

Case Studies

1. Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden, Helsinki, Finland.
2. Australian Garden, Melbourne, Australia.
3. **Washington Park Arboretum, USA.**



Washington Park Arboretum

Seattle, WA USA

Interpretive Plan Implementation Advice & Guidance

Chuck Lennox

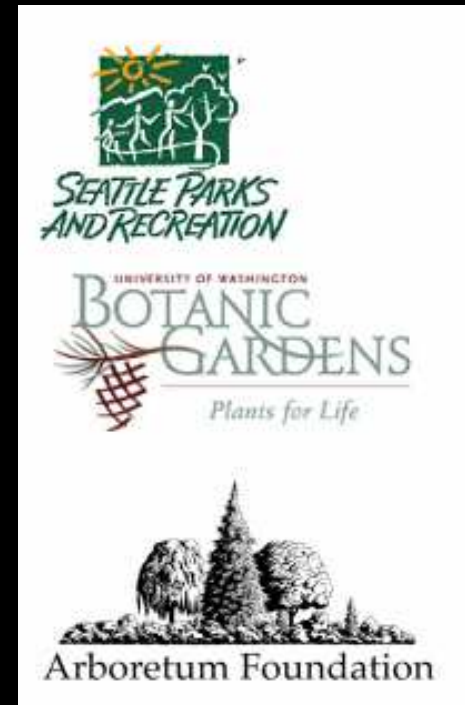






Washington Park Arboretum

- Located in Seattle, WA USA
- Founded 1934
- Designed by Olmsted Brothers Firm – James Dawson
- Managed by three entities
 - City of Seattle Parks and Recreation Dept. – grounds
 - University of Washington – collection
 - Arboretum Foundation – fundraising and membership
- Graham Visitors Center opens – 1985
- Master Plan completed 2001 (3-4 plans over time)
- Interpretive and Wayfinding Plan completed 2004
 - First major implementation of the 2001 Master Plan





WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM



Interpretive and Wayfinding Plan

December 22, 2004

Cascade Interpretive Consulting 
LEHRMAN CAMERON STUDIO 



Interpretive Plan Implementation Advice

- Develop and Use Guiding Principles



INTERPRETIVE

@ Interpretation at Shelters

Signage is not the only means of interpretation at built places or objects. Materials, shapes (representational or not), colors, locations, proximities, flexibility, interactivity (hands-on), etc., can all help to tell a story. In fact, the choice of a design style is a story unto itself: building is pedagogy. Further, there can be words or symbols incorporated into the design of built elements that help reinforce a story and discovery in nature. Interpretation at shelters will occur only as part of the shelters themselves. If there are panels, they will be incorporated into the structure to describe significant points of interest and highlights within the nearby collection.

Locations

- Only 4-5 of these, at Interpretive Shelters (Tree-Top Canopy, Foster Island, Madrona Terrace, Overlook, possibly Alpine Slope).
- Located in conjunction with other built elements (existing or planned), like a shelter or other structure, whenever possible.
- May be located with Pedestrian Orientation marker.
- See Appendix: Proposed Locations of Site Elements.

Design Principles

- Not “dripping” or “saturated” with literal interpretation. Fits the context of peaceful harmony.
- Describes what is significant about the collection in this area and where things are located within the exhibit.
- Design adapted to context. Consistent with Themes developed in this *Interpretive and Wayfinding Plan*. If interpretation includes a panel, it will follow layout provided in style guide. Shape/form in which the interpretive information is displayed is unique.



ST

WAYFINDING

Potential Materials

- Depends on interpretive shelter with which it is integrated.
- Wood, metal, stone, phenolic, terrazzo.

Content

- Depends on subject matter at interpretive shelter with which it is integrated.
- Consistent with interpretive themes.

See Style Guide, page 12 for further specifications.



Seattle Parks and Recreation

Selected Guiding Principles for the WPA Plan

- Engage all senses
- Embrace change
- Fit the historical context
- Use character befitting the place
- Place only a few small harmonious signs
- Be unobtrusive
- Cluster and incorporate
- Use positive language
- Communicate effectively
- Establish identity
- Maintain consistent leadership
- Acknowledge contributions

Interpretive Plan Implementation Advice

- Develop and Use Guiding Principles
- Interpretation vs. Wayfinding
- Ensure an Internal Sponsor or Champion
- Develop a Consistent Implementation Process
- Plan an Initial Implementation Project



Interpretive Plan Implementation Advice

- Develop and Use Guiding Principles
- Interpretation vs. Wayfinding
- Ensure an Internal Sponsor or Champion
- Develop a Consistent Implementation Process
- Plan an Initial Implementation Project
- Provide Common Access to the Plan



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BOTANIC GARDENS

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Master Plans and History

The University of Washington, the City of Seattle and the Arboretum Foundation are working together on the implementation of the Arboretum Master Plan. Examples projects are [Japanese Garden Entry Structure](#), the Gateway to Chile, Cascadia Forest, New Zealand Forest and the [Irrigation Mainline Project](#).

Plans and Policies

- **Washington Park Arboretum**

- [Master Plan Implementation Adoption Letter and Introduction](#)
- [Master Plan Implementation 2004](#)
- [Master Plan Implementation Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [Master Plan Implementation Other Considerations](#)
- [Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan Proposal 2000](#)
- [Seattle Parks and Recreation EIS Master Plan page](#)
- [Interpretation & Wayfinding Plan](#)
- [Pacific Connections Garden Project](#)

- **Center for Urban Horticulture**

- [Jones and Jones: Union Bay Teach and Research Arboretum, 1976](#)
- [Berger Partnership: Master Plan update, Illustrative Rendering, 2008](#)
- [Berger Partnership: Master Plan update, Thematic Diagram, 2008](#)

- [UWBG Collections Policy, 2012](#)
- [UWBG Conservation Policy, 2012](#)
- [Union Bay Natural Area and Shoreline Management Guidelines](#)
- [SFR Health and Safety Plan](#)

History

UWBG was established in 2005 to unite the gardens and programs of the Washington Park Arboretum, founded in 1934 and the Center for Urban Horticulture, opened in 1984. The Gardens are located around the [shoreline of Union Bay](#) on Lake Washington.

- [Washington Park Arboretum Historic Review: September 2003](#)
- [Oral History of the Washington Park Arboretum and Center for Urban Horticulture Audio Clips](#)
- [Looking Back: A history exhibit of the Washington Park Arboretum](#)
- [The Seattle Parks & Recreation Sherwood History Files for the Arboretum](#) (about the collection)
- [UW Libraries Archives Washington Park Arboretum Records 1924-1984](#)

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A scenic view of a Japanese garden. In the foreground, there is a calm pond reflecting the surrounding greenery. A stone lantern stands in the water. The background is filled with lush trees, some with autumn-colored foliage in shades of orange and red, and others in deep green. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Looking Back – Final Words of Advice for Planning

- Process is most important
- Take your time
- Ensure management level support
- Document what issues need to be solved **BEFORE** the process starts
- Be cautious about wholesale changes
- Practical vs. Inspirational – don't be afraid of either

The map illustrates the layout of the University of Washington Arboretum, highlighting several key plant collections and geographical features. The collections are represented by colored regions: CHINA (yellow), NEW ZEALAND (light blue), AUSTRALIA (light green), PACIFIC CONNECTIONS MEADOW (orange circle), CHILE (pink), and CASCADIA (light green). The map also shows Lake Washington Blvd. E. running along the top left, Japanese Garden in the upper left, and Arboretum Drive E. running along the right side. An inset map in the bottom left corner shows the location of the Arboretum within the University of Washington campus, with a box indicating the 'AREA OF DETAIL' shown in the main map. The source is cited as 'Source: Washington Park Arboretum' and the location as 'SEATTLE, WA'.





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Interpretive Planning

1. What are you working on?
2. What challenges do you face?
3. What are some possible solutions?