general aesthetics of the Arboretum.



CHAPTER 2: PLANNING PROCESS



CONCEPT FIVE: COMMUNITY

Vision Statement:

The Arboretum continues to allow free access as community space, part of the interconnected

park system.

Summary:

While overall the Community Concept received the fewest number of dots, Free Access and Gathering Space garnered a total of 14 votes. The visioning stakeholders desire the Arboretum to remain a free amenity for the community to gather and connect with each other and nature.



SITE ELEMENTS

Vision Statement:

In addition to identifying the five site concepts, visioning workshop participants also identified a number of site elements that are important to the continued development of the Arboretum. They have been categorized into three groups: Site Features, Collections/Themes, and Programming.



Site Features:

A clear need was established to address the noise pollution from I-90. Additionally improving existing pathways, connection to water and the site way-finding are important to consider.



Collections / Themes:

Collections and Themes received the fewest amount of dots from the visioning session. Overall edible landscapes, with 10 dots, were the most popular. Stakeholders were also interested in native landscape habitat and demonstration gardens.





Programming:

There is a desire from the stakeholders to have more programmed events, specifically those that are educational or include demonstration components.

Planning Meeting

We met with the city staff to present our draft master plan concepts, discuss how they relate to the larger site concepts, and envision next steps.



ENHANCE COREY GLEN



ENHANCE COREY GLEN

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTION



ENHANCE COREY GLEN

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING

COLLECTIONS

IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS **32** / FINCH ARBORETUM MASTER PLAN | CITY OF SPOKANE





IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS

IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE

IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE / COMMUNICATION



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE

IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/ COMMUNICATION

ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK





ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION

ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM

IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL



ENHANCE COREY GLEN

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM

IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL

CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL

CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING NATIVE PINE STANDS



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE

PINE STANDS

IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS

IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER

CREATE NW ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





CREATE NW ENTRANCE



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER

CREATE NW ENTRANCE

ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS





CONTINUE RESTORATION OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK



ENHANCE COREY GLEN PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS IMPROVE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING MITIGATE FREEWAY NOISE IMPROVE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/COMMUNICATION ENHANCE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVE TOUCH AND SEE NATURE TRAIL CREATE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATIVE PINE STANDS IMPROVE WOODLAND CENTER CREATE NW ENTRANCE

ENHANCEMENT OF GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK

CREATE NATIVE/REGIONAL COLLECTIONS

42 / FINCH ARBORETUM MASTER PLAN | CITY OF SPOKANE





CREATE NATIVE / REGIONAL COLLECTIONS : CONCEPT LAYOUTS



OPEN HOUSES

OPEN HOUSE #1

We presented our site analysis and precedent study findings, along with the results of our visioning meeting to members of the public, many of whom included stakeholders from our visioning meeting. We also shared the link for our online survey, and distributed several paper copies.

OPEN HOUSE #2

We presented our draft master plan concepts to the public and stakeholders for review and comment

OPEN HOUSE #3

We presented the draft master plan to the public for review and comment.



PUBLIC SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

A public survey was conducted using the Survey Monkey website. The survey asked a wide variety of questions in various formats to help get a fuller picture of the needs and desires of the public related to the Finch Arboretum. The surveys were promoted on Parks Department and Urban Forestry websites. Paper copies were distributed at our first open house and collected by City staff. In total, we received 207 completed surveys. The data we extrapolated supported many of the views expressed at our early stakeholder meetings and our first open house.

51% **HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING** of survey participants THE MAIN ENTRANCE **94% BELIEVE GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK** IS EITHER "VERY IMPORTANT" OR "IMPORTANT" **FREEWAY NOISE** IMPORTAN **NEGATIVELY AFFECTS PARK EXPERIENCE** 50% **iği iği iği iği iği iği iği** i (**.**) (**.**) (**.**) (**.**) 0 0 0 0 0 56% of survey participants **FIND THE TRAILS AND CIRCULATION** DO **EASY TO USE AND UNDERSTAND**

See appendix Public Survey for a more detailed analysis.

Chapter 3: MASTER PLAN

Woodland Center and Surroundings

The Finch Arboretum is about connecting with Nature. In order to facilitate continued interaction, buildings on site need to engage with the landscape.

EVENT SPACE

The event space at the Woodland Center should be located to the west + southwest of the building, connecting the building to the larger Arboretum and the main pedestrian path that loops through it. Siting the space here creates a semi-public area that allows visitors to use the restrooms and other facilities at the Woodland Center. It should allow for flexibility in the size of the event, and should allow single events to use both indoor and outdoor spaces. The event space should be designed with rental purposes in mind. It should be a minimum of 1,200 square feet and be able to accommodate a tent.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

The Woodland Center is oriented such that visitors may come and go without understanding its close proximity to Garden Springs Creek, which is one of the most important features of the park. The creek is central to the aesthetic experience in the Arboretum, and creates a through-line that ties together all of the diverse areas of the property. It also provides valuable learning opportunities for visitors wanting to learn about ecology and native plants.

A need has also been identified for an outdoor classroom space that could provide a more formal gathering area for outdoor learning opportunities and small performances. A new outdoor classroom space built into the gently sloping area above Garden Springs Creek will fill this need in a location that immerses learners in the ecology of the creek restoration area in a location that is convenient to the Woodland Center. It will serve as the centerpiece of an interpretive boardwalk sequence that will give visitors a chance to experience the creek environment first-hand without disturbing the restored landscape.





Collections

Maintaining and enhancing the existing plant collections is of critical importance. As the Arboretum grows, creating new exhibits that embody the local region will help engage new visitors.





PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EXISTING COLLECTIONS

COREY GLEN

Corey Glen embodies the sense of refuge and intimacy with nature that many visitors identify as one of the most important aspect of their experiences at the Finch Arboretum. This historically significant landscape feature should be carefully preserved in its general appearance, intent, and function, while improvements to aesthetics, accessibility, and habitat are made. Due to its unique character, materials and detailing of improvements in Corey Glen may differ from those found elsewhere in the park.

- Assess the health and condition of existing trees and shrubs. Thin, prune, or remove selected plants whose condition may have deteriorated.
- Identify planting areas that will be managed more intensely.
- Remove grasses and other invasive species in these areas to allow for ornamental understory plants to thrive.
- Assess the soil conditions in these areas and amend soils with organic materials as necessary.
- Dig and divide perennial plants as necessary.
- · Create as-built plan showing existing pathways,

creek channels, bridges, benches, trees, shrubs, and perennials to remain.

- Create a plan showing size, type, and location for new plantings. These should consist largely of low shrubs and groundcovers, but may also include a few select understory tree varieties. The plan can be implemented in one project, smaller increments as resources become available.
- Establish a looped accessible crushed rock pathway through Corey Glen, preferably selecting a route from among existing pathways.
- Re-build bridges to adhere to current standards. Bridge design should be carefully considered for adherence to the character of the landscape. Natural materials and more traditional forms should be considered.
- Resurface remaining pathways in a manner that allows them to be clearer and more comfortable for visitors.
- Establish two clear intersections where the Corey Glen pathway system merges with the main pathway. These locations should include interpretive and identity signage.
- Assess bench locations. Create a bench design that differs from other benches in the arboretum and reflects the richer and more intimate character of this space.



TAXONOMIC TREE COLLECTIONS

The existing taxonomic tree collections lie at the heart of the visitor experience at the Finch Arboretum. The large majority of trees in this outstanding collection should be preserved, protected, and managed as they have been in the recent past. For these collections, which will continue to contain the vast majority of ornamental trees in the Arboretum, a continuation of the established practices regarding tree management, removal, replacement, and additions will ensure this asset is protected and will continue to grow.

- Evaluate tree health, remove trees that are unlikely to thrive due to disease, age, or other stresses.
- Continue to focus on taxonomic spacial organization when considering future acquisitions and placements.
- Expand collections of genus or horticultural groupings that are underrepresented and/or where adjacent open space exists to allow for expansion.
- Continue to focus on displaying species from as wide a geographic area as possible.
- Consider acquisition of rare tree species or cultivars.
- Consider acquisition of newly developed tree varieties and evaluate them for use in local or similar climates.
- Consider inclusion of compact tree varieties that can be demonstrated for their use in urban environments.

SHRUB COLLECTIONS

The existing shrub collections consist of linear planting beds containing flowering shrubs in the display garden area and a small number of widely spaced individual genus collections.

- Expand the size of the existing shrub beds currently located in the display garden area to include a wider variety of shrub varieties. Some beds in close proximity to each other may be combined to form larger beds, with larger shrubs planted to fill the spaces between them.
- Add several additional shrub beds to the display garden area.
- Look for opportunities to add shrub planting beds throughout the Arboretum at the edges of closed tree stands, as understory in more open tree stands, or in areas where screening is needed. These beds could be grouped by genus, and would be arranged in a natural setting similar to the areas where shrubs typically exist in the wild.



SPIREA

```
VIBURNUM
```

PHYSOCARPUS

HYDRANGEA

PHILADELPHUS

INLAND NORTHWEST HABITAT COLLECTION

Spokane lies at the heart of the Inland Northwest Ecoregion, which contains a highly diverse collection of habitats ranging from alpine meadows to dense forests, rolling prairies, and streamside wetlands. The Inland Northwest Habitat Collection will immerse visitors in five distinct Inland Northwest landscapes and the plant communities that occupy them. Arranged along a linear pathway, these five habitat areas represent a progression from west to east, and from highest to lowest in elevation. The story begins in the subalpine woods and meadows near Lookout Pass, at the present day border between Montana and Idaho, and ends in a riparian woodland near the banks of Garrison Creek in Walla Walla, Washington. Along the way, dense coniferous forests, Ponderosa pine woodlands, and Palouse prairie habitats are encountered. Each habitat area will contain not just trees, but also the shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that create its unique character and ecological diversity.

The collection will be laid out along the main pathway through the Arboretum, with smaller side pathways available for further exploration within each zone. A small gathering area at the beginning and end of the exhibit will include opportunities for seating and for interpretive signage to welcome visitors approaching from either direction along the path. Smaller interpretive signs will give more detail on the features of each habitat area. Its position along the main pathway will allow for the exhibit to be experienced as part of the larger loop trail while also serving as a destination in its own right, and its convenient proximity to the Woodland Center and parking area will help to maximize its impact.

Inland Northwest Forest (4th of July Pass) Ponderosa Pine Woodlands (Spokane) Palouse Steppe (Washtucna) (Walla Walla)

INLAND NORTHWEST COLLECTION SEQUENCE:

INLAND NORTHWEST COLLECTION: MASTER PLAN GRAPHIC

On the following pages, each eco-region has its proposed plant palette listed. The eco-regions are:

Subalpine Forest - Lookout Pass, Idaho Montana Border Inland Northwest Forest - 4th of July Pass, Idaho Ponderosa Pine Woodlands - Spokane Palouse Steppe - Washtucna Riparian Woodland - Walla Walla



INLAND NORTHWEST HABITAT COLLECTION: REGIONAL PLANTS

SUBALPINE FOREST - LOOKOUT PASS



ALPINE MONKEY FLOWER MIMULUS TILINGII



BIG LEAF LUPINE LUPINUS POLYPHYLLUS



ENGLEMANN SPRUCE PICEA ENGLEMANNII



MOUNTAIN HEATHER PHYLLODOCE



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK TSUGA MERTENSIANA



NOBLE FIR ABIES PROCERA



ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHLOX LINANTHUS GRANDIFLORUS



SAXIFRAGE SAXIFRAGA BRONCHIALIS



SHASTA FERN POLYSTICHUM LEMMONII



SUBALPINE FIR ABIES LASIOCARPA



WHITEBARK PINE PINUS ALBICAULIS



WOODLAND PENSTEMON PENSTEMON NEMOROSUS

INLAND NORTHWEST FOREST - 4TH OF JULY PASS



BIRCHLEAF SPIREA SPIRAEA BETULIFOLIA



COLUMBINE AQUILEGIA FLAVESCENS



DOUGLAS MAPLE ACER GLABRUM



GRAND FIR ABIES GRANDIS



KINNICKINNICK ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI



LODGEPOLE PINE PINUS CONTORTA



WESTERN HEMLOCK TSUGA HETEROPHYLLA



WESTERN LARCH LARIX OCCIDENTALIS



WHITEBARK PINE PINUS ALBICAULIS



SHASTA FERN POLYSTICHUM LEMMONII



WOODLAND PENSTEMON PENSTEMON NEMOROSUS

PONDEROSA PINE WOODLANDS - DISHMAN HILLS, SPOKANE



WOODS ROSE

ROSA WOODSII



WESTERN MOCK ORANGE PHILADELPHUS LEWISII



SNOWBERRY SYMPHORICARPUS ALBUS



SERVICEBERRY AMELANCHIER ALNIFOLIA



ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM



PONDEROSA PINE PINUS PONDEROSA



CINQUEFOIL POTENTILLA GRACILIS



ARROWLEAF BALSAMROOT BALSAMORHIZA SAGITTATA

PALOUSE STEPPE - WASHTUCNA



AGROPYRON SPICATUM



BROME BROMUS CARINATUS



BUFFALO BERRY SHEPHERDIA ARGENTEA



COYOTE BRUSH BACCHARIS PILULARIS



DESERT PARSLEY LOMATIUM DISSECTUM



IDAHO FESCUE FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS



LEAFYBRACT ASTER ASTER FOLIACEUS



PRAIRIE JUNEGRASS KOELERIA MACRANTHA



SAGEBRUSH ARTEMESIA TRIDENTATA



SMOOTH SUMAC RHUS GLABRA



UPLAND LARKSPUR DELPHINIUM NUTTALIANUM



YARROW ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM

RIPARIAN WOODLAND - WALLA WALLA



COYOTE WILLOW SALIX EXIGUA



QUAKING ASPEN POPULUS TREMULOIDES



RED OSIER DOGWOOD CORNUS SERICEA



RUSH JUNCUS PATENS



SCOULER'S WILLOW SALIX SCOULERIANA



SLOUGH SEDGE CAREX OBNUPTA



WATER BIRCH BETULA OCCIDENTALIS





Site Features



TRAILS

The development of a trail system that is more complete, cohesive, and accessible is one of the most significant opportunities for improvement at the Finch Arboretum. A clear, safe, and well-ordered system of trails will improve visitor enjoyment, inclusivity, maintenance access, and public perception.

- Create a large, cohesive loop trail that provides access to all sections of the park. This loop trail will be 10-12' wide, and will be surfaced in crushed stone, asphalt, or another surface that is ADA accessible and drivable by maintenance vehicles. The loop will begin and end near the Woodland Center. While topography may not allow all of the sections of the trail to be ADA accessible, significant portions of the trail, especially in the southwest quadrant of the Arboretum, will be accessible.
- Provide a strong connection between the loop trail and the proposed Susie Stephens Trail leading to the Fish Lake trailhead.
- Create a hierarchical system of trails leading from the loop trail into other sections of the park. In addition to the Loop Trail, secondary and tertiary trails will be laid out in order to provide safe, walkable access to various areas. Secondary and tertiary trails may be surfaced with crushed rock, pine straw, wood fiber, or

with polymerized soils.

- Repair or replace existing bridges as necessary to complete the trail system.
- Install one new bridge near the headwaters of Garden Springs Creek to allow for completion of the loop trail.
- Install boardwalks in the pollinator meadow, Corey Glen, and other areas where low-lying terrain makes it difficult to build or maintain pathways on dry ground.
- Install an interpretive boardwalk loop in the riparian area along Garden Springs Creek near the Memorial Bridge to allow for continuing visitor access to areas close to the water as newly planted streambank plantings continue to grow in. This loop could provide an opportunity for interpretation of the stream restoration efforts. It could be built on either side of the creek, and may be incorporated into the Inland Northwest Collection if installed on the north side of the creek.
- Install timber stairs along the pathway connecting the western end of the loop trail with the northwest corner access point along West Sunset Boulevard.
- Relocate the Touch and See Nature Trail to a more accessible location within the Arboretum.
- Repurpose the existing Touch and See Nature Trail as a tertiary pathway within the overall trail system.

SIGNAGE

As with most long-established botanic gardens and arboreta, the system of signage at the Finch Arboretum is comprised of elements created by different entities and individuals at various times, and lacks a sense of cohesion. A comprehensive strategy for all signage experienced by visitors, beginning with their approach to the site along Sunset Boulevard and ending with smaller interpretive and botanical signage within the park, will help to create a more enjoyable and educational experience for visitors. All signage elements listed below, with the exception of state road signage, should use standardized fonts, colors, and graphic styles.

ROAD SIGNAGE

Work with Washington State Department of Transportation to request an increase in size of the two road signs leading to the turnoff toward the Arboretum, and the addition of two additional signs at an agreed-upon distance from the turn. (I.e., one-quarter mile or one-half mile from the turnoff).

ENTRY AND WAYFINDING

In order to assist visitors in finding the Arboretum, replace the small signs that currently exist between Sunset Boulevard and the Woodland Center with slightly larger, more graphically clear signs with directional arrows leading drivers to the park. The first of these signs placed directly in the line of sight of drivers moving southeastward from West Sunset Boulevard to South F Street directing drivers to make a right turn, with a second sign being placed at the intersection of South F St and West Woodland Boulevard. The small sign near the entry to the parking lot could stay in place or be replaced with a newer sign that is in keeping with the design of the others. In addition, at the Woodland Center there is a desire to install Tree City USA Signage. A Tree City USA Flag would signal arrival to the Arboretum.



MAP

Create a single, comprehensive map showing updated locations of pathways, buildings, collection areas, and specialty gardens. This map should be prepared by a graphic designer, and could be reproduced at a large scale for use at the entry kiosk and at a smaller scale for handout materials and digital applications.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Interpretive signage should be of three general types, and are listed in descending order of size:









Major Exhibit Sign

This larger sign would be placed either near the entry to or in the center of the Inland Northwest Collection. The sign would feature a map showing the layout of the garden, along with a map of the route of the Inland Northwest Collection through the Inland Northwest and supporting graphics and text.

Specialty Garden/Collection Sign

These signs would be placed near the locations where visitors are likely to first encounter specialty gardens, such as Corey Glen, or plant collections, such as the maples, oaks, or crabapples. Basic written information about the exhibit area with supporting graphics, but no maps, would be included.

Educational/Topical Sign

Included for the purpose of illuminating a concept, project, or other information not directly related to a named exhibit area, these signs might include information on green storm water infrastructure, stream restoration, the role of insects, birds, or other animals in the Arboretum, the history of some feature within the park, or any other topic that might be of interest to visitors.

BOTANICAL SIGNAGE

Existing botanical signage is adequate for providing easily accessible information about many of the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum, but should be increased in number. As these signs are added to or replaced:

- Fonts and graphic conventions should adhere to the overall signage plan for the Arboretum.
- Consider adding some additional basic information such as mature size, ornamental features, or geographic location of the plant's native range.

FREEWAY MITIGATION

Freeway noise from I-90 represents one of the greatest challenges to the visitor's experience at the Arboretum. Taking steps to mitigate this noise will have an immediate and lasting positive effect on human comfort and enjoyment.

- Engage with WSDOT officials on making plans to build a sound wall along the southern boundary of the Arboretum.
- Install evergreen tree plantings in select locations along the south edge of the park to help mitigate both the auditory and visual impact of passing cars and trucks.





ABOVE LEFT, POTENTIAL SITE BENCH ABOVE RIGHT, POTENTIAL SITE TRASH RECEPTACLE BELOW LEFT, EXISTING SITE PEACE POLE

SITE FURNISHINGS

Site furnishings play an important role in the comfort, aesthetic enjoyment, and cohesiveness of the visitor's experience. In general, these elements should be chosen or designed in a way that will not detract from enjoyment of the natural features of the park. Materials should be durable and natural in appearance. Design should be unobtrusive.

- Choose two bench designs for the Arboretum; one for Corey Glen and the other for the rest of the park.
- The Corey Glen bench may be of higher quality (and cost), and might use stone or other natural materials.
- For the other benches in the Arboretum, a move toward a standard bench with simple design made of wood and painted steel should be agreed upon.
- Benches should be carefully placed in fixed locations around the park and bolted to concrete foundations.
- Trash Receptacles should be similarly standardized, with a simple, durable model made of wood and/or painted steel to be placed throughout the park.



OPPOSITE TOP, STREET TREE EXHIBIT OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT, NEW EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT, EXISTING TOUCH AND SEE TRAIL SIGNAGE

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The existing community garden should be expanded near the southeast corner of the park. This area, which would cover approximately 2,000 to 3,000 square feet, would serve the immediate neighborhood as well as other areas of the city. The garden should be set back far enough from South F Street to allow for some screening plantings to be installed to create a visual buffer between the garden and the street. Other elements might include:

- A partially covered structure containing a potting bench and storage for tools, equipment, and supplies.
- Raised garden beds constructed of wood or steel.
- Crushed rock pathways to allow access to the garden beds.
- A linear arbor to allow for growing grapes or other climbing edible plants.
- Hose bib(s) in one or more locations
- Vertical screen or wire structure for support of espaliered fruit trees.





ACCESSIBLE PLANTER BEDS



COMMUNITY GARDEN STORAGE

GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK

1,800 linear feet of the Garden Springs creek has been restored due to a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology. In addition to the establishment of native woody and grammacerous plants, two culverts and a dam were removed. The goal is to improve water quality by reducing sediment entry into the stream. The naturalizing of the corridor aims to provide opportunities for the public to engage with a healthy riparian corridor, and increase the biodiversity found at the Arboretum.

The work to restore Garden Springs Creek should continue with these goals in mind. Future restoration projects should seek to limit the number of crossings and continue the riparian planting in order to prevent erosion and maintain an aesthetically pleasing habitat. Additional considerations should be made to continue increasing the number of trout found in the creek.

Provide boardwalk circulation routes in specific meadow and creek zones to connect the public to restoration efforts, and provide the opportunity for meaningful education opportunities regarding stream ecosystems and riparian plant life.



TOP, GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK BOTTOM, RESTORATION AT GARDEN SPRINGS CREEK

List of Figures

PAGE FIGURE

Cover	1: AHBL Site Photograph
6	2: AHBL Site Photograph
6	3: Fern Photograph
7	4: Finch Arboretum by James Hawley - https://
	www.flickr.com/photos/ hawleyjr/3562915571/
8+9	5: Master Plan Graphic
11	6: Inland Northwest Historic Hydrological Map
12	7: Ponderosa Forest Photograph
12	8: Spokan Tribe Photograph
13	9: Olmsted Brothers' Spokane Master Plan
13	10: Olmsted Brothers Photograph
14	11: AHBL Site Photograph
15	12: Site Context Diagram
16	13: AHBL Site Photograph - Bench
16	14: AHBL Site Photograph - Bench
16	15: AHBL Site Photograph - Maintenance Building
16	16: AHBL Site Photograph - Woodland Center
17	17: Site Amenities Diagram
18	18: AHBL Site Photograph - Bridge
18	19: AHBL Site Photograph - Bridge
19	20: Site Circulation Diagram
20	21: AHBL Site Photograph - Plant Collections
20	22: AHBL Site Photograph - Plant Collections
20	23: AHBL Site Photograph - Plant Collections
21	24: Landscape Typology Diagram
22	25: Tree Health and Origin Diagram

PAGE FIGURE

25 25 25 28 28	26: 27: 28: 29: 30:	AHBL Stakeholders Meeting Photograph AHBL Stakeholders Meeting Photograph AHBL Stakeholders Meeting Photograph AHBL Stakeholders Meeting Photograph AHBL Stakeholders Meeting Photograph
30	31:	Site Concepts Graphic
31	32:	Enhance Corey Glen Diagram
31	33:	AHBL Site Photograph - Corey Glen
31	34:	AHBL Site Photograph - Corey Glen
32	35:	Preserve Existing Collections Diagram
32	36:	Snowberry Photograph
32	37:	Evergreen Detail Photograph
33	38:	Improve Signage Diagram
33	39:	Kiosk Example
33	40:	Morton Arboretum Entrance Signage
34	41:	Mitigate Freeway Noise Diagram
34	42:	Freeway Soundwall Photograph
34	43:	Google Earth: I-90 Corridor
35	44:	Improve Signage Diagram
35	45:	Educational Signage Photograph
35	46:	Plant Species Signage
36	47:	Enhance Trail System Diagram
36	48:	Asphalt Pathway Photograph
36	49:	Educational Boardwalk Photograph
37	50:	Improve Touch and See Natural Trail Diagram
37	51:	Sensory Trail Signage Example

PAGE FIGURE

52:	Forest Steps Photograph
53:	Create Demonstration Gardens Diagram
54:	Syringa Photograph
55:	Production Garden Example
56:	Preserve and Enhance Existing Pine
	Strands Diagram
57:	Snowberry Photograph
58:	AHBL Site Photograph - Evergreen Trees
59:	Improve Woodland Center Diagram
60:	Outdoor Event Space Example
61:	Outdoor Classroom Example
62:	Create New NW Entrance
63:	Google Earth: Existing NW Entrance
64:	Entrance Signage Example
65:	Restoration of Garden Springs Creek
	Diagram
66:	AHBL Site Photograph - Garden Springs
	Creek Restoration
67:	AHBL Site Photograph - Garden Springs
	Creek
68:	Native Collection Diagram: The Road
69:	Native Collection Diagram: The Circle
70:	Native Collection Diagram: The Node
71:	AHBL: Open House Invitation
72:	AHBL: Visioning Session Poster
	52: 53: 54: 55: 56: 57: 58: 59: 60: 61: 62: 63: 64: 65: 65: 66: 67: 68: 69: 70:



PAGE FIGURE

- 47 **74**: Wedding Event Example
- 47 **75**: Touching Water Photograph
- 48 **76:** Child Learning Image
- 48 77: Child Playing at Garden Springs Creek
- 49 **78**: Enlargement of Woodland Center Area
- 50 **79**: Azalea Photograph
- 50 80: Astilbe Photograph
- 51 81: AHBL Site Photograph Trees
- 51 82: AHBL Site Photograph Trees
- 52 83: Spirea Photograph
- 52 84: Viburnum Photograph
- 52 **85**: Physocarpus Photograph
- 52 86: Hydrangea Photograph
- 52 87: Philadelphus Photograph
- 53 88: Inland Northwest Collection Route Map
- 53 89: Inland Northwest Collection Exhibit
- 53 90:
- 54 91: Inland Northwest Collection Master Plan
- 55 92: Subalpine Plant Photos
- 56 93: Inland Northwest Plant Photos
- 57 94: Palouse Steep Plant Photos
- 58 95: Ponderosa Forest Plant Photos
- 59 96: Riparian Woodland Plant Photos
- 60+61 97: Master Plan Graphic
- 62 98: Forest Trail Steps
- 63 **99**: John A. Finch Arboretum Entry Sign

PAGE FIGURE

65

65

65

66

66

67

- 63 **100**: Touch and See Nature Trail Signage
- 64 **101**: AHBL Site Photograph Street Tree Exhibit
- 64 **102**: AHBL Site Photograph Educational Signage
- 64 **103**: AHBL Site Photograph Educational Signage
 - 104: Site Bench Example
 - 105: Site Trash Example
 - 106: AHBL Site Photograph Peace Pole
 - 107: Learning to Garden Photo
 - 108: Accessible Planter Beds
- 66 **109**: Garden Shed
 - 110: AHBL Site Photograph Garden Springs Creek
- 67 **111:** AHBL Site Photograph Garden Springs Restoration

Appendices

PRECEDENT STUDY PUBLIC SURVEY