

FALL/WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

DIG iN

PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL WHICKER



FRIENDS OF
THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

FROM THE DIRECTOR MICHELLE PROVAZNIK



As I give tours of our garden expansion project, I am asked what my favorite part of the project is and if it has met my expectations? My absolute favorite part is the process of watching our 2D paper plans come to life as 3D gardens. Whether it was watching the first glulam beam being installed for the stage, the meticulous piecing together of stone work for the Fragrance Garden and Café Grove, or the grading and shaping of the Foothills Garden—all were thrilling to experience as they created the features that make the entire project work holistically.

For years, people commented on what a great view I had from my office window. They weren't wrong, but this new view is what I always imagined it could be. And even so, the entire project has exceeded all of my expectations. I could not be happier or more excited for The Gardens and our community.

I want to extend a huge thank you to Russell+Mills Studios for their outstanding design and creativity as well as their patience and perseverance through an extended public process. Many thanks to Krische Construction for their attention to detail, deadlines and budgets.

Lastly, thank you to The Gardens staff and volunteers who are bringing the new gardens to life from the ground up—tilling, weeding, planting and mulching. It is no small task to install five acres of gardens, and they have risen to the challenge in outstanding fashion. Our goal is to get 15,000 plants in the ground this fall. Whew! It is quite the organizational and physical endeavor with countless hours being donated by our volunteers. More plants will be grown or purchased for installation in the spring.

There is much work left to do, and we can't wait to share it with all of you.

FROM THE PRESIDENT NATHANIEL BUDD



We are so close! With only a few hundred-thousand dollars left to raise in our capital campaign we are entering our final (and likely hardest) fundraising push. The results we are already seeing are well worth the effort. Partners and individuals like you who value the education, events, and beauty provided by your community botanic garden are making all the difference, and we hope you see yourselves and your efforts reflected somewhere within this enduring institution.

I would like to extend particular thanks to those who have created lasting gifts in honor of friends or family members, and to those of you who have pledged memorial gifts to The Gardens in their wills. Your gifts mean so much more than the beautiful beds, butterflies, benches and buildings they help to create. We are honored to share our name with yours and your loved ones for years to come.

As we enter the season of giving, I hope to see you around The Gardens.



WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE

The easiest way to support The Gardens in its expansion and its programming is by making an online gift at fcgov.com/gardens.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Donating non-cash gifts is one of the simplest and quickest ways to support The Gardens.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts allow future generations to be enriched and educated at The Gardens.

THE GARDENS ENDOWMENT FUND

Giving to The Gardens Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado supports the work of the Gardens today—and tomorrow.

HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

These gifts offer a meaningful way to recognize those who have valued The Gardens. Currently, we have butterflies available through the Butterfly Project. Additional memorial opportunities are being developed. Naming opportunities are still available in the new gardens and Visitor's Center.

If you would like to set up a time to discuss giving to The Gardens please contact myself at nathaniel.budd@gmail.com or Michelle Provanik, Gardens Director.



AMY FRISTOE & THE LABRADOR GIRLS



Allison Kistler, Program Intern

You may recognize Amy Fristoe and her Labrador Girls from seeing them at various events at The Gardens. Amy and her Labrador retrievers have volunteered at The Gardens for over a decade by

performing annually at Halloween Enchanted Garden and at Garden of Lights. Adored by kids and adults alike, Amy's programs are interactive reading experiences that give children an opportunity to socialize with the Labs.

Amy began incorporating therapy dogs into the lives of her patients in the 1970s, after she earned her occupational therapy degree at CSU. With each job she took after graduation, she found some way to integrate her dogs into her work, usually to comfort her patients.

She earned her master's degree in early childhood special education and taught young children with special needs for 28 years, and fortunately was allowed to use her therapy dogs. In her classroom, they were teaching tools. One of the most prominent lessons she taught her students about animals was, "We take care of things that make our lives better."

She currently has four Labradors, all of whom Amy deems "Labradorable." Her troupe includes Clauden Jean, Gladus Ruth, Maisie Mae, and her newest addition, Opal. Amy also has a therapy cat named Bernie, after Sen. Bernie Sanders. She feels inspired to continue her work because she has witnessed the healing power of therapy dogs on children. She has watched as youngsters with severe rheumatoid arthritis use their hands to pet them, children with nonverbal autism speak to them, and children with anger issues develop positive relationships with them.

Amy has also written children's books she uses in her programs and leaves with children who are hospitalized. In her free time, she loves to garden with her husband, who is a botanist. But at home, she says that she spends most of her time vacuuming dog hair!

I only chatted with Amy for an hour, but in that time, I learned she has a heart of gold and truly believes in the impact of her work. While her programs at The Gardens may be focused on fun, we should never underestimate the positive effects that her Labrador Girls can have on everyone who attends.

Catch Amy and the "Sugar Plum Furies" each Saturday night in December at Garden of Lights from 6-8 p.m.

DESIGN TO BUILD: OUR FUTURE HOME



Michelle Provaznik
Director

This past January, we began the process to renovate and expand the Visitor's

Center—marking the last phase of completion of our Master Plan. It was determined that a design/build approach would be the best strategy to streamline timing as well as keep budgets in check. We started with the selection of a design/build team. Local companies, Elder Construction and Architecture West, were selected and immediately got to work.

The entire design team, however, consists of many members of the facilities department of the City of Fort Collins who represent electrical, mechanical and sustainability expertise. The team also includes staff from our partner organization, the Butterfly Pavilion and numerous subcontractors. Last, but not least, Gardens staff has been supplying valuable input to the design process.

The overall design of the new Visitor's Center will be similar to the original plan created in 2000 with one major caveat. There will be some separation built in between staff and public spaces to allow greater enjoyment of the space by our visitors, while staff can focus on their work at hand.

Other unique aspects of the design include:

CONSERVATORY BUTTERFLY HOUSE

The heart of the expansion includes a 1,500 square foot glass house with a meandering pathway and two primary gathering spaces. To support the butterfly and horticulture needs of the house, a new mechanical room and chrysalis room will be constructed. The chrysalis room will include a window, so guests can watch the butterflies emerge.

NEW ENTRANCE AND LOBBY

Our main entrance will become one single entry, and the new lobby will welcome every guest to our botanic garden. The reception desk will expand to four work stations—two for admissions and two for members and class registrations. A new, expanded gift shop will offer garden and nature-based wares. The new Visitor's Center will connect to the current stand-alone bathroom building, bringing the current restrooms under one roof. An additional family restroom will also be added.

COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

A new conference room will be constructed for us to host lecture classes and offer meeting space for the community. It will also serve as the green room for guest performers and as the bridal party room for weddings.

CAFÉ CONCESSIONS

A small concession café will round out the lobby area. Although not equipped for full meals, the café concessions will allow us to offer snacks and beverages to our guests.

LEED CERTIFICATION

We are striving for LEED Gold for the project.

Once complete, the future Visitor's Center will enable us to serve up to 125,000 expected annual visitors with an inviting, educational and more efficient space. We anticipate breaking ground in January 2019. Stay tuned for a construction completion schedule and a grand opening timeline to be announced in the coming months.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

\$6 MILLION

– \$3.1 million

– \$2.5 million

= \$5,623,965

\$400,000

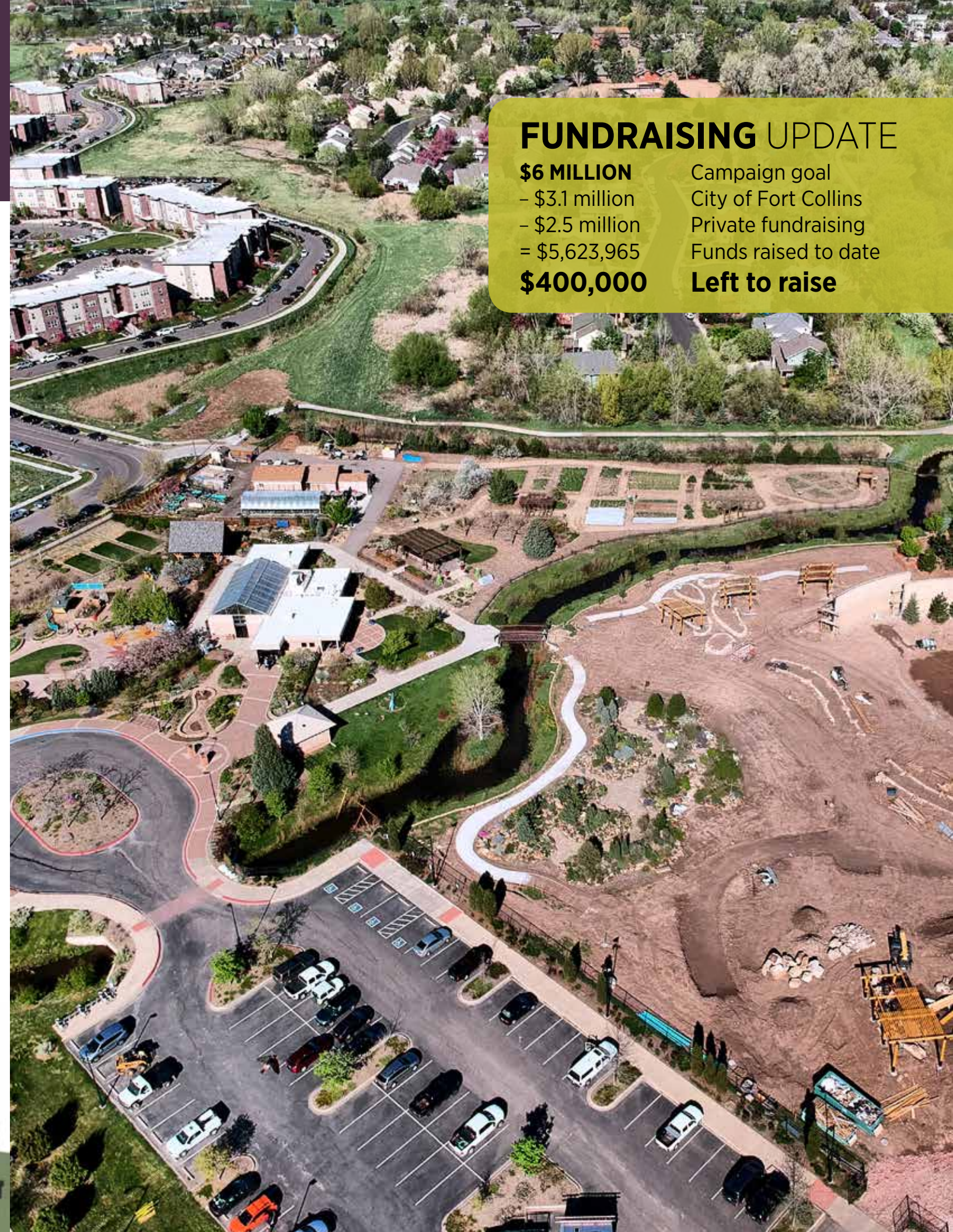
Campaign goal

City of Fort Collins

Private fundraising

Funds raised to date

Left to raise



ABOVE & BEYOND



Korrie Johnston
Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator

True success in our events is built on the support of our generous sponsors and partners. This year's Garden a'Fare Wine and Beer Tours in August were an outstanding example of our restaurant partners coming together to help us raise nearly \$40,000 to benefit the mission of The Gardens. This year, these annual food and beverage evenings brought together more than 12 restaurants who donated all of the food and staffing service in entirety.

Special recognition and gratitude to three stalwart restaurants who have provided excellent fare, staffing, and other resources to The Gardens for the last six event seasons (2013-2018): The Moot House, Fiona's Deli, and Spoons, Soups and Salads. These establishments have exceeded expectations with their creative menus, provided energetic staff and offered our guests such a positive experience that many want to return year after year.

For us, this support exemplifies a true definition of a valued partner going above and beyond to serve our community. We would like to thank each of these restaurants for their continued support in helping us grow, and we hope you tell them that, too, the next time you visit their restaurants!



EVENTS TO CELEBRATE

GARDEN OF LIGHTS

DEC. 1 - JAN. 1, 5 - 9 PM

Suggested donation \$5 per person

Stroll through the whimsically decorated and twinkling gardens lit by thousands of LED lights. Visit Santa, listen to holiday music, see the Sugar Plum Furries, and enjoy warm drinks. For a full programming schedule, visit fcgov.com/gardens.

HALLOWEEN ENCHANTED GARDEN

SAT. OCT. 27, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

This event is one of the only candy-free celebrations in Fort Collins. \$5 per child.

Halloween Enchanted Garden is everything sweet, just without the candy! Expect magical amusement and old-fashioned fun, especially planned for children 8 years and younger.

HOLIDAY PLANTS & GIFTS

Visit The Gardens during November and December for our Holiday Plants & Gift Sale. Our gift shop and greenhouse will be stocked with unique gifts, holiday plants, and other special treasures for your loved ones, all reasonably priced. Every plant for sale was lovingly grown in our greenhouse.

COLORADO GIVES DAY

TUES. DEC. 4

Colorado Gives Day, the state's largest online giving movement, is set for Tuesday, December 4. Colorado Gives Day is powered by ColoradoGives.org, a year-round, online giving website. Find the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek and show your support!

HIGH PLAINS LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

SAT. MARCH 9, 2019, DRAKE CENTRE

Gardens Members: \$65, Non-members: \$75

One-day workshop for homeowners and professionals designed to promote sustainable landscapes that reflect a sense of place in Colorado's northern Front Range. More info at fcgov.com/gardens.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Pre-registration is required. Members receive a discount on classes fcgov.com/gardens.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Oct. 20 - The World of Orchids

Nov. 3 - Preserving the Harvest

Nov. 3 - Steppe Plants for a Steppe Climate

Nov. 10 - Introduction to Soap Making

Nov. 10 - Happy Houseplants: Care, Culture, & Choices

Nov. 17 - Succulent Pinecone & Mini-Pumpkin Centerpieces

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 - Holiday Wreaths

ADMISSION

is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult and \$2 per child, aged two and over. As always, members enjoy free admission.

HOW TO FIND US

2145 Centre Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526
970-416-2486
fcgov.com/gardens



OUR HOURS

9 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.
9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat.



2145 Centre Ave. Fort Collins CO 80526

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Wild Birds Unlimited
Woodward
Zak George Landscaping

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SUSTAINING, AND
DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE
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