

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Public Stakeholder Meeting 2

Thursday, February 21 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Pre-Design: Planning Concept Presentation

Sustainability Workshop: Attendees divided into 4 groups with the themes Water, Plants, Energy, and People. They brainstormed sustainable ideas for each category. The following 4 pages record the ideas generated from this workshop.

Attendees also had the opportunity to fill out feedback cards. This report records all responses collected on February 21.



Sustainability Workshop: Water

Re use gray water, swales, permeable surface

Drain and water plants, system wonderful, improvement in herb garden, people love the story of the candy pot fountain. I am concerned how clean it is for kids to play in and drink the water as they sometimes do.

Model re-use & gray water for toilets, plant watering, anything you can.

Use run off to supplement H2O use in building & support rain garden, demonstration facilities on sustainability.

Permeable parking lots - different kinds to show range of possibilities and what works in this climate, huge roofs provide opportunity for huge uses of runoff if efficiently controlled

Future:

Cistern - under building? Or in parking lot?

Green parking lot

More gravel gardens

Recycle more water

Geothermal - use to warm buildings

Need more drinking fountains - usage counters, educate drinkers

Feedback in water usage

Rooftop gardens

Rainy days review - Where the water goes?, Collect?, use gravity - work for us.

More rain gardens - use curbs to keep cars out

New well? - for watering

Do now:

Gravel gardens - 1.) 4 year old 2.) new 3.) road 2 years old

Fountains - kids play in it, clean enough?

Mulch - to save water and reduce need to water, breaks down quickly, needs to be replaced, eliminate turf to reduce, sprinklers - metered

Good drains in the herb garden - to rain/gravel gardens

Building run off goes into storm sewer

Need:

Rain barrels - more demo than useful

Pay toilets? - water efficient facilities in new restrooms

Study - impact of water sheds

Test variety of permeable parking lots

Commit to 100% water retention for a 10 year rain event

Extra large cistern - water treatment facility to convert creek water for gardening needs

Sustainability Workshop: Plants

Native, low water, variety, seasonal

Where is the compost bin that people can use to deposit banana peels, apple cores, etc.?

Educate on nature & invasive species, emerald ash borer.

Problem integrating indoor space to enhance access & views of garden, concerned that indoor facility will reduce outdoor garden space, linkages between "rooms" could proceed through gardens.

Marsh/native plants to filter Starkweather creek watershed.

I love our current blend of native plants and exotic plants but perhaps more obvious explanations of what's what, how expensive those exotics are in terms of time & resources would be helpful.

Vegetable demonstration garden - edible woodland garden, Native Americans - plants & methods of sustainable harvest

Sustainable gardens - plants better adapted to our changing climate

Rooftop gardens, patio & balcony gardening

Better linkage - indoors & outdoors using plants

Environmentally friendly parking lots

Children's garden

Native plant garden

Aquaponics - fish, food production

Fruit & veggie garden

Flow-thru planters / gray H2O

More natural shaded spaces/gardens

Adopt-a-plant - co op with home gardeners

Mushroom growing garden

Sustainability Workshop: Energy

Utilize geothermal systems (work best on wet soils)

Use Olbrich in partnership with city \$ energy companies to sustain energy

Solar panels on huge roofs, green roofs

Cistern

Geothermal

Solar panels that heat water

Wind generators

Backup natural gas generators to run a skeleton of things, could be used in operable/smaller spaces

Permeable pavement parking

Shared savings loan program - MG & E

Natural gas (compressed) vehicle

Solar panels on our huge roofs.

LEED

Passive design

Airflow vs AC

Solar panels on hug roofs - can heat water for geothermal

Cistern - ties into geothermal

Wind generators

Backup natural gas generator - could be used in small spaces

Natural Ventilation i.e. double hung windows (passive design)

Parking with water filtration - permeable pavers

Geothermal

Battery charger for electric cars (public)

Enhanced public transportation access

Green roofs

Creek garden for water filtration - 2nd education

Sustainability Workshop: People

Outdoor meeting space, outdoor dining

Plan for technology, wifi?, audio feed locations, look to the future - plan for future technology trends, interactive laptops, wayfinding, etc.

More places where kids can run & be loud when their parents are trying to relax a bit.

Pilates/yoga classes

Open air seating/café - views (garden space/detail), bike path connection

Recycle containers/easily accessible

Tram service - mobility access to garden spaces

Wayfinding - gift shop entrance overload, building connection to the Gardens

Bike Path - garden/plants rather than fence, signage for the gardens

Safe place to relax - evening events

Lighting - outdoors; need more, evening events, attraction, evening tours

Tai Chi - health & wellness

Music - acoustics

Butterflies/birds (monkeys) - educational, planting programs/displays, connected with phonology, visible interpretation

AV/Technology needs for large groups - interactive activities

Public transportation to the Gardens - create sequential micro-climates in 3 to 4 steps between full conditioned indoors & outdoors

Rate your perception of the quality and experience associated with each of the following major programmatic areas.

Education	Frequency
Outstanding, needs little improvement	1
Needs some improvement	16
Needs significant improvement	14
No opinion, n/a	3

Public & Visitor Experience	Frequency
Outstanding, needs little improvement	2
Needs some improvement	10
Needs significant improvement	21
No opinion, n/a	1

Growing the Gardens	Frequency
Outstanding, needs little improvement	4
Needs some improvement	17
Needs significant improvement	10
No opinion, n/a	3

Rate the impact of investment in the following programmatic areas on your experience and use of OBG.

Education	Frequency
Would greatly enhance my experience	11
Would have some impact on my experience	21
Would have no impact on my experience	2

Public & Visitor Experience	Frequency
Would greatly enhance my experience	24
Would have some impact on my experience	9
Would have no impact on my experience	1

Growing the Gardens	Frequency
Would greatly enhance my experience	15
Would have some impact on my experience	15
Would have no impact on my experience	4

Tell us what you liked about today's meetings and what you found to be effective.

Good grouping of investments

You certainly have done your homework and covered many aspects of the building plan. I want to be sure we can continue to come to Olbrich for our annual Violet shows and sales

Use of slides to illustrate ideas

Appreciate having the public meeting and listening.

Presentation was well organized - table topics great idea - worked well

Liked talk tables but not enough time to talk.

Explaining info about Garver building study and how it impacts. This study was very helpful

Good leadership, cookies, table conversation, leaders take each comment seriously

Everything! You did an excellent job. I think Olbrich hired the right firm to lead us into this project

My first meeting. I was very impressed and excited about the process. You did a great job!!

Well run - presenters were well organized.

Hearing & seeing the vision for Olbrich was completely new for me but wonderful.

Stopping for questions/comments, great visuals along with well-organized & able presenters
(the tables written input visible)

Good emphasis on "design literacy" in a public setting, successful for a broad range of lay expertise

Good overview

Speakers took charge of the meeting. Get off the bike path and bus stop that is for later.

Specific detailed discussion of sustainability, use of data, comparisons, etc.

I think you are approaching this in a very thoughtful wide ranging way.

Receptiveness to questions and suggestions.

Tell us what elements of today's meeting didn't work for you; or, elements you thought were missing from the discussion.

It's too bad that use of the Garver footprint is not an option. It's consideration would free up sq. ft. of the current site for classrooms, restaurant, etc.

I almost thought people wanted to wait until the Garver project was more settled or known before proceeding with this project.

I wasn't sure what to do at the tables.

I thought the meeting would be more open ended for public input for what they wanted.

Only the safety, for singles especially i.e. place to sit which are not secluded.

Expanded meaning of "recommended". The presenter did eventually say weren't not in program - or not there yet, but then what program was often used

Presentation showed gaps in specificity i.e. "back of house" space needs. Can't go into schematic design without that.

I don't think the attendees understand these meetings are about the expansion or the new improvements of Olbrich. You must remind them at each meeting.

Handouts with recommendations

Too fast. Ran through a complex subject, pictures needed, slides were nearly impossible to read.

Are you confined to the current footprint of the OBG land? Could the garver property be added to meet some of the needs?

Distinguishing between old useable and no usable old facilities.

Please use this space to give us comments about the project or the Gardens overall.

Use minimally stabilized garven for Garden Support Facility

Please improve the tables we use. I would definitely like to see some sort of food service. I think that would really get people to stay longer.

Make sure there's some multipurpose space bigger than current Commons which isn't adequate. Make "studios" bigger - classes may be bigger than 30 people - also with large projects. Open air pavillion - should be optional enclosed in case of rain or will need indoor back up space.

Surely hope funding can be found to bring these improvements about.

Some areas of gardens don't seem to flow together - feeling of separate gardens connected by paths but no real "flow".

Olbrich has 600 + volunteers - expand that, Additional revenue opportunities

Some people who are "entrenched" at OBG may need help to expand their view, you do this well but stay with it.

Everything you proposed sounds wonderful to me. Except I think we need a larger auditorium. I'm with a group that meets here monthly. Last night we had 120+ people at our program. It would have been great to be in an auditorium with a screen everyone could see, good A/V equipment and comfortable seats. This space could be rented out to large groups.

Seems to be that availability or garver (or not) drastically alters all discussion of space. Great analysis of space but what if initial assumptions are wrong?

Can we keep Olbrich free? My concerns as a neighbor & member - is that I come over (only a block away) and my neighbors would not be able to "use" the gardens (for \$ reasons, if there were "admission issues.")

It's a beautiful space, I look forward to the beauty in nature made more apparent.

Are there any plans to expand the Gardens across Starkweather Creek by using the parking area or softball diamond areas to "enfold" the Thai Pavillion as opposed to its present thumb-like isolated position? Are there any plans or desires to add additional pyramids (Boerner has 3 domes). Couldn't current greenhouse, headhouse be located elsewhere and those current areas opened up for building expansion?

Good overview, visuals of existing space & benchmarks were good.

I think it seems to be in good hands and that all improvements will take place as funds become available. Would it be possible to take part of the east side ice skating area (by the bike path) for extra building space or parking (garage, shops, trucks, etc)

Would part of the playing fields to the south be added to OBG space? Could residential property be annexed? It seems to me that the current OBG land is not as extensive as needed.
