

SKCAF Plant Material Collections Policy

Effective Date: January 10, 2007
Approved by SKCAF Board on: January 10, 2007
Applicability: All plant material that is planted on Lake Wilderness Arboretum grounds intended to be permanent.
Manager of Responsibility: Property Management and Development (PMD) Committee Chairperson

Purpose

The purpose of the Collections Policy is to guide the development and management of the plant collections of the Lake Wilderness Arboretum. The collections will be used for display, education and research objectives. The collections are to be consistent with the purpose of the Arboretum as set forth in the mission statement developed by SKCAF, which reads as follows:

The South King County Arboretum Foundation, a volunteer nonprofit organization and steward for the Lake Wilderness Arboretum, provides a setting where visitors can enjoy and study native and cultivated ecosystems.

The further goal of this Policy is also to maintain, develop and demonstrate a sustainable landscape in a park setting that serves as an educational and motivational resource.

General Policy

In keeping with the stated mission, the Arboretum's plant collection will reflect the diversity of plant material and plant communities, which can thrive in western Washington, including both native and adapted plant material. Native plants are those considered to be native to the surrounding region (western Washington). Adapted plants are defined as those able to grow under the natural conditions encountered at the Arboretum (soils, precipitation, temperatures, wind, etc.) or requiring only minimum maintenance to do so. Preference should be given to plants which are relatively pest and disease-free in the area and thus require little or no pesticides.

Criteria for Display Collections

Living plants acquired by the Lake Wilderness Arboretum should meet the goals and objectives of the Arboretum, as defined by the Mission Statement, and be in accordance with the selection criteria delineated in this Policy. The public display collections focus on demonstrating horticultural and environmental management principles. Plants are arranged to promote an understanding of their best and most attractive use in a landscape. Visitors can view plants of interest and study their unique characteristics

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such as fall color, wildlife potential, immature and mature form, and how they can be used in the landscape.

The principal goals of a collection are as follows:

- All existing plants will be evaluated, accessioned and incorporated into the collection records. Accessioning records will be developed and updated as needed.
- Additions to the collection will only be added when space is available and maintenance capabilities allow.
- Plants selected for acquisition should have an emphasis on adaptation to the Pacific Northwest weather conditions.
- It is recognized that specific microclimates at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum may allow the use of species that would otherwise not be adapted to normal weather of Maple Valley, WA.

In addition to the environmental criteria noted above, primary plant selection criteria to be applied to potential acquisitions are:

- Educational/interpretive or research potential
- Functional or landscape potential
- Preservation of rare cultivated plants
- Dominance or importance within a pertinent eco-geographic region
- Economic or ethno botanic utility
- Existing collection augmentation
- New collection initiation

Acquisition

Plants may be acquired by gift, purchase, exchange or collection. All plant acquisitions shall be approved by the PMD Committee (and SKCAF Board if a gift with a value equal to or greater than \$500 or if a purchase of any value that is not in the current budget) and must meet all of the following criteria:

- Hardy to zone 7
- Northwest native or adaptable to northwest climactic conditions
- Not an invasive nor a host to disease, which may threaten other collections, or require unreasonable maintenance procedures

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- Must have logical and justifiable place in the garden, consistent with current garden development
- Relates to the purpose of the arboretum and has no objectionable characteristics according to the judgment of the PMD committee

Acquisitions received as gifts are considered unconditional in regard to the eventual disposition of the gift. The Arboretum reserves the right to display or not display, give away, or destroy the acquired gift should the gifted plant material become unsuitable or no longer meet the criteria described above for our collections.

Accessioning and Plant Records

The Arboretum's plant collection will consist of all trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials located within the collection display portion of the complex (everything south of the trail). All woody plants in the collection will be accessioned with the exception of the native growth around which our collections are planted. Large groups of a single species, such as a mass planting of shrubs, can be accessioned as one record with appropriate notations.

Material will be acquired from the following sources:

- Reputable nurseries
- Reputable seed collectors/companies
- Donated plants that meet the botanical objectives
- Plants propagated at the arboretum

To be accessioned into the plant collection the following must apply

- The plant supports the botanical objectives of the collection.
- The plant is accurately named with origin and date of collection if applicable.
- The plant is healthy and free from disease.

The plant records system of the Arboretum should include but not be limited to the following components:

- The accession number of each plant is unique and shall consist of eight digits. The first four digits indicate the year in which the plant becomes part of the collection. The following four digits indicate the sequence in that year's accessions.
- Records shall be kept on each plant. In the case of ground covers and other mass plantings, the group of plants is considered one entity and given only one accession number.

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Every effort will be made to label plants placed in and around Arboretum gardens. When labels are made as part of a collection, they will include the botanical and common name along with a unique number which can be the accession number.

Exceptions to accessioning:

- Plants grown for sale by SKCAF
- Mass plantings of annual bedding plants for color
- Discretionary collections are considered on an individual basis

Accessioning Records

1. Botanical Name
2. Source of Material if known
3. Accession Number
4. General Location at the Arboretum
5. Date of Acquisition

Deaccession Records

1. Date of Deaccession
2. Reason for Deaccessioning.
3. Inventory Records
4. Mapping Records
5. Evaluation

Deaccessioning

Plants will be de-accessioned from the collection for the following reasons:

- If they do not support the botanical objectives of the collection.
- If they cannot be identified (only if they are known to have no conservation value).
- If they are diseased.
- If they prove to be invasive.
- If they fail to thrive.

Exceptions may only be made for materials that have an important aesthetic or architectural role.

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Disposal

Accessions that are dead, no longer relevant to the purpose of the arboretum, or replaced by a more desirable accession are recorded in the database. Date of deaccession is noted along with method of disposal.

Deaccessioned plants may be disposed of in the following manner:

- Sold to raise revenue for the arboretum.
- Destroyed (diseased or weedy specimens).
- Donated to other institutions or organizations.
- Exchanged with other institutions or organizations.

Collections Management

This Policy for the Lake Wilderness Arboretum integrates the goals for park landscaping, the improvement of the collections and strengthening environmental stewardship. A key aspect of this Policy is to maintain a managed naturalistic environment with some showpiece specialty gardens integrated with the natural environment of our forest reserve.

Enforcement

Enforcement of this Policy is the responsibility of the Property Management and Development Committee (PMD) in accordance with the Joint Use Agreement with the City of Maple Valley, SKCAF By-laws and policies such as those governing authorization of donations and purchases.