

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Campus Facilities Planning Committee
Agenda Item Description Form

- 1. ITEM:** Hines College of Architecture Koi Pond and Landscape Improvements
- 2. REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:** Minor & Planned Projects (MPP)/The Burdette Keeland Jr. Design & Exploration Center
- 3. CONTACT NAMES & PHONE NUMBERS:** Theron L. Mathis (Matt) 713-743-9609
- 4. PRESENTER:** Jay Williams Landscape Art
- 5. RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED:** To obtain the CFPC's approval and receive any comments/recommendations on the Pond's conceptual drawings that will assist in developing this property to a high profile addition to the New University of Houston Campus Life Model.
- 6. SUMMARY:**
The short-term goal is to establish the Koi Pond as an environmentally sound body of water using bogs as a "natural" means of filtration and beauty.
- The long-term goal is to design and construct a serene park atmosphere. Our general scope would include...
- Creation of a berm between the pond and the parking lot to help frame the park area.
 - An enhancement of the existing sculpture.
 - Adding plant materials and trees that will create a peaceful oasis.
 - Add a butterfly garden that will require Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Principles.
 - Providing seating areas that will encourage reflection and contemplation.
- Ultimately, we want to create a space that is a refuge for the students, faculty and visitors and a shining example of the best of "enhanced" nature.
- We hope that the result will become the signature "calling card" of the campus and of the School of Architecture.
- 7. PROPOSED START DATE:** November 2013
- 8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Preliminary Sketch.
General Concepts Letter



Campus Facilities Planning Committee Hines College of Architecture / Koi Pond

General Concepts

Koi Pond

We wish to convert the Koi Pond from a man-made filtration system (similar to a swimming pool) to a "natural" filtration system with the use of at least 1,000 square feet of Bog. The pond water will circulate via pumps that will push the water through a series of pipes under a gravel bed.

The gravel beds (Bogs) will be enhanced with water plants, boulders and stepping stones. Over time, the plant life and natural growth in the gravel will create a filtration system for the water that will clean the entire pond. The gravel bed will become a living, breathing part of nature.

Creating a "Space"

We propose to construct a berm between the pond and the parking lot to "frame" the park area. By reducing the ambient sound level and providing a "green fence", we hope to create an area that is a quiet refuge. The access to a seating area on the edge of the pond would be encouraged by "foraging" the pond on flagstone stepping stones placed in the bog.

The island can also be enhanced to provide additional seating. The bog can become a very quiet stream of water percolating through a bed of rock, boulders, stepping stones and water plants.

Sculpture

We would like to contact the artist, if possible, to ascertain his/her concept concerning the presentation of the sculpture. There appears to be an intention to include vines growing up and over at least portions of the sculpture. We would like to try to fulfill the original vision and incorporate it into the overall park design.

Sitting Areas

At multiple locations, north of the sculpture, we would create seating areas that would be open, yet peaceful. We would provide enough space between benches or "sitting" rocks to allow for a private conversation, but still be a public place. Blending the two requires planning to insure that the landscape does not separate people, but doesn't crowd them.

Butterfly Garden

A butterfly garden can make several statements in one fell swoop. Firstly, to truly promote caterpillars, chrysalis and butterflies, there must be a commitment to organic gardening without the use of pesticides in the park. Over time, nature will find the balance between bugs and the landscape. It is a process that may require educational signage and community commitment, but it is a worthwhile goal.

Secondly, it is an educational bonanza to participate in the process of intentionally providing plants that will be totally consumed by the caterpillars, with the knowledge that we are "breeding" beauty.

Last, but not least, is the absolute joy of sitting in a garden and watching the products of nature open their wings to the world around us. The Monarch butterfly is currently in decline and Houston and Texas are an important part of the life-cycle of the Monarch. To create a feast of Milk Weed at the University of Houston could become a part of the solution for the continuation of one of the most beautiful and remarkable creatures in our world.

SHEET DESCRIPTION:
Kai Pond

PROJECT:
University Of Houston Pond

REVISIONS:
None

DATE:
5-03-13

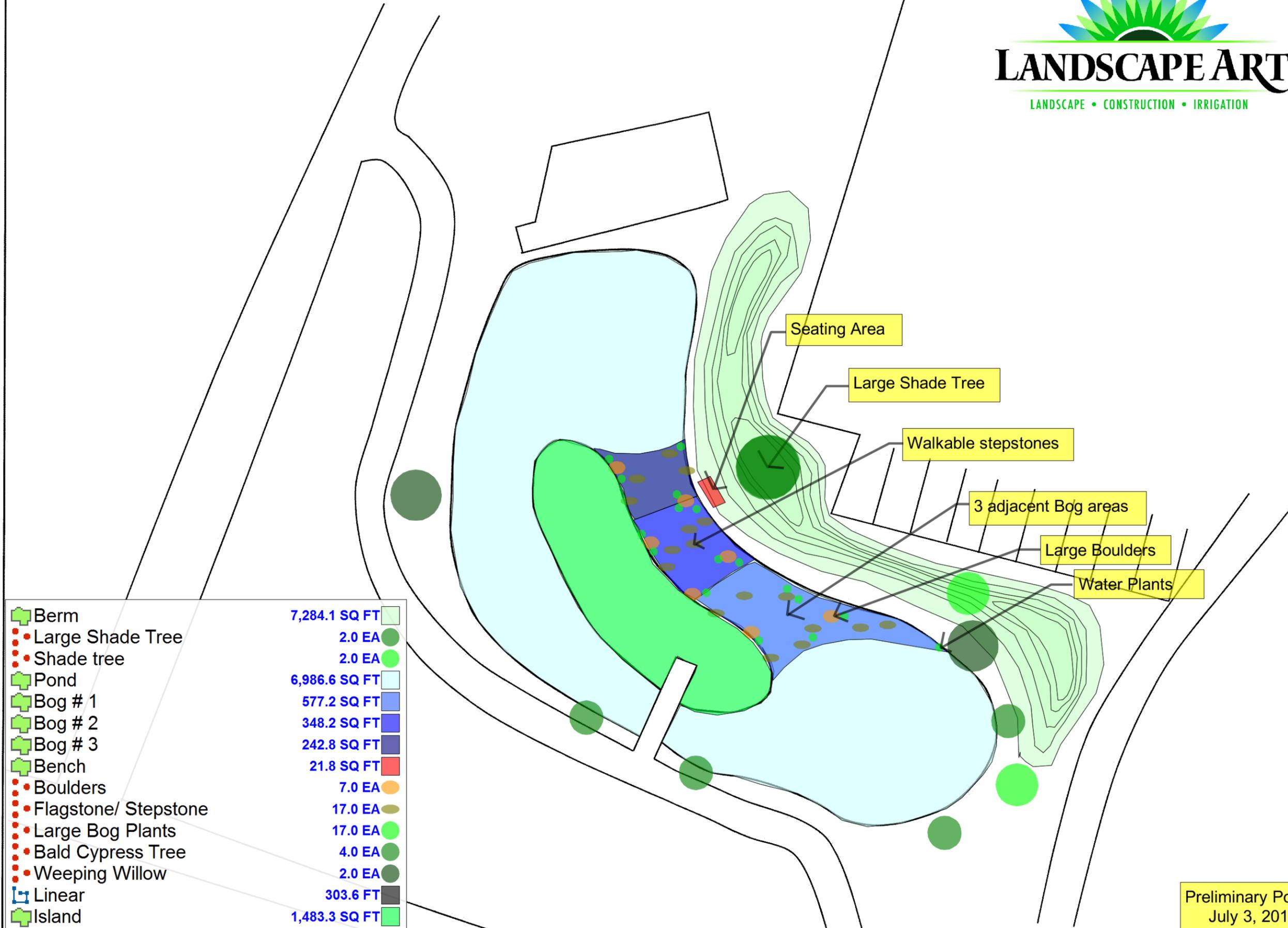
JOB NUMBER:
2844

DRAWN BY:
Fabio Orellana

CHECKED BY:
Fabio Orellana

SCALE:
1" = 10'

SHEET:
1 of 1 24x36



Preliminary Pond Plan
July 3, 2013