



QUALITY OF DESIGN

At Leach Botanical Garden, a pollinator meadow serves as a living laboratory for garden visitors. A gathering pavilion touches lightly on the landscape and provides sheltered space for educational and special events.



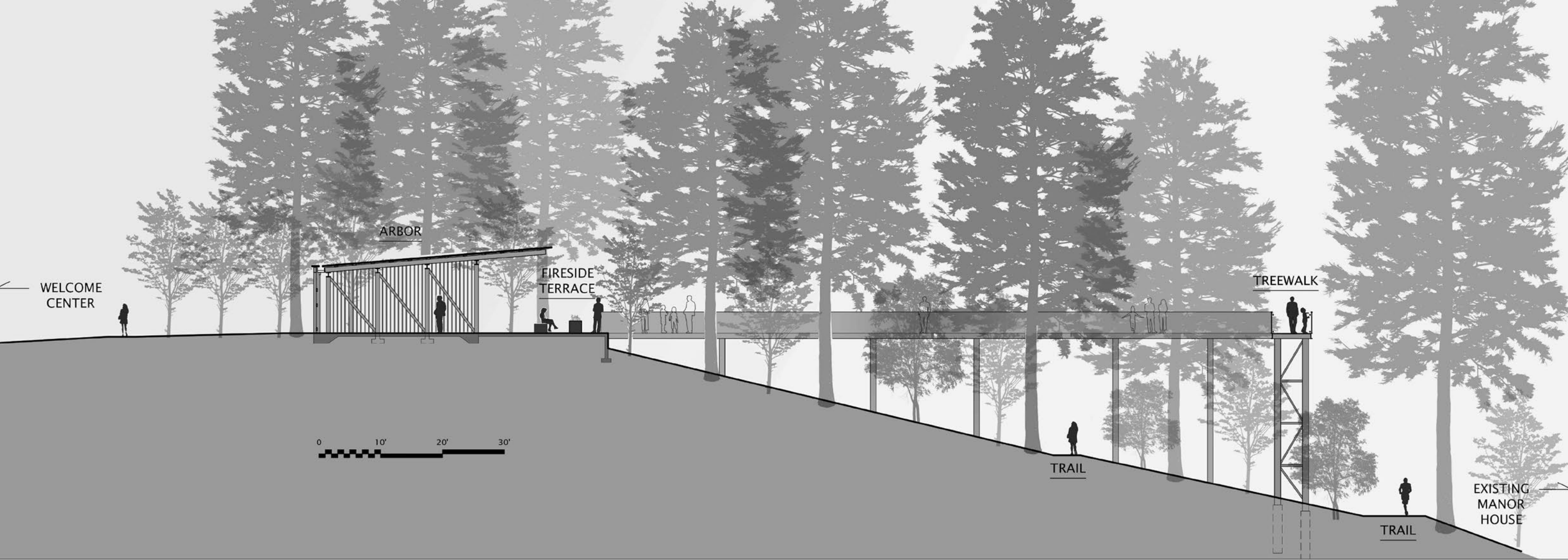
LEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN PLAN

The strategic plan celebrates the founders' vision of art, science, botany, and environmental stewardship.



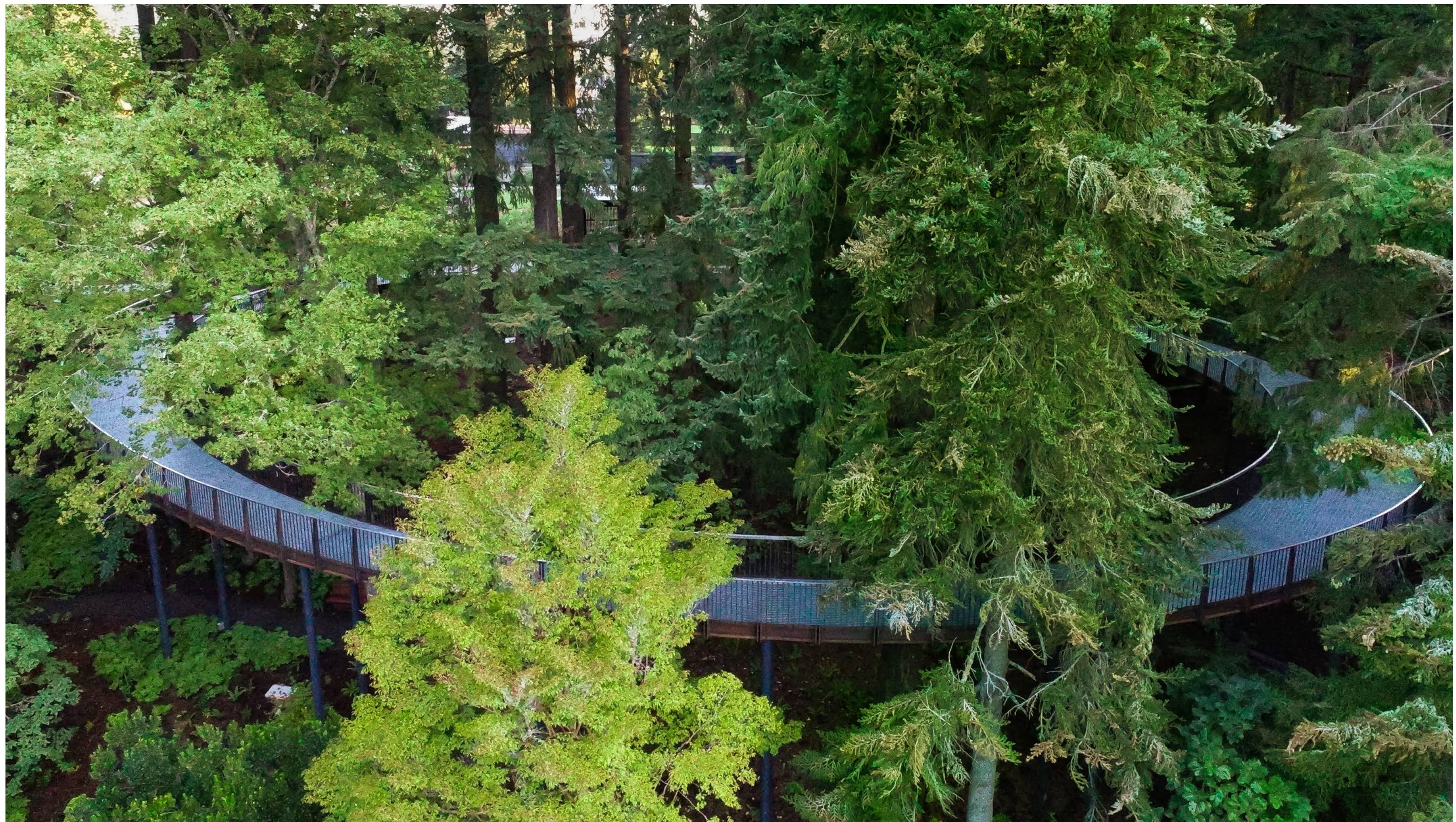
LEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN PHASE 1

Creating reasons for visitation was elemental. The project prioritized development of important features for securing the garden’s future. The new tree walk, pollinator meadow, and gathering green serve as compelling educational attractions.



QUALITY OF DESIGN

The tree walk takes advantage of the existing second growth forest and the topography to create a memorable environmental experience.



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The elevated elliptical-shaped tree walk varies in width, creating spaces for outdoor classrooms or special events. Carefully sited to minimize impacts to existing trees, the tree walk required the removal of only one tree.



DESIGN EXECUTION

Materials were selected for color, texture, and durability. Railings and vertical posts were designed to minimize visual impacts of the tree walk, allowing for a light touch on the landscape.



DESIGN EXECUTION

Twenty-seven structural support columns support the structure. Viewed from beneath the tree walk, these columns relate to the surrounding fir and cedar tree trunks.



DESIGN CONTEXT

The tree walk gracefully bends through the Pacific Northwest native forest.



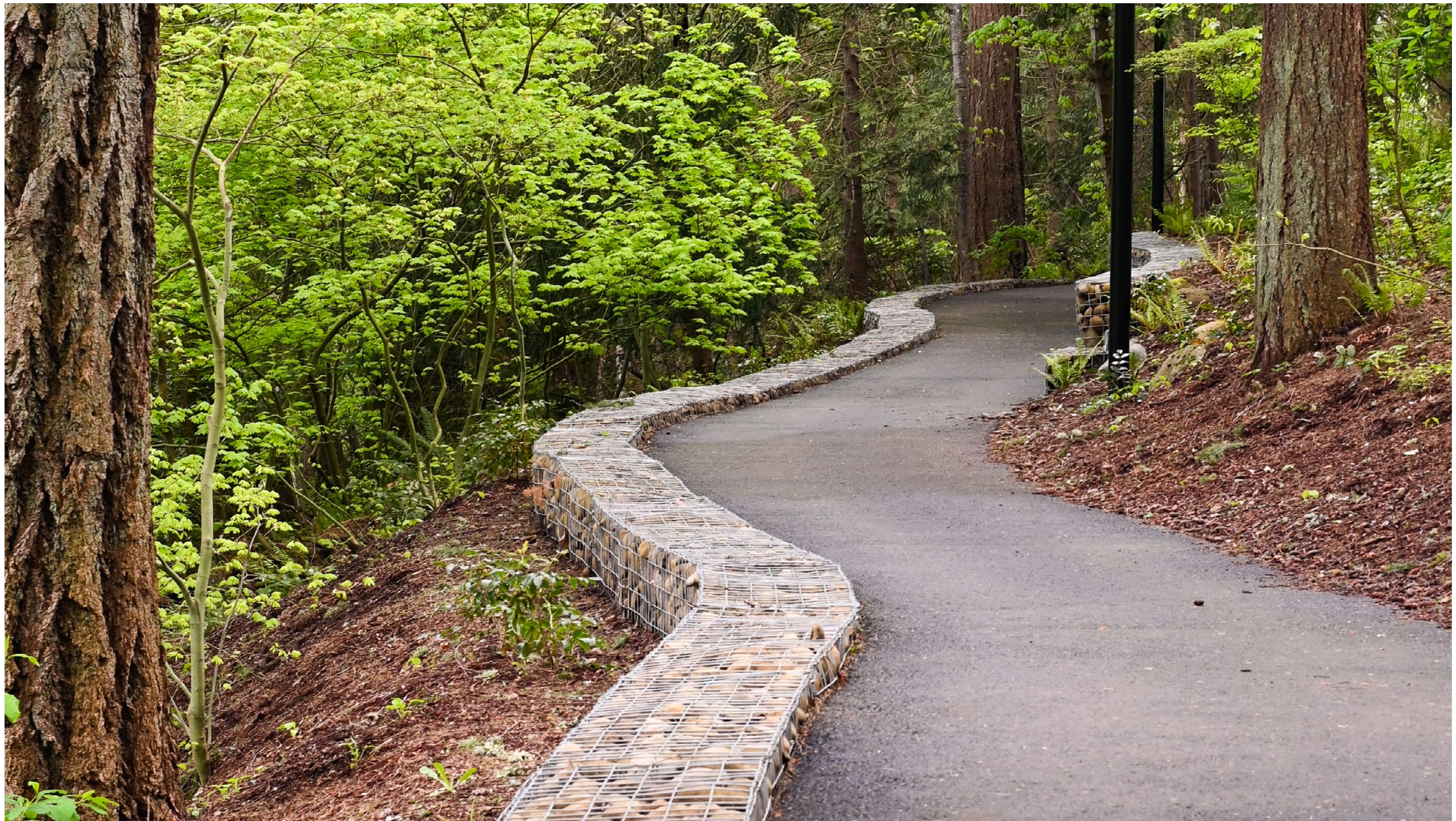
DESIGN CONTEXT

The pavilion features a precise composition of wooden screens attached to a steel and glulam structure instead of traditional solid walls.



SUSTAINABILITY

The biodiverse plant growth in the pollinator meadow demonstrates the beauty and diversity of habitat at Leach Botanical Garden. Visitation at the revitalized garden has doubled.



SUSTAINABILITY

Reuse of site materials: The abundant cobbles found on site were put to good use in gabion retaining walls throughout the garden.



SUSTAINABILITY

Planting enhancements include native plants, such as the native camassia and dogwood shown here.



SUSTAINABILITY

The parking areas drain into rain gardens that are designed to complement the botanic garden's display gardens.



DESIGN VALUE

The garden and its design process offer an important lesson to designers: programming elements are key to project's success. Creating new, compelling features that reinvigorate the brand of an institution is a best practice.



DESIGN VALUE

Inspired by the filtering of light through Douglas fir and western cedar trees on the forested hillside, the design team developed new ways to experience Leach Botanical Garden and celebrate the regional ecosystem.