



Noticias para nuestros vecinos
 Новости для наших соседей
 Tin tức cho hàng xóm của chúng tôi

News for our neighbors

Did you receive a land use hearing notice from the City or see one posted around Leach Botanical Garden? That's great news for the Garden! It means we're moving closer to making the exciting improvements to the Upper Garden that have been in the works, with much community input, for several years. The enclosed information provides more background on the project and answers to some questions you may have.

The land use hearing represents a milestone for us but we know that you may have some questions about exactly what is planned and what to expect, so we'd like to invite you to our "Open Tent Event" - a land use information open house.

OPEN TENT EVENT
 (a land use informational open house)
Upper Garden Meadow Tent
Tuesday, July 18
6:00pm - 7:30pm

This is not a formal meeting so feel free to just drop by. It is a chance to learn more about the Land Use process and the first phase projects. Representatives from the Garden and from the City will be there to answer your questions and review the plans. All the plans will be on display but the focus will be on what is planned for the first phase of development.

Questions? Call 503-823-1671
 Information is also available on our website:
www.leachgarden.org



Upper Garden Phase I Scope of Work

The red dash outlines the areas where work will take place in this first phase. While the Welcome Center is included in the permit, no funding is available to build it at this time. Construction is planned for 2018 - 2019.

Leach Botanical Garden

Upper Garden Development Project

Phase I Background Information

The vision represented by the Master Plan will transform the upper garden, with beautiful plantings and new experiences for visitors. It will take many years to make the entire vision a reality, but we are excited that this phase I project is on the horizon. Key elements included in this first phase are the pollinator garden, fireplace terrace, and aerial tree walk as well as enhancements to the woodland garden and a central staircase between the upper and lower garden. New parking spaces are planned in the upper garden, along with a safe public pathway between SE Claybourne and the 122nd Street bridge. The project has been developed with the community over the past two years and the intent is to give new life and interest to the Garden. As a result, East Portlanders will have a high quality public garden to enjoy, find peace, learn about plants, and a beautiful place to share with friends and family.

Q & A

Will these improvements increase traffic and parking demand in the adjacent neighborhood?

Visitors will be directed to the Leach Garden via Foster Road and 122nd Avenue. This keeps people on the main arterials and, with a new entrance at SE Claybourne, moves them quickly into the garden. (The detour route via SE Flavel and 122nd Avenue to the lower parking lot will also be in place until the Portland Department of Transportation replaces the 122nd bridge.) Additional parking is being added in this phase for both visitors and staff/volunteers, so while visitation will increase, we expect that the typical number of visitors to the garden will not exceed our car/bike parking capacity. Temporary over-flow parking areas will be available during Garden special events. We do not expect any overflow into the neighborhood but if there is, it should be minimal.

What about pedestrian safety on 122nd?

A pedestrian pathway is included in the project to provide a safe alternative for people walking from SE Claybourne to the SE 122nd Avenue Bridge. The public will have access to this path whether Leach Garden is open or closed. The pathway is intended for pedestrians; bikers are welcome to use the path too, but will need to walk their bikes. Due to the steep grade, a series of stairs are required on the bridge end of the path. While pathway users are technically in the Garden, where dogs are not allowed, dogs on leash will be allowed on the 122nd Street pathway.

Will the new improvements generate more large events at Leach Garden?

We expect our wedding rental business to remain stable. Our 5-year business model calls for no change in the number or size of these events. There are opportunities for some small group rentals in the Upper Garden but nothing on the scale of weddings. We do expect to put in place a new winter community event focused on the Upper Garden. It would be held at a time of typically low rentals or Garden visitation. Our policies limiting amplified music will not change.

What is planned for the fireplace terrace?

Providing views of the pollinator garden to the north and the woodland to the south, this terrace can be enjoyed by casual visitors to the garden. Much like the current seasonal tent, it will also be programmed on occasion for classes, community activities, or small social events. The terrace in

cludes a shelter, which will offer refuge during rain. Located at the high point of the garden, the aerial tree walk takes off from here and, after circling 30' up in the trees, returns to the terrace.

How are you handling screening and buffering?

Most of the changes to the garden will be internal and have little or no impact on adjacent residences. Perhaps most noticeable, SE Claybourne Street will be improved and the new entrance will include plantings and an entry sign. For safety reasons, we've asked for exceptions related to parking lot screening in the lower parking lot. It is important to maintain safe sight lines for drivers on 122nd and the standard screening would block views of oncoming traffic. We will be adding buffers in staff/volunteer parking area on the north side of the upper garden. In other sections of the eastern area of the garden, the character of the area will not change in phase I so no additional buffering is planned. In future project phases, substantial new plantings and gardens are planned that will improve screening and buffering functions and support the desired character of the area.

Will trees be removed for this project?

Leach Botanical Garden takes trees very seriously and the project, by intention, is designed to preserve as many trees as possible. As an example, the 122nd St. pathway includes a boardwalk to go around two large trees and the aerial tree walk actually incorporates a tree into the walkway. We are working with the City Forester and a consulting arborist to keep the overall tree impacts to a minimum, enhance forest health, and expand Leach Garden's tree collection.

The Garden's Tree Management Permit, which is separate from this land use process, is focused on maintaining the health of our current 64% canopy, in part by removing nuisance, diseased, dying, and dangerous trees over time.

What about Johnson Creek?

There are no impacts from this project on Johnson Creek or the historical Leach home. We will be planting trees north of the Manor House entrance drive. This is the nearest sitework to the creek. It is our intent to preserve the characteristics of the original Leach estate.

When will the project be constructed?

We anticipate the project will begin in 2018 and take approximately eight months to complete.

How is this project funded?

The Upper Garden project is funded by a partnership between private donors, the City of Portland Prosper Portland (Portland Development Commission), and METRO.

When is the land use hearing?

The hearing for the Leach Botanical Garden Conditional Use Permit is scheduled for

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:00 am

1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 3000



Leach Botanical Garden is owned by the City of Portland and operated by Leach Garden Friends in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation.