

Phase 1 Cannon Exhibit and Buffer Planting

The remains of the Spanish Fort folly are now limited to the two cannons which were installed when the Hotel opened. They appear to have been in place as the Spanish Fort until the second band shell was built. The Spanish Fort's original location is now under the asphalt of the old Student Union parking lot (this building is scheduled for a new life as the Riverside Center, a U of T conference center). Due to the loss of its location and the



need to preserve the existing cannons that have been maintained in the park since its creation, the master plan is proposing that the cannons be located on an exhibit wall devoted to the original folly and located near its original location. The history of the cannons and this particularly important feature of the original landscape can be presented. The original Spanish Fort folly can be described and this northern-most portion of the park can gain a buffering element from the utility activity and parking that is currently present.

Phase 2 Victorian Garden Exhibit Beds Arboretum

We have researched the original garden plant list and can, with a great deal of assurance, recommend the plants that would be used in a recreation of some of the original plantings. Since the Hotel Garden was programmed for their specific hotel guest's needs and maintained by a large garden staff



the master plan is proposing a means of interpreting the original plantings without rigidly replicating the Hotel Grounds beds. By developing a new arboretum for Tampa that is devoted to the display of typical Victorian Beds, the experience of walking through the original garden can be offered while interpreting and displaying the plants in a scholarly way. Data regarding the plants from the garden, how they are used and how they can be grown would be included along with the historic use of the plants in garden design.

Phase 3 Garden Interpretive Center

After the second phase is established and successful the more elaborate garden node located near the H. B. Plant Museum entrance would be developed to assemble the interpretive aspects of the Victorian Garden Exhibit area into a comprehensive interpretive exhibit. The visitor would be introduced to the original garden design, the Victorian social influences on the original hotel garden and the significance of the garden to Tampa history. This would be accomplished with exhibits that are weatherproof and easy to access without the help of guides or docents. If in the future, garden guides were required, this area would be the center of such activity.

Phase 4 Flagpole Mount and Shaped Beds

Along side and between the Spanish Fort folly and the Esplanade were several specially shaped flowerbeds as well as the name of the Hotel spelled out in flower bedding. This general area of the current park offers opportunities to re-instate Victorian carpet-type bed designs. Above the Spanish Fort was a moon-shaped bed with a mound and flagpole that could be replicated as part of the Cannon / Spanish Fort Exhibit. The photographic evidence and knowledge of this historic planting style is sufficient to add this feature back to the garden. The general locations that are being proposed for these beds are in close proximity to their original locations.

HISTORIC H. B. PLANT PARK

A Master Plan for the Restoration and Interpretation of Historic H. B. Plant Park Commissioned by the Friends of Henry B. Plant Park, Inc.



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KENNEDY BOULEVARD (LAFAYETTE)

10/30/03

No Scale

MASTER PLAN - 2003

Phase 5 30's Era Creekside Walls

As the hotel garden developed from the original design to one that reflected the style and taste of the day for public parks, Plant Park additions were made that were emblematic of the time. Since this portion of the creek was not extensively developed when the hotel was designed, the opportunity to re-create a portion of the park to a point of development from the 1930-



decade is a reasonable recommendation. Plant Park was a major public space for many years with features that served the tourists and local residents. The lower section of the creek was bordered by stone and capped with a concrete seat/cap. This wall feature and the walkway across the creek would be brought to a point that was familiar with the generation that courted in the park, with their chaperones, and to the Air Crews that trained in Tampa during World War Two. While we would not suggest re-instating the "Zoo" exhibits such as the bear and alligator, these fondly remembered residents of the park could be recognized in sculptures or an exhibit focused on the early attractions of the garden as a public park.

Phase 6 Esplanade Reconstruction

One of the major features of the original Hotel Grounds was the boulevard devoted to rickshaws and carriages for the guests strolling to and from the Hotel's garden side verandah. This paved walkway was scaled to the lightweight vehicles of the day and the demands of the University quickly called for "improving" it to the status of a roadway. As the University campus activity is re-focused to the western side of Plant Hall the demands for



vehicular circulation on the old Esplanade alignment may be reduced to the point where it will be possible to reconstruct this part of the original garden. The last addition to the garden with a direct connection to H. B. Plant himself, the Memorial sculpture "Transportation" would remain the center piece, but the old esplanade's width and scale would change the current conditions. The current small traffic circle and the re-created boulevard would turn into a pedestrian oriented space that would continue to provide truck delivery access to the old student union building during the hours that the garden is least used.

Phase 7 Hotel Gate Reconstruction

With the photographic evidence we have of the second set of hotel gates, we believe the re-introduction of these gates in conjunction with the esplanade would clarify the historic nature of the eastern portion of the remaining hotel grounds and create an historic portal for the park from Kennedy Boulevard. This phase



assumes the preceding success that all the other phases will accomplish and the continued development of parking opportunities for the H. B. Plant Museum and the University. Therefore, the claiming of this portion of the original garden would not have an impact on the Museum or University. The re-instatement

of these gates will symbolize the complete embracing by the community of Plant Park as the historic place that it is and an excellent presentation of the historic hotel building to the general public on its "Lafayette Street" garden entrance. The "front" façade, where the first tourists viewed the hotel from their train cars, will be presented to the University campus as the premier entrance, as it had been on opening day.