

PROTECTING GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AT THE SARAH P. DUKE GARDENS

Stemming the loss of global biodiversity is one of the greatest ecological challenges of our time. Organizations such as botanic gardens are called upon to determine how their unique assets can best be put to use toward this cause. Here are a few of the present and future initiatives that the staff of the Sarah P. Duke Gardens are enacting to help reverse the trend of global species loss.

Education

Conservation lectures and field trips for the public focus on the need for increased awareness of the threats to native ecosystems throughout the southeastern United States. Interpretive signage placed throughout the Garden helps foster an understanding of the many factors driving the downward trend in global biodiversity. Plans are currently being developed to realize the educational potential of the internet for the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. An improved website will focus on connecting the world with our conservation efforts through audio tours and other enhanced content.



Children's Educational Programs



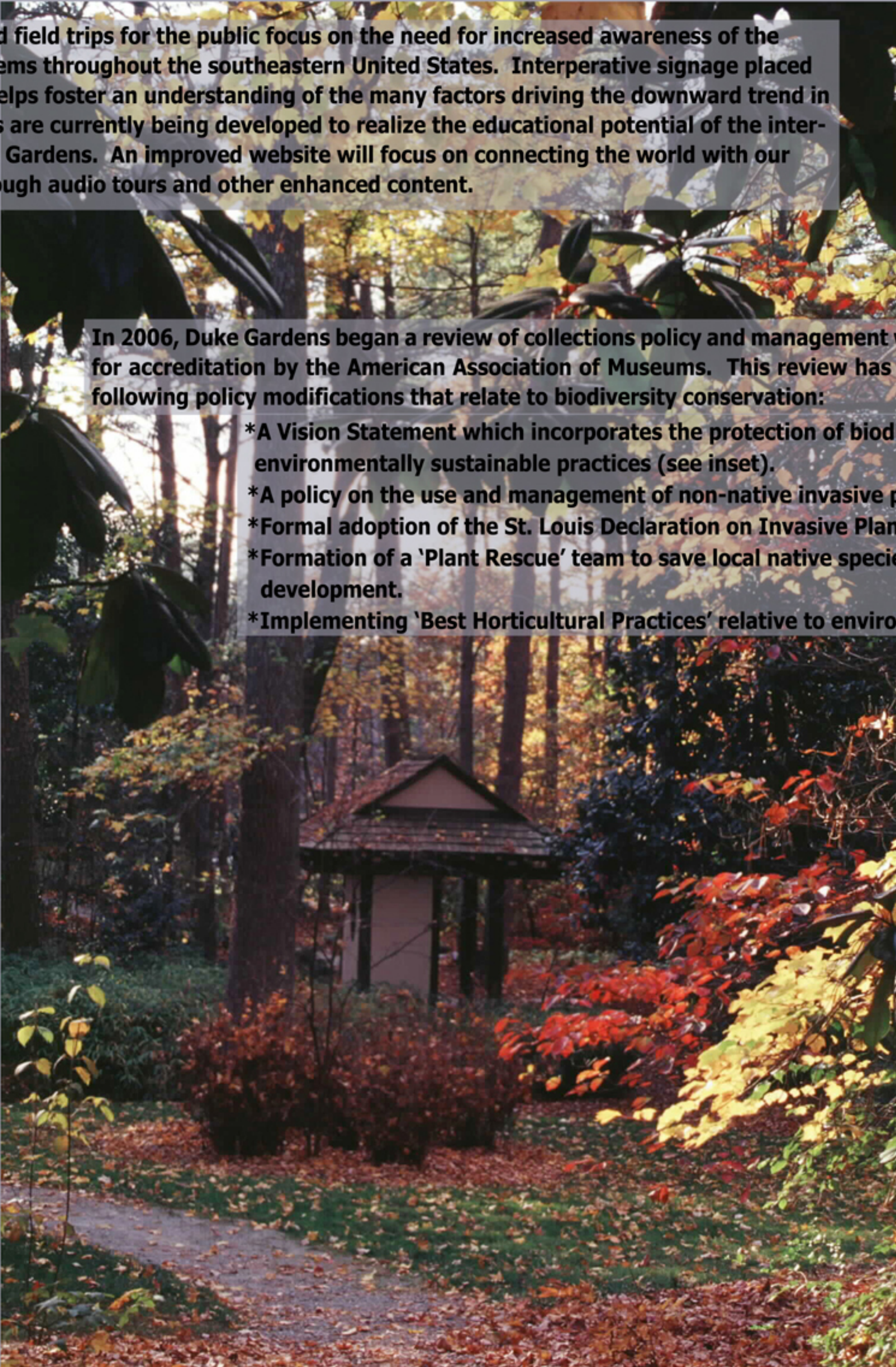
Educational field trips



Interpretive Signage



Interactive Website



In 2006, Duke Gardens began a review of collections policy and management with a goal of qualifying for accreditation by the American Association of Museums. This review has thus far resulted in the following policy modifications that relate to biodiversity conservation:

- *A Vision Statement which incorporates the protection of biodiversity and use of environmentally sustainable practices (see inset).
- *A policy on the use and management of non-native invasive plant species.
- *Formal adoption of the St. Louis Declaration on Invasive Plant Species.
- *Formation of a 'Plant Rescue' team to save local native species threatened by development.
- *Implementing 'Best Horticultural Practices' relative to environmental sustainability.

Vision Statement

The Sarah P. Duke Gardens is an historic public garden that strives to establish and enhance meaningful connections between people and plants through its premier gardens and inspired educational programs. The Gardens seeks to become recognized as a model for the stewardship of the natural world, for promoting an understanding and appreciation of nature, and for helping to engage society in conservation and sustainable environmental practices.

Internal Initiatives



Policy Review



Invasive Species Removal



Plant Rescues

Networking

Collaboration with local botanic gardens helps create an environment where differing strengths can be brought together to tackle issues of common concern. Cooperation with botanical organizations outside the United States as well as attendance at national and international conferences connect the Garden to global conservation efforts. Finally, the implementation of an international internship program in 2006 exemplifies our commitment to make connections with botanical professionals across the globe.



Partnerships



National Conferences
BGCI/CPC Conference
Denver, CO 2004



International Cooperation
Toyama, Japan 2005



International Internships
Students from
Guizhou Botanical Garden
2006



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