Georgeson Botanical Garden
Long Range Plan

2018-03-12
This Long Range Plan was developed by volunteers representing the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Eliza Bober Cink, Laura Minski, Taylor Keegan, and M. Elise Huggins worked with the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society and UAF Garden Staff during two workshops held in April and August of 2017 to outline priorities and design ideas shown here.

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

This plan was approved by the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society at the March 18, 2018 board meeting.
Concept description:

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

Georgeson Botanical Garden Plan
Georgeson Botanical Garden Plan

Enlargement

rev. 2018-03-10

- Section A

0 20 40 80FT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Activity Node with accent paving

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

- Existing weather station

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

- Enlargement

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

- Entry Access - provide iconic fencing, ornamental plantings and signage to direct traffic into lot and create a presence along the road
Existing bench and paver area to be mirrored on other side of path to create mini-node. Provide additional portable restrooms (with screening).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grande Allée

Secondary Trail

Section B
Fence along Garden boundaries

Enlargement

Loop walking trails follow contours - opportunity for Sculpture Walk

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

Another large node to mirror Solachron node along secondary trail

Provide nodes with paving and signage where trails begin and end

Trail to Cloud Garden
Tier One: Iconic Fence to help users understand proximity to entrance and draw interest
- Mikyoung Kim “Flex Fence” 250 Linear Feet, artist designed
- Swedish Dalecarlia Fence

Tier Two: Standard Sturdy Fence for formalized areas, that require more sturdy standard fencing
- Iron Fence 600 Linear Feet, premanufactured
- Corten Steel Panels
- Wood + Gage Wire
- Timber Fence

Tier Three: Standard Moose Fence to protect the garden from moose graze
- Eastern Fencing: Highway Products 4000 Linear Feet, protection, metal posts with infill
- Alaska Botanical Garden: Moose Fence (4x4 Welded Fabric, 8’ H)

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

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

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