

HERITAGE PARK: THE CAPITOL GREEN - A CELEBRATION OF WASHINGTON'S HERITAGE



THE PREFERRED PLAN

LEGEND

- 1 Heather Slope
- 2 Macrophyllous Forest of Washington native plants
- 3 Meandering Trail at 4.5 percent slope
- 4 Conservatory/Greenhouse
- 5 Western Washington Circle with grove of native plants and wetland species at lake edge
- 6 Washington Compass Plaza paved with native stone, depicting directions and distances to Washington geographic features, places and global connections
- 7 20-foot wide right-of-way for walking, jogging, emergency and service
- 8 Renovated boardwalk with interpretation on railroads in the development of Washington and Olympia
- 9 Service access (garage)
- 10 The Arc of Statehood, a 30-foot wide paved walkway along the lake edge, planted with trees representative of Eastern Washington recharms
- 11 Rail bank right-of-way (25 feet)
- 12 Pedestrian trail connecting Heritage Park to city streets and sidewalks
- 13 Commemorative cultural expression
- 14 Children's play area, by the city of Olympia
- 15 Grass amphitheater
- 16 Stage
- 17 Restrooms with storage and dressing rooms
- 18 Sylvester Park
- 19 Angled parking along 7th Avenue and Water Street
- 20 Pier
- 21 Native limestone sighting stones along vista between Build Inlet and Capitol Campus
- 22 Esplanade paved with native stone
- 23 Gateway monument framing view of Build Inlet and the Olympic Mountains
- 24 Display garden
- 25 Eastern Washington Circle with grove of native plants and wetland species at lake edge
- 26 Special paving
- 27 Speaker's Corner
- 28 Olympic Fountain
- 29 Capitol Lake

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

- A North Reserve Trail
- B Boardwalk at Marathon Park (by the city of Olympia)
- C Additional bluff planting renovation
- D Convention buildings at 4th and 5th Avenues (by the city of Olympia)
- E West Capitol Lake edge plantings
- F Washington state interpretive elements
- G Special paving (by the city of Olympia)
- H Median with planting (by the city of Olympia)

PREFERRED PLAN SUMMARY

In 1911, the architectural firm of Wilder and White created a master plan for the Washington state capitol as part of a nationwide design competition. Their plan captured the imagination of judges with its unique approach—a group of symmetrically arranged buildings in a forest atop a bluff overlooking Puget Sound and the city of Olympia. An integral part of the planners' vision was that the Capitol Group would be connected to the city by an elegant open space that would enhance the overall aesthetic character of the capitol.

This public open space, called Heritage Park, will fulfill the planners' original vision and update their design. Heritage Park was an important element in the 1991 Master Plan for the Capitol of the State of Washington, which envisioned the park as a place that would "reflect the physical and cultural diversity and history of the state through the park's interpretive features."

Heritage Park will symbolically connect the people of Washington to their state government and their common heritage. In this way, Heritage Park will become the state of Washington's public open space in much the same way the Mall in Washington, D.C. serves the Capitol of the United States.

Located directly north of the historic Capitol Campus, Heritage Park covers 34 acres, more than one third of which is comprised of the steep slopes immediately north of the Temple of Justice and west of the General Administration Building. The balance of this civic open space wraps around the east side of Capitol Lake, providing a convenient pedestrian and visual connection to Pentz Landing and the downtown business district of Olympia.

Heritage Park improvements will include rehabilitation of Capitol Lake's shoreline edge; stabilization of the ravine below the existing Conservatory Building; wetland mitigation; addition of a trail system for joggers and bicyclists; provision for emergency, security, and maintenance access; new restroom facilities; an amphitheater; native plantings; site utilities; site furnishings; and outdoor gathering spaces. It will also feature interpretive displays and other elements that celebrate the state's culture, history and environment. Development of Heritage Park provides a unique opportunity for environmental restoration and enhancement.

The design of Heritage Park is proposed using two linear geometric forms. An axis (a straight line extending north from the Temple of Justice) and an arc located adjacent to Capitol Lake establish the design of Heritage Park. The axis follows the historic sight line established by the Wilder and White plan in 1911. The arc complements the historic axis, embraces Capitol Lake, and creates a distinct identity for Heritage Park.

During the pre-design process, the name of the park was discussed as a program element, and the project Working Committee and Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee agreed that during the pre-design phase the project would be titled "The Capitol Green." The master plan designation of "Heritage Park" has been retained in these pre-design documents, however, in conformance with the master plan. In the future, the name of the park could be changed with approval of the State Capitol Committee.



AERIAL PERSPECTIVE VIEW LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS THE CAPITOL CAMPUS