



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 2013

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Bellevue Botanical Garden Update
(Informational – no Board action requested)

Attached is an information sheet regarding changes and impacts to the garden and garden programs and events during the upcoming construction of the new Visitor Center. If you have any questions, please contact me at 425-452-2749 or nkartes@bellevuewa.gov. We are looking forward to the results of this exciting transformation.



S. Bondar '10

On March 4, 2013, Bellevue City Council approved the contract for our new Education Center and Visitor Center project with Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. Parks planners are familiar with Cornerstone from their work on the South Bellevue Community Center.

The ground-breaking ceremony will be on Tuesday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. at the Shorts Visitor Center.

The Garden will remain open during construction, expected to begin on May 1. Our Interim Management Plan will ensure that programs and operations continue as smoothly as possible for the expected 18-month construction period.

What visitors can expect during construction:

Access

- All staff, visitors and volunteers will park at the Wilburton Hill Park and walk into the BBG on the Lake-to-Lake trail.
- Wilburton Hill Park is located at the intersection of Main St. and 124th Ave. NE. The best route is NE 8th St. to 124th Ave. NE and head south. This will take visitors directly to the park entrance.
- Restrooms are available year-round in Wilburton Hill Park and in the Shorts Visitor Center.
- The Garden's temporary entrance will be through the back gate in Yao Garden. The information kiosk will move to this location. It is 1/3 mi. from the parking lot to the entrance. Fun new signs along the Lake-to-Lake trail will help visitors find us.
- Visitors will still be able to access the Shorts Visitor Center for restrooms, plant database kiosk, maps, and general information. Shorts Visitor Center will be open daily from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Operations

- The Trillium gift shop closed on January 1, 2013. This space will house administrative staff until the new buildings are ready. The new buildings will feature a shop roughly double the size of the old shop.
- Grounds staff offices will be in a portable near the maintenance area.
- Garden hours will remain dawn to dusk, but visitors should plan to be back to their cars by dusk, as the trail to Wilburton Hill Park is unlit.
- Volunteer and partner group efforts will continue throughout construction.

Programs and Events

- The Mother's Day Social will be held at the Garden on May 12 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Some events and plant sales will be held in Wilburton Hill Park. Look for event announcements throughout the year.
- A "Special Edition" Garden d'Lights will be a must see! November 30, 2013 – January 4, 2014
- Docent tours will be available on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. from April through October, and by appointment. Tours will meet at the Shorts Visitor Center.
- The Living Lab children's program will continue in a modified format.

Follow construction progress at www.bellevuebotanical.org.

BBG New Visitor and Education Center Construction Project FAQ

What is the construction all about?

To accommodate dramatic growth of the Bellevue Botanical Garden, the new construction project will include the construction of a new visitor center, expansion of the current parking lot, and landscape improvements. The new buildings will be located near the former BBG entrance.

When will the actual construction start? May 1, 2013

Is the Garden open during construction? The Garden is open daily, dawn to dusk

Where do I park? Park in the Wilburton Hill Park parking lot at the intersection of 124th Ave NE and Main St. The best route is NE 8th St. to 124th Ave NE heading south.

How do I enter the Garden? The entrance will be located at the back gate of Yao Garden via the Lake-to-Lake Trail; look for signs in Wilburton Hill Park parking lot

How long is the walk from the parking lot to the entrance? 1/3 mile

Where will ADA accessible parking be located? Accessible parking is available in Wilburton Hill Park.

What parts of the Garden will be closed? The parking lot, current entry garden, and rill plaza will be closed during construction.

Is the Shorts Visitor Center open? Shorts Visitor Center is open daily, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

How with the Shorts Center be used when the new buildings are done? The Shorts house will remain a place for visitors to rest, enjoy views into the Garden, and access gardening books, computers, and other resources.

What will happen to the Sharp Cabin? The Sharp Cabin will move to the west side of the Waterwise Garden.

When will the new buildings be done? The project is expected to be completed Fall 2014 - Follow our progress at www.bellevuebotanical.org

What Can I See During Construction?

The Ravine Experience

Rhododendron Glen

NPA Perennial Borders

Fuchsia Garden

Waterwise Garden

Alpine Rock Garden (a great place to view construction progress!)

Suspension Bridge

Shorts Ground Cover Garden

Dahlia Display

Native Discovery Garden

Yao Garden

Can I have a docent-led tour? Docent-led tours are available every Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm, April through October. Tours meet at the BBG Shorts Visitor Center.

Where is the garden office located? The garden office is located in the Shorts Visitor Center in the former Trilium Gift Shop space.

Will you still hold events?

Special Edition Events 2013

- Apr. 23** Groundbreaking Ceremony at BBG Shorts Visitor Center, 3:30 pm.
- May 4** Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale, 9 am – 1 pm, at Wilburton Instructional Service Center
- May 12** Mother's Day Social, 1 pm – 4 pm, at BBG Shorts Visitor Center.
- May 18-19** American Rhododendron Society - Cascade Chapter Show and Sale, 10 am – 5 pm, at Wilburton Instructional Service Center
- July 26-28** Zany Worm Booth, 9:15 am – 6:15 pm, at Bellevue Art Museum
- Aug. 6** Annual Trillium Celebration, 6:30 pm (off site). Free to members. Details at www.bellevuebotanical.org.
- Aug. 17-18** Eastside Fuchsia Society Show & Sale, 9 am – 3 pm, at Wilburton Instructional Service Center
- Nov. 30-Jan. 4** Garden d'Lights, 5 – 10 pm, nightly at Bellevue Botanical Garden.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bellevuebotanical.org or phone 425-452-2750 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.