

KEY PLANTINGS



Lysichiton americanus

Western skunk cabbage has a distinctive smell, giving it its odoriferous name!



Vaccinium ovatum

Evergreen huckleberry is a fantastic native plant, providing color, interest and delicious fruit.



Polystichum murinum

Sword fern line the trails on this stretch of the Reserve, creating a rich understory.



Alnus rubra

Walking along the Trestle Bridge guests can get closer to the canopy of our alders.

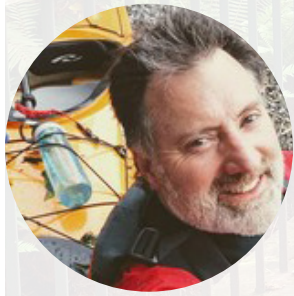


DID YOU KNOW?

The bronze plaque embedded in the bridge displays Bloedel Reserve's original logo. The clam-shell image was inspired by the carving above the door of the Residence.

The carnivorous California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*) can still be found along the sides of the boardwalk. Insects climb into the pitcher and are prevented from leaving by the pitcher's steep and slippery sides!

MEET OUR TEAM



Ken Little has worked at the Reserve for 29 years and is now the resident arborist. He began his arborist career in Colorado before coming to the Pacific Northwest. One of his favorite trees on the grounds is the *Tetracentron*.



Don McKinney has worked at the Reserve for over 30 years. He is the resident Trails Specialist, studied acting in school, and lives in Suquamish.



TRESTLE BRIDGE & BOARDWALK



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'utiḡdubut ti swatix w̄təd | This land takes care of us

THE TRESTLE BRIDGE

1951 - 1975

The steep ravine adjacent to the Bird Marsh and Meadow remained untouched. A fire burned this area in the 1910s which helps us age the trees currently seen.

1976 - 1985

Environmental Design & Planning (EPD) was hired to design access and create a path from Entry Drive east to the Bird Marsh and Meadow.

1986 - 1994

The board approved the EPD plan, including the construction of the Boardwalk and the connection to the Trestle Bridge and Bird Marsh.

Sitting on 18 Douglas fir poles on cast-in-place concrete footings, the Trestle Bridge was placed in such a way as to preserve all trees with a diameter greater than 6". A custom cast bronze medallion was set into the bridge, as well as on the ends of the benches.

In the ravine and on the surrounding slopes, salmonberry was removed, and hundreds of ferns were planted. Cottonwood saplings were also planted downstream, to screen views of neighboring properties.

Jarrah wood, used for the laminated handrail, required extensive repair almost immediately as the wood began to delaminate.

1994 - Present

Annual sanding and oiling of the Jarrah wood handrail was abandoned in favor of a less polished appearance.



THE EXPERIENCE

Traversing this section of the grounds provides a unique opportunity to experience the highs, and lows, of Bloedel Reserve. The carefully crafted Trestle Bridge elevates visitors into the tree canopy and across a steep ravine and creek.

In contrast, The Boardwalk's intimate closeness to the dark, rich soil, black water and abundant vegetation of the bog invites visitors to appreciate an ecosystem that would be otherwise impassable. Its simple wooden design interacts seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.

A winding mulch trail connects the two features, itself a serene experience of Pacific Northwest native forests. The fern understory is punctuated by evergreen huckleberry and the towering trunks of Douglas firs. Birds, mushrooms and mossy stumps provide interest and delight at every turn.

THE BOARDWALK

1951 - 1975

This area of the grounds (charmingly called a "depression") remained relatively untouched, and defined by its topography. Alders, hemlocks and salmonberry filled the lower area, with mixed forest at higher elevations.

1976 - 1985

Environmental Design & Planning (EPD) was hired to design access and create a path from the Entry Drive east to the Bird Marsh. Tatooshes - logged hemlock stumps that support new growth - were kept for interest and character.

1986 - 1994

The Boardwalk was designed and built to minimize impact on the peat bog. 2" pipe pilings, that were driven to reach solid ground, support broad planks of fir.

1994 - Present

Construction of the Boardwalk was completed in the early 1990s. 1000 skunk cabbage and 65 trees were planted in the bog and surrounding woods, including western red cedar, hemlock, vine maple and mountain hemlock.

Design of the Boardwalk area called for pools of black, standing water. Staff must annually dredge the silt buildup. Active management is required to keep the salmonberry, nettle and elderberry from overwhelming the space.

EXPERIENCE NATURE IN THE RAW