

Dig in

SUMMER 2021
NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



UPCOMING CALENDAR

July

- > Urban Homestead Tour (Sat. 31)
- > Yoga + Tai Chi in The Gardens
- > Summer Camps

August

- > Garden to Fork Cooking Classes (Tues. 3)
- > Member Morning (Fri. 13)
- > Garden to Fork Cooking Class (Tues. 17)
- > Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series: Fort Collins Symphony (Sat. 21)
- > Member Morning (Fri. 27)
- > Garden to Fork Cooking Class (Tues. 31)
- > Yoga + Tai Chi in The Gardens
- > Summer Camps

September

- > Member Morning (Fri. 10)
- > Date Night at The Gardens (Fri. 10)
- > Pumpkins on Parade Tickets GO on Sale (Tues. 14)
- > Garden to Fork Cooking Class (Tues. 14)
- > Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series: Herbie Hancock (Sat. 18)
- > Member Morning (Fri. 24)
- > Garden to Fork Cooking Class (Tues. 28)
- > Adult Education Classes

October

- > Pumpkins on Parade (Oct. 21-24)
- > Adult Education Classes

November

- > Garden of Lights tickets on sale! (Thurs. 4)
- > Adult Education Classes

December

- > Colorado Gives Day (Tues. 7)
- > Garden of Lights (Dec. 10-26)
- > Adult Education Classes

January 2022

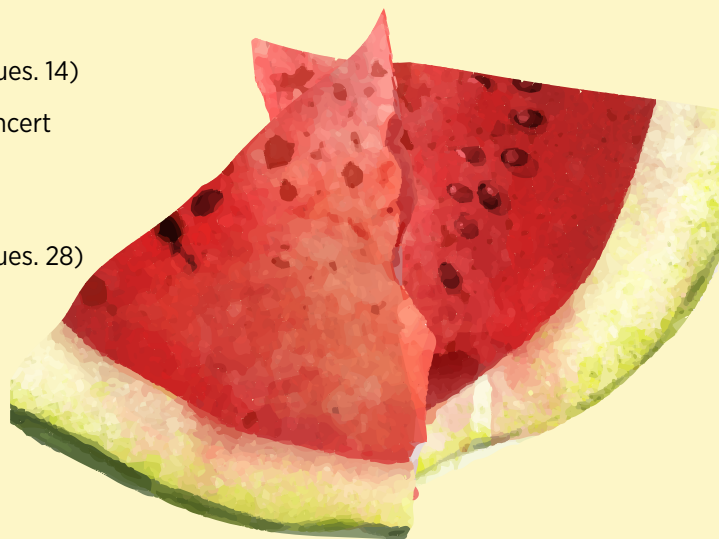
- > Adult Education Classes

February

- > Adult Education Classes

March

- > High Plains Landscape Workshop (Sat. 5)
- > Adult Education Classes



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.





President's Letter

TOM SATTERLY

Greetings valued Members, to start off the new year on the right foot, the Friends of The Gardens board of directors outlined some big goals as The Gardens moves towards its 20th anniversary in 2024. A snapshot of what our board plans to accomplish includes:



BUILD THE ENDOWMENT FUND

First started in 2011, growing the endowment fund will provide a stable source of annual revenue for Gardens programs and operations—a need that was highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic as revenues fell dramatically.

BEGIN A PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM AND LEGACY SOCIETY

These giving strategies will help ensure our beautiful gardens and programs thrive for future generations.

CORPORATE MEMBER PROGRAM

Several local businesses requested this option, so we quickly developed a program and are looking to grow these important members.

STREAMLINE MEMBER PROCESSES

A membership process launched mid-2020 has proven confusing for members and time consuming for staff, so a team of Garden's staff and board members is researching solutions.

GROW THE BOARD

With increased opportunities for fundraising to support The Gardens increasing programs and event planning, we plan to increase our board to 12 board members by 2023. If you or someone you know is interested in serving, please contact me at friendsgosc@gmail.com.

Executive Director's Letter

MICHELLE PROVAZNIK

What a difference a year makes! With the recent easing of pandemic restrictions, summer 2021 feels more “normal” with each passing week. In many ways, it's been full steam ahead much sooner than we ever imagined.



Another year of establishment in the expansion area and four inches of rain in May have our gardens looking better than ever. Staff and volunteers are working nonstop to plant, deadhead and weed (all that rain also made for many happy weeds!). If you haven't visited recently, plan your trip now. The gardens are changing daily and you won't be disappointed.

Visitation has climbed considerably each week since mid-May. We left some event capacity limits in place for a while as we transition back to regular operations resulting in completely sold-out onsite events in June and July. We are planning to return to regular capacities for August and September. Daily admission tickets continue to be available online for the foreseeable future as many now prefer to buy tickets early, saving time at the admissions desk. Members can still reserve tickets online.

As The Gardens returns to normal operations, there is one permanent change I want to make sure all members are aware. To ensure everyone's safety and keep a high-quality guest experience, timed ticketing is here to stay for Pumpkins on Parade and Garden of Lights. Members will have early access to purchase tickets for your preferred night. Weekend evenings are expected to sell out for these popular events, so make sure you use this important member benefit.



**SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR OFFICIAL
SPONSORS**

LEADING THE WAY
DURING THE

VEGGIE GARDENING BOOM



The recent pandemic resulted in a surge of gardening reminiscent of victory gardens from World War II.

The empty supermarket shelves caused by an unprecedented collapse in supply chains and food processing systems, coupled with more time at home than ever before, saw a boom in gardening unlike ever before. AgWeek reported that Burpee Seed Co. sold more seed in March 2020 than any other time in the 144-year history, and Johnny's Selected Seed noted a 270% increase in normal spring sales.

Subsequently, many individuals are experiencing for the first time the benefits of the local food movement. These include a smaller carbon footprint, improved taste and quality, less waste and greater control over one's food supply.



Last summer, Gardens Executive Director, Michelle Provaznik, wrote an article about the rise of 2020 victory gardens. To read this article, visit gardensonspringcreek.blogspot.com.

At The Gardens, this focus on locally growing healthy foods for both for nutrition and sustainability is a long-time practice. Our Community Garden Outreach Program was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from the United States Botanic Garden and American Public Gardens Association Urban Agriculture Resilience program in support of our efforts to foster public engagement and education in urban food growing and to build capacity in our urban agriculture programs.

Our Community Garden Outreach Program is very comprehensive, serving both our members and the greater community.

OUR LIVING CLASSROOM THE GARDEN OF EATIN'

This $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre site opened in 2009 and is dedicated to edible plants and crops, including vegetables, fruits and herbs. This garden serves as a living classroom, providing ideas and demonstrating crops appropriate to grow in Northern Colorado. In addition to its educational focus, the Garden of Eatin' produces thousands of pounds of produce for the Food Bank for Larimer County each year.

OUR CLASSES COVER EVERYTHING

Additionally, The Gardens hosts dozens of education classes to teach the public about growing fruits and vegetables in our climate. A wide range of classes are taught annually ranging in topic from garden planning to gardening in containers and small spaces and from composting to season extension.

PROPAGATE & DONATE

Through our annual Spring Plant Sale, we grow thousands of veggie starts and

donate hundreds to local organizations. Unpurchased plants are donated to local nonprofit organizations with community gardens such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County and Housing Catalyst.

NEED A SPOT TO GROW? CHECK OUT OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Gardens on Spring Creek manages more than 150 plots at eight locations throughout Fort Collins. These spaces give individuals a low-cost option for growing their own fruits, vegetables, herbs and annual flowers in a plot approximately 150 square feet in size in a securely fenced area. Amenities include a tool shed, picnic table, compost bins, hoses and watering wands and access to water.

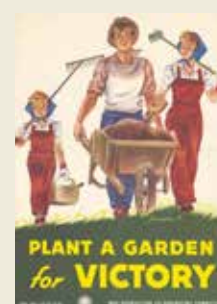
FIGHT HUNGER WITH PLANT IT FORWARD

In partnership with the Food Bank for Larimer County, Plant It Forward is a program encouraging gardeners to grow additional food for donation to others—specifically the more vulnerable populations served by the Food Bank. The Gardens and the Food Bank serve as drop off locations for garden-fresh produce for Food Bank clients. Nearly 50,000 pounds of produce are received through this program each year.

Similar to other communities, the COVID-19 pandemic increased demand at the Food Bank, with nearly 11% of Larimer County residents at or below the Federal Poverty guideline. In the last 12 months, the Food Bank distributed 71.2% more food to agency partners than the prior year.

The Urban Agriculture Resilience Grant will also support the Plant It Forward program by providing increased personnel for The Gardens. The additional staff will help to maximize production in the Garden of Eatin' by planting additional crops and utilizing season extension practices. Additionally, this staffing will support community gardener education in the late summer/fall season.

Learn more about the Plant It Forward program and how you can get involved at fcgov.com/gardens/plant-it-forward.





WHY I'M A MEMBER

As part of our mission to enrich the lives of people and foster environmental stewardship through horticulture, the Gardens on Spring Creek offers discounted memberships for students. We asked these student members why they joined The Gardens family.



KATHERINE DENUNE

"I was thrilled to discover The Gardens! Growing up, I often visited our local botanic garden back home, so I knew I wanted to join the Gardens on Spring Creek."

"I really believe in supporting local efforts that help inspire appreciation of our native plants and ecosystems."

"My favorite activity at The Gardens is Saturday morning tai chi. I had been interested in learning tai chi for a long time, so I was very excited to find a beautiful place and a great teacher to learn and practice. There's a real sense of peace spending early mornings in The Gardens."



ERICA REID

"My friends Linda and Tony introduced me to The Gardens, they are gardeners extraordinaire, and even though I have black thumb."

"The Gardens is a gorgeous place to spend time together."

"I always look forward to Garden of Lights, which my husband and I attend with friends. One year, Santa made an appearance, and I know it was the real Santa because when I told him I wanted a book of poetry for Christmas, he recited—on the spot—Robert Frost's 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.' But whenever the poem mentioned horses, he said reindeer. I carried the magic with me for weeks."



ALICIA LENNERS

"I have enjoyed botanical illustrations for years, but only during the pandemic have I actually started practicing on my own."

"The Gardens has such a wide variety of plant families and species that it's the perfect place to pursue such a hobby."

"I typically just plant myself down in one spot and sketch one plant at a time. It can take me nearly an hour if I'm being super detailed. The Undaunted Garden is probably my favorite section!"



SALUTING DONORS

We gratefully recognize all the donors who supported our annual beds this year: Jessica MacMillan, the Bodenhamer and Atteberry families, Francoise Smith, Sally and Wendell Nelson,

the Cismoski Family, Mantooth Marketing, and Lynne and T Sage.

Thank you all for helping us create something beautiful at The Gardens in 2021.



TIME FOR A SECOND DATE

Date Night at The Gardens is back for its second season!

Patrons at the July 16 Date Night enjoyed music and a delicious gourmet buffet. Tickets are still available for September 10 featuring music by Clark Street Station.

Remember, Members receive a 10% discount on tickets.

Date Night at The Gardens is a 21+ event and benefits Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek.

Visit fcgov.com/gardens to learn more.



BOARD NEWS

LINDA HADLOW STEPS DOWN

Please join us in thanking our Membership Chair, Linda Hadlow, who stepped down from her position on June 30. During her tenure, the membership program grew from just under 600 Members to just more than 2,500! Thank you for your service, Linda! We wish you well in your next adventure. Peter Boyle succeeds Linda as Membership Chair.

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are seeking new board members! Board Members are dedicated to cultivating a world-class botanic garden through fundraising and advocacy. Plus, we look forward to working with you! Anyone with interest should contact Vice President Craig Russell by sending an email with your name, contact information, and resume to friendsgosc@gmail.com.

THANKS EVERYONE FOR SPRING PLANT SALE SUCCESS!

Our deepest thanks to all of our Members for their continued support of the Spring Plant Sale. During the 2-day, Member-only pre-sale, we received 900 orders for 19,000 plants, totaling more than \$80,000 in sales. The 2021 Spring Plant Sale also broke the previous year's records for total orders, plants sold, and revenue. We hope all your gardens are prospering this summer!

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

CONTACT US

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

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
TheGardensOnSpringCreek](https://facebook.com/TheGardensOnSpringCreek)

Instagram:
[instagram.com/
gardensonspringcreek](https://instagram.com/gardensonspringcreek)



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

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MOUNTAIN WILDWOODS COMES TO THE GARDENS

Three sculptures made from Rocky Mountain Junipers—some of the oldest trees in the world—were installed in the Children's Garden, Undaunted Garden and Theme Gardens.

The Gardens on Spring Creek and Art in Public Places are excited to bring you a temporary art installation by Montana artist Tom Benedict now through February 12, 2022.

“Working with this wood is a truly humbling experience,” says Benedict. “To create my sculptures, I remove as much of the original exterior wood as possible, leaving only the tree’s inner core. The twists, grooves and contours of the sculpture all follow its natural growth and shape.”

Additionally, the exhibit features a scavenger hunt of 10 painted Rocky Mountain juniper sculptures placed throughout our grounds. Be sure to stop in The Gardens to see this amazing installation!