



VAN DER BROHE
A R B O R E T U M

*“Trees have always been
the most penetrating preachers.*

*I revere them when they live in tribes
and families, in forests and groves...*

Trees are sanctuaries.

*Whoever knows how to speak to them,
whoever knows how to listen to them,
can learn the truth.”*

HERMAN HESSE

“The City of Two Rivers is very supportive of the Van der Brohe Arboretum and long-term plans for its growth and development. A 65-acre arboretum that also functions as a migratory bird sanctuary and an art park is a rare and wonderful asset, and one that Two Rivers is very pleased to have within our community. It presents an opportunity for the community to benefit from an aesthetically pleasing place to learn about trees, plant life, and birds. The trails within the grounds promote the benefits of green space and the physical and emotional health opportunities of a beautiful environment.”

— GREG BUCKLEY
CITY MANAGER, TWO RIVERS



Green space is important for not only the physical health of people, but also for the spiritual and emotional well being of those who feel in touch with the environment.

“I am so very excited about the Arboretum Project. I grew up near the Morton Arboretum in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and it had a huge positive impact on my young life. I would love to volunteer in some way, shape or form! It is very exciting to have this project underway in our community!”

— CORO B. FOX
NEIGHBOR

“As the principal of Two Rivers High School and former Ecology/Biology teacher there, I can think of numerous opportunities for students to learn from and to support the Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary. With our school being only a few blocks away, students will be able to walk with their class to learn about all of the ecological concepts that this property will provide. That is what makes this project so special! Students and faculty will actually see a property during a restorative process, one that is reverting to a natural ecosystem, one that is a full scale laboratory for our science and ecology programs.”

— CRAIG RYSTICKEN
PRINCIPAL, TWO RIVERS HIGH SCHOOL



The Arboretum provides an aesthetically pleasing venue for people to enjoy the attributes of immersive natural ecologies. Paths wind through a variety of distinct experiences and environmental displays.

MEADOWS

For many decades, the Arboretum will be characterized more by prairie and pollinator meadows than by tree canopy. Meadows provide shelter for small animals and ground dwelling birds that are unable to seek refuge in trees. Unlike turf and field grasses, the prairie varieties selected to be planted at VDBA are bunch grasses, which allow these animals to create nests and habitat,

and to shelter in the spaces and voids between clumps. Additionally, the prairie grasses produce seeds that are a prime food source for native birds and animals. Many different types of native flowers and fruiting shrubs will provide bird and butterfly food. The open ground plantings have been tailored to the varied site conditions found at the Arboretum, and feature Dry Mesic, Mesic Prairie,

Wet Prairie, and Wet Mesic Floodplain seed mixes. As the tree canopy develops, Savanna and Dry Mesic Woodland mixes will be incorporated to fill in the developing shaded areas. The traditional prairie is beautiful in itself, but these plantings will be augmented with selected areas of mass plantings of some of the more vibrant native flowering specimens.

MISSION & GOALS

Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary inculcates a vibrant bond between trees, nature, art, and people. It is a place where contemplation and discovery are fostered. Committed to the support of silviculture, migratory stopover, stewardship of the landscape, artistic expression, and education, Van der Brohe Arboretum intimately links visitors with the natural environment through the grounds, exhibitions, and programming.

A preeminent purpose of the Van der Brohe Arboretum is to maintain a living outdoor museum of trees for conservation, preservation, and the education, enjoyment and inspiration of our community. The Arboretum provides a place where people can see and compare mature plants and they can study the different varieties of trees and shrubs. The Arboretum is a place where plants and trees can be protected and propagated to preserve the biological diversity of our planet. The specific inclusion of trees deemed to be disease resistant cultivars of those trees lost to our native forest, and the promotion of trees common to a more southern range will investigate the expected evolutionary changes to the Coastal Mesic Forest in the face of invading diseases and climate change. Van der Brohe Arboretum will feature a greater number of tree species and cultivars than any known institution in this climate zone.

Equally important, the Arboretum will become and be maintained as a migrating stop-over site and otherwise accommodate and promote the avian population. As VDBA is located in the Lake Michigan Flyway, the intensive plantings of supportive forage and habitat will help compensate for the migratory support lost to urban, residential, and agricultural development. Trees, berry-producing and other shrubs, and vines also will be planted within and around the prairie/savanna and pollinator meadow settings, to provide food and cover, as well as to maintain a healthy insect population vital as a food source for a majority of songbirds. The planting preference for

berry-producing shrubs such as viburnum, elderberry, and winterberry will produce rich forage crops particularly attractive to many migrating songbirds including orioles, cedar waxwings, vireos and flycatchers. Bird use of the site is expected to increase dramatically, particularly for migrants, as the diverse vegetation becomes established and provides food and cover for migrants.

The Arboretum provides an aesthetically pleasing place for people to visit and enjoy the attributes of the natural ecologies. "Green space" is important for not only the physical health of people, but also for the spiritual and emotional well-being of those who feel in touch with the environment. The compacted gravel walking trails allow accessibility and comfort, as well as delimit the intrusion of people into the natural zones. Integration of community members as volunteer stewards, and of Two Rivers High School students in this outdoor laboratory, allows this project to better promote and improve the natural and cultural resources of the community. Opportunities for the public to establish trees and plantings and the breadth of student involvement will make the Arboretum a true legacy environment, as participants in the development see and celebrate multi-generational changes.

The Arboretum shall engage the public with certain ancillary uses, inclusive of art exhibits, walking programs, birding tours, and similar activities.

ART

Large scale public art, or environmental art, is a medium well-adapted to make manifest an environmental experience and to clarify an ecological condition. The lessons to be learned from the natural ecologies inherent in an arboretum setting are to be reinforced and elucidated through artistic installations. The grounds will be laid out with openings and settings designated for long-term temporary displays. The Art Nodes have

been generally located along the trail system on former tee boxes or greens that had been contoured as a distinct podium. Juried exhibitions will be installed for public viewing, and when appropriate, returned to the artist. All art selected will address the themes underlying the motive of the Arboretum.



Conservation Easement through
Glacial Lakes Conservancy



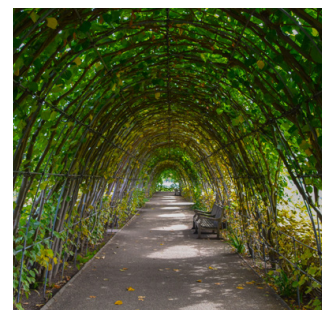
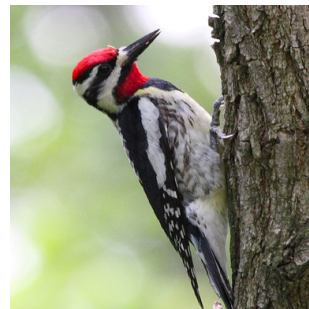
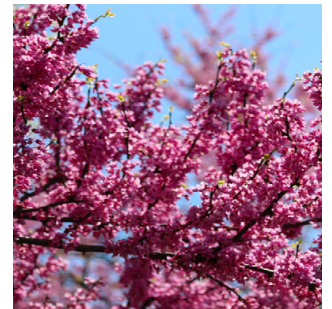
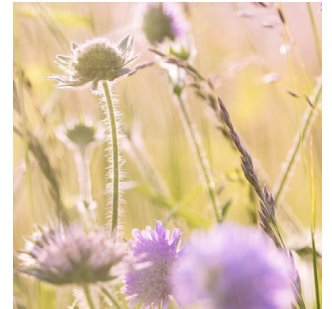
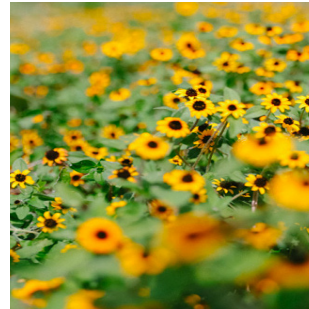
Brochure by Amy Pace Graphic Design
Renderings by Camille Applewhite

BIRDS

Providing habitat, food, and nesting opportunities for birds is central to the mission of Van der Broeke Arboretum. As a component of the migratory stopover, an abundance of food bearing plants, shrubs, and trees are to be planted. To insure habitat, the tree, shrub thicket, and ground nesting sites will be intensively promoted. Cavity boxes and

other structured housing will be installed throughout the site. Atlases of breeding birds and migratory birds routinely observed in the Lake Michigan Flyway and local open spaces were reviewed to develop a list of those bird species utilizing the habitat present and those who would benefit from specific restoration activities. This information guided the development

of the ecological masterplan. An Annual Point Survey will be conducted to monitor the effects of the maturing landscape on the resident and migratory avian community.

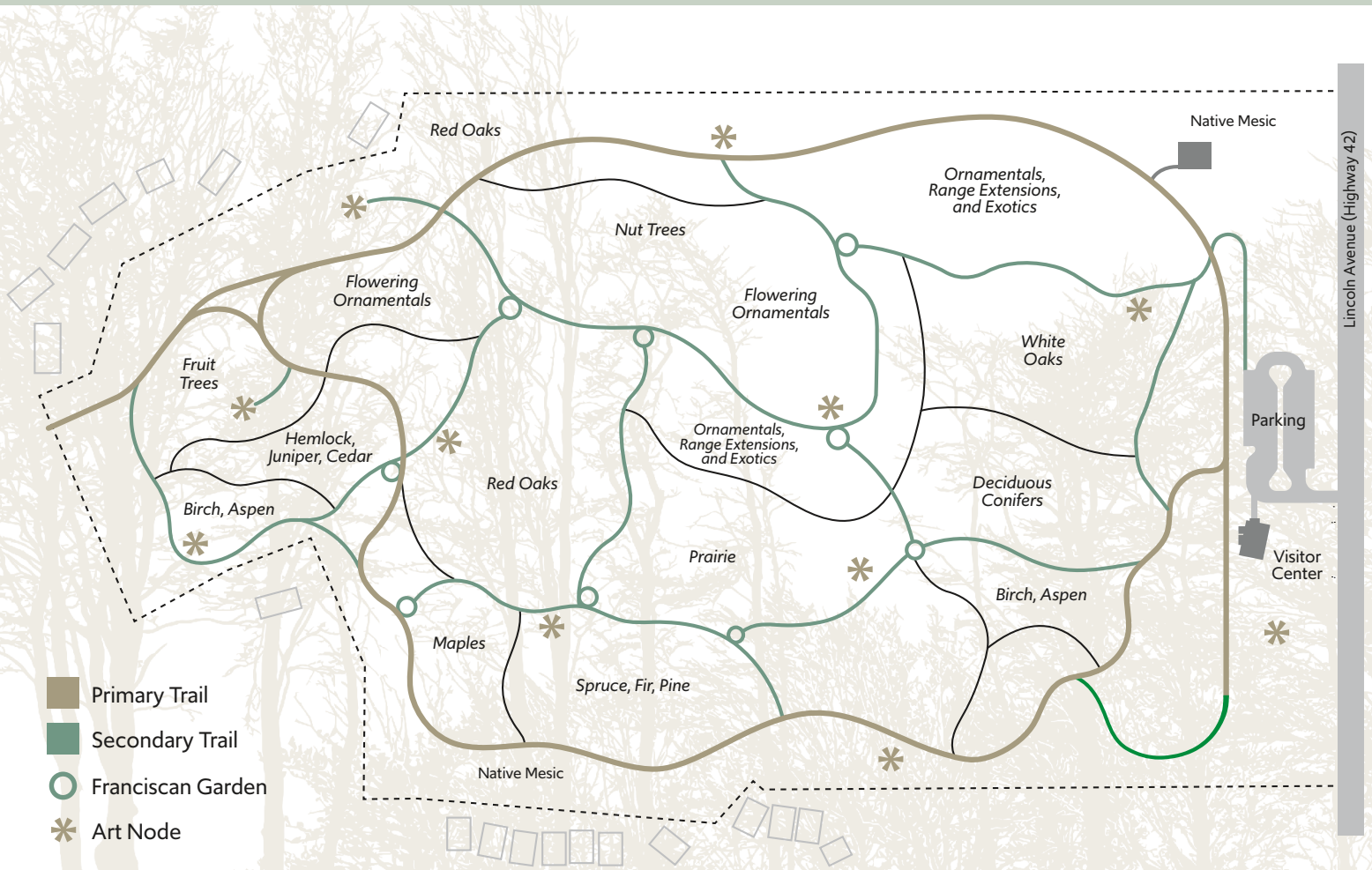


TREES

Trees are the essence of an Arboretum, and Van der Brohe Arboretum will plant and display virtually every tree that will tolerate the local climate. A panoply of different trees will be on display, planted in loose groupings by species. The trail system will define planting areas known as parterres, which feature 12 different families of tree. There will be, for example,

11 variants of Red Oaks and 18 variants and cultivars of White Oaks. Oaks, not incidentally, support a disproportionate number of the insects required by birds for food. Other groupings are: Deciduous Conifers, Maples, Nut Bearing, Spruces-Firs-Pines, Re-introductions and Range Extensions, Hemlocks-Junipers-Cedars, Fruiting, Birches-Aspen, Flowering

Ornamental, and Miscellaneous. Invasive threats and climate change challenge the survival of the historic make-up of the area's Coastal Mesic Forest. The Arboretum is purposefully planting varieties to study the potential diversity of the make-up of the evolving native forest.



THE TRAIL SYSTEM at Van der Brohe Arboretum comprises three categories of pathways, and outlines the major planting areas of tree typologies. All paths are intended to be “quiet trails,” and no vehicles or bicycles are permitted.

The Primary Trail is eight feet wide, and paved with compacted crushed limestone. It describes a loop around the site of exactly one mile in length. The Secondary Trail winds throughout the site, and is five feet wide and similarly paved. Mowed meadow walkways of four feet in width will comprise a third level of pathways, offering the most intimate experience of the natural setting. The trail system is punctuated at intervals by Art Nodes and Franciscan Gardens.



HISTORY & FUTURE

Founders John Durbrow and Karen Steingraber, having lived in many other areas around the country, developed a deep appreciation of the rich, but increasingly challenged, ecologies unique to the western shore of Lake Michigan. To undertake a restorative project and provide a permanent link in the chain of migratory stopover sites, they established Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary in 2018 on the grounds of the former Emerald Hills Golf Course. The property was placed under a permanent conservation easement and the non-profit organization was granted 501.(c).(3) status in 2019. An ecological Masterplan was completed in that year by Terra Engineering and Applied Ecological Services.

Planning for an arboretum must, by necessity, consider timeframes spanning several hundred years. The Arboretum exists in a variety of interlinked permutations, inclusive of

prairie settings, trees, shrubs (birdberries), wetlands, and a variety of horticultural displays. Planning for the installation of an arboretum as a restorative project therefore consists of many parallel steps which may not necessarily be sequential. Development paths which will inform the future activities of growing the VDBA are:

- Install trails to provide structure for planting installations
- Create entry and parking lot at Highway 42 (Lincoln Ave.)
- Plant areas of prairie and understory
- Develop a memorial planting program
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Formalize wetlands, scrapes, and ponds
- Install structured landscapes, ivy wall, and vine tunnels
- Develop the Educational and Interpretive Center
- Monitor tree health and avian activity

OPPORTUNITIES

Community enthusiasm following the inauguration of Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary has been exhilarating. The pace at which the vision will be realized is dependent on community support and grant opportunities. The diversity of installations and plantings and the scale of the project create many opportunities to support this legacy project.

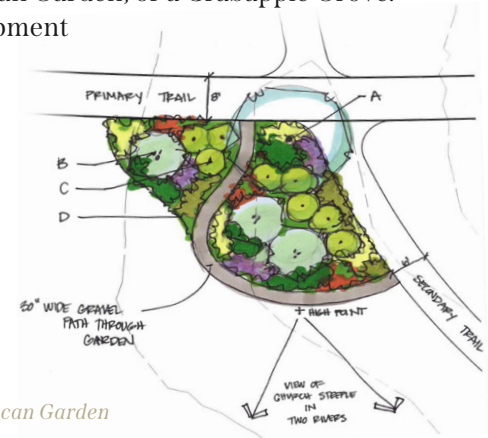
Donations will support the purchase of plant materials, their installation, protection, and maintenance. Contributions can be readily made on the website through PayPal, through Facebook, or by mail. Generous contributions have allowed the realization of the trail system.

Volunteer involvement will drive the quality of the Arboretum experience. VDBA currently has no paid staff. The tasks will be broad ranging as the grounds are developed, and include planting, maintenance, and monitoring. Helping arrange student activities at the Arboretum will be an especially rewarding experience.

Sponsorship of installations is a great way to participate in the development of the Arboretum or create a legacy memorial. The scope of sponsorships ranges from an entire Parterre Forest to a single specimen tree.

Of particular value to the project is support of a Vine Tunnel, an Ivy Wall, a Franciscan Garden, or a Crabapple Grove. Ultimately, the development

of the Educational and Interpretive Center will greatly expand the participatory options.



Franciscan Garden

*“The planting of a tree,
especially one of the long-living
hardwood trees, is a gift which
you can make to posterity
at almost no cost
and with almost no trouble,
and if the tree takes root it will
far outlive the visible effect of
any of your other actions,
good or evil.”*

GEORGE ORWELL

To learn how you or your organization can be a part of this community project, please contact:

John S. Durbrow, Director
Van der Brohe Arboretum
9601 Lakeshore Rd., Newton, WI 53063
1.920.726.4850 / director@vanderbrohearboretum.org
vanderbrohearboretum.org

*The arboretum grounds are located at 3800 Lincoln Ave., Two Rivers, WI.
Public access is limited during construction.*