



The Bird Garden - St. Louis Zoo

Saint Louis, Missouri

The Bird Garden exhibit consists of seven free-standing flight cages sited along a winding hillside path between the Bird House and the 1904 Flight Cage. The goal of the Garden Design is to have exhibit visitors experience each flight cage in its specific setting, to see the birds and feel they share the same outdoor space. The front of the enclosure is made of thin, shark leader wire, which provides a physical barrier for the birds while being practically transparent to the visitor.

The intent of the landscape design is to provide visual interest and richness, the "garden" aspect of the bird garden, while also providing visual and physical definition to the exhibit. The flight cages contain groupings of birds from specific environments from several different continents. The concept for plant material selection was to emulate the plant character of the specific continent for each enclosure. This is accomplished by the use of zone hardy plants with specific flowering, bark, leaf character or texture similar to the key plants of the birds' native environment. Austin Tao & Associates was responsible for the planting and irrigation design, including protection measures for pre-existing trees and erosion control measures.

