



Bonhoeffer Gardens' Herbarium & Coffee Shop

Before you is the Bruhn residence, built in 1903, now painted schoolhouse red. As a technologically based learning center, it is intended to house Bonhoeffer Gardens' herbarium, allowing visitors to view native plants' foliage, fruits, and flowers digitally throughout the year (most native plants flower March to May). It is bitter sweet to have this site, honoring Dietrich Bonhoeffer, perhaps be Snohomish & Skagit Counties' only Jewish inhabited homestead.

The Gardens' location is a perfect place for the Northwest's largest native plant collection. Its geographic location is the best possible; as it allows the Campus to have 3 different and varied types of growing zones; almost all of which are "wet" for most of the year. From a collection and gardening standpoint, a barely manageable number (~1,000) of native plant species cover this soil. In visiting the UK's Kew Gardens Herbarium Director to discuss the proposed Bonhoeffer Herbarium, we were told that the Pacific Northwest 2,000 native plants are not of much interest to international botanical science: *"the world has 350,000 plant species to collect and study and only a few are found in recent glaciated terrain like that of western Washington. We can sit in a patio in Borneo and see 35,000 species. We just don't have much interest in New York, Chicago, Delaware*, Washington ... either Washington's flora."*

That said, Exit 215 sits directly in the throat of the Strait of San Juan de Fuca and captures the State's coastal rain. Washington's Coastal Climatic zone plants are found "inland," as are the plants of 2 other climate zones: the Puget Trough and Cascade Slopes. Over 1,200 of the State's native plants are targeted to be represented in these 11 acres of gardens. Half of all State of Washington native plant species will be grown (all conifers, shrubs, and deciduous trees are already planted, barring 2 of the 21 reported native species of Salix). Exit 215 is a unique site for growing Washington's native plants.

It is intended that future generations will be taught about the native plants and beauty found by pioneers when they settled this land; doing so in an outdoor laboratory setting. The design of the enhanced Exit 215 Campus is that of an outdoor learning center with support buildings, teaching stations (rainy day kiosks), plantings and exhibits for youngsters of all ages. "Walk around outdoor" 2-3 hour laboratories, with teaching sites (kiosks and amphitheaters) allow a "real-life" learning experience. Flat/level garden paths allow for self-propelled wheelchairs and walkers for the aged, handicapped, and disabled. The Gardens are intended to allow easy walks for those over 80 years of age and those under 8. (For those in wheelchairs arriving in the proposed parking area off the Hall Road, the ~1/2 mile of paths and boardwalks are at 377' above sea level, not varying 1/2 inch up or down in elevation throughout.)

*For the last 10 years the Gardens has been planting/collecting local native species that should be found within driving distance (fair proof that a species is "native"). Two out of ten native species cited as existing in the Exit 215 area by the leading botanical collection texts of the last two generations (Hitchcock & Cronquist, Peck and/or Kasloff) have not as yet been found (photographed or collected/planted) in a decade of searching. We could be well on our way to matching the State of Delaware where ~51% of its native plants are extinct or endangered, see: <http://www.wra.udel.edu/files/NaturalHeritage/DBSynopsis.pdf>. Pacific Yew, 5 needle White Pine, and Madrona (WA&OR)/Madrone (CA)/Arbutus (BC) are examples of trees but steps away from extinction. Others are already gone; we've traveled 1,000s of miles in search of Giant Chinquapin and Red Currant "triste," "not "sanguineum."



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EXIT 215'S
FREEBORN RESERVE

FOOT TRAFFIC FLOW:
START - WALK THROUGH HERBARIUM
WALK AROUND BOTANICAL GARDEN
EXIT - THROUGH PLANT SHOP

- ROCK SIGNAGE:**
- 1 MILKHOOK LEARNING CENTER
 - 2 FREEBORN CHURCH AND CEMETERY
 - 3 BONHOEFFER BOTANICAL GARDENS
 - 4 MILKHOOK LIVING HISTORY FARM
 - 5 ENTRANCE FARM
 - 6 ENTRANCE CHURCH
 - 7 ENTRANCE GARDENS
 - 8 GENERAL PARKING & SPECIAL NEEDS
 - 9 BUS PARKING
 - 10 ENTRANCE
 - 11 ENTRANCE GARDENS
 - 12 ENTRANCE GARDENS
 - 13 HERBARIUM & EXIT
 - 14 ADA PARKING
 - 15 WOUNDED WARRIOR PARKING
 - 16 RESTROOM
 - 17 FREEBORN RESERVE
 - 18 CHILDREN'S PARK
 - 19 SODIUM GAZE
 - 20 CHILD ONLY
 - 21 CHILDREN'S MAZE
 - 22 BUS UNLOADING
 - 23 EXIT ONLY

- CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT LOCATIONS:**
- NOTE: THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL USES ARE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN THE DOCUMENT "EXIT 215-FREEBORN RESERVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NARRATIVE"
- 1 BOTANICAL GARDENS
 - 2 LIFE REMNISCENCES
 - (A) ASH SCATTERING PLATFORM AND HOLOCAUST MONUMENT
 - (B) COLUMBARIUM
 - 3 CHAPEL AND BONHOEFFER HALL
 - 4 SUNDAY SCHOOL
 - 5 CHURCH BASEMENT COFFEE SHOP AND COMMUNITY MEETING
 - 6 GARDEN ENTRANCE & EXIT BUILDING
 - (A) GARDENS ENTRANCE & EXIT SHED
 - (B) GREENHOUSE
 - (C) HERBARIUM
 - (D) FREEBORN COLLEGE INFORMATICS LIBRARY & CLASSROOM
 - 7 OTHER AREAS AND USES
 - (A) ONE PARKING SITE FOR ARMISTICE TRAILER
 - (B) CHILDREN'S GARDEN
 - (C) OUTSIDE LIFE EVENTS VENUE
 - 8 COMMUNITY CENTER
 - 9 SPECIAL EVENTS
 - 10 OTHER EVENTS
- NOTES:**
- 1 THIS IS NOT A FINAL GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN, BUT IT IS A CONCEPTUAL PLAN ONLY.
 - 2 THE PARKING LOT ROAD CONNECTS A PRIVATE ROAD/DRIVEWAY TO THE RESIDENCE ON THE PROPERTY.
 - 3 ROADS ARE CONNECTED BY A STRAPPED STRONG OF 4-2" FIP FOR UTILITY, ELECTRICAL, BUSINESS, TELEPHONE AND WATER. UTILITY PIPES (X) WILL FOLLOW THE PATHS.



FREEBORN RESERVE'S A JEWISH PIONEER FARM

Austin Ryals' *The Two Johns*, a family history, tells of a young John Erick "Brun" (changed to "Bruhn" at Ellis Island), son of a German Jewish physician who fled the pogroms to Sweden, and who later sent his son, Swedish wife, and their 2 boys (one, John Emmanuel) to homestead the land on which you stand. A granddaughter's 1972 plaque is to your right, commemorating a gift of this property to the Church in her father and mother's names; the rest of the homestead/Gardens being purchased in 2004 by David & Sheila (Tipp) Thomsen and then gifted to the Freeborn Reserve. Both are Jewish heritage gifts, honoring a Lutheran pastor who died at Flossenburg in 1945 because he had the courage to say discrimination was wrong.

John Erick's father sent his son and grandsons from Sweden with enough money for investments. Landing in paddle wheeler at the County's largest city, Snohomish, the Bruhns silently invested in buildings, one still standing. Snohomish was then the County Seat (until Everett officials "stole" the records one night).



Letters suggest that John Erick maintained his family economically by farming and making violins. Many neighbors then played this instrument (the musical instrument used in the Freeborn Church before the purchase of an organ), some making a living by walking to Conway or Milltown, back and forth every day, to work at the mills. "Scratching together a living" was not just a saying, it was a tough life and wages were scarce (the walk to Conway is 7 miles, 2 hours each way). With the advent of County property taxes, money was needed; homesteaders did not keep their farms without currency.

FREEBORN RESERVE'S HISTORY PEDESTALS

Pedestals (14 in all) are found on both sides of 300th. With the Farm's 16 Heritage Trailers/Cabins and the Gardens' 16 Kiosks, they combine to provide educational venues, 2 hour outdoor labs (4' at each station, 2' for transit) covering topics rarely taught today in schools. The Reserve honors this area's pioneers, their beliefs and dreams, and the land they settled.

- 1 Preschool & Garden Dreams - 690' to your right/East
- 2 Haiti Mission Projects - 410' to your right/East
- 3 History Among the Departed - 270' to your right/East
- 4 Children Park & Salmon Drying Kiln - 140' to your right/East
- 5 A Jewish Pioneer Farm ■ You Are Here Now
- 6 Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens - 50' to your left/SW
- 7 Why the Water Testing Pipes? - 180' to your left/West
- 8 Why No Stream in the Gardens? - 200' to your left/SW

Freeborn Reserve: Fishback Learning Center, Living History Farm, Preschool, Freeborn Church and Cemetery, Bonhoeffer Hall, Sophie's Herbarium and Grotto, and Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens' visitors enter under Washington's Recreational Use Statute - RCW 24A.200 & 210 allowing public recreational use including nature study and viewing or enjoying historical/archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites on private, B-5 land. No visitor or admission fees are required.