

SITE REPAIR AT WRIGHTWOOD

SUMMARY: UNCONTROLLED FOOT & VEHICLE TRAFFIC AND RAIN RUNOFF HAVE CREATED THE LAND DEGRADATION AT THE CAMP.

THIS PLAN LAYS OUT HOW TO CONTROL AND DIRECT THESE "FLOWS" OVER THE SITE, SO NATURAL RESTORATIVE PROCESSES CAN TAKE OVER. WITH CONSCIOUS SHAPING, NEW UNDERSTORY TREES & BUSHES CAN RETURN THE PATH THROUGH THE CAMP TO A WALK IN THE WOODS.

SITE FEATURE IMPROVEMENTS:

NEW GREEN AT THE TOP - RETIRE & RECYCLE THE OLD FIRE CIRCLE; WITH A LOW STONE WALL, CREATE A NEW GREEN "BOWL" AT THE TOP OF THE PATH FOR GATHERINGS.

PRIVATE RETREAT - IT'S PLACE AT THE TOP GIVES THIS CABIN UNIQUE PRIVACY; ENHANCE IT WITH A SCREEN OF LOW TREES. GIVE THIS CABIN ITS OWN KIRCHEWEE, SO GROUPS HERE CAN ACTUALLY BE ALONE.

HOT TUB SPOT - PRIVATE ENOUGH AND PUBLIC ENOUGH FOR THIS USE, AND UTILITIES ARE CONVENIENT; GIVE IT A SCREEN OF VEGETATION FROM THE PATH.

TERRACE POTENTIAL - MOST OF THE SLABS WEST OF CABINS HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL AS "SOCIAL AREAS," BUT THEY NEED THEIR SLOPES VEGETATED, AND SITTING AREAS DEFINED.

CABIN NEEDS A FRONT - PRESENTLY, YOU STEP OUT THE DOOR & VISUALLY FALL DOWN THE HILL. PUT LOW STONE WALLS AT EDGE OF PATH TO CREATE A "FRONT YARD."

VISIBLE ENTRANCES NEEDED - WHERE'S MY DEAR? THE CABIN FACE GIVES NO CLUE; OBVIOUS PATHS, PROTECTING ROCKS AND SIGNAGE NEEDED.

NATURE PRESERVE - BECAUSE IT'S SO CENTRAL, THIS LARGE AREA BOUNDED BY THE PATH IS THE MOST CRUCIAL PARTITION TO RESTORE, FOR THE CAMP TO REGAIN ITS WOODLAND CHARACTER.

SHADE SWALES, PLANT, AND CREATE SHORTCUT BARRIERS TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE REGROWTH.

PRIVACY FOR THE CARETAKER - PULLING THE PATH AWAY, AND REGRADING THE INTERVENING UNDERSTORY WILL HELP TREMENDOUSLY, BUT ALSO CREATE A TERRACE, RANGED BY BUSHES, FOR A PRIVATE OUTDOOR AREA. ALSO, SCREEN IT FROM THE DINING HALL TERRACE WITH A GREEN FENCE.

GREAT SPOT - GOOD SOUTH LIGHT AND A NICE VANTAGE POINT OVERLOOKING THE CENTRAL CAMP. DEFINITELY REPLANT THE PLANTED SLAB UP TO IT AND GRASSFACE THE APPROACH FROM THE TERRACE ABOVE, BUT DON'T JUST LEAVE IT A SLAB! CREATE AN INVITING PLACE TO SIT.

UNPAVE THE DINING HALL - SOUTH OF IT CAN BE A WONDERFUL SET OF PATIOS UNDER THE BIG TREES. ITS "PULL" FROM THE HALL WOULD TRIPLE BY LOWERING THE GRADE ABOUT 30 INCHES, WITH RAISED PLANTERS AROUND THE TERRACES.

USE THE REMAINED EARTH TO RESHAPE THE SOUTH FACE OF THE HALL INTO A GENTLE SERIES OF 15 INCH LEVEL CHANGES, WITH THEIR EDGES SHAPED INTO SEATING, RISE TO RAMP UP TO THE ENTRY THROUGH THEM.

NEW AMPitheater - JUST FINE-TUNE THE EXISTING BOWL, PROVIDE SPLIT LOG (NOT PLANK!) BENCHES, AND SCREEN IT FROM THE PATH WITH BUSHES.

SCREEN THIS CABIN - WHO WANTS TO BE IN THE WOODS WITH ALL THE CURTAINS CLOSED? THE MASTER PLAN CALLS FOR BIG CHANGES HERE, SO DO IT CHEAP: DRILL 6 FOOT DEEP HOLES, DROP IN 10 FOOT LONG WILLOW BRANCHES, AND THEY SHOULD SPROUT INTO A GREEN FENCE.

TYPICAL SITE FEATURES:

HIDDEN ASSETS - UNDEVELOPED SITE FEATURES WITH GREAT POTENTIAL. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ARE AT LEFT.

MAIN PATH - WEND IT UP THE SLOPE FOR EASIER WALKING & LESS EROSION & BRING IT CLOSE, BUT NOT TOO CLOSE, TO EACH CABIN; DEFINE A 4' WIDE WALKING SURFACE WITH WOOD CHIPS.

VEHICLE SHOULDER - TO ACCOMMODATE SERVICE VEHICLES WITHOUT TURNING THE PATH INTO A ROAD, SHAPE A 5 FOOT WIDE UNCUT GRASS SHOULDER ALONGSIDE THE MAIN PATH. PREVENT TIRE COMPACTION WITH SYNTHETIC MAT INTEGRATION ("GRASSPAVE 2" FROM INVISIBLE STRUCTURES.COM)

PULL CUTS - PREVENT GROUND COVER DESTRUCTION BY DEFINING WHERE VEHICLES CAN STOP, TURN AROUND, NEAR THE CABINS WITH PATHSIDE "PADS".

CABIN PATHS - DEFINE WITH WOOD CHIPS, THEN KEEP THEM FROM ENLARGING BY COVERING ADJACENT GROUND WITH ROCKS AND PLANTINGS.

SWALES - SHALLOW 2 FOOT WIDE HOLLOW ALONG CONTOURS. THEY HOLD RAINWATER, PREVENTING EROSION AND IRIGATING PLANTS; THEY RETAIN FOREST DUFF, BUILDING SOIL; THEY DISCOURAGE OFF-PATH FOOT TRAFFIC. ONLY THE MAIN PATH IS MORE IMPORTANT.

PATH DRAINS - THE UPHILL SHOULDER OF THE MAIN PATH IS SHAPED LIKE A SWALE AND REINFORCED WITH GEOTEXTILE TO CARRY RUNOFF WITHOUT EROSION. EMPTY THIS RUNOFF INTO SWALES AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

BARRIER PLANTINGS - ENCOURAGE AN UNDERSTORY AT THESE PLACES AS VISUAL SCREENING BUT ESPECIALLY TO DISCOURAGE OFF-PATH FOOT TRAFFIC. IN ALL THESE SPOTS, FORK THE GROUND 12" DEEP, SPREAD FOREST DUFF AND CARPET WITH ROCKS, CALL HIGHWAY DOTS, AND EXCAVATION COMPANIES FOR SITES YOU CAN PLANT NATIVE BUSHES AND FOREST DUFF TO TRANSPLANT.

GROUND COVER - DON'T ASSUME "GRASS" FOR LEVEL SPOTS ON LAND; RESEARCH SHADE LOVING NATIVES, BUT SEED ALL BARE AREAS WITH SOMETHING TO STABILIZE THE SOIL.

RECYCLE THE PAVING - IT'S A VISUAL BLIGHT, CONCENTRATES RUNOFF, AND THERE ARE BETTER WAYS AVAILABLE. THE SEA OF ASPHALT AROUND THE DINING HALL IS ESPECIALLY BAD, BUT ALL THE OLD CONCRETE SLABS ARE MORE USEFUL AS "BUILDING STONE"; SAW THEM ALL INTO BLOCKS, AND REMOVE THEM AS YOU NEED "STONE" FOR TERRACING AND PAVERS.

STONE TERRACING - ITS MOST PRESSING FUNCTION IS TO STABILIZE THE ERODED LAND AT CABIN CORNERS, BUT USE THEM ALSO TO CREATE SITTING BEACHES AND PLANTERS. LEAN THEM 10 DEGREES INTO THE HILL, AND YOU DON'T NEED MORTAR; BETTER, IN FACT, TO PLANT IN THEIR INTERSTICES AS YOU LAY THEM UP.

BOB THEIS

ARCHITECT
510.235.0616
6435 CLAREMONT AVENUE
RICHMOND HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA 94805

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THE EPISCOPAL CAMP AT WRIGHTWOOD
MITCH & BONNIE JONES, DIRECTORS
P.O. BOX 457 WRIGHTWOOD, CALIFORNIA 92397

NORTH