

2012 Babula Children's Garden Report

Georgeson Botanical Garden

Weather Garden

The Weather Garden has been completed. The tile mosaic was finished and sealed. Posts for weather instruments were placed and secured in the inner circle. Rain, temperature and wind gauges were placed on posts. The Vantage Pro weather station will be installed as the final touch next season.



Pioneer Log Cabin

During this summer, a class from the Alaska Summer Research Academy utilized the space around the Pioneer Log Cabin for Math Camp. Under the guidance of instructor Sarah Drew, the students used math to plan and install an annual flower garden.



Compost Pile/Bins

The compost bins along with a free standing compost pile and an interpretive sign were set up in the Children's garden. This station was used as part of educational tours throughout the summer to teach students about composting.

The Great Hedge Maze

Maintenance of the maze continued during 2012. Caragana seedlings continued to be planted to fill in gaps in the hedge. There are still gaps and more planting should continue in 2013.

Willow Tunnel

New growth of established willows were woven into the existing tunnel structure. Bird netting was placed over the structure previous to the winter to discourage pruning of the willows by moose.



Landscaping and other structural features

- Rose bushes, day lilies and irises were planted along the east border of the flume and stream to discourage people from jumping over the stream.
- More rose bushes were planted along the northern edge of the stream.
- Junipers were planted into the large, pebbled triangle area just west of the maze entrance.
- A carved, wooden bear statue was erected north of the stream.
- A cache was placed outside the southwest edge of the maze.
- Cedar tops and seats were fastened to two picnic tables.



The Tree House is complete!



Projects proposed for next season

- Three Birch trees will be planted East of the suspension bridges as soon as the ground is firm enough to move the tree spade up the hill.
- Additional large shrubs and small trees will be moved to various locations in the garden using the tree spade.
- Interpretive signage for the treehouse and waterwheel will be designed and printed with the Laser engraver this winter for mounting in the spring.
- A portable toilet will be purchased or leased for placement in a location that is unobtrusive and accessible to service trucks.
- Bird feeders and birdhouses (including one with a closed circuit video camera) will be mounted adjacent to the treehouse.
- Design and lay out cloud chamber in area above north path.
- Complete signage in the maze.
- Continue planting Caragana in the maze to fill in empty areas.

2012 Workers and Employees

Pat Holloway, Grant Matheke, Kathleen Buchholz, Katie DiCristina, Paul Owens, Evan Mathers, Jeff Zhan, Hannah Stiver, Melissa Pietila.