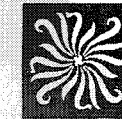


**MASTER PLAN**

for

**Brookside Gardens**



**December 2004**

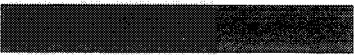
**EDAW, Inc.**

**in association with  
Quinn Evans Architects**

**prepared for  
Brookside Gardens  
&**



The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Department of Park and Planning, Montgomery County, Maryland  
Natural Resources Division, Public Gardens of Montgomery County



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Staff Draft Master Plan for Brookside Gardens, completed in 2001, provides a vision for guiding the renewal of Brookside to meet the needs of the present and the challenges of the future. While a large portion of the Master Plan recommendations remain as proposed in 2001, this revision makes some new recommendations in response to the review of the Master Plan by the Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

The Planning Board, while supporting the majority of recommendations made in the 2001 Draft Master Plan, were of the opinion that Brookside Gardens should focus its efforts on garden renewal rather than prioritizing the construction of the proposed Event House. The first step in revising the Master Plan was therefore to eliminate the Event House, and to then formulate an alternative option to accompany the vision for Brookside.

The Master Plan proposes that revenue-generating events be accommodated in the existing Auditorium by making renovations to the Visitors Center. This future renovation will further assist in better organizing visitor activities within the Center. It is also recommended that outdoor events be focused near the Visitors Center through the creation of a Tent Site located to the north of the Auditorium.

The Master Plan retains the long term proposal of constructing a new Conservatory to the east of the Visitors Center, strengthening the heart of Brookside Gardens. The new Conservatory will also incorporate an addition to the Visitors Center, providing additional classroom and office space, and an Exhibition Hall, as recommended in the 2001 Draft Master Plan.

The removal of the old Conservatory allows a large area of land in the north-east portion of the Gardens to be returned to garden use. The Master Plan proposes that this site should be transformed into

a Native Wetland Garden accompanied by a forest boardwalk loop and rest room and information shelter.

The Master Plan has allowed Brookside Gardens to refine its vision and to re-examine its priorities. It is thought that, while a significant portion of the Draft Master Plan remains as originally proposed, this slight revision has resulted in an improved Plan for Brookside.

