

A glimpse into the future of Eastwoodhill...

Preserving the past, growing the future.

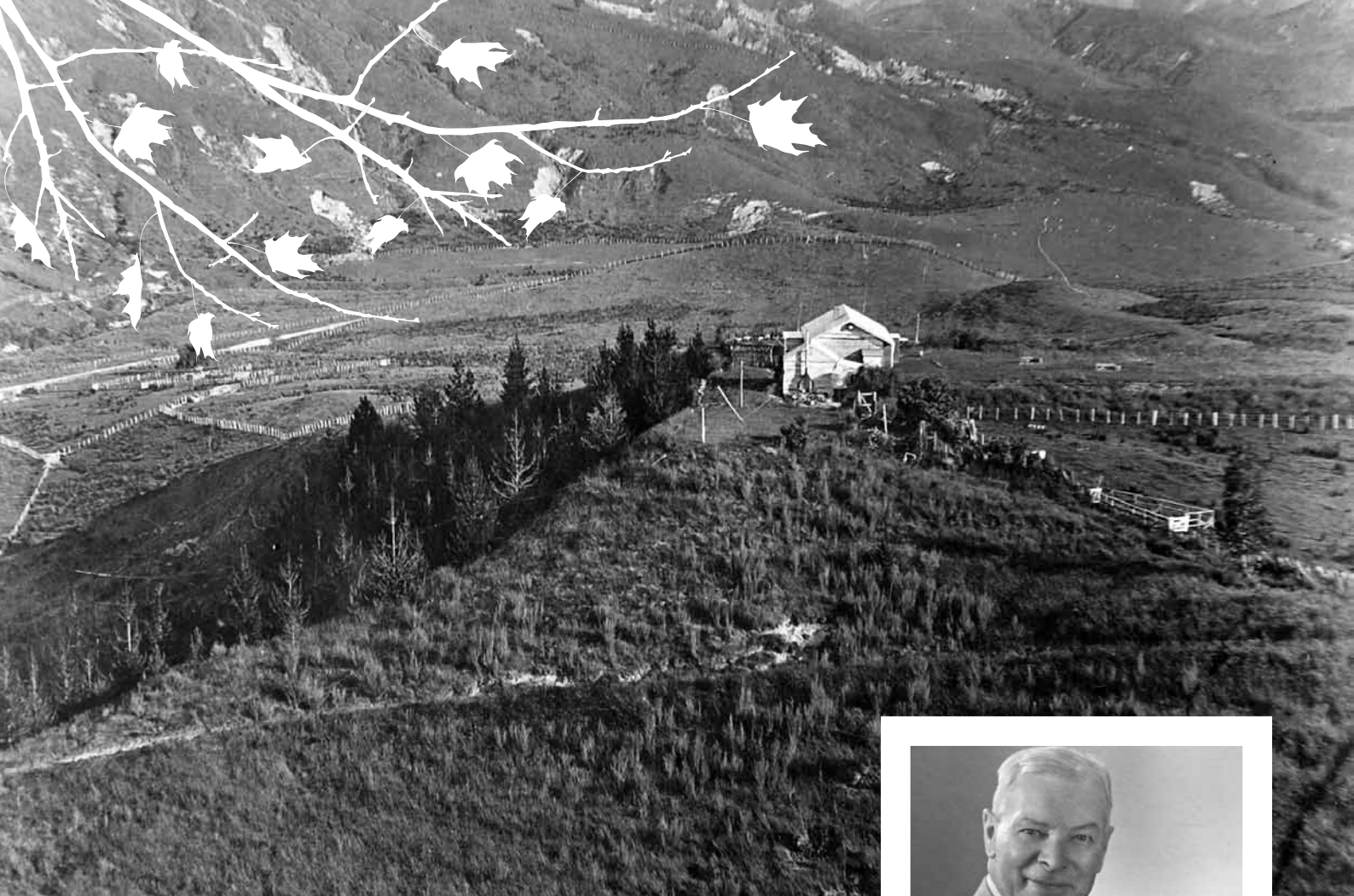
Launching a 100 year masterplan for the national arboretum.

Eastwoodhill arboretum is the national arboretum, it is home to 3500 taxa, many of which are on the world endangered list. It is internationally recognised as a safe repository for plants and home to the largest collection of northern hemisphere trees south of the equator.

In 2010 Eastwoodhill celebrated 100 years of operation. As part of the centennial celebration the Eastwoodhill Trust Board turned its collective minds to what would happen in the next 100 years. It was clear to the board that the internationally recognised collection had reached maturity and that staff and trustees would change over time so a clear way forward was required to guide ongoing maintenance and development of the park.

USA based Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, an internationally renowned firm with links to Gisborne, was engaged to develop the plan, paving the way for future custodians of this national treasure.





Eastwoodhill founder Douglas Cook

The arboreal ark concept

As the nuclear arms race escalated in the mid 20th century, Douglas Cook envisioned his botanic collections at Eastwoodhill as a safe haven for northern hemisphere species threatened by the possibility of war. The arboretum's remote location served as an arboreal ark for these species, a place to propagate new plants that might restore species should they be lost in their native eco-system.

Today, threats faced by forest tree species – particularly those in developed areas of the northern hemisphere with climatic conditions similar to Eastwoodhill are varied and difficult to combat. Already, all over the world, forest ecosystems have been changed dramatically as keystone species are threatened or lost.

There is a distinct need for repositories of species for study and protection.

Eastwoodhill is rare among the world's botanic and arboreal institutions in its ability to host plants from the northern hemisphere in relative isolation. This unique characteristic combined with New Zealand's stringent biosecurity regulations, makes the arboretum an ideal environment for the cultivation of threatened species.

This masterplan builds upon Douglas Cook's vision for Eastwoodhill as an arboreal ark by developing the collection according to the demands of global biodiversity conservation and introducing interpretive features that allow visitors to understand the importance of Eastwoodhill as a repository for the world's temperate forest tree species.

What is the masterplan?

This incredibly insightful and well executed plan delivers a way forward for Eastwoodhill over the next 100 years as the world faces more environmental uncertainty and increasing pressure on endangered plants and trees.

The masterplan builds on the potential of Eastwoodhill's remarkable collection and provides an organisational strategy that strengthens its reputation as an internationally relevant catalogue of northern hemisphere trees. New Zealand's isolation and climate make the arboretum a unique and critical research station for a global network of scientists studying tree disease, deforestation, diversity and species extinction.

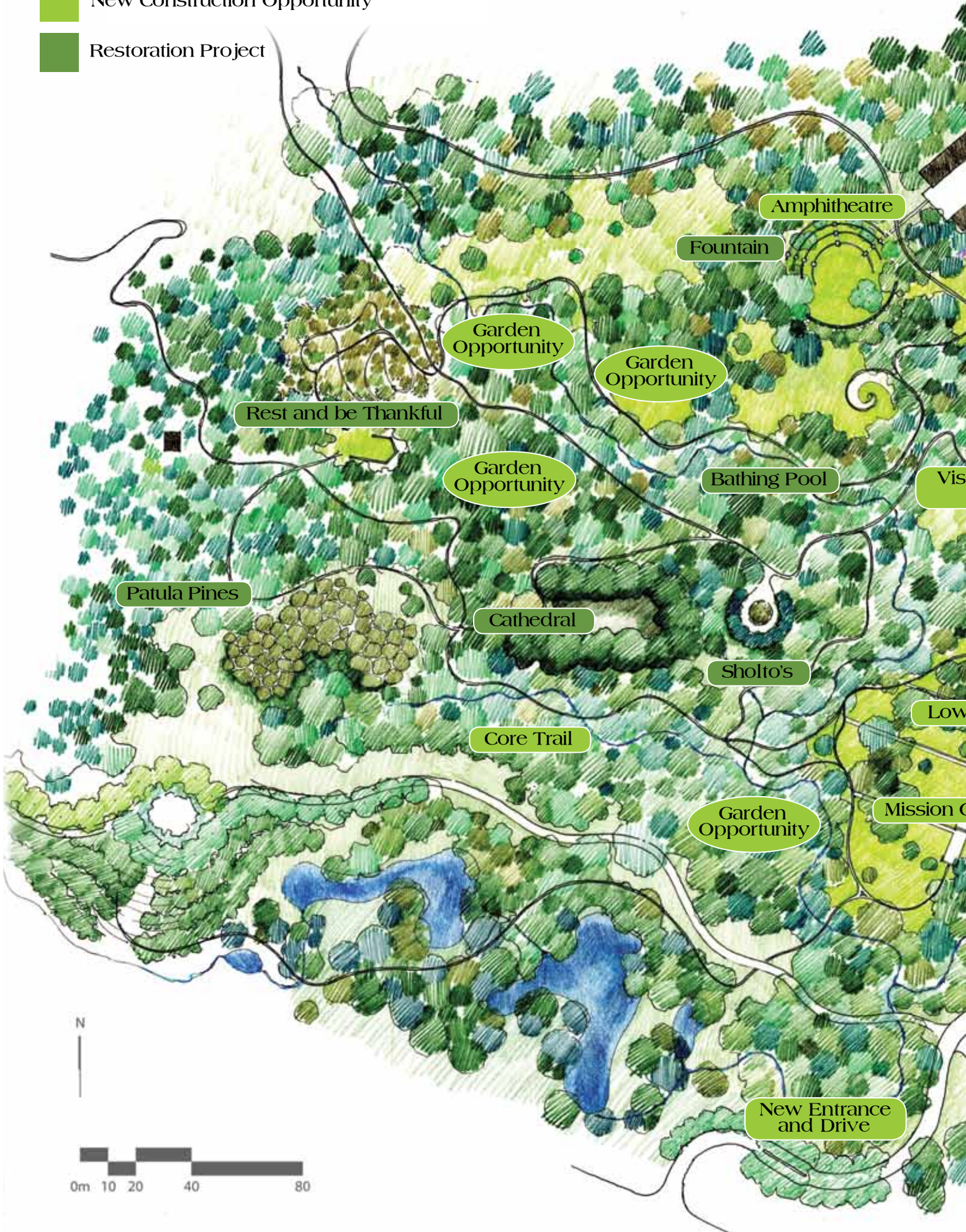
While Eastwoodhill expands its connections in the wider world, the institution needs to address the physical organisation of the collection and expand the educational possibilities of the visitor experience.

There are five key components within the plan,

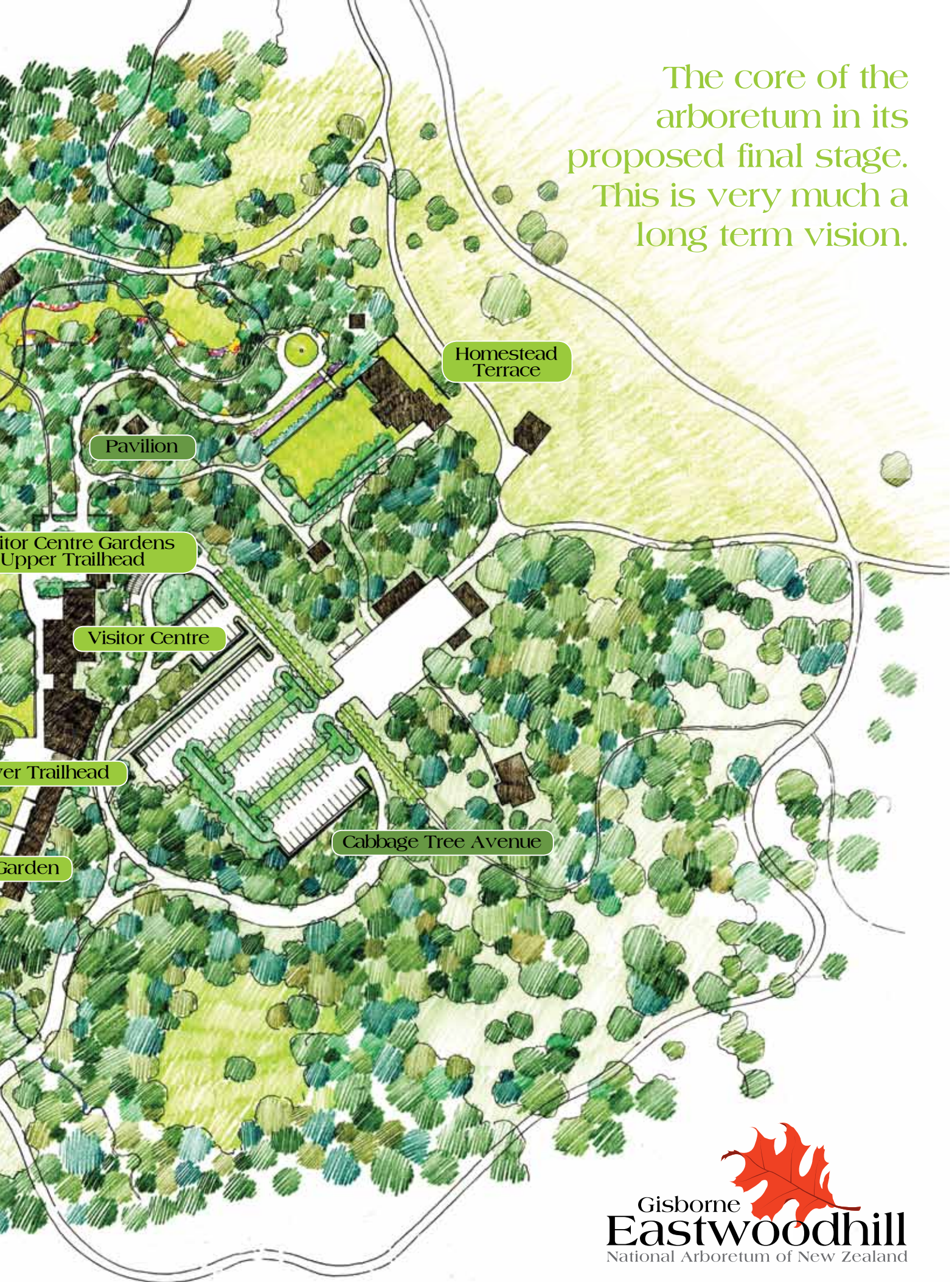
1. The collection – reorganisation of the trees in the park to fit within an “ecozone” concept related to geographical origin.
2. The core – the central gardens call for careful construction and maintenance strategies that will protect Eastwoodhill's wealth of historic and cultural resources. The plan proposes a new scaled entry gate, new garden features and development of an Eastwoodhill campus. With facilities for research, lodging and interpretation.
3. Circulation – to improve access and circulation in the park, the plan proposes a vehicular track and trail reorganisation to simplify navigation. Visitors will be directed from the main link track to unique gardens and tree collections. We need to standardise the trail and track dimensions throughout the park to create a clear hierarchy.
4. Infrastructure – the masterplan recommends a series of initiatives to co-ordinate maintenance, signage, and visitor amenities that will distribute services and vehicles throughout the collection with minimal fuss.
5. Implementation – The success of this plan will depend on Eastwoodhill attracting significant support from donors, sponsors and volunteers to drive a number of concurrent initiatives.



- New Construction Opportunity
- Restoration Project



The core of the arboretum in its proposed final stage. This is very much a long term vision.



Key priorities for Eastwoodhill

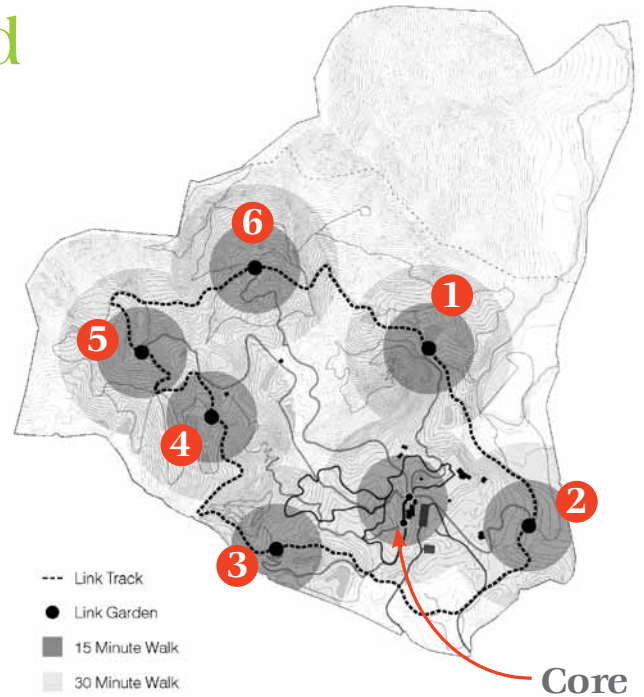
For the purpose of this launch, a few key priorities have been identified for Eastwoodhill to focus on.

PROJECT 1: Link Road

A series of proposed Ecozones within the park will create areas of interest relating to geographical regions. Species relating to geographic regions will be concentrated in these zones and then a “link road” and a series of “link gardens” will link them together.

The ecozone concept will be a helpful way to spatially organise the arboreal collection and it will invite interesting educational opportunities along the way.

The link gardens, along the improved access link track, will include special features and planting that create a point of interest in the spirit of Douglas Cook’s planted feature gardens. It is anticipated that the feature gardens will become important interpretation and education points.



Possible Uses

1. Europe zone (agricultural pollution)

The nutrient cycle – this garden will teach visitors about how plants produce energy for all organisms and how humans impact on the nutrient cycle.

2. North America and Europe (erosion and flooding)

As the earth’s population grows, plants will play a critical role in water conservation and this garden will provide a space to appreciate the sound and texture of water while introducing visitors to the role plants play in the water cycle and their unique ability to retain and cleanse water.

3. New Zealand / North America (forest structure)

Natural forests have a distinct layered structure between the forest floor and the upper canopy. This garden will demonstrate the working layers of a forest canopy and the impact of disturbances on forest structure.

4. Africa/South America (climate changes)

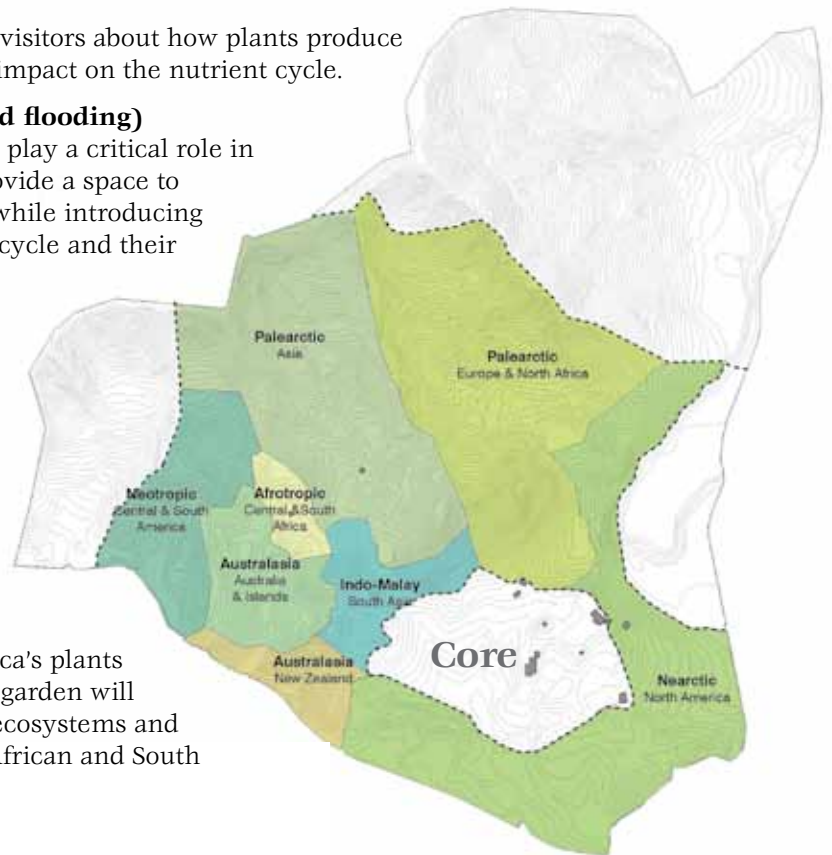
Projections are that as many as 50% of Africa’s plants will have no suitable climate by 2085. This garden will demonstrate the importance of climate in ecosystems and introduce the effect of climate change on African and South American plant life.

5. South America (deforestation)

As plants convert sunlight to food for other species they also provide shelter and hiding places in the layers of the forest canopy. This garden will showcase the abundant life of the South Americas and the role plants play in providing food and habitat for all species.

6. Asia (biodiversity conservation)

This garden will introduce visitors to the importance of symbiotic relationships between plants and other biological species in maintaining a diverse ecosystem.



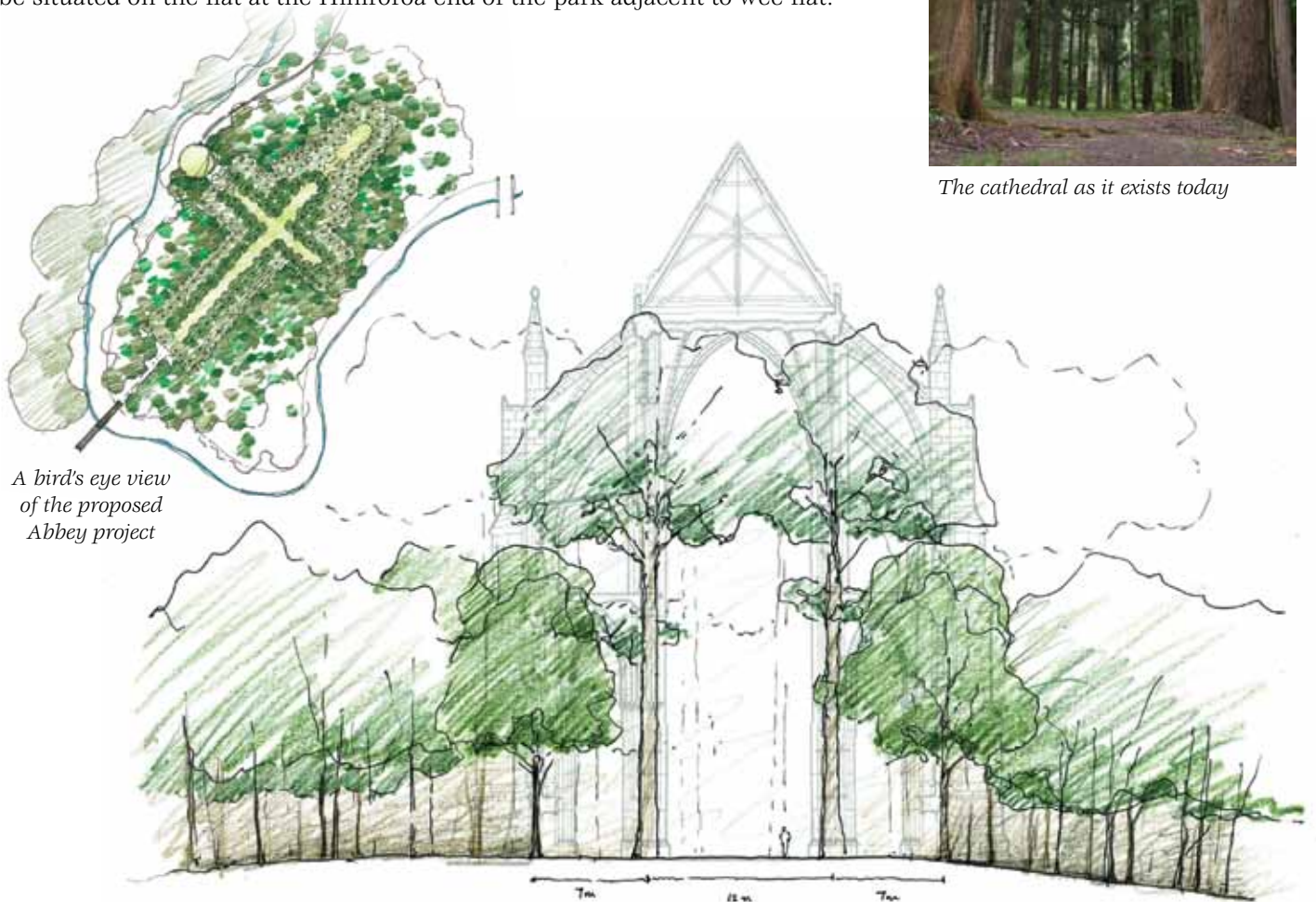
PROJECT 2: The Abbey

What does Eastwoodhill have in common with Westminster Abbey?

Well we could become the Westminster Abbey of the South. Douglas Cook planted the existing “Cathedral” early in his days at Eastwoodhill and it now boasts the tallest tree in the park – a Mountain Ash at 57 metres and still growing. The team identified that the Cathedral was something worth emulating but as the trees are reaching maturity it will be difficult to replace in its current position. So the idea to have an entire cathedral of our own was borne. This concept is based on the exact measurements of Westminster Abbey and would be situated on the flat at the Hihiroroa end of the park adjacent to wee flat.



The cathedral as it exists today



A bird's eye view of the proposed Abbey project

PROJECT 3: Entrance way and parking

The opportunity exists to create a commanding entrance that gives Eastwoodhill a real presence on Wharekopae Road while providing a secure entry for vehicles. The proposed serpentine wall engages trees and light, creating visual effects that are constantly changing for passing motorists and suggest dynamic forest conditions within the arboretum.

This project includes shifting the driveway back to its original route and increasing the carparking to accommodate more vehicles.



Thomas L. Woltz, CLA, ASLA, Principal

Thomas served as Principal-in-Charge of the Eastwoodhill Arboretum Master Plan. As principal and co-owner of Nelson Byrd Woltz, he has led designs of a broad range of institutional, private, and corporate projects in the US and abroad. Recent and current projects include The Peggy Guggenheim Sculpture Garden in Venice, Italy; a landscape stewardship master plan for the 3,000-acre Thomas Jefferson Foundation property at Monticello in Virginia; a master plan for Bell Mountain Winery and Ranch in Alexander Valley, California; and a master plan for 43,000 acres of Catalina Island off the coast of southern California. A new garden project at the Devonian Botanic Garden in Edmonton, Ontario, Canada is just getting underway.



Thomas serves on the Board of Directors of The Cultural Landscape Foundation. He is frequently invited to speak around the United States and internationally. The conservation and design work that Thomas has led at nearby Orongo Station (Nick's Head) for the past ten years has been recognized with numerous awards and publications.

Breck Gastinger, Senior Project Manager

Breck was the Senior Project Manager for the Eastwoodhill Arboretum Master Plan. He began working at Nelson Byrd Woltz in 2000. He earned his Master of Architecture (2003) and Landscape Architecture (2004) degrees from the University of Virginia. He also holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from UVA (1998). His graduate work was recognized with numerous honors and awards.



At NBW, Breck has served as project manager on a wide range of public and private projects including the multi-award winning Citygarden in St. Louis, Missouri; the winning design team for the Flight 93 National Memorial competition in Shanksville, Pennsylvania; the Farm at Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand; and the award-winning Orongo Station Conservation Master Plan, Poverty Bay, New Zealand. He is currently working on a landscape stewardship plan for Thomas Jefferson's 3,000-acre property at Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia; a new community park in Wildwood Missouri; and a new garden at the Devonian Botanic Garden in Edmonton, Ontario, Canada.

Who is Nelson Byrd Woltz?

Founded in 1985, Nelson Byrd Woltz (NBW) is a 30-person landscape architecture firm with offices in Charlottesville Virginia and New York City. Committed to education and conservation, the firm has been involved in a broad array of public and private projects including botanic gardens and zoos, public parks, private gardens and estates, academic institutions, corporate campuses, and town planning. The firm actively seeks this diversity of project scales and types to cultivate the creativity of the professional staff. The firm's work has garnered over 70 national and regional awards and has been widely published.

In design projects of all scales, emphasis is placed on the symbolic, ecological, and practical potential of plants, water, and natural process in the sustainable landscape. Careful response is made to the environmental considerations of a site such as stormwater retention, wildlife conservation, and energy efficiency. These landscape designs engage the site in a way that informs the observer about the environment we occupy and the greater world around us.

More information about the firm can be found at www.nbwla.com.

Thanks to our sponsors

John and Amy Griffin
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