

KEY PLANTINGS



Acer macrophyllum

Keep your eyes peeled for one of our more dramatic Big-leaf maples along the trail to the Christmas pond.



Liriope muscari

Blanketing the north bank slope (by the stairs) this lily-turf is a beautiful ground cover.



Erythronium dens-canis

Known as dog-tooth violet, this low growing bulb has delicate flowers and always delights.



Garrya elliptica

Dramatic hanging catkins of flowers give this West Coast native its common name: silktassel.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Rhododendron Glen is home to the greatest diversity of species on the property!

Every year over 100 yards of mulch is brought in by hand and spread throughout the beds. This incredible soil amendment is crafted right here at Bloedel Reserve in our state-of-the-art compost facility.

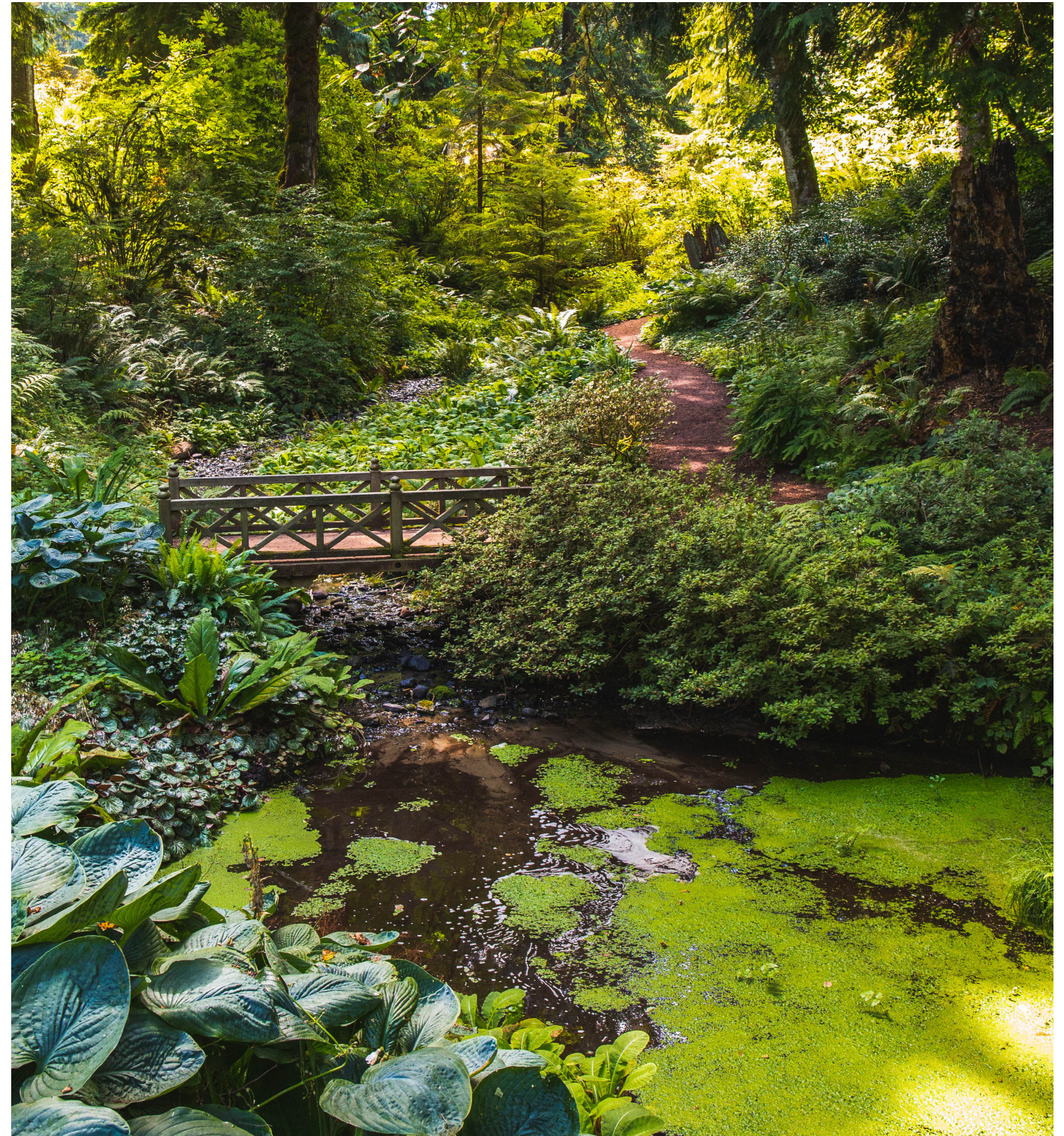
MEET OUR TEAM



Andy Moss has worked at the Reserve for 19 years. He now manages Gardens East, which includes the Residence, Birch Garden, and Rhododendron Glen. He loves plants and teaching others about plants.



Ben Buchanan is a Facilities Manager at the Reserve, ensuring irrigation and trail systems are in working order.



RHODODENDRON GLEN



DONATE TODAY



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■ 1950 - 1970

The area was defined by tennis courts and a garage. Simple trails through the Glen originate from the North Entry Drive, and south by the Residence, criss-crossing the site.

■ 1970s

The Christmas Pool was built as a gift from Prentice to Virginia Bloedel.

Circulation looped down from the house to the bridge before winding west towards the waterfall. A small, arching bridge was added above the pool, completing the area. Rhododendrons and other ornamentals were planted more densely.

Richard Brown was hired as the first Executive Director. Working with Landscape Architect Richard Haag further designs for the area are considered.

■ 1980s

Prentice Bloedel proposes the "North Glen Trail" to link the bluff, woodland, and Glen. Construction is completed by the mid-80s and the experience of the Glen is further defined by the addition of plants, including Japanese maples, lacecap hydrangea, rhododendron, and cyclamen.

A new wider, flatter bridge is built by Roats Engineers to accommodate increase in use. Mr. Kaz Ishimitzu is hired to install railings.

■ 1990 - Today

The North Glen Trail is closed and access is finalized to align with the entrance to Orchid Woods.

After two years of planning, the Waterfall Overlook is created. Design elements including iron railings, granite landings, and stonework create a refined experience.



THE EXPERIENCE

Sinuuous pathways through steep terrain and lush vegetation create myriad visual experiences in the Rhododendron Glen that cause near elements such as a flower, leaf, or stem to come into focus and then immediately disappear to reveal scenes of shadow play.

Sounds of running water and juxtapositions of bright sunlight through gradients of shade draw visual attention and focus views beyond close surroundings. Variations of tone based on available light also affect the visual value and brightness of the abundant flowers.

Two featured locations for specific views include the Waterfall Overlook at the bottom of the east bank staircase and the curved stone bench within the Birch Garden at the northeast end of the Rhododendron Glen.

RHODODENDRONS

The Pacific Northwest has one native rhododendron, *R. macrophyllum*, which can be found throughout the property. The majority of the rhododendrons that blanket the Glen hail from countries like Nepal, China, and Tibet. Our moist, winter-wet, summer-dry climate is ideal for growing a huge variety of species!



R. rex



R. edgeworthii



R. schlippenbachii



R. oropetres

A GARDEN FOR THE SENSES