

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b> Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Update
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Dick Deal, PRCS, Director

**ISSUE STATEMENT:**

In January 2008 the City of Shoreline acquired Kruckeberg Botanic Garden, former residence of Dr. Art and Marleen Kruckeberg. This four acre property in Richmond Beach has a plant collection of over 2,000 different species and is known for its informal, naturalistic approach to design. The site combines many northwest native plant species with unusual and rarely cultivated specimens from the west coast and around the world.

The MSK Nursery onsite sells many of the plant specimens that can be viewed in the Garden. Structures on the site include a farmhouse built in 1903, a cottage that serves as the caretaker residence and a greenhouse.

The City of Shoreline has contracted with the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation (KBGF) for the maintenance and operation of the plant collection and nursery. The KBGF assumed responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the site in February 2008. The report this evening is an update on the first year of KBGF management of the Garden.

During the first year of operation the Foundation worked hard to create a budget and establish a business plan. Prior to the City acquiring the Garden, former owner Dr. Art Kruckeberg was responsible for all maintenance and operational costs. Maintenance expenses and records were incomplete and during the first year the Foundation has worked to get a better understanding of operational expenditures and revenues.

Marketing and community awareness of the Garden has also been a priority and Garden staff have been active in promoting the facility at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, Shoreline Earth Day activities at Central Market, the Richmond Beach Strawberry Festival and they have worked with City staff creating a beautiful color brochure. In January 2009 the Garden was featured in the Seattle Times magazine section.

New activities created in the past year include a Christmas wreath making workshop, free Saturday tours for the community, an exhibit at the Shoreline Historical Museum, and a temporary art exhibit in the Garden for art works by Seattle Pacific University students.

Volunteers play a large role in the Garden assisting with tours, nursery sales, and maintenance functions. The Foundation hired a part-time volunteer coordinator to help recruit and train volunteers to help with these tasks. There has been a significant increase in volunteers as a result of this effort.

Administrative changes include the hiring of a Garden Director, the creation and distribution of a monthly e-newsletter, and the creation of an Educational Committee to focus on the educational aspects of the Garden.

In addition to the review of the first year of KBGF operation, staff will update Council on the development of a master site plan for the Garden. This process is just underway and we anticipate returning to Council this fall with an update on the planning process. In late 2009 or early 2010 staff will return with a completed master site plan for your approval.

The first year of operating the Garden has been a very exciting challenge and much has been learned that will allow us to improve service in the future. City staff has been very pleased with the KBGF agreement and the Foundation's interest and enthusiasm in managing this valuable community asset.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The City of Shoreline and Dr. Art Kruckeberg have agreed to spend up to \$100,000 each to support the KBGF maintenance and operation expenses during the first three years of operation. Expectations are that the Foundation will work to ensure that the Garden can eventually be self-sustaining with income from plant sales, tours, lectures, events, and merchandise sales covering the cost of operation and maintenance. A business plan is being created as part of the master site planning process to evaluate the best opportunities for revenue generation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is before the Council for information only and no action is required.

Approved By:      City Manager  City Attorney \_\_\_\_