

Washington Park Arboretum Historic Review

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Appendices:

- A. Historic Timeline for the Arboretum, Seattle and the Region
- B. Biographic Sketches

The Review of Washington Park Arboretum Archaeological Potential is provided as a separate document.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides background information about the study that resulted in this report. It describes the purpose of the study and states the goals of the report. The methodology and its participants are noted along with research documents and their sources. It also identifies themes that emerged from the research, and the institutional and regulatory framework for implementation of the Arboretum Master Plan, which was adopted in 2001.

Purpose

In late 2002 Seattle Parks and Recreation, representing the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) sought to document the history of the Washington Park Arboretum as a prerequisite to implement the Arboretum Master Plan. The master plan, *Renewing the Washington Park Arboretum*, was developed with a significant understanding of the history of Washington Park and the Arboretum, and it will serve as the future management (and development) plan and management philosophy. The master plan contains Implementation Guidelines and EIS Mitigation Measures that outline steps to document the historic status of elements within the Arboretum, and consider measures to ensure integrity of cultural resources during the plan's implementation.

The purpose of this study is to document the history of Washington Park and the Washington Park Arboretum and meet the requirements of the guidelines and mitigation measures. This study provides information for entities that implement the master plan to identify options for addressing cultural resources and identify park elements that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designation as City of Seattle landmarks.

As a compilation of history, this report is intended to give readers an understanding of the milestones and key layers in the historic development of the Park and Arboretum. It provides a record of the actions of individuals, designers, members of the public, agencies and administrators who have collectively created the Park and Arboretum as they exist today. The goal of the report is to provide the reader an understanding of the factual history of the property, the changes that have occurred over time, and the presence and integrity of elements with potential historic significance. The report provides a bibliography of sources to aid further research, and appendices with other information.

The study was undertaken by consultants Susan Boyle, of BOLA Architecture + Planning, and Karen Kiest, of Karen Kiest Landscape Architects, with assistance from landscape historian Professor David Streatfield, and Northwest Archaeological Associates (NWAA).

Scope of the Study

This report is an illustrated narrative, based on historic documents, including primary and secondary sources, about Washington Park and the Washington Park Arboretum. The report covers the historic period from the era of pre-settlement and the pioneer era of the mid-to-late nineteenth century, up through the early 1970s. The period of study was historic, and the report does not document more recent events and activities. However, it acknowledges those that have impacted the historic character of the property, such as construction of the Graham Visitors Center and the increasing traffic on Lake Washington Boulevard. Readers and researchers are encouraged to use the sources provided in the bibliography to gain more in-depth information about specific elements.

This report concludes Phase 1 of a three phase effort, that of research and documentation of the property's history. It will serve as the basis for the subsequent two phases. Phase 2 will identify elements within the Arboretum that may be eligible for landmark status, and develop strategies to address these while implementing the Master Plan. Phase 3 is the preparation of required landmark nomination forms.

1. Introduction

Methodology

Meetings were held at the inception of the project with the Arboretum Director, ABGC members, and representatives of the Arboretum Foundation and Seattle Parks and Recreation. The study team also met with the University of Washington Capital Projects Office to identify the University's ongoing effort to establish review procedures similar to those used on the main campus.

Meetings were held with several review agencies including the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhood's Office of Historic Preservation Officer, and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). Documents were collected from these agencies and from the City's Department of Design Construction and Land Use (DCLU). The team's consulting archaeologists reviewed compliance procedures of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and identified steps necessary for National Register eligible projects and those with on-site archaeological remains.

Visual Assessment

The team began a visual assessment of the Arboretum with several site tours in the fall 2002 to inventory and photograph key views or areas, based on initial historic research. (Several areas were re-photographed in 2003.) With the conclusion of research, the team returned to analyze these key areas. The assessment documents elements within the Arboretum that represent design intentions, planned experiential qualities, and character defining features. However, the scope of the assessment in this report was limited, and thus the elements included in this portion of the report may not be comprehensive. The visual assessment charts changes and current conditions, including remnants of earlier, and realized designs, and the physical integrity of remaining elements.

Research Sources

The Washington Park Arboretum has a lengthy and complex history that involved many people and groups. Thus research documents were collected for review from many available sources. Documents included primary source materials -- letters, telegrams, reports, contracts, ordinances, and lists of building elements and plants, estimates, planning and design drawings -- and secondary ones, such as periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, theses and unpublished reports, maps and photographs.

Sources of research materials included Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the City of Seattle's Municipal Archives (MA) and Office of Historic Preservation; the University of Washington Archives and Special Collections (MSCUA), the Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), the Seattle Public Library (SPL), and the National Association of Olmsted Parks (NAOP). The Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks (FSOP) provided special assistance as their research included documents from the archives at Fairsted, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, and the Library of Congress Olmsted records, Series B.

The study team attended a Seattle Garden Club sponsored lecture by Phillis Anderson, of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, in early March, and the NAOP conference in Seattle in early May 2003. The team also reviewed two unpublished master theses: Bonita D. Ross, "The Washington Park Arboretum: Historical Land Use Assessment and Analysis," (University of Michigan, April 2003) and Scot Medbury, "The Olmsted Taxonomic Arboretum and Its Application to Washington Park, Seattle," (University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture, 1990). The research assistance provided by these sources and others was invaluable to the study team.

1. Introduction

The study team collected and reviewed documents to clarify the applicable regulations and procedures from the National Park Service Cultural Landscapes, Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks. Reference documents included:

- *The Secretary of Interiors Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*
- “The Cultural Landscape Report: Treatment Through Research”
- “Preservation Checklist for Cultural Landscapes” (Lucy Lawliss, NAOP)
- “Preservation Brief No. 36 – Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes” (Charles Birnbaum and the National Park Service)
- “A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques (Robert R. Page)

The team reviewed cultural landscapes which have undergone the local landmark process, i.e., Discovery Park/Fort Lawton, Volunteer Park Conservatory, and Lincoln Reservoir, but concluded that these did not serve as prototypes as the resource of the Arboretum is unique. Furthermore, it appears that the Arboretum is a more richly layered historic resource than many cultural landscapes. Thus any analysis of the Arboretum cannot adhere strictly to any component methodology, such as that suggested by Birnbaum.

The existing Arboretum is the result of different visions and plans from a number of eras. Some of these were implemented or had a corresponding action, others created unforeseen impacts, and still others remain only as design intentions. Thus there is a resulting tension in understanding the property in solely one manner.

Archaeological research was undertaken under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act by consulting archaeologist. This research is summarized in a separate technical report. It included reviews of the State site inventory and records at the OAHF, and reviews of the recently completed King County Cultural Resources database to determine the locations and character of sites already recorded in the project area of the Arboretum and its vicinity.

Overview of Arboreta in America

An arboretum is an outdoor museum of woody plants organized for study or display. The word arboretum stems from the Latin *arbor* – “tree” with the suffix *-etum*, indicating “place”. Technically, an arboretum contains only trees, with an area called the fruticetum (from *frutex*, Latin for “shrub”) displaying shrubs, or the viticetum (from *vitus*, Latin for “vine”) displaying vines. The term arboretum commonly refers to a collection of woody plants, including shrubs and vines.

The purpose or function of an arboretum as a scientific plant collection has evolved, as have the materials and methods of scientific research, specifically regarding systems of classification, or taxonomy. Initial efforts focused first on ordering plants into groupings, and later, on determining the sequence of these groups. The first scientific botanic gardens are cited as the Orto Botanico, founded at Pisa, Italy, followed by a botanic garden in Padua, both in 1545.¹ At the Orto Botanico, plantings were organized by their physical characteristics and their economic and botanical properties according to first century herbal texts by the Greek herbalist Dioscorides.

Linnaeus’ *Species Plantarum* was published in 1753. It profoundly changed the study of plant taxonomy, and ushered in modern plant taxonomic studies. Many people are familiar with the Linnaean binomial

¹ Medbury, 1990. The history of arboreta is discussed at length in this document.

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system – a two-name specifier for a plant, the first the *genus*, the second the unique *species* name. Linnaeus was a proponent of classifying plants solely by flower parts. Based on the number and arrangement of stamens, he divided plants into twenty-four classes.

Over the next hundred years, over 25 classification systems were proposed. By 1840 the Linnaean system was superseded by the system popularized by Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (1849), that arranged 161 plant families by increasing fusion and reduction of floral parts (beginning with the buttercups and magnolias and ending with the birches and oaks). The de Candolle system was soon superseded by the classification system proposed by George Bentham and Joseph Dalton Hooker in their three-volume publication, *Genera Plantarum* (1862 - 1883), which described 200 plant families and began to identify conifers as a group distinct from other plants.

Taxonomic systems appearing after the work of Charles Darwin have been based on an increasing understanding of evolution, and have tried to describe ancestral relationships among plants. Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published in 1859. The first classification system referencing ancestral relationships to be widely accepted was the system of Adolph Engler and Karl Prantl, first published in 1887. The Engler and Prantl sequence, like most classification systems following Linnaeus, looked at seed parts in addition to floral parts. Their sequence began with the gymnosperms (from *gymno*, Greek for naked, i.e., generally the cone-bearing plants with no fleshy seed covering), to monocotyledons (single embryo leaf, i.e., grasses), to dicotyledons (most plants, with a seed embryo with two leaves). Engler and Prantl also considered plants without petals ("apetalous") i.e., the wind-pollinated families such as oak, willow birch, and the walnut families as the most primitive.

To the degree that plantings can be maintained over time, an arboretum represents the scientific traditions prevalent when it was established. Scot Medbury, current director of the Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, is a graduate of the CUH who wrote a 1990 Master of Science Thesis, "The Olmsted Taxonomic Arboretum and Its Application to Washington Park, Seattle." Medbury's thesis describes the taxonomic underpinnings of several arboreta in Europe and the United States.²

There were several early efforts in the early United States to establish scientific plant collections. It was only in the second half of the nineteenth century, with the support for the establishment of public open spaces, and the growth of scientific research supported by the development of the American universities, that the country saw the advent of research gardens and arboreta.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., designer of Central Park (with Calvert Vaux), was responsible for the development of major public and private landscapes across the country. He was also largely responsible for popularizing the concept of an arboretum in the United States. An arboretum, though unbuilt, was included in the original design for Central Park. During his lifetime, Olmsted, Sr., designed arboreta at Stanford University (1889), which was unrealized, Highland Park, Rochester (1880s), the William Seward Estate in Burlington, Vermont (1887), and Biltmore Arboretum (1893 - 1895).

Perhaps Olmsted's greatest achievement was the planning, design, and initial development of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum in Brookline, Massachusetts, which resulted from his close collaboration with Charles Sprague Sargent. Their efforts began with planning and design in 1874 and continued through the first plantings in 1885.

At the Arnold Arboretum, Olmsted and Sargent grouped plants loosely into taxonomic families, and generally arranged the collection so that the plant families would be encountered roughly according to the

² Ibid.

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taxonomic sequence of Bentham and Hooker. The sequence of plant families starts near the arboretum entrance and administration building, beginning with the *Magnoliaceae*. Each additional family was further subdivided geographically by continent of origin, adding further complexity to the organization.

As described in this report, the planning, design and development of the Washington Park Arboretum, which followed the Arnold Arboretum by over fifty years, intentionally follows the earlier arboretum's concept. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s successor firm, the Olmsted Brothers, was awarded the Washington Park commission in large part because of the Arnold Arboretum. James Frederick Dawson, the firm's partner in charge of the project, was the son of the Arnold Arboretum's original plantsman, and Dawson had grown up on the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum.

Furthermore, at the recommendation of the Olmsteds, Seattle's arboretum proponents took their organizational bylaws directly taken from the Arnold Arboretum. The management strategy was based on the Arnold, and the general plan closely references the Arnold. In selecting and laying out the plant collection for the Washington Park Arboretum, the Olmsteds followed Engler and Prantl, beginning with the Gymnosperms (conifers), instead of the Bentham and Hooker system utilized at the Arnold, which begins with the Magnolias.

As noted by Scot Medbury, the Washington Park Arboretum and most of the other contemporary arboretum projects by the Olmsted Brothers continued to organize plant collections systematically by plant taxa, in contrast to other contemporary arboreta where plant collections were organized according to ecological and geographical classifications. These include the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison (1934), the University of California Botanical Garden in Berkeley (1920s), the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (1926), and the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park (1930s). Some other arboreta employed more than one strategy for grouping plants, including Chicago's Morton Arboretum (1922) and the Holden Arboretum in Cleveland (1931).

A mission statement was adopted by the ABGC in January 1996 which reflects the current collection policies and goals for the property:

The Washington Park Arboretum is a living plant museum emphasizing trees and shrubs hardy in the maritime Pacific Northwest. Collections are selected and arranged to display their beauty and function in urban landscapes, to demonstrate their natural ecology and diversity, and to conserve important species and cultivated varieties for the future. The Arboretum serves the public, students at all levels, naturalists, gardeners, and nursery and landscape professionals with its collections, educational programs, interpretations, and recreational opportunities.³

³ Washington Park Arboretum, University of Washington Website, 8.20.2002.

1. Introduction

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Many people contributed, either directly as participants in this study process, or indirectly through their assistance with research documents. The study team gratefully acknowledges their assistance.

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2. INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Management of the Arboretum

The Washington Park Arboretum is managed cooperatively by Seattle Parks and Recreation and the University of Washington. The Arboretum Foundation is its major support organization. The City of Seattle owns the Arboretum's land and buildings, Seattle Parks and Recreation maintains the park functions, and the University of Washington owns, maintains, and manages the plant collections and associated programs.

The Seattle City Council, and University of Washington Board of Regents adopted a New Master Plan for the Washington Park Arboretum in May 2001. The Master Plan, *Renewing the Washington Park Arboretum*, was funded largely by the Arboretum Foundation. Its adoption was the culmination of seven years of analysis and public outreach. The Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) is the legally mandated advisory committee for the Washington Park Arboretum, established by the Arboretum's enabling legislation in 1934. It is comprised of nine members appointed by the University, City of Seattle, the Governor and the Arboretum Foundation.

Preservation Regulations and Policies

Designated historic landmarks are those properties that have been recognized locally, regionally, or nationally as important resources to the community, city, state or nation. Official recognition may be provided by listing in the State or National Registers of Historic Places or, in Seattle by the City's designation of the property as a historic landmark. Typically a property listed in the National Register has broader significance than a locally designated landmark.

A number of regulation policies are applicable to historic resources. Locally they include the City of Seattle Landmarks Ordinance, and procedures adopted by the City's Department of Design Construction and Land Use (DCLU) for Master Use Permits (MUP). Applicable regulations include the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), which requires that impacts to cultural resources be considered during the public environmental review process.

This report is provided in support of the SEPA application and provides documentation for information requested under SEPA checklist item No. 13, Historic and Cultural Preservation. The work performed by the team's archaeologist, NWAA, was designed to address the three areas of concern outlined under this checklist item:

- 13a. Identify places or objects on or adjacent to the project that are listed or proposed for listing on a historic register,
- 13b. Identify places or objects on or adjacent to the project that are of archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance, and
- 13c. Indicate appropriate mitigation measures for historic or cultural resources.

In the course of providing information relating to the cultural resources of the project area, NWAA conducted pre-field archival research that identified the locations of previously known prehistoric and historic cultural properties within the project boundaries.

Under SEPA, the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) is the sole agency with technical expertise in regard to cultural resources. OAHP provides formal opinions to local governments and other state agencies on a site's significance and the impact of proposed projects. Consultation with the State requires that alternatives be considered when an undertaking impacts the resource, and may result in mitigation requirements, which are formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement. Each agency must consult with OAHP to assure that cultural resources are identified, and to obtain the formal opinion of the Office on each site's significance and the effect of the proposed action.

University of Washington Policies on Protecting Cultural Landscapes at the Arboretum

The University of Washington Regents controls all University property and is the steward of the University of Washington campuses and outstations. The Washington Park Arboretum is managed cooperatively by the Seattle Parks and Recreation and the University of Washington. The University manages its plant collections through the University's Center for Urban Horticulture.

Within the physical space of the Washington Park Arboretum, the plant collections are a critical element of the University's educational, research, and outreach mission. The Arboretum is an educational laboratory that must be maintained, enhanced, expanded, and updated as needed to meet this mission. Research and innovation must also occur. Specimens are constantly replaced and added to the collections for teaching and research purposes.

The University utilizes five approaches to the maintenance and management of the collections and the associated supporting environment. They include preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of existing collections, and the establishment of new collections.

Federal Historic Preservation Regulations

Cultural resources are addressed in over 100 federal laws and regulations including the National Environmental Policy of 1969 (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, amended 1992 (NHPA). Section 106 of NHPA requires federally assisted undertakings to take into account the effects of those undertakings on historic properties that are included in or which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. "Undertakings" include licensing, permitting, and/or funding, including grants, and "historic properties" includes prehistoric archaeological sites, as well as buildings, structures, objects, and cultural landscapes. The procedures outlined by Section 106 also guide heritage resource studies for projects that may not necessarily invoke federal laws.

There are three elements involved in cultural resources studies following Section 106 procedures:

1. Identification and evaluation of historic properties
2. Assessment of effects of the proposed undertaking on historic properties
3. Consultation among the primary parties to consider ways to avoid, reduce, or mitigate adverse effects

In Washington State the consultation involves the appropriate federal agency and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation whenever there is an undertaking that effects a historic resource. (A historic resource is one that has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register by the State agency.) The property need not already be listed, but merely be eligible for listing.¹ Section 106

¹ In November 1998, Seattle's park, boulevard, and playground system as designed by the Olmsted Brothers was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register by the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

reviews focus on a property's historic and archaeological significance, based on the National Register criteria.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structure, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering can culture. The National Park Service administers the register. Nominations for the National Register may come from state and federal historic preservation offices. Individuals, organizations and local governments may also initiate the nomination process. The Washington State Advisory Council, which is organized and staffed by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, considers each nomination and makes a recommendation on its eligibility.

Properties listed in the National Register must possess historic significance and integrity. Generally the property must be at least 50 years of age or more to be considered, and must be significant when evaluated in relationship to major trends of history in their community, State or the nation.

The criteria for listing in National Register include the following:

- A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or presents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. The property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

City of Seattle Landmark Process

The City's landmark designation process is quite different from Section 106 reviews, and is separate from the National Register listing process. It occurs in three sequential steps:

1. Review and approval of a submitted landmark nomination form by the Landmarks Board
2. Further consideration and approval of designation by the Board
3. Negotiation of controls and incentives between the property owner and the Board staff

Controls in the negotiation process refer to the design review controls over changes to specific features that the Board places on a designated property. Incentives include a range of financial and non-financial benefits offered to a landmark, such as special property tax valuations or relief from contemporary code or zoning requirements. A final step in Seattle's landmark process is the passage of an ordinance by the City Council. All of these steps occur with public hearings for input from the owner, applicant, the public and other interested parties. Seattle's landmark process is quasi-judicial, with the Board making a ruling, rather than it serving as an advisory body to another commission, department or agency.

Under this ordinance over 240 individual properties have become designated landmarks in the City of Seattle. Several hundred other properties are designated by their presence within one of the city's six special review districts or historic districts. These districts are the Harvard Belmont, Ballard, Pioneer Square, Columbia City, Pike Place Market, and International Special Review Districts. Designated landmark properties in Seattle include individual buildings and structures, assemblies of buildings, sites, and objects.

In contrast to the National Register or landmark designation in some other jurisdictions, the City of Seattle's process does not require owner consent. A landmark nomination may be prepared by a property owner, a city agency, or by any interested party or individual, and one was previously prepared for the Washington Park Arboretum.² The ordinance requires that if the nomination is adequate in terms of its information and documentation, the Landmarks Board must consider it within a stipulated time frame.

There are no requirements, either locally or nationally, that force an owner to nominate a property. Such a step occurs, however, when an owner's plans are for a substantial development that requires a Master Use Permit (MUP). Since 1995, DCLU has required a review of "potentially eligible landmarks" as a part of the permit process.

The City's Landmark Preservation Ordinance has a threshold requirement that a potential landmark must meet. This requires a property to be more than 25 years old and "have significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation." In contrast, a property must be 50 years old typically, to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The standard calling for significant character is a standard of integrity. Integrity is a term used to indicate that sufficient character-defining features are present to convey the historic and architectural significance of the property.

Seattle's landmark ordinance also requires a property meet one or more of six designation criteria:

- A. It is associated in a significant way with an historic event, which has had a significant effect on the community, city, state or nation;
- B. It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state, or nation;
- C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political or economic heritage of the community, city, state or nation;
- D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, period or method of construction;
- E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder;
- F. It is an easily identifiable feature of its neighborhood or the city due to the prominence of its spatial location; contrasts of siting, age or scale; and it contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of its neighborhood or the city.

Seattle's landmark process does not include consideration of potential future changes to a property, the merits of a development proposal, nor does it assure continuance of any specific uses as these are separate land use issues.

² Susan Black and Associates, "University of Washington Arboretum Landmark Nomination" (Draft), October 2000. This draft nomination was form prepared by not formally submitted.

3. EARLY HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

This section describes the original site of Washington Park, and its natural and pre-settlement history, nearby portages and the creation of the Montlake cut, the initial acquisition of the property as a public park, impacts of development of nearby Broadmoor, Madison and Montlake neighborhoods, and the history of Foster Island. Conceptually this era of history ends in 1903, while park purchases continued up to 1904 and recreation plans continued to 1935.

Physical Description

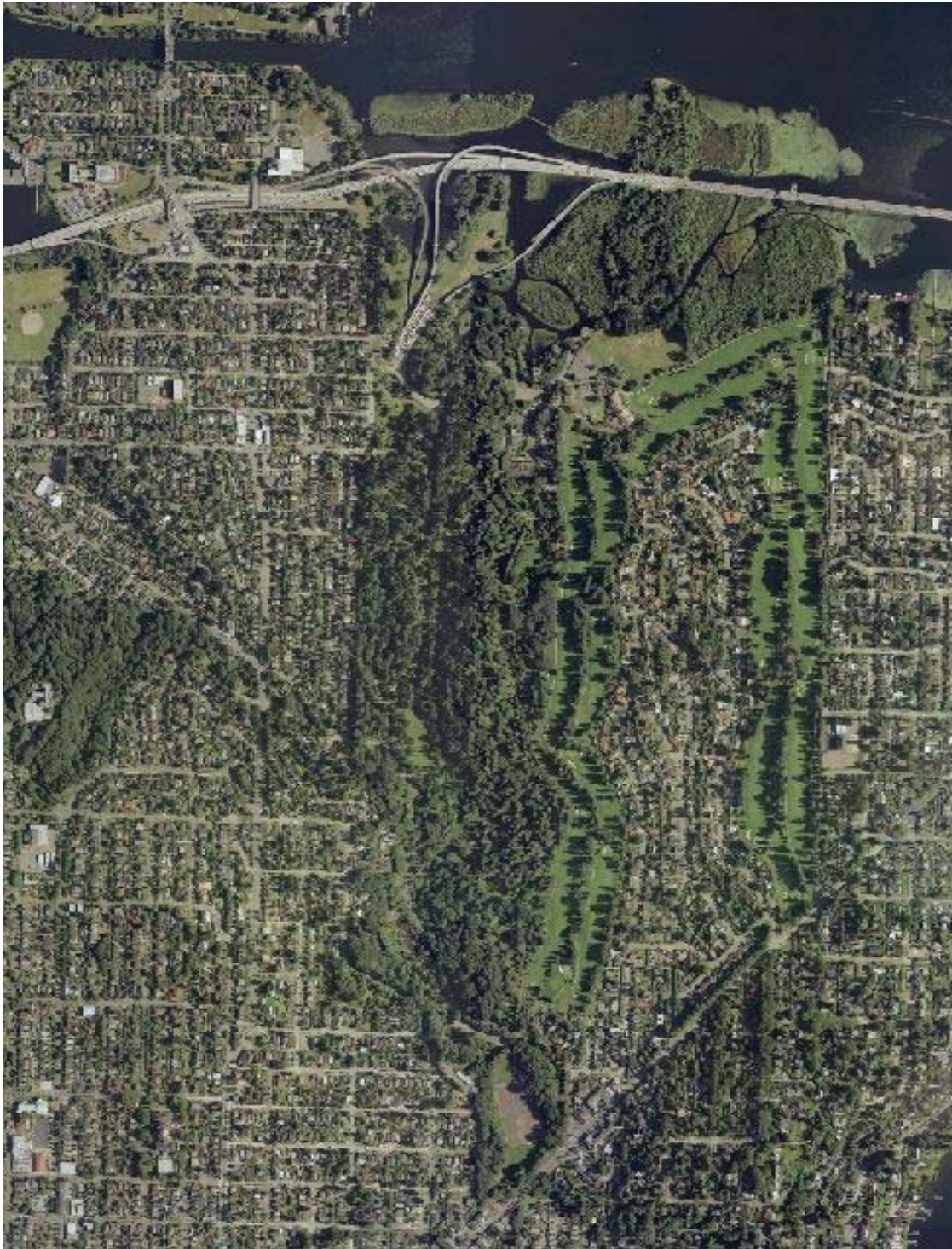
The property that constitutes the present Washington Park is a long valley with a mixture of small ravines, knolls, flats, and terraces. It contains meadows, woodlands, and forests. When the site was assessed by the Arboretum Advisory Council in 1938, it totaled over 267 acres. Subsequent land was acquired and lost through various actions, including acquisition of park property for construction of State Route 520. The Washington Park Arboretum (excluding the ballfield at Madison) presently consists of approximately 230 acres and a diverse collection of plants from around the world, with over 10,000 individual plants representing 4,400 species and cultivated varieties.

The Arboretum includes two north-south ridges and the valley between, and is characterized by the natural drainage of small streams running north to Union Bay. To the north of the Arboretum is Union Bay, wetlands, and some small islands, including the seven-acre Foster Island (originally Foster's), and small bays. The Foster Island area is generally treated as part of the Arboretum, but its edges are somewhat obscure because of the presence of the nearby highway. A four-lane highway, State Route 520, and some of its access ramps pass through the wetland and across Foster Island.

The Arboretum is bounded on the west by the Montlake neighborhood. Broadmoor, a private, gated residential community of single-family homes, is on the east; its golf course is arranged along the east edge of the Arboretum. The south edge of Washington Park is bordered by East Madison Street and the Madison Valley neighborhood.

The Montlake Cut is approximately one half-mile northeast of the Arboretum. The cut makes up the eastern portion of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and separates the Montlake neighborhood from the southern edge of the University of Washington campus. The Arboretum Waterfront Trail connects the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) in McCurdy Park with Foster Island and the northern portion of the Arboretum. The shoreline trail extends around the north end of Union Bay to the west edge of the Laurelhurst neighborhood.

Figure 1. Below, 1999 Arboretum Orthophoto. Source: Seattle Parks.



The Site's History

Of all the areas that make up the Arboretum, the northern portion may be the site of greatest physical change over time. Geographically this area was located at a natural break in the city's topography, at a narrow isthmus between Lake Washington and Lake Union, which served as an early portage between the two lakes. (Lake Washington's natural drainage was into an outlet at its southern end, into the Black River, which linked to the Duwamish River; the Duwamish drained into Elliott Bay.) At this northern isthmus a small creek flowed down from Lake Washington to form a swamp at the east edge of what is presently known as Portage Bay.¹



Figure 2. Foster Island, Washington Park. Photograph from June 1913. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection.



Figure 3. Washington Park, and Foster Island. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection.

Early Settlement

The shoreline portion of the site is associated with early Indian settlement. Records are cited that note the presence of an Indian settlement near the present-day University of Washington Steam Plant.² The narrow piece of land between two lakes was a strategic location for Native Americans. Duwamish tribe members of the Southern Lushootseed (South Coast Salish Indians) traveled the route and called Sxwacugwit or "s-hool-WEEHL" ("portage" or narrow passage in Puget Sound Salish).

The portage was critical to the Indians just as it would be for later settlers, as it led from the coast to lakes and river systems. A Duwamish village was located east of the mouth of the Arboretum creek, which was called Slalal, or "fathom." During pre-settlement times Foster Island was reportedly an Indian burial ground. Because of the burial methods, however, there was little impact on the land, and no remains are to be found.³

¹ SR 520 presently occupies the site of the creek outlet and an early log channel. The Ship Canal is located approximately 150 to 200 yards to the north. Information in this section comes from several sources including McWilliams 1955; Gould, 2003; and Plummer, 1991.

² Buerge, 1984. Native burials included placement of remains in trees.

³ Plummer, 1991, p. 3.

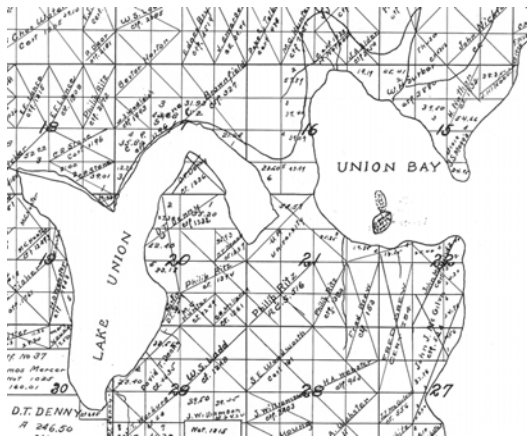


Figure 4. Kroll Map of Township 25, North Range 4 East, ca. 1880. Source: Kroll Map Company. This early maps shows the portage area between Lake Union and Union Bay, and Foster Island.



Figure 5. Detail from an 1891 Map showing land surrounding Union Bay, portion of Lake Washington, J. McGilvra plat, and the plat for Pike's Union City, site of the Montlake Cut. In this map Foster Island is isolated in Union Bay. Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl.

Plans for a Canal at the Montlake Portage

Captain George B. McClellan of the Army Corps of Engineers viewed the portage site in 1853. Noting the unique geography of the site, he proposed construction of a canal to link the lakes. Seattle pioneer Thomas Mercer adopted McClellan's idea in the 1850s when he named the two nearby bodies of water, Lake Union on the west and Union Bay on the east.

Construction of "The Ditch" began in 1861 when Harvey Pike started hand excavation on land between Lake Washington and Lake Union. Pike soon gave up the project and deemed the land the Lake Washington Canal Company in 1871. The firm constructed a narrow gauge rail tram over which coal was transferred to and from barges. The canal project stalled until 1885 when a "Portage Canal" for moving logs was constructed by Judge Thomas Burke with the efforts of Chinese laborers. The earlier tram rails were removed in 1878, and a wooden bridge was constructed to traverse the canal, and a small settlement was laid out.

As early as 1871, a new company, the Washington Canal Company, had acquired the rights to the canal property and sought federal support. However, the federal government assumed ownership of the old portage route in 1898. (Federal ownership of the original canal route later aided its efforts to build the SR-520 floating bridge.)

Work began on a navigable canal from Lake Washington's Union Bay to Lake Union's Portage Bay with a Congressional appropriation of \$2.75 million dollars for a locks and county-built canal. The old canal route was abandoned, but the federal government retained ownership of the property. In 1910 King County began building a watertight gate to control water levels in Lake Washington. A coffer dam was built at the west end and the cut excavated.

In 1916, a year before completion of the Montlake Cut, the lower coffer dam eroded. The water level of Lake Washington dropped dramatically by nine feet, exposing new shore lands. This resulted in an expansion of shoreline properties, including portions of Washington Park. Foster Island, which had been a small island before the water level was lowered, had gained size with the dumping of excavations from the canal and its approach. The island grew also as the lake level fell. In 1917 the city purchased what was then a seven-acre island for \$15,000.

When the lake was lowered, the shoreline properties then owned by the University of Washington, north of the park along the west shoreline of Union Bay, were expanded also.



Figure 7. Montlake Cut, 1916. Source: MOHAI.

The Park Purchase

Washington Park was one of the city's first parks, and was created by a series of purchases in 1900 - 1904. The Puget Mill Company, a division of Pope and Talbot, originally owned the property that today makes up much of the park and the adjoining residential community, Broadmoor. In 1890, the company logged the site with plans to develop it. Plans were halted by the Panic of 1893. Puget Mill Company then realized that infrastructure improvements from the city were required. Thus, the acquisition of the land for the park began with an exchange. Early historian Clarence Bagley described the early acquisition in a 1916 publication, *History of Seattle*:

On January 1900 the city accepted a deed from the Puget Mill Company to 62 acres of land which became the nucleus of this park in return for certain water main extensions to be made by the city. On January 1 and May 1, 1902, 19.3 acres were added for the sum of \$16,000 . . . On December 21, 1903, 37.5 acres were added by purchase from George Kinnear for \$13,600. On June 2, 1904 certain lots were added by purchase for \$1,000. On August 10, 1904, 0.32 acres were purchased for \$600. On July 15, 1904 certain other lots were added by condemnation . . . Other additions have been made until at the present time the park contains 165.22 acres.⁵

⁵ Bagley, 1916, Vol. 1, p. 228. See also Conan, 1949, p. 211. In 1916, the City built a pedestrian bridge, designed by Willcox and Sayward, which enclosed the city's water/sewer aqueduct. It should be noted that the original property exchange contained a reversionary clause. (As noted previously, the park property was expanded through subsequent purchases to an eventual size of 267 acres. Its present size, which was impacted by intervening activities, including acquisition of land for State Route 520, is approximately 230 acres.)

Acquisition of Washington Park was one of many steps taken by civic leaders to provide recreation and open spaces. Many of these acquisitions were conceived of by early Park Commissioners, and others were planned for by Parks Superintendent, Edward O. Schwagerl in the early 1890s. In 1892 there were only three major parks (Denny, City-now Volunteer, and Kinnear). That year the Annual Report of the Park Commissioners focused, in part, on a proposal for two parks on Lake Washington with the boulevard linking four “most popular gardens.” Park Historian Don Sherwood notes that Schwagerl conceived of a system of park spaces and boulevards, which were identified in the 1893 Annual Report. Schwagerl proposed:

‘Northwest Park as overlooking Salmon Bay on Puget Sound Northeast Park as overlooking Union Bay on Lake Washington and Southeast Park as the peninsula on Lake Washington (acquired in 1911 as Seward Park).’ The popular gardens were all private: Laurelshade, Madison, Madrona, and Leschi Parks. The Southwest Park was not identified: Duwamish head was settled as the town of West Seattle; Alki Beach became a park in 1910. Mayor J. T. Ronald vigorously endorsed the 1892-1893 plan ... but no major action occurred until 1900 when the City Council appropriated \$100,000 for the purchase of Woodland Park (including a portion of Green Lake) from the estate of Guy Phinney. There was an “enormous outcry” over spending that much money for a park so far from town! That same year, George F. Cotterill, Assistant City Engineer, published a map of bicycle paths for the city of 55,000 residents who owned 10,000 bicycles (The first automobile appeared on Seattle streets in 1900). Cotterill had walked about the city and developed a 25 mile system of paths. The routes were chosen for grade and to take advantage of the scenic beauty.⁶



Figure 8. Trees and stumps on the site of Washington Park, 1904. The land had been completely logged by the Puget Mill Company in 1896 before its sale to the city. Source: Seattle Municipal Archives.

⁶ Sherwood. “Notes on the History of Seattle Parks and Playgrounds,” July 13, 1979. Schwagerl’s work anticipated the effort realized in the Olmsted Brothers plan, ten years hence.

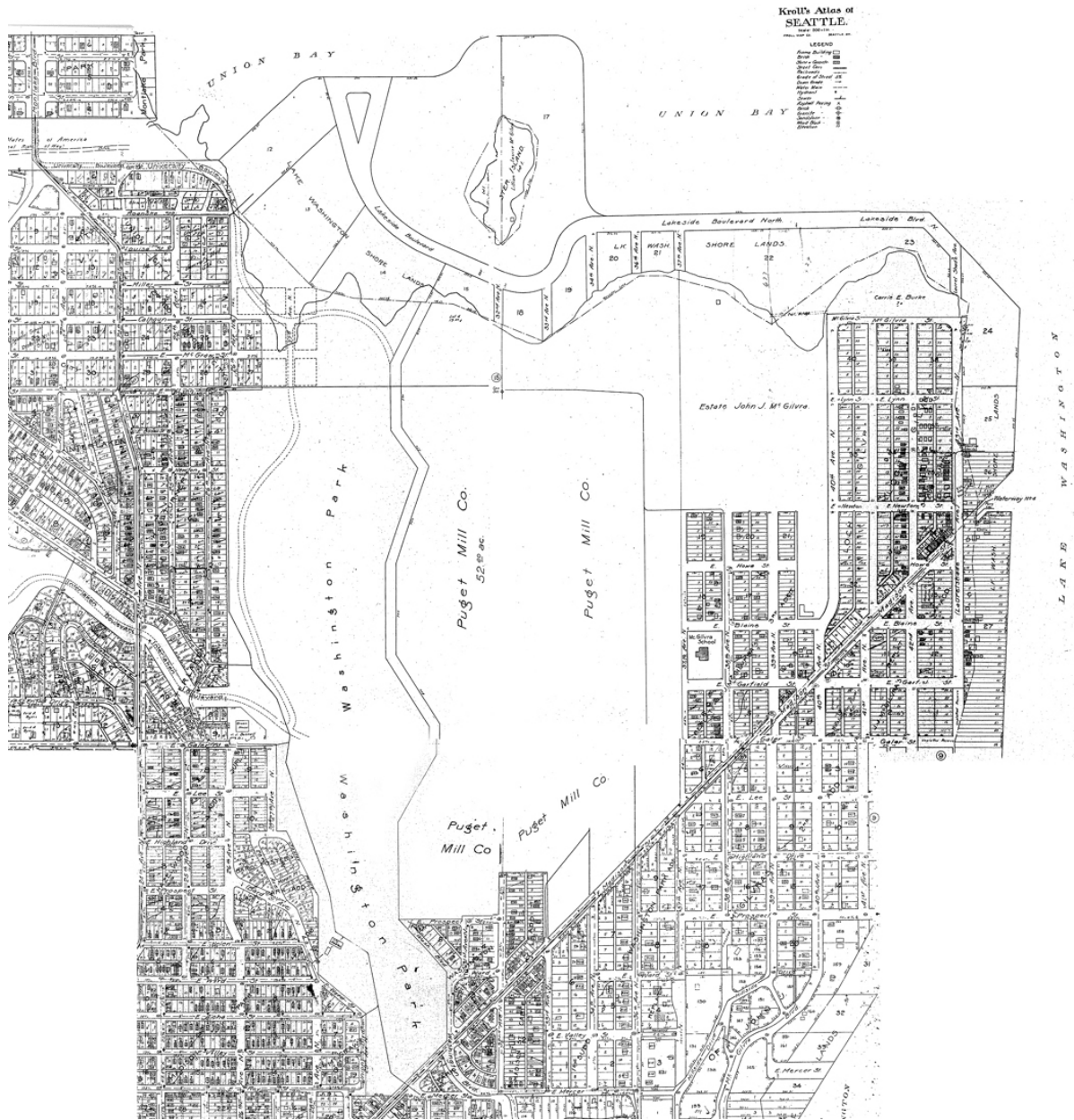


Figure 9. Washington Park and the Puget Sound Mill Company site in ca. 1912 – 1920. Note the proposed shoreline route of Lakeside Boulevard. (Note: This map shows the Montlake Bridge, which was not constructed until 1925.) Source: Kroll Map Company.

4. WASHINGTON PARK AND THE BOULEVARD ERA

This section details the transformation of the property through the planning, design and development of Lake Washington Boulevard as the first built segment of the Olmsted Brothers plans for Seattle Boulevard system, and as the primary route to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. This section also describes early uses of the park for active and passive recreation prior to establishment of the Arboretum.

Origins

The boulevard era began with the 1903 plan for a park system of boulevards, parkways, and parks for the City of Seattle, which were developed by the Olmsted Brothers, landscape architects from Brookline, Massachusetts.

The Olmsted Firms

Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s original partnership with architect Calvert Vaux in 1858 for the winning entry for Central Park initiated a hundred-year lineage of landscape architecture firms associated with the Olmsted name. The firm of Olmsted Brothers, which was established in 1898 by his nephew and adopted son, John Charles, and his son Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., continued until 1961.

During a century of practice the Olmsted firms undertook over 6,000 commissions, more than half of which were implemented. The Olmsted firms left a legacy of planning and constructed work as well as a complete archive of plans, reports, drawings and letters. (Additional biographic information about Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., John Charles Olmsted, James Frederick Dawson, and other members of the Olmsted firms is provided in biographical sketches in Appendix B.)

John Charles (John C.) Olmsted (1852 - 1920), was Frederick Law Olmsted's partner for the decade leading up to the formation of the Olmsted Brothers firm. He was the senior partner in the successor firm until his death, during which time over 3,500 commissions were undertaken. These included plans for park systems in Baltimore, Seattle, Spokane, and Portland, parks in Charleston, New Orleans, and Dayton, Ohio; and campus plans for Smith, Mount Holyoke, the University of Chicago and the University of Washington. In these plans for parks the Olmsted Brothers implemented many of the social and aesthetic goals set initially by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., creating public institutions of recreation, respite, and popular education that strengthened the American democratic way of life.

John C. Olmsted also had a considerable residential practice. By the turn of the century he was one of the most accomplished landscape architects in the country. He was also the first President of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

John C. Olmsted's role in Seattle was pivotal to the development of the city and its parks. John C. Olmsted was the primary author of the 1903 Report to the Park Board, and continued to serve as an advisor and planning and design consultant to the city up until his death in 1920¹. In addition he developed plans for the University of Washington campus in 1904, and for the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition grounds, and prepared a plan for the Fort Lawton Military Reservation in 1910.

¹ David Streatfield has noted that John C. Olmsted authored the park section of the Bogue Plan of 1911, a later comprehensive plan for Seattle and its environs, which was not funded by the voters. Had it been approved, Lake Washington would have been encircled by a continuous parkway system.

The Olmsted System – Parks, Boulevards and Playgrounds

At the request of the Board of Park Commissioners, John C. Olmsted and his assistant, Percy Jones arrived in Seattle on April 30, 1903, and within a month had prepared a list of projects for Seattle's first park bond issue, and outlined a plan for City's future park system. Formally adopted by the City Council in October 1903, the dominant feature of the plan was the twenty miles of landscaped parkways and boulevards linking existing and planned parks within the city limits. The proposed system connected land purchased and owned by Seattle Parks and other agencies, such as schools and State and Federal agencies, such as the University of Washington and Fort Lawton and followed from the system of parks suggested in 1893 by then Parks Superintendent E.O. Schwagerl. The Olmsted system also incorporated an existing system of bicycle paths, as described later in this report.² The Olmsted Brothers Report had recommendations for Washington Park, including specific recommendations for the location of roadways within the Park:

“The east boundary should be on agreeable curvilinear lines, so adapted to the topography as to provide for a border street on good grades and curves. For many years, this border street should answer every purpose as part of the main park drive.... Eventually, however, the pleasure drive would better be carried through the length of the park within its borders, but in such a way as not to unduly cut up the level or gently sloping land, which can better be used for lawns and field sports. The park should be enlarged so that the western boundary will be 200 feet, or at least 100 feet, west of the brook, and would most desirably be on curvilinear lines suitable for a graceful border street or a parkway.”³

Thus, from the start, three roadways were proposed related to the park. Along the eastern edge, the “border street” would likely be an extension northward of the existing perimeter road (31st Avenue East and Washington Place East). The “pleasure drive” would be the first new road, completed as Washington Park Boulevard within a year of the Olmsted's Report. The “graceful border street of parkway” was likely the proposed Empire Way Extension (the current Martin Luther King Way), which appears on nearly all plans through the 1960s. The report also recommended an extension to the University grounds:

“The suggested curvilinear west boundary street of Washington Park should be extended about three hundred to five hundred feet from the shore line to the proposed government canal, and thence to the State University grounds, and all the land between it and Union Bay, together with all rights to land under water in front of it should be secured. The portion of this curvilinear boundary street approximately parallel with Union Bay could be utilized for a long period as part of the main pleasure drive, but eventually it should be advisable to have a separate drive entirely within the park, and presumably close to the shore at one or two points, so as to command views of Union Bay.”⁴

² Description from David Streatfield.

³ “Report of Olmsted Brothers,” Park Commission Report, adopted by the City Council October 19, 1903, p. 61 - 63. The Olmsted Report to Board of Park Commissioners was published in the local newspapers, and printed in 1904 - 1905 and 1909 Annual Reports, available at the City of Seattle Municipal Archives (SMA). The National Association for Olmsted Parks considers the plan the first example of the extensive use of borrowed landscape. In addition, one of John C. Olmsted's primary goals in that plan was to locate a park or a playground within one-half mile of every home in Seattle. The 1903 plan, together with the Olmsted Brothers' 1908 Supplemental Plan, included numerous playgrounds and playfields, a manifestation of the new concepts of public recreation, which had been introduced with success in the East. These sites included buildings devoted to recreation (shelterhouses and fieldhouses) and facilities like ball fields, tennis courts, and playground apparatus that had unique maintenance requirements relative to park facilities. Furthermore, the plan emphasized the speed with which the plan should be realized; desirable sites would soon be developed privately, or would be priced beyond the means of the City. According to historic Park documents, during the first ten years after its submission, most of the primary elements of the 1903 plan would, “through purchase, gift, condemnation, or bonded indebtedness”, be incorporated into the city's structure.

⁴ Ibid.



Figure 1. Hand colored study map prepared by John C. Olmsted and Percy Jones during their April 1903 visit to Seattle. The study map sketches an extended boulevard system from Lake Washington through Washington Park, then along Union Bay to the University of Washington, indicates connections in the direction of Interlaken, and shows expansion of Washington Park to the west (Kinnear Addition). Foster Island is identified as parkland. Source: FSOP (2690-6 NPS).

The Olmsted Brothers Plan for Washington Park

The Olmsted Brothers' involvement with the City in the development of Washington Park naturally followed from their planning for Seattle parks system.

Following acceptance of their report in late 1903, the Olmsted Brothers remained in close contact with the City and many of its prominent citizens. Corresponding frequently and informally by letter and telegram, and with return visits, the firm provided informal directions to City engineers who were already implementing aspects of the plan. A simple telegram illustrates the design approach for the Washington Park Boulevard, and the comfort level of the Seattle client:

6 p.m. 6th Apr. 1904
Seattle, Wash.

Olmsted Brothers.

Locate Washington Driveway anywhere between east and west boundaries as you deem best.

Board of Park Commissioners.⁵

⁵ Telegram received, Olmsted Brothers, from Board of Park Commissioners, April 6, 1904, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Olmsted Microfilm, 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum, Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

Working from field notes, Percy Jones of the Olmsted Brothers firm prepared studies for locating the centerline of the roadway in April 1904. By May 3rd, the firm provided prints of Washington Park, “showing areas to be cleared of underbrush.”⁶ The plan, still in possession of Seattle Parks and Recreation, is a clear example of the Olmsted Brothers work methods. In a 16th May letter to the President of the Board of Park Commissioners, John Charles Olmsted (JCO) followed up:

We trust you will excuse us for calling your attention to the fact that we have already given advice and prepared plans for portions of Washington Park outside of the plans for the driveway in the valley which were provided for in the written agreement. We do this merely by way of showing you how obvious it is that your Board is in need of professional advice as to the whole park. It is practically impossible to improve a portion of such a park sensibly without any reference whatever to other portions of the park. As a matter of fact your Board evidently does desire to alter the existing growths which cover the ground in such a way as to make the ground useful to visitors as well as beautiful to their eyes. We trust, therefore, that your Board will soon arrange with us for completing plans for the whole of Washington Park.⁷

Approval to prepare plans for the entire Washington Park was not forthcoming, but Seattle remained reliant on the planning and design expertise offered by the Olmsted Brothers. In a response of May 25, Charles W. Saunders, the new President of the Board of Park Commissioners noted, “Following the suggestions...of yours...with receipt of preliminary plan for drives in Washington Park... the Board . . . has decided to survey and cross-section the valley...under the superintendence of Mr. Thompson.” Saunders indicated the topographic survey of the centerline of the proposed drive, from the “east end of the viaduct to the northwest corner of the park,” would be complete in a week’s time. Excluded from the survey was the proposed road along the east line of the park, determined to be part of the city’s contract with the Puget Sound Mill Company.⁸

It is likely that the Route for Roadway, Seattle Municipal Park System, July 1904 is the City-produced topographic survey based on the Olmsted Brothers plans. The Olmsted Brothers immediately followed up with the Washington Park Topographical Map (August 2, 1904), a colored print of which remains with the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation to this day. The plan identifies several topographic and already built elements of Washington Park:

- the Madison trestle crossed a deep gulch formed by a creek, now known as Arboretum Creek;
- the creek, later straightened and culverted in several sections, wound through a large lowland; a segment of the creek originates up a ravine west of the park (later above the Japanese Garden)
- a pair of glacial drumlin hills rises from the lowland;
- the shoreline is fairly irregular, with a clearly defined point into the water towards Foster Island.
- an existing trail loops through the park and the Puget Mill property (See Cotterill’s bicycle map);
- the boulevard platting loops along the shoreline east towards the Puget Mill property, a design intention first presented in 1904 and never realized;
- the extension of Empire Way (now Martin Luther King Jr. Way) is shown on this plan.
- the park included buildings, such as the Good Road Lunch Room described in the next section.

⁶ Letter to Mr. John W. Thompson, from P.R.J. (Percy Jones), May 3, 1904, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Olmsted Microfilm, 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum, Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

⁷ G.E. Fowler, dictated by J.C. Olmsted, May 16, 1904, MSCUA, 153-40-31.

⁸ Olmsted Brothers, from Charles W. Saunders, May 25 1904, MSCUA, 153-40-31.

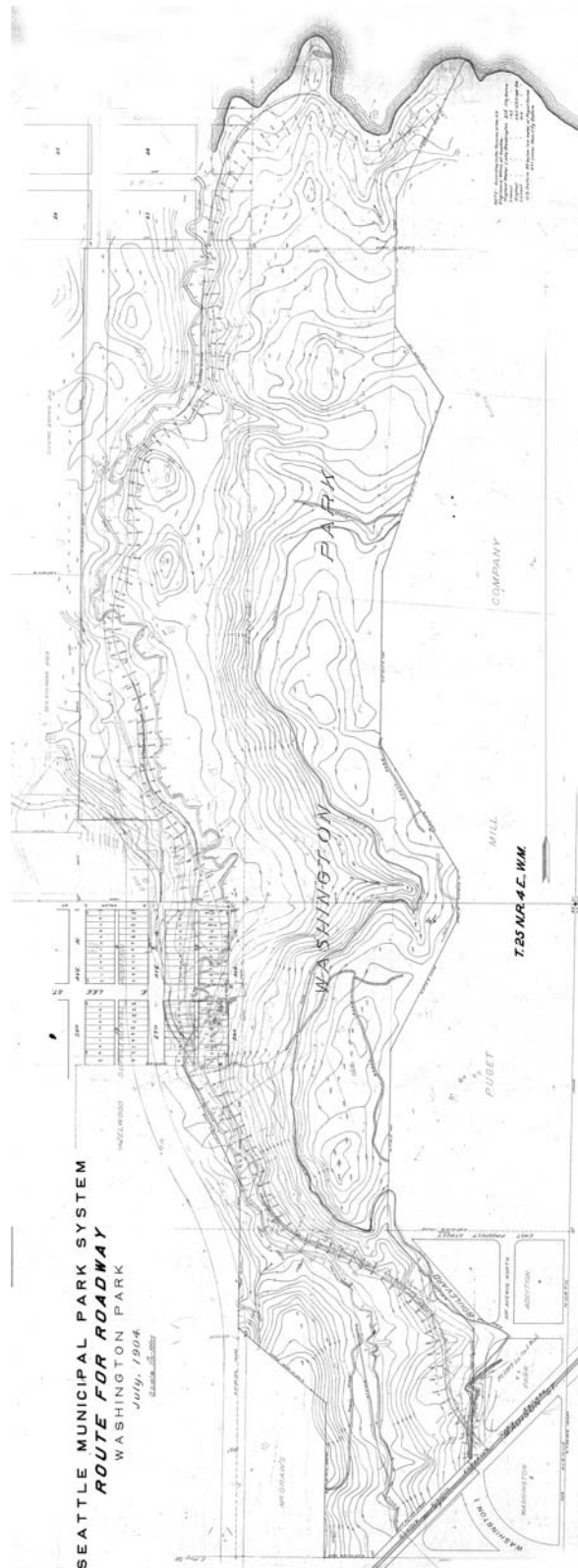


Figure 10. Route for Roadway, Seattle Municipal Park System, July 1904. Source: Washington State Archives, digital copy provided by Bonnie Ion.

Under the direction of J.W. Thompson, new Superintendent of Parks (recommended for the position by Olmsted Brothers), the plan was implemented even as it was being drawn.⁹ The Olmsted Brothers encouraged Thompson to follow guidelines for the roadway but, in a letter of August 26, 1904, encouraged him to make necessary departures in the field to preserve trees and minimize grading:

We should not only be glad to have you make suggestions for such departures from the normal cross section, to save trees and for other obvious reasons, but we should be glad to avoid the excessive formality which results in having the walk on the same level with the drive and uniformly 6 feet from it by swinging the walk, occasionally, further from the drive and putting it on a lower grade ... It seems to us that your experience there, supplemented by such occasional visits as we can make, should enable you to adjust and interpret our plans so as to accomplish the best results not only at a reasonable expense, but with the least possible destruction of the beauties of the park.¹⁰

The first stretch of the Boulevard was completed by August 1905. The 24-foot wide macadam roadway extended from the Madison Street viaduct north 2,150 feet through the park, at a point where the roadway crosses the stream. The City was proceeding with the construction of a second roadway (later known as Interlaken Boulevard) connecting up to 19th and Galer, through property known as the Hazlewood Addition, being acquired through condemnation. As Charles Saunders apologized to John Charles for not consulting in advance about the second roadway, the City originally intended to follow Olmsted Brothers ideas of keeping on the lines of the Lake Union Bicycle path, but moved the road south, given the rapid rise in property values to the north.¹¹

Boulevard Planting Plans

North of the creek crossing, by 1906 the road was graded and graveled, as a base for the macadam, but the gravel surface was determined sufficient and left as is¹². In August 1905, the Park Commissioners had requested the Olmsted Brothers' services to provide planting plans for the Washington Park roadway from the Madison Street bridge to Union Bay.

As indicated in John Charles Olmsted's previous correspondence, the firm had looked beyond the road right-of-way when developing their designs. James Frederick Dawson had taken extensive field notes on the ground in August 1904 indicating areas to be opened up through clearing and areas to preserve "wild growths."¹³

⁹ James Frederic Dawson of the Olmsted Brothers visited Seattle for three weeks in August and September 1904, providing field direction for Washington Park and other park projects.

¹⁰ Letter to Saunders, Pres., Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, Wash., September 22, 1904, 4 pages, Land Acquisition/border on west, drive, from John C. Olmsted, Olmsted Brothers, from Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, 2699 Washington Park & Arboretum, Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

¹¹ Letter to John C. Olmsted from Charles W. Saunders, August 15, 1905 from Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, 2699 Washington Park & Arboretum, Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

¹² Unpublished 1906 - 1907 Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, December 18, 1907, p. 11 - 12.

¹³ Dawson's field map was formalized into the ink base map he would use again as a base map for his field notes in 1934.

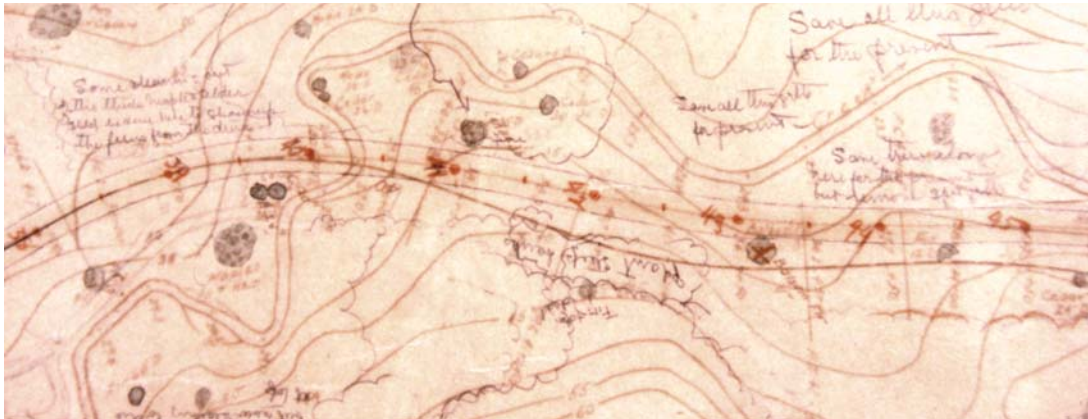


Figure 2. J.F. Dawson's field notes on the ground, August 1904, Plan 2699-14 (NPS) Source: FSOP.

These notes helped form the design direction for the preparatory planting sketch below showing planning for vistas from paths and the boulevard and for contrasting areas of clearings and plantings.

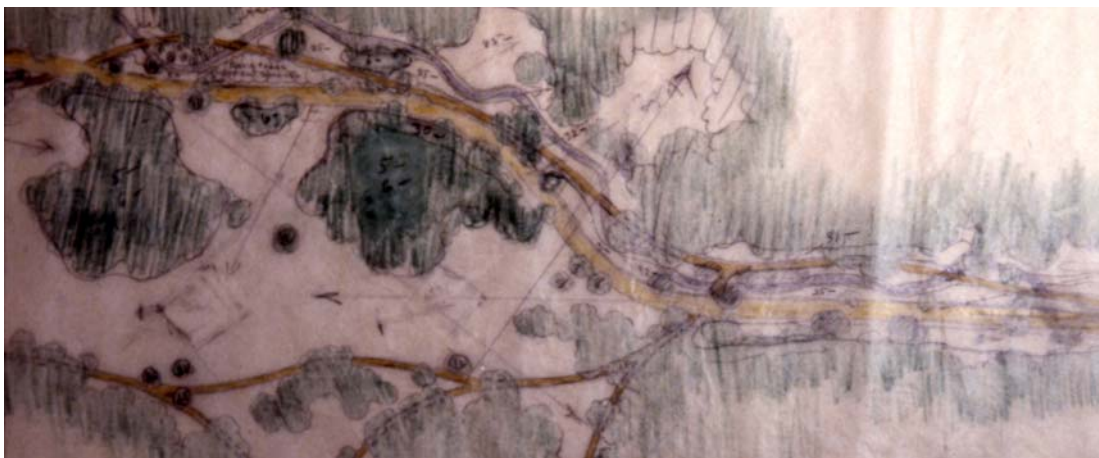


Figure 3. Sketch of openings and clearings, north end of Meadow, Plan 2699-18 (NPS). Source: FSOP.

The sketch was formalized in the 1906 Washington Park Planting Plan, below, prepared by Olmsted Brothers but not formally submitted.



Figure 4. Meadow, 1906 Olmsted Brothers Washington Park Planting Plan. Source: FSOP.

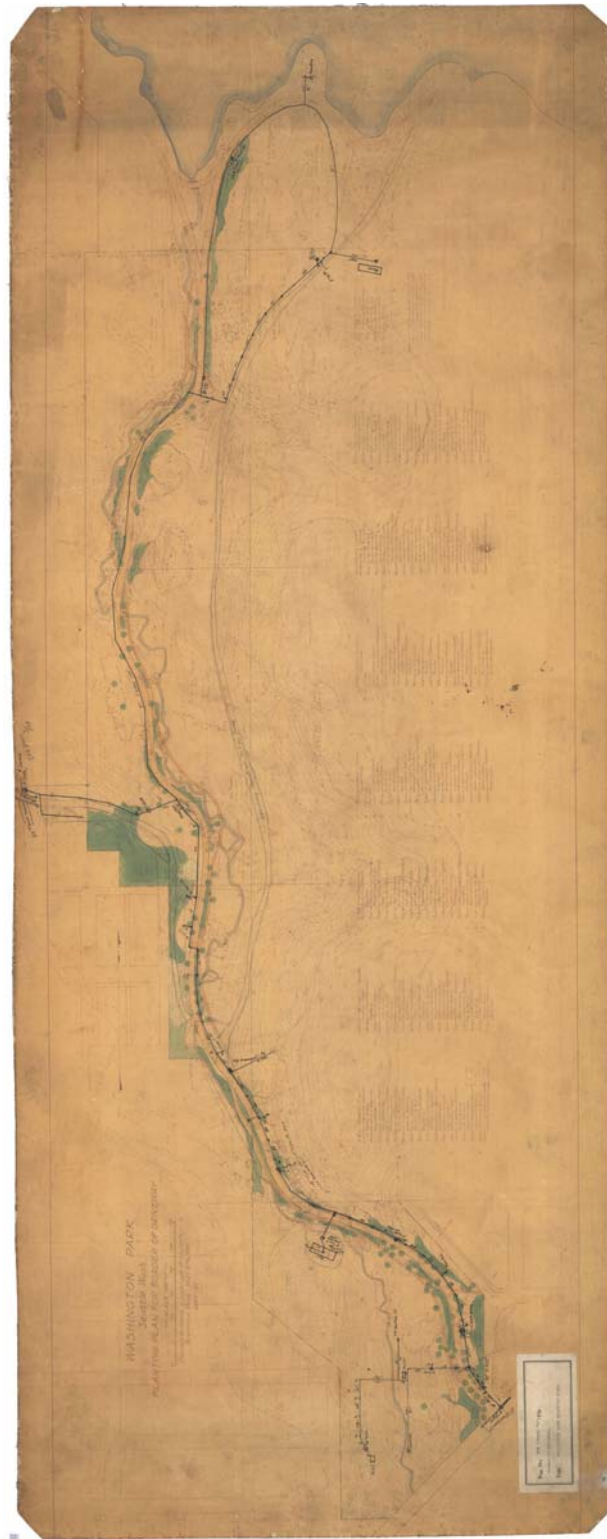


Figure 5. Planting Plan For Border of Driveway, Olmsted Brothers, March 27, 1906. Source: Parks (one of two copies).

Given that the City had only authorized planting plans for the roadway, it appears the firm prepared a copy of the plan for Washington Park and deleted areas beyond the boulevard. On March 27, 1906, a print of the plan for planting the borders of the new driveway in Washington Park was forwarded to Superintendent Thompson.

The original colored print, located at Seattle Parks includes a general planting list. The letter provided by Olmsted Brothers noted: "In our list of plants you will note that we have not used a great many of the plants listed in your nursery. We found that you have many plants of a formal or exotic nature well adapted to use in city squares and small parks but not so well suited for larger and less artificial work."¹⁴

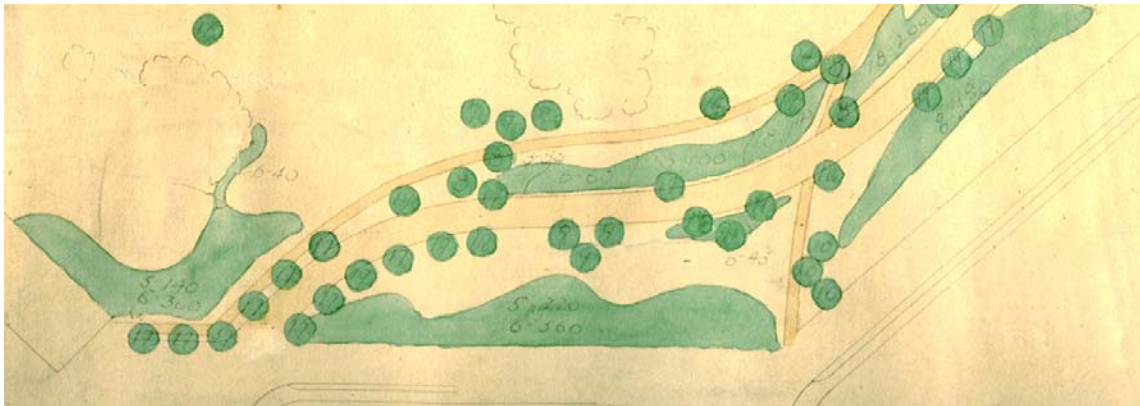


Figure 6. Detail of Planting Plan Along Drive, South Entrance (from Madison), Olmsted Brothers, March 27, 1906. Source: Parks.

The 1906 - 1907 Park Commissioners report indicated: "Planting plans for the border of the driveway have been secured from Olmsted Brothers, and during the planting season this fall these will be carried to completion. It is intended to make this stretch of the road an object lesson as to what the system will be."¹⁵

The planting plan clearly identifies individual trees to be located in informal groupings along the boulevard, backed up by large beds with an eclectic mix of native and non-native shrubs and small trees. At Madison, the plan indicates a mix of oak and sycamore, with plantings of madrone, bigleaf maple, mountain hemlock and beech. Heading northward, the plan shows a long open stretch with only shrub plantings, and few street trees, where the valley broadens out along the creek. Further north, where the valley narrows, several evergreen magnolias are shown, then oak, blue spruce, willow, beech, sycamore, big-leaf maple and a final willow.

Little additional correspondence has been found that demonstrates to what degree the plan and plant list was implemented. Photographs along the Boulevard during this era are few, and generally represent the Madison entrance and Interlaken intersection. At present, the southern entrance at Madison is most consistent with the plan. Large trees along the roadway represent a mix of oak and sycamore, similar to

¹⁴ Letter to J.W. Thomson, March 27, 1906, 4 pages, Planting Plan along Drive, from OB-GG Jr., from Manuscript Division, Library of Congress. (FSOP) The final plan appears to be the result of several studies for the road, based on the previously prepared Topography Plan. Several plans have been identified by the Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks (FSOP) at Fairsted, including Topography and Plant Notes, February 15, 1906; Preliminary Sketch, February 28, 1906; Planting Study for Washington Park, March 5, 1906; and Washington Park Planting Plan, revised March 22, 1906. The several sketches, prepared at the same scale as the final plan, demonstrate Olmsted Brothers working methods.

¹⁵ 1906-1907 unpublished Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, December 18, 1907, p. 12.

the plan, however, it is unlikely that madrone or bigleaf maple were installed, and there is no evidence of planting of mountain hemlock or beech. The valley section, as represented in several photos up until the present day, is more open in character, following from the original plan, with few trees at the edge of the boulevard. A group of willows was planted opposite the Interlaken intersection, as featured in later photographs. Similar to the plan, currently some sycamore can be spotted along the north section, but there is no evidence of the other park tree plantings. There is no indication that any of the extensive shrub bed plantings shown on the plan were installed.

Extension to the University

John Charles Olmsted made an extended visit to Seattle in late 1906. As described in extensive field notes, he laid out in the field with the City surveyor, the future route to the University grounds and the A-Y-P Exposition site through the Pike Canal Reserve crossing the original logging canal:

The woods are continuous to near S. boundary of Pike Canal Reserve. There it is cleared pasture with a few small trees and plenty of scattering brush to logging canal N. of which the woods are continuous and dense but no very great trees . . . The Transit line bent sharply around S. end of a bay in Pike canal reserve . . . I suggested it cut across this bay to where it crosses logging canal . . . I told Missigman (surveyor) to complete the contours to a diagonal line up the hill from the E. end of logging canal to what will be corner of 22nd Ave. and 30th St.¹⁶

By the first of March 1907, the Olmsted Brothers office had produced a plan for what was called the Extension: “We are sending you today under separate cover sunprint of topographical map of Washington Park Extension on which we have indicated in pencil the proposed boundary of land for the park and driveway to the Exposition grounds . . . In determining the line for the taking we have endeavored as far as possible to avoid interfering with lots shown on adjoining subdivisions. We understand that land along the line has risen to such a price that the utmost economy must be exercised in taking land for the drive from Washington Park to the Exposition grounds.”¹⁷

The University of Washington and the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

The University of Washington was established in 1861 as the Territorial University (the first collegiate degree was not granted until 1876). The original campus was located on a ten-acre tract in what is currently Seattle’s downtown central business district. The land had been donated by Authur A. Denny for use as the university campus. (The downtown campus site, presently known as the Metropolitan Tract, is still owned by the University).

The University remained at its original campus during the State’s Territorial period. However, there was a gradual realization that its expansion in the city’s downtown would be difficult. In 1891 the University’s Regents selected a new campus site on Union Bay, overlooking Lake Washington. Architect William E. Boone, of Boone and Wilcox, laid out the first campus plan.

¹⁶ The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was originally planned to occur in 1907; plans for improving the approach on Lake Washington Boulevard began in 1904. Washington Park, Seattle, Visit by John C. Olmsted, November 24, 1906. See also report of November 28, 1906 to Charles Saunders. MSCUA, 153-40-31, from Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, 2699 (FSOP). See also Letter to Shrewsbury, President, November 28, 1906, 26 pages, Philosophy of Boulevards, etc., John C. Olmsted, from Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (FSOP).

¹⁷ Letter to Thompson, March 1, 1907, dictated by John C. Olmsted.

The University's first building, Denny Hall, was designed by architect Charles Saunders¹⁸ and constructed in 1893. Denny Hall was joined by the Observatory (1895, also by Saunders), and two early dormitories, Lewis and Clark Halls, to form the initial campus. The three buildings were linked by a simple road system, organized as the 1900 Oval Plan. In response to the plan's direction, Parrington Hall was added in 1901.

Future campus construction did not occur until the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (the A-Y-P) was held. The A-Y-P was planned to promote Seattle's role in increased trade throughout the Pacific Rim following the Yukon Gold Rush of 1897. From the perspective of the Olmsted Brothers, the A-Y-P was also an opportunity for their continued involvement with the city's development.

As early as May 1903, during preliminary planning for the Seattle parks system, John Charles wrote to Col. A.J. Blethen, President, Board of Regents for the University of the State of Washington: "Confirming the proposition . . . to . . . prepare a preliminary general plan, with a written description, outlining a general scheme of improvements in harmony with the proposed park system of the city and which can be used to guide all important construction and planting on the university grounds for many years to come . . ." ¹⁹ The plan was prepared in 1904. With it, the Olmsteds initiated an association with the University that lasted until 1914, a relationship that included the design for the A-Y-P exposition site.



Figure 7. A-Y-P Exposition – Aerial view of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, 1909. Source: Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Collection - University of Washington Special Collections



Figure 8. Japanese *Torii* gate installed during the A-Y-P at the eastern mouth of the old Montlake logging canal (probably at the site of MOHAI). Photograph by Frank H. Nowell, ca. 1909. Source: The Museum of History and Industry.

The Exposition grounds were designed by the Olmsted Brothers, and its buildings by architect John Galen Howard of the San Francisco firm of Howard and Galloway. The exposition was similar to others at the turn of the century, in that it created permanent civic improvements while promoting tourism and commerce. In Seattle it resulted in the initial campus grounds and four permanent buildings.

Following the A-Y-P, John Charles Olmsted continued to promote the firm's relationship with the University, and he proposed to remodel the grounds. After extended negotiations, the Olmsted Brothers

¹⁸ Charles Saunders became Superintendent of the Board of Park Commissioners in 1905, and would remain closely involved with the Olmsted Brothers, the Parks Department, and the University, and the development of the Arboretum throughout his life.

¹⁹ Letter, John Charles to Col. A.J. Blethen, President, Board of Regents, University of the State of Washington, May 25, 1903. MSCUA 78-103 Box 4, Folder 25.

office was authorized to prepare a master plan proposal for the University in 1911, which was submitted in 1914. The University then turned to the Seattle firm of Bebb and Gould who developed the so-called Regents Plan in 1914, which was adopted in 1915. The Regents Plan established a Beaux Arts vision for the campus, with academic quadrangles. The plan linked the lower campus site of the A-Y-P, which included Rainier Vista and Geysers Basin with the earlier Oval Plan.

The campus legacy of the A-Y-P, in addition to the four original buildings, included the Auditorium/Old Meany Hall (demolished ca. 1966), the Fine Arts Palace (the present-day Architecture Hall), and until relatively recently, the radial trivium of avenues including Rainier Vista. This was an axial spine which was laid out in the Olmsted Brothers' plan and formalized further in the 1930s under direction of the campus landscape architect, Butler Sturtevant. The original plan included Geysers Basin, later named the Drumheller Fountain with the addition of a fountain in 1961. Outside the campus, the exposition's legacy was the extension of Lake Washington Boulevard, under the design direction of Olmsted Brothers.

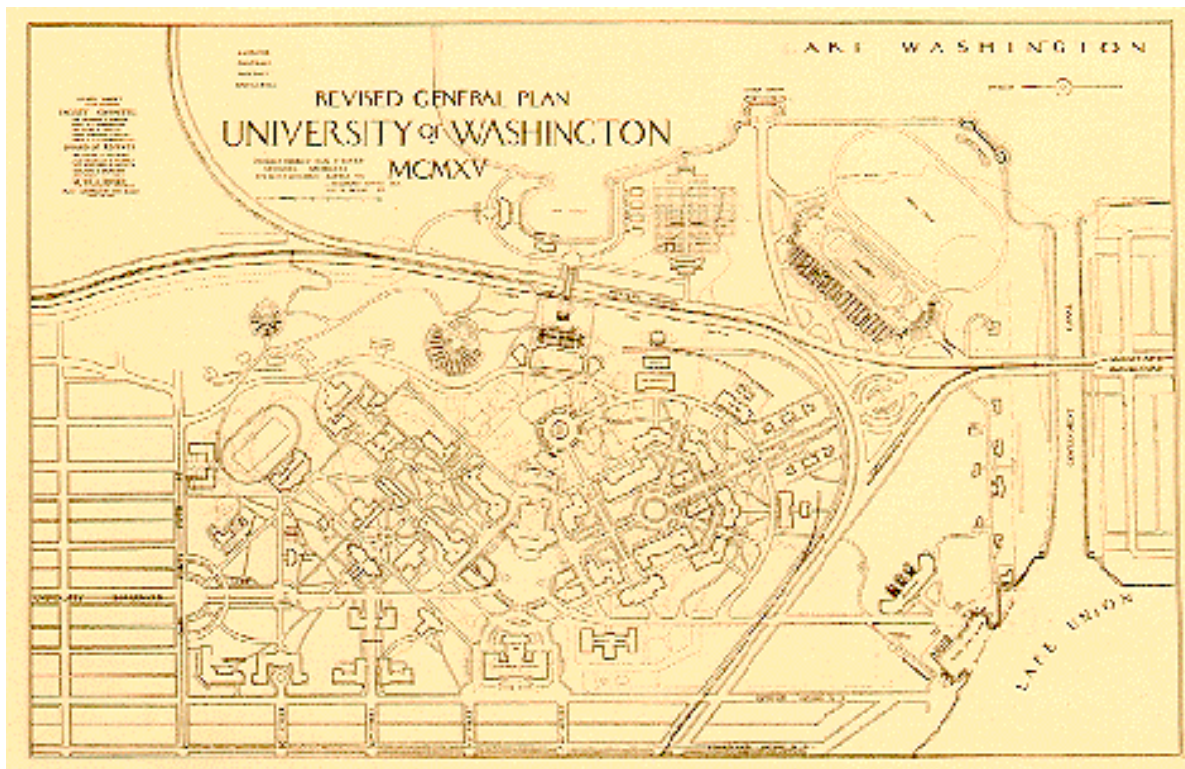


Figure 9. University of Washington Campus Plan (“The Regents Plan”) by Bebb and Gould, 1915. Source: University of Washington Special Collections.

Development of Washington Park

Washington Park was the site of early walking and bicycle trials, and by the turn of the century, the area was traversed by a series of cart roads. In 1900 Assistant City Engineer George F. Cotterill, who had laid out a number of trails, published a guide to the city's 25 miles of bicycle paths, noting scenic and graded routes. Cotterill promoted a series of linkages, much as John Charles Olmsted would in his 1903 plan for Seattle's parks, boulevards and parkways.

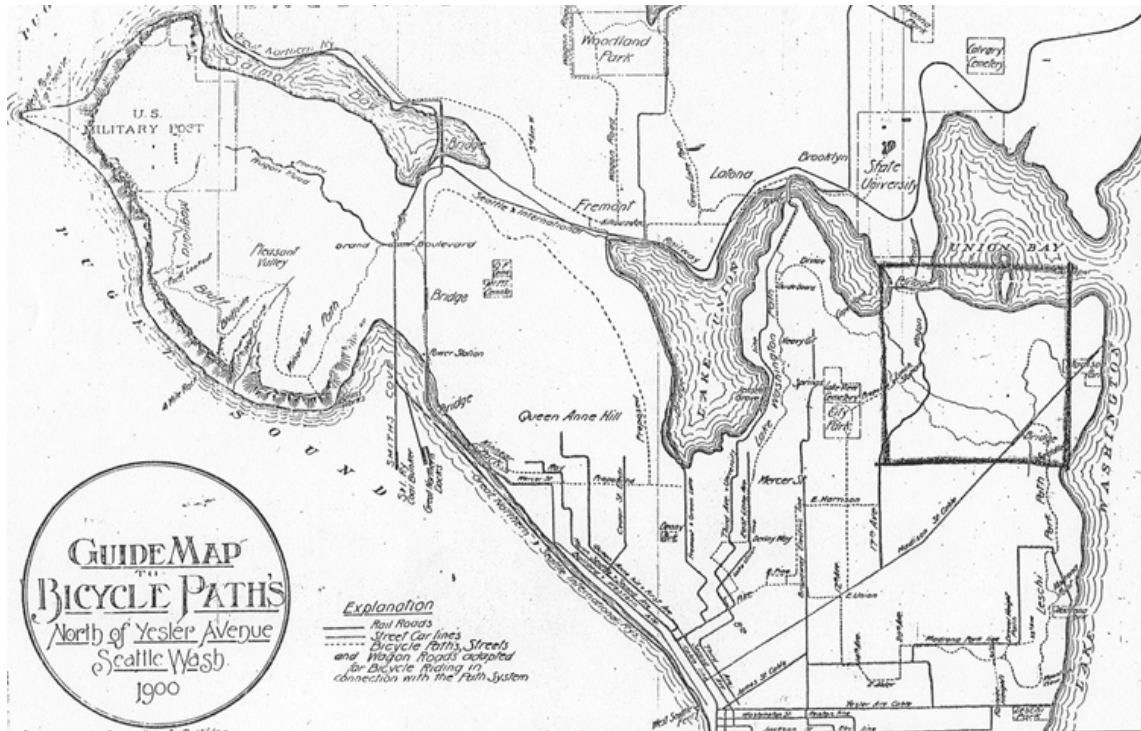


Figure 11. Cotterill Guide Map to Bicycle Paths with location of Washington Park noted by border. Source: Sherwood files, Seattle Municipal Archives.



Figure 10. Good Road Lunch Room, Asahel Curtis, ca. 1903. Source: Schmitz, p. 185.

Cotterill was responding to both transportation and recreation needs. In 1898 the city's 55,000 residents were estimated to have owned over 10,000 bicycles, creating a demand for bicycle paths. The new Lake Washington Boulevard was shared by horse riders, carriages, bicycles, and, after about 1910, the automobile.²⁰

²⁰ Wickwire, 2001, p. 13.

There were stops along the route. A photo by Asahel Curtis shows “The Good Road Lunch Room” along a path in the park. The photo identifies the area to the left as the present Japanese Garden, and notes the date as ca. 1903.²¹ This is likely a building on one of the previously platted properties (Hazelwood Addition) within the Park boundaries.

The Speedway

The development of the Speedway was concurrent with construction of the Boulevard. The 1906 - 1907 Park Commissioners’ Report notes that a “speedway is being constructed, extending from the junction of the two driveways east of the Washington Park Driveway to Union Bay, a distance of three-quarters of a mile, the fund for its construction being raised by private contributions, solicited by an organization of the horse owners of the city.”²²



Figure 12. The “Speed Way” in 1908, along the site of the future Azalea Way. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives, Photography Collection.



Figure 13. The Speedway Barn was built 1908. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives, Photography Collection.

The track was created on what is presently Azalea Way. In 1908 the group of horse owners formally organized as The Speedway Organization, and raised over \$9,000 in private funds to support development of a public track for harness horseracing.²³ Park buildings were constructed about this time at the southern terminus of the track (by the Japanese Garden) housing a park headquarters, a small stable for the Parks Department’s horses and maintenance equipment, such as steamrollers and tools. The Speedway Barn was removed in 1950 after the City Park District Headquarters moved to Ward Street.

By 1913 harness racing had fallen from favor. While the bridal trails continued to be used, the 1913 Park Report notes the declining interest in the track, “due to the arrival of the automobile.”²⁴

²¹ Schmitz, 1973, p. 185.

²² Unpublished 1906 – 1907 Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, December 18, 1907, p. 12.

²³ To understand the value of \$9,000 in 1908 dollars: in 1908, the average income was \$564, according to Derks. \$9,000 would be worth the average annual wage of more than fourteen workers.

²⁴ Sherwood, History of Washington Park, 1978, p. 2.

Washington Park remained a wooded pastoral retreat from the city. Consistent with this intent Seattle Parks hired three guards to control excess use of Lake Washington Boulevard by heavy truck traffic in 1920.²⁵



Figure 14. Interlaken Boulevard where it joined Lake Washington Boulevard, June 19, 1913. A large boulder then marked the intersection. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection



Figure 15. Lake Washington Boulevard in Washington Park, ca. 1904. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection

The North Trunk Sewer Viaduct/Willcox Footbridge

Design of the Viaduct, presently the Willcox Footbridge, was commissioned by the City from architects W.R.B. Willcox & Sayward in 1910, and was constructed in 1910 – 1912. The structure supports and elegantly conceals the north sewer trunk line that was extended to the Puget Mill property, later developed as the Broadmoor Golf Club and residential community.

Known also as the Arboretum Aqueduct, the viaduct serves as a pedestrian bridge, and is approximately 23' tall and 180' long. Its arched and semi-arched openings provide 9'-6" clearance to the roadway of Lake Washington Boulevard. The viaduct design borrows from both Romanesque and Tudor Revival styles that were popular at the time. It was constructed of concrete with decorative brick masonry veneer and a concrete topping slab, and features pairs of painted cast iron poles with spherical globes along the upper level.

²⁵ Annual Report to the Park Board, 1909, 1916 - 1917. Other sources of information for this section include Berner, 1921, p. 100 –106; *The Argus*, August 12, 1911 and Sept. 12, 1908; and Don Sherwood, 1978, "Description and History of Seattle's Parks," Park's correspondence with various recreation enthusiasts, and Park's contracts with the stable operators in Parks Files at the Municipal Archives.

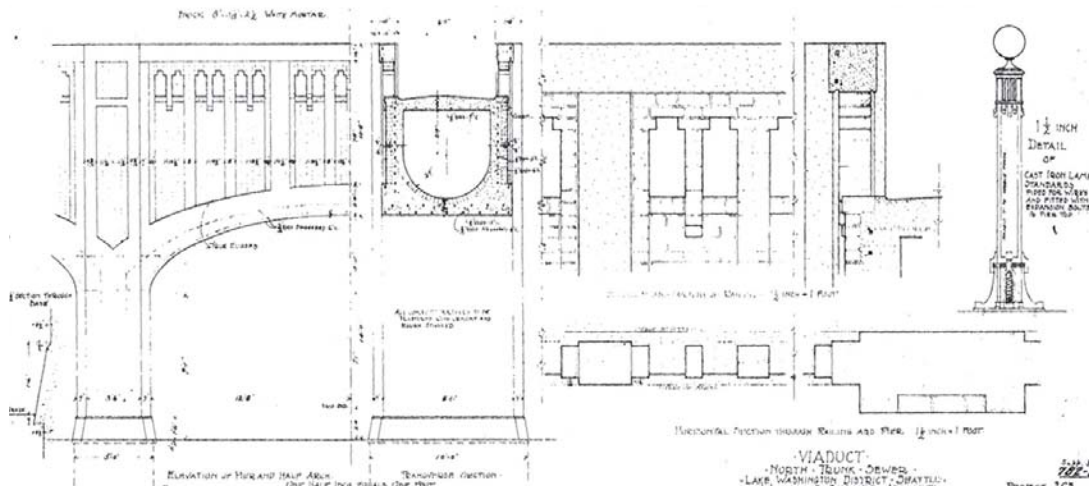


Figure 16. Detail from architectural plans by Willcox & Sayward for treatment of North Trunk Sewer Viaduct, constructed 1912. Source: Parks

The Broadmoor Development and Golf

Following World War I, the University of Washington developed the open area at the present site of the University Hospital as a golf course. From 1915 on, proponents of golf, including many members of the McGilvra neighborhood and Washington Park neighborhood (north of Madison Street), petitioned the city for a golf course. By 1919, the City had determined that there would not be a course within Washington Park. By this time, the Puget Mill Company had already platted the new subdivision, Broadmoor, though no properties had been sold.

The present gated residential community of Broadmoor, and the Broadmoor Golf Club, are located due east of the Arboretum. This development was conceived by the Puget Sound Mill Company in the late 1890s, but created later during the boom years that led up to and after World War I. The Company's plans in 1920 called "The County Club Within The City," with 400 tracts surrounded by a U-shaped, 18-hole golf course on a select 220-acre parcel of land.

The Broadmoor Golf Club was founded in 1924 by three prominent men in the community: E. G. Ames, Grosvenor Folsom, and George W. Johnson. Each man was a subscriber and held one share in the corporation, while the Puget Mill Company (with Ames as its president) held 397 shares. The Broadmoor Golf Club Corporation, became the first country club development in the Northwest. The golf course was designed by A. Vernon Macan, who also oversaw its construction. The course was completed in 1927, at which time the Puget Mill Company transferred its property to the Broadmoor Golf Club Corporation. The Club House, designed by architect John Graham in 1927, was constructed in 1928.

Original lots in the Broadmoor development were priced at \$3,000 to \$5,000 for construction of individual private residences which were limited to those costing \$5,000 or more. The lots sold slowly, and only 80 purchases, of 100 lots, had been made by 1927. Sales appear to have been further impacted by the onset of the Depression.

Membership in the golf club had been restricted originally to Broadmoor residents. The restriction was dropped, however, during the early Depression, to increase club membership and funds to operate the Golf Club. At that time Golf Club members who were not residents, were encouraged to use the northwest entry, rather than the formal entry with its gate and gatehouse off Madison Street. The

northwest entry, accessed through Washington Park, was shown on the 1904 plans for Lake Washington Boulevard, although the date of construction of the road is not known.

In the mid 1950s members of the Broadmoor Golf Club considered expansion of the club facilities to include additions to the Club House, and a new swimming pool and yacht moorage, the latter to be located near the 18th hole and the northeast entry gate. The members approved the building improvements, but plans for the pool and yacht basin were opposed.

Horseback Riding and the Stable

Horseback riding remained a popular activity in the park until the actual development of the Arboretum in 1935. Riders used the park trails as bridle paths, and the former Speedway track as well. Park Department Annual Reports in the early 1920s note the presence of a riding stable with up to 20 horses, and other departmental records include written correspondence with concessionaires. The privately operated riding academy also used the Speedway Barn for several years until in 1935.

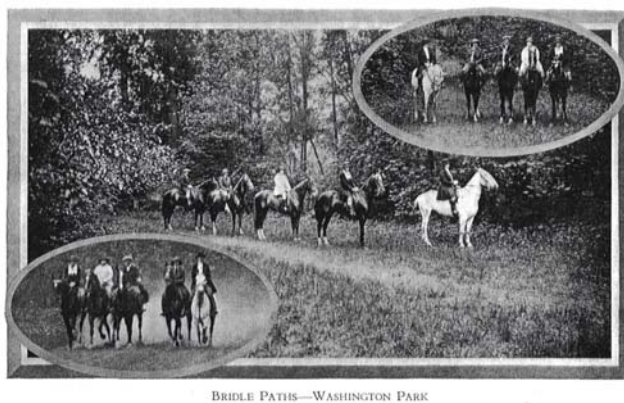


Figure 17. Bridle Paths, Washington Park, Nineteenth Annual Park Commission Report, 1922. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection.



Figure 18. Brick Culls, Madison Trestle in Background, February 28, 1912. Source: Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection.

Washington Park Playfield and Shelterhouse

During the period from 1910 through the mid-1930s, the Seattle Parks Department constructed play fields, gymnasiums and wading pools throughout the city in response to community needs, and the increased role placed on athletics and exercise in contemporary education and health movements.

Where the Madison trestle crossed the valley at the southern end of Washington Park, by 1907 plans were underway to fill the lower part of the valley for a ball field. According to the 1909 Park Commissioners Report, “a baseball field has been established which has proven very popular. The grounds are located on a fill across a huge ravine, the sloping sides of which make an ideal natural grandstand for onlookers. Comfortable bleachers have been provided and the games of the Bank League and numerous commercial teams are pulled off on these grounds.”²⁶

²⁶ Report of the Park Commissioners, 1909, p. 55.

In 1915, sanitary fill was provided by the City's Garbage Department to expand the level field area. The Madison Street trestle was filled in at the same time, and the creek flow was diverted to the city sewer.

Playfield functions were furthered in the late 1920s when Parks began to focus its efforts on the development and maintenance of recreation facilities to serve nearby communities. Between 1927 and 1934, eight shelterhouses were built throughout the city. In 1930, the Parks Department constructed a shelterhouse at Washington Park, per plans prepared by E.K. Hoffman, who served as the Park Engineer from 1927 to 1932. The small, wood-frame, brick-clad structure remains today at the sound end of the park, and provides restroom and storage facilities.²⁷



Figure 19. The athletic field with baseball diamond and bench seating, 1934, showing shelter house. Photograph by J.F. Dawson. Source: Seattle Municipal Archives.

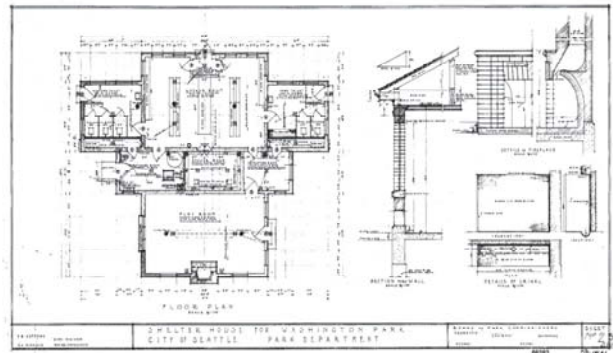


Figure 20. Plan and detail of Shelter house, n. d. Source: Parks

Roadways

Interest remained in the development of perimeter roads relative to Washington Park, specifically a lakeshore road and extension of Empire Way. A lakeshore road had been shown on plans dating back to the 1908 "Olmsted System" plan, likely in anticipation of the lowering of Lake Washington. The unpublished 1926 Park Commissioners Report for proposed improvements for 1928 described the lakeshore road: "extension of University Boulevard from present end near west gate of Broadmoor subdivision, around Foster Island and along the southerly shore of Union Bay; then south on 43rd Avenue, North to Madison Street and Madison Beach. Distance about one mile and a quarter."

²⁷ As the surrounding neighborhoods developed and the number of children increased, pressure rose to add recreational facilities in city parks. Contemporary newspaper accounts and Park Board meeting minutes reflect an ongoing struggle to balance the pastoral and active recreational components in many early city parks. In 1926 Mayor Bertha K. Landes appointed a Municipal Recreation Committee, comprised of Park Board members, School Board members, and a representative from the community at large, to analyze ways in which they could cooperatively contribute to the municipal recreation program. The Committee submitted its report to the Mayor in January 1928. The report detailed which facilities were provided by the Park Board; which by the School Board; how the facilities could be more efficiently utilized; and what additional facilities were required. The Department of Parks announced its Ten Year Plan in 1931. This plan, based upon a projected population for the Seattle metropolitan area in 1940, was a program of development aimed at: making better use of existing properties; adding to those properties that needed more space; and acquiring new properties in those parts of town that were experiencing growth. Much of the construction work envisioned in this plan would be realized by the Works Projects Administration later in the decade.

In the same report, the Empire Way extension was described in detail:

Proposed Arterial Thoroughfare. Proposed by the City Planning Commission. Would run along the west hillside of Washington Park. It would be located along the western boundary of the park just inside the park, beginning at Boyer Avenue and extending parallel to 26th Avenue, North, to East Lynn Street. It will be about 90 feet wide and will connect with Empire Way on south and with Montlake Boulevard on the north ... Purpose: To afford a wide, easy grade street for through traffic to avoid climbing steep hill on Madison Street and 24th Avenue, and to give an outlet for traffic in valley between Union Street and Madison Street.”²⁸

Landfills

In addition to the landfill at Madison Street, landfills were developed at the north end of Washington Park in the marsh near Union Bay. Excavations for State Route 520 in 1961 revealed a dump for bottles dating from 1904 located on the knoll east of where Arboretum Creek would have entered Lake Washington before the Lake was lowered, and at the informal terminus of the Boulevard before its extension to the University. A second sanitary landfill, which came to be known as the “Miller Street Dump”, with access off Miller Street, was used until 1936. That year the City required the Health Department to stop using the site to permit use of the site for the arboretum.



Figure 21. Aerial View, July 1936, showing extent of Miller Street Dump. Source: Arboretum.

Canal Property Lease

A decade after completion of the Montlake Cut ship canal to the north, the “Old Government Canal” property was made available to the City. In 1925 the Federal Government leased the property along University Boulevard to the Park Board for 99 years, for park purposes. The area was considered an expansion of Washington Park.²⁹

²⁸ 1926 Unpublished Park Commissioners Report. Source: Sherwood Files, Municipal Archives. From available records, it appears that neither project proceeded beyond the planning stages.

²⁹ Ibid.

An Aquarium

As the canal property east and west of Montlake Boulevard became available, designs were developed for the land. Landscape Architect Noble Hoggson, who had come to Seattle from New York in 1930, was one of the first to propose designs for the property. In 1929, the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries had built a laboratory on the government canal site west of Montlake and south and east of the Seattle Yacht Club.

In consideration of the lab, landscape architect Noble Hoggson, (who had laid out the Laboratory grounds), promoted the idea of an aquarium to be constructed near the Fisheries Building, on canal property. His plans proposed landscaped grottoes holding tanks of native fish, exemplifying “one of the state’s greatest natural resources”.³⁰ The plans for an aquarium at this site were approved by the Parks Department in 1932, but were held up by the Depression and were later abandoned.



Figure 22. “Eyesore to Beauty Spot – A Seattle Man’s Dream,” *The Seattle Times*, May 15, 1932. Source: MSCUA 93-153, 22/2.

Shooting Range and Archery Range

Other proposals for recreational use of Washington Park were raised throughout the teens and twenties. Individuals sought space for a shooting range. The Seattle Gun Club started a trap shooting area on Foster Island in 1920 until the state intervened, forbidding shooting within a mile of the lake. One of the last new park uses developed in the park prior to the development of the Arboretum was an archery range, located at the northern end of the low open field between the Boulevard and the Speedway. The Seattle Archery Club wrote the Park Board in August 1934 describing their current use and plans:

³⁰ Noble Hoggson later would be responsible for tracing and rendering the original plan by Olmsted Brothers (incorporating his “open air aquarium” in rocky east of Montlake Boulevard immediately east of the site he had previously proposed).

“By permission of the Park Board, we established in Washington Park an Archery Range. This has worked out as a most satisfactory location due to the fact that it is remote from any playfield and any possible interference with the public in general, but at the same time is so located that travelers on the boulevard can have an opportunity to watch this sport . . . We are not asking for any expenditure by the park Board at this time, but rather that you will set aside this location as an Archery Range, giving us permission to develop it with whatever means may be available. This will be done in cooperation with your engineers and to harmonize with the arboretum project.”³¹

The Archery use was not continued.

³¹ Sherwood files, August 8, 1934.

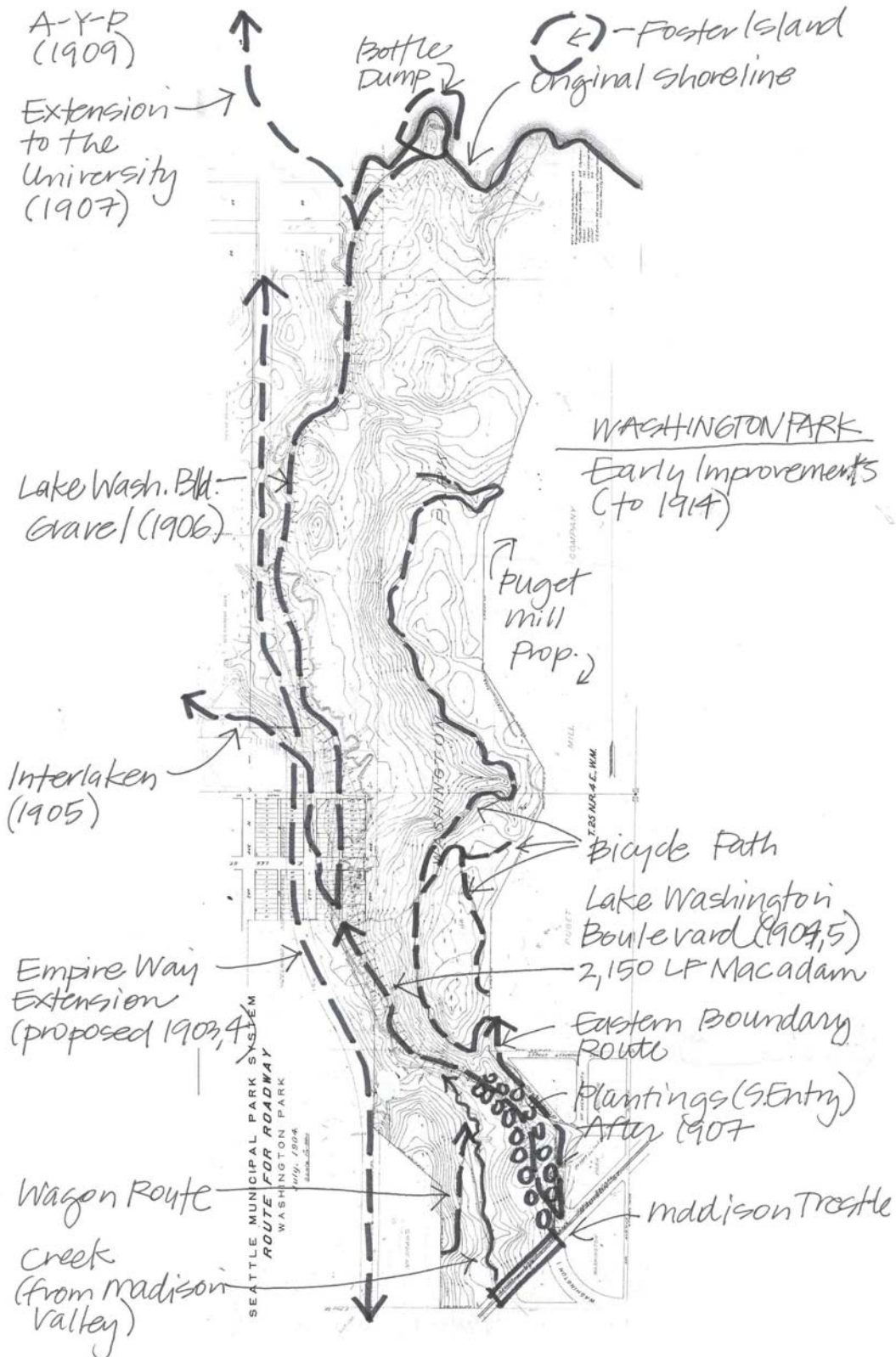


Figure 23. Plan of the Washington Park showing early improvements to 1914, by Karen Kiest Landscape Architects.

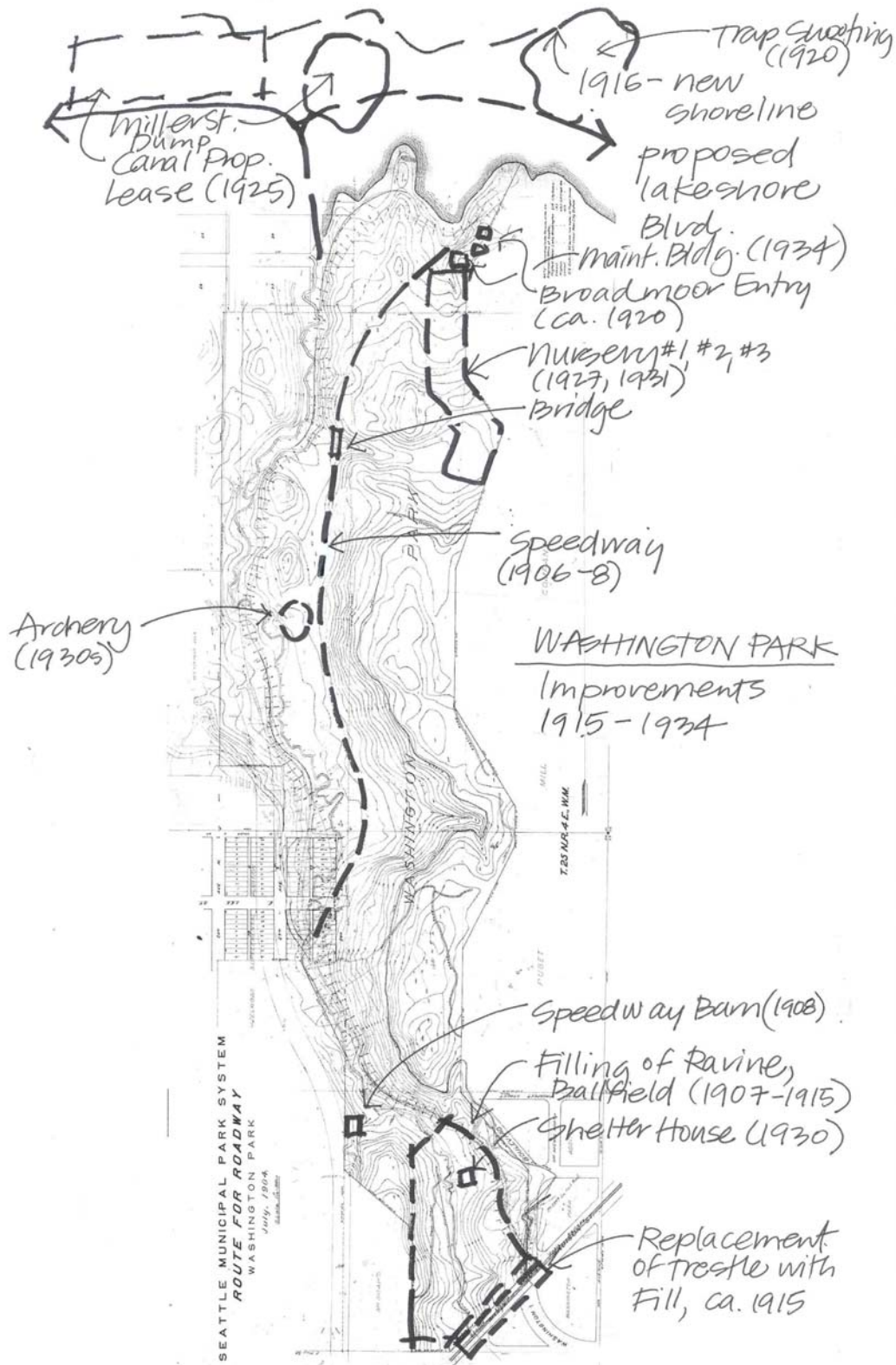


Figure 24. Plan of the Washington Park showing improvements made in 1915 - 1934, by Karen Kiest Landscape Architects.

5. THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARBORETUM

This section details the University's early leadership role in advocating for an arboretum, and their efforts to find a suitable and enduring site. The section begins with Edmond S. Meany's promotion of an "arboretum" in the 1890s, and ends with Resolution No. 40, the 1924 Agreement between the University and the City to set aside Washington Park for an Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

The University's Plan for an Arboretum

The concept of a University Arboretum had been long in development, as described by Henry Schmitz, in *The Long Road Traveled*, his history of the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington.¹

University of Washington Regent Edmond S. Meany was the first to promote the concept of an *Arboretum*. Shortly after his 1891 election to the state legislature, Meany promoted a new campus for the University on the north shores of Lake Union. He recognized the importance of winning the support of influential timber representatives and lumbermen in the legislature. He pointed out to them the advantages of an "arboretum" as a laboratory for the gathering of living specimens, not only for horticultural studies, but also for the study of economic forestry. He also noted that no tract of land could be better than the proposed campus site.

According to Herbert Condon, "Meany always loved to tell a little story at this stage of the game. He thought he had convinced all of the legislators concerned excepting one man whose doubts he could not understand until this man sought an interview and inquired, 'Meany, I believe in education and want to help out with this bill but before I vote on it, I want to know one thing – what in hell is an arboretum?' He was satisfied with the explanation and voted 'aye'."²

When the University opened at the Union Bay location on September 4, 1895, the campus was designated as "Grounds and Arboretum". By this time, Meany had been appointed secretary of the Board of Regents and University Registrar and was asked by the then president, Dr. Mark W. Harrington, to personally offer courses in forestry. He also directed the work of Henry H. Hindshaw, a landscape architect from Chicago who was employed as curator of the University Museum and was assigned the additional duties of "Curator of the Arboretum". The best specimens of native and exotic tree specimens were systematically collected, labeled and studied by Meany's students in forestry. On August 20, 1894, Hindshaw submitted his first written report as curator of the arboretum.³

The plantings were substantial. On Arbor Day, 1898, the Seattle City Park Department presented the University with 50 assorted oaks and fifty honey locusts. In response Col. Alden J. Blethen, chairman of the committee on buildings and grounds stated: "At this rate of progress it will be but a few years before the University will have an arboretum as fine as any possessed by college and universities anywhere in the world. The educational value of such an arboretum is quite apparent to anyone who comprehends the progress being made in the science of botany and forestry."

¹ Schmitz, 1973, Chapter 7.

² Condon, "The First Arboretum," (Draft) ca. 1947, CUH Vertical Files.

³ Ibid.

In 1899 the Board of Regents adopted a plan: “One of the main reasons urged for the dedication of this land to University purposes was that in addition to all the other needs of the institution, there could be established here a scientific arboretum for the cultivation, care and study of all kinds of trees and plants that will thrive in this climate. There are now on the grounds large groves of the original forest trees and many of them are being preserved. Many others have been planted and are now thriving.”

Donations of plants that “represent 42 natural orders and 179 species” were received, including seeds from California, the Canadian Department of Agriculture, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Professor Meany established this seed exchange program.⁴

At this time, Thomas F. Kane, President of the University, sent out a request to the Deans to forecast building needs for departments for the next twenty-five or fifty years. Chas. W. Johnson, Dean of the College of Pharmacy offered support for establishment of a research garden:

A botanical garden of considerable proportions should be arranged for. The College of Pharmacy would like to be interested in the garden to the extent of having it partly a drug garden where drug plants could be studied by the student in pharmacy as botanical specimens also as to chemical principles of medicinal value in the growing plants. If the University would give assistance in maintaining such a garden it would soon grow into what I am sure the University would soon be --and to style a prominent feature of the campus.⁵

The Role of Hugo Winkenwerder, Dean of the School of Forestry 1912 – 1945 and Acting Arboretum Director, 1912 – 1938

Hugo Winkenwerder was the primary University force behind establishment of the Washington Park Arboretum. Winkenwerder, who had been hired as an Assistant Professor in 1909, succeeded Dean Francis Garner Miller (Dean, 1907- 1912) as the second Dean of the School of Forestry (later the College of Forestry, and presently the College of Forest Resources). He served as Acting University President and was the Dean from 1912 to 1945, the formative years of the College and the Arboretum as well. While Dean, he also served as the Acting Director of the Arboretum during most of his tenure.

The role that Winkenwerder played in the development of the Arboretum, like that of Meany and Schmitz, is indicative of the long history that the College of Forest Resources has had in the Arboretum.

In 1910 or 1911, Winkenwerder discussed numerous times with his predecessor, Dean Miller, the advantage of establishing an arboretum associated with the School of Forestry. As the new Dean, Winkenwerder, with the support of Professor Meany, proposed to President Franklin Kane that the area below the railroad tracks (along the south edge of the campus) be set aside for arboretum purposes – the area was designated “Arboretum” on campus maps for the purposes. A small nursery, established through the School of Forestry. Forestry students provided some plant materials as part of their class work.

⁴ With the closure of the A-Y-P, most of the site was cleared, and many of these early plantings were destroyed. Still remaining is a Sequoia Redwood near Smith Hall.

⁵ Typed Request by Thomas F. Kane, June 12, 1911, and typed response by Chas. W. Johnson, June 16, 1911(MSCUA 90-5, 1/15).

World War I brought the United States Navy Training Camp to the south border of the campus, which required a large amount of clearing. At the close of the war the Navy returned this area to the University, which intended again to locate the arboretum there.⁶ Proponents of a golf course argued that fairways and greens could coexist with an arboretum. The golf course prevailed, and it occupied the entire area. In late 1923, Dean Winkenwerder indicated that he “lost all hope of ever developing an arboretum on the University campus.”

The Washington Park Site and the 1924 Agreement

Dean Winkenwerder met with Dr. Henry Suzzallo, President of the University, to explore other possibilities. Suzzallo acknowledged that the area had already been lost to golf, but believed strongly in the value of an arboretum. He looked south of the ship canal to Washington Park as an ideal site. Suzzallo believed that the Arboretum should be developed jointly by the University and the City of Seattle.

Suzzallo proposed "wedding" the need for a Forestry/Botany classroom with the Park Department's clearing weed trees on the northeast part of the park. This idea received the blessing of the Chamber of Commerce, but was resisted by Howard Parrish, publisher of the *Seattle Star*, who thought Fort Lawton to be a better site for the arboretum.⁷

Suzzallo helped form a committee including representatives of the Rotary Club, and the Chamber of Commerce, and including the Rev. Dr. McGee, Asahel Curtis, and J.B. Fisher. Suzzallo addressed the Seattle Rotary Club to enlist their support for an arboretum in the park area: “We have a Zoological Garden at Woodland Park. We have a Floral Garden at Volunteer Park. Our great undeveloped park remains – Washington Park with its great undeveloped northern portion reclaimed from the Lake. In our system of specialized parks it should be a Botanical Garden, which will express Seattle’s unique qualities more than the others.”⁸

On February 7, 1924, Suzzallo wrote to the Board of Park Commissioners explaining why the City should undertake the development of an arboretum and botanical garden with the University, and suggested the suitability of Washington Park: “The nearness to the University would make it possible for us to give all the scientific direction that your Board and its superintendent of gardeners would need . . .”⁹

The records are confusing as the day before Suzzallo’s letter was written, the Parks Board appears to have prepared Resolution No. 40 setting aside all of Washington Park as a botanical garden and arboretum.

⁶ Condon, op cit.

⁷ Sherwood Files.

⁸ Schmitz, op cit, p. 182 - 185.

⁹ Ibid.

The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 40

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Seattle, as follows:
That the entire area of Washington Park be, and is hereby set aside for a Botanical Garden and Arboretum.

And be it further Resolved, the Board of Park Commissioners grant to the University of Washington the privilege of using certain buildings and greenhouses in the botanical garden and arboretum by the students of the University in the study of plant life. It is the wish and hope of the Board of Park Commissioners to work in accord with the University of Washington in this development and make the Arboretum and Botanical Garden one of the chief centers for accurate botanical and gardening information on the Pacific Coast.

Passed the Board of Park Commissioners this 6th day of February, 1924, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage.

O.J.C. DUTTON, President.

Attest: FRED MATTHYS, Secretary

The resolution was formally adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners at their March 2, 1924 meeting.

6. EARLY ARBORETUM ORGANIZATION

This section details the efforts of the Parks Department, the Seattle Garden Club, The Arboretum and Botanical Society of the State of Washington, and the Olmsted Brothers to move forward with development of an Arboretum at Washington Park. The section concludes with the 1934 Arboretum Agreement between the City and University.

Following the Agreement of 1924, lack of funding kept the University from formally moving forward with the plan. However, informally, the University¹ and several individuals and organizations, with a clearer future outlined for Washington Park, made preparations to develop an arboretum and botanical garden on the site.

Early Role of Seattle Parks and Recreation

Throughout the twenties and early thirties, the Parks Department made preliminary studies, plans and improvements to Washington Park. Immediately following the first discussion of Resolution No. 40, the Board of Park Commissioners took up the cause at their Board meeting:

It being the sense of the Board that some step should be taken toward the realization of this project...Mr. Fisher...stated that this might be a good opportunity to take advantage of the unemployment relief fund...It was moved...and seconded...that some of the men employed at the present time at Seward Park be transferred to Washington Park to begin clearing for the new nursery...President Dutton then made a special request of Mr. Fisher, to assume the control and management of the work to be started now and to make it his special problem to promote the idea of a botanical garden and arboretum. Mr. Fisher agreed to do this provide that he could have any necessary help from the department. This was agreed to by the Board and the Superintendent was instructed to provide Mr. Fisher with 30 to 50 men to begin work tomorrow (Thursday) morning.²

During this period limited clearing of the Park occurred, primarily along the northern lagoon edges. A nursery was first established (in the location of the current nursery) along the border with Broadmoor in 1927, and expanded in 1931. The nursery was used for holding and growing plant stock for several parks.³

Meanwhile several plans and surveys of Washington Park were prepared during this period by the Parks Department. The names of Park Engineer E. K. Hoffman, staff landscape architect Frederick W. Leissler, Jr. and Jacob Umlauff appear on Park plans produced. All three men would remain involved with development of the Arboretum through the 1930s.

¹ During 1928 Dean Winkenwerder traveled to Europe (at his own expense) to visit arboreta and botanical gardens, and also toured the Arnold Arboretum near Boston, making use of his growing knowledge to prepare an extended memorandum on arboreta and botanical gardens that was printed in the 1930, Bulletin No.1 of the Arboretum and Botanical Society of the State of Washington.

² Minutes, Board of Park Commissioners, February (20) 1924, as cited in Schmitz, 185. The reference to unemployment relief funds refers to local funding programs which were established before federal programs of the 1930s.

³ Cited in Ion, 2003, p 71, from Sherwood. A handwritten note by Les Maynard, January 17, 1972, attached to negative letters received by the Parks Department in 1931, identified that "the nursery area referred to in these letters was actually an extension of the original plant nursery installed in 1927. This section was the south most of the three larger nursery areas, referred to as #1, #2, and this #3. The extension was necessitated by the arrival of about 3,000 flowering cherry tree stock from Japan, most of which were eventually transplanted to Green Lake Park, Volunteer Park and Seward Park." See also Arthur Lee Jacobsen, "The Olmsteds and Seattle's Parks System: A Brief Perspective," in *The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*, Spring 2003, p. 6 - 11. Jacobsen discusses the role of city nurseries at Washington and Volunteer Parks in providing plant material for several city parks.

Frederick W. Leissler, Jr., had an ideal preparation for his early efforts for the Arboretum.⁴ He had made several plant collecting trips to Russia and China in 1926 and 1927. While a student at Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) he had received second place in a 1929 national landscape architectural contest sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects for his plan for a botanical garden. Graduating in 1931 with a degree in Landscape Architecture, he went to work for the Parks Department in 1932.

Between 1932 and 1934 Leissler prepared plans for the Arboretum, including utility plans showing water lines and irrigation plans. In February 1934 he adapted his botanical garden plan to the Washington Park Site, with an elaborate garden and buildings laid on axis east-west across the marshlands west of Foster Island. By May 1934, Leissler had redeveloped his plan, leaving out the grand botanic garden at the north end.

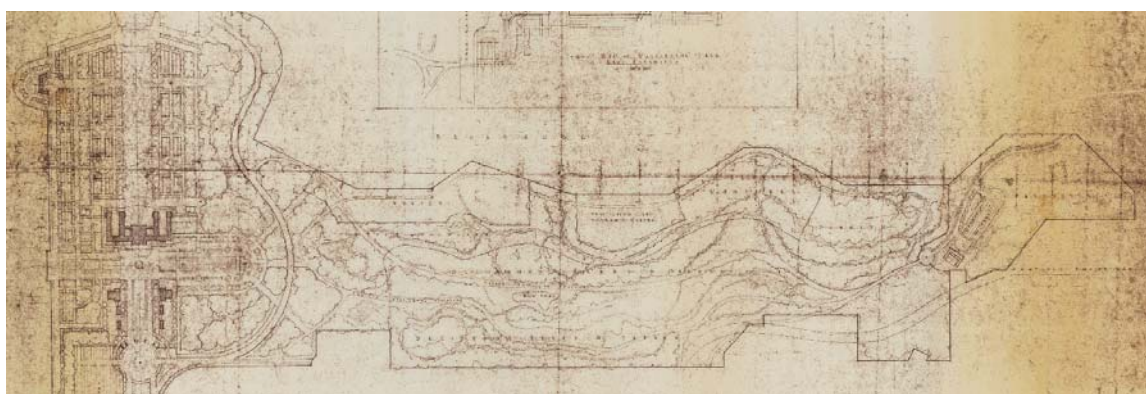


Figure 1. Washington Botanical Garden & Arboretum, City of Seattle Department of Parks, Frederick Leissler, Landscape Architect, February, 1934. Source: MSCUA

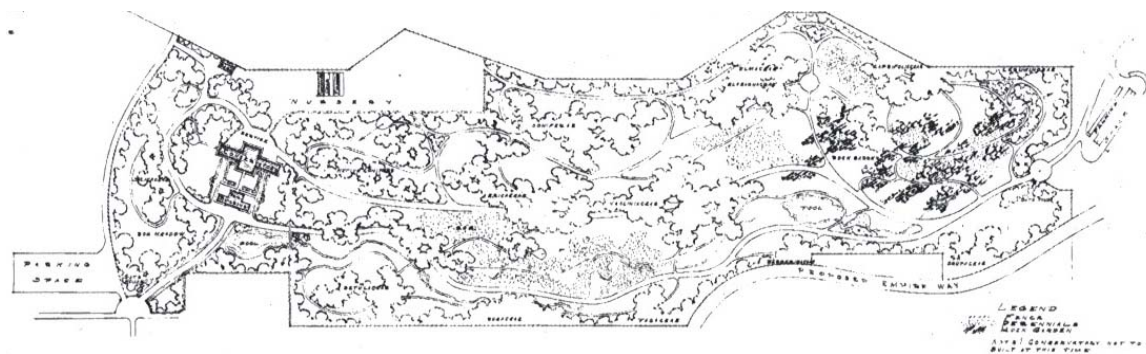


Figure 2. Washington Botanical Garden & Arboretum, City of Seattle Department of Parks, Frederick Leissler, Landscape Architect, May 10, 1934. Source: Parks

⁴ Frederick W. Leissler Jr.'s father was from Germany; his great-grandfather developed a system of naturalistic tree and shrub planting in Prussia. Fred, one of the first graduates of Roosevelt High School, entered the University of Washington as an architecture student. Between 1926 and 1927 he lived in Washington D.C., at the home of his uncle, who introduced him to David Fairchild, the plant explorer. Fairchild introduced Leissler to George Forrest, English plant explorer and seed collector. Leissler joined Forrest on collecting expeditions in Asia in 1926 - 1927. Leissler returned to the region in 1928 to attend Washington State College (now WSU), studying horticulture, before moving on to Oregon State College (OSU).

His friendship with Hugo A. Winkenwerder, dean of the University's School of Forestry and first acting director of the U. of W. Arboretum, and an early Lake Forest Park resident, led to Leissler's hiring in 1935 as assistant. He served the Arboretum from 1935 until 1940, becoming assistant director. From a Lake Forest Park Alumni Report, pages 90 - 91 (from CUH Vertical Files). In 1986 Leissler contributed his collection of negatives and slides showing work in progress during his era as assistant director to the Arboretum.

Leissler also prepared the plans for one of the first structures constructed at the Arboretum, the Barn, now known as the Maintenance Headquarters, constructed by WPA workers in 1935. The built structure closely adheres to these original plans, and although the interior was considerably remodeled in 1985, retains much of its original exterior materials, including original log siding.

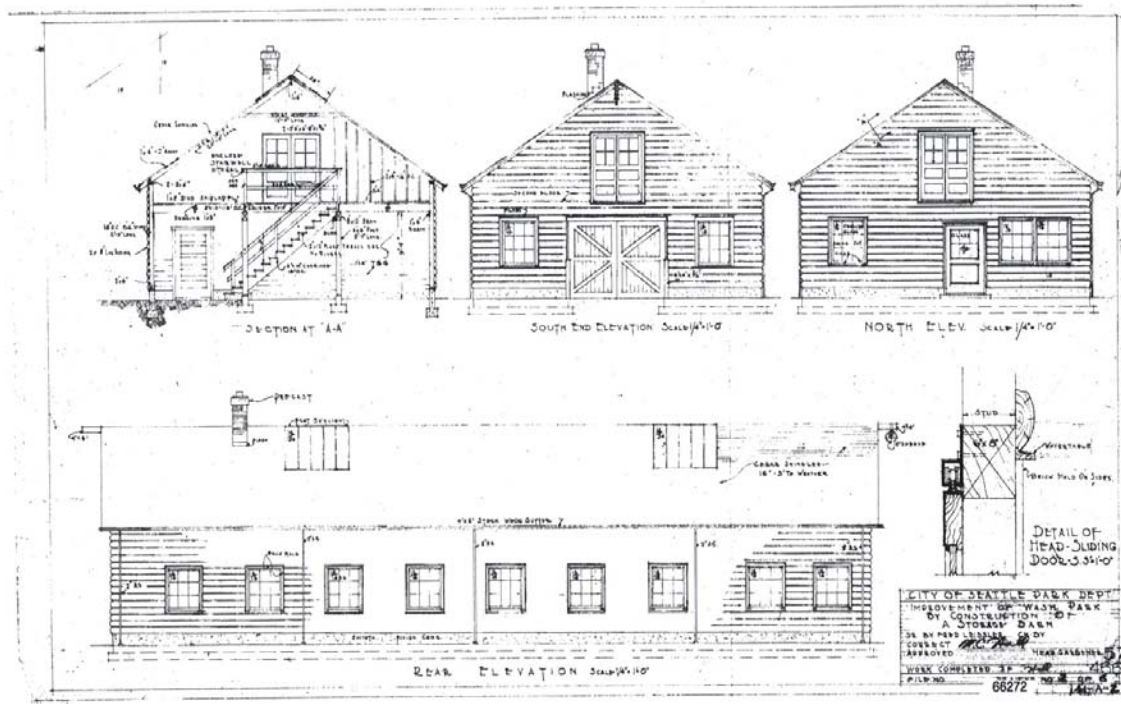


Figure 3. Improvement of Washington Park by Construction of a Storage Barn, City of Seattle Park Department, Drawn by Fred Leissler, n.d.

The Arboretum and Botanical Society of the State of Washington

The Stock Market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression which followed discouraged fundraising efforts. Nevertheless, the Arboretum and Botanical Society of the State of Washington was formed with Articles of Agreement of April 11, 1930: “To establish and maintain a botanical garden, arboretum and museum and herbarium to be located at Seattle, Washington, and other places as may be advisable, for the collection and culture of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees; the advancement of botanical science and knowledge; the prosecution of original research therein and in kindred subjects and affording instruction in the same; the development and exhibition of ornamental and decorative horticulture and gardening; and for the entertainment, recreation and instruction of the people.”

In the first (and only) bulletin published by the Society, the Rev. Herbert H. Gowen, D.D., mused on the Arboretum 100 years hence, in A.D. 2031: “Crowning the mild eminence once known as Foster Island an architectural group dominates the scene. The great glass dome is that of the Administration Building. Close by are the Library, the Museum, the Herbarium, and the great conservatories for the rarer plants...”⁵

⁵ The Arboretum and Botanic Garden Society of the State of Washington, Bulletin No. 1, n.d. Source: CUH.

The *Bulletin* identified the tentative plan of development, including plans for a topographic survey and mapping of the park and shore lands, with a competition to be held for the design, the development of the shore lands into lagoons and waterways for boating and canoeing, and the development of greenhouse, library, herbarium and administrative buildings, probably on Foster Island.

Several testimonials were added, including one from Dr. C.W. Johnson, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, who, had advocated for the creation of a research garden 20 years earlier. In the meantime, the establishment of the drug garden had spawned a great interest in the growing of medicinal plants, as would be better served on a larger site. (This garden is presently known as the medicinal garden, and is located on the main campus southwest of the Chemistry Building.)

No records of the success of the Society in soliciting funding have been found. This group was donated the use of an office in the Vance Building for one year. The long-term lease arrangements were not known by the directors and trustees, which led to internal troubles. The financial challenges of the times, and other difficulties led to the dissolution of the Arboretum and Botanical Society and the abandonment of their efforts.⁶

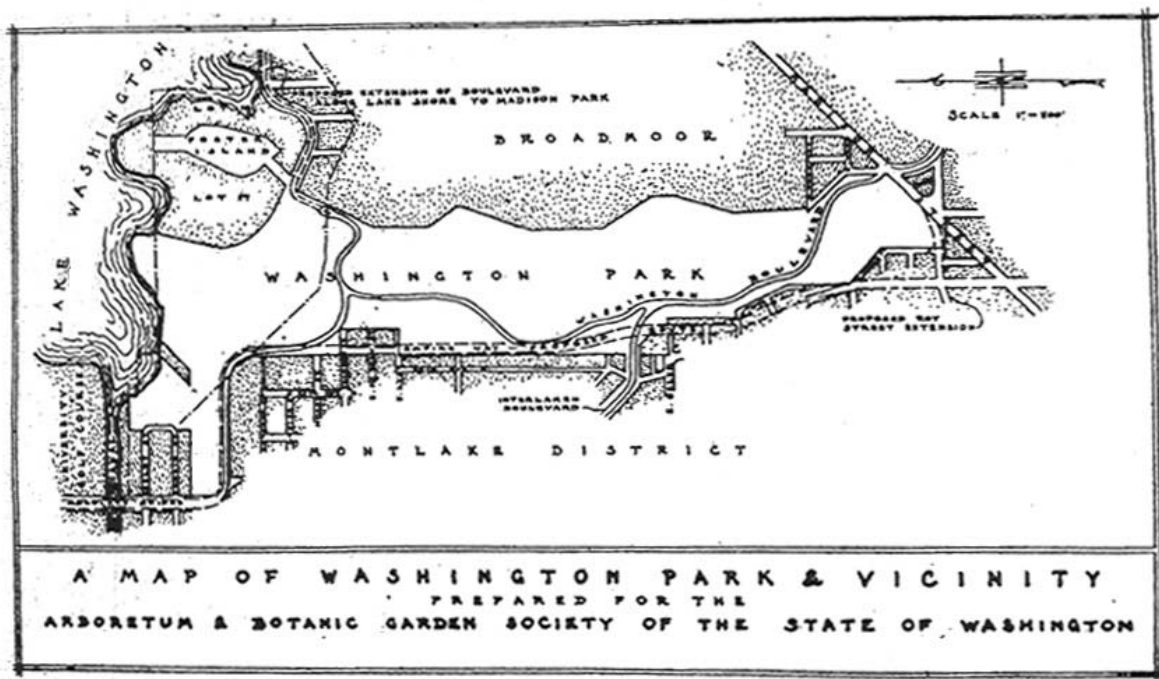


Figure 4. A Map of Washington Park & Vicinity, prepared for the Arboretum & Botanic Garden Society of the State of Washington, J.L. Bossemeyer, Landscape Architect, Bulletin No. 1. Source: CUH.

The Seattle Garden Club

In the early 1930s, the Seattle Garden Club, with Mrs. Alexander McEwan the driving force, proposed that the Club could take an active interest in development of the Arboretum, provided the University would allow the Club to build a club house on the area. The idea for a clubhouse was refused by the

⁶ Letter from Hugo Winkenwerder to Mrs. Anna T. Milburn, October 17, 1941. (MSCUA 93-153, Inventory Reference) A drawing of a proposed club house has been located at MSCUA.

Board of Regents, but the idea of the Arboretum was kept alive through the efforts of the Garden Club, the Park Board, and the Chamber of Commerce.⁷

In 1933, Mrs. Loren Grinstead of the Seattle Garden Club approached Winkenwerder while he was Acting President, and proposed reviving the effort to develop the Arboretum. Shortly thereafter, they called together a group of interested individuals at the Broadmoor Club House. Dr. Sieg and Winkenwerder were on the program. Mr. Grinstead, Dean Winkenwerder and others discussed taking advantage of the expenditure of relief funds to develop an arboretum, and described the necessary prerequisite of creating a permanent legal organization to deal with the state and federal relief agencies. A committee was appointed and charged with the responsibility of creating a legal entity with the University as the lead agency.⁸

The following correspondence details the efforts behind the scene to gain funding for the Arboretum.

Olmsted Brothers – James Frederick Dawson

There is a long gap in the Olmsted Brothers' correspondence files on the Washington Park Arboretum (Job 2699) from 1910 to February 1931, when the previously described brochure, "The Arboretum and Botanic Garden Society of the State of Washington," was received by James Frederick Dawson from Charles Saunders.

James Frederick (Fred) Dawson (1874 - 1941) was a partner in the Olmsted Brothers firm. Dawson had been with the Olmsted Brothers office since 1896, and had accompanied John C. Olmsted on several trips to Seattle from 1904 to 1914. Dawson had a unique familiarity with arboretum design, as his father, Jackson T. Dawson, had been the superintendent of the Arnold Arboretum, a property designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.

Dawson had first come to Seattle in 1904, and later helped prepare detail plans for the A-Y-P, where his recognized technical and design skills and knowledge of horticulture and plant materials were demonstrated. Dawson became a partner in the Olmsted Brothers firm in 1922. He represented the firm during the mid to late 1930s as proposals emerged for an Arboretum in Washington Park that resulted in his 1936 General Plan for the Seattle Arboretum.

In Seattle Dawson was involved with the design of the D.E. Frederick garden in the Highlands, which included a series of pools that may have influenced his proposal for cascades and pools in the Arboretum. He also designed the landscape for the Krauss residence, Firworthy (the present Canadian Consul General's residence), on Lake Washington Boulevard. For that project he worked with the designer of the Krauss residence, architect Carl Gould, and developed the steeply sloped site into a series of terraces.⁹

Charles Saunders had known Dawson since 1904, when Saunders was made President of the Parks Commission, following his years of service as an architect of the initial buildings of the new university campus, including the design of Denny Hall, the Observatory, Lewis and Clark Halls in the 1890s.

⁷ Ibid. A clubhouse was built for the Arboretum Foundation near the location of the current Graham Center and was used by Foundation members until it burned down in the 1950s.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ According to David Streatfield, Dawson opened the firm's office in Redondo Beach, California, in 1922, and maintained a residence in California until 1937.

In August 1934, while recovering from an operation to remove a kidney, 77-year old Saunders revived his old connections with Dawson. Seattle, like the rest of the country, was in the midst of the Depression. Saunders described local conditions to “Dear Fred” in a long flowing letter: “We are in the midst of a three days invitation “Potlach” celebration – and a rather poor one at that but a crowd has come in from the towns nearby so the streets may be enlivened. Longacres the race track is having a great following, 10,000 people out there every day playing Pari-Mutuals. Our Ball team is playing for the lead in & the stands are packed – all showing that the “depression” can be forgotten.”¹⁰

Saunders forwarded to Dawson information on efforts by Winkenwerder and others to get the Arboretum project off the ground, referring to the September 5 meeting of the interested parties at Broadmoor, and mentions Mrs. Krauss (Dawson had completed the landscape for Mrs. Krauss property, Firworthy, ca. 1926.): “This P.M. I saw (Winkenwerder) again and he told me there were about 25 present and much discussion...and then (your friend) Mrs. Krause (sic, underline by author) who was present agreed with him fully and said that a man whose work was familiar to many of our residents was a regular visitor to the Northwest and whose knowledge of this work would be of value, Mr. Dawson of Olmsted Bros.”¹¹

Dawson replied immediately to Saunders and Krauss via telegrams on September 12 and September 14 indicating his interest in the project, and highlighting his firm’s expertise for the project, having previously prepared plans for the Arnold Arboretum, the St Louis Botanical Garden, and the Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania.

On September 17 Mrs. Krauss sent a confirmation letter: “First of all, I am really sanguine that we are going to have a REAL Arboretum and Botanical garden some day in Seattle, and needless to say there is none whom I should rather see lay it out than you . . .” Mrs. Krauss described Mrs. Loren Grinstead as the leader of the effort. She had persuaded her husband, head of the Committee which apportions Government funds for relief projects, and “very close” to Governor Martin, to put the project through. Krauss further noted that landscape architect Otto Holmdahl had drawn up “a tentative plan for the Park Board at the insistence of Dr. Tenny (tragically killed in an automobile accident) and the money -- \$300,000.00 – was appropriated, entirely for labor (underlined by author).”¹²

Mrs. Krauss finished her letter: “Of course, the minute we get to the plan of the work, there is going to be a rush for part in it, but there is no one here in the slightest way capable of doing the job, and knowing your faculty for handling situations, I am sure some plan could be worked out for using some of the most competent men, such as Mr. Holmdahl who really does the most perfect rock gardens I think can be done, and getting the cooperation of all interested persons...”

Upon receipt of her letter, Dawson immediately wrote a 5-page letter back to Mrs. Krauss about his experiences from the Arnold Arboretum. He cautioned Mrs. Krauss that the development of the Arboretum was not an effort to be undertaken lightly, requiring considerable time and even more considerable resources.

I hope you realize, however, that the question of an Arboretum is a very difficult one, and unless you see a lot of money in sight it is almost hopeless. I was born and brought up and spent most of my life in and around the Arnold Arboretum. My father was associated with Professor Sargent

¹⁰ Saunders to J.F. Dawson, August 25, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum, Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

¹¹ Saunders to J.F. Dawson, September 6, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4 Reel 96 (FSOP).

¹² Sophie Krauss to J.F. Dawson, September 17, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum, Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

and in charge of the actual development of it for the greater part of his life, and it was a source of hard work and worry more or less continuously. In connection with the Arnold Arboretum they were fortunate in having a man at the head of it like Professor Sargent, who was independently wealthy, and when they ran short of funds he supplied them. Professor Sargent was an autocrat as well, and when money was needed beyond the amount that he personally contributed, he simply wrote to many hundreds of people and practically demanded that they send him money. He had a marvelous faculty for raising money in this way, and when he died Harvard University and the Directors and the many friends of the Arboretum realized that they would have to provide funds in a way other than what Professor Sargent did as no one felt that he could raise funds in that autocratic fashion.

A committee was formed and a drive was made with the idea of providing a fund of about \$3,000,000. The result was that they raised \$1,500,000, which, together with the \$1,000,000 that they already had, gave them about \$2,500,000 from which the Arboretum receives the income....

My first thought in connection with an arboretum is that unless you can see your way clear in raising a sufficient amount of funds and getting from persons of means who are particularly interested in the matter, it is almost hopeless for it to succeed.

He enclosed with the letter a brochure, "the Arnold Arboretum and its Future", and a copy of the "Indenture between Harvard College Concerning the Use of the Arnold Arboretum as a Public Park". In Seattle, the Committee borrowed heavily from this "indenture statement" in drafting the contract between City and University.¹³

Mrs. Krauss next wrote "informally" to Dawson October 26 to inquire about the cost of Olmsted Brothers services to prepare a preliminary plan, and whether local draftsmen could then prepare the detailed drafting and development of the plan.¹⁴ By this time the committee was deciding how to make use of the labor funds.

Dawson did make it to Seattle early in November 1934, stopping in the City on his way to and from Vancouver. He met with members of the Arboretum Advisory Committee to discuss the plans. Dawson recorded his field observations and design notes on top of the plan of Washington Park the firm had used in 1905.

The 1934 Agreement

In her October 26 letter Mrs. Krauss enclosed with her letter a copy of the Draft Agreement between the City and the University of Washington establishing the Arboretum. Given the potential funding, the effort to reach a contract was concluding quickly. On November 28, Donald Graham, a committee leader in the effort, wrote that the Park Board was balking at the proposed contract:

The Arboretum Committee had a joint meeting last night with the members of the park Board and with a representative from the Board of Regents. As I had feared, Mr. Umloff (sic) had raised some objections to the contract, because it took the control away from the Park Board and gave it to the

¹³ J.F. Dawson to Sophie Krauss, September 26, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4 Reel 96 (FSOP).·

¹⁴ Krauss to J.F. Dawson, October 26, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4 Reel 96 (FSOP).·

University. We spent considerable time explaining our reasons for this, such as continuity of management, freedom from politics, more favorable reception insofar as obtaining private contributions is concerned, and the various other reasons, and I believe we convinced the Park Board that this is by far the best arrangement that is possible.¹⁵

On December 6, 1934, the Board of Park Commissioners unanimously approved the revised contract. A column in the paper summarized the outcome of years of work: “Arboretum Step Nearer. Seattle’s proposed new arboretum and botanical garden was brought a step nearer yesterday when the city council, without a dissenting vote, passed an ordinance ratifying an agreement between the board of regents of the U. of W. and the board of park commissioners. Under this agreement, the park department donates ground in Washington Park as a site for the arboretum, which is to be constructed and operated by the University.”¹⁶

Arboretum Advisory Council and Arboretum Foundation

As part of the Agreement between the University and the City, provision was made for “an advisory committee to be known as the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee” including members appointed by the Mayor of Seattle, the President of the University, and the Governor of the State of Washington. Realized in 1935, the committee became known as the Advisory Council. One of the Advisory Council’s first actions was to form the Arboretum Foundation, a non-profit organization with the express purpose of raising revenues to help establish the Arboretum. The Arboretum Foundation held its first meeting on June 27, 1935, and elected the first board at the meeting on July 17, 1935.¹⁷ The Arboretum Foundation has been in continuous operation since that date, and has served as a fundraising model for other arboreta and botanical gardens.¹⁸

¹⁵ Donald Graham to J.F. Dawson, November 28, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4 Reel 96 (FSOP).

¹⁶ Undated News Clipping (no source citation), CUH Vertical File.

¹⁷ Taft, 1994.

¹⁸ Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and the National Arboretum, in Washington D.C. expressed interest in setting up a similar organization. Donald Graham wrote specifically about the role of the Foundation in raising funds to supplement the operating budget. He was particularly proud of the Arboretum units – 70 at the time – and their accomplishments. In 1936, the first Arboretum Units were developed by Mrs. Donald G. Graham, modeled on the Children’s Orthopedic Hospital Guilds.

7. THE OLMSTED BROTHERS PLAN

This section describes the planning and design of the Preliminary General Plan and other plans prepared for the Arboretum by the Olmsted Brothers. The section generally covers the years from 1935 through 1937, with overlap with the chapter following.

Origins

With Mrs. Krauss' assurances that Olmsted Brothers would receive the commission¹, Dawson lost no time in developing a comprehensive approach to development of the Arboretum. The effort would address not only the physical plan of improvements, but also the administrative and financial structure necessary to establishing an institutional body that could carry out the plan over the next one hundred years.

Dawson continued his close communication with the project proponents. He wrote Mrs. Krauss with thoughts on the personnel necessary to realize the dream of the Arboretum, and prepared a staffing diagram for illustration.²

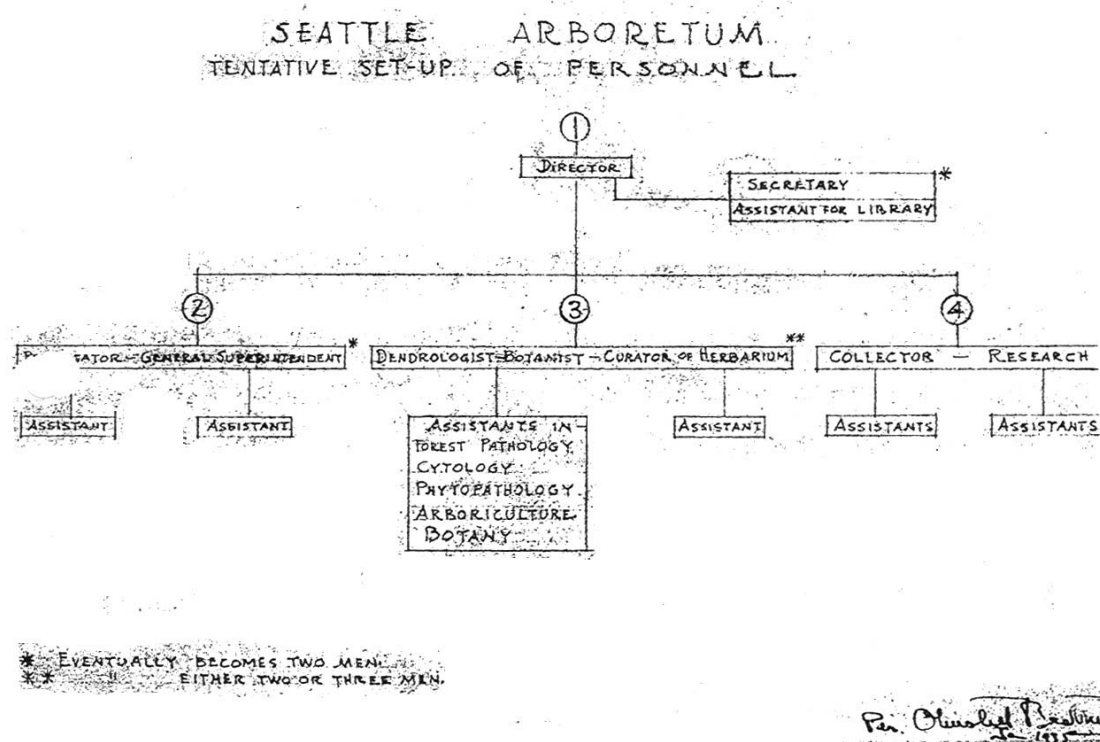


Figure 5. Seattle Arboretum, Tentative Set-Up of Personnel, Per Olmsted Brothers, Jan. 1935 (Source Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96, FSOP)

He gave a tour of the Arnold Arboretum to Herbert Ihrig, Seattle businessman, rhododendron collector and original committee member: "I think that Mr. Ihrig enjoyed it very much, and I also think that it opened his eyes as to what would be needed both in the development of the Arboretum itself and in the personnel of the staff. Mr. Ihrig being interested in rhododendrons was delighted to see hybrid rhododendrons fifteen to twenty feet high with a spread of from fifteen to twenty feet full

¹ In fact, the commission took another six months to award. Final payment for the work was not received until 1939.

² J.F. Dawson to Sophie Krauss, January 11, 1935, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP). Dawson continued to express the challenges inherent in such a large endeavor.

of buds, and planted in masses of an acre or two in a group . . . He said that he would have something to tell the Committee and the Mayor when he returned to Seattle in about two weeks.”³

To ensure Charles Saunders an active role in development of the Arboretum, in early 1935 Dawson also recommended Saunders’ appointment to the nascent Arboretum and Botanical Committee (ABGC) to Krauss and Ihrig, and suggested a secretary position with salary would be appropriate.

In early March, however, Saunders passed away. From designing the first buildings at the University of Washington, to presiding over the Board of Park Commissioners, to achieving the 1934 agreement for funding and development of the Arboretum, Saunders had reigned over a key period in the development of Washington Park and the Arboretum. His death marked the end of era.

A Contract with the University

The Seattle Garden Club’s \$3,000 gift for the services of the Olmsted Brothers was tendered to the University, and announced in the March 6 morning papers as accepted by the Board of Regents. Contract negotiations began March 19, when Dean Winkenwerder requested that Dawson prepare a proposal for services. On March 29, Dawson provided a formal letter to “propose to render in the preliminary stages of the development of an arboretum, which we had stated to Mrs. Krauss would cost in the vicinity of three thousand (\$3,000) dollars.” Finally, by July 12, the contract was finalized between Olmsted Brothers and the Regents, acknowledging the Seattle Garden Club’s \$3,000 gift.

Planning and Design Underway

Of course, planning for the Arboretum was already underway. As Winkenwerder described, already there was interest in additional roadway development: “I had Mr. Umlauff of the Park Department and Mr. Embury, Park Engineer, present a number of matters to the Committee. I think you will be very much interested in one of these matters, which is in the nature of a permanent outlet from Broadmoor and also a highway from the Madison Park district to the University district. This is all a matter for the future but I believe you should know just what is being urged so that we can have your advice.”⁴

Dawson replied:

I will be interested to see what was suggested by the Park Engineer in reference to a connection with the University grounds. The entrance into Broadmoor is rather a serious matter and will have to be given considerable thought in reference to the Arboretum. The Arboretum itself ought to be kept pretty free from any through traffic, and it will be a problem as to what ought to be done with automobiles going through this museum of plants. The Arnold Arboretum excludes all automobiles with the exception of certain ones that are allowed to go through by special permit for elderly people, invalids, and certain officials.

³ J.F. Dawson to Charles Saunders, January 12, 1935, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

⁴ Hugo Winkenwerder to J.F. Dawson, May 20, 1935, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP). The proposed “highway” from the Madison Park district to the University district is “Lakeshore Drive” utilizing the Lake Washington shorelands.

For this reason it might well be considered that the present park drive through Washington Park be a boundary road rather than a road through the middle of the Arboretum. It may be that we will have to permit the people of Broadmoor to enter the road that is already connected with one of their entrances, but trucking and heavy traffic certainly ought to be disallowed . . .⁵

In the Olmsted Brothers office, as soon as the contract was finalized, the staff had prepared a list of design questions that would become the basis for design:

1. Can we cut through to canal with waterways, that is, perhaps bring lagoons back into low grounds for water plants?
2. Regarding the boulevard shown in red on the City Plan from Puget Mill Company, corner across corner of Foster Park to Montlake Park crossing of canal: is this line sacred or could this boulevard be moved out to "inner harbor line"?
3. Is "Empire Way" going ahead as now shown? (It takes out about 9 acres of Arboretum lands, on the assumption that lands west of it would not longer be used for Arboretum purposes--author's parentheses.)
4. Can water lilies be grown out-of-doors?
5. Has Lakeside Avenue been vacated?
6. Can the Arboretum use the "Old Canal Reserve"? (Note: We have a building designed on basis of Gray Herbarium and Arnold Arboretum Administration Building--author's parentheses.)
7. What scale is survey being made at.⁶

Progress on the Arboretum proceeded by funding source. Preparation of the contour map, subject to numerous delays since January, was nearly complete by September 7, however, without trees. A month later, the trees were still not surveyed, and the Olmsted Brothers began writing of delays. The plan for the water system and drainage system for the Arboretum Area was prepared concurrently. Dean Winkenwerder wrote to Dawson: "Personally I have felt all along that your plans should be completed before we attempt any of this but when the P.W.A. funds come through it is going to mean that we will have to get busy immediately."⁷

And then the money came. On December 10, 1935 Winkenwerder sent a harried telegram to Dawson: "GOVERNMENT PROJECT FOR ARBORETUM APPROVED STOP WE ARE EXPECTED TO PUT THREE HUNDRED MEN TO WORK MONDAY STOP WOULD YOU HAVE SERIOUS OBJECTION HAVING WATER MAIN LAID THROUGH BOTTOM OF VALLEY IN LINE JUST EAST OF THE MAIN ROADWAY STOP TRACING OF FINISHED MAP GOES FORWARD TODAY."⁸

The complete survey with trees was forwarded on December 16, 1935.⁹

⁵ J.F. Dawson to Hugo Winkenwerder, May 24, 1935, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

⁶ Typed Notes, LHZ (Leon Henry Zach), n.d., with handwritten note: "JFD took a copy, July 22, 1935", Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

⁷ Winkenwerder to J.F. Dawson, September 9, 1935, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

⁸ Winkenwerder to J.F. Dawson, December 10, 1935, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 2 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

⁹ A copy of the survey is at Parks, Map of Topographic Survey of Washington State Arboretum, Seattle, Wash., W.E.R.A. Project 17-83-89, Scale 1 inch = 80 feet, Nov. 1935, (Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass., 2699-67. Location for East Boundary Road added by Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects, January 28, 1936. Source: Parks, Plan 37a (Reg. No. 606, Washington Park Addition... Extension.)

The Preliminary General Plan

The Preliminary General Plan for the University of Washington Arboretum was forwarded by the Olmsted Brothers to Dean Hugo Winkenwerder on April 2, 1936, nine months after the contract was signed, but only four months after the receipt of survey plans. Included with the General Plan was a detailed nine-page letter, a print showing areas necessary to accommodate plant families, collection of photographs, list of families, list of woody plants, their families and genera.¹⁰

The General Plan, (prepared at a scale of 1" = 80') described specific components for the development of the Arboretum, including roads, paths, plant collections and constructed facilities. Dawson provided narrative descriptions of the elements in letters and other correspondence. Significant features included Azalea Way, the Lagoons, the Upper Road, the Rose Garden on the site of the south athletic field, the Alpine or Woodland Garden, and an assembly of administrative buildings. The General Plan also provided a sequential arrangement of the plant collection based on a taxonomic classification system.

¹⁰ J.F. Dawson, Olmsted Brothers, Letter to Hugo Winkenwerder," April 2, 1936, located (by FSOP?) at CUH-Miller.

There has been considerable discussion and critique of the plant classification system by others, notably Scot Medbury in his 1990 thesis "The Olmsted Taxonomic Arboretum and its Application to Washington Park," and in his later contributions to the development of the 2001 Master Plan, and the spring 2003 Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin.

A review of the Olmsted Brothers correspondence files from this period describes the internal research and discussions leading up the recommendation for the organization of the collection.

In October 1934, as Dawson was seeking the design commission for the Arboretum, he directed Hans J. Koehler, a colleague in the Olmsted Brothers firm, to investigate appropriate plant classification systems for the Washington Park Arboretum. Koehler contacted Mr. Jack of the Arnold Arboretum. On October 30, Koehler forwarded a long letter to Dawson, who was in Kentucky, summarizing his conversation with Mr. Jack. At the Arnold Arboretum, the plant collection was arranged according to Bentham and Hooker (for practical purposes begins with Magnoliaceae and ends with the Coniferae). The contemporary approach, according to Jack, was to classify plants according to Engler and Prantl (begins with Coniferae and ends with Compositae).

Koehler also summarizes a design strategy for fitting the order of the plant families to the site: "Mr. Jack also touched upon a point that we have often discussed in our office and is continually coming up; namely the impossibility of following literally any system on account of the requirements of plants; that is, a literal adherence to a system might put a swamp plant on top of a sand hill, which of course would be ridiculous; so as Mr. Jack says their arrangement of plants is not very consistent ... Another matter that we have often discussed in the office and on which a hard and fast botanist might differ from the view that we would give much consideration to is that of artistic effects. As you know, of course, there is a lot of artistry in the Arnold Arboretum. Much, perhaps most of this, is due to the elder Olmsted's planning; probably considerable of it is due to Professor Sargent's feelings in such matters and undoubtedly a good deal of it is just due to pure accident and the inherently beautiful topography in the Arboretum. I have never had much discussion personally with the Arboretum people about the artistic phase of arboreta but I have had a little and one man there seemed to think that landscape architects are inclined to dwell upon artistic considerations in planning arboreta to the detriment, perhaps serious detriment, of the scientific purposes ... (Hans J. Koehler letter to J.F. Dawson, October 30, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96)

The following day, Koehler wrote to Dawson with additional caution about the fitting of any taxonomic system to the land: "There is one item that might be of interest to you in your discussion with anybody concerning the new arboretum and in connection with the sequence to be followed. Somebody, I think it was Professor Trelease of the Missouri Botanical Garden, drew my attention to the fact that any sequence that is presented in a book is in the nature of a "straight line sequence" and therefore does not present the facts quite as they are. Perhaps I can make my point clear by saying that relations of the different families could be better presented somewhat like a "family tree" in genealogical records. This fact would make it a little easier to adhere to a scientific arrangement of the families in an arboretum than a mere straight line sequence. However, as Mr. Jack pointed out yesterday, and as I think we here all agree, there is no use in trying to adhere too strictly to a precise scientific arrangement." (Hans J. Koehler letter to J.F. Dawson, October 31, 1934, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 1 of 4, Reel 96)

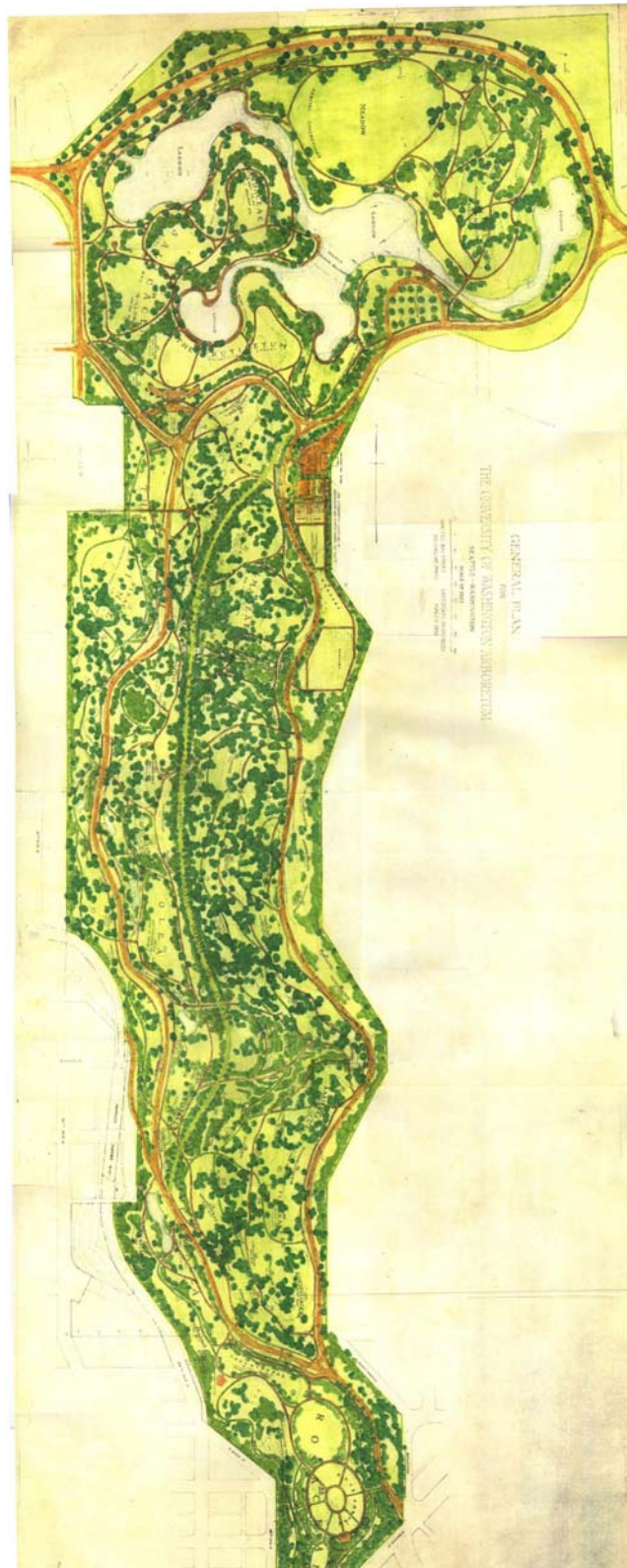


Figure 6. General Plan for the University of Washington Arboretum, Olmsted Brothers, March 1936.
Source: Arboretum.

Plant Classification System

The written description accompanying the General Plan begins with an explanation of the dual objectives of an arboretum, like a museum, for botanical reference as well as visitor enjoyment:

For botanical reference and for the broader public purposes of a tree museum, the Arboretum as a whole must aim to provide a comprehensive and orderly collection of woody plants. Grouping the plants by families and genera or other recognized relationships is clearly desirable. But limited areas, soil and moisture conditions, sun, exposure and other cultural factors must all be recognized and will surely dictate some modifications of a strictly systematic arrangement. And if the “museum” is to fulfill the broader function of showing not only the specimen plants but also their values for human enjoyment, systematic arrangements may be further modified in favor of artistic combinations of color and form, appropriate settings, and pictorial relationships.

The description continues to explain the proposed system of plant classification: “After careful consideration and conferences with members of the Arnold Arboretum staff, we have decided to adopt the system of botanical sequences as laid down by the botanists, Engler and Prantl, instead of the Bentham and Hooker system used by the Arnold Arboretum. The Engler and Prantl system seems to be now almost universally followed. It was used by Mr. Rehder in his “Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs”, and it is followed in the new editions of Grays Manual.”

Following Engler and Prantl, the plan first locates the family Coniferae, the collection commonly known as the Pinetum. The plan situated the Pinetum in the northwest portion of the park, “because the location of the Pinetum requires a large area of ground which eventually should be largely cleared of existing trees not included in this large and important family of plants.”

This arrangement places the Willows, Walnuts and Beeches, which might be considered less important than some of the other families, on the lake-bottom land at the extreme north, which we realize, might not be developed for some time.

On the other hand, this arrangement gives us an exceedingly good location its proper botanical sequence for such an important family as the Rosaceae family, which requires a large amount of space, and space that is considerably open, which we have placed at the extreme south end of the park previously occupied by a baseball field...

You will notice that the “botanical sequence is not exactly what is known as a ‘straight line’ sequence but varies somewhat on account of the conditions such as topography, exposures, moisture on the ground, and tree growth.

Description of the Plan Elements

In 1936, the area north of the road to Broadmoor was extensive marshlands, interrupted by landfills, following two decades of exposure since the lowering of the lake. The plan proposed the introduction of waterways labeled “lagoons” to be developed through dredging of the marshlands. Dredge spoils would be used to raise the adjacent marshlands and to cover the dumps. The proposed Lakeside Boulevard, if located on dredging fill to the north end of the property, would then encircle the Arboretum rather than cut the land in two.

A future Alpine collection could expand into this area surrounding Foster Island, from the primary alpine garden proposed west of the nursery (later known as the Woodland Garden). There, a collection of rock plants with rock garden features was proposed for either side of the small stream coming through the valley. The stream was shown developed into a series of small pools with waterfalls, with rockwork extending to the valley sides to provide a larger area for an alpine collection.

The plan introduced a second drive on the east side of the property, for improved vehicular access, but considered that the drive could be closed on high-traffic days for pedestrian use only.

A primary component was the approach to re-use of the existing speedway. Arguing that the old speedway was too close to the existing Boulevard, the plan recommended narrowing the route from 40 to 16 feet, and replacing the former cinder track with a turf pathway, planting on either side with an uninterrupted planting of Japanese Cherries backed up with native and eastern Dogwoods, with undergrowth of various Azaleas, together creating a “spectacular display” that would attract world-wide attention.

Other special features were proposed, specifically a formal rose garden as a central feature to the large Rosaceae family, located at the southwest area of the park, the location of the Madison Ballfield,

The large open area along the creek was to be retained, and improved. The plan proposed to widen the creek in several areas to create small lagoons, providing a more attractive landscape and settings for additional plant families. The Oleaceae, or Lilac family, was situated at the edge of this area to allow for special displays of lilac varieties.

Connecting all the plant families and feature areas, a complete system of walks was proposed, identified as primary walks, treated in gravel or cinders, and secondary walks, such as through the collections

Stressing the research and academic aspects of the Arboretum, the plan proposed that the Administration Building, the Herbarium and the Library, as well as the greenhouses, should be located on the property. The plan located the main 20,000 square foot Herbarium and Administration Building near the main entrance to permit people coming for business or study to do so without having to go further into the Arboretum. The greenhouses and service yard and buildings were proposed for the area south of the Broadmoor entrance, because of road access and the background location.

Olmsted Brothers Role in Implementation

Dawson anticipated that development of the Arboretum plan would proceed in a manner that was typical of the Olmsted Brothers, utilizing a standard practice wherein a superintendent would be hired by the firm to oversee development of the plan and its implementation and on-site construction. Dawson’s efforts to secure such a position for one of his “loyal men” in Seattle was not successful as Parks resisted the added financial and political cost of employing someone outside the city when so many qualified local landscape architects and nurserymen sought employment in the city.

Detailed Plans – Azalea Way – 1938-9



Figure 7. Azalea Way Before Improvement. Asahel Curtis glass slide of Olmsted Brothers Photo, 1934. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 8. Proposed treatment for Azalea Walk. Asahel Curtis glass slide, of Olmsted Brothers Drawing, 1936. Source: Arboretum.

Azalea Way, on the site of the former Speedway, was a key element of the Olmsted Brothers plan. A year and nine months after submission of the Preliminary General Plan in March 1936, Fred Dawson received a telegram December 7 1937:

THE SEATTLE GARDEN CLUB WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN FROM YOU A DETAILED PLANTING PLAN OF AZALIA (sic) WAY AS PLANNED ON YOUR GENERAL PLAN NUMBER 73 FILE 2669 FOR THE SEATTLE ARBORETUM WE ARE DESIROUS OF HAVING THIS SECTION CORRECTLY PLANTED AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO FINANCE IT PLEASE WIRE ME THE APPROXIMATE COST THIS WEEK

MRS C W STIMSON
THE HIGHLANDS SEATTLE WASH.¹¹

Dawson replied with a telegram on December 10 to Mrs. Stimson:

THE AZALEA WAY IS ABOUT FORTY FOUR HUNDRED FEET LONG AND TO ASSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS THIS FEATURE SHOULD BE STUDIED IN MUCH DETAIL INDICATING THE LOCATION OF EACH CHERRY TREE AND OF EVERY GROUP OF THE MANY VARIETIES OF AZALEAS ON AN ENLARGED SCALE PLAN STOP WE ESTIMATE IT WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY FROM TWELVE TO FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS STOP IN CASE IT DOES NOT COST THAT MUCH WE WOULD BILL ACCORDINGLY STOP IF AND WHEN THIS PLANTING IS CARRIED OUT IT CANNOT HELP BUT BE THE MOST MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF THIS SORT IN THE WORLD

J FRED DAWSON¹²

¹¹ Clara W. Stimson to Mr. Dawson, December 7, 1937, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

¹² Fred Dawson to Mrs. Stimson, December 10, 1937, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

As had happened with the General Plan, there was a considerable delay in getting the Olmsted Brothers under contract for the work. Mrs. C.W. Stimson (Clara W. Stimson) wired and then wrote Dawson following the January 5 1938 meeting of the Arboretum Committee asking Dawson to stop work on the plans.¹³ Although members of the Seattle Garden Club enthusiastically supported the commission, there was considerable concern that the project would not be carried out per the plans, as has happened with the original plans for the whole Arboretum, which the Garden Club had paid for.

As previously, Olmsted Brothers had already jumped into work on the project. A January 10 letter from Dawson indicated the topographical plan had been enlarged, and an extensive list of azaleas prepared, and inquiries made to Mr. Bonnell of Bonnell Nursery in Seattle inquiring on the availability of certain azaleas in local nurseries.¹⁴

Mrs. Sophie Krauss re-entered the correspondence, following her return in early 1938 from two years of travels abroad. She explained the behind the scenes concerns regarding the Arboretum, including the challenges of getting the foundation going and the Seattle Garden Club's concerns for carrying out the plan of Azalea Way, and upkeep of the plan. As she confided: "I think they are right, but are being a little picayunish about it, and am working now to get them to put it through. I think they will soon."¹⁵

On October 18, Mrs. J.O. Gallagher, President of the Seattle Garden Club telegraphed Olmsted Brothers finally authorizing the firm to proceed with preparation of the plans for Azalea Way:

I AM NOW ASSURED BY THE COMPTROLLER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON THAT WE MAY PROCEED WITH THE PLANS FOR AZALEA WAY WITH ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THEIR AGENTS THEREFORE I AM WIRING YOU WITH APOLOGIES FOR THE SEEMING LACK OF DECISION WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR ACTIONS THE LAST FEW MONTHS TO PROCEED WITH OUR PLANS THEY ARE REALLY NEEDED AT ONCE SO WILL YOU SEND THEM ON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AT LEAST A LITTLE TIME WITH MR. DAWSON WHEN HE IS HERE.¹⁶

With the authorization, Leon Zach and Hans Koehler of the firm reviewed the studies already prepared and corresponded with Dawson (then in Louisville) on preparation of a draft plan. Dawson's note back to Zach October 20 describes the general approach, accompanied by a quick sketch:

Be sure he (Hans Koehler) gets some of the tall weepers in behind the ones in the front and thus be sure he gets groups of weepers together in which case he ought to leave some taller ones in behind. Then I think he ought to scatter through these a few Western White Dogwoods that would bloom after the cherries – this ought to make one of the greatest showings in the world -- In estimating the distance for azaleas remind Hans that they grow fast and big in Seattle. Yes

¹³ Clara W. Stimson to Mr. Dawson, January 6, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

¹⁴ Fred Dawson to Mrs. Stimson, January 10, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

¹⁵ Sophie Krauss to Mr. Dawson, received September 8, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4 Reel 97 (FSOP). The foundation was originally led by Walter Douglas. His untimely passing had left the Foundation without necessary leadership (there was an interim president, Thomas Glead) until Dr. E. Weldon Young.

¹⁶ Mrs. J.O. Gallagher to Mr. Dawson, October 18, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4 Reel 97 (FSOP).

they said they wanted a detailed planting plan. Look up list that Bonnell sent us of plants available in Seattle.”¹⁷

Dawson visited Seattle in early November as part of an extended western trip from October 3 to November 18, 1938. His trip included three days studying and making notes in regard to planting details of Azalea Way, and also meetings to address overdue bills. His field notes include the following: “Spent parts of three days studying and making notes in regard to planting details of ‘Azalea Way’. The grading of the side slopes has been changed in many places, the walks have been graded 20 feet wide instead of 16 feet and many trees have been cut out. All trees were not shown on planting study, so it made it extremely difficult to locate oneself on the ground, especially because it rained most of the time. Saw Mr. Lisler (?) the third day and he said he was having a new survey made for me showing the areas on either side as now graded.”¹⁸

Several letters and telegrams followed when the new survey was not delivered as promised. The survey, with outline of existing trees, was delivered at the end of January 1939.

While there were delays with plans, planting was already underway. When Dawson visited in November, a memorial rhododendron planting for Dr. Tenny had already been installed and a collection of rhododendrons and azaleas from Colonel Dexter were planted temporarily in the nursery. Dawson wrote of his review of the Arboretum to Herbert Ihrig on December 14:

I noticed the planting of rhododendrons (ed. – Dr. Tenny’s collection) that has been made, mostly of rubiginosum type, but the thing that disturbs me is that I understood you were going to build some small ponds in the lower open area and fill this open area with rhododendrons of various sorts. I don’t mind the small ponds so much as they will tend to drain this entire area, which is now inclined to be water-soaked, but I was in hopes that this area could be saved for the planting of heathers and perhaps groups of dwarf rhododendrons with occasional groups of azaleas which would serve as accents in aesthetic (illegible). If we succeeded in having this conception materialize, that is, the open central portion devoted to the low-growing types of Ericacea with the sloping sides and background devoted to the many varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, this feature ought to surpass in beauty and interest anything like it anywhere...¹⁹

The Olmsted Brothers files contain extensive correspondence with Herbert Ihrig, who was in charge of the fundraising and development of the rhododendron glen. The letters provide insight into the proposed planting scheme and the connections between Azalea Way and existing and proposed rhododendron collections. Mr. Ihrig wrote his concurrence with Dawson that the Tenny collection of rhododendrons, done by the Park Board through the Seattle Garden Club at Mrs. Tenny’s request, was a “good example of what not to do.” Ihrig offered his considered approach to the design:

It was one of the deciding factors in our determining not to make any planting whatsoever until we had completed our planting plan. The fault, if I am correct in my opinion, that it is a fault, is not that of the Seattle Garden Club, but is due to Mrs. Tenny’s insistence that it be

¹⁷ Fred Dawson to Leon Zach, October 20, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

¹⁸ From Mr. J.F. Dawson’s Report of Western Trip of October 3, to November 18, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP). From 1936 through 1943, the firm files include a significant amount of correspondence between Olmsted Brothers and Dean Hugo Winkenwerder, Sophie Krauss, Raymond C. Davis, Comptroller, University of Washington, and Donald C. Graham, President, Arboretum Foundation, over efforts to negotiate a financial settlement for expenses incurred by Olmsted Brothers in the preparation of the 1936 General Plan. It is not clear from the available correspondence whether the matter was ever resolved.

¹⁹ J.F. Dawson, letter to Herbert Ihrig, December 14, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 96 (FSOP).

done by Mr. Omloff (sic) of the Park Board and Mr. Omloff (sic) was too busy to attend to it personally, so it is little more than a nursery planting now. I feel quite certain, however, that Mrs. Tenny will permit a replanting when the basic work is done, although so far she seems anxious to retain it intact, which perhaps is right for a memorial collection if it can be properly rearranged... There is still another factor that has kept us from making final determination, namely, the placing of the finer hybrids. The Dean thought that these should be placed on Azalea Way, but I have held that final determination should be left with you if you were making the design, and your decision on this will of course influence us in Rhododendron Glen.

Last, but not least, I do hope that in your design there can be the natural blending between Azalea Way and the Glen that I consider so important...²⁰

In his reply of January 4, 1939, Dawson concurred with most of the points raised by Ihrig's letter, except regarding the proposal to place rhododendrons along Azalea Way:

Our idea about the planting of the Azalea Way is not necessarily strictly botanical. We had originally thought of it as a magnificent display of something that would be photographed in people's minds when they saw it and who in turn would exploit this Arboretum to all parts of the world. It seemed to us that as long as this old race track road existed we could use something that was not only gorgeous in itself to look at but that would grow well in Seattle, and it seemed that the Japanese cherries and azaleas would be pretty hard to beat. I would want to use a few of the dogwoods in among the Japanese cherries in order to prolong the blooming period of this particular display. Therefore it was not the intention necessarily to introduce other members of the Ericaceae Family such as rhododendrons.

I don't think we even ought to go into a great many varieties of azaleas; that is I would not think it necessary in this display along Azalea Way to try to introduce rare varieties of azaleas because they can be found in their botanical collection.²¹

Ihrig wrote back, politely continuing to advocate for inclusion of rhododendrons along Azalea Way:

Is it our objective to be an enlarged and beautified version of what has already been done in Boston and other eastern cities, or is it going to include and feature those things which are not adaptable to other places, but which can be grown successfully here? ...I had lunch with Mrs. Gallagher today at a Foundation meeting and she requested me to express myself fully, and I do think I know the feelings of a great many of the Foundation members, so please permit a few further comments. As you well know, Azalea Way is 3800 feet long and with both sides planted it requires 7600 lineal feet of planting, ranging in depth from say 50 to 100 feet. It seems to me that this enormous area could include huge masses of all the best Azaleas with much room for appropriate trees and hybrid Rhododendrons, which should be a very important factor...I would love to see here the finest collection of hybrid Rhododendrons in America and confine Rhododendron Glen to species...²²

²⁰ Herbert Ihrig letter to James Frederick Dawson, December 23, 1938, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

²¹ J.F. Dawson, letter to Herbert Ihrig, January 4, 1939, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

²² Herbert Ihrig letter to James Frederick Dawson, February 7, 1939, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

Dawson continued with his original planting approach. Following receipt of the survey in late January, the Olmsted Brothers completed the plans and plant lists for Azalea Way. On March 6, a two-sheet plan set, and planting list were forwarded to Mrs. Gallagher, President of the Seattle Garden Club, with a duplicate set sent to Raymond D. Davis, the University's Comptroller. Dawson explained the design in the four-page letter accompanying the submittal:

In studying the arrangement of the cherries and the azaleas, please understand that we did not consider the grouping of these plants from a botanical point of view but we considered them as a display planting feature which would be unusually attractive and would create publicity for the Arboretum in general. We did not, therefore, include all of the possible varieties of Japanese cherries and we did not provide for all of the different varieties of azaleas that might be hard to get... We have used 79 different varieties of azaleas which we thought would make the best showing and which were the most likely to be obtainable either in your vicinity or elsewhere.



Figure 9. Excerpt of 1939 Planting Plan for Azalea Way, Excerpt of 2699-88-Sheet B (NPS) Source: FSOP.

(Dawson continued) We have used the various groups of cherries and dogwoods so that when one group of cherries, for instance the low weeping type (of which we have used one variety) is in bloom, there will be continuous groups of this cherry throughout the entire length of Azalea Way. This is also true of the Western dogwoods and of the upright cherries (of which we have used ten varieties) and of the tall weeping cherries of the subhirtella type (of which we have used six varieties)... We hope that this plan, with the proper minor adjustments on the ground, will prove one of the greatest displays of flowering shrubs and trees in the world, and we have not reason to doubt that within a few years this planning, if properly carried out, will be a source of tremendous satisfaction to the people who sponsor it and to the visiting public.²³

The planting of Azalea Way, already graded and seeded with grass, began with receipt of the plan, and continued for several years via donations of funds and plant material from several sources.

²³ J. Frederick Dawson to Mrs. J.O. Gallagher, President, Seattle Garden Club, March 6, 1939, Library of Congress 2699 Washington Park and Arboretum Folder 4 of 4, Reel 97 (FSOP).

8. THE WPA AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARBORETUM

This section explains the role of federal and state funding for the initial development of the Arboretum, largely under the auspices of The Works Progress Administration (WPA). The major construction of the Arboretum was accomplished through WPA funds. The section generally covers the years from 1935 through 1941, with some events that overlap with the preceding chapters.

The WPA in the Arboretum

Funds for the Olmsted Brother's plans for the Arboretum were difficult to raise, but those for its implementation were even more difficult to obtain. As early as 1924 an idea was forwarded to minimize public funding of the work through the use of prison labor. A temporary stockade was proposed to house the prisoners on Foster Island, but it was vigorously opposed.¹ The federal Works Progress Administration was initiated in the early 1930s. (The "WPA" was later known as the Work Projects Administration.) This work-relief program was the best known of the federal government's Depression era programs because it impacted so many people's lives. The WPA employed more than 8.5 million people under the direction of director Harry Hopkins. Nationally the program spent more than \$11 billion in employment relief before it was discontinued in 1941.²

The WPA was only one of the federal government's employment efforts during the Great Depression. Beginning in the late 1920s, the State of Washington had established the WERA, Washington Emergency Relief Administration, which provided grants for labor employment to counties and municipalities, and employment grants to university and college students, throughout the state. The WERA and WPA were critical to the state's economic stability.

By 1933, unemployment in Washington had reached over 30 percent; however, the state's labor problems had emerged earlier:

In rural (areas) agricultural prices began slumping years before the 1929 stock market surprise. In spite of the optimism and opportunities of the 1920s, many former farmers came into Washington's cities looking for work, while their families camped in car parks or on the side streets. For these, the Great Depression came early. But for most Washingtonians, it fell later, even than the crash on Wall Street, partly because projects begun in the late 1920s building boom continued writing pay checks into 1930. By 1931, however matters were generally dismal ... Statewide unemployment increased by an estimated 7% in 1930 to 25% in 1932 ... By the fall of 1931, charities, which had traditionally given food and temporary shelters to the unemployed, were overwhelmed.³

Nationwide, by its end in 1941 the WPA had completed construction of over 28,000 miles of streets and alleys, 1,000 bridges, and 6,000 miles of road drainage ditches. It had built 553 schools, 26 libraries, 400 recreation buildings, 90 stadiums, grandstands and bleachers, 193 parks, 16 golf courses, and 16 fish hatcheries. The WPA also assisted local towns and agencies in stabilizing over 900 miles of river banks, and construction 275 miles of irrigation canals, and 15,500 traffic signs.⁴

¹ Letter from President Henry Suzzallo to Hugo Winkenwerder, April 7, 1924.

² Dorpat, 1998, p. 11.

³ Ibid, p. 12.

⁴ Ibid, p. 14.

WPA funds invested in Washington State between 1935 and December 1938 totaled over \$80,760,820. Within the City the WPA built the University of Washington Swimming Pool Building (1938), and constructed five and improved three municipal golf courses. It improved facilities in ten of the city's "bathing beaches," including "modern" bathhouses opened at Golden Gardens, Madrona, and West Green Lake, and field houses at East Green Lake and Rainier Beach.⁵

Work Direction

The organizational structure of the federal labor programs challenged direction of the work effort for the Arboretum. Initial work proceeded under the under the direction of the Park Department's head gardener, Jacob Umlauff. In March 1936 the WPA activity came under the supervision of landscape architect Frederick Leissler, who was hired by Dean Winkenwerder to fill the position of assistant director of the arboretum.

For purposes of submitting project proposals to the WPA, the arboretum had been divided into six sections. Section "A" at the south end was the first project authorized. Leissler immediately set one crew to clearing and terracing the steep sides of the playfield for the planting of rosaceous trees, with foreknowledge of the Olmsted plan for the area as the Rosaceae. Before receipt of the Olmsted plan Leissler also initiated what he later described to be the arboretum's first plantings, in the canal reserve land at the north entrance to Washington Park from Montlake Boulevard. Yoshino cherries, incense cedars and other trees donated by local nurserymen were planted by the WPA and lawns seeded.⁶



Figure 1. Terracing at Madison for Section 'A', the Rose Garden, 1936, F. Leissler. Source: Arboretum



Figure 2. Forming Stone Gutter on Walk down to Shelterhouse, 1936, F. Leissler. Source: Arboretum

The Olmsted Brothers began providing narrative descriptions and conceptual plans for the Arboretum in 1935, but they required a completed survey before beginning the actual plan drawing. Completion of the survey by the city was delayed due to a lack of WPA funds, and was not completed until fall 1935. The survey provided topographic information, but not the expected tree location information (finally provided in December 1935), further delaying the preparation of the plan.

Letters and telegrams between the Olmsted Brothers and Park Department personnel in early 1936 indicate the increasing frustration that each party was dealing with as work by the WPA crews began. Program funding came on seemingly unexpected, and prior to provision of the Olmsted Brothers' General Plan, which was forwarded to the city on April 2, 1936. Written communication before that date noted the presence of WPA laborers, numbering up to 450 men at different times, and the lack of specific direction for their grading, excavation, and grubbing work.

⁵ Short, 1939, p. 321 and 342.

⁶ Information on Leissler comes from Medbury, 1990, p. 120 - 125, including insights from his correspondence with Frederick Leissler in 1989. The plantings at the Canal reserve received criticism from Seattle Garden Club members, who wanted Olmsted plan followed.

There were also some ill feelings locally towards the Olmsted Plan. Jacob Umlauff of the Parks Department was reluctant to relinquish City control over Washington Park to the University, and he attempted to stigmatize the Olmsted plan. Umlauff was behind the April 1936 controversy over proposed fencing of the west boundary of the park, and plans to eventually close Lake Washington Boulevard to arterial traffic. The newspapers sensationalized the conflict, pitting Dean Winkenwerder, Director of the Arboretum, against Harry Westfall, president of the Park Board.

Anticipating opposition to the Olmsted plan when it would be presented to the Park Board in June, in May of 1936 Winkenwerder asked a group of prominent local landscape architects to express their support for the Olmsted Plan. Eight men (Otto Holmdahl, E.A. Fabi, Noble Hoggson, Lester Anderson, Mark Astrup, B. Solnber, Frederick Leissler, and Adam Noble) met at the studio of Noble Hoggson and drafted and signed an endorsement of the design. The statement was distributed at the June Parks Board meeting, where the Olmsted plan met with the board's unanimous approval.⁷

It was understood that the Olmsted Brothers plan was only a preliminary general plan, and that detailed plans were the next step. Dawson hoped the firm would be contracted for this work. However, Dean Winkenwerder decided to have local landscape architects design the planting plans. He sent Frederic Leissler on a trip to the Arnold Arboretum in October 1936. After seeing the Olmsted Brothers office, Leissler wrote to Winkenwerder that that he felt capable of preparing the planting plans:

Mr. Dawson would like to do the individual planting plans but everyone [at the Arnold Arboretum] advises against it, and rightly. It would be just a waste of money for something we can do better ourselves. With a good WPA draftsman, I can lay out the planting plans and have him finish them. To show that I can do the planting plan as well as the Olmsted Bros., I would like to show you the similarity to what they suggest and what I proposed for the pinetum planting. They run over to the Arnold Arboretum and get all their information, which is then nothing but an exact duplicate.⁸

Leissler compiled plant lists and planting plans for the project, generally following the Olmsted plan. The Olmsted Brothers did not provide further direction for the Arboretum until their involvement with the planting design for Azalea Way, beginning in late 1937.

WPA Accomplishments through 1936

Following the 1934 Agreement, before the State E.R.A bill expired in May 1935, \$88,000 was spent on surveying and mapping of the area and on clearance work; the topographic map, with included two foot contours and existing trees, cost nearly \$5,500.

In December 1935, work began under WPA direction and continued until July 1936. Dean Winkenwerder, the Acting Director of the Arboretum, reported that during those seven months \$296,290 were spent under WPA Project No. 820, including \$166,630 in direct funds for labor, and an additional \$129,660 for services and materials.

⁷ Holmdahl, Otto E., et al, Letter to Hugo Winkenwerder, dated May 6, 1937. MSCUA 70-1, Box 60, as cited in Medbury, 1990, p. 123.

⁸ Leissler, Frederick W., Jr., Handwritten Letter to Hugo Winkenwerder, ca. 1936, MSCUA 70-1, Box 61, file "Leissler Report," as cited in Medbury, 1990, p. 124.

Construction and site work completed by that time included the following:

- Clearing and grubbing of approximately 180 acres, including removal of brush and stumps.
- “Subsoiling” of 37 acres (This term may refer to sub-excavation).
- Installation of 4,140 feet of four inch cast iron water mains. These were set approximately 95 feet east of the east end of McGraw Street. Pipe was laid 24” below grade on pilings because of unstable soil conditions.
- Provision of 6,845 feet of two-inch galvanized water pipe and 1,750 feet of one-inch galvanized water pipe.
- Excavation of 5,433 feet of open trenches for installation of additional water pipe.
- Installation of 4,195 feet of sewer drain lines, including 360 feet of eight-inch pipe, 1,120 feet of six-inch pipe and 2,715 feet of four inch pipe, along with box culverts.
- Clearing and grubbing of a ten foot wide strip of land for 4,400 feet along the east property line, and 1,450 along the west property line, and construction of over 2,060 feet of fence.
- Grading and planting improvements were made at the East Madison Street entrance and at the north intersection of the Boulevard and Northlake Boulevard (the current Foster Island Road). Approximately \$7,500 worth of planting material was used.
- Completion of 2,063 feet of rustic cedar fencing, using materials provided by the US Forest Service and Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company.⁹

In addition, plans were made and construction had begun on several propagation houses.



Figure 3. WPA Construction photo, 1/28/36, showing the east fence, and the barn. Source: MSCUA.



Figure 4. WPA Construction photograph, 4/16/37, showing construction of the greenhouse. Source: MSCUA.

Winkenwerder’s 1936 report also described projects to be undertaken once funds were available:

Preparations have been underway for new projects. In these the entire area was divided into 6 sections and a separate project prepared for each involving an average of something over \$100,000 for each. They are designated as Sections A, B, C, D, E (for a rose garden, and Holly Rhododendron, Chestnut, and Linden areas respectively), and F, beginning at the Madison

⁹ Ion, 2003, p. 88 – 91. citing Sherwood, 11/16/39. Portions of the topography survey were developed by students from the College of Forest Resources, working under the auspices a National Youth Association grant, which was part of the WERA program. Information provided by former student and surveyor, Robert McNeil, in an interview on July 14, 2003.

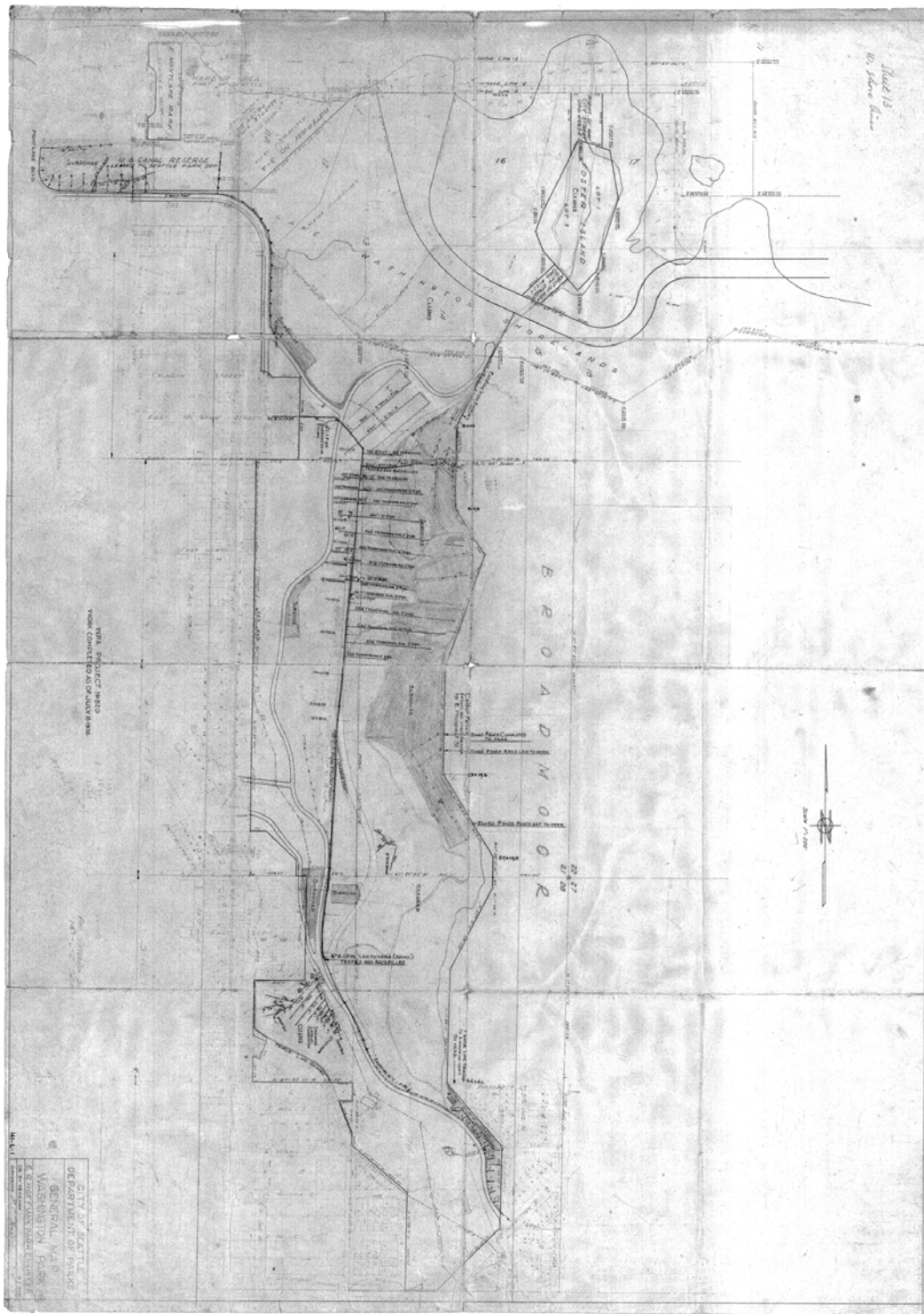


Figure 5. W.P.A Project 820, Work completed as of July 8, 1936, drawn on General Map, Washington Park, City of Seattle, Department of Parks, E. R. Hoffman, Park Engineer, 1" = 200'. Source: MSCUA.

Street entrance. These projects were very carefully prepared by our consulting engineer and were accompanied by beautiful plans by an expert landscape architect at a cost of \$675. Each section has 3 such plans, showing all work done to be done underground such as water system, drainage, conduits . . . the work on the surface, such as roads, trails and plantings; and . . . features that will be above ground such as buildings, lighting systems, etc.¹⁰

The Proposed Rose Garden and the Ballfield

Development of a Rose Garden as shown in the Master Plan was the first of the five units of the Arboretum Section A, to receive funding -- \$84,137 in WPA funds and \$13,222 from local sources. The symmetrical rose garden, with axial paths through and an oval planting bed of an estimated four acres, was to be located on the site of the existing playfield, at the south end of the Arboretum. Although it was funded, there were competing interests of recreation uses and sports fans. In a preliminary news account, Dean Winkenwerder indicated the gardens would not be an encroachment: "I told the Washington Park people (we) would not take over the playfield until another playfield site has been found for the district."¹¹ The Rose Garden was never developed.

Nursery, Greenhouses and Administration Area

Plans prepared by Frederick Leissler in 1934 showed the operations area south of the Broadmoor entrance, and the Olmsted Brothers General Plan indicated a similar grouping.¹² Built in 1935, the Barn, which is presently known as the Maintenance Building, was the first structure completed by the WPA, from plans prepared by Leissler. In 1937 the WPA completed construction of two 25' by 60' propagation houses, two 8' by 60' greenhouses for propagation, along with a potting shed and two 20' by 60' lath houses, and six cold frames. The total of these structures was nearly 2,600 square feet.



Figure 6. Aerial photograph of the Nursery and Greenhouses in the Arboretum, ca. 1938. Source: MSCUA.



Figure 7. Construction of Potting Shed with Greenhouses, March 16, 1937. Source: Arboretum.

¹⁰ Winkenwerder, Report of Arboretum Advisory Council Upon the University of Washington Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, March 1938.

¹¹ "\$97,359 Garden Job will Begin," *Seattle Times*, October 13, 1936.

¹² Considerable correspondence before construction of the greenhouses, between Parks on-site personnel and J.F. Dawson, resolved the orientation of the greenhouses in an east-west direction, in contrast to the Dawson's initial preference for north-south orientation. The east-west layout was preferred by those in Seattle because of the specific site and Northwest weather conditions.

Architects Loveless and Fey in the Arboretum

Arthur Loveless and Lester P. Fey were selected by the city to design a number of structures constructed during the WPA era. The firm's work includes the familiar Arboretum structures – the Stone Cottage, Gateway Pylons and the Lookout.¹³

Arthur Lamont Loveless (1873 – 1971) was born in Big Rapids, Michigan and attended the architecture program at Columbia University beginning in 1902. Lacking funds, Loveless never completed his degree but began working with the New York firm of Delano & Aldrich, nationally known for exceptional residential work. Arthur Loveless came to Seattle in about 1907 where he became known as an eclectic designer of houses. He initially formed a partnership with Clayton Wilson, and later associated with Daniel R. Huntington in 1912 – 1917. Loveless received numerous design awards from the local AIA and was named Fellow of the AIA in 1941. His work in the 1930s included the Seattle Repertory Playhouse (1929 - 1930; altered, presently known as the Playhouse Theater), completed with Lester P. Fey (1901 - 1980), and the Studio Building (1930 - 1933).

Lester Fey (1901 – 1980) came to Seattle in 1920, and began working with Loveless in the mid-1920s as a draftsman. He studied at the University of Washington for three years and spent one year at the University of Pennsylvania, in part with assistance from Loveless, but never received a degree. In addition to his work with Loveless, Fey worked with Nickum & Lamont, and Floyd Naramore.

Loveless and Fey worked together beginning in 1923 and became partners in 1935 - 1936. It is interesting to note that Loveless worked with Otto Holmdahl, as landscape architect, on a number of residences.

The Stone Gatehouse

The 1936 General Plan indicated a gatehouse immediately north of the intersection of Lake Washington Boulevard and the Upper Road. The notion of a gatehouse had been recommended by James Frederick Dawson, based perhaps on the Arnold Arboretum was surrounded by fencing, with elaborate stone gateways at the main entrances. Located at the southern gateposts to the Arboretum, the Stone Cottage (1936 – 1937) was originally intended to serve as a gatekeeper's residence.

The building style recalls many of the English-inspired works of Loveless' earlier career, although Lester P. Fey is credited with the design. The original structure, faced with native basalt stone from the Enumclaw area included a kitchen, living room, bedroom and bath. Originally the stone cottage was set in a picturesque forest setting near the south entry to the Arboretum, but was visible on three primary sides.

Pairs of stone pylons, each approximately five feet by three feet in footprint and nine feet tall, featuring stone-clad gabled tops, were constructed at the south entry and at another main roadway entries to Arboretum. A low wall extended from the south side of the front porch of the Gatehouse, an estimated twenty feet, where it abutted one of the stone pylons at the east edge of the roadway. A similar pylon, but without an extended wall, was located on the west side of the boulevard. Presently the entry pylons contain a plaque identifying its WPA era of construction.

¹³ Ochsner, 1996, p. 152 – 155, and 344 – 346.

A single stone pylon with a carved wood sign marks the Arboretum entrance at Madison Street. A similar stone pylon at the north entrance, in the vicinity of Miller Street, was removed during construction of State Route 520 in the 1960s.



Figure 8. “Like A Swiss Chalet,” Stone Cottage, 5/17/39, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Source: SMA



Figure 9. Entry pylon and sign: “University of Washington Arboretum”, at north entry, Miller St. Photo by H. Ihrig, 1944 Source: Arboretum.

The Kiosk

Although not indicated on the 1936 General Plan, a smaller gatehouse was constructed in 1938 by the WPA at the intersection of Lake Washington and Interlaken Boulevards to provide an office space for traffic control. Another gatehouse may have been planned for the north end of the Arboretum but was not constructed. The Kiosk, circular in form, with a conical roof, was made of basalt stone and included other similar features as the gatehouse building. The Kiosk was enhanced by stone pylons, each consisting of a single pier, but otherwise similar to those constructed near the Gatehouse. The Kiosk remained until 1952 when it was removed following several acts of vandalism.

The existing entry pylons at Interlaken Boulevard are modern reconstructions, built ca. 1989, and designed by the Portico Group as part of an improvement project along Interlaken Boulevard.

The Lookout

An “Overlook” structure was cited and located on the Olmsted Brothers General Plan of 1936. There is no specific correspondence that includes descriptions of this building’s specific intent as an Arboretum facility or its spatial relationship to the hillside and surrounding landscape. Architects Loveless and Fey designed the Lookout Building according to Park Department records of payments.

The Lookout was constructed by WPA crews in 1938 - 1939. Consistent with many rustic park structures of its era, it is hexagonal in form, and constructed of basalt stone, stained fir framing and timbers, and cedar shakes. The peaked roof, presently clad with metal panels, is framed with peeled timbers and logs exposed to the interior in the tradition of rustic park structures. Spaced columns are set on stone walls, four feet high. The walls extend to serve as cheekblocks on the sides of stone steps that lead up and down from the structure. The once expansive view from the lookout has changed significantly as plantings have matured.



Figure 10. The stone kiosk at the intersection of Interlaken and Lake Washington Boulevards, ca. 1938. Source: MSCUA.



Figure 11. View (looking north towards Azalea Way) of Lookout and coeds, ca. 1946. Source: MSCUA.

Dredging of the Lagoons

Since the lowering of Lake Washington in 1916, the 30 acres at the north end of the Arboretum had developed as a marsh that extended northward up to a quarter mile to the new shoreline. Except for spots of elevation – Foster Island, the Miller Landfill – the area was vast and featureless, and overgrown with willows, blackberries, tall grass and cattails. The General Plan proposed extensive dredging to create a series of lagoons to be improved as water gardens. More importantly, the lagoons would bring back views of the water as had originally existed when the north (shoreline) road was proposed in 1904.

In 1938 - 1939, the Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging Company dredged out over 1-1/4 miles of lagoons at the north end of the Arboretum, work that proved to be costly. The dredged peat material was overlain on the banks. During the early spring of 1939, some of this material was graded off by bulldozer. With WPA funds generally limited to labor rather than the provision of equipment, WPA crews undertook some hand grading of the lagoon banks. In September 1939, sixteen species of Bamboo, given to the Arboretum by the Federal Bureau of Plant Exploration and Introduction, and 3,500 plants of Japanese Iris were placed on the near island in the lagoon.¹⁴ The island soon became known as “Bamboo Island.”



Figure 12. Dredging Lagoons, ca. 1938. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 13. Dredger, ca. 1938. Source: Arboretum.

¹⁴ According to Mulligan’s 1955 report, few of the Bamboo and none of the iris survived the neglect of the war years. The island, which is now overgrown with willows, was labeled as “Bamboo Island” on early maps of the Arboretum.

The First Plant Collections

The first seed exchanges and plant acquisitions were made in 1936. The initial plant collections were recorded in longhand on large ledger sheets. The first accession, 20 seeds of *Aronica melanocarpa*, received on October 12, 1936 from the Morris Arboretum, was quickly followed: by the end of 1937, over 26,500 plants, mostly seeds, had been received from arboreta, botanical gardens and other plant sources. Highlighted next to the majority of these plants in red lettering was the summary statement: “Dead”¹⁵

In December of 1937, the first plantings were made. Pines, Cypressess, Chamaecyparis, Spruces and Firs were set out from the nursery into the Pinetum. Likely, plantings were installed with field direction only, as there is no evidence of plans being prepared.

Early plantings included numerous donations. In addition to the thirty varieties of magnolias received in 1940 as a memorial to the late E.A. Fabi, Mr. K. Wada, a Yokohama nurseryman, contributed three hundred specimens of *Magnolia conspicua var. denudata*.

Azalea Way

A key feature of the 1936 General Plan was Azalea Way, the transformation of the Speedway into a three-quarter mile long stroll through banks of flowering azaleas. By 1938, when the Olmsted Brothers began to prepare planting plans, the former Speedway had generally been narrowed from twenty feet to sixteen feet in width, and had been sown with grass following grading of the hillside slopes. Plantings of eastern dogwoods and *Azalea schlippenbachii* had already been installed.

With plans for Azalea Way received in March 1939, that fall preparations were made to plant the Japanese cherries, eastern dogwoods, and azaleas, principally donated by the Seattle Garden Club. By spring 1940, 300 cherries, 200 dogwoods and about 1,700 azaleas were installed. In 1940, another 1,400 Azaleas were received and planted.

Woodland Garden

The 1936 General Plan located an Alpine Garden in the area now known as the Woodland Garden. The planting studies Olmsted Brothers prepared for Azalea Way showed detailed plantings and a series of pools in the ravine. Frederick Leissler disagreed with Dawson’s location for the alpine garden because the site was too heavily wooded, and the alpine garden was subsequently located at the southern junction of the Upper Road and Lake Washington Boulevard. The West Seattle Garden Club adopted the Woodland Garden, and hired the Swiss-German landscape architect E.A. Fabi to design a planting plan.¹⁶ Fabi died in 1939, just as WPA construction of the pools in the Woodland Garden was underway.

¹⁵ Ledger, page 1 (MSCUA 93-153,50). Work in 1937 is described in “The Development of the University of Washington Arboretum,” Brian O. Mulligan, Reprinted in the Proceedings of 25th National Shade Tree Conference, 1949.

¹⁶ Medbury, 1990, p. 127.



Figure 14. Woodland Garden from Upper End, January 1948. Source: Arboretum



Figure 15. Woodland Garden from south side of stream looking west, ca. 1950. Source: Arboretum.

Although Fabi's plan was never implemented, the Cornelian Cherries on the slope south of the present winter garden were specified by Fabi for that location. The first trees in the magnolia section were planted and dedicated in his memory the following year. In 1939 the West Seattle Garden Club provided funds to purchase plants for the 2-acre garden. In 1940, the Tacoma Garden Club sponsored a planting of 146 Japanese maple trees for the garden, initiating a significant collection.

Rhododendron Glen

The Rhododendron Glen, an area of nine acres located at the site of the Ericaceae family (Rhododendrons, azaleas, mountain laurel, blueberries, heather, etc.), was developed largely through efforts of Herbert Ihrig, an early supporter of the Arboretum, rhododendron collector. Ihrig was interested in establishing a premier collection of rhododendrons in the suitable climate of Seattle.

In May 1938, the donation of the rhododendron collection of the late Dr. Cecil Tenny was heralded by Herbert Ihrig: "Dr. Tenny saw in the rhododendron species a vision of beauty, then almost wholly unknown in America and even today little realized and appreciated . . . what loveliness you will eventually see in the arboretum had its roots in the Tenny garden."¹⁷ The Arboretum Foundation received a collection of 300 rhododendron plants representing 23 species of rhododendrons indigenous to the Himalayas, which had been grown from seed (collected by Mr. Balfour of Scotland) by the late Dr. Cecil Tenny, who had long been active in the development of the Arboretum. As described previously, at Mrs. Tenny's request, the collection was installed by the Parks Department, and not coordinated with other plans for Rhododendron Glen or Azalea Way. Nonetheless, the Tenny collection formed the nucleus of the rhododendron collection.

The Dexter collection of rhododendrons and azaleas was received in the spring of 1938 and the summer of 1939 from the estate of Charles O. Dexter, of New Bedford and Sandwich, Massachusetts. Mr. Dexter was nationally known as an amateur grower and hybridizer of rhododendrons, and leading supporter of the Arnold Arboretum. The collection included a large number of well-developed hybrids. Mr. Dexter's estate, at Sandwich on Cape Cod, included 200 acres of rhododendrons and azaleas, viewed by thousands of people each year. According to Herbert Ihrig, in a follow-up interview, the "great importance of this gift lies not alone in the monetary value or in the merit of the plants, but in the

¹⁷ E.L. Reber, "Arboretum Gets Praise," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, May 1, 1938.

recognition our arboretum is receiving from other sections of the country – a recognition that some of our people have failed to accord it.”¹⁸

The Arboretum Foundation purchased a large number of species rhododendrons from the United States and abroad, and received more plantings as gifts from Arboretum Units and individuals. In the early 1940s, the Arboretum received gifts of seeds and seedlings from the Arnold Arboretum. From the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, the Arboretum received nearly one hundred species and varieties of rhododendrons indigenous to China.¹⁹



Figure 16. Installation of drainage system in Rhododendron Glen in 1938. Source: MSCUA



Figure 17. Head of Rhododendron Glen, November 1947. Source: Arboretum.

The Rock Garden, the Pond, and the Role of Otto Holmdahl

Otto Holmdahl was trained as a naval architect in Sweden, but became known as one of the best garden designers in the Northwest.²⁰ Holmdahl consulted unofficially on the Arboretum for several years. He was well known to Sophie Krauss, who recommended that he be included in its planning: “I am sure some plan could be worked out for using some of the most competent men, such as Mr. Holmdahl who really does the most perfect rock gardens I think can be done...” In the summer of 1934 he prepared a preliminary plan for the Arboretum, which was presented to the Advisory Committee.

Frederick Leissler had proposed the rock garden be located at the southern intersection of the Upper Road with Lake Washington Boulevard, where a steep hillside with southwest exposure provided better conditions for establishment of alpine plants. Leissler anticipated the rock garden would encompass 10 acres, but started the WPA crew in early 1937 laying basalt rock on the southernmost portion, and repairing the road cut made by the original construction of the boulevard.²¹ Otto Holmdahl supervised placement of stonework for the rock garden.

Holmdahl eventually prepared plans for at least three plant family sections in the arboretum.²² He prepared a plan for the Rhododendron Glen, which organized the collection into taxonomic *series*, the

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh is the world center of research into the taxonomy of the rhododendron genus.

²⁰ Medbury, p. 101. Holmdahl’s preliminary plan has not been located. David Streatfield indicates that Holmdahl was well known for his development of rockeries, including rockeries fabricated of concrete. His public work in Seattle includes construction of concrete rockeries at the Woodland Park Zoo.

²¹ Leissler, Frederick W., Jr., Annual Summary for 1937, Miller Library Collection, cited in Medbury, p. 126.

²² Ibid.

lowest rank between genus and species. In 1938, he prepared the plan for the Maple Collection -- *Aceraceae*, *Sapindaceae*, *Hippocastanaceae* -- around the pond in the southwest corner of the Arboretum.

The 1936 General Plan had identified several areas for ponding of Arboretum Creek. The only pond developed was immediately southwest of the intersection of Interlaken and Lake Washington Boulevard. The pond, developed in 1938 in the Maple Section, would later be transformed into the water setting for the Japanese Garden. The pond was fed by hillside springs that were the remaining water source for Arboretum Creek, since the flow from Madison Valley had been lost since the filling at Madison Street in 1915 and the subsequent diversion of the creek into city sewers. A stone bridge was constructed over the creek source at the south end of the pond.



Figure 18. Rock Garden, 1956. Source MSCUA.



Figure 19. Maple Section, "One of Several Small Lakes made in the Arboretum," F. Leissler, Photographer, ca. 1938. Source: Arboretum.

In 1939, the Board of Trustees of the Arboretum Foundation was advised that Holmdahl "has some unofficial title as consulting landscape architect." It was recommended that he be paid for out-of-pocket expenses for services to that date. Holmdahl was notified that the Foundation was not "financially liable" for continuing advisory work.²³

Fences

Iron fences had been constructed along the east edge of the Park, along the border with Broadmoor, in the 1920s as noted by Fred Dawson in his 1934 assessment of conditions. During the WPA era, 7' tall wood picket fences, constructed of rustic rough cedar (from Arboretum trees) and woven wire, were placed along the east edge, set along a 10' wide swath cleared by the crews in 1938 - 1939.

In 1936, public opinion on the new Arboretum focused on the issue of fencing. The controversy erupted over the proposed erection of a \$70,000 fence around the entire boundary of the Arboretum, and the enforcement of parkway traffic rules on Washington Park Boulevard through the arboretum. Neighborhood residents objected to both details of the proposal. Proponents of the proposal, as advocated by the Arboretum Board was first, to prevent the theft of costly plants, and second, that the roadway should retain the ambience of the park setting. The arguments against the fence included that the fence could become an eyesore, could prevent children's access from the playfield, and was not

²³ Letter from O.B. Thorgrimson to Board of Trustees of Arboretum Foundation, February 25, 1939, MSCUA.

needed, and that Washington Park Boulevard was needed as an arterial between the University district and Madison Park. Fencing was installed only along the Broadmoor property line.²⁴

Eleanor Roosevelt Plants an Elm Tree

The new Arboretum was the subject of almost weekly updates in local newspapers. In April 1938, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Arboretum and planted an American Elm. The new tree was placed next to the George Washington Elm, a slip from the original tree under which George Washington took command of the Continental Army, given by the Daughters of the American Revolution.²⁵

WPA Accomplishments by 1938

In March 1938, Dean Winkenwerder submitted a detailed report to the Arboretum Advisory Council on the state of development of the Arboretum. The 31-page report describes in detail WPA accomplishments in the Arboretum through February 1938 and includes numerous tables and appendices, and colored figures illustrating “work completed to date” and “work uncompleted to date.” The 1938 report of the Arboretum Advisory Council noted completion of additional WPA projects:²⁶

- Completion of 4,400 feet of fences along the east and portions of the west edges of the Arboretum (The fence was seven feet tall with cedar pickets woven with strands of wire secured to rustic posts, and used a total of 201,000 board feet of cedar bolts, a gift of the State Supervisor of Forestry, Mr. T. S. Goodyear.).
- Clearing of a total of 4,575 feet along property lines.
- 1,250 feet of conduit and cables and trenching for the light system.
- Preparation of the nursery with soil preparation, and barb-wire fencing.
- Completion of greenhouses, potting shed, lath houses, and cold frames.

²⁴ These issues were revived in the 1970s. The 1974 Agreement included provisions limiting restricted access and prohibited full enclosure by fencing and gates.

²⁵ “Mrs. Roosevelt Plants Elm,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, April 13, 1938. The tree is located west of Arboretum Drive just north of the Woodland Garden.

²⁶ Report of Arboretum Advisory Council Upon the University of Washington Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, March 1938, MSCUA.

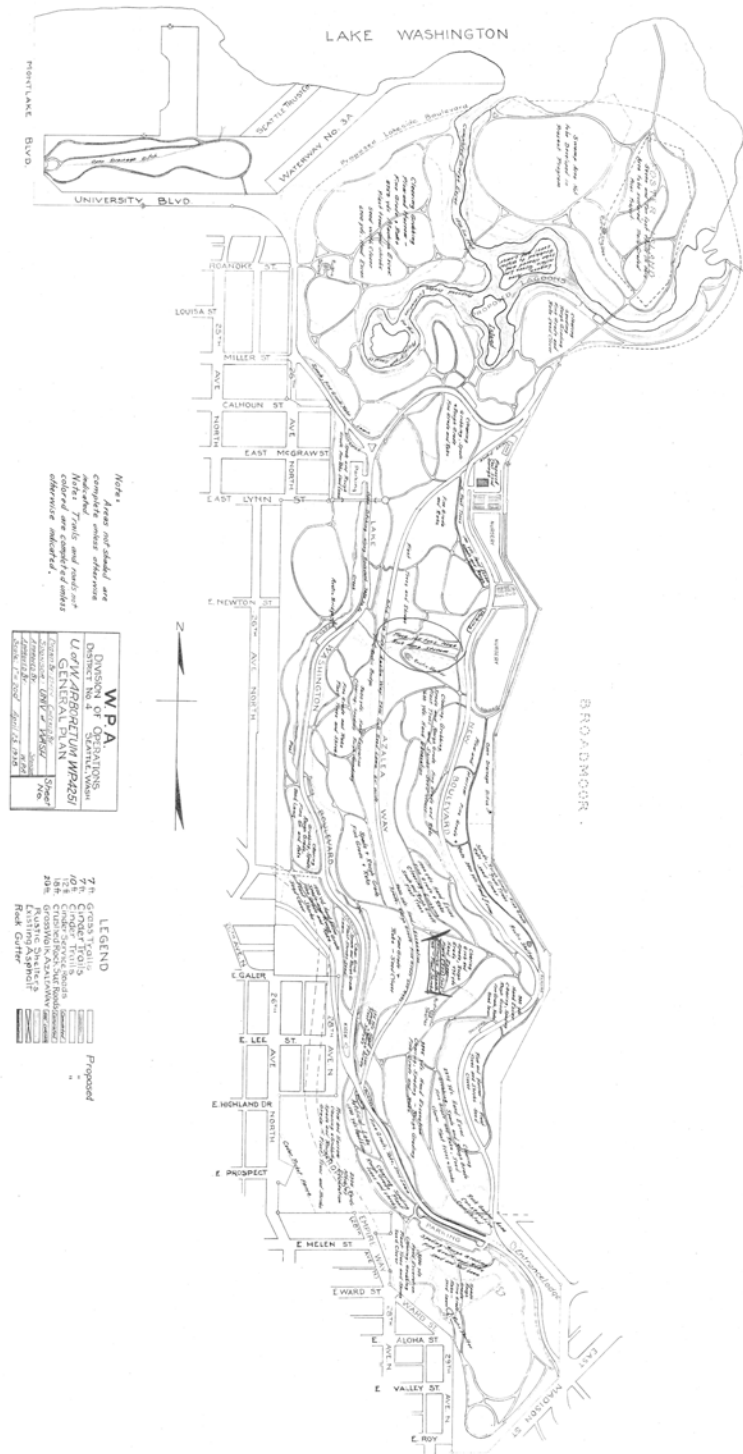


Figure 20. Work Completed to Date, April 25, 1938, hand drawn and shaded on base plan, U.W. Arboretum WP 4251, General Plan, 1" = 200' (Source: MSCUA)

Implementation Strains Arboretum Foundation Resources

The 1938 report presents a clear picture of the magnitude of the effort, and argued that the project had gotten ahead of itself.

The intention behind the creation of the Arboretum Foundation was not to fund the day-to-day operations, but to supplement the monies it assumed would be provided by the University of Washington and the City of Seattle. The large amount of Federal funds accelerated Arboretum development and caused unforeseen complications. Both the University and the City budgets were not able to expand in this short time to accommodate the financial needs of the young Arboretum.

As the WPA funds were earmarked for projects, the Arboretum Foundation struggled with how to plan for future support and development of the Arboretum. Earlier, Dawson had warned that the federal support could only be considered seed money; that major donations on the order of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 would need to be identified to provide an endowment for the fledgling institution.

In 1937, Acting Director Hugo Winkenwerder, wrote to the Arboretum Advisory Committee and Foundation Board that the enthusiasm of the project underway has encouraged the team to development of the area faster than the conditions warranted, and to optimistically assume for some time that monies would be forthcoming, "To sum up, we have in our great enthusiasm and with false hope of sufficient funds, overshot the possibilities and now find ourselves in a bad mess." He recommended the immediate appointment of a committee on ways and means, and the need for a "real head" for the Arboretum to contend with the "administrative chaos".

As described above, in March 1938, the Arboretum Council issued a detailed report summarizing the work projects completed in the Arboretum under the auspices of the several federal programs. The report detailed the growing gap between the large construction project and the financial resources at hand to manage the Arboretum.

The report describes in detail the work projects and work accomplished, and includes a detailed accounting of the Foundation's income and expenses. With the completion of WPA project 4251, the Arboretum Foundation had provided approximately \$11,500 to cover just short of \$1,000,000 of work on the WPA projects.

The report argued for the slowing down, or cessation of construction, to permit the Foundation to remain solvent by focusing on maintenance requirements only. Specifically, the report recommended reducing the scope of the rock garden under construction at intersection of the new eastern road (Arboretum Drive) and the Boulevard, arguing that the true Alpine Garden on the Olmsted Brothers plan was the existing ravine with small natural water course running east-west from the Nursery to Azalea Way (the Woodland Garden).

At the lagoons, the report recommended continued efforts to utilize manual laborers instead of machinery where possible, focusing on forming the banks of the lagoons, and the soil of the ground for planting purposes, to stretch the allotment for Project 4251.

Given that the WPA allotment was restricted to certain items, and the University did not anticipate funding the Arboretum during the early stages of development, relying instead on the Arboretum Foundation to carry the project along, the Arboretum Foundation was seriously overextended -- \$3,500 in unpaid bills to the University. The report advocated postponement of the construction of the north entrance lodge, questioning the necessity and proposed location of such a structure, and recommended

diverting the \$8,000 allocated by the state for the project to paying accumulated bills necessary as a sponsor to assure continued Federal expenditures.

The report seriously recommended the employment of a full-time Director, and suggested the “loan” of Dr. Donald Wyman from the Arnold Arboretum, which had already been suggested by Dr. Merrill, Director of the Arnold Arboretum.

Following the recommendations of the report, within the year the Foundation established a Finance Committee, and succeeded in hiring a Director for the Arboretum, Dr. John Hanley.

The Role of John H. Hanley, Arboretum Director, 1938 - 1946, and the End of the WPA Era

“Dr. John T. Hanley, tall and handsome young assistant professor of forestry and botany and the new acting director of the University of Washington Arboretum, looks like a person who might have some rare botanical plant hidden away somewhere.”²⁷ And so begins the efforts of the new director, who succeeded Dean Hugo Winkenwerder as director of the Arboretum in fall 1938. A graduate of the University of Michigan in 1927, and holding both the Master’s and the Ph.D. degrees with a major in botany from the University of Illinois, his background included work with the Forest Service and teaching at the University of Illinois.

One of Hanley’s first endeavors was to support the efforts to shore up the finances of the fledgling institution. Donald Graham, Chairman of the new Finance Committee for the Foundation, requested Hanley prepare a report on financial information from several other institutions, particularly from E.D. Merrill, Director of the Arnold Arboretum. The detailed report, submitted on November 30, 1939²⁸ summarizes findings from several Arboreta (Arnold, Carlton College, Coker, Cornell, Holden, Morton, Nichols, Morris, Sanford, and Swarthmore College) and Botanic Gardens (Brooklyn, New York, Santa Barbara, Montreal).

The report suggests that, following completion of WPA improvement projects, it should be possible to maintain the Arboretum with an annual budget of less than \$20,000. The report warns, however, that the average per acre costs are much higher in botanic gardens than in arboreta, and recommends that the Arboretum refrain from development of herbaceous elements for years to come.

Meanwhile, plant acquisitions continued unabated, and planting out nursery plantings was underway. A monthly summary of plant acquisitions was typed up and forwarded by Hanley to (the Arboretum Foundation?). The range of materials was considerable – Eucalyptus from Mrs. James Wright, in Richmond Highlands, and from the Hortus Botanicus Bergianus, in Stockholm, Sweden, one package seed of each of 16 species.²⁹ This practice, providing a summary from the plant ledger, continued for several years.

In fall 1939, plantings and funds were received for Azalea Way; by spring 1940, 300 cherries, 200 dogwoods and about 1,700 azaleas were in place, principally donated by the Seattle Garden Club.

²⁷ Mystery Plant from Illinois (unknown publication), January 1939, MSCUA.

²⁸ Hanley, Letter and Report to Mr. D.G. Graham, November 30, 1939, MSCUA.

²⁹ Letter to Mrs. Don H. Palmer, August 27, 1941, MSCUA.

In 1940 more plant contributions were received from various garden clubs, usually of one or more genus they chose to sponsor, an approach to financing the Arboretum collections that is still active today. The West Seattle Garden Club provided the means to purchase plantings for the Woodland Garden, and 1,400 additional Azaleas were received for Azalea Way.

In early 1941, large plantings of Rhododendrons were laid out in the new Glen, the Magnolia collection was established along the Upper Road, and there were plantings installed in the Woodland Garden. By the end of the year, the first formal figures for Arboretum varieties were tallied: Quinces (57 varieties), Viburnums (39), Magnolias (34), Heathers, (120), Camellias (174), Maples (165). Nearly 2,000 Rhododendrons had been planted out and another 1,400 were in the nursery.

In July 1941, after five years' work, the WPA withdrew assistance. The Arboretum's permanent staff was reduced to four.

World War II

World War II interrupted plans for the Arboretum. Promised state funding for its development was put off until 1943. When the Workers Progress Administration program ceased in 1941, the nascent Arboretum struggled. Projects focused on contributing to the war effort. The Arboretum produced fast-growing plants for use at the Boeing aircraft plants. A demonstration victory garden was established (at the site of the current Mountain Ash collection).

Dr. Hanley described the slow progress of the Arboretum in a letter to a G.I.s returning from the war in 1945: "Our visitors are at last beginning to get a taste of what we will eventually have. Their reactions are certainly pleasing to me. You may not know it but we had lots of rough going, particularly in the 1941-1943 biennium when there was practically no money and very little help. It is much different now; we have a reasonably good appropriation and thirteen full-time men besides several on part time."³⁰

Hanley had developed an objective for the young arboretum, which he detailed in this letter:

"If our Arboretum has a (prime) objective ... it can be set down in these words – to make this Arboretum and this University outstanding in the field of Asiatic plants (temperate zone plants, of course). This thesis can be subdivided thusly – (1) We must have the best living collection of Asiatics; (2) We must have the best herbarium of Asiatics (this in cooperation with the Department of Botany); and (3) We must have the best library on Asiatic flora (underlines by author)."

The focus on Asian plants was evident in plantings in the Woodland Garden, the Rhododendron Glen and elsewhere. Hanley must have felt this focus on Asian plants was consistent with the original Olmsted Brothers plan, as the plantings made during his tenure closely followed the plan. Sections started in the thirties, including the Rhododendron Glen (Ericaceae) were supplemented with new plants, and new family sections were started, including the Leguminosae. In his 1945 annual report, Hanley affirmed his support for the Olmsted Brothers plan as his highest priority, second only to maintenance: "... to develop our plantings in line with the original Olmsted plan. The existence of a basic plan for the arboretum has served to avoid hit-and-miss arrangement... Our experience on the area has disclosed a need for only very minor changes in it."³¹

³⁰ John Hanley to Fred G. Meyer, May 23, 1945 (MSCUA 93-153, 6/5)

³¹ John Hanley, Annual Report for the Year Ending May 31, 1945, Forest Resources College Collection 70-1, box 61, file "Annual and Semi-annual Reports," MSCUA, cited in Medbury, 1990, p. 131.

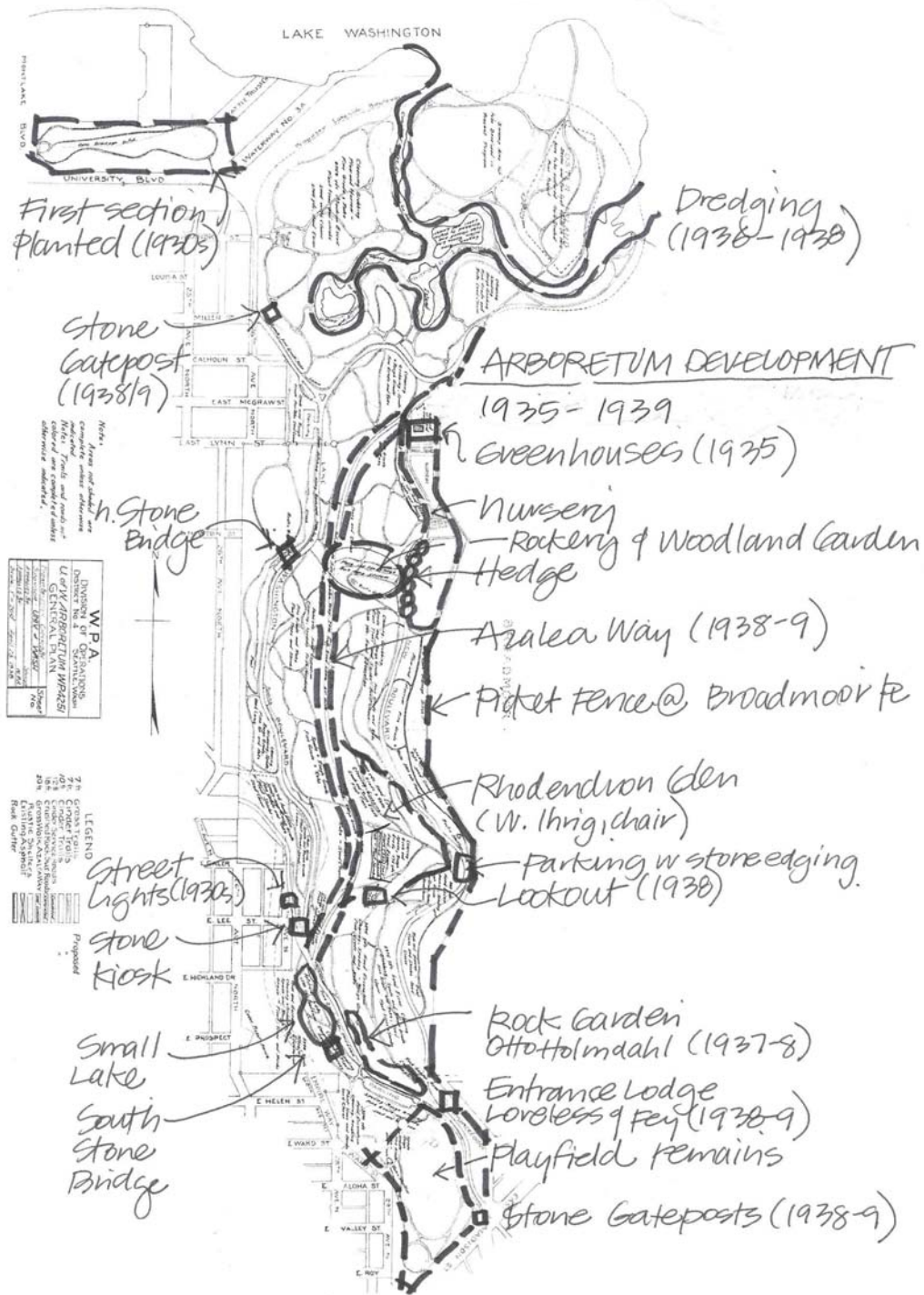


Figure 21. Map of Arboretum Development 1935 - 1945, by Karen Kiest Landscape Architects.

9. THE POST WAR ERA

This section details the development of Arboretum in the years following the war, focusing on the pivotal role of Brian Mulligan, director from 1946-1972, and the establishment of major plant collections. The section briefly details impacts to the Arboretum caused by the planning and development of the second floating bridge, the changes to management of the Arboretum as reflected in the 1974 Agreement, and the changes in membership of the Arboretum Foundation.

The Role of Arboretum Director Brian O. Mulligan, 1946 - 1972

In 1946 Brian Mulligan was recommended to Donald Graham, then president of the Arboretum Foundation, as the new director of the Arboretum. Mulligan, a native of Ireland, was a graduate of the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Wisley, England, with advanced work at the University of Bristol Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, and a later tenure at Wisley as an assistant to its director. During the war he served two years in the Royal Air Force, and in 1943 became one of seven horticultural advisers on vegetable growing at Royal Air Force stations throughout Great Britain, where he stayed until the end of the war.¹

Mulligan was completing his two-year tour of duty when Graham forwarded his name to Gordon D. Marckworth, Dean of the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. Brian Mulligan and his wife Margaret arrived in Seattle in October 1946, having accepted the position offered as superintendent of the Arboretum, with a starting salary of \$300 a month, and accommodations in the stone cottage at the south entrance to the Arboretum.

The couple stayed in the picturesque, but cramped quarters of the stone cottage for a brief period after their arrival, but Brian Mulligan remained director of the Arboretum for twenty-five years, until his retirement in 1972, and remained closely involved as Director Emeritus until his death in the late 1990s.

Under Mulligan's leadership, the Arboretum was truly realized, as the establishment and growth of the plant collections transformed the cleared lands with a skeleton layout of roads, trails and features into the diverse landscape that we are familiar with today.



Figure 1. New Plantings at Parking at Head of Rhododendron Glen, July 29, 1949. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 2. Photograph of the rock garden, "Work and Fun Day," April 12, 1956. Source: University of Washington Special Collections 1949.

¹ Davidson, p. 14 - 17.

Recommended Changes to Olmsted Brothers' Collections

Brian Mulligan proposed changes to the Olmsted Brothers' arrangement of collections soon after his arrival. He put together a quick memorandum after a month on the job that identified limitations of the Olmsted Brothers' Plan:

- a) The Pentium is too small to contain even a representative collection of conifers, and should probably be subdivided into other areas best suited for the different genera concerned; e.g. Pines and Junipers to Foster Island; *Abies*, Spruce and Hemlock to the areas between Azalea Way and the Broadmoor boundary.
- b) The area allotted to *Rosaceae* is cramped by the presence of playground near the Madison Street entrance, and the parking area north of the fields. It seems urgent to secure the return as soon as possible of the area now utilized by the Parks Department, between Lake Washington Boulevard and 28th Street North, so that the whole bank on the west side could be planted and utilized.
- c) Many plant families are sited in most unsuitable situations and should be moved elsewhere before more planting occurs; e.g. *Juglandaceae* (too exposed near lagoons); *Cistaceae*, *Buxaceae*, *Guttiferae*, *Ranunculaceae*, and about seven other families too heavily shaded in woodland areas. Most of these could be transferred to section between upper arboretum road and Broadmoor boundary.²

Mulligan's February 1947 list of 'Suggested Alterations to Olmsted Planting Plan' followed up on his earlier memorandum and proposed relocation of 19 plant families and 1,985 species or varieties (Rosaceae accounted for 1,350 species) generally citing inappropriate growing conditions or space limitations.³ He proposed relocation of several families (in shady locations or insufficiently sized areas) to one of two locations -- either the area between the Upper Road and Broadmoor, or the Lagoon area, i.e. the old dump site.

Few plant families had been proposed for these edge areas in the Olmsted Brothers plan. The actual layout of the upper arboretum road (now Arboretum Drive East) pulled away from the Broadmoor property line in a few areas, creating deeper planting zones than shown on the Olmsted Brothers plan. Clearing operations had removed most existing vegetation in these locations (most of the remnant woodland vegetation was restricted to the steeper slopes between the Boulevard and the upper road) so there was room for new plants.

The original memorandum and list, accompanied by a marked-up plan, serve as primary documentation for the collections policy defined by Brian Mulligan in 1947 that amends the Olmsted Brothers plan of 1936. This initial assessment remained the general approach to arrangement of collections throughout Brian Mulligan's tenure.

Several plant collections already established – the Aquifoliaceae, Caprifoliaceae, Fagaceae and Magnoliaceae – remained in the areas identified by the Olmsted plan⁴. Given the early stages of Arboretum development, while some plantings were actually relocated, most plant collections were simply established in the areas suggested by Mulligan's list. The Legumes, Cistus, Sorbus (later re-dedicated as

² Brian O. Mulligan, handwritten notes and typed "Memorandum on subjects for discussion at meeting of the Arboretum Committee", December 18, 1946 (MSCUA 93-153, 43/1).

³ Brian O. Mulligan, "Suggested Alterations to Olmsted Planting Plan", February 1947 (MSCUA93-153, 43/18). Iain Robertson references this work in his 1991 "Collections & Landscape Master Plan for Washington Park Arboretum."

⁴ Information in this section included input field observations, photographic records, and from Medbury, 1990.

the B.O. Mulligan Sorbus Collection) and later the New Zealand High Country Exhibit were installed along the Broadmoor property line. Part of the Rosaceae collection was installed on the old Miller Street dump site (which later became the location for the 520 off-ramps). Several families not defined in the Olmsted plan – privet, ash, and lilacs in the Oleaceae, and the poplars and willows in the Salicaceae, were identified for the areas along the western edge of the valley.

Some families proposed for relocation in 1946 were never established (Tamaricaceae). Subsequent planting of member species of these and other families were not confined to the original Olmsted plan, but have been distributed to place species for better performance, or for landscape effect. Some smaller families (e.g. Styracaceae) were scattered throughout the Arboretum. Many small families were not planted in taxonomic groups at all.

Arboretum Development

Work on the Crab Apple section began in the spring of 1946 as one of Mulligan's first rearrangements of the collection. The land had been used as a landfill for over fifteen years before being closed in 1936. In preparation for planting, several cottonwoods were removed, blackberries pulled out, and pieces of brick, bottles, rusted metal and other garbage removed, much of it by hand. Ready for planting in March 1950, twenty different varieties were planted on March 1. Trees were added to the collection over several years.



Figure 3. Loderi Valley after Clearing Operations, March 16, 1949. Source: Arboretum



Figure 4 Winkenwerder Memorial Area (Miller Dump Site) 9-8-53. Source: Arboretum

Located in a gentle valley south of the Woodland Garden, the area now known as Loderi Valley was not identified on the 1936 General Plan. In 1949 Loderi Valley was cleared of alder, willow, vine maple and other native undergrowth in preparation for planting 38 young rhododendron plants raised from seeds of *Rhododendron loderi* given the Arboretum in 1940 by Herbert Ihrig.

Mr. R.J. Hansen, Landscape Architect from the University of Wisconsin, was appointed superintendent of the Arboretum under Mulligan. During the following six and a half years he was responsible for continued development of the Camellia Garden (Spring 1949), the area around the Administration Buildings (1952) and fresh plantings in the Woodland Garden. He also was responsible for preparing numerous plans and maps of the Arboretum.

In 1947, arrangements were made with Dean Francis Powers of the College of Education to use the services of the University's still Photography unit to make a photographic record of the Arboretum. Extensive

documentation of the Arboretum grounds was made under the supervision of Mr. E.F. Marten, and was expanded in 1948 to include color photography so that slides would be available for lectures or groups.

In March 1948 a service building 50 by 25 feet was constructed north of the office block, which enabled the Arboretum Foundation to move its office to the Arboretum from downtown Seattle.

In 1953, Foster Island was set aside by the Arboretum Board as a wild bird sanctuary at the request of the Seattle Audubon Society. Covered winter feeding stations were installed; plants and shrubs with food and habitat value were planted.

The Winter of 1955 - 1956

Plant losses from extremely cold weather in November 1955 decimated the young plant collection.⁵ Losses were most extreme in the collections of Japanese cherries, rhododendrons and camellias, although there were significant losses and setbacks to all collections, notably the conifers. Along Azalea Way, about 170 trees were killed, including many of the oldest and finest specimens planted in 1939 and 1940.

Nearly 1,200 species and 200 hybrid rhododendrons were killed, including the majority of the original Tenny and Dexter collections installed in 1938 - 1941. Over 350 camellias, including a considerable number imported from Japan in 1940 - 1941, were lost.

Early Research Efforts and Development of the Plant Collections

By 1955, Mulligan could reflect on nearly a decade of progress under his leadership. In summarizing ongoing efforts, he identified current research projects at the Arboretum.⁶ In addition to several horticultural projects, with an emphasis on the hybridization of rhododendrons, as reflected in the establishment of a rhododendron test garden established by the American Rhododendron Society, projects included several efforts by the College of Forest Resources.

The College sponsored a study of hybrid alders, a program to select Douglas firs suitable for the Christmas tree trade, and a joint project with the Department of Botany on soil problems associated with mineral requirements of native conifers, especially Western Red Cedar.

By this time the principle plant collections were becoming well established. With the exception of the Rhododendrons and Azaleas, the Oaks, Maples and Pines and Cherries, associated with establishment of Azalea Way, the Woodland Garden, and the Pinetum through the W.P.A in 1939 and 40, most collections were initiated following the war, and at the start of Mulligan's administration, from 1945-1948. These collections include *Archtostryphlos*, *Betula*, *Cistus*, *Malus*, *Cupressis*, *Hebe*, *Ilex*, *Magnolia*, *Rosa*, *Sorbus* and *Viburnum*.

⁵ Brian Mulligan to Dean Gordon D. Marckworth, April 26, 1956 (MSCUA 93-153, 6/7).

⁶ Letter and enclosures to Dr. W.E. Snyder, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, March 4, 1955. (MSCUA 93-153, 5/13)

Suggested Improvements

Although Mulligan had made considerable advances in the development of the Arboretum, several chronic problems remained. As he detailed in a report titled “Suggestions for Arboretum Improvements”⁷ there were three significant impediments to development of the Arboretum: 1) shortage of staff; 2) an inadequate administration building; and 3) lack of suitable land. Regarding suitable land, he indicated:

Most of the best areas for planting in the Arboretum are now almost wholly occupied by our major tree and shrub groups, principally on both sides of Arboretum Drive, extending down the west slope from it to Azalea Way, and also in the Winkenwerder Memorial section along the Boulevard, north of Miller and Roanoke Streets. The whole area between the Boulevard and Azalea Way, from Interlaken northwards, consists of a heavy wet clay soil, which until it is properly drained into the lake, will remain largely unusable except in certain places for a few species of trees which can adapt themselves to such conditions; for examples, alders, willows, larches and some birches and ashes ...

He recommended experimental research would be better suited for an off-site tract of land, within 30 miles of the city, which would free the Arboretum to “concentrate on the more ornamental groups and species...”

Additional improvements included the suggestion for gates: a matching pair of strong, but decorative gates for each end of Arboretum Drive, known as “the former Upper Road”, as well as a gate at the entrance to the Winkenwerder Memorial area at Miller Street and Lake Washington Boulevard.

Memorials

Over the years, numerous memorials have been developed in the Arboretum. Several plant collections memorialize individuals. Following the initial period of development, specific gardens, seating areas and other features have been developed:

- In 1945 the Mary E. Williams Memorial Camellia garden was dedicated, sponsored by the Amateur Gardeners and designed by Landscape Architect Otto Holmdahl.
- In 1947 a “flowers-for-the-living” dedication for Mrs. Alexander F. McEwan honored her achievements as one of the founders of the Washington State Conservation Society, a charter member of the Seattle Garden Club and one of its first presidents. The planting area included Mrs. McEwan’s favorite flowers.
- The Millburn Memorial, a stone seating area, was constructed in the 1940s in honor of Anna T. Milburn, past president of the Seattle Garden Club.
- The Prentice Memorial, a planting in the Rhododendron Glen, was constructed in the late 1940s.
- A stone seating area in memory of Isabel McCormick Preston was constructed in 1961 along a lower trail between the Woodland Garden and the Rhododendron Glen.
- The Sawyer Drinking Fountain, constructed in 1961 honors Maude Sawyer of West Seattle. Located immediately north of the parking area serving Rhododendron Glen, the memorial includes a stone bench and drinking fountain.
- Three benches in memory of Mary Hughes Foxworthy were installed in 1961 along the trail traversing Rhododendron Glen above the Lookout.

⁷ Suggestions for Arboretum Improvements, a report drawn up for Mr. Ballard at the suggestion of John Hauberg, per note with copy forwarded to Dean Gordon Marckworth, B.O. Mulligan, October 29, 1957 (MSCUA 93-153, 6/8).



Figure 5. Williams Memorial Camellia garden, 1952. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 6. McEwan Planting, April 17, 1953. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 7. Millburn Memorial, March 7, 1952. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 8. Prentice Memorial, Rhododendron Glen, 1952. Source: Arboretum.



Figure 9. Preston Memorial, Summer 2003.



Figure 10. Completed Sawyer Memorial, 1961. Source: Arboretum.

The Museum of History and Industry

Five acres of land, held formerly for use in the Montlake Cut, were acquired from the U.S. government in 1946. On this property, which is known as McCurdy Park, the Seattle Historical Society constructed the Museum of History and Industry on this site. The museum, popularly known by its initials as MOHAI, was designed in 1948 - 1950 by architect Paul Thiry (1904 - 1993) in the Modernist style with large plate glass windows under a flat roof. Completed in 1952, the museum was originally approached directly from the south off Lake Washington Boulevard.⁸



Figure 11. Montlake Section. Looking NE down site of old canal fill. Museum of History and Industry in background. September 10, 1953. Source: CUH.



Figure 12. Montlake Section, view from Montlake/Lake Washington Boulevard Intersection, looking back towards Historical Museum, February 6, 1962. Source: CUH.

The 520 Highway and Proposed R. H. Thomson Expressway

Statistics from the 1950s and 1960s provide the context for impacts on the Arboretum in the 1960s and 1970s. The region was booming, with the population of King County rising from 730,000 in 1950 to over 925,000 in 1960. Over 110,000 new residents were added to King County's suburbs between 1950 and 1960.

As regional growth and traffic pressures increased, and plans were made for a second floating bridge across Lake Washington to link Seattle. Construction of the "new floating bridge" as State Route 520 was known, began in 1961. The bridge opened in August 1963.

⁸ There still remain two ancient cherry trees and incense cedars in a hidden strip of park south of the alley behind East Hamlin Street. The remaining flowering cherries were moved to the liberal arts quad of the University with construction of SR 520, where they became the springtime showpieces until they were condemned to the chainsaw because of their age in 1998. Additional clarification regarding the cherries may be warranted. Scot Medbury, who corresponded with Frederick W. Leissler, Jr., the assistant director to the Arboretum at the time, notes that the original planting on the "canal reserve land" was made by WPA crews in the winter of 1935 - 1936. The planting caused "quite a stir" with the Seattle Garden Club, who had funded the Olmsted plan and wanted to see it followed, although the Olmsted Brothers plan does not include this area. According to Medbury's communication with Leissler these Yoshino cherry trees, along with several incense cedars in the same vicinity, were the first official plantings in the Arboretum. According to Fred Mann, University Architect and a key player in moving the trees from the Arboretum to the Quad in 1961, "there was a lot of luck" involved in moving the trees. From the *University of Washington Alumni Magazine*, Letters to the Editor, June 1999.



Figure 13. Photograph of State Route 520, showing new overpass to MOHAI and the Montlake Interchange, October 1, 1963. Source: SMA.

State engineers envisioned another way to address traffic congestion by construction of the north-south R. H. Thomson Expressway to connect Seattle's central eastside neighborhoods with the new bridge. In 1963 the State Department of Highways condemned approximately 47 acres of Arboretum property for State Route 520, paying an award of \$501,999 for its acquisition.⁹

The Department proposed a cloverleaf interchange for the western terminus of the new bridge, at the northwest edge of the Arboretum. The Expressway design required demolition of several blocks of homes along the Arboretum's west edge, and cut off the northern portion of the park and Montlake neighborhood.

As a response to the dramatic changes at the north end of the Arboretum brought by the new and proposed roadways, Boston-based landscape architect Hideo Sasaki, head of Harvard's Department of Landscape Architecture, was hired in 1964 to amend the Olmsted Brothers General Plan and salvage northern areas of the Arboretum. The Sasaki Plan suggested restriction of parking to the north and south ends of the Arboretum, and provision of a pedestrian/bicycle enclave with in it, a pedestrian overpass and a visitor center at the north point between Duck and Willow Bays. While few of Sasaki's recommendations were realized, the Waterfront Trail concept was implemented. The Trail, funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior was constructed in 1968. Its raised boardwalks and pontoon bridges connected Foster Island, Marsh Island, and Bamboo Island to a terminus just east of MOHAI.

During this period many inner-city communities had declined, and the expressway plans impacted neighborhood property values further. The ensuing struggle brought together residents of Montlake, the Central District, and Madison Park with others throughout the city. Thousands protested the planned expressway through the Arboretum on May 4, 1969. The public struggle led to the voters' rejection of the expressway through a city vote in 1972.¹⁰

⁹ Seattle Ordinance No. 92511 established an agreement with the University Regents, and established an "Arboretum Capital Improvement Trust Fund" for the condemnation proceeds. The funds were to be jointly administered "only for capital improvements within or expansion to the Arboretum . . . in accordance with a program . . . concurred in by both the Seattle City Council and Board of Regents of the University of Washington." Cited in Jones and Jones, 1978, p. 1 - 2.

¹⁰ Crowley, 2001, p. 79 – 81. Seattle's rejection of the proposed R. H. Thompson Expressway was one of three such actions by municipal voters in this period, and represents the beginnings of a rejection of freeway construction.

Although the Expressway extension was defeated, the impacts from construction of State Route 520 and the elevated expressway off-ramps were considerable. An estimated 60 acres were lost in the lagoon area, which had been part of the Olmsted Brothers proposed plan for the Arboretum. Excavations, which extended along the east side of 26th Avenue, filled with water. The resulting topography and the presence of the off-ramps eliminated the possibility of further development at the north end of the Arboretum. Two blocks of houses had been destroyed for the Expressway. Their sites, added to the Arboretum, were developed as a northern extension of the Pinetum.

In the late 1970s, the Arboretum's Pinetum was rededicated with the new Conifer Meadow, developed over an area of highway fill along 26th Street. Working to rebuild their neighborhood, Montlake residents worked to create a small playground. The neighborhood tot-lot at the end of Lynn and 26th Streets was built in 1984.

Floral Hall

In 1966 two local design firms (Architect Ibsen Nelson with Landscape Architect Richard Haag, and Architects Sabin, Bain and Overturf) were hired to prepare plans for a new building, Floral Hall. The location for the hall was suggested by an Administration Building, shown on the 1936 Olmsted Brothers General Plan as located at the north end of the Arboretum in the lagoon area. Floral Hall was envisioned as a regional center for ornamental horticulture, where gardening and academic functions would share space. Floral Hall was to include exhibit and administration spaces, a visitor support center, an auditorium and parking.

The concept of the 1966 hall was promoted by of the Friends of the Arboretum. Funding for the hall depended, however, on federal matching funds that were not forthcoming. At the same time, the public had begun to question the wisdom of constructing such a large building on the Arboretum's waterfront. The plans for the building were never implemented.

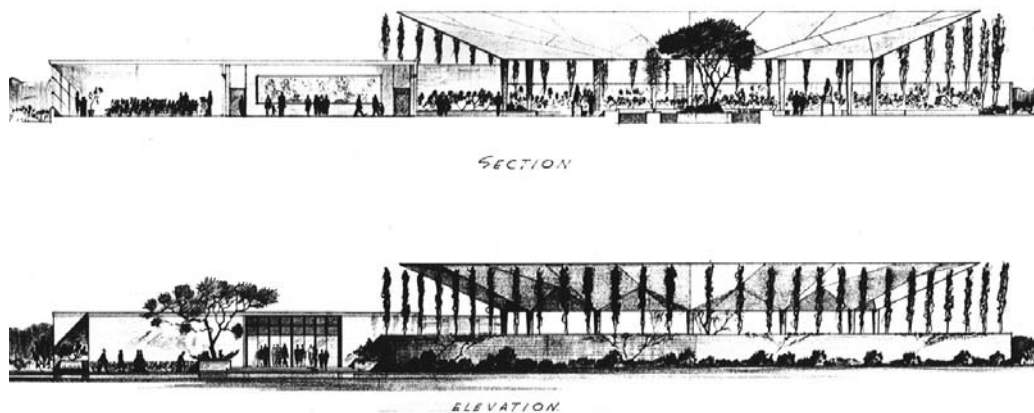


Figure 14. Proposed Floral Hall, 1966. Source: CUH.

The 1974 Agreements

The University's engagement with the Arboretum suffered with increased pressure and decreased funding from the State Legislature in the early 1970s. The Legislature, citing the property ownership, criticized the University's support of "a public park." Responding to the increased difficulty in maintaining its collection, the University formally proposed leasing 120 acres of the Arboretum, and limiting public access. A period of contention followed with battles between private citizens and the administrators of the Arboretum over building a fence, and other operation issues. (Conflicts over fencing the Arboretum date from the first efforts to develop the Arboretum in 1936.) This culminated in two actions in 1974: Passage of Resolution #24646 and Ordinance #103667.

Resolution #24646 clarified the 1934 Agreement, and recognized that, "The University with the cooperation of the City has established, operated and maintained a public arboretum in Washington park ... the Arboretum will be essentially a display area fulfilling the public service aspect of the university's overall arboretum program." Furthermore the agreement noted that "any structures to be built in the Arboretum ... shall be either replacements of existing structures or buildings to serve the public service space of the university's role in Washington Park, such as a visitor's center. In this resolution the city made firm financial commitments to support maintenance of the property.

Ordinance #103667 was passed by the Seattle City Council after a successful citizen's initiative. It set down "the principle that public parks are public trusts, to be maintained for present and future generations. It is the specific purpose of this ordinance to hold and preserve Washington Park and the Arboretum therein as open space park lands, freely accessible to all the citizens of Seattle." The ordinance required that public access remain unimpaired and not restricted, that there be no admission charge levied, and that the city not allow "non-park uses of any portion" of the park lands, specifically for university classrooms, office, laboratory or administration buildings."

In 1975, the Arboretum and Botanic Garden Committee was reactivated, after a three-year hiatus, during the period of negotiations between the City and University.

The Center for Urban Horticulture

In the late 60s a new organization, the Northwest Ornamental Horticulture Society (NOHS, originally the Friends of the University of Washington Arboretum Inc.), was created, partly in opposition to the Floral Hall proposal. In 1974 NOHS provided \$35,000 in private funds to develop the initial site plan of the Union Bay Teaching and Research Arboretum on the University's so-called East Campus near Laurelhurst.

In 1976, a donation by NOHS led to the hiring of the multidisciplinary firm Jones & Jones to develop a master plan for the Union Bay facility. This effort eventually led to construction of the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), in 1985. CUH contains a library and herbarium that were originally housed at the Arboretum, and serves as the site of research that was originally intended to be a part of the Arboretum.

1978 Arboretum Master Plan Update

In 1977 Jones & Jones were then hired by the Arboretum and Botanic Garden Committee to look at the original arboretum in Washington Park. Jones & Jones offered an "historical appreciation" for the Arboretum, and their approach proposed to start from the 1936 Olmsted Brothers Plan as implemented by Brian Mulligan, and then focused on resolution of conflicts amongst unresolved program elements.



Elements of the Jones & Jones Master Plan Update included:

- Name Change – To resolve conflicts, the name was changed from the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle's Washington Park to the Washington Park Arboretum.
- Gardens – The plan proposed to reinforce the Olmsted Brothers basic design concepts of distinct, memorable spaces along the series of three primary N-S circulation routes. Implemented in accordance with the plan was the "Conifer Meadow" from what was then known as "The Pit". The "Sunken Meadow", east of Arboretum Drive, above the Woodland Garden, was not developed.
- Collections – The plan critiqued the Olmsted Brothers decision to arrange plants by Families rather than by environmental and ecological constraints. The Update proposed some redistribution of plants, new collections from the southern hemisphere temperate areas (e.g. Chile), expanded collections of vines and groundcovers, plantings for birds on Foster Island, and recommended considerable thinning, of existing plantings. Few of the proposals were implemented.
- Arboretum Visitor Center – The plan located a new visitor center in the "public service core".
- Circulation – The plan proposed relocation of Arboretum Drive east of the visitor center along the Broadmoor property line. The plan proposed making Lake Washington Boulevard one-way north with southbound bike lane, and Arboretum Drive one-way south with northbound bike lane. The plan proposed creation of a Madison Park Bikeway along public lake shore lands, as the realization of the original proposed "Lakeshore Drive". The plan proposed using one of the defunct Expressway ramps as a pedestrian overpass. None of these recommendations were implemented.

Figure 15. Master Plan Map, Master Plan Update for the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle's Washington Park, Jones & Jones, 1978. Source: Parks.

Donald Graham Visitor Center

The 50th anniversary of the Arboretum Foundation in 1985 was celebrated with the opening of the Donald G. Graham Visitors Center. The Center was built with monies raised by the Arboretum Foundation, which then donated the Center to the City of Seattle. The architect was Richard Youel of MacAdoo, Malcolm and Youel.

The new visitor center replaced maintenance and office facilities from the WPA era that existed until they were removed to make way for the visitor center. Because of growth restrictions developed through the 1974 agreement, it has been reported that the present 5,200 square foot Graham Visitor Center equals the total footprint size of the earlier buildings.



Figure 16. Donald Graham Visitor Center, ca 1985. Source: Arboretum.

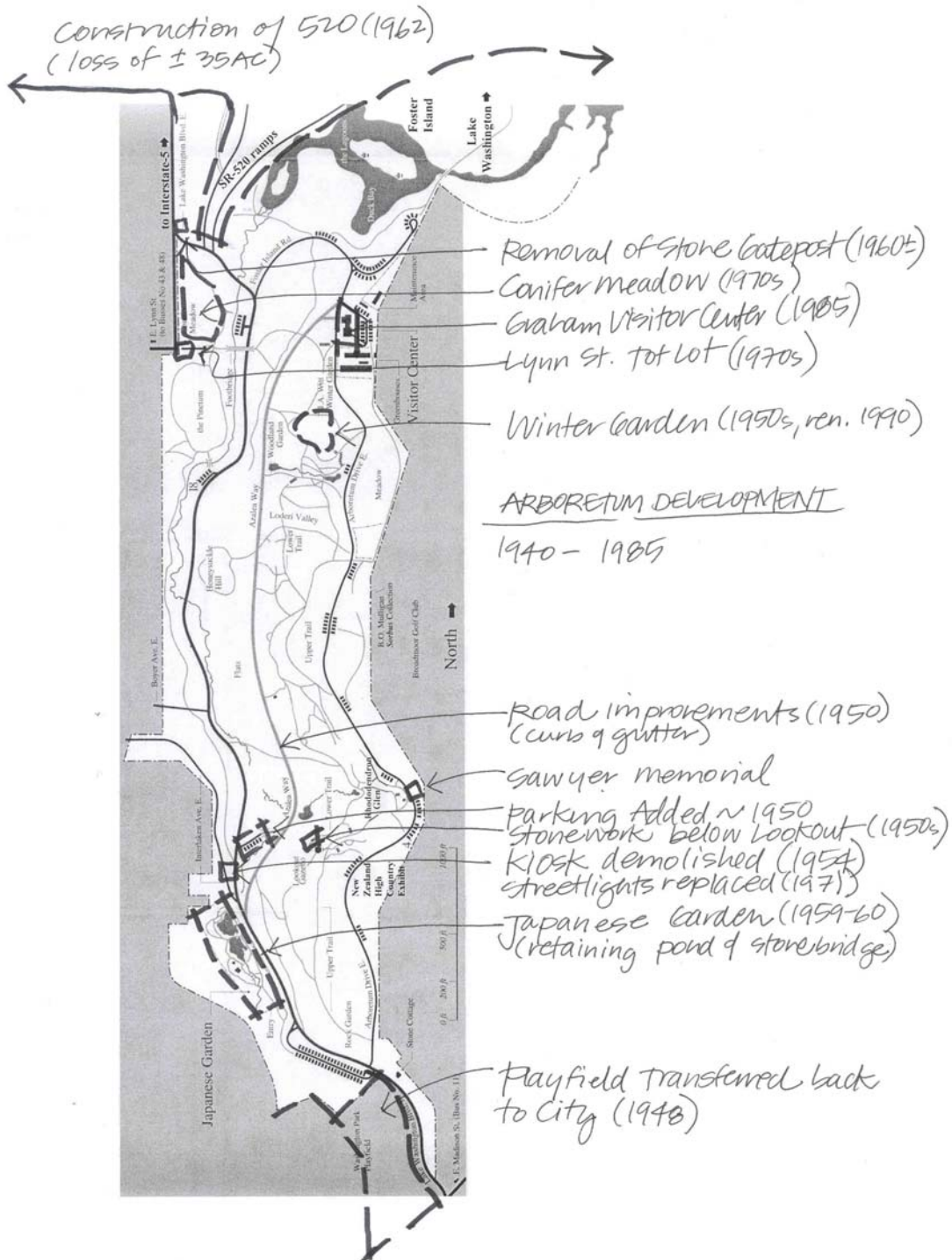


Figure 17. Plan of the Arboretum showing changes made in 1946 – 1985, by Karen Kiest Landscape Architects.

10. THE JAPANESE GARDEN

This section details the development of the Japanese Garden within the Arboretum, citing early intentions and describing major accomplishments to the present. The section provides a description of the garden, but does not discuss the historical origins of the Japanese Garden (in Japan or the United States), or provide a critique of the garden as developed.

Origins

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909 displayed elements of Japanese Gardens, including the Japanese Torii gate at the Montlake canal, and stimulated interest in a Japanese Garden for Seattle. In 1919, there was a proposal to develop a Japanese Tea Garden in Volunteer Park, relocating an existing teahouse from 5th Avenue and University Street.¹ The first formal interest in development of a Japanese Garden at the Arboretum began in 1937, when the Arboretum Foundation invited the International Cultural Society of Japan to create a garden on a five-acre site on Foster Island.² The project did not continue beyond this initial effort.

Planning for a Japanese Garden did not begin again until 1957. In December 1958 a major gift was accepted by the University for the development of a Japanese Garden and Tea House in the Arboretum.³

Juki Iida, and His Role as Designer

The plan of the garden was described as being a “collaborative work” by Juki Iida, who was commissioned to oversee the project, was in charge of construction of the project in 1959-60, and later provided the detailed history of the project.⁴ Mr. Iida, who lived from 1889 to 1977⁵ and was 70 years old when the Seattle Japanese Garden was constructed, was the creator of more than a thousand Japanese gardens in Japan and abroad, and was alone honored by the Emperor of Japan for his gardens. He also owned his own stone quarry in Japan, employing craftsmen in the construction of stone lanterns, and operated a number of retail plant nurseries.

The Design

“Garden Master” K. (“Shin”) Inoshita produced the basic design, which was then modified by Ryuo Moriwaki, Nobumasa Kitamura, Iwao, Ishikawa, Naotomo Ueno, Riki Ito, and Juki Iida. The 26-page set of plans produced by Inoshita and his team, presented a design primarily with loose perspective sketches and details.⁶ The design incorporated the existing pond and the stone bridge over the creek, and retained existing vegetation at the periphery.

¹ Letter from A.H. Albertson, Architect, to Board of Park Commissioners, June 13, 1919, Don Sherwood Files, SMA.

² “City to Go Oriental, \$50,000 Japanese Garden Planned,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 30, 1937 (MSCUA 93-153 30/49), and “Japanese Group Will Likely Accept Offer to Beautify Island,” *Seattle Times*, n.d. (CUH vertical Files). See also Scot Medbury, p. 129. In 1990 Medbury interviewed Caroline P. Johnson (Mrs. First), who indicated the plan was apparently abandoned when it faced a growing anti-Japanese sentiment at the time.

³ Report of the Tender of a Gift or Grant to the University of Washington, January 2, 1958.

⁴ Iida, p. 17 - 24.

⁵ “Juki Iida, 1889-1977,” *Arboretum Bulletin*, 1977.

⁶ Japanese Tea Garden for University of Washington Arboretum, Series I (not found) and II, December 20, 1959. See also Kiyoshi Inoshita, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan, “Design Intent Report on Seattle University of Washington Arboretum Japanese Garden,” 1959.

According to Iida (whose supervision of the project was funded by the Japanese Government and the City of Tokyo) the original intention was to complete the garden by 1964, the 100th anniversary of the opening of Japan to the western world; however the Foundation was interested in completing the project as soon as possible, so the construction was begun immediately, in 1959.

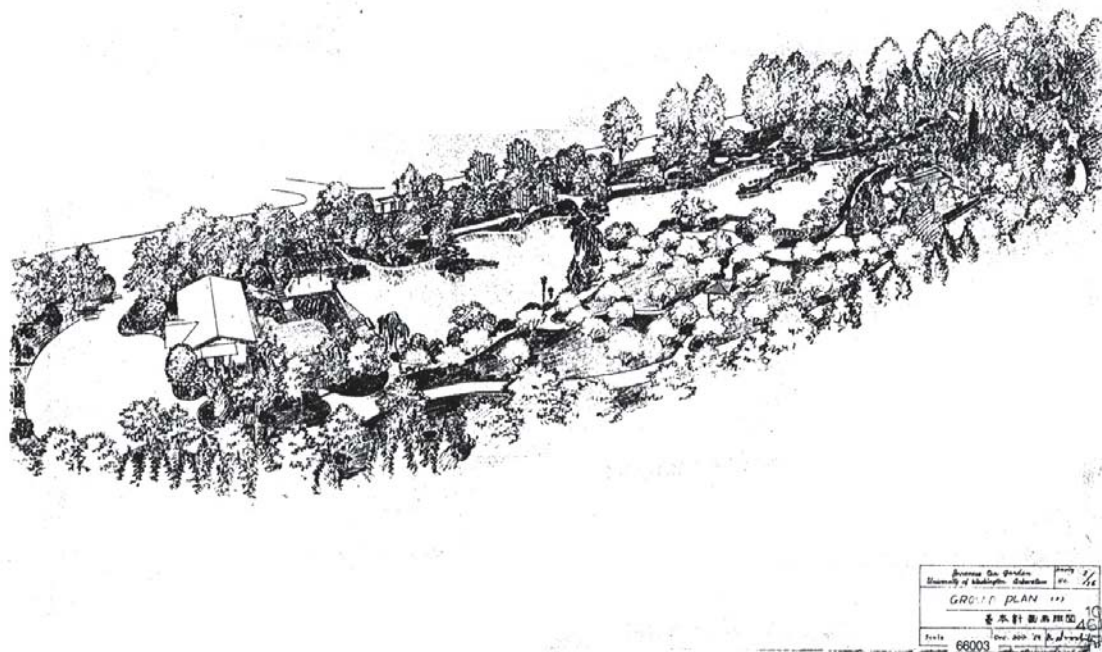


Figure 18. Preliminary Plan of the Japanese Garden, 1959. The building with separate entrance at left is the proposed northern pavilion, not constructed. Source: Parks.

Juki Iida was interested in the abilities of the American workers who applied to construct the garden. He interviewed and toured gardens produced locally by the applicants, and selected a three-men crew of second generation Japanese – William Yorozu for plans, Dick Yamasaki for stone work, and Kei Ishimitsu to construct the gates, pavilion (azumaya) and other architectural work.

Stones for the project needed to be identified immediately. Iida felt the rocks he had seen in Seattle’s gardens were too “small and pretty.” After looking at local sources, on his third day in Seattle, he was taken fifty miles east, along the banks of the Snoqualmie River in the Bandera area near Snoqualmie Pass. “Just before we were to head back to Seattle...I heard the sound of falling rock above us and recognized the sound to be that of granite. We climbed up the mountain, a wonderful granite monster imbedded with great boulders similar to the famous garden rocks in Japan that were brought from Mt. Tsukuba on Ojima. These rocks were even bigger and better than those on Mt. Tsukuba!” 600 tons of the Bandera Mountain stone (584 stones) were used in the garden.

Iida found suitable trees, including evergreens (firs and pines) and deciduous trees (especially maple) were available, but broad leaf evergreens were limited; he was obliged to use “gaudy” rhododendrons. He acknowledged that small sizes and straight trunks of the trees available meant that the rock and plant groupings planned would not be in balance for many years.

Following a trip to the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C. to inspect plans for the teahouse and garden, and a brief return trip to Seattle to select and plan the placement of stones, the construction of the pond and the grassy knoll, he returned to Japan for the winter, and produced 27 pages of note changes to the original plan. Returning in March 1960 with Mr. Kitamura, they were met with a garden nearing completion. Dividing up oversight of the project, (Kitamura took the pond, Iida the waterfall and stream), the project was ready for dedication on June 5, 1960.



Figure 19. Photograph of Mr. Iida, at the site of the Japanese Garden during construction in 1960. Source: Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Seattle Municipal Archives Photography Collection.

The Garden

The Garden contains features of stroll through gardens of the formal (*shin*) type built during the Momoyama Period (late 16th century) and early Edo Period (early 17th century). Near the flat stones that cross the pond at the southern end stands a stone lantern intended to light the way in winter when snow is falling (*yukimi-toro*). Includes at the middle island, connected by two bridges, one the medieval staggered direction type (*yatsubashi*) and the other the earthen bridge (*dobashi*) type. There is a narrow “cape” on the east bank with the small “cape lantern” (*misaki-toro*) type, and on the west bank between this lantern and the *yatsubashi* bridge is a moon-viewing platform, and standing in the water at the north end of the pond near the little detached island (*hanare-jima*) is another snow-viewing lantern of the *tachi-yukimi* type.

The north end of the garden is of the “fishing village” type, with a cut stone “boat dock”, and a stone lantern of the *omokage* type. The “foothills” of the “mountains” behind the dock are represented by a seven-foot tall stone wall. Beneath a wisteria trellis at the northeast corner the effect of streams flowing out to sea is accomplished by bridging the pond overflow with flat stepping stones. Seven flowering cherries donated by Seattle’s Japanese Club, and the planned *azumaya* define the open northwest slope of the garden.

The teahouse donated by the city of Tokyo, was hand-constructed in Japan, then disassembled for shipment, and arrived in Seattle as 1500 pieces packed in fourteen crates. The teahouse was first seen

at a Washington state trade fair, held in the Hec-Edmondson Pavilion at the University of Washington, and then was re-erected in the Japanese garden before garden construction began.⁷ The teahouse included a main room with large alcove (*tokonoma*) on the north wall and sliding paper walls (*shoji*) and storm windows (*amado*) on the east and south. The building included a preparation room, small kitchen, storage closet, and foyer. Without the separate building (*machiai*) for gathering, the roof of the teahouse was extended to create a protected outdoor area where guest could wait until a proper *machiai* could be built.

Not included in the 1960 garden, but identified in the 1959 Inoshita plan, was a large pavilion with separate entry and *zoukirin* forest at the north end of the garden. The pavilion was intended to serve as a clubhouse. The *Azumaya* was constructed per the plans, but the location was shifted north away from the Orchard Area, perhaps because the pavilion and *zoukirin* were not developed. Several elements were simplified: the enclosures, including fencing, gates and landscaping outside the fence along Lake Washington Boulevard, Camellia Glen plantings, pond elements, the teahouse (*machiai* building), site lighting, and the moon viewing deck⁸

Evolution of the Garden

In April 1973 the teahouse was destroyed by arson fire. The Arboretum Foundation raised funds in 1979 to rebuild the teahouse, using the original plans, and on March 8, 1981, the new teahouse was reopened.

The University of Washington transferred management of the Japanese Garden to the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation in 1981. In 1966 Prentice Bloedel Arboretum Unit 86, named after the Garden's major initial benefactor, was organized to support the Japanese Garden. In 1985 the Japanese Garden Society, formed as an offspring of Unit 86, became the first group to participate in the "Adopt-a-Park Program of the Park Department.

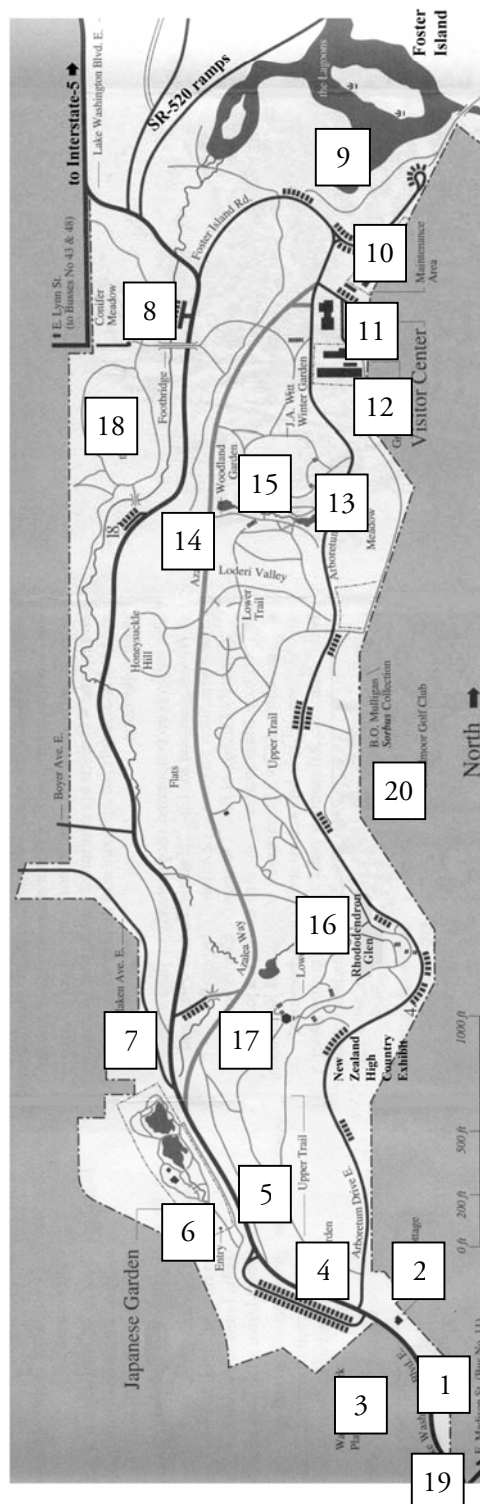
Current management of the Garden is coordinated by the Seattle Japanese Garden Advisory Council of the Parks Department, formed in 1993. Recent changes to the Garden include ADA revisions planned and built in 1997, major and regular pine prunings since 1998, shoreline restoration in 2002. Coinciding with updating the Arboretum master plan, the 1999 Vision Quest workshop: A Dream for the Future, sponsored by the Japanese Garden Advisory Council, and the August 23, 2002 Seattle Japanese Garden Comprehensive Overview have identified continued improvements to the garden.

⁷ Ken Sorrells, 2001.

⁸ Kobayashi and Associates, August 23, 2002.

11. VISUAL ASSESSMENT

This section includes the visual assessment of specific key areas within the Arboretum. These areas have been selected as they represent key areas in historic design documents, and because they contribute to the property as character-defining features. In this visual assessment, the areas have been examined discretely. However, the Arboretum is more than a sum of its component parts.



A survey sheet is provided for each element, identifying it by designer, contractor/installer, era of design and development. The survey sheets include historic and contemporary images and narrative text that describes the historic elements, changes over time, remaining historic elements and later additions. It identifies those later or contemporary additions that impact the historic integrity of the property.

Integrity is a term used in preservation planning that indicates that sufficient original, character-defining features remain to convey the historic and design significance of a property. A preliminary evaluation of physical integrity is not included in this visual assessment as such an evaluation requires additional investigation into each character-defining element.

Key Views

- No. 1 Lake Washington Boulevard
- No. 2 Gatehouse / Stone Cottage
- No. 3 Ballfield and Shelterhouse
- No. 4 Rockery
- No. 5 Stone Bridges, Arboretum Creek, and the Pond
- No. 6 The Japanese Garden
- No. 7 Interlaken Boulevard Intersection
- No. 8 N. Trunk Sewer Viaduct / Willcox Footbridge
- No. 9 Foster Island and the Lagoons
- No. 10 Barn / Maintenance Building
- No. 11 Administration Area and Tsutakawa Gates
- No. 12 Nurseries and Greenhouses / Lath Houses
- No. 13 Upper Road / Arboretum Drive
- No. 14 Azalea Way
- No. 15 Woodland Garden
- No. 16 Rhododendron Glen
- No. 17 Lookout / Gazebo
- No. 18 Pinetum Plant Collections
- No. 19 Gateway and Signage Elements
- No. 20 Memorials and Site Furnishings

Figure 1. Key character-providing elements in the Arboretum, noted on a contemporary map. Source: The Washington Park Arboretum.

Key View No. 1

Lake Washington Boulevard

Original Designer
Original Builder
Construction Date
Reference Plans

John Charles Olmsted, 1903 - 1906
J.W. Thompson, Parks Superintendent
1904 - 1906
Washington Park Topographical Map, August 1904 (Parks)
Planting Study for Washington Park, March 5, rev. March 22, 1906

History

This was the first designed and completed portion of the Boulevard, extending 2,150 feet north of Madison Avenue. The entire boulevard runs from Seward Park at its south end, north along Lake Washington, through the Madrona neighborhood, west to Madison Street, through Washington Park to the northeastern edge of the Montlake neighborhood. The Olmsted Brothers plan terminated the road at the south edge of the A-Y-P, held on the University of Washington campus in 1909. The Olmsted plan at the south entry showed 24' wide carriageways, planting strips, meandering sidewalks and irregular plantings of street trees. The first segment installed is similar to the 1904 and 1906 plans. Planting north of this section does not correspond to the 1906 plan.



Boulevard ca. 1930s (MSCUA 379/1/8)



Boulevard at Madison, spring 2002



Boulevard looking north, 1952 (Arboretum)



Boulevard looking north, fall 2002

Current Conditions

Changes since 1906 include changes in pavement from macadam or gravel to asphalt, from masonry gutter to standard curb and gutter, and growth of right-of-way plantings. WPA era light fixtures have been replaced. These physical changes to the Boulevard have not significantly impacted its design. However, the pattern of high-traffic use detracts from the experiential quality of travel through the natural environment of Washington Park.

Key View No. 2 **Gatehouse / Stone Cottage**

Original Designer/Date Architects Loveless and Fey, ca. 1936
Original Contractor Works Progress Administration
Construction Date 1937 – 1938

History

Located at the southern gateposts to the Arboretum, the Stone Cottage was originally intended to serve as a gatekeeper’s residence. The original structure, faced with Enumclaw basalt stone and clad with copper roofing panels, included a reception/office, which served as the occupant’s living room. It also had a small kitchen, bedroom and bath. The building served as the home for Brian Mulligan and his wife for a short period after his arrival in late 1946. Integral with the Gatehouse is a pair of stone pylons, made up by double piers with low walls. The pylons flank the boulevard and serve as a gate element for the property and for walkways. The west pylon has a WPA identification plaque.



Stone Cottage, ca. 1939. (Arboretum)



Partial west façade, porch and wall, fall 2002



Ca. 1938 north façade (MSCUA 379/1/11)



Partial north façade, fall 2002.

Current Conditions

The stone cottage is currently used as a residence for Arboretum staff, and there is no public access into it. Once visible on three primary sides, only portions of the north and west facades remain visible, partially obscured by the mature vegetation. Perimeter plants and heavy vines on the south façade impact the stone masonry. A low wall extends an estimated 20’ from the south side of the front porch where it is attached one of the two nearby stone entry pylons. A similar pylon is located on the west side of the boulevard. Original, multi-light windows need paint and are in poor condition. This building retains its picturesque appearance, although the original purpose/function as a gatehouse was never realized.

Key View No. 3

Ballfield and Shelterhouse

Original Designer/Date

E. K. Hoffman, Park Engineer, 1928

Construction Date

Ballfield, 1904 – 1907; Playing Field 1915; Shelterhouse/Fieldhouse, 1930; Backstops, 1952 – 1953

History

Development of the Ballfield began in the early 1900s as the City filled in a ravine of up to 50' at the location of the earlier wood trestle below Madison Street. The Olmsted Brothers' 1934 map of site conditions noted a single baseball diamond at the south end of the area. The Shelterhouse, a second diamond, and bleachers were completed in the late 1920s and early 1930s, along with similar facilities built in the Depression-era to serve growing recreation needs in city neighborhoods, including eight fieldhouses. The Olmsted Brothers 1936 Plan included a large Rose Garden for the same site. The garden was the first funded element of the 1936 plan, and was well promoted, but was never installed due to public concerns for the playfield. The playfield reverted to City jurisdiction in 1948.



Olmsted Brothers Photo, ca. 1934. (SMA)



View to NE from Madison Street, spring 2003



Shelterhouse, fall 1934 by Dawson (NPS 2699-7)



The Shelterhouse and Path, fall 2002

Current Conditions

The nine-acre Ballfield has contained two diamonds and a sandlot the 1990s, but retains similar configuration as originally developed. The flat site is enclosed by trees and shrubs. These including 22 mature redwoods along its north edge that separating it from a parking lot. The wood-frame and masonry Shelterhouse is used presently for storage, and contains exterior accessible restrooms.

The present Ballfield and Shelterhouse are similar to their original construction, but appear as park recreation facilities rather than part of the Arboretum.

Key View No. 4
Location **Rockery**
North of intersection of Lake Washington Blvd. and Arboretum Drive

Original Designer(s) Frederick Leissler, Otto Holmdahl, ca. 1938
Original Contractor Works Progress Administration
Construction Date ca. 1938

History Frederick Leissler recommended the alpine garden be developed at this location, instead of at the location shown on the Olmsted Plan (Woodland Garden). Otto Holmdahl oversaw installation of the stonework by WPA laborers in 1938, using Basalt stone from Cle Elum. Plantings continued to be installed into the 1950s. The rockery may be incomplete, given that the 1938 Arboretum Foundation report recommended discontinuing construction of the rockery, due to lack of funds.



Rock Garden, November 1952 (Arboretum)



Rock garden, spring 2003



Rockery, ca. 1952 (Arboretum)



Penstemon Plantings, Dec. 1959 (Arboretum)

Current Conditions It is unclear, without original plans for reference or additional on-site investigation, how much of this rockery's original design was implemented. Shrubs are presently overgrown, but the original rockwork is intact and well-aged. Present traffic and identity signage detracts from the naturalistic design intention and alpine landscape references.

Key View No. 5 **Stone Bridges, Arboretum Creek, and the Pond**

Original Designer/Date Olmsted Brothers, 1904 (Creek); 1936, Works Progress Adm., 1938
Original Contractor Works Progress Administration
Construction Date ca. 1938

History

A creek originally drained all of Madison Valley, including areas located south of Madison Street. When the ravine was filled at the trestle location at the north end of the Park, and storm/sewers were developed, the creek flow was reduced considerably. Springs above the Japanese Garden provided the primary water source until the 1990s, when water was diverted to the storm/sewer system because of high flows into the Japanese Garden pond. The creek presently receives intermittent flows only from the Woodland Garden and Rhododendron Glen. The creek was also straightened consistent with 1904 - 1905 and 1936 - 1938 Boulevard, Park, and Arboretum-related improvements. The Olmsted plan showed several pools along the creek, including one in the Maple Section, which was constructed by the WPA in 1938. The North Bridge was indicated on the 1936 General Plan. Both the north and south bridges were designed and built through the auspices of the WPA. The South Bridge and the Pond were reconfigured dramatically in 1959 – 1960 with the Japanese Garden construction. The Pond was renovated in the last few years.



Looking West Across Boulevard at Stone Bridge, ca. 1950 (Arboretum)



North Stone Bridge and Creek, spring 2003



(South) Stone Bridge and Pool in Maple Section, ca. 1938 (MSCUA, 377/1/8)



South Stone Bridge, Japanese Garden, summer 2003

Current Conditions

Arboretum Creek is completely altered from its natural condition, but similar in alignment to the major development period of the 1930s, although the flow has been considerably reduced since the mid-90s, when the springs above the Japanese Garden were diverted. The small pool was essentially reconfigured with development of the Japanese Garden. The North Bridge has not been renovated, but remains in fair condition. The South Bridge, within the Japanese Garden, is in good condition.

Key View No. 6

The Japanese Garden

Original Designer/Date
Original Contractor
Construction Date (s)

“Garden Master” K. “Shin” Inoshita, Juki Iida, 1959 - 1960
W. Yorozu, D. Yamasaki, K. Ishimitsu
1959 – 1960

History

Japanese Garden elements have been considered for the Arboretum since the A-Y-P in 1909, when a *Torii* gate was constructed on Foster Island. The Garden was developed on the site of the small lake in the maple section, and incorporated the existing stone bridge. The Japanese Garden was funded, designed and developed within a two-year period in anticipation of Seattle’s 1962 Century 21 Exhibition. The garden development in general follows the plan, except for structures, such as the north garden pavilion, and fence elements. In 1973 the teahouse was destroyed by arson fire. The teahouse was rebuilt in 1981. Management of the garden was transferred from the University of Washington to Parks that same year.



Juki Iida during construction, 1960 (SMA 30556)



Japanese Garden looking north, fall 2002



“Boat Dock”, fall 2002



Teahouse, fall 2002

Current Conditions

The Garden remains very similar to the original design. Plantings have matured, and a specialized garden brought in over the last several years for pruning. The pond is no longer supplied by the hill springs; in the 1990s the water source was diverted to the storm sewer given high winter flows and the pond was put on a recirculating system. The pond shoreline was restored in 2000.

Key View No. 7

Interlaken Boulevard Intersection

Original Designer/Date

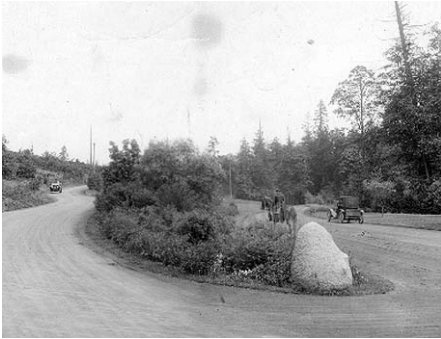
Boulevard intersection, Olmsted Brothers, 1904; Kiosk and Pylons, Lester P. Fey or Loveless and Fey Architects, ca. 1936.

**Original Contractor
Construction Date(s)**

Intersection, City of Seattle; Kiosk, Works Progress Administration
1904 and 1938

History

The Interlaken intersection has remained a popular spot for photographs since its inception. Originally a large boulder marked the relatively sharp northwest corner. In 1938 a small kiosk building was constructed by the WPA at the intersection to provide for traffic control. The kiosk was similar in style and detail to the South Gatehouse, also designed by Lester Fey of Loveless and Fey. It consisted of a two-part structure with a conical-roofed and gable-roofed portions, with a low stone wall extended from the building to a nearby stone pylon, matched by another pylon on the west side of Interlaken Boulevard. The unoccupied Kiosk remained until 1952 when it was removed in response to continued vandalism. A similar set of pylons, designed by Portico, was constructed ca. 1987 close to the location of the original pylons as part of an improvements project for Interlaken Boulevard.



Interlaken Boulevard, 1913 (SMA 30550)



Interlaken Boulevard, ca. 1940 (MSCUA)



Kiosk, ca. 1938 (MSCUA 379/1/11)



Interlaken Boulevard, spring 2003

Current Conditions

The road intersection remains, but without the original large boulder or kiosk. The planted corner contains turf and trees within a wider plant bed. Current traffic and signage detract from the sense of entry once provided by the original gateway elements. The present pylons are not historic.

Key View No. 8 **North Trunk Sewer Viaduct / Willcox Footbridge**

Original Designer/Date W.R.B. (Walter Ross Baumes) Willcox & Sayward, 1910
Construction Date 1910 – 1912

History

The Viaduct, presently also known as the Willcox Footbridge, was commissioned to support and elegantly conceal the north sewer trunk line that was extended to serve the Puget Mill Company's properties, later the Broadmoor development. The 23' tall, 180' long viaduct was constructed in six vaulted and semi-vaulted sections. It is a concrete structure with brick masonry veneer and a concrete topping slab, and features pairs of globe lights on painted cast iron poles.



Willcox Footbridge, ca. 1920, looking north on Lake Washington Boulevard (SMA)



Willcox Footbridge, similar view, spring 2003



View to the east on the bridge, spring 2003

Current Conditions

The Bridge remains essentially the same as constructed. Traffic signs have been added as a warning to tall vehicles because of the low 9'-6" clearance. Light fixtures have been restored, but with new globes. Some concrete elements of the original balustrade and top slab have been repaired and slightly modified. Original brickwork remains on the piers of the support arches and balustrades. The balustrade and brick work treatment are similar to Willcox's design for the West Queen Anne Walls (1913), which retain 8th Avenue Place between West Galer Street and West Highland Drive on the hill's west slope.

The Bridge was nominated as a City of Seattle Landmark in 1974 and was designated in 1976 under Ordinance No. 106070 (The West Queen Anne Walls have also been designated.).

Key View No. 9 **Foster Island and the Lagoons**

Original Designer/Date Several -- Federal, City, Olmsted Brothers, WPA, State Department of Transportation (State Route 520); Sasaki, 1964.

Original Contractor N/A

Construction Date(s) 1900 – 1970s

History The northern section of the Arboretum has experienced significant changes. Foster Island was originally a small island. Shorelands were greatly extended when the 1916 Montlake Cut lowered the water level of Lake Washington nine feet. The Olmsted Brothers considered the waterfront a unique environment for an arboretum, and proposed extensive lagoon gardens. Significant dredging to create the lagoons nearly exhausted the financial resources of the Arboretum Foundation in 1938. Construction of State Route 520 and its bridge across Lake Washington, which cut through the Lagoons and Foster Island, significantly impacted earlier features. The Waterfront Trail, identified in the Sasaki plan, is the last major change to the area.



Foster Island, June 1913 (MA 30551)



Foster Island, Fall 2002



Lagoons, Asahel Curtis, ca. 1935



Lagoons, Spring 2003

Current Conditions Today, this area remains in evolution, as the shoreline continues to change, plantings mature, and wildlife habitats continue to develop. Foster Island remains as the primary topographic feature. It includes some mature trees and plant collections.

Changes resulting from construction of the State Route 520 highway and bridge have impacted the lagoons, reducing their naturalistic character.

Key View No. 10 Barn / Maintenance Building

Original Designer/Date Fred Leissler, ca. 1934
Construction Date WPA, 1935 – 1936

History The present building, sometimes referred to as the Barn, is the Maintenance Building, constructed in the mid-1930s and remodeled in the 1980s. The original barn was located 28' from the eastern edge of the property, at what appear to be the original north terminus of the Speedway racetrack. As part of the project in the 1980s, a new 1,160 square foot storage structure, and 1,000 square foot vehicle shed were added nearby.



**Barn Under Construction, Jan. 5, 1934
(Arboretum)**



**Completed Barn, Aug. 6, 1934
(Arboretum)**



**Broadmoor Fence Under Construction, with
view of completed Barn in Background, 1936
(MSCUA)**



**Maintenance Building obscured by
Vegetation, summer 2003**

Current Conditions

The present Maintenance Building was remodeled in the 1980s and is in good condition. It is used by Parks crews with a lunchroom, and service space on the main floor with several office on the second floor.

The current building is within the Arboretum maintenance yard north of the Graham Visitor Center. The building retains its original massing and some of original cladding, windows and doors. Despite interior remodeling it appears similar to its original design. The building context has changed considerably, however. The maintenance yard is an assembly of buildings, with many new elements.

Key View No. 11 Administration Area and Tsutakawa Gates

Original Designer/Date George Tsutakawa, 1976
Graham Visitor's Center, Richard Youel of MacAdoo, Malcolm and Youel, 1985

Construction Date(s) Original Parks Headquarters, 1936 – 1950
Graham Visitor's Center, 1983 - 1985

History

The bronze gates were designed late in George Tsutakawa's career during a time when he explored sculptural expression with a number of public and private fountains, and gates. This pair is similar to those for the Lake City Library (1967) designed for a public setting. The gates were originally near the north end of Arboretum Drive, but relocated to the entry of the driveway into the Visitor's Center 50' car vehicle parking lot. They are hung from steel columns, set on cast concrete bases by low stone pylons that recall the original WPA-constructed gateway pylons of the late 1930s.

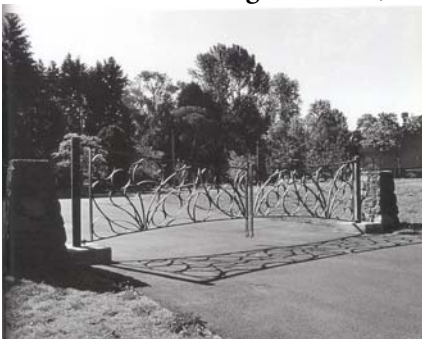
The nearby Graham Visitor's Center contains the Arboretum offices, a gift shop/lobby, public services and a classroom/reception room. Adjacent outdoor areas include several trellised terraces with landscape exhibits. The Visitor Center building is less than 25 years old, and is not included in this assessment.



Earlier Parks Building, ca. 1951(Arboretum)



The Graham Visitors Center, ca. 1985



Bronze gates by George Tsutakawa, ca. 1975, (Art in Seattle's Public Places, 1992).



Tsutakawa Gates at entry to Graham Visitors Center, summer 2003

Current Conditions

The bronze gates are typically kept open to minimize damage. Installed over 25 years ago, they have been well maintained and appear similar to their original form.

Key View No. 12 Nurseries and Greenhouses / Lath Houses

Original Designer/Date Parks, 1920s; Frederick Leissler, 1934; Olmsted Brothers, 1936
Original Contractor Works Progress Administration, ca. 1938
Construction Date(s) 1920s – 1941
Reference Plans Frederick Leissler Plan, 1934; Olmsted Brothers Plan, 1936;
WPA General Plan, 1938

History

Three production nurseries were located in Washington Park when J.F. Dawson of the Olmsted Brothers visited the site to note conditions in 1934. Leissler, local nurserymen and the Arnold Arboretum offered differing opinions on greenhouse orientation. The Olmsted plan shows a primary greenhouse and potting shed in an east-west orientation, similar to that constructed by the WPA, in a service area that is presently south of the Graham Visitors Center. The greenhouse was 30' by 140' +/- and featured a formal entry behind a raised gable-roofed entry and glazed side wings for display and production use.



Arboretum May 1938 showing Greenhouse and extent of Nursery (Arboretum)



WPA photo of Nursery Area with Broadmoor Perimeter Fence, 6-21-37 (Arboretum)



Working on New Greenhouse, 4-16-37, (Arboretum)



Greenhouse and Potting Shed, south side from the east, 3-14-56 (Arboretum)

Current Conditions

The historic greenhouse buildings have been replaced, and the nurseries have been changed. The main greenhouse and potting shed was replaced with the Pat Calvert Memorial Greenhouse, ca. 1971. Original or replacement lath houses remain in the area. The nursery area has been significantly reduced to an area between the Greenhouse and lath houses. Permit records from 1983 indicate removal of buildings for construction of the Graham Visitor's Center. No original WPA cedar picket fencing remains in this area. The present area remains a service area.

Key View No. 13 **Upper Road / Arboretum Drive**

Original Designer/Date Pre-existing Bike Path, 1900; Jacob Umlauff (Parks) 1934 - 1935; Olmsted Brothers (Frederick Dawson), 1936

Original Plans/Date Guide Map to Bicycle Paths, 1900
Route for Roadway, Seattle Municipal Park System, July 1904, General Plan, Olmsted Brothers, March 1936

Original Contractor City, Works Project Administration
Construction Date(s) 1900, 1935 - 1938

History Assistant City Engineer George F. Cotterill, as chairman of the Queen City Good Roads Club, identified existing bicycle routes, including one in the approximate location of the Arboretum Drive. An existing route is shown on the 1904 plan. Grading for the Upper Road (later renamed Arboretum Drive) began in 1934-5 under the direction of Jacob Umlauff, working partially from sketches hastily prepared by Dawson prior to submittal of the General Plan.



Arboretum Drive at original WPA Parking lot, with Stone Edging 1952 (Arboretum)



Arboretum Drive, fall 2002



"Upper Nursery", with original hedge (MSCUA 379/1/2)



Arboretum Drive with hedge grown into trees at nursery, spring 2003

Current Conditions

The drive remains much as originally developed by the WPA, according to plans originally drawn by the Olmsted Brothers firm. Additional parking areas have been developed. Plantings have matured, and vistas from the drive have been changed as a result.

Key View No. 14

Azalea Way

Original Designer/Date
Original Contractor
Original Plans/Date

City Speedway, 1906 – 1920s; Olmsted Brothers, 1936, 1937 - 1939
City, Works Progress Administration, Wash. Park Arboretum
General Plan, Olmsted Brothers, March 1936
Azalea Way Plan, Olmsted Brothers, 1939

Construction Date(s)

1908, 1936 - 1939, 1940s

History

Azalea Way was the name given by the Olmsted Brothers in the 1936 plan to their design for major improvements to the existing Speedway, a former carriage way and race track. The firm provided more detailed plans for this area.



Speedway, 1908 (SMA 30553)



“Azalea Way Before Improvement, ca. 1934 (Olmsted, Curtis)



“Artist’s Dream of completed Az. Way.”
Olmsted, Curtis)



Azalea Way, Spring 2003

Current Conditions

Azalea Way has been renovated several times. Major tree replacement followed the 1954 - 1955 winter freeze, and later to replace failing plantings due to poor drainage. There have been numerous efforts to improve area drainage up to the present.

Renovations have been undertaken with reference to the original layout and design intent of Azalea Way. The area remains a well-known feature of the Arboretum.

Key View No. 15 **Woodland Garden**

Original Designer/Date Olmsted Brothers, 1936; E.A. Fabi, 1939
Original Contractor Works Progress Administration,
Construction Date(s) 1938 – 1941

History

This area, like the Rhododendron Glen and Azalea Way, was a primary element of the Arboretum. It was identified on the Olmsted Brothers 1936 General Plan, but largely detailed and implemented locally through the efforts of the local garden clubs, major donors, and the design and oversight of others. The 1936 plan located an Alpine Garden (relocated to the Rockery) in the area known presently as the Woodland Garden. The West Seattle Garden Club hired the Swiss-German landscape architect E.A. Fabi to design a planting plan. Fabi died in 1939, however, just as WPA construction of the pools in the Woodland Garden was underway. In 1939 the West Seattle Garden Club funded the initial plantings in the Garden. In 1940 the Tacoma Garden Club sponsored a planting of 146 maple trees for the garden. A majority of original plants in the Woodland Garden were lost in the winter freeze of November 1955.



Woodland Garden, 1938 (MSCUA)



Woodland Garden, 1951 (Arboretum)



Woodland Garden, spring 2003



Upper Pool, ca. 1938 (Arboretum)



Upper Pool, Woodland Garden, fall 2002

Current Conditions

The Woodland Garden retains its original character, as determined by the valley landforms, but with significant changes to planting design accomplished through the efforts of several designers and gardeners.

Despite the loss of original plantings and relocation of Alpine Garden elements to the Rockery, the area retains most of its original character, although the planting design has changed over time.

Key View No. 16

Rhododendron Glen

Original Designer/Date
Original Contractor
Construction Date(s)

Olmsted Brothers, 1936; Otto Holmdahl, 1938; Ken Kelly
Works Progress Administration,
1938 - 1941

History

Rhododendron Glen, like Azalea Way, was and remains a primary character element of the Arboretum. It was identified on the Olmsted Brothers 1936 plan (for the Ericaceae family, which includes rhododendrons, etc.), but was largely detailed and implemented locally through the efforts of the local garden clubs, major donors, and the design and oversight efforts of Herbert Ihrig and others. A majority of original plants in the area were lost in the November 1955 freeze.



**WPA Installing Drainage in Glen, 1938
(MSCUA 379/1/2)**



**View north towards Rhododendron Glen,
spring 2003**



Head of Glen, Nov. 1947 (Arboretum)



Pond in Rhododendron Glen, fall 2002

Current Conditions

The glen has evolved, but retains most of its original features. Significant changes to planting design have been implemented through the efforts of several designers and gardeners. This element retains features of its original design although the planting has changed over time, and the area modernized in 1984 – 1985.

Key View No. 17

Lookout / Gazebo

Original Designer/Date	Olmsted Brothers, 1936; Loveless & Fey Architects, ca. 1936
Original Contractor	Works Progress Administration
Construction Date(s)	1939 – 1941
Reference Plans	Olmsted Brothers Plan, 1936 WPA General Plan, 1938

History

A Lookout building was located and the building suggested in the Olmsted's General Plan, but was designed locally. The building is constructed of Enumclaw basalt, fir timbers, and cedar shakes. Its shape is hexagonal with a peaked roof supported by peeled timbers and logs on low stone masonry sidewalls. Roof framing is exposed to the interior in the tradition of rustic park structures.



Lookout, open view north, 1940s (MSCUA, 379/1/3)



Lookout, closed view north, spring 2003



New Steps north of Lookout, ca. 1967(Arboretum)



Steps north of Lookout, summer 2003

Current Conditions

The Lookout is well maintained and in good condition. Original stone walls, which extend to the southeast to serve as cheek blocks above the steps, have been changed, and the original wood shingle roofing has been replaced with standing seam metal roofing. The view from the lookout has changed significantly as plantings have matured. Despite changes, the Lookout appears similar to its original form.

Key View No. 18 **Pinetum/Plant Collections**

Original Designer/Date Olmsted Brothers, 1936; Frederick Leissler, 1936 - 1938, John Hanley, 1939 - 1946, Brian Mulligan, 1946 - 1972
Original Contractor Works Progress Administration
Construction Date(s) 1937 - 1972

History

This area, like the Rhododendron Glen and Azalea Way, was a primary character-defining element of the Arboretum. This drumlin hill west of Lake Washington Boulevard selected by J. Frederick Dawson for the start of the botanical sequence. The first Arboretum plantings were laid out in this area in December of 1937. Pines, Cypressess, Chamaecyparis, Spruces and Firs were set out from the. Plantings were likely installed under the direction of Fred Leissler. There is no evidence a detailed planting plan was prepared in advance. In the late 1970s, the Arboretum's the new Conifer Meadow was developed over an area of highway fill along 26th Street.



Pinetum, facing southwest, ca. 1952 (Arboretum)



Pinetum, photo of same, 12-31-62 (Arboretum)



Near East Lynn Street Looking West, Group of Sequoias, ca. 1952 (Arboretum)



Pinetum, facing southwest, Summer 2003

Current Conditions

The Pinetum retains its original informal character, as determined by the hill landform. The collection has matured, with much replanting of older plantings underway. Plantings in the Conifer Meadow have been challenged by poor installation and compacted soil conditions.

The primary Pinetum area retains the intent of its original design although the plantings have evolved considerably over time.

Key View No. 19 Gateway and Signage Elements

Original Designer/Date Construction Date(s) Unknown. Stone pylons may have been by Loveless & Fey, ca. 1934. ca. 1938 – 1939, and later.

History In addition to the stone pylons at the Gatehouse at the South Entrance and at Interlaken, there were at least two WPA-era signs — one of carved wood at Madison Street, which and one in the vicinity of Miller Street at the north end, which was removed during construction of Highway 520. A new wood sign was carved for the South entry in 1984 to reflect the change of the Arboretum name from “University of Washington Arboretum” to “Washington Park Arboretum”. More recent signs include those from various eras, including identification, way-finding, exhibits, and traffic signs.



North Arboretum Sign, May 1944, removed during 520 construction, 1960s (Arboretum)



Entry Sign at Madison, renamed Washington Park Arboretum, 1984 (Arboretum)



Entry Sign missing from Madison pylon, summer 2003



Pair of pylons (original location unknown) relocated to Nursery Area, summer 2003



Pylon (original location unknown) on side in Nursery service area, summer 2003

Current Conditions The carved wood sign is missing from the stone pylon at Madison Street. The stone masonry pylons at the south end appear to be original and are in fair condition. Nearby entry, identifying, and way-finding signs vary in terms of their age, design features and materials, content, and physical integrity.

Key View No. 20 **Memorials and Site Furnishings**

Original Designer/Date Varies
Construction Date(s) Varies, ca. 1945 – 1972

History

There are a number of memorials throughout the Arboretum. These include the Mrs. Alexander McEwan Memorial (1947, planting area), Isabel McCormick Preston Memorial (1961, stone seating), the Anna T. Milburn Memorial (stone seating wall), Maude Sawyer (1961, drinking fountain, 1961). Others are planted collections, such as the Mary Williams Memorial Camellia Garden (designed by Otto Holmdahl, 1945), or the Tenny and Dexter Collections of rhododendrons. Others include historic benches, such as three that make up the Mary Hughes Faxworthy Memorial (1961). In addition there are commemorative trees and plants, such as the Eleanor Roosevelt elm.

Light fixtures are included here under Site Furnishings. The original pole lights, installed in the WPA era, were crafted of timber poles and supports and pendant globe lights. New light fixtures were installed in the 1970s, fashioned from an inverted UW standard light set on a metal standard attached to a wooden pole. Other site furnishing elements, such as benches, may be considered non-permanent additions, and are not included in this section.



Millburn Memorial, March 7, 1952
(Arboretum)



Millburn Memorial, summer 2003



Eleanor Roosevelt Elm, summer
2003



A Boulevard Light Fixture, ca.
1938, Leissler (Arboretum)



Remaining original fixture,
Interlaken, spring 2003



New Light Standard at
Interlaken, spring 2003.

Current Conditions

All of the memorials are located east of Lake Washington Boulevard. Recent policy has eliminated constructed memorial objects, and allows only identification with non-specific trees in the Arboretum. An original pole light is still standing, although in poor condition at the Interlaken intersection. The newer light standards, not part of the original historic material, are in satisfactory condition.

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Meetings, Lectures, and Interviews

Dr. John Wott, Arboretum Director, January 31, 2002 and July 11, 14 and 18, 2003.

Karen Gordon, City of Seattle Historic Preservation Officer, December 17, 2002.

Robert McNeil, 1936 WERA employee (National Youth Association), July 13, 2003.

Michele Finnegan, Parks Coordinator for Japanese Garden.

Dennis Meyer, Portico Principal, January 20, 2003.

Feliks Banel, Museum of History and Industry, July 31, 2003.

Anne Knight and Jerry Arbes, Friends of Seattle Olmsted Parks, December 2002 – July 2003

Phyllis Anderson, Seattle Garden Club sponsored-lecture, March 20, 2003.

National Association for Olmsted Parks Conference, April 28 – May 4, 2003.

Susie O'Neill, Broadmoor Golf Club, May 7, 2003.

Appendix A.

Washington Park Arboretum & Seattle/King County/U.S. Timeline

This timeline identifies historic events in Seattle, King County, or the Nation that provide a context for those with directly association with the history of Washington Park and the Arboretum. A specific timeline for the Japanese Garden follows.

1850s

- 1851 Denny party arrives at Alki Point (West Seattle)
- 1852 Territorial Legislature creates King County
- 1853 US Army Corps of Engineers proposes canal between Lake Washington and Lake Union
- 1855 Territorial Legislature Act establishes the Washington Territorial University (later the University of Washington)
- 1857 Northern Pacific Railway incorporates through an act of Territorial Legislature

1860s

- 1860 – 1885 Construction of the Montlake Cut
- 1861 The Territorial Legislature locates the University of Washington in Seattle
- 1865 City of Seattle incorporates on January 16

1870s

- 1870 Population reaches 1,100 in Seattle
- 1870 Northern Pacific Railroad survey triggers land boom
- 1873 Northern Pacific Railroad chooses Tacoma for its western terminus
- 1879 Squire's Opera House, Seattle's first theater, opens in November

1880s

- 1880 Population of Seattle reaches 3,500
- 1882 First steamship across the Pacific departs Seattle
- 1883 Completion of first trans-continental railroad line from Puget Sound
- 1884 Northern Pacific builds railroad spur from Tacoma to Seattle
- 1884 David Denny donates a five-acre tract, the city cemetery, as a designated public park
- 1885 - 1886 Mobs raid Chinese immigrant communities, and drive out most residents in February
- 1887 City of Seattle Ordinance 874 creates the Board of Park Commissioners
- 1889 Washington admitted to the Union as the 42nd state on November 11
- 1889 Electric trolley line in Seattle begins regular service in March
- 1889 50 blocks of downtown Seattle burn to the ground on June 6

1890s

- 1890 Population of Seattle rises to 42,000 and that of King County to 63,000
- 1890 City establishes a park fund from bonds, appropriations, gifts, licenses and penalties
- 1891 The Puget Mill Company logs 320 acres on the shores of Lake Washington, in anticipation of development (Plans are delayed due to panic and financial depression of 1893.)

- 1891 Seattle University forerunner, St. Francis Hall, opens in February
- 1891 Annexation of north-of-downtown communities doubles Seattle's size
- 1891 University of Washington Professor Edmond Meany, a member of the State Legislature, is directed to acquire a new University site, which is to include an arboretum
- 1892 - 1896 E. O. Schwagerl, landscape architect and engineer, serves as Seattle's first Superintendent of Parks, and develops first comprehensive plan for city parks
- 1893 Transcontinental rail travel from Seattle begins
- 1893 Panic on May 5 sends the nation into a four year depression
- 1895 Classes begin at the new University of Washington Union Bay campus
- 1896 Regular scheduled shipping begins between Seattle and Japan. The first concert in a city park is given to honor the arrival of the S.S. Mike Maru, and celebrate trade with Asia.
- 1897 Gold Rush begins when Klondike steamship docks in Seattle on June 17
- 1899 UW Regents declares, "There should be established a scientific arboretum for the cultivation, care and study of all sorts of trees and plants that will thrive in this climate." Seattle Park Board donates over 3,500 surplus trees to the University
- 1899 First Phase of Denny Regrade begins

1900s

- 1900 The Puget Mill Company plats Brookmoor, and exchanges 67.7 acres to the city for \$35,000 worth of water main infrastructure development on adjacent property
- 1900 Plans are generated for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (A-Y-P) on the site of the future site of the UW Campus on Union Bay
- 1900 First automobile arrives in Seattle
- 1900 City purchases two large tracts for Woodland Park and Washington Park
- 1900 Population of Seattle rises to 80,000 and King County to 110,000
- 1903 Seattle Symphony Orchestra performs for the first time
- 1903 John C. Olmsted arrives in Seattle in April
- 1903 Seattle City Council, on the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners, contracts with the Olmsted Brothers to conduct a thorough survey and provide a comprehensive plan for Seattle parks
- 1903 John C. Olmsted spends several weeks in the summer studying the city's topography and potential parks
- 1903 City Council accepts Olmsted's report on October 19
- 1903 Professor Meany develops a seed and plant catalog and exchange
- 1903 University's first Grounds Superintendent is appointed
- 1904 Construction of the Alaska Building, Seattle's first steel-framed skyscraper
- 1904 The first shelterhouse in Seattle is built in Denny Park
- 1905 Cedar River Power Plant opens, first municipally owned plant in US
- 1905 Second Phase of Denny Regrade begins
- 1905 \$500,000 park bond passes
- 1906 King Street Station opens on May 10
- 1906 Carnegie-funded Public Library opens in downtown Seattle
- 1907 Olmsted Brothers produce a plan for extending Washington Boulevard to the A-Y-P Exposition grounds

- 1907 Seattle's Pike Place Farmers Market in Seattle opens in August
- 1907 Seattle annexes six towns including Ballard and West Seattle
- 1908 \$1,000,000 park bond passes
- 1908 Hack racing begins operation on the Speedway, in Washington Park
- 1909 UW campus Arboretum plantings are lost when land is cleared for the A-Y-P
- 1909 Transcontinental auto race ends in Seattle on June 2
- 1909 Seattle's first public tennis courts are installed in Broadway Playfield and Woodland Park, and the first playground swings are installed in Denny Park and Volunteer Park

1910s

- 1910 Creation of Seattle City Light, a municipally owned utility
- 1910 Census counts Seattle population at 240,000 and King County's at 284,000
- 1910 The first Boy Scout troop in Seattle is organized at Collins, Rogers and Ballard Playgrounds
- 1910 Women in the state win the vote on November 8
- 1910 Parks appoints its first fulltime Director of Recreation
- 1910 First airplane flight in Seattle
- 1910 \$2,000,000 Park Bond passes (followed by \$500,000 Bond passage in 1912)
- 1911 Voters in King County create the Port of Seattle
- 1911 Montlake Ship Canal construction begins
- 1911 Construction begins on the Hiawatha and Ballard Fieldhouses to serve as year- round recreation centers, followed by Collins Fieldhouse in 1912 and South Park Fieldhouse in 1913
- 1912 Voters reject Virgil Bogue's comprehensive Plan of Seattle
- 1912 The North Trunk Sewer Viaduct (Willcox Pedestrian Bridge) is built
- 1914 The Smith Tower, tallest building west of Mississippi, opens
- 1914 Olmsted Brothers plan for UW campus presented to but not adopted by Regents
- 1915 Madison Street trestle, at south end of Washington Park, replaced by landfill
- 1915 Regents plan for UW campus, by Bebb and Gould, adopted
- 1916 William E. Boeing builds his first airplane on the shore of Lake Union
- 1916 Breaking of coffer dam at the Montlake Cut drops Lake Washington nine feet, adding more University and City land to Washington Park
- 1916 Washington voters enact Prohibition
- 1917 Lake Washington Ship Canal is completed on May 8
- 1917 Seattle purchases Foster Island for \$15,000 and adds property to Washington Park
- 1919 The City takes over ownership and operation of the streetcar system
- 1919 General strike paralyzes Seattle for a week in February
- 1919 Riding Academy established in Washington Park; it operates through 1935

1920s

- 1920 Western Washington's first radio broadcast
- 1920 Census notes Seattle's population at 315,000, and King County's at 390,000
- 1921 - 1928 The Parks Department operates an auto tourist camp in lower Woodland Park

- 1923 College of Forestry Dean Hugo Winkenwerder searches for off-campus site for a new arboretum
- 1924 University of Washington President Henry Suzzallo enters into an agreement with the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners to reserve Washington Park for a Botanical Garden and Arboretum
- 1924 Parks Board rejects proposal for prisoners, to be housed on Foster Island, for park labor
- 1924 Construction of Olympic Hotel funded through community bonds
- 1924 The City Council appropriates \$62,000 to fund an Emergency Unemployed Program. The program continues until 1932 when it is succeeded by state and federal relief programs
- 1925 A new Park Department position, Landscape Architect, replaces the position of Park Engineer; the engineers position is re-established in 1927-1934.
- 1926 Bertha K. Landes, first woman mayor of a major U.S. city, elected in Seattle
- 1926 Unemployed relief workers begin clearing Washington Park Arboretum
- 1928 Boeing Field, Seattle's first municipal airport, opens on July 26
- 1928 City hires first Park guards hired to halt heavy truck traffic on Lake Washington Boulevard through the Arboretum
- 1928 Seattle's Municipal Recreation Committee report submitted to Parks and School Boards
- 1929 Stock market crashes, economic boom halts, and the Great Depression begins

1930s

- 1930 The Arboretum and Botanical Society is formed
- 1930 Final phase of Denny Regrade completed
- 1930 Population of Seattle tops 365,000 and King County's tops 460,000
- 1931 Parks adopts Hoffman's 10-Year Plan
- 1932 Construction of George Washington Memorial/Aurora Bridge
- 1932 "Hooverville" shantytown built south of Pioneer Square
- 1933 Seattle Art Museum opens in Volunteer Park
- 1932 Boeing 247, first modern airliner, debuts
- 1933 State Legislature passes Emergency Relief Administration Bill. (W)ERA
- 1933 Arboretum Agreement drafted between the University and the City
- 1934 West Coast waterfront strike spreads to Seattle harbor
- 1935 The State's ERA bill expires, after expending over \$88,000 in surveying and mapping the Arboretum area, clearance and creation of contour map
- 1934 After purchasing more shorelands, the Park now includes 175 acres of land
- 1934 - 1935 The Seattle Garden Club raises \$3,000 for Arboretum Master Plan
- 1934 The Arboretum Agreement is signed between the University and City
- 1936 The Arboretum Advisory Council is established; its members form The Arboretum Foundation the same year
- 1935 Olmsted Brothers contracted for Arboretum Plan
- 1935 Prototype of Boeing B-17 makes maiden flight
- 1935 - 1938 WPA workers construct roads, buildings, fences, and grade the Arboretum site
- 1935 - 1939 Hugo Winkerverder appointed first Director of Arboretum
- 1936 Design of the Gatehouse/Stone Cottage, by architects Loveless and Fey

- 1936 The Foundation publishes the first Arboretum Bulletin for the University of Washington
- 1936 The Arboretum Foundation undertakes its first campaign, Arboretum Unites, to raise funds for the Arboretum and to offer plant study opportunities for members
- 1936 Strike shuts down Seattle Post-Intelligencer
- 1935 Olmsted Brothers provide General Plans for the University of Washington Arboretum in March
- 1936 - 1938 WPA crews begin dredging the lagoon areas
- 1938 First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visits Seattle and Arboretum
- 1939 First plant acquisitions include the Tenny Rhododendron Collection
- 1939 Azalea Way sown with grass; Japanese cherries, eastern dogwoods and azaleas are planted the following spring
- 1939 Acquisition of additional eight acres of shore land increases size of Washington Park
- 1939 – 1946 John H. Hanley serves as Arboretum Director

1940s

- 1940 Boeing intensifies production of bombers at Boeing and Renton factories and hires large numbers of women and African American workers for the first time
- 1940 Lake Washington Floating Bridge, future I-90, opens
- 1940 Seattle's population, at 368,000, represents an increase of only 3,000 since 1930
- 1940 Parks opens the West Seattle Golf Course, the city's third municipal course
- 1940 West Seattle Garden Club funds plants for two-acre Woodland Garden, and an additional 1,400 azaleas are added to Azalea Way
- 1941 The Lookout, shown on earlier Olmsted plans, is constructed, based on Loveless and Fey design. A stone footbridge is built at north end. The Gateway/Stone Cottage at the south end designated as the visitors' entry to the Park
- 1941 Trackless trolleys and buses replace Seattle Transit System streetcars
- 1941 WPA labor assistance to the Arboretum ends in July after five year's work
- 1941 Pearl Harbor, December 7, leads to U.S. entry into WWII
- 1942 Japanese Americans ordered to evacuate Seattle on April 21
- 1943 State Legislature approves support for the Arboretum in its budget
- 1945 Atomic bombs dropped on Japan, August 6, ending World War II
- 1947 The first Arboretum Plant Sale held is held in a tent in Rhododendron Glen
- 1947 University of Washington Medical School opens in October
- 1947 HUAC begins investigating Un-American Activities
- 1947 - 1972 Brian O. Mulligan serves as Arboretum Director
- 1948 Nine acres that make up the ballfield revert to City for park recreation use
- 1948 First TV broadcast seen around Puget Sound in November
- 1948 City Charter amendment requires the Park Commissioners appoint park superintendent
- 1949 Severe earthquake on April 13
- 1949 The Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Concerts begin musical voyages to city parks
- 1949 Seattle-Tacoma International Airport dedicated

1950s

- 1950 Seattle's population rises to 465,000 and King County's to 730,000
- 1951 First Seafair festival
- 1952 The Alaskan Way Viaduct, Seattle's first downtown "freeway," opens
- 1952 Museum of History and Industry is built in McCurdy Park
- 1953 City of Bellevue incorporates
- 1953 Foster Island declared a Bird Sanctuary
- 1954 Seattle expands city to present boundaries
- 1955 Major loss of shrubs in the winter's big freeze
- 1958 King County voters approve Metro plan to clean up Lake Washington
- 1959 The Patricia Calvert Greenhouse is built

1960s

- 1960 Port of Seattle expansion approved by King County voters in November
- 1960 Population of Seattle tops 550,000 and that of King County tops 925,000
- 1961 Construction of Highway 520 begins, resulting in a loss of 60 acres of Arboretum land, and creation of a \$500,000 compensation trust fund
- 1961 Funds given by The Seattle Garden Club allow for development of the Rock Garden
- 1961 Arboretum Foundation volunteers create the Arboretum Guide Program
- 1962 Wing Luke, first Asian American Seattle City Council member is elected
- 1962 Seattle's "Century 21" World's Fair, opens April - October
- 1963 The 520/Evergreen Point Floating Bridge, the second floating bridge, opens
- 1964 Seattle housing referendum fails
- 1965 Second major 20th century earthquake
- 1966 Hideo Sasaki develops revised Master Plan for the Arboretum
- 1966 Japanese Maple collection of 79 trees, the largest single Arboretum acquisition, is given by a private donor from Indianapolis
- 1966 Philosophical disagreements within membership created a schism, and separate Arboretum support group forms; one group later becomes the Northwest Horticultural Society
- 1967 Sam Smith, first African American Seattle City Council member, is elected
- 1967 The Arboretum Waterfront Trail, based on Sasaki plans, is built, funded by U.S. Department of Interior
- 1967 Board of Park Commission reorganized as an advisory body to the Mayor and Council, and fiscal, management, operation and administration roles go to Superintendent of Parks
- 1967 Floral Hall design for the Arboretum proposed
- 1968 King County voters approve Kingdome and reject rail transit in Forward Thrust Bond (The Bond provides \$65,000,000 for public projects. By 1974, it had grown, with the addition of matching funds, interest, etc. to \$92,000,000. By 1976, over 40 new park properties were acquired by the Parks Department with these funds.)
- 1969 Saturn booster sends Apollo 11 first moon-landing mission

1970s

- 1970 Anti-war “Freeway March” blocks Interstate-5
- 1970 Population of Seattle dwindles to 530,000, 46% of King County’s
- 1972 Voters scrap the proposed R.H. Thompson Expressway through the Arboretum
- 1972 Brian O. Mulligan retires as the Arboretum Director, but continues to serve on the Board of *The Arboretum Bulletin*. Joseph A. Witt assumes Mulligan’s management duties
- 1972 The Boeing Bust begins with heavy layoffs at local company facilities
- 1974 Seattle City Council passes Resolution No. 24646, Letter of Clarification, and Initiative Ordinance No. 103667 on August 12
- 1978 Jones and Jones complete Arboretum Master Plan
- 1979 Dr. Harold B. Tukey, Jr., from Cornell University, selected as Director to create the University of Washington’s Center for Urban Horticulture. CUH later becomes the University’s management office for the Arboretum

1980s

- 1980 The National Park Service acquires Fairsted, the Olmsted home and office in Brookline, Massachusetts, which includes the firms’ archives of plans, reports, correspondence and documents. The property is designated as the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.
- 1980 Mount Saint Helen’s volcanic eruption
- 1980 The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) is founded
- 1984 Seattle Friends of Olmsted Parks (FSOP) organized to begin inventory of city’s Olmsted parks
- 1985 Opening of the Donald G. Graham Visitors Center, a gift to the City of Seattle from the Arboretum Foundation. The Arboretum’s 50th anniversary of the is celebrated
- 1987 The Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden, a gift of the Arboretum Foundation, is established with leadership by Iain Robertson, University landscape architecture assistant professor
- 1987 Fundraising for the renovation of Azalea Way begins with proceeds from the Preview Party of the Northwest Flower and Garden Show
- Late 1980s Work begins to place Arboretum collection records on BG Base computer system
- Late 1980s Portions of Arboretum are mapped in 100 square foot grids, in anticipation of the 1994 publication, “The Woody Plants of the Washington Park Arboretum.”)

1900 to the Present

- 1990 Brian O. Mulligan Sorbus Collection is renovated with funds provided by the Arboretum Foundation
- 1991 Dr. Harold B. Tukey resigns as Director of CUH, but remains on University faculty
- 1992 Dr. Clement Hamilton, Associate Professor of Horticultural Taxonomy, appointed Acting Director, and subsequently, Director of the CUH
- 1993 John A. Wott named Director of Arboreta, with offices at Washington Park Arboretum
- 1993 The New Zealand High Country Exhibit dedicated
- 1994 The Arboretum Pond Renovation project begun
- 2001 City Council the Arboretum Master Plan, “Renewing the Washington Park Arboretum”
- 2003 National Association of Olmsted Parks Conference held in Seattle
- 2002 Implementation of the Arboretum Master Plan begins

Seattle Japanese Garden Chronology, 1904 - 2002

- 1882 First steamship across the Pacific departs Seattle
- 1909 Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition stimulates interest in Japan and Japanese gardens
- 1937 The Arboretum Foundation invites International Cultural Society of Japan to create a garden on a five-acre site; ICSJ donates \$57,000 for the project
- 1957 K. Inoshita and three other designers create thirty-eight page plan for a Momoyama Period stroll garden in the Washington Park Arboretum, a gift of the Tokyo metropolitan park department
- 1959 Juki Iida supervised the installation of the Japanese Garden in the Arboretum
With the plans for the garden, the teahouse, a gift from the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo, is built in Japan, shipped to Seattle, and assembled in the garden
- 1960 The garden opens to the public on 5 June
- 1966 Arboretum Foundation Unit 86 forms to commemorate benefactor Prentice Bloedel and to train guides to the Japanese Garden
- 1973 Arson fire destroys the teahouse on 9 April
- 1980 Seattle City Council and Urasenke Foundation, Kyoto, partner to rebuild the teahouse
- 1981 University of Washington and the Arboretum Foundation transfer management of the Japanese Garden to Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
- 1983 With a major gift and leadership from Urasenke Foundation, the teahouse is rededicated. U.W. offers a new art history course, "Chado: the Way of Tea"
- 1983 Arboretum Foundation Unit 86 adopts the Japanese Garden, the first group to participate in Seattle's "Adopt-a-Park" program
- 1985 The Japanese Garden Society forms and incorporates
- 1993 Seattle Japanese Garden Advisory Council forms within the Department of Parks and Recreation
- 1997 City Critical Needs Assessment is drafted for the garden. American Disabilities Act revisions are planned and constructed
- 1999 Vision Quest: A Dream for the Future is sponsored by the Japanese Garden Advisory Council
- 2000 The Japanese Garden celebrates its 40th Anniversary. A plan is made for shoreline revision
- 2001 Shoreline restoration project begins with an early closure of the Garden on September 9th
- 2002 Completion of the shoreline restoration project

Appendix B. Biographic Sketches

Asahel Curtis (1874 – 1941) was a leading photographer in the Pacific Northwest and was one of the 26 individuals who served as the initial board for the Botanical and Arboretum Society.

Carl F. Gould (1873 – 1939), architect and partner in Bebb and Gould, served as campus architect for the University of Washington from 1915 to 1926, and created the 1915 Regents Plan of the campus with its primary academic quadrangles. Bebb and Gould guided the campus development and designed eight campus buildings, including Suzzallo Library, in addition to many other public buildings including the Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park and the Everett Public Library, and many residences and estates in Seattle and the region.

Donald Graham was president of the Arboretum Foundation, and one of the 26 members of the original board.

John T. Hanley was Director of the Arboretum, 1939 – 1946. Hanley was an assistant professor of forestry and botany at the UW, and a graduate of University of Michigan. Prior to that he had studied at Ohio State, and University of Illinois, and had worked in the Forest Service. After his resignation from the Arboretum, he became editor in chief of a Seattle based magazine, *Northwest Gardens*.

E. K. Hoffman, was the Seattle Park Engineer from 1927 to 1932, and the Parks Superintendent from 1927 to 1934. During his tenure Hoffman was responsible for the design of new construction and remodels of the fieldhouse at the south end playfield, and other Parks facilities, including those at the Woodland Park Zoo, Golden Gardens, Green Lake, and a number of bathhouses. The Park Engineering Division was discontinued as the result of budget cuts in the early 1930s. Hoffman then became the Chief Engineer for the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works in Olympia, and coordinated Depression era efforts of the national, state and local governments. He subsequently returned to Seattle to serve as the Superintendent of Seattle City Light until 1953.

Noble Hoggson (1899 – 1970), was a landscape architect and consultant to the Arboretum. He graduated from Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, with an engineering degree, he attended Harvard for a post-graduate course in landscape architecture, graduating with an MLA in 1927. He worked in a partnership, Spoon & Hoggson in White Plains, New York, Spoon & as a junior member of the New York landscape architecture firm of Charles W. Leavitt & Son, designers of Belmont Park and Saratoga Springs and the Charles M. Schwab estate at Loretta, Pa. He moved to Seattle in 1930 where he was employed by Landscape Architect Butler Sturtevant. In 1930 – 1931. He opened his own office in 1932 and served as a consultant to the University of Washington Arboretum in 1932 – 1933. Hoggson laid out the grounds for the Fisheries laboratory, adjoining the site of the proposed “Aquarium”. His other work included landscape architecture for Mount Rainier and Lassen National Parks, plans for the Seattle Art Museum, the Dorothy Dunn Bailey and Maurice Dunn Gardens, and design work for the Blodel Reserve, Bainbridge Island and the Bekins garden, in The Highlands. In 1946 Hoggson was one of ten landscape architects and an officer of the newly formed Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Juki Iida (1889 – 1977) was a landscape architect and the designer and creator of the Japanese Garden in the Arboretum. His work was the gift of the City of Tokyo and the Japanese Government. In Japan he was renowned as the builder of more than 1,000 Japanese gardens throughout the world. There he worked as a landscape architect, and as the owner of a stone quarry. (The builders of the Japanese Garden were second generation Japanese-Americans Dick Yamasaki, for stonework, Kei Ishimitsu for woodwork, and William Yorozu for plants)

Jones & Jones is a Seattle based multidisciplinary planning and design firm, noted for its environmental planning work, visual assessments, and zoological and botanical garden planning. The firm prepared the master plan for the Union Bay Teaching and Research Arboretum (now the Center for Urban Horticulture) in 1976, and the Master Plan Update for the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle's Washington Park in 1978.

Fred W. Leissler, Jr. (ca. 1904 – 1989) was the assistant director under the Arboretum's first director, Hugo A. Winkenwerder, in 1935 – 1940, and worked with Dawson on the Olmsted Bros. Plans for the Arboretum. Leissler was educated in architecture and horticulture and worked as a plant explorer in 1926-27 (Russia and China), before graduating from the University of Oregon 1931 with degree in landscape architecture. He worked as landscape architect for Seattle Parks 1927 – 1934, before serving as the assistant director to the Arboretum, where his work included designed plantings for Seward and Lincoln Parks. He was appointed assistant director within the College of Forestry (the present College of Forestry Resources) at the University while supervising design and construction of the Arboretum. He went on to serve as landscape architect for the Navy Housing Authority, District Ranger at Olympic National Park, National Parks Service, US Forest Service, and the US Bureau of Public Roads where he assisted Lady Bird Johnson's "Keep American Beautiful Program."

Authur Lamont Loveless (1873 - 1971) and Lester P. Fey (1901 – 1980) formed an architectural partnership in 1935 – 1936, and designed the stone gatehouse near the south end of the Arboretum. Loveless, who came to Seattle from New York in 1907 with his parents, was well known as an eclectic designer of houses, many of which were in the half-timbered revival style of the cottage. He partnered with Seattle architect Daniel Huntington in 1912 – 1912, and Daniel Lamont in the 1940s. His designs included the Pantages Mansion, Colman Residence, Playhouse Theater, Loveless Studio Building, Colman Pool in Lincoln Park, and the art deco façade addition to the Colman Building. Loveless retired in 1948 at the age of 75.

Lester Fey came to Seattle in 1920, and began working with Loveless as a drafter in 1923. He studied at the University of Washington for three years and spent one year at the University of Pennsylvania, in part with assistance from Loveless, but never received his degree. In addition to his work with Loveless, Fey worked with Nickum & Lamont in the late 1940s, and later with Floyd Naramore, architect of many Seattle public schools. Fey retired in 1971. (Hill, 1971, p.5)

H.W McCurdy was an industrialist who operated the Puget Sound Bridge and Dredge Company. He became a major builder of bridges and ship on the West Coast, and is credited as the "Father" of the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). Montlake Park, the site of MOHAI, was renamed after him.

John McGilvra (1827 – 1903) came to Seattle as U.S. attorney for Washington Territory in the 1860s. He was a primary backer of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, which was begun in 1884, and was the developer of Madison Park. McGilvra's original claim was north and east of what would become the Puget Sound Mill.

H. O. (Brian) Mulligan (1907 - 1996)

Mulligan was the Director of the Arboretum, in 1947 – 1972, during an important phase of its development. Mulligan was born in Ireland, schooled at the University of Bristol Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, and graduated from the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley, England. He returned to Wisley to serve as its assistant director. Mulligan served in the Royal Air Force in World War II. In 1943 – 1945 he was an adviser to the RAF on growing vegetables at its stations throughout Great Britain. (Davidson, 1985, p. 14 – 17.)

Mulligan was hired as the Arboretum Director by the Dean of the College of Forestry (the present College of Forestry Resources), Gordon D. Marckworth in 1946, and he served in this position until 1972. The Arboretum was first realized under his direction. Among his other accomplishments, Mulligan oversaw the rearrangement of some plant collections and creation of others, undertook horticulture projects, developed the plans for and established the Woodland Garden, directed a number of research projects, and established the Arboretum's collection policy.

The Olmsteds

The firms that made up Olmsted companies included the individual practice of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., his partnership with Calvert Vaux, and the successor firm, the Olmsted Brothers, which was established by his adopted son John Charles, and his son Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. During a century of practice the firms undertook more than 6,000 commissions, of which more than half were implemented. The Olmsted firms were well managed, and employed up to 100 engineers, drafters, designers and assistants at any one time. Each firm was organized as an atelier, training apprentices in the theory and professional skills of landscape architecture. The Olmsteds are renowned American planners and designers, and left a legacy of planning and constructed work as well as a complete archive of plans, reports, drawings and letters.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1822 - 1903) is recognized universally for his contributions to American landscape architecture through the design of public parks – such as New York's Central Park (designed 1858 – 1861 with Calvert Vaux) and Prospect Park, Montreal's Mount Royal (1877), Detroit's Belle Isle (1874). He planned and designed the U.S. Capitol Grounds in Washington, the Baltimore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, Boston's park system with its "Emerald Necklace" of green spaces, the planned residential community of Riverside, Illinois, and the Buffalo, Rochester, and Louisville Park Systems. Olmsted, Sr. was the site planner for the Chicago World's Colombian Exposition (1893), where he was credited by Daniel Burnham with bringing together the designers for the exposition. He led the campaign to protect Niagara Falls, and designed plans for hundreds of private residences and estates.

Olmsted began his many careers working as a farmer in 1847 – 1855. He was also a social reformer who traveled to the American South in 1852 - 1854, an experience that led to his activities and publications as an anti-slave abolitionist throughout the 1850s and 1860s. Olmsted felt obliged by his political and social views to engage the public, and in 1855 – 1857 he was the managing editor of *Putnam's Monthly Magazine*, a leading political and literary journal, and a contributor to the New York Daily Tribune. He established his own publishing company, releasing his book, *A Journey in the Back Country* in 1857. Later he co-founded *The Nation*, a periodical that continues to this day. During the Civil War Olmsted served as the executive leader of the predecessor to the Red Cross, and organized national efforts to distribute relief supplies to voluntary members of the Union army. After the war he moved his family to Bear River California where he managed a gold-mining company in 1863 – 1865, an experience that exposed him to both the sublime wilderness and lack of community in the West. Returning the east in 1865 he began a thirty year practice of applied theories in landscape design. He was the first

person in the US to use the term landscape architect. Through his work and writings, Olmsted is credited with creating a new profession and defining the role of the landscape architect.

Henry S. Sargent (1864 – 1893), nephew of Charles S. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum, was an apprentice with Olmsted, Sr., who became his partner in 1889. At that time he was responsible for the design of Stanford University. He helped design and oversaw site construction of the Colombian Exposition in Chicago before his untimely death in 1893.

Charles Eliot (1860 – 1897), was the son of the president of Harvard University and apprenticed in Olmsted's office from 1883 – 1885. Recognized by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., for his writings and design of scenic reservations, he joined the firm in the late 1880s. He became a partner with both J. C. Olmsted and F. L. Olmsted. Eliot, who played a primary role in the design of Boston parks, was known as the "Father of the Boston Metropolitan Park System." Before his death at the age of 37, Eliot had been selected by Olmsted, Sr. to continue his legacy. His unexpected death led to the 1898 creation of the successor firm, the Olmsted Brothers.

John Charles (John C.) Olmsted (1852 - 1920), Frederick Law Olmsted's nephew and adopted son, was his partner for the decade leading up to formation of the Olmsted Brothers firm. He was the senior partner in the successor firm, the Olmsted Brothers, until his death in 1920. During his tenure as senior partner, the firm undertook over 3,500 commissions. These included plans for park systems in Baltimore, Seattle, Spokane, and Portland, parks in Charleston, New Orleans, and Dayton, Ohio; and campus plans for Smith, Mount Holyoke, the University of Chicago and the University of Washington. In its plans for city parks the Olmsted Brothers implemented many of the social and aesthetic goals set initially by Frederick Law Sr., creating public institutions of recreation, respite, and popular education that strengthened of the American democratic way of life. John C. Olmsted's role in Seattle is pivotal to the city's parks. He and Percy Jones, an English born member of the firm, visited and surveyed the city in 1903. John C. was the primary author of the 1903 Report to the Park Board, and continued to serve as an advisor and planning and design consultant to the city up to 1920. In addition he developed the plans for the University of Washington campus in 1904 and the 1909 A-Y-P Exposition on its grounds, and the plans for the Fort Lawton Military Reservation in 1910. John C. Olmsted was responsible for all the firm's work on the West Coast from 1903 – 1920, and he visited Seattle regularly until 1913 when he discontinued travelling owing to declining health. John C. designed the first children's playground at Charlesbank, Boston in 1898, and served as the President of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (Rick, 1870 – 1957), was Frederick Law Olmsted's son who succeeded his father in 1895 as American's most recognized landscape architect. Although he had little formal training in landscape design before entering his father's firm, he became a partner in its successor firm, the Olmsted Brothers, in 1898. As had his father, he played an important role in education, and served as the first American Professor of Landscape Architecture (at Harvard, in 1900). His first project in the Olmsted Brothers firm, resulted from an appointment to the MacMillan Commission, which was organized to revival of the Mall and L'Enfant's plan for Washington, D.C. This led to the Olmsted's park plan for the District and design of its Rock Creek Park. Rick undertook park planning for Fort Tryon Park in New York City, and created plans for residential communities including Forest Hills Gardens, in New York City, and Palos Verdes, outside Los Angeles. He also prepared city plans for New haven, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Boulder, and Newport, Rhode Island. Rick was a senior partner in the Olmsted Brothers 1920 – 1957, where he continued his father's work on scenic reservations. He played a critical, behind-the-scenes role in the National Park Act of 1916, and participated in planning Yosemite National Park and Arcadia National Park. His 1929 report for California Parks was a seminal document

that established new state park standards. Rick Olmsted was as much a planner as landscape architect. He served as the first President of the American Institute of Planning, and was a pioneer in small town preservation in California in the 1940s and 1950s.

John Frederick Dawson (1874 - 1941) was a partner with both John Charles and Rick in the Olmsted Brothers. Dawson had a unique familiarity with arboretum design, as his father, Jackson T. Dawson, had been the superintendent of the Arnold Arboretum, a property designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. Dawson came to Seattle with John Charles in 1903, and later helped prepared detail plans for the A-Y-P, where his recognized technical and design skills and knowledge of horticulture and plant materials were demonstrated. Dawson became a partner in the Olmsted Brothers firm in 1922. He opened the firm's office in Redondo Beach, California in that year, and lived there until 1937. He represented the firm during the mid to late 1930s as proposals emerged for the Washington Park that resulted in his 1936 General Plan for the Seattle Arboretum. Dawson carried on with the legacy of the Olmsteds until his death in 1941.

Charles W. Saunders (1858 – 1935) was a Seattle architect, and was made President of the Board of Park Commissioners in 1904 when the Olmsted Brothers plan for the Boulevard was being implemented. Saunders designed Denny Hall (1893), and the Observatory (1895) as part of the initial University of Washington campus on Union Bay. As a partner in Saunders & Lawton, he assisted in design of the Alaska Building (1911) with Eames & Young, a St. Louis architectural firm. In late summer 1934, six months before his death, Saunders was instrumental in positioning Fred Dawson and the Olmsted Brothers to receive the commission (in 1935) for the master plan for the nascent Arboretum.

Hideo Sasaki (1919 - 2000) was an internationally known landscape architect who developed an update to the Olmsted Plan for the Arboretum in 1966. Creation of the Waterfront Trail was the only part of the Sasaki Plan that was implemented. Sasaki was educated at the University of Illinois where he received a B.F.A., and Landscape Architecture degree in 1946. He received a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Harvard in 1948, and went on to teach there from 1953 – 1970, serving as the Chair of the Department in 1958 – 1968. Sasaki influenced many in the field. He maintained offices in Boston (Sasaki Associates, and Sasaki, Dawson and DeMay, in 1953 – 1980), San Francisco (Sasaki/Walker Associates, presently SWA, from 1973), Toronto (Sasaki Strong, 1957), and presently in Watertown, Massachusetts (Sasaki Associates) which has branch offices in several other cities. Seattle landscape architect Richard Haag, who was on one of the teams for the Floral Hall project, was a student of Sasaki at Harvard.

Edward Otto Schwagerl (1842 – 1910), was an engineer and landscape architect, and developed the first comprehensive plan for Seattle parks during the period, 1893 - 1895. Born in Bavaria and raised in Paris and New York City, he received informal education in landscape architecture and city planning. He worked in France in the 1860s, before beginning work as a landscape architect in Connecticut, St. Louis, Omaha, and Cleveland. E. O. Schwagerl settled in Tacoma in 1890 where he set up a design practice in 1895 laying out Wright Park and Point Defiance Park. By 1892 he became the Superintendent of Public parks for the city of, where he laid out Kinnear Park, the original Denny Park and made preliminary plans for City (Volunteer) Park Seattle. In 1903 he completed the design of the 1,200 acre University Place subdivision in Tacoma, and the Mount Baker Park Addition in Seattle. Schwagerl is credited with beginning a park and boulevard plan for Seattle in the early 1900s. His vision was fully realized in plans by the Olmsted Brothers firm, which was selected to complete the official plan for the city in 1903.

Seattle Park Superintendents

In addition to the individuals noted in the report and this appendix, there are a number of Seattle Parks Superintendents who are closely associated with the creation and development of Washington Park and the Arboretum. They include the following, noted with appointment dates:

- E. O. Schwagerl, Superintendent from 1893 to 1895
- J. W. Thompson, Superintendent from 1904 to 1920
- Jacob Umlauff, Superintendent in 1921
- E. G. Hoffman, Parks Engineer and Superintendent from 1927 to 1934
- W.C. Hall, Parks Engineer and Superintendent, 1934 to 1948

Henry Suzzallo (1875 – 1933) served as the 23rd president of the University of Washington from 1915 to 1926. Under his guidance the Regents Plan of 1915, designed by Carl Gould, was adopted, as an overlay to the Olmsted Plan of the campus.

Butler Sturtevant (1899 - 1970) was the University of Washington's first campus landscape architect in 1931 - 1939. His career spanned the era of Beaux Arts design to mid-century Modernism, and his practice included the design of private estates, gardens, college campuses suburban developments and airports. Born in Wisconsin he received an undergraduate degree in Horticulture from what is presently UCLA in 1921 before graduate studies at Harvard. Sturtevant worked in a number of design offices in Los Angeles before moving to Seattle where he opened a firm in 1928 to work with architects Bebb & Gould on the design of the Normandy Park subdivision. In 1928 – 1933 he created the designs for the New Rose Garden at Butchard Gardens in Victoria, the courtyard at Children's Orthopedic Hospital. As the University's landscape architect he designed and directed WPA workers on the planting for Anderson Hall, and construction of the Medicinal Herb Garden, reconstruction of Rainier Vista, and renovation of Drumheller Fountain. Other later projects included the campus design for Principia College in Illinois, gardens for the Dessau house and Pigott estate in the Highlands, and public housing projects such as Yesler Terrace and Holly Park. After World War II he opened a San Francisco office specializing in the design of airports, completing the Portland Airport in 1948. Later work in his career included schools in the Midwest, and the campus plan for the American University in Lebanon.

J.W. Thompson was Superintendent of Parks from 1904 to 1920. He was recommended for the position by the Olmsted Brothers as he had worked previously on the firms' projects in Louisville, Kentucky and Watertown, New York. During his initial work in Seattle he was employed directly by the Olmsted Brothers firm until he was eligible for civil service. In 1920, when there was a political change on the Park Commission and Thompson was being let go, Dawson indicated that he was "one of the very best park constructors" that he knew of in the whole country.

R. H. Thompspon (1856 – 1949) was the Seattle City Engineer. He outlined the needs for the city's infrastructure, directed its regrade projects, and the creation of the Cedar River water system, City Light, Port of Seattle, and the Chittenden Locks.

George Tsutakawa (1910 – 1975), designer of the ornamental gates near the present Graham Center, was an internationally known Seattle artist. He was known for his sculpture, including screens and fountains, and created over 75 fountains for major cities in the US, Canada and Japan. Tsutakawa taught art at the University of Washington for 30 years. Collectors of his work included major institutions and corporations throughout the region and nation.

Hugo A. Winkenwerder graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1902 where he had majored in botany, and taught high school for three years before entering Yale University, receiving a Master of Forestry degree in 1907. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for one year, then accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Forestry at Colorado College, where he remained until 1909 when he was called to the University of Washington to serve as Associate Professor of Forestry. He became the second Dean of the School of Forestry in 1912, succeeding Dean Francis Garner Miller (Dean, 1907 - 1912). Winkenwerder served as Dean of the College of Forestry from 1912 - 1945, and served as the Acting Director of the Arboretum from 1912 - 1939. He also served as the acting President of the University.

Joseph A. Witt was the Curator of Plant Collections under Brian Mulligan, and served as the Arboretum Director in 1972 – 1992.