BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

Site Analysis Workshop Agenda
Presented by Oasis Design Group and Biohabitats Inc.
July 24, 2008 8:00am – 4:00pm

Operations Staff & City Officials Site Analysis: East Room, Garden Center

8:00-8:20   **Introduction of process, agenda, objectives**

8:20-10:00   **Review Site Analysis Observations**
- Land Use
- Habitat Garden Designation
- Utilities
- Circulation
- ADA Issues
- Watersheds
- Streams and Ponds
- Impervious Surfaces
- Overall Site Analysis Diagram

10:00-10:15   *Break*

10:15-12:00   **Discussion of Site Analysis Observations**

12:00-12:30   *Lunch*

Donor Group: East Room, Garden Center

12:30-2:00   **Site Analysis Overview**

2:00-2:15   *Break*

Trustee Group: East Room, Garden Center

2:15-3:45   **Site Analysis Overview**

4:20   **Consultant departure for airport (5:55 departure)**

Site Analysis Workshop Notes:

July 24, 2008 Birmingham, AL

Site Analysis Discussion

- Zoo
    - ✓ Keep partnerships in mind
    - ✓ Similar demographic of visitors
    - ✓ Don't treat Cahaba Road as a wall ("eco-corridor" concept would link natural systems)
- Mountain Brook Village redevelopment: area is a regional destination (zoo/gardens) and a busy local shopping area
- Sidewalks end at of Botanical Place – no easy pedestrian access to gardens or Mountain Brook Village
- Cahaba Road project – Federal funding to study/improve street and traffic ("eco-corridor" and "zoo gateway" ideas may not be compatible)
- Cahaba Road viewed by some as existing – or potential – back door to garden; it is not: there is no "back door" only service
- Robert Marvin master plan – showed connections with zoo (tunnel or pedestrian overpass are unfeasible, even perceived as dangerous)
- Back door (Cahaba Road entrance) does not look inviting even as visual tease
- Opportunity to show regional leadership in water management
- Animal migration opportunities across/under road as part of sustainable design
- Existing tree canopy over Lane Park/Cahaba Road is well established – redevelopment of street as boulevard with median, curbs or parking not desired, would negatively impact existing character
- Look to natural systems as models
- Use ADA/pedestrian loop to organize garden – improve way-finding signage and design vocabulary
- Parking deck options - to be explored
- Garden development
    - ✓ Donations fund growth
    - ✓ Need to identify and market development opportunities
- Public transportation
    - ✓ Bus goes to Zoo at Cahaba Road, usually empty
    - ✓ Could be part of parking solution
    - ✓ Local loop – option for cultural loop w/ other institutions
- Greenhouse configuration/maintenance area: to be addressed
- Transportation
    - ✓ Shuttle not effective in past
    - ✓ Routes based on time/mileage
    - ✓ Show ADA, restroom access
        - ▪ Locate shelters, swings, drinking fountains
    - ✓ Add restroom in northern part of garden
- Signage at gate on Cahaba Road
- Exit disappointing - need "thank you for coming"
- Bus slots in parking lot- buses idle w/ engines on adding to pollution/noise
- Expand compost area (show on plans) and make usable
- Maintenance vehicles cross pedestrian paths

- Vegetable garden: can't get maintenance vehicles into garden
- Paths in front of conservatory will accommodate heavy vehicles
- Eliminate/move north entrance drive: deemed impractical, expensive
- Moon Gate (between two Rose Gardens) isn't ADA accessible
- Staff and pedestrians cross into Mountain Brook Village: need crosswalk
- Opportunity for integrating garden maintenance with garden education
- Overflow parking: pursue sustainable options, demonstration opportunity
- Look at Ft. Worth BG compost exhibit as model
- Lath houses scattered, fern house not secured (used for sales), 2 locations: plan for integration, logical layouts
- Kaul Wildflower Garden: shelter opportunity; paths ADA-inaccessible
- On-site recycling space could be added
- Rear service area to Garden Center sometimes blocked by restaurant deliveries and event parking (caterers); expand?
- Opportunity for outdoor education area/storage area/restroom along axis in Bog Gardens
- Drainage (see also above)
  - ✓ Water flows into old rose garden, then into formal garden
  - ✓ Washout at map shelter
  - ✓ Entrance to Japanese Gardens gets minor washouts
  - ✓ Fern garden stream overflows with rain. Pump on photo cell
  - ✓ Path at Crape Myrtle Garden collects silt
  - ✓ Water from irrigation collects in rose garden
- Not great views from Bruno Vegetable Garden (and above area along paths) into maintenance areas.