

Bellevue Botanical Garden – Visitor Center Construction

On March 4, 2013, Bellevue City Council approved the contract for our new Education Center and Visitor Center project with Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. Parks planners are familiar with Cornerstone from their work on the South Bellevue Community Center.

The ground-breaking ceremony will be on Tuesday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. at the Shorts Visitor Center.

The Garden will remain open during construction, expected to begin on May 1. Our Interim Management Plan will ensure that programs and operations continue as smoothly as possible for the expected 18-month construction period.

What visitors can expect during construction:

Access

- All staff, visitors and volunteers will park at the Wilburton Hill Park and walk into the BBG on the Lake-to-Lake trail.
- Wilburton Hill Park is located at the intersection of Main St. and 124th Ave. NE. The best route is NE 8th St. to 124th Ave. NE and head south. This will take visitors directly to the park entrance.
- Restrooms are available year-round in Wilburton Hill Park and in the Shorts Visitor Center.
- The Garden's temporary entrance will be through the back gate in Yao Garden. The information kiosk will move to this location. It is 1/3 mi. from the parking lot to the entrance. Fun new signs along the Lake-to-Lake trail will help visitors find us.
- Visitors will still be able to access the Shorts Visitor Center for restrooms, plant database kiosk, maps, and general information. Shorts Visitor Center will be open daily from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Operations

- The Trillium gift shop closed on January 1, 2013. This space will house administrative staff until the new buildings are ready. The new buildings will feature a shop roughly double the size of the old shop.
- Grounds staff offices will be in a portable near the maintenance area.
- Garden hours will remain dawn to dusk, but visitors should plan to be back to their cars by dusk, as the trail to Wilburton Hill Park is unlit.
- Volunteer and partner group efforts will continue throughout construction.

Programs and Events

- The Mother's Day Social will be held at the Garden on May 12 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Some events and plant sales will be held in Wilburton Hill Park. Look for event announcements throughout the year.
- A "Special Edition" Garden d'Lights will be a must see! November 30, 2013 – January 4, 2014
- Docent tours will be available on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. from April through October, and by appointment. Tours will meet at the Shorts Visitor Center.
- The Living Lab children's program will continue in a modified format.

Follow construction progress at www.bellevuebotanical.org.