



WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dig in



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM VALUCKAS



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

FROM THE DIRECTOR **MICHELLE PROVAZNIK**



Two years ago, we broke ground on an historic project that has transformed The Gardens on Spring Creek in every way—new gardens, expanded Visitor's Center, a growing staff and volunteer corps, new admission and membership program, updated rental program. And yes, butterflies and concerts.

Today, I am filled with profound gratitude for the many who made this project possible.

Thanks to Bohemian Foundation and Woodward for helping us launch the project and the hundreds of donors—individuals, families, companies and foundations who contributed over \$3 million to bring our vision to life.

City Council and Fort Collins voters who approved the Community Capital Improvement Program in 2015 securing over \$2 million for the project.

The teams assembled by Russell Mills Studios, landscape architects, and Krische Construction, general contractors, were outstanding on the Garden expansion project.

Thanks to the team from Zak George Landscaping for the beautiful Garden Friends Pathway and Joe McGrane, our

Arts in Public Places Artist for his Butterfly Bouquet that will greet everyone who comes to The Gardens.

I also want to recognize Architecture West, Elder Construction and all subcontractors for the beautiful design, execution and expansion of the Visitor's Center.

My thanks to so many Departments across the City who made this project possible: Operations Services, Utilities, Planning, CPIO, IT, Purchasing and Art in Public Places, and our friends in Parks and Forestry. They are all consummate professionals, and it was fun to work with colleagues we don't usually get to do so.

I also want to thank our new partner, Butterfly Pavilion. It has been such a pleasure to work with Patrick Tennyson, Mary Ann Colley and the whole Butterfly Pavilion team during the design and construction process. We can't wait for the northern Colorado community to see what we've achieved together.

And finally, a huge thank you to the small, yet mighty Gardens staff, hundreds of volunteers and an outstanding Friends of the Gardens Board of Directors. What they have accomplished over the past year is simply astonishing. I congratulate and thank each of them for a job exceedingly well done.



FROM THE PRESIDENT **NATHANIEL BUDD**


We are officially open! Directly from The Friends, "Our sincerest thanks to all of the contractors, volunteers, and especially staff who have given so much to help everything come together seamlessly."

Throughout the opening celebrations, it was mentioned time and time again the increased impact the expanded Gardens will have on the community. Supported by new admissions and membership models, the new facilities and programs will do so much to advance the Gardens mission and expand our reach to many more friends and neighbors.

The Friends are excited to help ensure this increased impact and access to The Gardens is supported through the new Gardens for All accessibility program. Currently, The Gardens provides scholarships and school program assistance to reduce the cost of admissions and programs for qualified students.

Beginning in 2020, Gardens for All will kick off its Community Partner Passes. The Gardens is excited to partner with Poudre River Library District to provide a check-out pass at local libraries, in addition to working with other local organizations serving members of our community in need. Likewise, Gardens for All will provide each Poudre School District Early Childhood Education student with a complimentary family membership to The Gardens.

Through these programs and others, The Gardens is committed to decreasing barriers to ensure we are truly a Garden for All. Thank you to all our partners and sponsors in this endeavor. The Gardens are planted, now it's time to grow!



Awaken Your Spirit to Adventure

WAYS TO GIVE

Michael Coleman, Development Officer



It's that time of year again—the season of giving to friends, family and your favorite non-profit organizations. Making a financial contribution to Gardens for All is a sure-fire way to have a direct impact on your community. But did you know it also presents an opportunity to lower your tax burden?

There are several popular ways to give that are financially beneficial to you beyond simply writing a check.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA are very popular way to give for individuals over 70.5 years of age. It's simple: IRA account holders request their plan custodian transfer funds (\$100,000 tax-free limit per year) to a charitable organization of choice, and that

donation—the QCD—is included in your required minimum distribution and decreases your adjusted gross income.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) have become incredibly popular with families and people of all ages. Using a DAF allows a donor to receive a large itemized tax deduction in the current year and allows he or she to direct subsequent charitable payments from the fund in future years. National firms like Fidelity and Charles Schwab have well-known funds, and local organizations like the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado do as well.

APPRECIATED STOCK

A third very popular way to support annual campaigns or year-end appeals, that is also likely more tax efficient than making a cash contribution, is through gifts of appreciated stock.

The Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek, our non-profit partner, is a 501 (C)(3) organization and is registered to accept gifts like the ones listed here. If you're interested in supporting The Gardens on Spring Creek's annual campaign this year using one or more of these financial tools, please contact your CPA or financial advisor for more information.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WE REACHED OVER 1,500 MEMBERS!

We did it! The Gardens now has over 1,500 Members! To all of you who took advantage of our great renewal offer in September or signed up during our excellent new member offer in October and November, we cannot thank you enough. Your support helps us grow, and we are planning incredible things for you in 2020. Stay tuned for member-specific communications via e-mail relating to your member benefits.

GARDEN OF LIGHTS REMINDER! Active members receive two complimentary passes to Garden of Lights via mail. If you have any questions, call our Guest Services team at 970-416-2486.





*Spend this winter with your
new winged neighbors in our
tropical Butterfly House*



GRAND OPENING HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 16, 2019

The Gardens on Spring Creek emerged from its two-year metamorphosis Saturday, November 16 to celebrate its long-awaited Grand Opening! Brisk air and sunny skies welcomed community members to the official ribbon cutting ceremony where Director Michelle Provaznik, Friends Board President Nate Budd, and City of Fort Collins Mayor Wade Troxell provided remarks. Over 1,000 community members visited during opening day to catch a glimpse of the much-anticipated butterflies and explore the new garden areas.

The \$6 million dollar transformation included changes to the community botanic garden's indoor and outdoor

spaces along with the construction of a permanent Butterfly House, the first of its kind in northern Colorado. New gardens include the Prairie, Foothills, Undaunted, Great Lawn, Theme (Plant Select, Rose, Moon, Fragrance, and Butterfly & Hummingbird), and Wetlands.

Garden highlights include the largest collection of cold hardy cactus on display in the United States, the convergence of two eco-systems (Prairie and Foothills) to expose the beauty and function of native plants, and the gathering expanse of the Great Lawn and Everitt Pavilion, which will feature performing arts, events, rentals, and other gatherings. New additions to the Visitor's Center

include an expanded Gift Shop, Café/Concessions, and Community Meeting Room.

The heart of the renovations is the Butterfly House, a year-round home to hundreds of North American butterflies and dozens of varieties of flowering plants. This sensory experience allows all ages to get "up close" to both butterflies and plants in a soothing environment. Other attractions in the house include a chrysalis window, a 220 square foot living wall, and meandering pathways.

We invite you to join us as we begin a new chapter in the history of The Gardens on Spring Creek!



*The community explores
our new Visitor's Center on
Grand Opening Day.*



*Mayor Wade Troxell
cuts the ribbon and it's
official, we're open!*



*The Living Wall in
the Butterfly House
showcases over
1,600 plants
including coleus,
ferns, and vines.*



GARDEN OF LIGHTS

As one of Northern Colorado's best holiday traditions, stroll through the whimsically decorated and twinkling gardens lit by hundreds of thousands of LED lights at the Gardens on Spring Creek. Garden of Lights will open from Dec. 13-29 (closed Dec. 25) from 5-9 p.m. Last paid entry is one hour prior to closing.

With a route doubled in size, you will see perennial flower beds, huge sculptural flowers, grapevines, butterflies, holiday village, and other favorite garden creatures—all constructed entirely from holiday lights.

OTHER ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDE

NEW COLOR BLOSSOM SHOW

An animated Color Blossom Show will light up the Great Lawn. Dancing across the lawn will be 700 lighted blossoms adding a new spectrum of vibrant colors and movement to your experience.

MORE SANTA, REINDEER, DOGS & MUSIC!

Opportunities to visit with Santa, listen to holiday music, visit reindeer and magical dog troupes, along with other new discoveries are sure to bring the spirit of the holidays to your family.

ACTIVE MEMBERS GET TWO FREE TICKETS

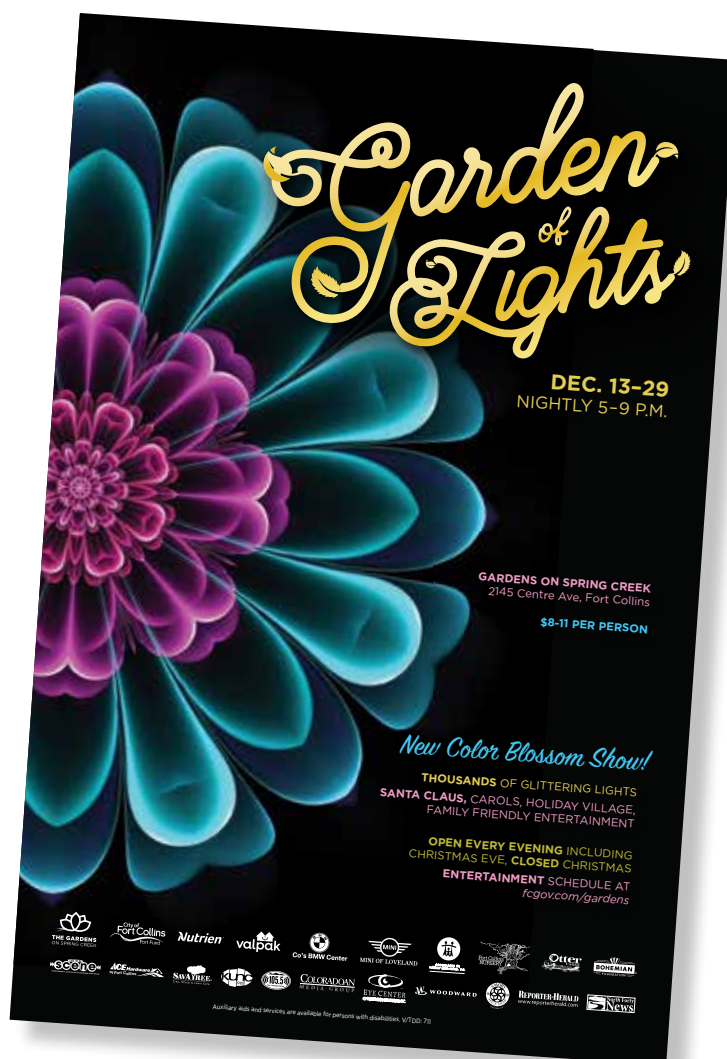
Reminder! Active members will receive two complimentary passes to Garden of Lights via mail. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our Guest Services team at 970-416-2486.

TICKETING OPTIONS

An admission ticket is **REQUIRED** to enter Garden of Lights. You may purchase your ticket online at fcgov.com/gardens, in person, or on the phone 970-416-2486. Please note, the Butterfly House is closed during the Garden of Lights.

RATES

Adult \$11	Senior (65+) \$9
Military \$9	Student (with ID) \$8
Children (2-17 yrs) \$8	Children (under 2) Free



MEET OUR BUTTERFLY KEEPERS

CHRIS GARCIA

I am the Butterfly Coordinator here at the Gardens on Spring Creek. As the trained Lepidopterist, I manage the Lepidoptera collection in the new Butterfly House. I'm a huge advocate for invertebrate conservation so getting to work with native butterflies and moths is an amazing tool for me to do what I love. I'm passionate about animal husbandry and educating folks about animals around us. Getting to be a butterfly keeper at The Gardens means I get to make a difference in both of those aspects!

My favorite type of butterfly is the Isabella Longwing (*Eueides Isabella*). I love longwing butterflies because, they are the most interesting to see in a flight house. They behave differently than most butterflies we are used to seeing in Colorado, and they are fun to keep! I like the Isabellas specifically because I just love their color patterns.

When I have some free time, I enjoy spending a lot of time with my dog. I love to go hiking with her and take her to local breweries with friends. Some of my other favorite things include tacos, all kinds of music, and Carolina Panthers. My favorite Fort Collins spot is Intersect Brewing.



In my spare time, I enjoy ballet, hiking, yoga, and I'm getting back into baking bread and other yummy things! I went through Yoga Teacher training and was certified as a yoga instructor last spring.

Other favorites of mine include stand-up comedian Iliza Schlesinger, cheese, and although I don't watch too many sports, I love watching the Olympics. My favorite Fort Collins spot is either The Exchange or City Park.

KATHRYN HOKAMP

I am the Lepidopterist Manager at Butterfly Pavilion, which means I curate our butterfly and moth collection, including the butterflies and moths at Gardens on Spring Creek! While my main location is at Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, Colorado, I will be a frequent sight at Gardens on Spring Creek where I work with Chris and Elise to make sure the butterflies and moths are happy and healthy!

A favorite part of my work is learning about new butterflies that I've never seen before! My favorite is the African Blue Pansy (*Junonia oenone*) because it is a small but incredibly beautiful butterfly with iridescent blue scales that are widespread on the African continent.

When I have free time, I enjoy reading and knitting. Other personal favorites include musicals and 70s pop music, bagels, the Dallas Mavericks, and writing by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Although I haven't been able to explore Fort Collins as much as I'd like, I am excited to learn more.



ELISE WILLCOX

I am a Butterfly Keeper here at the Gardens on Spring Creek, and I am just loving getting to work in this new beautiful space and seeing kids' (and adults') faces light up when they see a butterfly up close.

My favorite butterfly is the Malachite Butterfly—I love the color of the outside of their wings.



NOW OPEN!

Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Check website for holiday schedule!

CONTACT US

Phone: 970-416-2486

Email: gardens@fcgov.com

Website: fcgov.com/gardens

Facebook:

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

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

Instagram:

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FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
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