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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Gardens on Spring Creek Awarded Multiple Grants to Support Programs

The Gardens on Spring Creek and the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek have received five grants that will support the Community Garden and Outreach program, garden maintenance, Rock Garden, Wetland Demonstration Site, and youth programs. The grants are from the Colorado Health Foundation, Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, Colorado Garden Show Inc., Larimer County Small Grants for Community Partnering, and the Colina Foundation.

Community Garden and Outreach Support

Funding from the Colorado Health Foundation will support the Garden of Eatin' Community Garden and Outreach program, by supporting the Community Garden and Outreach Coordinator, two interns, and a program for low-income families focused on sustainable methods of growing produce at home and preparing healthy meals with the harvested produce. Learn more about the Colorado Health Foundation at coloradohealth.org.

Garden Maintenance

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust is funding The Gardens for a second consecutive year. This year's grant provides funding for a one-year, part-time horticulturist, who will assist with the increasing landscape maintenance duties at The Gardens. Learn more about the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust at adminitrustllc.com/stanley-smith-horticultural-trust.

Rock Garden

The grant awarded from the Colorado Garden Show, Inc., provides funding for plants, plant identification labels, and interpretative signage to complete construction of the Rock Garden, scheduled to open in September 2011. Learn more about the Colorado Garden Show, Inc. at gardeningcolorado.com.

Wetland Demonstration Site

Larimer County Small Grants for Community Partnering is funding construction of the Wetland Demonstration Site for a second consecutive year. This year's funding will purchase native wetland plants and materials for plant identification labels. Learn more about the Larimer County Small Grants for Community Partnering at co.larimer.co.us/openlands/smallgrants.htm.

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Youth Programs

The Colina Foundation grant provides funding for books, learning materials, and supplies for *Read and Seed*, one of The Gardens' several youth programs. A weekly drop-in program, *Read and Seed* introduces youngsters, ages 2-4, to nature, gardening, and science through storytelling, hands-on projects, and outdoor play and discovery. Learn more about the Colina Foundation at colinafoundation.org.

In expressing gratitude for the generosity and support of each of the funders, Michelle Provaznik, Executive Director of The Gardens, stated, "These grants significantly bolster our efforts to firmly establish The Gardens as a valued cultural and educational community asset, as well as a world-class botanic garden." Provaznik added that, "The grants are also a testament to so many people—staff, volunteers, community and business partners, members, and board of directors—whose dedication and tireless hard work help advance the mission of The Gardens—to enrich the lives of people and foster environmental stewardship through horticulture".

About the Gardens on Spring Creek

The Gardens on Spring Creek opened in May 2004, part of a vital public/private partnership between the city of Fort Collins and the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek. The Gardens currently includes a showpiece Plant Select® Demonstration Garden, a Children's' Garden, the Garden of Eatin', a Rock Garden, and the Xeric Parkway Strip. The Gardens also supports school and community garden outreach programs in low-income areas; offers a school field trip program and youth summer camps for grade school students; provides year-round educational programs for all ages and interests in horticulture; and hosts several special events to help connect people with each other and their community. In 2010, The Gardens hosted over 45,000 visitors. Learn more about the botanical center at fcgov.com/gardens.

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