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

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

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

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

10:00-10:15  Break

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

12:00-12:30  Lunch

Donor Group: East Room, Garden Center

12:30-2:00  Site Analysis Overview

2:00-2:15  Break

Trustee Group: East Room, Garden Center

2:15-3:45  Site Analysis Overview

4:20  Consultant departure for airport (5:55 departure)
Site Analysis Workshop Notes:
July 24, 2008 Birmingham, AL

Site Analysis Discussion

- **Zoo**
  - Keep partnerships in mind
  - Similar demographic of visitors
  - Don’t treat Cahaba Road as a wall (“eco-corridor” concept would link natural systems)
- Mountain Brook Village redevelopment: area is a regional destination (zoo/gardens) and a busy local shopping area
- Sidewalks end at Botanical Place – no easy pedestrian access to gardens or Mountain Brook Village
- Cahaba Road project – Federal funding to study/improve street and traffic (“eco-corridor” and “zoo gateway” ideas may not be compatible)
- Cahaba Road viewed by some as existing – or potential – back door to garden; it is not: there is no “back door” only service
- Robert Marvin master plan – showed connections with zoo (tunnel or pedestrian overpass are unfeasible, even perceived as dangerous)
- Back door (Cahaba Road entrance) does not look inviting even as visual tease
- Opportunity to show regional leadership in water management
- Animal migration opportunities across/under road as part of sustainable design
- Existing tree canopy over Lane Park/Cahaba Road is well established – redevelopment of street as boulevard with median, curbs or parking not desired, would negatively impact existing character
- Look to natural systems as models
- Use ADA/pedestrian loop to organize garden – improve way-finding signage and design vocabulary
- Parking deck options - to be explored
- Garden development
  - Donations fund growth
  - Need to identify and market development opportunities
- Public transportation
  - Bus goes to Zoo at Cahaba Road, usually empty
  - Could be part of parking solution
  - Local loop – option for cultural loop w/ other institutions
- Greenhouse configuration/maintenance area: to be addressed
- Transportation
  - Shuttle not effective in past
  - Routes based on time/mileage
  - Show ADA, restroom access
    - Locate shelters, swings, drinking fountains
  - Add restroom in northern part of garden
- Signage at gate on Cahaba Road
- Exit disappointing - need “thank you for coming”
- Bus slots in parking lot- buses idle w/ engines on adding to pollution/noise
- Expand compost area (show on plans) and make usable
- Maintenance vehicles cross pedestrian paths
• Vegetable garden: can’t get maintenance vehicles into garden
• Paths in front of conservatory will accommodate heavy vehicles
• Eliminate/move north entrance drive: deemed impractical, expensive
• Moon Gate (between two Rose Gardens) isn’t ADA accessible
• Staff and pedestrians cross into Mountain Brook Village: need crosswalk
• Opportunity for integrating garden maintenance with garden education
• Overflow parking: pursue sustainable options, demonstration opportunity
• Look at Ft. Worth BG compost exhibit as model
• Lath houses scattered, fern house not secured (used for sales), 2 locations: plan for integration, logical layouts
• Kaul Wildflower Garden: shelter opportunity; paths ADA-inaccessible
• On-site recycling space could be added
• Rear service area to Garden Center sometimes blocked by restaurant deliveries and event parking (caterers); expand?
• Opportunity for outdoor education area/storage area/restroom along axis in Bog Gardens
• Drainage (see also above)
  ✓ Water flows into old rose garden, then into formal garden
  ✓ Washout at map shelter
  ✓ Entrance to Japanese Gardens gets minor washouts
  ✓ Fern garden stream overflows with rain. Pump on photo cell
  ✓ Path at Crape Myrtle Garden collects silt
  ✓ Water from irrigation collects in rose garden
• Not great views from Bruno Vegetable Garden (and above area along paths) into maintenance areas.