JOHN BURGE ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

CAROLINA PENA ROJAS, MLA

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**Site Location**

- Site Location
- Project Site – John Burge Park
- Surface area: 21,000 acres
- Average depth: 20.5 ft
- Completed and filled in 1973

**Site Inventory**

**EXISTING FACILITIES AREA**

1. Parking lot (33 parking spots)
2. Waterless restrooms
3. Picnic tables and BBQ grills near the Pavilion
4. Pavilion with 9 picnic tables and a 5,700-gallon rainwater capturing system and cistern
5. Playground area
6. Small outdoor amphitheater
7. Picnic area at Sycamore Trail
8. An 18-hole championship disc golf course within the forest

**EXISTING TRAILS**

**IDENTIFIED PLANT SPECIES**

- Pinus palustris
- Pinus echinata
- Pinus taeda
- Liquidambar styraciflua
- Nyssa sylvatica
- Quercus nigra
- Ulmus alata
- Sassafras albidum
- Quercus falcata
- Quercus shumardii
- Quercus alba

- Betula nigra
- Platanus occidentalis
- Magnolia grandiflora
- Callicarpa americana
- Ilex vomitoria
- Myrica cerifera
- Schizachyrium scoparium
- Myriahergia capillaris
- Salal minor
- Vitis rotundifolia

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SWOT Analysis

**Strengths**
- Proximity to Lake Conroe is highly beneficial.
- Future development in adjacent properties could affect visitors' experience.
- Lack of maintenance could affect the new plant communities.
- Lack of full sun areas for sun-loving plants.
- Existing facilities are in good condition.
- The entire site has minimal flood hazard.
- A 5,700-gallon rainwater harvesting system is present on site.
- Vegetation offers good shaded areas.
- One ADA accessible trail.
- Wayfinding elements are present.

**opportunities**
- The scenic native forest offers many educational opportunities.
- Inclusion of endangered species/wildlife and increase plant diversity.
- Preservation of undisturbed areas.
- New road with an 8 ft. trail near site will provide better access.

**Weaknesses**
- No public transportation to the site.
- Construction of the new road could disturb the quiet woods.
- The Sycamore Trail has insufficient buffer from the road.
- Erosion is visible along trails.

**Threats**
- The existing facilities offer an advantage, but their appropriate linkage with the new development would be the key.
- Design more ADA areas for people to enjoy nature.
- Incorporate more functions and activities to attract different types of users.
Site Analysis

Concept Diagram

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Master Plan

Legend

Facilities
1 Visitors' Parking
2 Visitors' Center
3 Pavilion
4 Cafe
5 Education Center
6 Greenhouse
7 Maintenance

Celebration Gardens
6 Water Garden & Plaza
3 Perennial Circle
13 Great Lawn
5 Rose Garden
20 Conservatory & Gardens

Seeds of Learning Gardens
3 Children's Garden
9 Shade Garden
14 Water Wise Garden
15 Conservation Garden
15 Demonstration Garden

Sensory Gardens
10 Sound Garden
11 Color Garden (Color Trials)
12 Texture Garden
17 Fragrance & Herbs Garden
18 Edible Garden

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