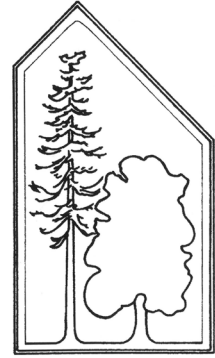


SEHOME HILL ARBORETUM MEMORANDUM



To Bellingham City Council
Western Washington University Board of Trustees

From Sehome Hill Arboretum Board of Governors (SHABOG).

Date February 21, 2020

Subject 2019 SHABOG Annual Report

The Board of Governors of the Sehome Arboretum respectfully submits the following **2019 Sehome Arboretum Annual Report**, in compliance with the Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Bellingham and Western Washington University.

Current Board Members

MEMBER	DATE APPOINTED	TERM EXPIRES	APPOINTED BY
John Furman (WWU Facilities Director) (Chair)		Continuous	WWU
Janet Ott	12/18/2017	12/18/2020	City
Grace Wang	11/13/2018	11/13/2021	WWU
Kendra Bradford	05/09/2019	05/09/2022	City
Joan Drinkwin	02/01/2018	02/01/2021	At large
John Tuxill (Incoming Chair)	03/28/2016	03/28/2022	WWU
Steve Janiszewski (City Parks & Rec Operations Manager) (Vice Chair)		Continuous	City

Short History

The Arboretum was established in 1974 through an “Inter-Local Cooperation Agreement” between the City of Bellingham and Western Washington State College. There have been several iterations of the agreement over the years, with the most recent version signed in 2016, and due to expire in 2025. This shared stewardship model is grounded in the core intent that the Arboretum is to be preserved in a natural state to the greatest extent possible, devoted to educational, aesthetic, low impact recreation, and research activities. Past and future development determined to be consistent with those activities is required to be compatible with sound ecological principles.

2019 Activities Report

Board Members & Officers

2019 saw some stabilization to the board membership with a full roster for nearly the entire year and the continued service of several members. The Board did lose the longest serving member of the Board, Mike Reed, as he decided to move on to other interests. His interest and passion in the Arboretum will be missed! Below is a summary of board members who served and whose terms expired during this report period:

Member	Dates of Service	Comments
John Tuxill	Mar 2016 – present	Reappointed by WWU President Randhawa on 4/16/2017
Mary Childress	Feb 2018 – Dec 2019	Student appointee, departed upon graduation; Mary continued the recent tradition of the student appointee also volunteering to be Secretary.
Mike Reed	Jan 2010 – Jan 2019	City Appointee, declined to be reappointed.

Web Site Improvements & Modernization

The Board reviewed the content of an unmanaged Arboretum web site that had been created by WWU students at some time in the past. With the gracious help of the City Parks and Recreation web manager, an official Arboretum web site was created under the broader City Parks web site, and will be officially managed through the Parks Department from now on.

<https://www.cob.org/services/recreation/parks-trails/Pages/sehome-arboretum.aspx>

Student & Volunteer Work

The Parks and Recreation Department increased its presence in the Arboretum with the hiring of an additional volunteer coordinator. This new position helped create several professionally guided opportunities for citizens and WWU students to contribute to the maintenance and health of the Arboretum.

Mary Childress, our student appointee, completed a directed study of fungi in the Arboretum under the supervision of Professor Tuxill. Her presentation was included in the November 2019 minutes.

Stewardship.

- In response to a localized landslide, the WWU grounds crew removed the outdoor learning center seating off the Huntoon trail.
- The grounds crew also made repairs to several washed out locations on the Huntoon trail and the Jersey Street trail.
- Under the City's Memorandum of Agreement, the Washington Trails Association made repairs and improvements to the Elderberry Trail.

Sponsorship

The Board voted to include the Arboretum in the City's bench donation program, identifying several suitable locations for benches. The first donated bench was installed along the Huntoon trail.

Goals of the Board

1. Eradicate invasive species. Numerous student groups and interested citizens sporadically approach the Board with proposals to remove invasive species in certain locations. The Board welcomes and encourages these proposals!
2. Continue working with the Washington Trails Association to improve and maintain trails within the Arboretum.
3. Raise the profile of the Arboretum through public service announcements and articles.
4. Encourage collaborative partnerships with community organizations interested in preserving and maintaining the Arboretum.
5. Establish a stewardship program for trail maintenance, user awareness, and other issues.
6. Review, and if necessary, amend by-laws and policies.