2018-03-12

This Master Plan was developed by volunteers representing the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Eliza Bober Cink, Laura Minski, Taylor Keegan, and M. Elise Huggins worked with the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society and UAF Garden Staff during two workshops held in April and August of 2017 to outline priorities and design ideas shown here.

Many groups associated with the Garden were interviewed to talk about their history, their role, and their ideas for the future of the Garden. These groups included UAF staff, volunteer groups, and community members. The draft plan was presented to the UAF Master Planning Committee for feedback and received general support in October of 2017.

This plan was approved by the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society at the March 18, 2018 board meeting.
Georgeson Botanical Garden Master Plan

Plan Rendering

rev. 2018-03-10
Concept description:

This concept is the preferred option based on two designs that were developed from the April 2017 Design Workshop with the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society, UAF Staff, and design professionals. It strengthens and plays upon the existing linear nature of the Georgeson Botanical Garden layout which is defined by the topography and West Tanana Drive. It lends itself to the creation of a formal “allée” along the existing, main, gravel pathway. The allée design is strengthened by a central Gathering Space and activity nodes along the allée.

Georgeson Botanical Garden Master Plan
Diagram

rev. 2018-03-10
Section A

Future Parking Area - to be coordinated with possible septic location?

Drew Plaza includes bus drop off area and new ADA parking spaces, maintaining existing kiosk. Overhead canopy and flexible seating may be provide in future. It provides welcoming entry, a booth for staff to collect entrance fees, artistic and iconic fencing and gates to regulate admissions and create a sense of entry.

Make access one way to minimize conflicts and reduce space needs for stall lengths.

Drew Plaza Activity Node with accent paving

Maintain operations and staff parking as is. New parking bay shown for visitors with 25 spaces.

Parking layout requires significant regrading of area but maintains location of weather station. This will require further discussions with UAF Planning.

Provide some seating, paving, and signage to indicate a point of interest or decision.

The Grand Allee is a 20' wide, formal, paved walkway space through the Garden. It is wide enough to act as a gathering space itself and allow for regular maintenance and emergency access.

Pavilion Space to be easily separated from Garden as needed, accessible from gate in fence at Plaza. This allows for private events to occur while every day activities in the Garden continue.

Provide some seating, paving, and signage to indicate a point of interest or decision.

Drew Plaza

Bus parking

Grande Allee

Existing weather station

Future Parking Area - to be coordinated with possible septic location?

Entry Access - provide iconic fencing, ornamental plantings and signage to direct traffic into lot and create a presence along the road.

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Activity Node with accent paving

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The Grand Allee is a 20' wide, formal, paved walkway space through the Garden. It is wide enough to act as a gathering space itself and allow for regular maintenance and emergency access.
Existing bench and paver area to be mirrored on other side of path to create mini-node. Provide additional portable restrooms (with screening).

Central Gathering Space provides seat walls for some permanent seating. With flexible seating, this space can accommodate small groups up to 150 people.

Central Gathering Space can provide tents for events (shown at 10x10') and movable site furniture.

Gathered Space can provide tents for events (shown at 10x10') and movable site furniture.

Greenhouse provides demonstration of building type and another interest point for Gathering Space.

Large Amphitheater provides a venue for large events with overflow seating moving up the hillside. An ADA pathway can zigzag up the hill and mark the general extents of the area. It takes advantage of the stunning views to the South over the trial beds and fields. The stage sits over the existing water feature.

Node with accent paving, seating, and signage signify the entrance to the Amphitheater and the Trial Garden spaces and provide information on how to explore.

Shade Garden roof should be extended to west to align with end of Cutting Garden wall - making the space symmetrical.

Accent paving brought through the Trial Gardens and Edible Gardens help provide additional loop walks as well as tie these spaces into the central Gathering Space.

Accent paving at the Children’s Garden Entry helps provide a terminus for the main walk and signify an important space.

Screen fencing and evergreen trees help direct views from the main pathway to the Children’s Garden Entry.

Gravel pathway to south of Gateway Arch to Children’s Garden should remain for truck access.

Gravel pathway around Trial Garden provides vehicular turn around and better access.

Gathered Space can provide tents for events (shown at 10x10') and movable site furniture.

Paved pathway around Trial Garden provides vehicular turn around and better access.

Shade Garden roof should be extended to west to align with end of Cutting Garden wall - making the space symmetrical.

Accent paving brought through the Trial Gardens and Edible Gardens help provide additional loop walks as well as tie these spaces into the central Gathering Space.

Greenhouse provides demonstration of building type and another interest point for Gathering Space.

Slope fencing and evergreen trees help direct views from the main pathway to the Children’s Garden Entry.

Paved pathway around Trial Garden provides vehicular turn around and better access.

Gravel pathway to south of Gateway Arch to Children’s Garden should remain for truck access.

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Provide mini entry way at overlook parking lot (outside of snow storage snow). Provide signage on main entry way and lockable, vandal-resistant gate.

Another large node to mirror Solachron node along secondary trail

Loop walking trails follow contours - opportunity for Sculpture Walk

Provide nodes with paving and signage where trails begin and end

Fence along Garden boundaries

Trail to Cloud Garden
Tier One: Iconic Fence  
*to help users understand proximity to entrance and draw interest*
- 250 Linear Feet, artist designed

Mikyoung Kim “Flex Fence”
Swedish Dalecarlia Fence

Tier Two: Standard Sturdy Fence  
*for formalized areas, that require more sturdy standard fencing*
- 600 Linear Feet, premanufactured

Iron Fence
Corten Steel Panels
Wood + Gage Wire
Timber Fence

Tier Three: Standard Moose Fence  
*to protect the garden from moose graze*
- 4000 Linear Feet, protection, metal posts with infill

Eastern Fencing: Highway Products
Alaska Botanical Garden: Moose Fence (4x4 Welded Fabric, 8’ H)

*Metal/Sturdy/Cool*  
*Natural/Pastoral/Warm*
An arbor or vertical element set as a back drop for a focal space helps to bring the surrounding landscape down and make it feel more comfortable. It also provides a nice background for events and can provide support for climbing plants.

Gabion baskets are a simple, easy to install element that can be used for retaining soil, as an amphitheater, seat walls, or even benches. The baskets can be filled with locally available gravel, rocks, or even other more artistic elements like colored aggregate.
Good edging material provides clean lines, which can make even an unmaintained garden look neat. Using timber, recycled plastic (for curves) or concrete are the best, longest-lasting options.
Hillside terrace gardens are another unique way to highlight landscape features. Using retaining walls can creatively incorporate seating for events and just passively taking in the view. Properly designed ramps can be integrated into terraces and steps and allow accessibility for all users.

Screen fences can add a natural type of barrier to help provide a backdrop to a space or screen elements like restrooms.