



Washington Park Arboretum

Gateway to Chile Project Briefing

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

Place: Washington Park Playfield Parking Lot, South End

I. Introduction (Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks)

Thank you all for coming. A number of projects have been successfully implemented in the Arboretum, in recent years, by a project team including Seattle Parks and Recreation who owns the land, The University of Washington who owns the collection of plants, and the Arboretum Foundation who raises funding for improvements and educational programs. This year we are embarking on construction of the second phase of the Pacific Connections Garden, a fundamental component of the Arboretum Master Plan. This second phase will concentrate on the Gateway to Chile. This investment will create a significant change at the south end of the arboretum, so we want to make sure that people understand the work we are doing and the future educational opportunities that the Pacific Connections Garden will offer.

The Pacific Connections garden exhibits plants from 5 eco-geographic regions (Present Pacific Connections Drawing). In phase I, we constructed entry gardens for each of the regions and part of the Cascadia focal forest. In phase II we are constructing a small portion of the Chilean focal forest. We selected this project because of its visibility and to restore and renew the distinguished Holmdahl Rockery which has disappeared beneath the overgrown vegetation. The basalt rockery was built in 1937 under the direction of architect Otto Holmdahl.

II. Design Presentation (The Berger Partnership)

- Gateway to Chile represents only a small portion of the planned Chilean Exhibit
- Encompasses the historic Holmdahl rockery and is truly a “Gateway” project for the Pacific Connections garden.
- Once the rockery has been restored it will be planted with a mix of some of the more striking over story and under story species appropriate to the Chilean collection.
- Large Chilean wine palm, Monkey Puzzle trees, and Chilean Fire tree will set the stage while Inca lilies and feather grass will provide a textural ground plane and accent the rockery.

III. Implementation (Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks)

In the beginning of April, 34 Trees will be removed to make way for the garden and to uncover the Historic Rockery. Parks is hiring a professional tree service to insure protection of other vegetation to remain and the rockery. These trees will be replaced with 72 trees as part of the Gateway to Chile plantings.

The remaining work will go out to public bid with construction occurring over the summer.

IV. Collection Management (Fred Hoyt, University of Washington)

V. Fundraising by the Arboretum Foundation (Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation)

VI. Question and Answer

1.) Is the master plan available on the website?

There is a number of places to find it; but, easiest is at the bottom of the project page under "Important Links" <http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/arboretum/>

2.) How is the lumber from the downed trees going to be re-used?

- a. Material suitable for woodworking (i.e. furniture) will be used for that purpose.
- b. Material suitable for lumber will be milled for that purpose.
- c. Native material suitable for "habitat" (i.e. sections of logs) will be relocated to other parks
- d. Limbs and small diameter trees will be chipped for mulch to be used in the arboretum

3.) Are you going to call plant amnesty about removing and re-planting any small trees and shrubs?

Yes we will, and we will do so before the trees are removed so that the tree removal process to better insure the health of the shrubs.

4.) Since the Pacific Connections Garden Project abuts Lake Washington Blvd., how is it integrated with the 520 project?

Tracking process...we are actively involved with minimizing the impact of the 520 project.

5.) Do you track all of the plant materials in the Arboretum?

Only the woody plants and on rare occasion herbaceous plants are documented if relevant to a collection.

6.) Will this project affect the Coopers Hawk nest that is nearby?

No. The Coopers Hawk Nest is further north, adjacent to Cascadia.

I hope that we answered all your questions and that you were able to gather how excited we are to move forward with implementing the Arboretum Master Plan. We will be holding another public meeting next week, on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 6:30 p.m. at the Graham Visitor Center in the Arboretum .

