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Fort Worth Botanic Garden Master Plan



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Background & Context





Fort Worth Botanic Garden Master Plan

Forward

The Future of the Garden Committee has worked diligently to prepare a Master Plan for the Botanic Garden. The committee includes representatives from major stakeholders and has interfaced with the City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth residents, various neighborhoods, the Botanic Garden staff, and other Cultural District entities. The committee members understand how important it is to have a beautiful garden in the central city for everyone to enjoy. These supporters recognize the importance of protecting and enhancing this wonderful green space and landmark. The Botanic Garden Master Plan embraces the key ideas and themes that were expressed throughout the planning process.

The mission statement of the Garden is ***“Enriching people’s lives through environmental stewardship and education.”***

The Garden is accomplishing this mission on a daily basis in every season of the year. This success has been possible because of the very dedicated staff, volunteers, the many donors and supporters and ongoing City support. Most of these organizations have been instrumental in the leadership and financing of the Garden for several decades.

Over the years, the leadership of the Garden has positioned it well for the future. They have worked to create new sources of revenue, while developing new garden areas and exhibits.

The 110-acre Garden is an oasis in the center of the city with natural woodlands, beautiful formal ornamental gardens, various types of water features, a World-class Japanese Garden, and the recently-completed boardwalk. The Garden Center is popular for many educational programs, civic endeavors, and lectures. Portions of the Garden are now on the National Register of Historic Places, which is a very prestigious recognition.

Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

The entire Master Plan supports the mission of conservation and environmental stewardship in the Garden. Green spaces are added rather than being consumed. Woodlands, wetlands, and streams will be restored and made accessible for learning and enjoyment. Conflicts between cars and pedestrians will be substantially reduced. Green space has not been sacrificed for parking needs but will be provided in the proposed Montgomery Street Entry. Environmental sustainability is a key goal for all future improvement projects. The Master Plan has a comfortable balance between those spaces devoted primarily to conservation and those spaces designed to provide display and ornamental gardens where mankind has an influence in creating beauty from plants and terrain.



Accessibility

Improving accessibility to and within the Garden is a major goal, and its central location in Fort Worth makes this goal possible. Many elements of the Master Plan enhance accessibility for Fort Worth residents and visitors. The proposed addition of the Montgomery Street Entry is crucial to assure accessibility from cars, buses, bicycles, and pedestrians. The entry also complements the wonderful improvements now taking place along the Montgomery Street corridor. In concert with completion of the new BRIT facility, the Garden Center Campus will become more significant in size, educational opportunities and accessibility. The campus also complements the improvements proposed for the Cultural District and Will Rogers area.

Connectivity within the Garden

Many elements of the plan, such as the proposed loop path and the coordinated sign system, will greatly improve pedestrian connectivity to the entire Garden while respecting the integrity of the various diverse elements of the Garden. Visitors will be able to move easily from space to space with good sign information and maps. Elimination of traversing motorized vehicular traffic will remove the current barriers in the Garden.

Learning

Almost every proposal in the Master Plan is intended to increase the learning opportunities in the Garden. The proposed entry areas will offer improved interpretive information for preparing visitors to explore the Garden. School and other groups will have sufficient orientation, rest rooms, and staging areas to begin the whole experience. The Garden educational programs coordinated with those of BRIT will provide increased programs for people of all ages. Improved sign and interpretive systems will make possible self-guided learning and supervised learning about conservation and environmental quality in the central city.

The proposed Children’s Garden will be a special place designed for children to have direct, hands-on opportunities for developing their motor skills while having fun, and to experience the beauty of nature and gardening at a young age.

Respect the Garden as a Special Place

The Garden is a special green space in the City. It has both conservation zones and beautiful display gardens, many of which are World-class. The Master Plan facilitates a greater awareness and appreciation of this wonderful resource. Providing this information in the entry areas and throughout the Garden will help assure that visitors understand the purpose of the Garden. It is a special Garden area and not just another community recreational area.

Uniquely Fort Worth and North Texas

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden is uniquely Fort Worth. The natural and improved areas obligate us to respect and restore this beautiful and historically important environment. The streams, wetlands, and woodlands are proposed for restoration. Display and ornamental gardens will be preserved and enhanced to provide Fort Worth residents an opportunity to experience all types of garden areas not otherwise publicly available in the Fort Worth area. The Master Plan respects the setting and context of the Garden, thereby assuring that the Garden is unique to Fort Worth and represents the spirit of Fort Worth residents.



Key Goals of the Master Plan

The master planning process and the resulting Master Plan are designed to attain several key goals in the next ten years, and will set a framework for many future decades. A Master Plan is imperative at this time because of the many great opportunities that will arise for the Garden in the next few years. Along with these opportunities will come some challenges to assure the Garden can continue its mission of “environmental stewardship” and remain a green sanctuary in the middle of one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States.

The Garden is part of a renowned Cultural District in the center of the city. This Cultural District is unique in that it includes great western heritage events side by side with internationally distinctive museums and science centers. In recent years, great improvements have been completed in the Cultural District. Several other improvements are now under construction or proposed for the near future.

Many of these proposed improvements will take place on parcels adjacent to the Garden, especially just west of the Garden. This can be a positive cooperative effort, if all of these entities continue to work together. The reconstruction of major utilities, streets and storm water quality management systems should respect the Garden environment.



Key Goals for the Master Planning Process include the following:

- Develop a consensus vision about the future of the Garden. The vision includes ideas and input from the multiple groups and residents of Fort Worth that have been stewards and builders of the Garden for so many years. The next step is to recommend the Master Plan be adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan for Fort Worth and the Cultural District. Key participants include the following:
 - o City of Fort Worth (Park Board, Staff, and City Council Representatives from the area)
 - o Fort Worth Garden Club
 - o Fort Worth Botanical Society
 - o Botanical Research Institute of Texas (new BRIT campus soon to be under construction and is incorporated into the Master Plan)
 - o Residents of Fort Worth
 - o Other stakeholders, such as adjoining land owners
- Develop an implementation plan and phasing plan to help guide the implementation process.
- Develop a Master Plan that complements and works within the broader redevelopment of the Cultural District and central Trinity River Greenbelt area.
- Ensure this tremendous asset will continue to be improved for future generations of Fort Worth residents to enjoy and respect.
- Continue the very successful collaboration of the Future of the Garden Committee stakeholders in the form of an ongoing organization that can help assure the implementation of the Botanic Garden Master Plan and the long-term success of the Garden.
- Develop a Master Plan that ensures the Garden can continue to attain its mission of “environmental stewardship and education.”



Rose Garden

Planning Process

The Future of the Garden Committee was formed to represent all of the past, current and future Garden stakeholders. This group includes the organizations referenced earlier, other acknowledged community leaders, adjoining neighborhoods, and the Cultural District. The Committee had hearings in all key phases of the Garden Master Plan process.

The first phases included preparation of initial site analyzes, documentation of conceptual ideas and observations, alternative concept studies, additional research and study of comparable gardens around the country, and how these gardens had successfully solved and implemented similar improvements. Planning charettes and workshops were held with the City and Botanic Garden staff, the Committee, and other stakeholders.

The Committee then reviewed a range of alternative concept plans and approved a preferred concept plan.

The consultant team then began a series of refinements, fact checking, feasibility testing, coordination with various engineering studies, detailed site studies, and other essentials that resulted in a refined preferred concept plan for review and approval. In this phase of work, community-wide meetings were held to receive resident and neighborhood review and input. Meetings were held with officials to assure compatibility with related area improvements including drainage, utility, environmental, and access studies.

Also, the concept of nominating a historic portion of the Garden for the National Register of Historic Places was suggested by members of the Committee. As noted below, this process was successful and now those portions of the Garden are on the National Register.

Then the concept plan was refined to the current Botanic Garden Master Plan as presented in this document. The document includes general and specific recommendations about implementation.

Of special note in this process is the broad extent of stakeholder and community involvement. The excellent input of the Botanic Garden staff in all phases of the process was very valuable.



Public Meeting



Meeting with Garden Staff



Henry Painter and Councilman Carter Burdette addressing the audience at a Public Meeting

The Beginning of a Park and a Greenbelt System

Rock Springs Park on the Trinity

*1912 - A community with a vision saved a unique green space for Fort Worth residents
Now – A Part of the National Register of Historic Places*

In 1912 the City of Fort Worth acquired a small park named Rock Springs Park. The decision was made to locate the Fort Worth arboretum in the newly-acquired park. The park was named for a series of small springs that flowed through the area surrounded by a vast amount of native vegetation. The tract of park land was located west of the Clear Fork of the Trinity River and was comprised of approximately 37.5 acres.

The first work in Rock Springs Park began in 1929 and was completed in 1931. In 1930, Hare and Hare produced a comprehensive plan for the entire development of Rock Springs Park that included a formal rose garden and a long vista through a natural grove of trees, connecting it with Trinity Park to the east. The final design of the Rose Garden was completed by June of 1933. The Tarrant County Rose Society was very active in the initial conception and construction phases of the Rose Garden.

By the time the Rose Garden was completed, approximately 750 men had worked on the garden. In addition to the rose garden and the vista, other work included cutting a mile of nature trails through the trees on either side of the vista. Full-scale planting of the Rose Garden began in April 1934.

In December of 1934, the Board of Park Commissioners voted to change the name “Rock Springs” to the “Fort Worth Botanic Garden.” The Botanic Garden continued to grow with new features and later expanded with the addition of more acreage. Some of the early projects were also completed through the use of federal relief funds. Through the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the predecessor of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), \$5,000 was provided for the purchase of materials and the construction of a Horticulture Building.

The Horticulture Building became a vital part of the Botanic Garden’s mission to educate the public about plants and their environment. The same day the Park Board voted to adopt the name “Fort Worth Botanic Garden,” it also voted to allow the Fort Worth Garden Club to maintain a Garden Center within the Horticulture Building for the public’s benefit, the first of its kind in Texas. The Garden Center officially opened in June of 1935. Several additions have been made to the Garden since then including the following: the Cactus Garden, Greenhouses and Fragrance Garden, Japanese Garden, Fuller Garden, Perennial Garden, Trial Garden, Four Seasons Garden, Texas Native Forest Boardwalk, the Conservatory, Water Conservation Garden, and the Water Wise Entrance.

In 2007 the Future of the Garden Committee composed of members from the Fort Worth Garden Club, Fort Worth Botanical Society, the Botanic Research Institute of Texas and various other interested groups, came together to nominate the Garden for the National Register of Historic Places.



Historic Rock Springs



Historic Aerial Photograph Garden Under Construction, 1930s

National Register of Historic Places

Paraphrased from Fort Worth Botanic Garden: Statement of Significance

In 2008, the Future of the Garden stakeholders supported the process of nominating the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for the National Register of Historic Places. The Fort Worth Botanic Garden was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 2009, by the National Park Service.

The nominated portion of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden encompasses the historic core of a much larger garden. It is located in west Fort Worth, Texas, just north of Interstate 30 and west of University Drive. The nominated resources are limited to those in the original Rock Springs Park area of the Garden primarily developed between 1929 and 1935, as well as a portion of an adjacent area developed in the early 1950s. Also included is the small stone shelter that originally served as the terminus of the East Vista but was severed from the Garden by the realignment of University Drive in the 1950s, thereby making the nominated district discontinuous.

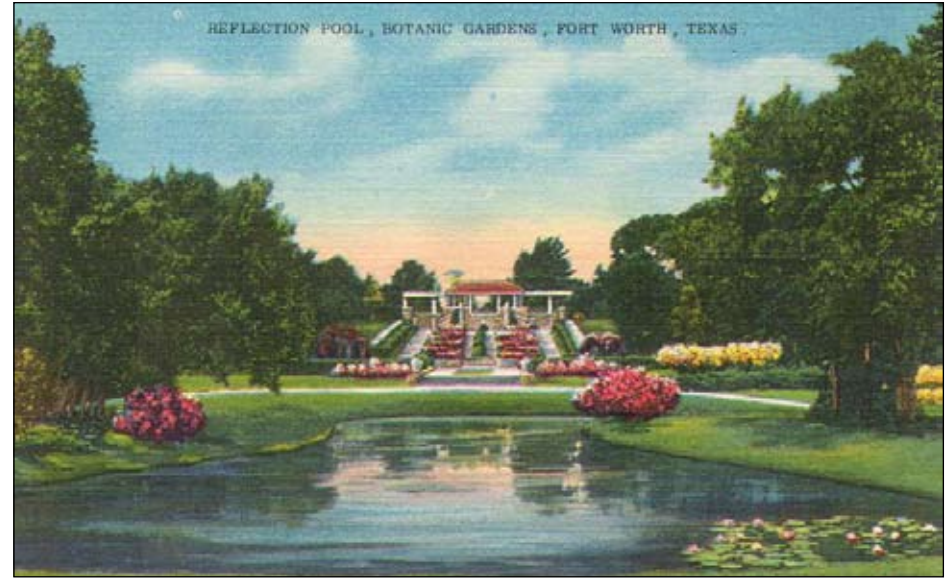
The nominated district encompasses approximately 33 acres containing the Municipal Rose Garden and adjacent vistas, as well as the trails and water gardens of the Rock Springs area, the former Cactus Garden, the Garden Center Area and the Horseshoe. All of these areas were designed and/or developed under the direction of the noted landscape architecture firm of Hare and Hare of Kansas City, Missouri. A major component of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden is the formal Municipal Rose Garden. Designed in the Italian Renaissance style and constructed in 1933, it is composed of a stone shelter and overlook above the rose ramp with terraces and a water cascade, parterres and a large pond. On a north axis perpendicular to the parterres is a Colonnade and Oval Rose Garden. Beyond the pond is a vista constructed through a native stand of trees. South of the Municipal Rose Garden is the informal water gardens and trails to the Rock Springs area.

Special thanks to Susan Kline for her help throughout the nomination process.

Contributing Resources

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Trails, Water Features, etc.. | 10. Colonnade |
| 2. Comfort Station | 11. Oval Rose Garden |
| 3. Pump House | 12. Gazebo |
| 4. Overlook Shelter | 13. a-d Oval Rose Garden Portals |
| 5. Overlook Platform | 14. Cactus Garden Walk |
| 6. Rose Ramp | 15. Greenhouse |
| 7. Paterres, Walls, Piers, etc.. | 16. Horseshoe |
| 8. Large Pond | 17. East Vista Shelter |
| 9. East Vista | 18. Rock Springs Building |





Historic Botanic Garden Photographs

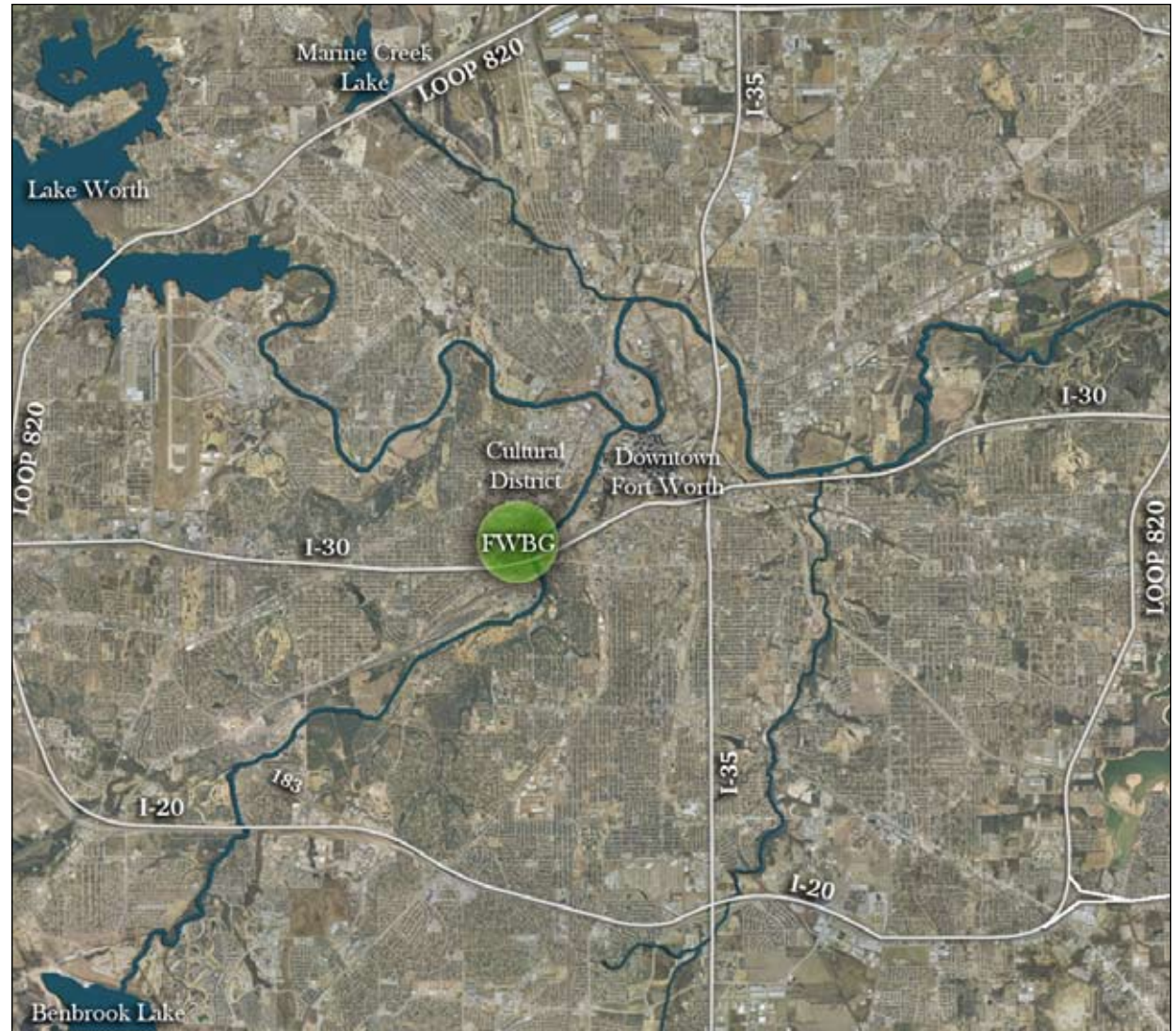
A Beautiful Green Space in the Central City and Cultural District

The 110-acre Garden enjoys a convenient setting accessible to all residents and tourists of the city. Existing and future public transportation systems will serve the Garden well. The addition of the proposed Montgomery Street entrance will help avoid vehicular and parking congestion on University Drive. Residents of Fort Worth think of the Garden as being “everybody’s Garden” because of its easy accessibility from all directions. The early leaders of Fort Worth had the insight to realize the importance of preserving this beautiful green space. Through the years new leaders have been successful in expanding the Garden in strategic ways.

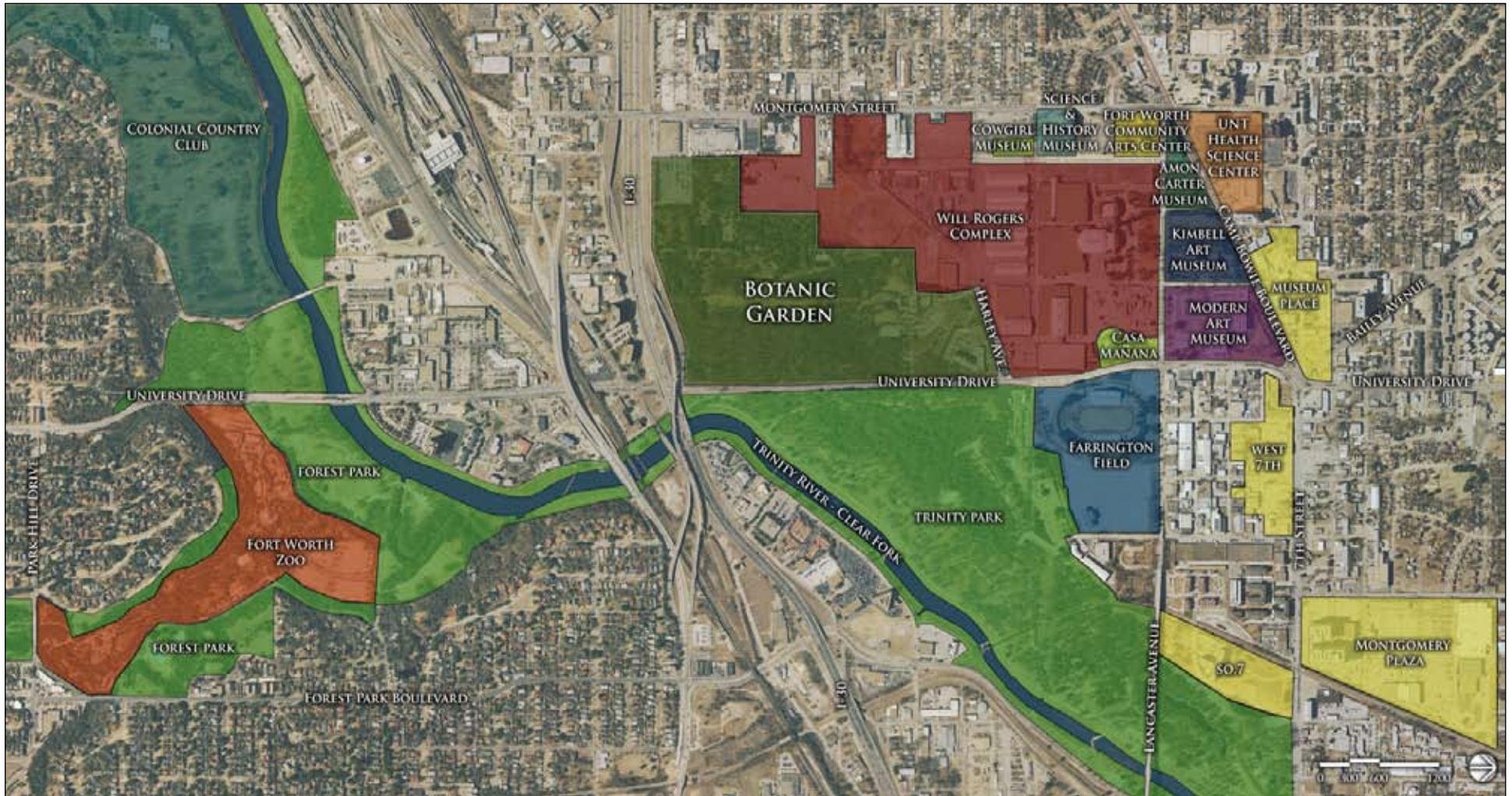
The adjacency to the Cultural District museums, the Will Rogers Complex, numerous theaters, and the Fort Worth Community Arts Center distinguishes the Fort Worth Botanic Garden from any other garden in the country.

The approximate 180-acre Trinity Park is located to the immediate east along with the Trinity River Greenbelt. This will help assure the Garden will always have a beautiful setting. Driving along University Drive is a green escape along an otherwise mostly urban arterial of the city. Just one mile to the south is Forest Park and the Fort Worth Zoo, also located on the Trinity River corridor and serving the entire city.

In the last few years, many mixed-use projects have been developed along the 7th Street, Lancaster Street, and University Drive corridors. These projects will provide sustainable mixed-use developments with numerous restaurants, retail locations, multiple hotel rooms and residential homes. These developments will add a large amount of new tax base to the city and help attract an urban life style to Fort Worth with a high quality of life. The 300+ acres of garden and parks in the area are major reasons for attracting the large private reinvestments. It is the intent of this process to help assure that some of the new tax base will be used to support the future of the Garden Master Plan. In most cases the developments have replaced antiquated and declining industrial areas that were not compatible with the greenbelt and Garden system.



Garden Accessibility and Proximity



Area Context Map

Key Strengths & Garden Districts



Key Strengths

After Phase One it was clear to the Future of the Garden Committee and the consultant team that the Garden had numerous strengths and a few challenges that would all need to be addressed in the final Master Plan. These opportunities are only possible because of the great leadership provided by Garden stakeholders through the years.



Major Strengths

The Garden has many strengths upon which the Master Plan proposes to expand, as follows:

Central Location – “Everybody’s Garden”

As explained above, the Garden is located in an internationally-renowned Cultural District, and it is centrally located in the city. It is well served by public transportation, which is proposed to be enhanced over the next several years. It is also located on an extensive, 90-mile Greenbelt System in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. This is an advantage for all residents and distinguishes the Garden from any other major botanic garden in the country. This close proximity of so many cultural opportunities is also unprecedented in the United States.



Size, Diversity and History of the Garden

The 110-acre Garden has a wonderful diversity of woodlands, formal gardens, streams, lagoons, wetlands, open meadows, vistas, and interesting topography. The Conservatory and greenhouses open to the public offer opportunities to see tropical plants from around the world and plant propagation areas, respectively, not otherwise available to most Fort Worth residents.

The plant species are numerous with some trees being over 200 years old. There is a comfortable and extensive mixture of native plants and adaptive plants throughout the Garden. The recent listing on the National Register of Historic Places (for the historic portion of the Garden) recognizes the early work of community leaders to establish a diverse garden for the community. Please see page 18 for more details.

The highly-respected Japanese Garden was placed within what was once a rock quarry and now is an enormous array of plants. These plants are protected by being within the “bowl” of the Garden, which helps with their survival in extreme temperatures often experienced in north central Texas.



The Streams, Lagoon Areas, and Wetland Areas

The Garden was originally founded on the Rock Springs. Now the Garden provides a series of streams and water features. Some good examples of where water features have been greatly enhanced include the Japanese Garden, with its series of beautiful ponds and the Fuller Garden.



Meetings, Education & Special Event Spaces

The Moncrief Garden Center, the Leonhardt Lecture Hall, and the Rock Springs Center offer opportunities for education, community-wide meetings, and many other types of meetings and activities. These facilities are widely used by groups from all over the region. Weddings and many other types of celebrations are held throughout the Garden in various beautiful locations. For example, the annual “Concerts in the Garden” attracts tens of thousands of visitors during June and early July. Other popular special events include plant sales, the Japanese Garden festival, etc.



Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) will become a major new attraction in the Garden. To be located northeast of the current Garden Center, it will complement the Garden Center by adding additional parking and extending the Garden north to Harley Avenue. BRIT has partnered with the Garden for many years in educational and lecture series. BRIT will bring important science, research, and educational programs that complement the already good programs offered by the Garden. BRIT has worked closely with the Garden throughout the Garden master planning process.

The addition of BRIT puts the Garden on par with other Gardens in the country that offer these types of collections, research, and education. BRIT will also bring in visitors and professionals from around the world that may not have otherwise visited the Garden.



Very Qualified and Dedicated Botanic Garden Staff

The consulting team was extremely impressed and thankful for the dedication and knowledge of the Garden staff. The staff has been integrally involved in all phases of the planning process. Their knowledge and ideas have been instrumental in the Master Plan recommendations. They work tirelessly in all seasons of the year and for 365 days a year.

Future of the Garden Committee

The committee, which includes all of the stakeholders mentioned above, has worked closely together and developed a strong consensus in support of the Master Plan and in support of finding implementation strategies in the near future. Some form of this committee must stay together and guide the implementation.

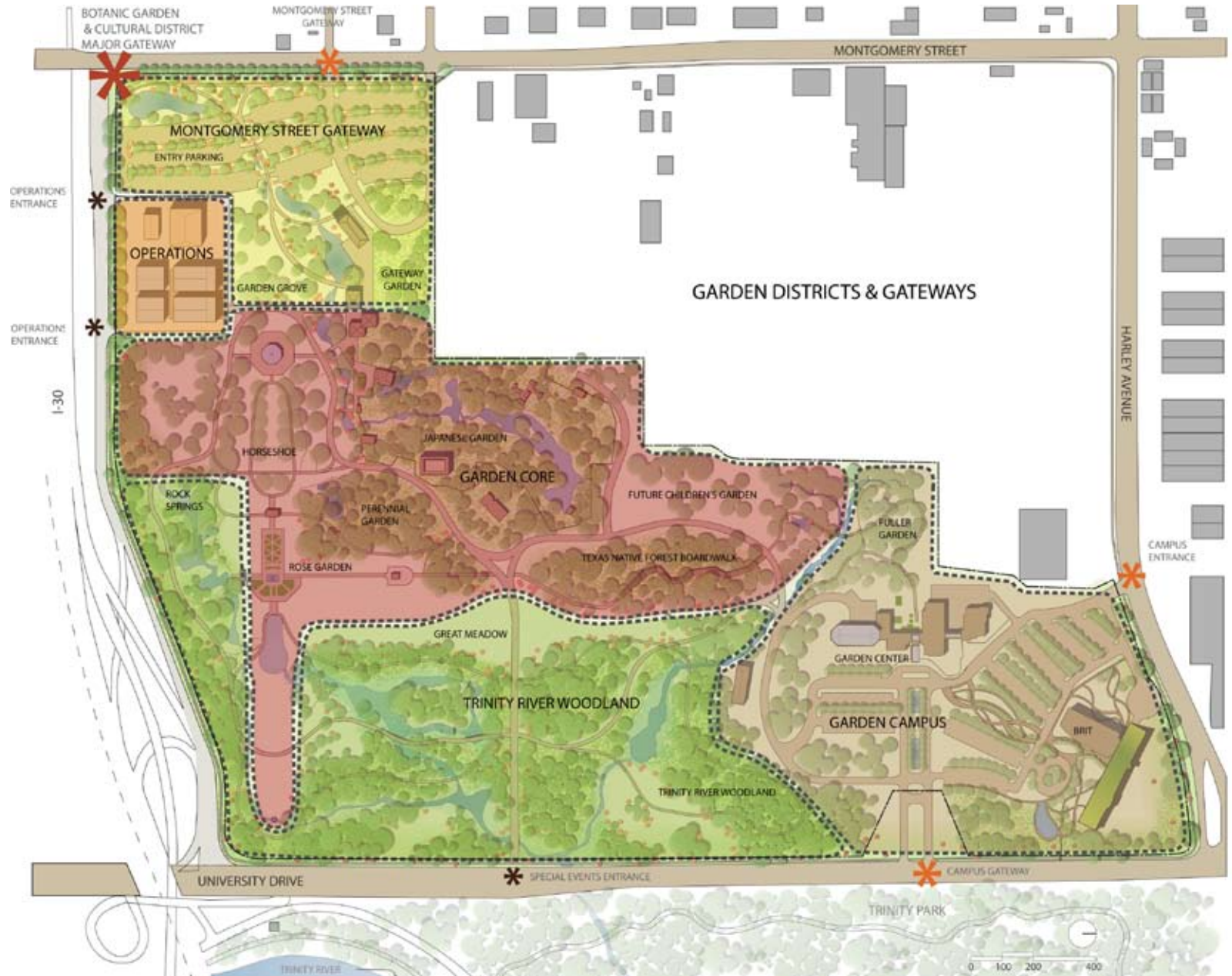
Fort Worth City Leadership in Support of the Garden

Representatives of the City Council, Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, and other City staff have been very supportive of the planning process and seem strongly committed towards finding ways to implement the plan.



Garden Districts

The Future of the Garden Committee identified several garden districts. Each district has a distinctive character and purpose in the recommended Master Plan.





The Garden Core Area

The central core is the heart of the Garden in terms of visitor attractions. It is comprised of a loosely connected series of gardens and spaces. The Japanese Garden and the Historic Rose Garden are two outstanding displays and the most frequent visitor destinations. The Japanese Garden is one of the best in the country, and the Horseshoe Garden and the Rose Garden were recently put on the National Register of Historic Places. The central core presently suffers from inappropriate uses such as the current Maintenance Center (which occupies a critical connecting space between the Fuller Garden and the Japanese Garden). Current anchors of the Garden Core include the following:

- Japanese Garden*
- Historic Rose Garden*
- Great Meadow*
- Horseshoe Area*
- Perennial Garden*
- East Vista*



The Trinity River Woodland Area

To attain the full potential of the Garden, the Master Plan should now address this remnant feature, reinventing this large natural area as an important garden exhibit. The Trinity River Woodlands are a band of floodplain forest lands that parallels University Drive and curves up along I-30. These woodlands are pleasant, but are nonetheless highly disturbed. They will require extensive ecological restoration to heighten and dramatize them as “natural gardens.” Currently under utilized features that could provide opportunities for new displays and interpretation and new destinations for Garden visitors are as follows:

- Rock Springs and its associated stream and ponds*
- The Trinity floodplain forest with several streams and lagoons*



The Garden Campus Area

With the Moncrief Garden Center, the Garden developed the northern end of the Garden as a campus dedicated to learning. This learning campus supports the Garden’s mission both in Fort Worth and across international borders. The addition of BRIT will strengthen this learning campus and will reinforce the different programs and character of this zone of the Garden. The Garden Campus includes the following:

- Moncrief Garden Center*
- Fuller Garden*
- Texas Garden Club Headquarters*
- Proposed Botanical Research Institute of Texas*
- Botanical Conservatory*

Proposed Garden Zones with Proposed Improvements

The proposed new organization of the Botanic Garden Master Plan includes two new zones. The zones are more fully explained in the Master Plan section starting on page 32.

- Montgomery Street Entrance Area*
- Operations and Maintenance Area*



The Master Plan





Planning Principles & Issues – A BASIS FOR A PLANNING PROGRAM



Organize the Experience of the Garden

The Garden has many wonderful garden spaces and special features. However, it is not always clear how to traverse from one feature to the other. Walkway systems are often discontinuous and the sign and information system lacks coordination. The Garden Center provides an information desk, but it is somewhat remote from certain Garden features to the south such as Rock Springs, the Japanese Garden, and the historic Rose Garden areas.

The Garden is traversed by public roadways (Rock Springs Road and Old Garden Road). These roadways date back to times when the Garden was completely south of the Old Garden Road entrance. Now these roads bisect the Garden and create barriers and safety issues for pedestrian movement, especially now with the development of the Texas Native Boardwalk and Fuller Garden.

Almost all notable botanic gardens in America and elsewhere do not allow public traffic to flow through their gardens. This design aspect is in place because cars tend to disrupt the solitude, beauty, and safe movement of pedestrians and wildlife. Notable examples of gardens that have recognized this need to restrict cars include the New York Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Arboretum in Dallas, Missouri Botanic Garden, Denver Botanic Garden, Atlanta Botanic Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden, and the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia. There are many other examples.



Develop Pedestrian Entryways – Where to Start and Learn about the Garden Experience

Currently there are no clear gateways or entrances for pedestrian visitors to begin the Garden visit. There are vehicular entries, but no clear gateways for pedestrian visitors to park and then begin a pedestrian-scale experience of the Garden. There is not an obvious place to obtain orientation and education about the entire Garden. The Garden Center front desk tries to perform this function, but it is not designed to fulfill that role unless people just happen to walk in and inquire.

The current pedestrian system leading to the various features is fragmented and disrupted by vehicular roadways. Consequently, many visitors just drive into and through the Garden. While this experience is convenient to visitors with a single destination or purpose, it is not conducive to visitors wishing to visit all or most of the Garden without worrying about traffic, noise, and safety.



Improve and Coordinate the Sign and Information Systems

The sign and information systems in the Garden need consistency and coordination with Garden maps and pedestrian sidewalks. The entire experience of the Garden beginning with vehicular and pedestrian gateways needs to be improved.

The addition of the Loop Path system and the improved visitor entry areas will greatly help with guiding visitors to and through the Garden.

It is also noted that some people may need or desire special assistance to enjoy the Garden. Provisions in the form of a people mover should be considered to accommodate this. This feature is a major component of many other successful gardens in America and Europe.



Remove Public Streets and Minimize Traffic from the Middle of the Garden

Rock Springs Road and Old Garden Road continue to traverse the Garden with various forms of public traffic. The streets date back to times when the Garden was much smaller (the original Rock Springs area) and the roads only provided access by the Garden at that time and did not traverse the middle of the Garden. Now the Garden includes many significant areas outside of this originally limited boundary. These public roads are no longer appropriate with the expanded Garden. Also, no significant urban botanic garden in America continues to allow this type of condition.

It is recognized that service and special event access corridors will need to remain for varying sizes of vehicles, but only for approved Botanic Garden service or events.



Respect the Garden as a Special and Unique Place

The Botanic Garden is a specialized place where plants and environments of all seasons and horticultural displays deserve careful respect from visitors. Respectful individual, group, and family activities, such as picnics in the shade, weddings, educational programs, photography, nature study, bird watching, and other activities are strongly encouraged in the Garden-- just not activities that trample or disrespect the Garden. It is not a place to play active sports, drive cars, or any other activities not oriented to admiring, studying, contemplating, and learning about the beauty and importance of the environment.

The Garden is not a neighborhood or community park. Fortunately, Fort Worth does have great community parks in the immediate area – Forest Park, Trinity Park, and the Trinity River Greenbelt system.

Planning Principles & Issues – A BASIS FOR A PLANNING PROGRAM



Focus on the Water—Springs, Streams, Lagoons, and Wetlands

The Garden’s original beginnings were with the Rock Springs. Since that time, the Garden has been expanded to include other streams, restoration of ponds in the Japanese Garden, the streams that flow from the west, Fuller Garden streams, and the lagoons and wetland areas in the Trinity River Woodlands area. The consultant team strongly believes these water features should be accentuated and restored as a focal point of the Garden. There are both natural and cultural water features that can connect and help bring more continuity to the Garden.

It is a well known fact that people are attracted to water and various water features. The Garden offers an excellent opportunity for providing the aesthetic, educational, and environmental restoration of the water features. Maintaining the water quality that flows into the Garden and within the Garden is a critical imperative of this plan. These “water flows” occur primarily from the west areas.



Recognize and Cooperate Within the Context of the Garden

The wonderful context of the Garden has been well summarized above. The Master Plan must respect and respond to this framework. Entry ways, water quality issues, buffering, parking, traffic flows to the Garden, and connections to these other notable facilities are safeguarded in the Master Plan.



Celebrate and Connect the Diversity of Landscapes in the Garden – and the New Opportunities

As previously mentioned, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden is fortunate to have a mixture of formal gardens, restoration of the quarry (now the renowned Japanese Garden), natural streams and waterways, the woodlands (including the boardwalk), and the meadows.

Now with BRIT’s relocation the Garden offers even more science, research, and educational opportunities.

The combination of these features means the Garden can enjoy a much improved future in terms of attaining the mission of ***“Enriching people’s lives through environmental stewardship and education.”***

Garden Gateways & Entries

Two major gateways or entries are recommended in the Master Plan – The Campus Area Gateway located to the northeast, and the Montgomery Street Gateway located to the southwest. Both of these gateways are located on major arterial streets with on and off ramps from Interstate 30.

The Campus Area Gateway

The Campus Area Gateway will be at the Garden Center. This area already serves as an arrival point for many visitors and certainly for those coming to events in the Garden Center, Conservatory, and Fuller Garden area. The gateway has a drive access from Harley Street and University Drive. The addition of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) will add a whole new dimension to this gateway and will attract increased visitation from an even more diverse set of the scientific community and the growing cultural / ecosystem interests.

BRIT and the Garden currently do many cooperative educational and lecture programs. The Gateway Campus will add tremendously to this opportunity for cooperative programs. BRIT can utilize the Garden location to support various field-oriented educational programs. The woodlands, wetlands, Texas Native Boardwalk and Rock Springs area can especially complement BRIT educational programs. Garden staff and BRIT can work together to carry out continued restoration of these areas to represent natural sustainable environments for plants and wildlife. The BRIT facility will effectively extend the Garden boundary to Harley Street. Combined, the Garden Center and BRIT

area will have almost 400 parking spaces. This parking will be shared and the joint utilization will be very beneficial because often the peak visitation in the Garden is different than the peak time utilization of BRIT. The Garden experiences high visitation during weekends and holidays and BRIT expects more visitations during the weekday and sometimes evening events. It is proposed that eventually the entire parking area will be designed to be environmentally sound with strong emphasis on landscaping and water run-off management.

The Garden Center already operates a reception desk and small information center at the main entry. This facility currently is focused on helping to direct people to the Garden Center. This feature could be improved and slightly expanded to include improved information and exhibits related to the entire Garden.

In addition to the Garden Center and BRIT, the Campus Area Gateway will offer excellent access to the Conservatory, Fuller Garden, the Forest Boardwalk, the northern portions of the Trinity Woodlands, the Texas Garden Club, the proposed Children’s Garden, and the proposed Garden Loop Path. BRIT will also have an information desk that can help direct visitors to the Garden circulation system.

Both the Garden Center and the proposed BRIT campus will include restroom facilities, drinking fountains and related amenities for visitors.



Approach to the Garden Center from University Drive



Proposed BRIT Campus - The BRIT campus site and building are designed to incorporate the highest level of environmental sustainability.

The Montgomery Street Gateway

The Montgomery Street Gateway is proposed to be near the intersection of Montgomery Street and Interstate Highway 30 (I-30). Montgomery Street is increasingly becoming a more important entry to the Cultural District and Will Rogers Complex. It is recommended that a new, more formal Botanic Garden Gateway be developed in this area oriented to Montgomery Street and that this area include approximately 400 parking spaces.

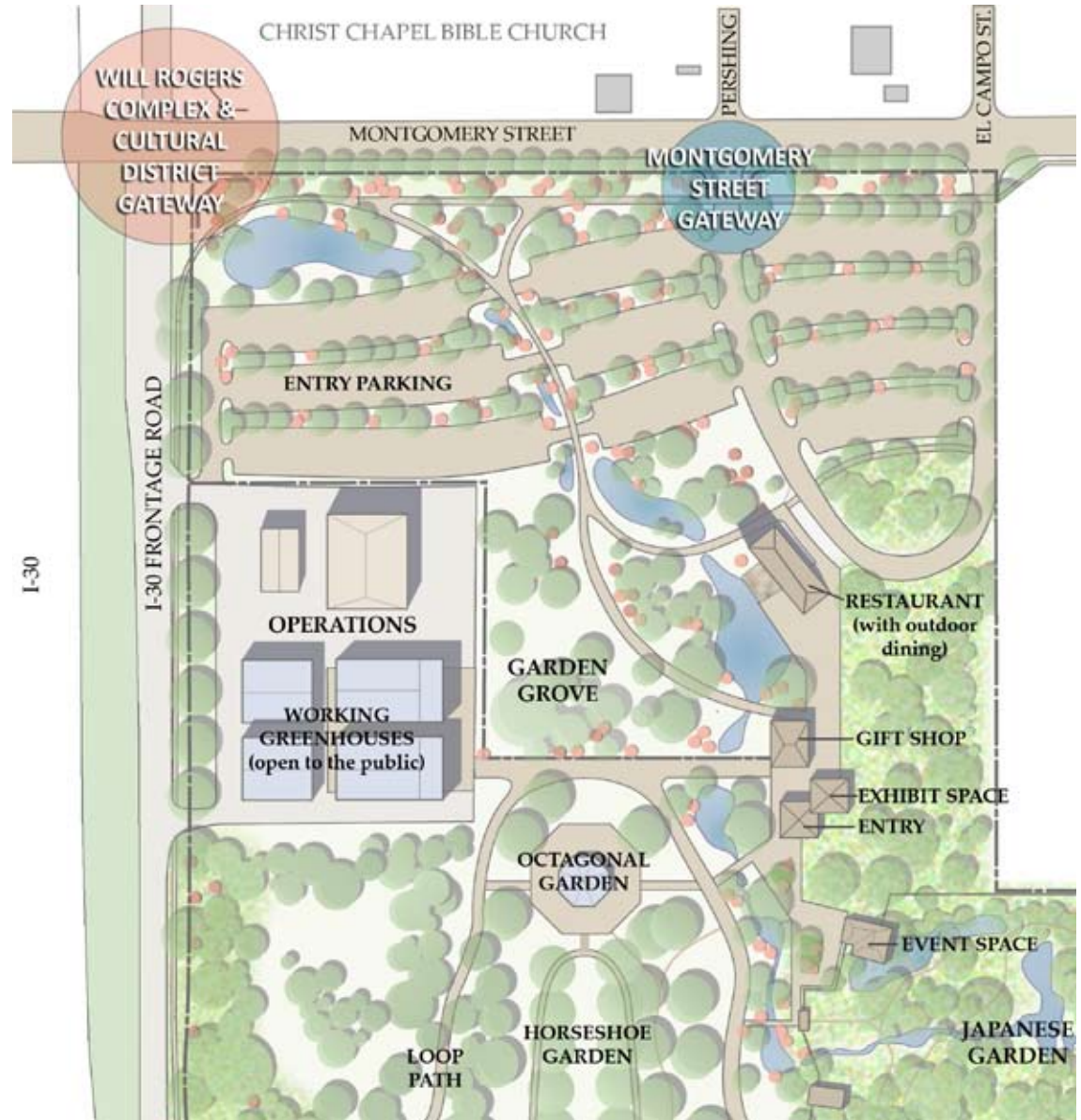
The new Montgomery Street Gateway is more than a major improvement with parking and organization of the Garden's circulation; it offers the Garden a chance to reshape visitor amenities. Several key improvements are involved in the creation of a new Montgomery Street Gateway.

Having two primary gateways in the future is essential to balance the traffic flow along University Drive and Montgomery Street and to serve the popular core area of the Garden which includes the Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, the Rock Springs and Trinity Woodland areas. The Montgomery Street entrance will be close to the new greenhouse complex that will be open to Garden visitors.

Currently, this area serves the Garden as auxiliary parking for special events and heavy visitation days, but only on holidays and weekends. The current parking area south of the Garden Grove is proposed to become the major operations and working greenhouse area for the Garden. These working greenhouses are proposed to be open to the visiting public as much as possible for enjoyment of plants and educational programs. At this location the working greenhouses will be easily accessible from the Montgomery Street entry and will be easily accessible from the Garden Loop Path. The gateway will create an aesthetic entry to the entire Cultural District. Parking within the southern portion of the Cultural District / Will Rogers Complex is also proposed for future improvement, and will enable joint use possibilities with the Garden. Having two entrances also helps support the pedestrian circulation (see "Loop Path Recommendations") and allows the elimination of public traffic in the center of the Garden.

The primary visual experience should be organized around vegetation of the size and quantity to mitigate the view of cars from the Garden Entrance or Montgomery Street. There should be an apparent monument-type sign at the intersection of I-30 and Montgomery Street for visitors to both the Garden and the Cultural District. An entry monument-type sign specifically for the Fort Worth Botanic Garden should be constructed at the main parking area entry.

A key to creating this as an entry to the whole Cultural District is the creation of an identifiable garden landscape at the very visible corner of I-30 and Montgomery Street. This piece of green infrastructure should have the capacity to manage storm water created from the gateway's new pervious



The Montgomery Street Gateway Conceptual Plan - The Montgomery Street Gateway is a very important new entry to the Garden. It is planned to complement and coordinate with ongoing improvements to the Will Rogers and Cultural District Areas.

surfaces through attractive water features. The corner gateway landscape must become a Garden welcome mat to the city of Fort Worth, acting as both a symbol of the Garden’s green mission and a site for increased public events.

The proposed parking design is divided into smaller “rooms” of vehicles that are shaded by native canopy trees, with each room capable of managing its own storm water with vegetated swales and small rain gardens. The parking should be well lighted with attractive, full cut-off fixtures that can accommodate day and night time use during special events and Will Rogers Complex events. The parking lot lighting may also take advantage of Fort Worth’s sunny weather by incorporating solar-powered systems.

This gateway is proposed to include an entry / visitor’s center, gift shop, and a restaurant facility. This entry area would also include support facilities, such as restrooms, drinking fountains, and concessions for visitors. A drop-off area is proposed for school groups, other visitor groups, and ramps for disabled visitors.

This drop-off area can function for valet parking and should include seating, shade, and rain protected areas for people waiting on transportation. The drop-off area should accommodate three to five buses, while not disrupting other traffic movement. Buses should not park in this area, but park in a designated remote area in the parking lot.

The gateway could include provisions for a more permanent area for a plant sale market area associated with the gift shop. The adjoining Garden Grove would continue to accommodate the special, larger plant sales during the year. These plant sales have proven to be extremely popular, and they help provide plant and home landscape education. The restaurant, gift shop, and plant sale areas will offer additional sources of revenue that can be open all year and at night, when the Garden might otherwise be closed.

With the new expanded gift shop, the Japanese Garden gift shop can be converted to a rental facility for weddings, meetings, and other events. It is beautifully suited to that purpose with very little renovation required, and would create a new source of revenue. All of these venues are in close proximity to Montgomery Street and can create more sales, including sales from the thousands of visitors to the Will Rogers / Cultural District facilities.

Locating the restaurant within the Montgomery Street Gateway experience allows the restaurant to draw upon an audience beyond the Garden visitor while maintaining the unique garden setting. New dining options provide an important function within the Garden by allowing visitors to relax, refresh and refuel themselves before extending their visit and by providing the Garden with an additional means to deliver its mission and message. This experience will encourage guests to visit the entire Garden either the same day or in repeat visits.



Main Pedestrian Entrance to the Dallas Arboretum



When the new gift shop is completed, the current gift shop in the Japanese Garden can be easily converted to an event space that will increase revenue to the Garden. This building has a beautiful setting with fantastic views of the Japanese Garden to the north.



The new Montgomery Street entry will include several additional spaces for special events and a larger gift shop for the whole Garden.



North Carolina Arboretum Gift Shop



Example of group staging area proposed near the Montgomery Street Entry



The Garden Grove area should also include a group picnic area, which is often an important aspect for visiting schools and other groups who bring or buy their lunch. The restaurant facility could offer picnic baskets or quick snacks. The picnic area would also be designed to support the plant sale and other special events in this area. The continuity of the water should flow through this area along the natural drainage swale. This would essentially be a beginning of the Garden waterway system, which then flows through many other Garden features. The system can be created with a series of retention ponds and would provide amenities for the restaurant and entry area facilities. The retention ponds would also provide an environmental quality function.

For rough planning purposes, the restaurant is shown to be about 5,000 square feet of indoor space. In addition, there would be ample outdoor patio seating for daily and special event uses that would overlook the water feature and the Garden Grove. The visitor's entrance, exhibit, rest rooms, gift shop, and related amenities would be about 4,000 to 6,000 square feet, subject to future programming. Variables would be whether to provide for small meeting areas or garden orientation theaters, and the size of gallery / exhibit spaces. The facilities can also be phased over time. The concept plan shows them being treated as about three or four pods of buildings, allowing for efficient and non-disruptive phasing.



The Montgomery Street entry area is proposed to have a restaurant that can overlook the Garden Grove and proposed pond system. This restaurant can be open day, night and year round because it will be convenient to Montgomery Street and the Cultural District area. It can be outside of the Garden perimeter that must be closed and secure at night.

All of the comparable gardens studied in this planning process included key identifiable entry and visitor center areas similar to the suggestions listed above. The Chicago Botanic Garden, New York Botanic Garden, Dallas Arboretum, and Denver Botanic Garden have recently expanded, built new, or proposed to build such gateways as described above.



Parking drainage swale - The parking areas for the Montgomery Street area should incorporate landscaping combined with runoff management designs that naturally filter the storm waters. It is important for the Botanic Garden to set the example for sustainable landscapes.



Morris Arboretum - Example of using a pervious surface to manage runoff in a parking lot.



Callaway Gardens, Georgia

Education in the Garden

The proposed Master Plan and future improvements are substantially conceived to carry out the mission of the Garden --“Enriching people’s lives through environmental stewardship and education.” The wonderful advantage of the Garden is that people of all ages learn about environmental stewardship while having an enjoyable experience during all seasons. The educational component takes place in a variety of ways and forums.

Key Recommendations of the Master Plan Related to Education in the Garden are as follows:

- The Loop Path connects from the Montgomery Street Gateway and the Garden Campus area to all of the major Garden features. The Path provides accessibility for all populations, young and old, and those that might have special needs for access.
- The Sign and Information System stresses on-site interpretation and self-interpretation of many of the Garden’s features. In this manner, people experience learning, fun, and related family or group experiences in the same visit.
- The proposed entry exhibits provide vital information about how to enjoy and learn from the many facets of the Garden, focusing on educating visitors as they enter the Garden. Each season offers new learning and fun experiences. It is important to inform visitors about these return visit opportunities.
- Learning about the importance of environmental stewardship is obviously crucial in today’s environmental circumstances. The Garden should stress a family or other membership options that provide information and free access to certain exhibits for an affordable annual membership. Such memberships also provide timely information about current and upcoming exhibits.
- The proposed Children’s Garden, along with the Texas Native Forest Boardwalk and related programs, will offer a significant opportunity for young people to experience the Garden, have fun and use all of their senses to learn about the importance of open space, nature, and the environment.
- The purpose of the Garden Waterway System is to preserve and restore important springs, streams, and wetland areas in order to foster water quality and the related plant and animal habitats. This will create an extremely valuable water education, habitat and water quality knowledge for all residents in the center of the city.
- The proposal for elimination of traffic through the Garden will make the Garden much more conducive and safe for children, families and other groups to traverse the Garden for a total learning experience.
- The addition of BRIT adds a new educational dimension. BRIT and the Garden already have a successful history of cooperation. When BRIT becomes integral to the Garden, it will greatly enhance education in an increased array of areas.
- School, family, and group drop-off and staging areas are a major part of the Master Plan. Provision of arrival interpretation and educational materials can take place at both of the major Garden Entry areas. Basic necessities such as group picnic and staging areas, concessions, bus parking, and rest rooms are addressed in the Master Plan.
- The working greenhouses accessible at the Montgomery Street entrance will offer changing exhibits and give visitors a chance to see the important propagation and nurturing of plants during the changing seasons. It will also give the very capable Garden staff opportunities to interface with the visiting public.



Fort Worth Botanic Garden



Callaway Gardens



Fort Worth Botanic Garden



Fort Worth Botanic Garden



Chicago Botanic Garden Library



Fort Worth Botanic Garden - Pruning Classes

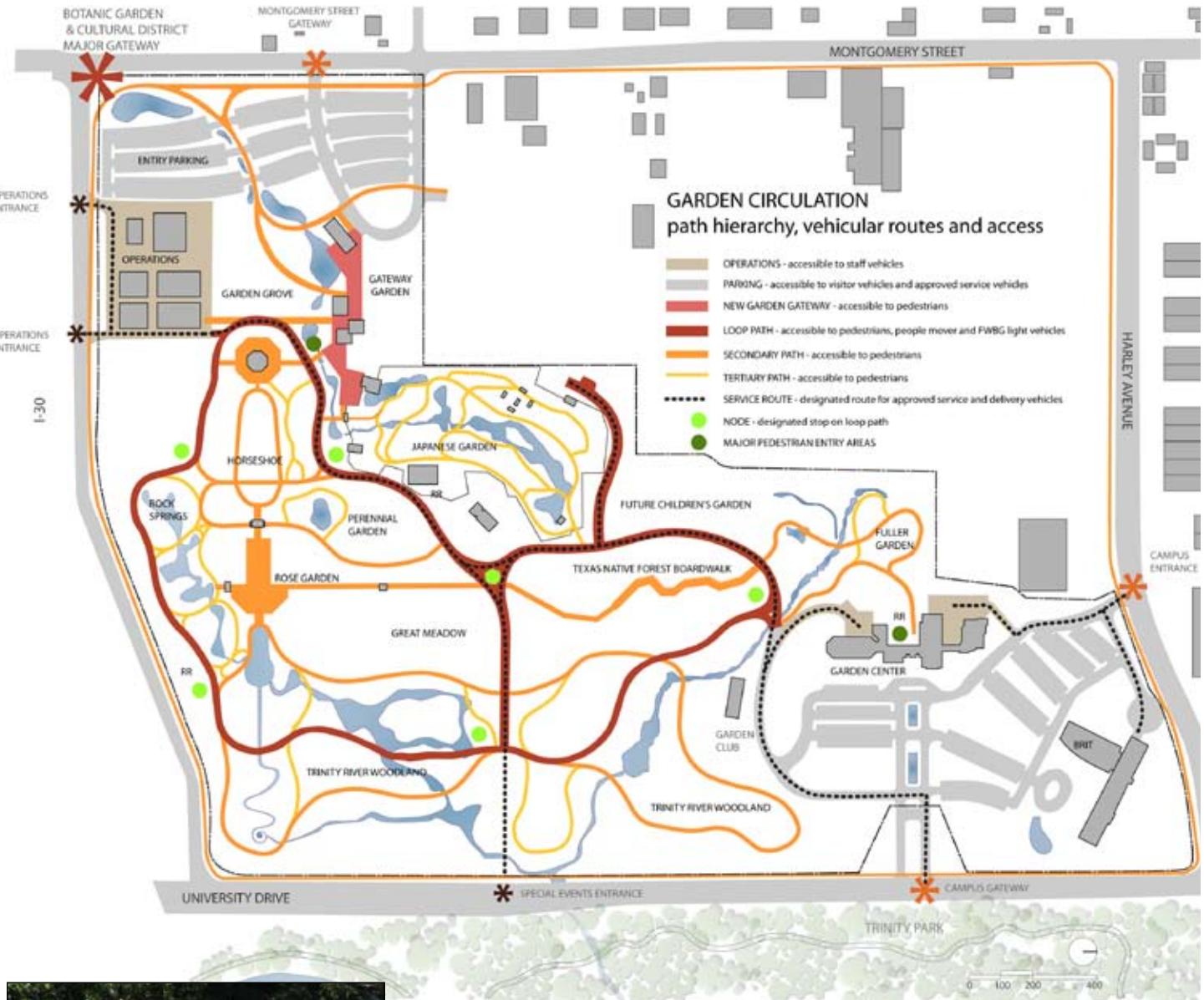


The Loop Path Circulation System

A major element for organizing the Garden experience is to phase in a clear loop pedestrian path and circulation system. This path is planned to connect from the two major entry ways to close proximity to all areas of the Garden. The entire loop would be about 1.15 miles (6,000 linear feet). It is planned to be sensitive and noninvasive to any of the existing or proposed Garden areas including the Trinity Woodlands and Rock Springs areas. It will serve to organize substantially the experience of the Garden. About half of the loop path route follows the alignment of what are now public roadways.

This path will provide low impact access to some areas not currently accessible or even known by most visitors to the Garden such as Rock Springs and the Trinity Woodland zone. It also provides convenient and safe access to existing and proposed secondary walkway systems. It is not necessary for visitors to traverse the whole loop in any one visit, but it will provide convenient access to the features they wish to see in that visit. This path will be coordinated with the Garden map and all other internal information signs and systems including interpretative signs.

The loop path will also provide access for the mobility disabled and other special needs groups that now have no practical means to experience certain areas of the Garden such as the Trinity Woodlands. The loop path could accommodate a low-impact people-mover that would help visitors gain access around the Garden areas instead of using automobiles, buses, and other vehicles traversing the Garden. This technique for providing access to successful gardens around the world is a well accepted process for notable gardens to provide the respite from the daily urban conditions. It eliminates or



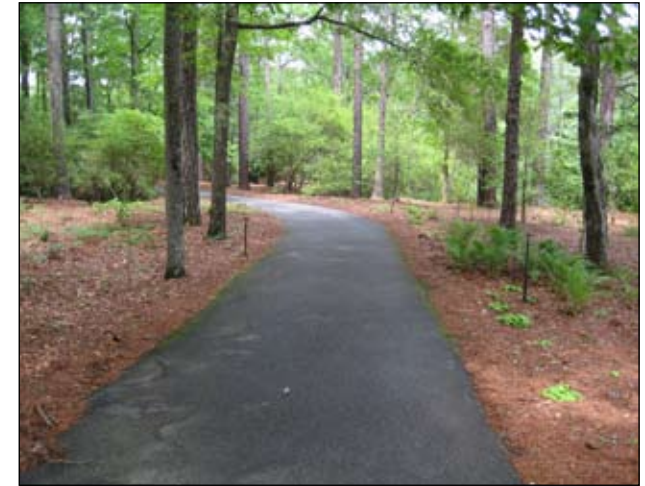
Example of people-mover suitable for loop path



Fort Worth Botanic Garden - Example of Tertiary and Nature Study Paths



Fort Worth Botanic Garden - Example of a Secondary



Callaway Gardens - Example of Loop Path

greatly reduces noise, traffic, pollution, and safety issues. With today's technology, people-mover vehicles are quiet, usually rechargeable electric, and non-polluting.

The two major entry areas, coupled with the loop path, will elevate the Garden eventually to a greener, more sustainable, enjoyable environment, which is in keeping with the Garden's mission. It will also encourage more people to use public transportation to access the Garden.

The loop path would be designed primarily for pedestrian circulation, but light "people-mover" systems are also possible and encouraged at least some of the time. A small portion of the loop path crosses the east vista, and this should be as visually unobtrusive as possible. Portions of the loop path would be designed to accommodate official Botanic Garden vehicles, service vehicles, special event access, and emergency vehicles. Access for various sizes of Botanic Garden operations vehicles would be accessible to the system in safe and slow speed conditions. Most of the maintenance and operations work occurs during non-peak visitor hours of the Garden.

In areas requiring delivery and service vehicles, emergency vehicles, etc., the path may need to be about 18 feet wide with strengthened pavement. The path would still be designed in a manner to have pedestrian scale and texture. Service and emergency vehicles would be advised to traverse at very slow and safe speeds.

In the Trinity Woodlands and around the Rock Springs area, the path should be about 12 feet wide. It would be designed for very low impact on existing trees, water features, and understory plants. It is proposed to provide environmentally sound access to these areas.

Garden representatives should continue to cooperate with the Cultural District representatives, the City, Parks and Community Services, and the Trinity River Vision planning work to help assure that pedestrian connections are improved among these adjoining areas. This creates exciting synergy among the various venues and distinguishes the Fort Worth Cultural District from others in the country. This should include extending and improving a coordinated sign and information system into these adjoining areas.

The proposed improvements to all trail, road and parking facilities will be phased in a manner to reduce inconvenience to operations, visitors, and volunteers. The road and path systems will be managed by Garden staff to assure safe and improved access.

Bicycle access to the Garden would be encouraged to arrive at the two main entries and would be provided ample and convenient bike parking areas.



Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia - Example of 18' Path - also designed for approved service and delivery vehicles

"Intricacy and variety must be created by planting. Walks must be led in various directions, and concealed from each other by thickets, and masses of shrubbery and trees, and occasionally rich masses of foliage; not forgetting to heighten all, however, by an occasional contrast of broad, unbroken surface of lawn."

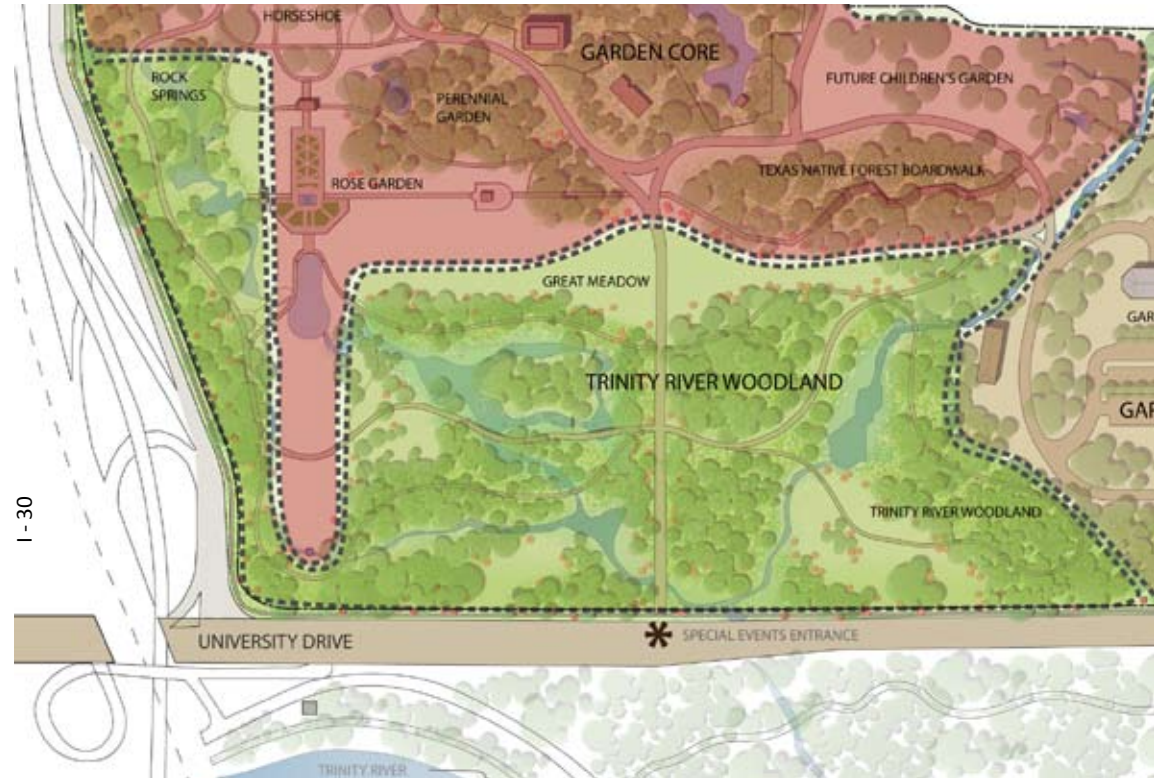
- Andrew Jackson Downing

Rock Springs & Trinity Woodlands

Rock Springs

The Rock Springs area with its cascading water features represents a significant reason why early city leaders designated the area as a park and then later a Botanic Garden. In the early 1930s these springs flowed reliably down the slope to the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The natural spring flows are not currently constant as they were in the early 1930s, but they still often have flows seeping from the limestone geography of the areas to the west. Fortunately, with the close proximity of the Trinity River, untreated water is available to the Garden for keeping the Garden water features replenished. In addition to being beautiful and educational, the water features help create a significant degree of water cleansing and natural recycling.

Rock Springs represents a wonderful example of the spring-fed streams that traversed to the Trinity River, and usually meandered down the adjoining bluffs and hills bordering the river. Rock Springs is still mostly intact, perhaps better than many others from that historic era. It is strongly recommended that Rock Springs be brought back as a major attraction where visitors can learn about the importance of springs, streams, watercourses, ponds, and lagoon areas in the history and future of the area and planet. It is also recommended that the historic features be restored and retained. The area is also critical to many types of wildlife, including birds, small mammals, and aquatic species. This area, along with the Trinity Woodland area, is a wonderful opportunity to display and help visitors learn about the great importance of ecosystems in the future of all life on earth.



Rock Springs



Key recommendations for the Rock Springs area include the following:

- Restore Rock Springs to an accessible example of cascading streams and ponds that make a way to the lower Rose Garden pond and then to the Trinity River Woodland lowlands and the wetland water system. These flows can be cleansed and recycled into the Trinity River, as in decades before.
- To the practical extent possible, restore the series of ponds and water courses to the character they had in the early 1900s. It is recognized that certain improvements to the character and environmental sustainability of these ponds and streams will help visitors enjoy and understand their significance.
- Destructive, invasive plants should be removed. These invasive plants are plants that overtake or crowd out what should be a natural riparian stream area with native north Texas plants. It is recognized that there are certain trees and shrubs that are adaptive to the area without being invasive to the integrity of the native species, such as magnolias and others. These species would have eventually made their way up to the north Texas region as native adaptive species. Invasive species that overtake and eventually crowd out a balanced ecosystem should be removed in a systematic way in order to restore the integrity of the Rock Springs area.
- Some of the original walkways can simply be restored and then maintained. However, with increased visitation, some of the main walkways should probably be widened slightly. For example, some of the smaller walkways are only 2 feet wide and should be slightly widened to at least 3 to 4 feet at the time that they are restored. Plant material along these walkways can be pruned back so that visitors are not worried about thorns, poison ivy, etc. This issue is important because of the family groups, school groups, and others that we wish to encourage to visit the Rock Springs area. This restoration concept is similar in intent to that of the Native Texas Boardwalk area.
- Most of the original overlook areas and spring outflow areas will also need restoration using the same types of stone materials and some structural reinforcement. They could be expanded to accommodate the expected visitation.
- The 4 to 5 pond areas are excellent opportunities for environmental restoration, wildlife habitat, and educational opportunities for visitors and groups.
- Rock Springs is such a unique setting to experience this unique watershed and pond setting. In one or two of the ponds, it is recommended that a short boardwalk or extended deck area be constructed for helping visitors and groups understand the unique ecosystem of pond and lagoon areas. The intent is for the visitor to be able to walk across the pond area and look down at the aquatic life.
- Not all of the Rock Springs area can be made accessible to wheelchairs because of the slope. By using the loop path system, which will be immediately to the south, the restoration should allow for mobility-impaired visitors to visit several levels of the Rock Springs area from the loop trail at two or three overlook areas.



The Chicago Botanic Garden has incorporated water and wetlands throughout the Garden areas. It also has a focus on environmental education. Rock Springs is unique because over 80 years ago, Fort Worth leaders realized the potential of water in the Garden.

The Trinity Woodlands

Another extremely important goal of the Botanic Garden is to protect the Trinity Woodlands area. This zone of approximately 40 acres is a wonderful opportunity to preserve and restore native forests and the related water courses for Fort Worth residents and visitors to explore within the center of the city. With some restoration work, this area can truly be an amazing retreat in the center of the city that is accessible for all residents and visitors without harming the environment. It is important to have accessible opportunities for all residents to understand and respect the importance of such environments.

In addition to the bottomland forest, this area has historically had a system of water courses, which are proposed for restoration to become a unique experience for visitors. It is similar to having a nature center in the middle of the city.



Wildlife in the Woodlands



Woodlands near University Drive



Woodlands just downstream of Rock Springs

Key Recommendations of the Trinity Woodlands area include the following:

- To the extent reasonable and compatible with an urban setting, restore this area to its native Texas bottomland conditions. The Botanic Garden staff has been working on this area as their resources allow, which have been limited to date. The goal is to have a native forest experience in natural conditions accessible for all residents of Fort Worth and visitors.
- In an urban condition, these natural processes should be replicated by stewardship from the managers of the Garden.
- Plant native species trees and understory plants to reclaim this area in a logical and systematic manner.
- Respect the need for visitors to experience this area without having any harmful impact on the existing or restored environment. Note: the Loop Path will provide this opportunity for all visitors and residents.
- The Loop Path will also link to “nature trails” that take visitors to the remarkable areas including the wetlands and mature forest.
- This area relates integrally to the Garden waterway system described on page 46.
- The Loop Path and nature trails should be carefully designed and constructed in order to avoid disruption of the forest floor and root system.
- This area will also facilitate an immense opportunity for education, learning, and nature appreciation for residents from all walks of life.



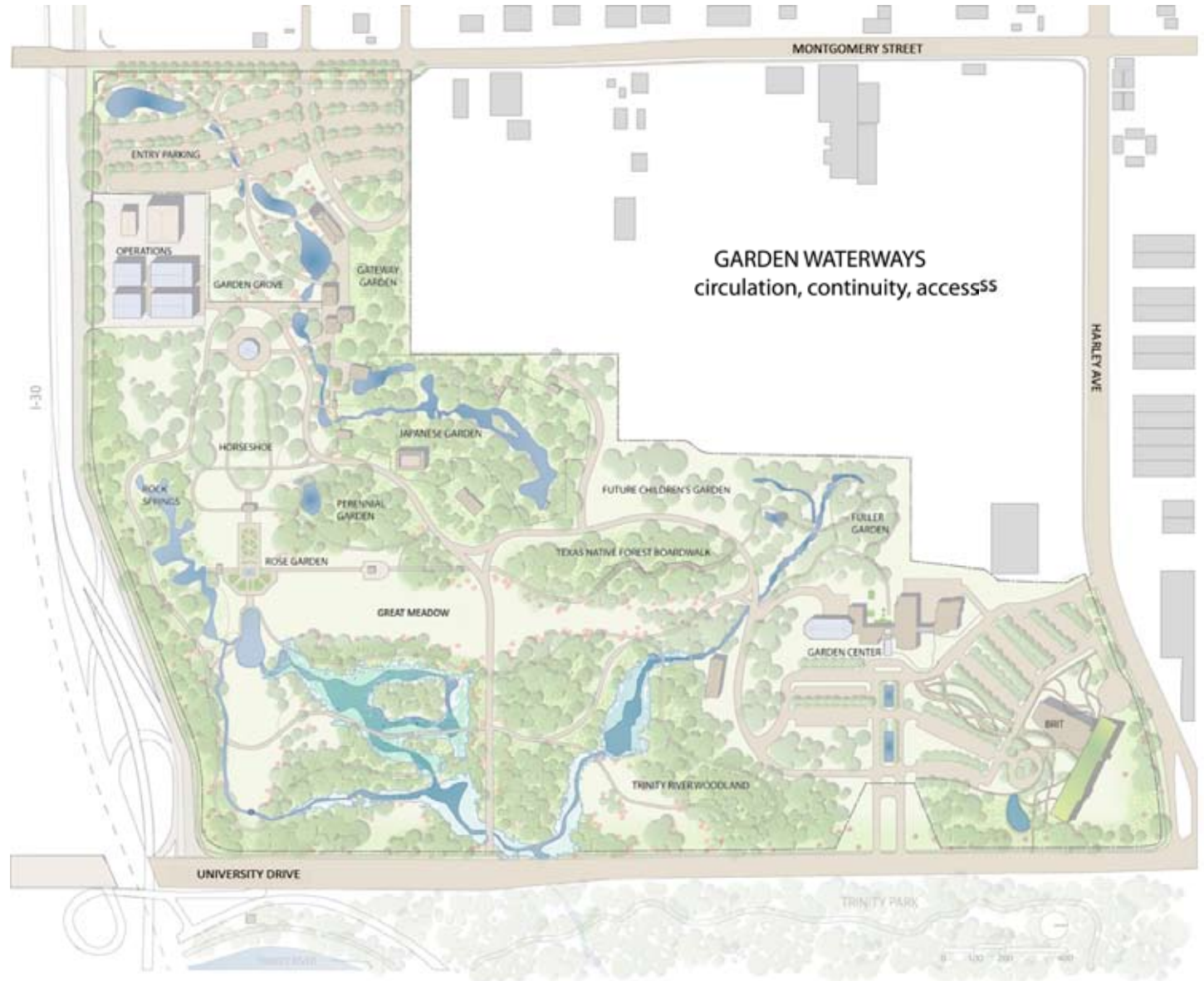
Woodlands near I-30 and below Rock Springs

Water in the Garden

Many renowned gardens around the world have developed around a focus on various natural and human-made water features as a major centerpiece for their designs and appeal. Since the beginning of civilization, water has been essential to survival, cities, and great gardens. People are inherently attracted to water whether it is oceans, ponds, rivers, or streams. A major recommendation in the Master Plan is to expand and accentuate a visually connected stream and pond waterway system throughout the Garden. This planning principle is consistent with the history of the Garden which began along Rock Springs and now has expanded to include the woodland lagoons, ponds and streams in the Japanese Garden and the Fuller Garden and the

The many different manifestations of water in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden can be understood as three tributaries of the Clear Fork Trinity River. **The first stream** and pond system would begin at the Montgomery Street gateway area. It would extend the pond system upstream southwesterly from the already beautiful pools and cascades of the Japanese Garden. The ponds and cascades in the Japanese Garden are the central focal point of the Japanese Garden, which is one of the most popular areas in the Botanic Garden and north Texas.

Extending this water linkage upstream to the Montgomery Street gateway area is a logical and natural way to bring increased interest to the Montgomery Gateway and Garden Grove areas. This accentuated pond and stream system would complement the entire arrival area to both the Botanic Garden and also the Cultural District. It would follow the natural swale and drainage area already existing. The proposed restaurant, exhibit / entry, and gift shop areas would be along this water course.



The pond system would also function to provide examples of environmental stewardship through proper management of storm water runoff and serve as an excellent learning experience for all visitors to the Garden.

The Montgomery Street branch connects underground to a **second branch** originating in the Fuller Garden. This Fuller Garden stream is already well presented and is a major focus of the Fuller Garden area. This stream flows down to the Woodlands area passing between the Great Woodlands area and the Texas Garden Club Headquarters.

A third branch begins at Rock Springs and flows east through a series of potentially beautiful small woodland pools. This stream then connects to the formal ponds along the Rose Garden Axis and continues in a system of proposed elaborated wetlands, pools and islands to cross under University Drive and into the Trinity River in Trinity Park. The stream flowing out of the Fuller Garden would intersect near University Drive. This could give people along University Drive a glimpse of the water system and diverse environment of the Garden.

The Master Plan aims to create a series of informal, but designed water features along these streams and ponds, which will give Garden visitors a new and expanded range of experiences, as well as exposure to a whole array of plant species adapted to such waterways. Educational, learning, and nature awareness experiences will be greatly increased.

For Garden visitors, this Woodland trail area is a journey into some completely unexplored portions of the site. The recommended paths have been carefully planned. They follow the waterways and provide luminous views of woodland pools to draw the visitor onward. One of these paths takes the visitor on a walking passage across the largest wetlands, on a new boardwalk (the complement to the woodland board walk) and out onto a special island. Opening up the Trinity River Woodland and providing it with many exciting visual and educational features not only makes this area accessible, but will create new Garden constituencies to see the special exhibits on native plant, bird, and other wildlife habitats of Fort Worth. The path, trail system, and pond system would be carefully designed to protect and enhance a sustainable woodland forest area.

The key to bringing visitors to this area is the drama and quality of the new exhibits. The landscape is a stage set. Stream corridor, pools and wetlands must be treated as “curated natural habitats,” well documented, artfully presented and planted with a great diversity of plants. These exhibits also require careful long-term management to ensure that they are one of the significant “attractions” at the Garden. The loop path will provide access for all types of visitors that have previously not experienced this environment.



Creek area near the Texas Garden Club Building



Restoration of Silfen Pond - Greenwich, Connecticut



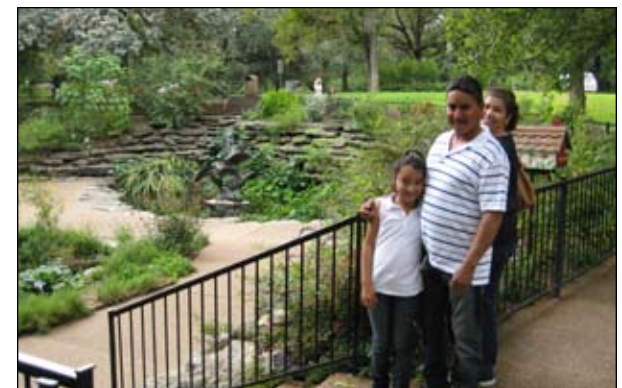
Fuller Garden waterfall system



Fuller Garden waterfall system



Creek flowing out of the Fuller Garden and proposed Children's Garden areas



Perennial Garden

"How often it is that a garden, beautiful though it be, will seem sad and dreary and lacking in one of its most gracious features, if it has no water."
 - Pierre Husson



The Children's Garden & The Texas Native Forest Boardwalk

An important and much needed addition to the Garden is the proposed new Children's Garden. The Garden staff and others have worked to create a somewhat temporary Children's Garden area next to I-30. Looking at the various Garden zones, it is clear there are only two areas that could spatially accommodate the new Children's Garden without encroaching on other important historic or environmentally sensitive areas.

One location is just south of the Horseshoe Garden area (adjacent to I-30 - the current location), and another is just south of the Fuller Garden (across the stream), where most of the operations area is currently located.



"There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colors are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again."

- Elizabeth Lawrence



Center of the Boardwalk



Education on the Boardwalk



Educational gazebo on the south end of the Boardwalk

The Master Plan recommends that the proposed Children's Garden be located south of the Fuller Garden and west of the Texas Native Boardwalk. This 2.5 acre site is shaded and has an excellent juxtaposition with the Texas Native Boardwalk. The area is close to the Garden Campus Gateway and thus convenient for school and other group access. It is also convenient to the Garden Center and proposed BRIT for easy coordination with the educational programs of the Garden and BRIT.

Environmental quality and conservation are important goals of the entire Master Plan. The Boardwalk, proposed Children's Garden, Woodlands restoration, Rock Springs restoration and all other elements emphasize this objective. The area of the proposed Children's Garden would be assured to be safe and clean for children's activities. The adjacent embankment (west of the Garden) would need to be structurally stabilized prior to construction of Garden improvements in this area.

"Usually children spend more time in the garden than anybody else. It is where they learn about the world, because they can be in it unsupervised, yet protected. Some gardeners will remember from their own earliest recollections that no one sees the garden as vividly, or cares about it as passionately, as the child who grows up in it."

- Carol Williams, Bringing a Garden to Life

The Great Meadow

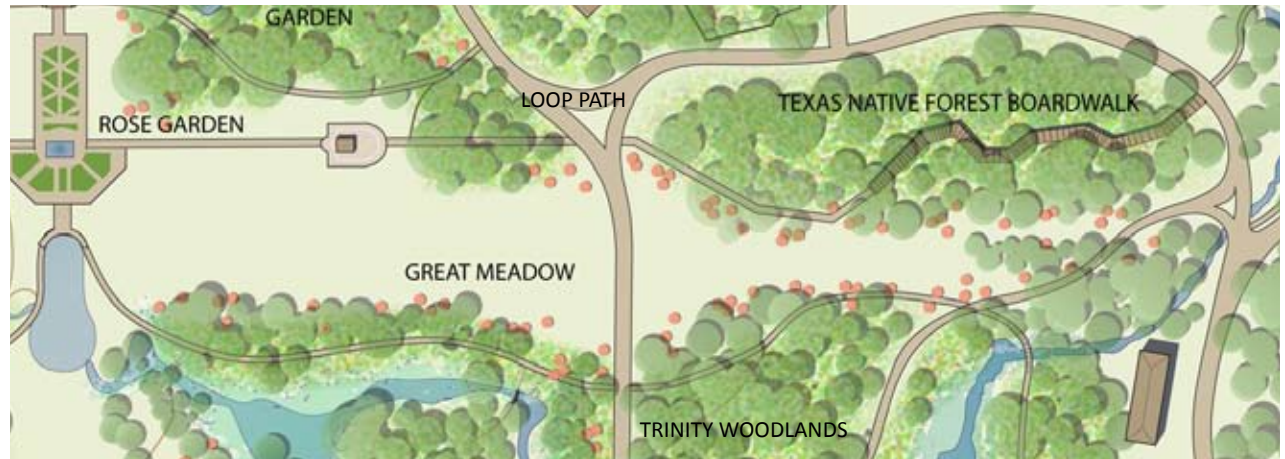
The Great Meadow is the main north-south axis of the Garden and is approximately 5 acres, with a length of 1,200 feet on this axis. It respects the historic context of the Garden. The meadow is an essential part of the Garden by visually and physically connecting the Garden Campus area (the north portion of the Garden) with the Rose Garden / Rock Springs area. This meadow area should be preserved and accentuated in the future improvements of the Garden.

The Meadow has become extremely popular for special events such as the “Concerts in the Garden,” now produced by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and others. Visitors enjoy the Meadow as a wonderful green space bordered by beautiful diverse landscapes every season of the year.

The consulting team and the Future of the Garden Committee considered alternative plans for providing an amphitheater in this Meadow area. After reviewing various alternatives, it was clear that reinforcing, protecting, and providing access to the Meadow was the best plan rather than molding the landscape for a different performance space. This recommendation is primarily based on preserving the continuity of the north-south axis because of its proven success.

The Master Plan strongly recommends several objectives for this area:

- Maintain the visual integrity of the north-south axis
- Avoid any more visual intrusions into the current axis area such as additional tree planting (other than replacement trees), electrical equipment, monuments, permanent art work, or similar intrusions
- Planting along the edge of the axis adds beautiful accentuation of this sunny Meadow area, and it should be continued
- The Master Plan recommends certain paths and walkways that will provide improved access to the area without encroaching into the sanctity of the Great Meadow area. This access is accomplished by planning such walkways on the periphery of the Meadow.



Meadow looking south



Meadow with Concerts in the Garden

The Garden Core

The original Garden Core area includes the historic Rose Garden, the Horseshoe area, the Japanese Garden, the Perennial Garden, and the Four Seasons Garden. Over recent decades, these areas have been some of the most popular visitation areas of the Garden. The main gateway to the Japanese Garden faces this area. Except for continued maintenance, restorations, and specific small improvements, this area is almost completely developed.

The Native Texas Boardwalk and proposed Children’s Garden serve as a good transition between the Garden Campus area, Trinity River Woodland, and Garden Core.

These central Garden areas are all in relative close proximity and are often all visited in a single outing by individuals, groups, and families. The current road and parking system creates some barriers and intrusion among these Garden features and the pedestrian connections among features are discontinuous.

The proposed Loop Path system and reduction of automobile intrusions will eventually solve this continuity problem, including substantially reducing motorized traffic from the center of the Garden. The proposed sign and information system will also create an easy understanding for visitors on how to experience and easily move among the various central Garden features. This would include a much improved interpretive sign system throughout the Garden Core. See pages 54-57.



Rose Garden - View of East Axis



Four Seasons Garden



Japanese Garden in the fall

The key recommendations for this central Core Area are as follows:

- Continue the timely maintenance and restoration (as needed) of the historic garden structures, including walkway systems. Recent good examples include reconstruction of the trellises in the Lower Rose Garden. The Garden staff has used materials that are compatible with the historic character and that are long lasting.
- Carefully designed improvements such as the recent improvements to the Perennial Garden should continue as long as the integrity of the historic Rose Garden structures are respected.
- Add strategic secondary walkway segments designed to link to the proposed Loop Path system as described above.
- Design the Loop Path system to and around this area, which will provide easy, pedestrian-scale access from both Garden Gateway areas. The Loop Path system will also be the backbone of the improved sign and information system.
- The important new Montgomery Street Gateway will link directly to the west portions of the Central Core area, specifically the Japanese Garden and “Octagon” area, presently called the Trial Garden. Clearly the new Gateway / Entry should be designed to provide a seamless connection to the Central Garden Core and the Loop Path system.
- The current Trial Garden area will then become an extremely prominent location (see Octagonal Garden recommendations on page 53) and represents the west terminus of the east-west axis of the Garden.



Japanese Garden in the fall



Rose Garden - View of Colonnade



Japanese Garden - Koi Pond

The Octagonal Garden & Pavilion

A new Octagonal Pavilion is proposed for the western terminus of the Historical Rose Garden Axis. This pavilion would be opposite the entrance to the Japanese Garden on the site of the old Trial Garden. This pavilion and its surrounding garden would now be the first major garden encountered within the Garden, after passing through the new Western Gateway area (Montgomery Street Entry, see above). The Octagonal Garden would be designed as an integral element of the entry experience.

There are several possibilities for enhancing the purpose and stature of the Octagonal Garden. Whatever theme is chosen, it should reinforce its position as a major entrance exhibit.

Given its location, this new pavilion and its surrounding space could become a changing exhibit on critical ideas in horticulture and conservation. It would serve as an introduction to the Garden and combine display panels with plants to convey an idea or “take home” message.

A second possibility is that this garden could become an expanded and reinvented Trial Garden featuring plants particularly adapted to the Fort Worth climate and conditions. The pavilion could become an idealized “potting shed” demonstrating the latest gardening tools and techniques, and the surrounding octagonal space could display plants in a series of tiered planters. If a strong program could be established around such plants (a parallel to the program developed at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Garden), the Trial Garden could expand into the large space directly to the south. Parts of the new greenhouses will be open to visitors to demonstrate propagation and growing techniques, and parts of the larger maintenance area could ultimately be used to demonstrate a variety of the “latest/best” sustainable horticultural practices.

Use of this garden space, either as an introduction to new Botanic Garden concerns or as a redesigned trial garden, would strengthen the theme of sustainable horticulture in this section of the Garden and would further reinforce the core mission of the Garden.



Sign, Information & Interpretation Systems

A major recommendation for the Garden is to adopt a coordinated sign and information system using consistent types of signs and materials for the various tiers of signs recommended below. Currently there are some very good signs and some that are not good examples of signs in the Garden. Through the years various styles and materials have been used in the Garden. Many of these changes and sign additions can happen early on in the master plan phasing process.

Printed and Website Information Directing Visitors to the Garden

In recent years the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has made an improved effort to emphasize and convey the attractions within the Cultural District including the Garden and museums. With the addition of BRIT, this can be further enhanced to a broader audience. Related outlets include the *City Page* of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, various news releases for special events, occasional inserts in the water bill, and other means available. Efforts to encourage more special feature articles in various regional and national newspapers and magazines is recommended.



Entry Monument Signs



Proposed Arterial Street Signs

External Sign Systems

Encourage the Texas Department of Transportation to place directional signs on I-30 as motorists approach the access points of University Drive and Montgomery Street. Encourage the City to place signs on approach arterials which would include University Drive, Montgomery Street, Camp Bowie Blvd., Lancaster Ave., and West 7th Street. Pole banners per the City's standards can be placed for special events, especially along University Drive, Montgomery Street, and Harley Street, which all directly access the Garden.

The Garden is within the Cultural District. This feature is a great advantage; however, the majority of visitors do not associate botanic gardens with cultural or museum districts. The Botanic Garden should have its own set of directional signs, especially to serve first-time visitors and out-of-town visitors.

The Internal Information System

Entry Monument Style Gateways

At the two proposed gateways, it is important to provide clear entry gate areas with a strong visual appeal and corresponding landscaping. The gateway on Harley Street is an excellent example of a quality entry area. Harley Street is proposed to be improved and rerouted west of the Garden per Cultural District Concept Plans. The Garden Master Plan is consistent with the Cultural District Concept Plans and would benefit in several ways from the proposed Harley Street improvements.

The gateway to the Garden campus area (the "Clock entrance") is grand in scale and appropriate. The actual Botanic Garden letters are often concealed behind landscaping and somewhat distant from the actual entrance area. Additional stone walls closer to University should perhaps be added for the Botanic Garden sign lettering. These would complement the existing wall and gate system, while providing a window into the clock and Garden Center area. The lettering for the Garden could then be relocated to these new stone walls. Coordinate with BRIT to best provide an appropriate sign and entry for the new BRIT facility.

Entry Exhibits

The Garden campus entry and the proposed Montgomery Street entry should both have materials, maps, and exhibits to help guide and inform visitors about various features of the Garden. The Garden Center already has a convenient reception desk that offers brochures and information if people are familiar enough to ask. There is room in the current lobby area for a modest amount of display. This area could at least have room for a large, easy to understand Garden map with photos of key areas and some exhibits about current events, what is in bloom, future programs, and similar information.

The proposed Montgomery Street entry can be designed specifically for an ideal reception, entry, and exhibit space. This entry area could offer a combination of permanent exhibits that would have a large garden map, perhaps with interactive features for people to see various features prior to their visit. A flexible exhibit and lobby area would lend itself to changing exhibits about current activities, features, and programs of the Garden. This flexible exhibit space could also be used for special exhibits in a gallery setting, such as “garden art” shows and a variety of other Garden related displays. The displays would rotate perhaps every month or at least every season. This space, including restrooms, would probably require about 1500 to 2000 square feet, and would include storage areas and perhaps a small office area.

The proposed exhibit lobby space along with the adjoining outdoor courtyard would also function as a staging space for group tours and educational programs in the Garden. The space would be conveniently located to restroom facilities with enough fixtures for group outings including school groups.

Both of these gateways are more fully described on pages 35-37.

In summary, the purpose of the entry exhibits is to orient visitors upon their arrival. This feature will make their visit much more enjoyable and informed. It will also serve as a form of advertisement for the Garden and its current and future programs. It will encourage visitors to return for many future trips with friends, groups, or family. It will inform visitors about membership, educational opportunities, and rental opportunities. The entry information will also politely make clear what activities are encouraged and which activities, such as running dogs, playing active sports, removal of plants, etc., are not permitted - in other words, the “rules of the Garden.” This aspect is critical to attain the goal of “Respect the Garden as a special and unique place.”



West Entrance to the Garden Center from the Fuller Garden



Existing entry area at the Garden Center - Provide improved information about the entire Garden



Arrival area at the Garden Center

Internal Signs & Interpretive Materials

Internal to the Garden would be a hierarchy of signs ranging from main feature entries to plant identification. The main recommendation here is that these signs be more coordinated by using standard types of materials for consistency and easy use. Today there are new types of sign materials, such as polymer signs, that can display photographs, graphics, etc., and that are durable and easy to mount on poles, pedestals or walls. These types of signs have been well designed and used on the Boardwalk. The Loop Path will afford a unifying and organizing pedestrian flow. The path will also give good opportunities for the location of directional signs indicating the various Garden features. The Loop Path will connect both of the main gateways.

Internal Garden signs should generally have continuity of style; however, in some instances, a unique sign character is appropriate, such as in the Children's Garden. Signs should be in scale with the particular environment. Great care is recommended to assure that sign clutter is not created. Signs should never interfere with views or enjoyment of a key vista or Garden area. Larger exhibits or kiosk-type structures should only be located within or near the two major entry areas. Occasionally a special temporary exhibit could warrant a temporary larger sign.



Directional Sign - Morris Arboretum



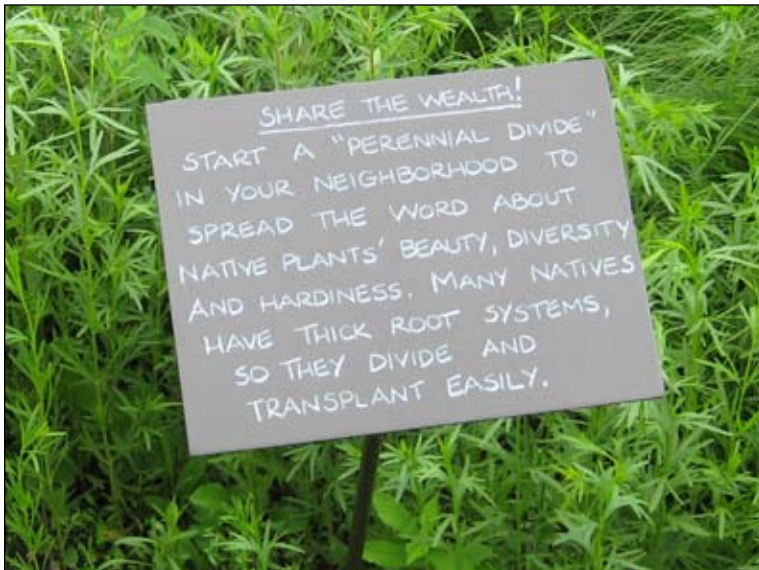
Small Interpretive Sign - Fort Worth Botanic Garden



Chicago Botanic Garden



Fort Worth Botanic Garden



Short-term use of Educational Sign - Chicago Botanic Garden



Garden identification and interpretation - Morris Arboretum

**Internal Signs
& Interpretive Materials**



Perennial Garden



Avoid sign clutter

Interpretive and Plant Identification Signs



Fort Worth Botanic Garden - Boardwalk



Plant Identification - Fort Worth Botanic Garden



Nature Center - Sanibel Island, Florida



Callaway Gardens



Hyde Park, Downtown Chicago

Art, Memorials & Monuments

Art has been an important part of garden design since the early gardens of the Middle East, Asia, Europe, the Mediterranean area, and in the more contemporary gardens of the 20th Century. In fact, many gardens were thought to be entirely works of art where man molded and placed natural materials to create an artistic and living place. The term “garden artist” was often used, where as today we would more likely use the term “landscape architect” or “garden designer.”

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden has evolved primarily in response to the natural form of the land, the woodlands, streams, and meadows. However, these features have been accentuated by extending water features and adding many architectural and natural materials, including beautiful ornamental gardens such as the famous Rose Garden. The Japanese Garden is a marvelous example of transforming an abandoned gravel pit into a magnificent work of landscape and artistic land and plant compositions. This is the philosophy of Japanese Garden design, which is to create a composition using natural and man-made features.

There are approximately 20 recognized works of art or memorials already in the Garden, which are well documented in the “Art in the Garden” brochure. The Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan also incorporates several of these works in the plan for long-term conservation.



Fishing Rock by Bob Guelich



Stone Pagoda by Soto in the Japanese Garden



Charlie Company Memorial

Recommendations Regarding Art, Memorials and Monuments

The purpose of this section is to give some guidance regarding future commissioning or acceptance of art or memorials in the Garden. The Garden is owned by the City of Fort Worth, so caution and process are important, especially for works of art or memorials that are proposed for the long term.

- The Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan, the Public Art Ordinance, and related documents provide excellent guidance regarding works of art or commissions of art that would fall within the jurisdiction of the Public Art Ordinance, the Public Art Commission and the related processes. These provisions should be consulted and followed when a proposed work would fit within those guidelines and criteria. The Public Art Commission and staff offer excellent expertise in this area. The senior Garden staff has already developed a good working relationship with the Public Art staff. In almost all cases, the senior staff of both bodies will be able to agree about a given situation. In some cases the Garden representatives and Art Commission might best develop a partnership in a project of acquiring, receiving or commissioning public art in the Garden.
- Certain garden crafts, garden ornaments, lighting or related elements may be part of various Garden designs and improvements. This is perhaps best exemplified in the Japanese Garden area. These elements are usually more integral to the landscape design and are not considered to be permanent art installations. However, in these instances it is still necessary to use caution to avoid inappropriate clutter of the natural and green environment.
- The approval of memorials and monuments is of particular concern. The Garden is a prominent and beautiful area. In this Master Plan, every parcel of the Garden has a vital and almost sacred role for the long term. The general recommendation is that stand-alone memorials and monuments should be discouraged. These items are best located on other public or private properties.
- Capital funding gifts that result in carrying out the Master Plan and various Garden components should be strongly encouraged. There are several good examples of this in the Garden, including the Fuller Garden, the Dorothea Leonhardt Lecture Hall, and the Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center.
- The acceptance of certain gifts of art, memorials, and monuments should be reviewed by a committee of senior staff and representatives from the Future of the Garden Implementation Committee. If such gifts merit, they may need to go through further City, Park Board, and Public Art Commission processes.
- Temporary art and performance exhibits have become very popular in many Gardens. They attract increased visitors and often help raise additional revenue. These types of exhibits or programs usually are in place for only 30 to 60 days. The “Concerts in the Garden” series is an excellent example of performance art that attracts thousands of people to the Garden each year and lasts for about one month. Properly planned and high quality exhibits and programs are encouraged as a means to increase visitors to the Garden during all seasons. However, these programs would need to be carefully reviewed to assure they help fulfill the mission, purpose and plans for the Garden.



Spring Ballet by Andre Harvey



Solar Disk by Charles T. Williams



Birth of Love by Michael Pavlovsky

Temporary Exhibits



Art in Motion Exhibit - Atlanta Botanic Gardens



Tree House Exhibit - Dallas Arboretum



The Future of the Garden – Future Leadership and Implementation Steps

The Garden is owned and operated by the City of Fort Worth. The operational budget is included in the Parks and Community Services Department. Through the years, many other organizations and individuals have assisted with substantial improvements and additions. These organizations include the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Fort Worth Botanical Society, and more recently, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). Individuals, families and foundations have contributed funding to several major Garden features. Alliances and partnerships with the Texas Garden Club, colleges and universities, area school districts, the Texas AgriLife Extension, and others are also ongoing.

The Fort Worth Botanical Society Endowment Fund has been established to benefit the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Gifts are invested to provide income for general operating support to the areas of the Garden where the need is the greatest.

The support organizations have been instrumental in the formulation of the Master Plan and have appointees as members of the Future of the Garden Committee. One of the accomplishments of the master planning process has been to bring these wonderful organizations together in a focused way to discuss and develop consensus about the future vision, potential and needs of the Garden. In these deliberations the various groups have worked together and have arrived at a substantial consensus regarding the major elements of the Master Plan and related issues.

Recommendations:

1. Immediately establish a Future of the Garden Implementation Committee. This committee should be a group of about 20 members, comprised of appointees from the same key organizations that guided the Garden Master Plan. These include the Parks and Community Services Advisory Board, the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Fort Worth Botanical Society, and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, along with other community leaders. Appropriate staff should participate as advisors and administration for this committee. The committee would meet on a regular and/or as-needed basis to carry out its purpose.
2. Some of the key objectives of this committee would include the following:
 - Help steer the timely implementation of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Master Plan and the related Action Steps as identified in the Master Plan.
 - Continue to develop and maintain working relationships with the numerous partnership organizations, individuals, and families.
 - Advocate the importance of the Garden as a vital element in the quality of life for all Fort Worth area residents and visitors.
 - Explore long-term management, capital financing and operational funding in partnership with the City of Fort Worth.

The consultants researched several comparable gardens in the United States. Summaries of this research can be made available to the City for future use.

