

## **2014 Arboretum Objectives**

Updated April 2014

### **Formal Plant Collections**

Develop and implement a design concept and maintenance plan for the rose garden, including creating a new name

NAB member, Kim Sogaard created the design, plantings will occur this spring. NAB recommended that since the design includes many roses the name is fine.

Develop and implement a design concept and maintenance plan for the Evelyn Young Perennial Gardens.

NAB member, Kim Sogaard created the design to reduce the size. Due to lack of staff time these gardens were not tended last year and were a disgrace. A part-time gardener/volunteer coordinator hired this spring will manage the volunteers to maintain the redesigned space.

Develop and implement a design concept and maintenance plan prairie demonstration garden.

NAB member, Harriet Mason, will assess the plants and redesign as needed with the help of NAB member, John Chamberlain

Review philosophy and name and implement any changes for the Presidents' Oak Grove and First Ladies Lilac Grove.

NAB members discussed at April meeting and provided suggestions to Scott Moeller. The President's Oak Grove poses no concerns. The group thought it was nice to have a place on campus that recognizes the spouses of a president. The Lilacs have not been maintained and could be redesigned to be more of a feature item.

### **Ecosystems**

Create and start to implement a maintenance plan for the two prairie areas.

Prairies need to be burned this spring by working with NAB members who are connected to the Prairie Enthusiasts who will coordinate the burn and an on-going maintenance plan is being discussed

Identify and implement names for the three overlooks.

Discussed at the April NAB meeting with recommendations provided to Scott.

Survey and inventory of the deciduous woodlands.

Hired this to be done over the next six month. Then the Arboretum staff will discuss how the trees are labeled and recorded in an easily accessible database.

### **Structural Areas**

Conduct a needs assessment of the Interpretive Center.

There could be numerous advantages to expanding the Interpretive Center that include, having an public restroom accessible without disrupting a group using the space, expanded rental income, expanded class usage.

## **Structural Areas**

Research and develop a plan to create nature play opportunities.

Scott Moeller is gathering information on creating places that would be attractive to families with children, which is a growth opportunity for memberships and environmental education

Build a shed to store the new golf cart

Having a golf cart will allow for the ability to provide tours to those with mobility issues and provide a work vehicle for staff and volunteers

## **Education**

Meet with Education Faculty to establish a Student Naturalist program: a system of identifying, training, and scheduling interested Gusties for assisting with outdoor education programs.

It seems like there would be a natural partnership to link the Arboretum in more academic partnerships.

Conduct exploratory meetings on creating a three-day outdoor education summer camp.

Offer new programs Gustavus students targeting various majors to expand attendance.

Arboretum student employees are developing a calendar of programs.

Provide an educational tour to classes from the St. Peter Schools

Over 1000 students visit the Arboretum each year! Most classes receive a tour from Scott Moeller.

Expand attendance for community outreach programs for general public and youth by maintaining a wide variety of topics and improve advertising in the public schools.

The NAB supports the continuation of the philosophy that the Arboretum should be actively providing educational programs to a wide range of groups. It is a place that provides environmental education and these programs also are a gateway for many people into Gustavus.

Creating new displays to rotate seasonally.

Put viewing window in east wall of Interpretive Center to view butterfly garden.

This will happen in the summer.

Partner with Alpha Sigma Tau on programming.

## **Personal Use**

Explore survey to better understand personal use.

Scheduled to be a project for a Economics and Management class.

## **Finance**

Review and discuss the rental philosophy/cost structure.

NAB members discussed at the April meeting. Rentals could be expanded with an expanded facility and/or an outside shelter and bathroom. It was recommended to raise the rental rate.

Review the Friends of the Arboretum membership benefits and levels.

Will be reviewed over the summer and discussed in the fall.

## **Staffing**

Hire gardener/volunteer coordinator for 10 hours/week April through September.

Kim Sogaard was hired this spring. The NAB members believe that if the College has an Arboretum it should be a teaching tool for all visitors. There is a wonderful group of volunteers who helps to maintain the gardens, but they have lacked supervision. This is a crucial position to have hired this year in order to keep the Arboretum at the level of excellence the College and public expect.

Manage and expand volunteer pool

New gardener/volunteer coordinator will do this for the spring and summer.

## **Awareness**

Develop and implement a plan to raise the awareness of the Arboretum to the President's Cabinet and Board of Trustees.

Having Crown Council Reports be made available to the Board and President's Cabinet provides important information to these College leaders. Board members and Cabinet members are encouraged to visit the Arboretum at least once per year.

Develop and implement a plan to raise awareness and ultimately usage of the Arboretum among Gustavus students and employees.

Anticipate this will be developed by the Economics and Management class.