

Dig in

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



A SEASON TO GIVE THANKS

While 2020 has not gone exactly as planned, all of us at The Gardens and with The Friends share a profound sense of gratitude as we end the busy growing season.

We are grateful to have kept an amazing staff who adapted to maintain our gardens during closure, re-invented the Spring Plant Sale to an online format, provided virtual education programming and continues to pivot with events and programming as the year progresses.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who came back to help plant and maintain our beautiful gardens, assist with Butterfly House admissions, work our special events and many other tasks. We always say we cannot do it without our volunteers—and we felt it deeply during our two and a half months of closure.

We are grateful to our Members. You made this year's Plant Sale the best one ever, attended Member Mornings in record numbers and used your early access to help sell out our events. Your support—both in your love for our organization and financially—has had tremendous impact.

We are grateful to our donors and sponsors who helped create our beautiful gardens. Your continued support

is essential to successful events and programs.

We are grateful to our community. From the woman who dropped off a bag of hand-sewn masks for staff and volunteers to the community members growing produce for Plant it Forward, our community steps up to support us in many ways.

We are grateful to be a safe community resource during this time. The Gardens is a place of beauty, hope and inspiration. Throughout summer and into fall, we have been thanked for providing guests to our gardens and events with a sense of “normal.” It is truly our honor to do so.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

Tom Satterly
Board President
The Friends of the
Gardens on Spring Creek



Michelle Provaznik
Executive Director
The Gardens on Spring Creek



Friends of The Gardens on Spring Creek is the nonprofit partner of The Gardens on Spring Creek, a City of Fort Collins cultural services facility.





A LASTING GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS BRICKS ARE BACK!

As the Garden Friends Pathway unfolds through the new Welcome Gardens, it greets visitors with messages of love for the great outdoors, celebrations of life rites and tributes to loved ones and of patrons' long-time support for the Gardens on Spring Creek.

Pathway bricks also bear witness to the many seasons of change at The Gardens and make great holiday gifts for friends or loved ones that you can visit again and again.

And they are back!

For \$250, you receive an 8-inch by 8-inch brick with up to 84 characters (six lines of up to 14 characters per line, including punctuation) to craft your special message that will live on at The Gardens for years to come. Show your love of The Gardens by purchasing your brick today!

Visit us online at fcgov.com/gardend/brick-by-brick for more information or to make your purchase.

Bricks have a tax-deductible amount of \$200. Please consult your tax professional on the best way to record this gift.

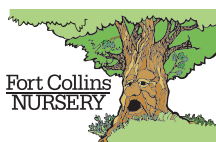
"It's a nice way to give back for all the joy that The Gardens have brought into our lives," says Member Allison Hines. "We love having a keepsake to share when we visit with friends and family."



<< Keep reading to learn more about why the Hines Family are Members of The Gardens.

Looking for more holiday gift ideas? Visit The Gardens! You can give the gift of Membership, and our gift shop has holiday gifts, home decor, jewelry, stocking stuffers, ornaments and more!

We also have four different varieties of poinsettias growing in the greenhouse that will be available for purchase soon! And remember, Members receive 10 percent off! You're sure to find something for everyone on your list!



**SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR OFFICIAL
SPONSORS**

WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN!

A GROWING SEASON TO REMEMBER

When the pandemic began in March, no one knew what to expect or what our “new normal” would look like. Yet, just like Mother Nature, we at The Gardens are resilient. So, we adapted, reimagined and pivoted to continue to provide the experience we all value.

Thanks to the support of the community, we were able to keep our highly-skilled staff and our doors safely open since June. We worked to provide restoration and healing for our visitors, a place for socially-distanced connection for volunteers and event goers, and a trusted source for high-quality and engaging education programming. Here are just a few highlights.

SPRING PLANT SALE *goes online!*

With more than 30,000 plants in greenhouses at The Gardens and Colorado State University, we knew we had to find a way to reimagine our annual Spring Plant Sale. We took the sale online and staff spent nearly three weeks fulfilling orders and delivering them via curbside pick up. Thanks to the popularity of quarantined gardening and our Northern Colorado community, we had our most successful sale to-date.

OUR VOLUNTEERS *return!*

The Gardens was able to welcome volunteers back onsite a few weeks before the general public. Never



had they been missed so much! While staff members had been redeployed from various positions to help with plant care and outdoor work, we were truly grateful to have our army of volunteers back on site. Throughout the growing season, we have had dozens of individuals donate their time and strength to maintaining our beautiful gardens while balancing social distancing, sanitization and other COVID-related precautions.

CAMP IN A BOX *becomes an at-home kit*

After making the difficult decision to cancel our Spring



Break Camp, our education staff developed Camp in a Box—an at-home kit complete with everything needed to explore the outdoors from home. In addition to providing all the materials needed for programming, Gardens staff also provided Zoom instruction to keep kids engaged.



NEW PLANTINGS *resume*

Following the renovation of 2018 and 2019, a few areas were ready for fresh new plantings – most notably the Green Roof Shelter in the Children’s Garden and the Color Walk along the Great Lawn and Everitt Pavilion. Dozens of grasses, blooming perennials and cold hardy cacti went onto the shelter, while splashy annuals combine with perennials and shrubs to line the walkways around the stage and Café Grove areas.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING *goes virtual!*

As schools wrapped up the year with virtual learning, so did The Gardens. Through the power of technology—phones, tablets, Zoom and a lot of creativity—nearly 2,800 students from Poudre, Thompson Valley and Weld County School Districts participated in virtual school programming from The Gardens.



ADULT LEARNING *goes the distance*

With the ability to social distance on the Great Lawn and throughout other parts of the site, The Gardens became quite the gathering place! We hosted adult and family yoga classes, tai chi, cooking classes and other educational courses in person as well as a number of online adult classes. All together, these efforts served more than 500 students this summer.

CELEBRATIONS *at The Gardens*

In addition to a space for growth and learning, The Gardens is also a place for celebration! We hosted seven weddings and a rehearsal dinner this year, as well as retreats, meetings and friendly gatherings. Call us to reserve your space for 2021!



*Image by
Lynatta ©2020*

STUDENTS EXPLORE *with summer camps and clubs!*

To help meet the needs of working parents, we were able to modify our summer camp programming to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Then, this fall, we created Gardens Explorers Club, an after-school initiative for students learning from home. These two programs served nearly 300 students and included nearly 7,000 contact hours.



MUSIC FROM THE EVERITT PAVILION *at last!*

After many years of planning and construction, the dream of having live music from the Everitt Pavilion came true. Our first concert was held in August with a performance by part of the Fort Collins Symphony, followed by our Date Night at The Gardens series and a concert by guitarist Trace Bundy. All performances were to a sold-out crowd socially distanced on the Great Lawn.



SNOW IN THE GARDENS *in September!*

More than six inches of snow fell the day after Labor Day, along with below-freezing temperatures. Staff scrambled to cover and save the Garden of Eatin', which was featured on the NoCo Urban Homestead Tour just a few days later.

WELCOME GARDENS *constructed*

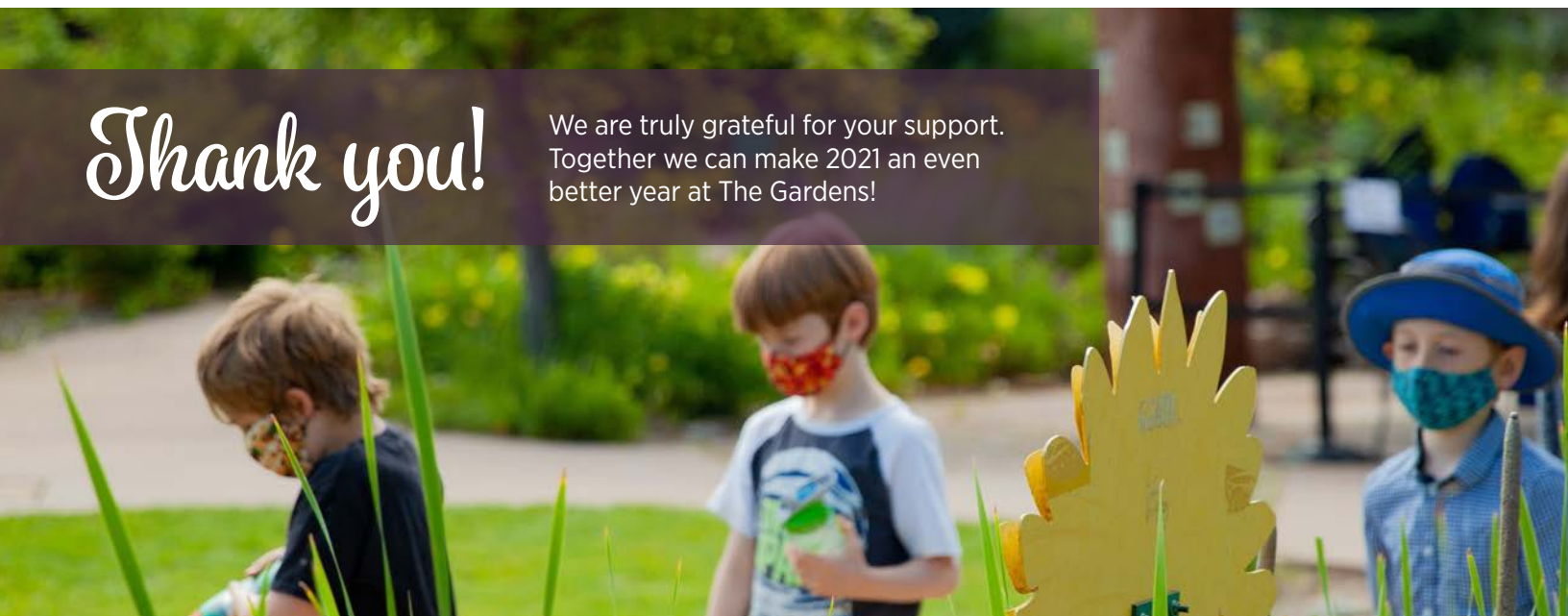
The final element of the Gardens Expansion was installed this year – our Welcome Garden was built, art was installed and the first round of perennials planted.



This feature will be the first that visitors see when they enter The Gardens through the Visitor's Center and includes a series of mosaic benches through the Art in Public Places project.

Thank you!

We are truly grateful for your support. Together we can make 2021 an even better year at The Gardens!



HELP US CONTINUE TO GROW



What a year 2020 has proven to be. From bringing the Spring Plant Sale and education classes online, to reimagining community events like Urban Homestead Tour, Pumpkins on Parade and Garden of Lights, everyone involved in the organization has made extraordinary adjustments to provide our Members and guests with the world-class visitor experience you have come to know and love—whether in-person or online.

As The Gardens' non-profit partner, 2020 has also been one of tremendous change for Friends of The Gardens. With your help, we made an initial investment of \$25,000 to Gardens for All, developed our own website (friendsgosc.org), hosted more Member Mornings than ever before and created the very popular dinner and music experience called Date Night at The Gardens.

It has required a enormous amount of work and pivoting to meet COVID-19 guidelines. And despite our best efforts, the pandemic has left its mark on our organization, just like everyone else. Between revenue shortfalls and budget cuts, The Gardens is looking at a \$150,000 deficit for the year.

We know this is a hard time to be asking for money, but if you are in a position to give this holiday season, we ask that you keep Friends of The Gardens in your end-of-year giving plans.

Visit coloradogives.org/friendsofthegardensonspringcreek to learn more or to schedule your donation. Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 8, but you can go to our page any time to make a donation.

While 2020 has been a difficult year, there is plenty to be excited about as we look ahead to 2021. Already we are planning more Date Nights, more concerts, new butterflies, yoga, tai chi, the Spring Plant Sale, exciting community events, a full year of education programming and the continued growth of our stunning gardens.

Donor support makes this possible and we want to thank you in advance for helping us bring light and life to this community this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mary Atchison, Fundraising Chair
Friends of The Gardens



TAX BENEFITS OF GIVING TO THE FRIENDS

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act of 2020 created two new tax benefits that could prove beneficial for you and your family.

For taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions, the CARES Act created an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 for individuals and \$600 for married couples filing jointly who donate to qualified charitable organizations by December 31, 2020. The deductible amount is applied to Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) without affecting the ability to take the standard deduction.

For those that itemize, the CARES Act allows deductions of up to 100% of AGI (normally 60%) for this year only.

If you're planning to include Friends of The Gardens in your year-end giving, consult a tax professional for further details on how this benefit could apply to you.

Garden of Lights

Join us for one of Northern Colorado's favorite holiday traditions! Stroll through whimsical, twinkling winter wonderland illuminated by hundreds of thousands of lights!

**DECEMBER
9-27
NIGHTLY
5-9 P.M.**



With our recent expansion, Garden of Lights is bigger and more magical than ever before. The 2020 event features an expanded number of nights, more light sculptures and music playing throughout the grounds!

AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

Garden of Lights features nearly a half mile of perennial flower beds, huge sculptural flowers, grapevines, butterflies, holiday village and other favorite garden creatures—all constructed entirely from holiday lights. Additionally, the Color Blossom Show is returning to the Great Lawn, with 700 lighted blossoms adding vibrant colors and movement to your holiday experience.

DON'T MISS OUR NEW GIFT SHOP

You'll find four varieties of poinsettias grown at The Gardens as well as holiday gifts, home décor, ornaments, jewelry and stocking stuffers. Remember Members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise!

A SAFE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

The Gardens is committed to giving our community a sense of "normal" during these challenging times, and you can count on us to provide a safe and enjoyable holiday experience. To ensure safety of our guests, staff and volunteers, we will limit the number of people attending each night and utilize timed admissions for social distancing. Live entertainment and interactive experiences are cancelled and parties are limited to eight individuals to reduce crowding. Tell the little ones that Santa is social distancing!



All tickets must be purchased in advance online and are not available at the door, minimizing contact and time in the limited space of our lobby while assisting with the ability to contact trace. Face coverings are required by all attendees throughout the entirety of Garden of Lights.

MEMBERS GET EARLY TICKET ACCESS & DISCOUNT

Even with expanded nights, we anticipate selling out, so we are giving all Members early access to ticketing **AND** a discounted rate. Additionally, any Member who purchased or renewed a Membership between October 1, 2019 and August 15, 2020 is eligible to claim two complimentary passes to Gardens of Lights 2020.

TICKETS GO ON SALE TO MEMBERS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT NOON

Adult Members	\$8
Kid Members (ages 5-11)	\$4
Children Members (Ages 4 and Under)	Free

TICKETS GO ON SALE TO GENERAL PUBLIC MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT NOON

Adults	\$10
Kids (ages 5-11)	\$5
Children (Ages 4 and Under)	Free

Members eligible for complimentary passes will receive instructions for redemption via email prior to November 12. To verify your membership dates or update your email address, please contact us at garden@fcgov.com.

The Gardens is closed Christmas Eve during the day but Garden of Lights is open. Both The Gardens and Garden of Lights are closed on Christmas Day to allow staff time to celebrate with their families.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek is delighted to welcome two new Board Members.



PETER BOYLE

As the Global Head of Human Resources for HP, Inc. Laboratories and Global Legal Affairs as well as an adjunct faculty member at Colorado State University,

teaching Human Resource Management in the College of Business, Peter brings more than 20 years of experience as a human resources professional to the Friends Board and is a longtime Member of the Gardens on Spring Creek.

Peter has lived in Fort Collins since 2000 and received both his undergraduate and MBA from Colorado State University. He and his wife and two children enjoy their four dogs, gardening, hiking and skiing with family.



KATHY MINER

Kathy spent more than 40 years as a marketing professional in technology companies, most notably as Future Product Manager for a variety of hardware

and software products at Hewlett Packard.

After taking early retirement from HP in 2007, Kathy managed fundraisers and donor development and performed other administrative duties as Associate Director at local nonprofit Project Self-Sufficiency.

She retired in 2013 from Project Self-Sufficiency and joined Rotary and volunteered on a variety of projects. Kathy served on numerous volunteer boards and has a passion for community service.

Kathy and her husband are longtime Fort Collins residents who raised two children and now have four grandchildren and one on the way.



THE HINES FAMILY: WHY WE'RE MEMBERS

After enjoying The Gardens for many years, Shawn, Allison Hines and their son Aiden became Members in 2019.

"We are so fortunate to have a venue like the Gardens on Spring Creek in the Fort Collins community," Allison says. "With the new outdoor amphitheater and the Butterfly House, it has really become a local treasure, and we want to invest in their continued success. I'm looking forward to summer concerts in 2021. We love live music and cannot wait to enjoy it in the beautiful setting of The Gardens."

In addition to looking ahead, the Hines Family has many special memories of The Gardens.

"There are so many fun things to do at The Gardens!" says Allison. "We have participated in events, yoga and the annual Spring Plant Sale, but my favorite thing is just to stroll through with my family and enjoy the natural beauty. I love to find new plant and vegetable species to put in my own garden at home and watch my son learn and grow among the flowers."

Garden of Lights is another reason the Hines Family became Members.

"We have been taking our eight-year-old son to The Gardens every December to see the holiday lights and visit

with Santa," Allison says. "I remember one winter bundling up to brave the snow, wind and freezing cold weather and still having the best time together. It's a family tradition that we look forward to every year!"



Tours of the Butterfly House are free to Members and are available daily. Learn more at fcgov.com/gardens/butterfly-house.

THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE *Blossoms*

In November 2019, the Butterfly House at the Gardens on Spring Creek, a collaboration with Butterfly Pavilion, opened to the public, bringing butterflies to Northern Colorado as a magical reminder that plants depend on pollinators.

A year later, the house has truly blossomed, showing us the beauty and wonder of metamorphosis on a daily basis. More than 300 varieties of tropical plants, specifically curated for our pollinator friends, have grown in to fill the space, completing the design of horticulturist Kelly Kellow. She selected many varieties, focusing on the tubular, nectar-rich and brightly-colored blooms that butterflies love.

Additionally, the Living Wall is thriving in the tropical climate of the Butterfly House, having been relocated from the City of Fort Collins building located at 222 Laporte Avenue. This 220-square-foot feature is home to 2,200 annuals, ferns and foliage plants providing roosting space for butterflies and moths. New exhibit cases were also installed, highlighting the caterpillar life stage and showcasing adult giant silk moths.



Once the Gardens received a permit from the United States Department of Agriculture, non-native species like malachites, luna moths and zebra longwings joined the kaleidoscope! These species, along with Colorado natives such as monarchs and painted ladies, currently make up our nearly 20 species of butterflies and moths from all over North America.



Lunar Moth



Malachites



Zebra Longwings

OPEN DAILY!
TICKETS REQUIRED

The Gardens on Spring Creek is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the final Butterfly House tour at 4:15 p.m. Timed admission tickets are required for all guests, including Members.

Winter hours and rates begin December 1.

For more information, please visit fcgov.com/gardens/admissions.

CONTACT US

Phone: 970-416-2486
Email: friendsgosc@gmail.com
Website: fcgov.com/gardens



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

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Thank you

for making 2020 an unforgettable year. Please help us do even more by remembering The Gardens on Colorado Gives Day, December 8. Visit www.coloradogives.org to schedule your gift today!