



THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

A Historical Timeline	
1987	Jim Clark visits Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, and the idea for a community horticulture center in Fort Collins was born.
1988	A nonprofit organization, the Community Horticulture Center, was formed.
1995	City Council approves a position to create a horticulture program at City of Fort Collins.
1997	Voters approve Building Community Choices capital tax, which includes \$2 million for a Community Horticulture Center.
1998-1999	Several sites studied to identify a location. The Spring Creek corridor was selected.
2000	A Master Plan was created by EDAW and a new name and logo was born, the Gardens on Spring Creek. The nonprofit organization changes its name to be Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek.
2003	Friends of The Gardens launch Roots Campaign to raise money to build the Evelyn Clark Classroom.
2004	Completion of Phase 1 of the Visitor's Center and Grand Opening of the facility. Friends begins fundraising for Children's Garden. Adult education classes begin.
2005	First Spring Plant Sale held. Youth education programs begin.
2006	The Children's Garden designed by EDAW opens. Friends secure gifts from Rotary, Great Outdoors Colorado, Bohemian Foundation, Gulley Greenhouse and many others making the first garden possible.
2007	Friends launch the Harvest Festival to raise awareness of The Gardens overall and the Garden of Eatin' project.
2008	Garden of Lights begins. Michelle Provaznik takes the reins as Executive Director.
2009	Garden of Eatin' opens. Bohemian Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, Mill Brothers Landscaping, New Belgium, Odell Brewing Company, Poudre Valley Health System, and others donated to the project. Larimer County Conservation Corps was instrumental in construction. Community Garden Outreach Program begins in partnership with the Poudre Valley Health System Foundation.
2010	Outdoor Kitchen opens. Outdoor Classroom (Timberframe) installed at The Gardens in partnership with Frameworks Timber and the Timber Framers Guild. Many local companies and Rotary Clubs contributed to the project. A new Wetland Boardwalk is built thanks to funding from Larimer County Small Grants program and help from Wildland Restoration Volunteers. Partnerships with Horticulture Departments at Colorado State University and Front Range Community College begin for Spring Plant Sale.
2011	Rock Garden opens, thanks to the dedication and vision of Kirk Fieseler and Maddy Weisz. The North American Rock Garden Society, The Rock Garden in north Fort Collins, and Fort Collins Landscaping were instrumental to completing the project.
2012	First crop is grown in the Hoop House, a collaboration with the Parks Department. The Gardens surpasses 50,000 visitors.
2013	Designed by local landscape designers Sally Guthart and Anne Clark, the Northern Chapter of the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado built the Sustainable Backyard in one day as their Earth Day project. Model Railroad Garden opens in the Children's Garden in partnership with the Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders. Earth tubs installed in partnership with City's Environmental Services Department. Garden Explorer Plant Database launches. Community Gardens in Parks program begins.
2014	10 th Anniversary of The Gardens celebrated. Turf Demonstration Site completed. Trellis Garden Ale was brewed with Gardens hops and sold by Odell Brewing Company raising nearly \$20,000. Plant it Forward program begins in partnership with Food Bank for Larimer County. Gallegos Sanitation begins creating large flower sculptures for Garden of Lights.
2015	Friends launch capital campaign for Master Plan completion. \$1 million in lead gifts and pledges from Bohemian Foundation and the Woodward Charitable Trust secured. Voters approved \$2 million through Building on Basics 2.0 for the Visitor's Center completion. Friends raise over \$100,000 for the Endowment Fund. Partnership negotiations with Butterfly Pavilion begins.
2016	Gardens expansion plans approved. <i>NoCo Bloom</i> launches in partnership with Larimer County Extension and Colorado State University Department of Horticulture.
2017	Groundbreaking on five acres of new gardens occurs, adding the Great Lawn, Theme Gardens, Undaunted Garden, Prairie Garden, and Foothills Garden. Woodward loans holiday village structures for Garden of Lights. Gardens, City, & Butterfly Pavilion partnership and The Butterfly House announced.
2018	Capital campaign completes, raising \$6 million from public and private sources. Horticulture staff and volunteers begin planting the new gardens. Visitor's Center design underway. Visitation surpasses 89,000 guests. New brand (logo and website) launched.
2019	Visitor's Center and Butterfly House construction begins. Gardens closes to the public. Planting of new gardens continues. Renovations in the Children's Garden and Garden of Eatin' occur. New admission, membership, accessibility, education, volunteer, and event programs are planned for re-opening.
November 16, 2019	Grand opening celebration of completed Gardens on Spring Creek.