

Filoli Mission and Site History

Filoli is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and stewardship of the cultural traditions and natural history of this country estate for public education and enjoyment.

The High Place, at the far end of the Garden, was noted as the original owners' favorite place. Following construction in the 1920s, they could sit at the site and see the entire estate and Crystal Springs Lake. It functions as an outdoor amphitheater with an upper and lower lawn terrace enclosed by hedges, trees, and an Irish yew backdrop.



When initially constructed, the site had the further drama of a line of Lombardy poplars behind the Irish yew to help it stand out from anywhere else on the estate.

Need

The High Place has lost its original detail and suffers from issues of declining plant health. The main goal of this restoration project is to improve the growing conditions of the original plants at the site and return it to the original owners' vision, including restoring plants that were lost as the landscape grew and was modified due to other priorities.

To return the High Place to its original grandeur, several major projects need to be completed.

Improve Growing Conditions:

A number of forest trees need to be removed in order for the area to receive adequate light for health and design integrity. Two olive trees that do not fit their current placement need to be relocated to an historic olive orchard with missing trees. Grading is required to slope land away from the Irish yews and wisteria to create optimal growing conditions. Lastly, reconfiguration of the irrigation system will enhance soil moisture conditions.



Photo 1: The High Place (c. 1990)

Photo 2: Line of Lombardy poplars east of the High Place (c. 1947)

Reestablish Landscape Features:

The former lawn terraces, recently mulched during a series of drought years, need resodding with a turf blend suited for high traffic, drought tolerance, and cool seasons. In an effort to better focus foot traffic and reduce lawn compaction, a gravel path will be added to join the High Place to two adjacent path systems. The original Irish yews will be pruned heavily to reduce size and proportion in relation to other landscapes.



Accessibility & Sustainability Enhancements:

Landscape lighting will be installed to provide better accessibility and utilization of the site for various planned programs and revenue-earning functions. Downlights will be added to London plane trees to light the lawn and walkways. Downlights and uplights on the columns will provide aesthetic appeal and safe navigation of the area.

Timeline (July 2018 - July 2019)

Site Clearing

- Forest Tree Removal
- Relocation of olive trees
- Land Grading
- Identification of electrical needs

Site Redevelopment

- Replant Lombardy poplars (**Funded**)
- Lawn Restoration
- Lighting upgrades

Budget

Expenses	Amount
Site Preparation and Demolition	\$12,100
Soil Preparation & Grading	\$ 6,670
Water and Irrigation System Installation	\$8,270
Site Amenities/Furnishings	\$10, 760
Masonry	\$1,875
Softscape: Plant Material and Turf Areas	\$18,970
Electric and Lighting	\$30,000
Benches	\$1,355
Total	\$90,000

Funded to Date: \$40,675

Contact: development@filoli.org or 650-364-8300 ext. 242

Photo 3: The High Place (February 2018)