

Guiding Principles and Priorities for SR520 Expansion

Arboretum Foundation with Examples

Adopted by the Arboretum Foundation Board September 2009

The Washington Park Arboretum is a stunning gem of the Seattle Park system, a 230 acre oasis of gently rolling land, bucolic watery islets and home to the best of the City's wildlife. It provides respite, scenery, recreation and solace to thousands of visitors in every season of the year. It provides educational and volunteering opportunities to thousands of friends, sightseeing to thousands of visitors and cultural enrichment in gardening styles and distant ecosystems to those who seek it out. A major purpose of the Arboretum Foundation is to preserve and enhance the outstanding qualities of the park including the plant collections, recreation opportunities, educational opportunities and physical assets that are so dear to residents of Seattle, the County, the State, Country and International Arboretum Community.

Proposed upgrades to State Route 520 (the floating bridge) across the north end of the Arboretum threaten significant impacts to the park over a number of years, and a base set of impacts for the life of the freeway corridor. The 520 Committee believes that this circumstance requires that the Board of Directors of the Arboretum Foundation establish a framework of guiding principles for use by various Foundation representatives over the coming months of negotiation.

These principles are unique to the purposes and interests of the Foundation, though they intentionally echo similar statements made by representatives of the Foundation's partners, the University of Washington and Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, owners of the land and the collections. Examples shown in the attached pages will be further developed and refined in the future as negotiations unfold around this multi-billion dollar infrastructure project.

The Board of Directors has approved the following 5 guiding principles.

- 1. Avoid harm to the Arboretum and its collections**
- 2. Preserve and restore Arboretum as an accessible place of quiet and respite**
- 3. Respect the historical, aesthetic and design integrity of the Park**
- 4. Design improvements to promote health, safety, recreation and education in the Arboretum**
- 5. Fully compensate the Arboretum for loss of property and function if harm is unavoidable**

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1. Avoid harm to the Arboretum and its collections

- a. Clarify and respect the boundaries of the Arboretum
- b. Add no ramps into the Arboretum
- c. Remove existing ramps in the Arboretum; repair to preexisting condition
- d. Minimize the width of SR520 in the Arboretum
- e. Preserve park function including but not limited to recreation, air quality, noise, odors, and views.
- f. Repair new damage completely and comprehensively.

2. Preserve and restore Arboretum as an accessible place of quiet and respite

- a. Maintain or improve physical and visual access for pedestrians, bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles between SR520, Montlake, Madison Park and the Arboretum
- b. Optimize public transportation access to the Arboretum.
- c. Discourage commuter traffic through the Arboretum
- d. Minimize traffic impacts on the Arboretum (especially in the areas of noise and air pollution).

3. Respect the historical, aesthetic and design integrity of the Park

- a. Preserve existing historic qualities and features.
- b. Include landscape architects, landscape historians and artists early and throughout the design process.
- c. Promote education of the Arboretum and its Olmsted heritage in communications about the project and the Park.

4. Design improvements to promote health, safety, recreation and education in the Arboretum

- a. Preserve the health or safety of the visitors and the plant collections
- b. Preserve Arboretum role of providing open space, recreation opportunities, education opportunities and access to the lakefront environment
- c. See that improvements are environmentally sensitive in design, materials and construction and reflect forward-thinking sustainability values.

5. Fully compensate the Arboretum for loss of property and function if harm is unavoidable

- a. Work with partners to identify impacts from actions proposed by WSDOT in the areas of construction process and final operations of the facility.
- b. Work with partners to identify projects that fully restore the Arboretum to its predevelopment condition or better.