FROM PLANNING TO PLANTING:
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR
PUBLIC GARDENS

American Public Gardens Association: 2018 Annual Conference

Panelists:
Shari Edelson, The Arboretum at Penn State
Peter Lowe, The Dawes Arboretum
Lindsey Kerr, Lord & Schryver Conservancy
HOW MANY OF YOU:

• Are considering writing, or are in the process of creating, a landscape maintenance plan?
• Already have a written maintenance plan at your home institution?
• For those who have a plan in place,
  • Do you use it or refer to it regularly?
  • Are you satisfied with it?
PURPOSES OF A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PLAN

1. Set basic guidelines for safety, responsible work staging, etc.
PURPOSES OF A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PLAN

2. Establish consistent horticultural standards
   - Serve as a training tool for staff and volunteers
   - Ensure that all staff are using the same procedures
PURPOSES OF A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PLAN

3. Serve as a reference for work planning
   • Prioritize tasks and/or areas of the garden
   • Support a proactive vs. reactive approach to tasks and projects
PURPOSES OF A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PLAN

4. Provide a mechanism for accountability
   • Hold staff accountable for work
   • Hold managers accountable for prioritizing and planning
   • Hold leadership accountable for providing resources to meet standards
PURPOSES OF A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PLAN

5. Advance institution’s larger goals and priorities
   • Harmonize with the work of colleagues’ departments
   • Resonate with other guiding documents
   • Reflect organizational mission
TWO APPROACHES TO WRITING A PLAN

• Proscriptive
  • Documents current practices, staff assignments, and expectations; intended to be carried out at present and as written

• Aspirational
  • Documents goals and ideal standards of landscape care, some of which may not be achievable at present
PARTS OF A MAINTENANCE PLAN

1. Table of Contents
2. Introduction / Statement of Purpose

“By maintaining exemplary standards of horticultural care, we reflect [the Arboretum’s] commitment to excellence, ensure the optimal health of our living collections, and create a landscape of enduring beauty.”
3. Body of Plan: Organize sections operationally!

- **Option A:** Asset Classes
  - Turf/lawns
  - Woody and perennial plant beds
  - Seasonal display beds
  - Trees
  - Walkways and pathways
  - Water features
  - Irrigation system
  - Site fixtures and furnishings

- **Option B:** Landscape Areas
  - Overlook Pavilion
  - Children’s Garden
  - Rose and Fragrance Garden Etc.

- **Option C:** Hybrid System
PARTS OF A MAINTENANCE PLAN

4. Plant Health Care
   • Fertility management
   • Pests and diseases
     • Key pests and diseases, target crops
     • Thresholds for action
     • Means of intervention
     • Scouting calendar
PARTS OF A MAINTENANCE PLAN

5. Special Protocols and Procedures
   • Weekend cover
   • Drought contingency plan
   • Snow removal
6. Dates and Milestones
   • Holidays
   • Festivals
   • Recurring deadlines

7. Calendar or Timeline
From Planning to Planting:
Landscape Management Planning for Public Gardens

Presented By
Peter Lowe, Director of Landscape Operations
The Dawes Arboretum

- 2000 total acres
- 350+ acres of collection and display gardens
- 13,523 living collection plants
- 6 Full-time Landscape Operations team members
  - 1 Landscape Horticulturist
  - 2 Senior Horticulturists
  - 2 Landscape Technicians
- 9 seasonal workers
  - April thru October
Defining the Standards

What do we know to be important, but are unable to measure?
Ensuring Quality Control

[Image of a person cutting grass]

[Image of a sign saying "Grounds Close at 8PM"]

Quality Assessment Review

Date *

Garden Area *

Staff in attendance *

Areas for improvement

Deadline for improvements

Photos taken

Submit
# Calendar of Events

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Level of Priority Management
To learn more about
The Dawes Arboretum,
please call 800.44.DAWES, contact
information@dawesarb.org
or visit dawesarb.org.
Maintenance Planning at Gaiety Hollow

Lindsey Kerr
Lord & Schryver Conservancy
Salem, OR.
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<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; week</th>
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<td>• Evaluate trees.</td>
<td>• Contract tree pruning.</td>
<td>Prune broken tree and shrub branches.</td>
<td>Clean fallen leaves and blossoms</td>
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<td>Reset frost heaved perennials</td>
<td>Remove invasive species</td>
<td>Reset frost heaved perennials</td>
<td>Remove leaves from <em>Helleborus</em> and <em>Epimedium</em></td>
<td>Clean fallen leaves and blossoms</td>
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CONTACT

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ske13@psu.edu | 814-865-8080

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