



The Garden Conservancy News

Spring 2026

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The Garden Conservancy

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The mission of the Garden Conservancy is to preserve, share, and celebrate America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public.

The Garden Conservancy

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Right: Denver Urban Gardens

On the cover: Shekomoko Hillside Garden, Dutchess County, NY, opening Sunday, June 28. Photo: the Garden Host





Gardens, Rooted in Community

Spring has returned, and with it, a familiar sense of wonder as our gardens burst into life. This season of renewal feels especially poignant this year as we look across the landscape of American gardening and see a movement that is not just growing, but fundamentally transforming.

In the last several years, we have witnessed an unprecedented surge in interest in the soil. What many once viewed as a quiet, solitary hobby during the pandemic years has evolved into a vital, communal force. New gardeners across the country have picked up trowels for the first time, seeking everything from fresh food and physical exercise to mental solace and a deeper connection to the natural world. This shift has changed the way we think about the purpose of a garden.

At the Garden Conservancy, we are committed to supporting this evolving ecosystem through our Garden Futures Grants. This program was born out of a desire to champion the small, innovative, and often grassroots organizations that are demonstrating what a garden can do for its community. When we review applications for these grants, we are consistently moved by the incredible diversity of the projects—and the people—driving them.

You can explore several of these inspiring efforts in our feature, “Growing Strength Through Community Gardens” beginning on page 4, which highlights the profound impact these spaces have on their local neighborhoods.

Today's community gardens are as varied as the plants they grow. We see green spaces serving as:

- **Sanctuaries for healing** and peace in the wake of community trauma.
- **Outdoor classrooms** where children learn the rhythms of nature and the science of sustainability.
- **Essential lifelines** offering fresh produce in areas where healthy food is otherwise scarce.
- **Sites of cultural preservation**, where ancestral knowledge is passed down through the planting of native species and traditional crops.

What unites these diverse efforts is a shared belief that gardens are essential to our collective well-being. Whether it is a veteran finding a sense of belonging in a shared plot, or a neighborhood coming together to turn a vacant lot into a flourishing oasis, these projects prove that gardening is a powerful tool for social and environmental change.

As you enjoy the blooms in your own neighborhood this spring, I hope you feel a sense of connection to this broader movement. Your support of the Garden Conservancy allows us to provide the unrestricted funds that these vital organizations need to thrive. Together, we are ensuring that the future of American gardening is inclusive, resilient, and deeply rooted in community.

Warmly,

James Brayton Hall
President and CEO





Legacy Heritage Launches 'Community Bloom Collective' in Montgomery, AL

Consuelo Bradley planted sunflowers to fight the isolation of the pandemic. Now she is growing community gardens, for neighbors who need them most.

During the isolation of the pandemic, Consuelo Bradley planted her very first seeds in a backyard flowerpot.

Covid-19 had shut down her work as a school secretary and event planner in Montgomery, AL. Life had become overwhelming, and leaving home was suddenly a frightening thing. Through her phone, Bradley sought help from a therapist, who brought up the idea of "gardening therapy."

Bradley decided to give it a try. Her first effort, with help from her husband and son, yielded sunflowers, much bigger than expected. And the experiment grew into a much larger endeavor than she could have imagined. Gardening shifted her focus away from obsessive thoughts to more immediate ones: Why won't my tomato plant

food desert; residents had to drive five to ten miles to find fresh fruit or vegetables. Most residents were on low or fixed incomes, and many were seniors, unable to drive.

"I felt like those were the people that could benefit the most," she says. "Just watching plants grow lowers your blood pressure. Taking your shoes off, being able to ground in the grass, it sends a certain type of energy to your feet that refreshes you, that people don't experience anymore. And more to the point, in that area, there was no green space there."

"At the time, I felt that God had spoken to me and told me that making this place over there in Newtown was what I was supposed to be doing to give back. And so that's what I started doing."

In December 2025, Legacy Heritage received the Garden Conservancy's **Page Dickey Grant for American Gardens**, a special recognition for distinguished small public gardens within the Garden Futures Grant Program.

grow? What is this spot? What else can I plant here?

"Once I got outside, that's when I was like: Oh, this does feel better," Bradley recalls. "There might be something to this gardening therapy." She realized that many other people would benefit from the same experience—but not everyone could afford it.

"In my family, when you get a gift, it's your responsibility to give some back, or give back to somebody," Bradley says. An idea began to germinate.

Before long, Bradley found a three-acre, state-owned lot available for sale in the historic neighborhood of Newtown. She had a vision of providing space for others to enjoy the benefits of gardening. The neighborhood was a

Bradley launched the nonprofit organization Legacy Heritage with a plan to transform the wooded lot into a community garden. She worked with neighbors and city agencies on plans to maintain the land, including a city-owned drainage ditch. By the end of 2023, 10 beds were installed, and a winter crop was in the ground.

But Legacy Heritage immediately had to adjust to setbacks and challenges. In January 2024, the site flooded, destroying the winter crop. The food was lost and could not be used as compost, because the stormwater was toxic, Bradley said. Forced to close for a season, Bradley worked to come up with funding to create 40 raised beds and start growing again. She trained as an Alabama Master



Gardener and connected with other professionals doing similar work.

In 2025, the raised beds were a success, providing food for nursing homes and community centers. Supported by donations, Legacy Heritage developed nutritional education. Tomatoes, onions, red and green kale, and lettuce are among the staples, along with yardlong beans, an economical source of food.

The ground-level beds contain "trap plants," basil, oregano, lemon balm, and other perennials that attract and feed the bugs, which then leave the food alone. "We have to have something for everybody," Bradley says.

The organization developed stormwater-smart initiatives to mitigate flooding. But the challenges kept coming. Despite a successful harvest, Legacy Heritage had difficulty bringing volunteers back after the lost year. Federal funding dropped, and it was necessary to diversify Legacy Heritage's funding sources.

In December 2025, Legacy Heritage received the



Garden Conservancy's **Page Dickey Grant for American Gardens**, a special recognition for distinguished small public gardens. Part of our Garden Futures Grant program, the annual award provides \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

Armed with new knowledge, experience, community feedback, and the new grant, Bradley pivoted again.

This spring, Legacy Heritage is preparing to launch several pilot projects aimed at bringing the garden directly to the people through its Community Bloom Collective. The program focuses on transforming underutilized spaces at apartment communities, schools, and neighborhood centers into small-scale learning gardens, where residents can gain hands-on growing experience.

The first location is a preschool, Our Children Academy, where children will learn about farming. Lessons will feature the five senses: cotton, for touch; strawberries and cherry tomatoes, for looking and tasting; herbs, for smelling; and beans, rattling in their pods, for listening.

Explore the History of Urban Gardening: Join a Virtual Program on July 14

As part of our Tuesday series of Virtual Programs with authors in the world of gardening, Kate Brown, Distinguished Professor in the History of Science at MIT, will present insights from her new book *Tiny Gardens Everywhere: The Past, Present, and Future of the Self Provisioning City* at 2 p.m. Eastern, July 14.

Brown follows the 300-year history of urban gardening from feudal England to the Paris Commune, to Berlin's green shantytowns, to contemporary Amsterdam, Chicago and beyond. She explores how these gardens fostered ecological diversity and prosperity—a formidable means of producing significant amounts of fresh produce with strikingly little environmental impact.

Visit gardenconservancy.org to register and join us online.

Bradley invites other organizations—including senior apartment communities, schools, community centers, and housing developments—to explore how the program could serve their residents. Through the Community Bloom Collective, participating locations can host demonstration gardens, educational workshops, and resident-led growing programs designed to promote food access, wellness, and practical gardening skills.

"I want people to see what's possible," Bradley says. "Sometimes all it takes is a small space, a few seeds, and a group of neighbors willing to learn together."

Bradley says she has learned a lot about how to keep moving forward with her vision despite the hurdles. One way is by developing connections with others in a field that can feel isolating.

Once again, Bradley is looking to give back.

She sees an opportunity for Legacy Heritage to help strengthen connections among Black women working in agriculture. She welcomes other Black female farmers and growers across the region to reach out for connection, support, and shared learning. Her hope is to organize small friendship and mental health circles where women can talk openly about the challenges of farming and build lasting support networks.

"When you're out on your own land, doing the work every day, it can get lonely," she says. "I believe it's important that we find ways to come together—not just to share knowledge, but to support each other."

*To learn more about **Legacy Heritage**, lend support, and get in touch, visit: ourlegacyheritage.com. To learn more about the **Community Bloom Collective**, and how organizations can get involved, visit yourcovidcareful.com.*

Across the Country, Community Gardens Grow with Purpose

Community gardens are flourishing across the country as a means of producing fresh food, spaces for solace and enjoyment, and in many cases, a sense of personal growth for the people involved.

They have sprung up in response to specific community needs. In Chicago, one community garden dedicates itself to healing survivors of gun violence. In South Dakota, an Indigenous-led nonprofit is planting a garden as part of its mission empowering young women. In Washington state, veterans are invited to find a sense of belonging by growing food together.

Community gardens saw a huge upswell of interest during the pandemic. Some 18 million people took up gardening during the pandemic, according to the National Gardening Association, adding to about 117 million Americans, or one in three, who were already gardening. Facing constraints amid the renewed interest, many community gardens looked for financial help. That was a major impetus for launching **Garden Futures Grants**, a program of the Garden Conservancy, in 2021.

"Through Garden Futures Grants, we're able to support and celebrate an emerging ecosystem of new, small, scrappy, innovative, community-based nonprofits that form the bulwark of America's new gardening movement," said Horatio Joyce, PhD, the Garden Conservancy's Director of Public Programs and Education.

The physical, social, and emotional benefits of community gardens continue to be documented, as gardening is credited with easing depression, improving eating habits, and more.

Garden Futures Grants offer modest amounts of unrestricted funds to provide practical support to small organizations and highlight the work of diverse gardening practices throughout the United States. In 2025, the program awarded a total of \$145,000 to 27 organizations across the country. The funding recognizes groups that are fostering meaningful change in their communities, through garden-based programming or advancing the preservation and study of garden history.

Visit gardenconservancy.org/programs/grants

GARDEN FUTURES GRANT RECIPIENTS



Denver Urban Gardens

Following are just a few examples of community gardens supported by the latest round of Garden Futures Grants.

DENVER URBAN GARDENS, DENVER, CO

DUG, as it is known, is one of the largest independent networks of food-producing gardens in the country, stewarding 200 community gardens and food forests in metro Denver. DUG is about more than just gardens, with a mission to provide access, skills, and resources for people to grow healthy food in community and regenerate urban green spaces.

GROWING VETERANS, LYNDEN, WA

This organization empowers veterans to cultivate purpose and belonging by growing food, community, and each other. Its mission is to end isolation by creating purpose and belonging. Food is grown at an organic farm in Lynden and an outpost farm on Greenbank Whidbey Island and donated to the Bellingham Food Bank and North Whidbey Help House, with the rest given to volunteers and interns.

HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK, BOSTON, MA

Homegrown National Park inspires action to address the biodiversity crisis by regenerating habitat where people live, work, and play. Through grassroots action—mainly adding native plants and removing invasive species—the organization empowers individuals and communities to create thriving habitats, building resilience in the face of ecological loss. HNP has 45,000 homegrown gardens and



La Huerta Roots & Rays

a Schools Program that engages middle school students in hands-on biodiversity restoration. The Garden Futures Grant supports the expansion of the Schools Program. In the first year, teachers receive a curriculum, students learn the science of native plants, and each school installs a garden. In future years, students will collect seeds and learn to propagate native plants. Over time, each school becomes a micro-nursery that strengthens biodiversity across its area.

KIND HEARTED WOMEN'S SOCIETY (CANTE WAUNSILIPI WI TA OMINICIYE), RAPID CITY, SD

This Indigenous-led nonprofit is rooted in Lakota values, matriarchal leadership, and the belief that young women are sacred carriers of culture and future. Its mission is to create a sovereign circle where Native girls and young women reclaim identity, heal in community, and rise in leadership through land-based, cultural, and relational programming.

LA HUERTA ROOTS & RAYS, CHICAGO, IL

La Huerta Roots & Rays is a community garden run by volunteer land stewards and artists in Pilsen, a historically industrial corridor of the city. The garden serves the community by having a safe space filled with herbs, flowers, fruits, and vegetables where folks actively learn and participate in the growing process. During peak months, La Huerta Roots & Rays provides programming, arts and culture workshops, and fresh produce to approximately 200 members of the community.



Mercy Garden of Peace and Healing

MAINE FOODSCAPES, WINDHAM, ME

Maine Foodscapes cultivates access to gardens and edible landscapes across Southern Maine. The organization helps communities—particularly those facing food insecurity—to grow, share, and celebrate food and gardening traditions. Through education, home and community gardens, and hands-on programming, Maine Foodscapes nurtures the health, well-being, and cultural connections of individuals and neighborhoods while preserving local food knowledge for future generations.

MERCY GARDEN OF PEACE AND HEALING, CHICAGO, IL

Mercy Garden for Peace and Healing began in the fall of 2022 in the Austin area of Chicago, with a mission to promote healing for survivors of gun violence. The garden is located between two buildings that house seniors, low-income residents, and people with disabilities. The first successful harvest was in the summer of 2023. Vigils were held, where stories of gun violence were shared, songs were sung, and children played in the dirt in a safe space.

THE HEALTHY EARTH ORGANIZATION, ESTERO, FL

The organization's mission is to empower young people by providing accessible avenues to contribute to Southwest Florida's community, become stewards of the environment, and generate positive change. Its programs offer free produce, nature-based learning, wellness activities, and assistance to help gardens thrive or start one from scratch.







A Scene From Sleepy Cat Farm

The preceding pages offer a view of Sleepy Cat Farm in Greenwich, CT, one of the most popular destinations in the Garden Conservancy Open Days™ program. Sleepy Cat Farm has evolved over the last 25 years in close collaboration between the owner, Fred Landman, and Virginia-based landscape architect Charles J. Stick. The panoramic view of the perennial border in Brian Jones' photo includes the elegant Chinese Pavilion surrounded by the tranquil koi pond, a highlight of the estate's expansion into world-class horticultural artistry. During Open Days, June 7 and August 29, visitors can enjoy a whimsical journey through thirteen acres of expertly curated garden rooms. See more Open Days highlights on page 12.

Photographer and graphic designer **Brian Jones** gardens his own New England acre in Exeter, RI. He says the most difficult part of taking pictures for the Garden Conservancy is capturing the three dimensions of a garden in a two-dimensional photo. He keeps his equipment simple—a Canon EOS RP with a 24-240 lens, and a spare battery. In eight years of assignments, he has discovered that the only thing gardeners like more than gardening is talking about gardening!



Join the Society of Fellows: Exclusive Garden-Study Tours and Events Await

The Garden Conservancy Society of Fellows is a committed group of garden enthusiasts, supporters, and philanthropists who help advance our work and programs. Fellows are afforded all the benefits of our general membership program plus more, including opportunities to travel with us as we explore extraordinary gardens and historic landscapes.

Along the way, Fellows meet renowned horticulturists, designers, and historians. They explore local architecture, private art collections, and other cultural highlights; enjoy first-class hotels and gracious hosting in private homes; and experience behind-the-scenes tours of public museums, arboretums, and botanical gardens.

Since our first tour to Portland, OR, in 1992, the Fellows have crisscrossed the nation and traveled abroad, designing over 70 tours taking us to 31 states and twelve international destinations.

For information on becoming a Fellow, visit gardenconservancy.org/joinfellows.

Below: Our Fellows sampling their way through the vegetable gardens at the Gardens at Clock Barn, Home of Maureen & Mike Ruettggers in Carlisle, MA, in September 2025.



Now Streaming Online, *Earth, I Thank You* Wins Acclaim, Celebrates Spirit of Anne Spencer

The wait is over. After its premiere at the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** in May 2025 and a landmark screening at **The Frick Collection** in January, the Garden Conservancy's newest documentary, *Earth, I Thank You: The Garden and Legacy of Anne Spencer*, is now streaming on the Garden Conservancy website and YouTube. Whether you are a lover of history or horticulture, the film offers you a rare glimpse into a landscape where hope and resistance were cultivated in equal measure.

The film has already garnered significant acclaim. Writing for *Forbes*, Chadd Scott noted that for Spencer, gardening was a profound act of defiance. In her case, he wrote, "Resistance looks like a garden." Blogger Karen Templer, at *Future Tiny Forest*, called it "a powerful story, well worth your time."

The documentary explores the Lynchburg, VA, sanctuary of Anne Spencer, Harlem Renaissance poet and civil rights advocate. Her garden was a vibrant cultural hub, hosting luminaries like Langston Hughes and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Today, it stands as one of the most significant preserved African American gardens in the United States.

In a Q&A with *Sheen Magazine*, Garden Conservancy President and CEO **James Brayton Hall** noted how Spencer's garden was essential to her writing, and how "these two creative acts, writing poetry and gardening, were so completely intertwined." He encouraged audiences

to draw their own inspiration from the film. "For me, it is a story of bravery and finding hope and expression in creativity," he said, "and finding a way to express one's own humanity despite odds and societal restrictions... And that gardens are great places to find those possibilities."

The film was made possible by the **Suzanne and Frederic Rheinsteind Fund for Documentary Films**. The film was brought to life by filmmakers **David and Michel Udri**, Producer **Pamela Governale**, and Executive Producer **Kate Cordsen**.

Watch it today: Visit gardenconservancy.org/spencer or find the Garden Conservancy on YouTube to experience the legacy of Anne Spencer.



Anne Spencer in her garden in 1947. Photo by Jimmie Ray, Courtesy of Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum



Photo: Ryan Southern

Detroit Open Days A Renaissance in the Making

Join us in June to experience the innovative spirit of Detroit's thriving garden community. Building on the success of last year's successful return to Detroit, eight gardens will be highlighted on June 26 and 27. Presented in partnership with Oudolf Garden Detroit, this two-day celebration highlights the region's shift toward sustainable beauty and creative ecological design.

Friday, June 26: Digging Deeper: Oudolf Garden Native Meadows

The weekend begins at 4 p.m. at the Oudolf Garden Detroit on Detroit's historic Belle Isle. Join Meredith Simpson and Richard Thomas for a guided walk through this unique lakeplain prairie habitat. Participants will learn about the native plants rehabilitating the Lake Tacoma shoreline and have a hands-on opportunity to plant native plugs during the early evening "golden hour." Tickets are \$30 for Garden Conservancy members, \$40 for the general public. Visit gardenconservancy.org/events for more information.

Saturday, June 27: Open Days Garden Tours

Saturday features seven private sanctuaries showcasing the region's diverse horticultural spirit:

- **Turkel House (Detroit):** A 1.5-acre meadow and sculpture courtyard surrounding a Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece.
- **Highgate Garden (Bloomfield Hills):** A mindful wildlife sanctuary featuring a rambling meadow and restored gazebo.
- **Resilient Retreat (Detroit):** A low-maintenance urban ecosystem with climate-ready rain gardens.
- **Robin's Retreat (Farmington Hills):** A vibrant "living laboratory" focused on design and experimentation.
- **Chelsea Perennial Garden (West Bloomfield):** A whimsical front-yard English garden and vertical rear landscape.
- **Partridge Garden (Bloomfield Hills):** An "enchanted forest" with a Zen garden and bubbling waterfall.
- **Camden Garden (Grosse Pointe):** A landscape garden defined by dramatic boulders and hummingbird-friendly perennials.

All gardens are open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visit gardenconservancy.org/opendays for more information.

A Fresh Season of Open Days: What to Look Forward to in 2026

We're excited to share that more than 350 private gardens across 26 states will open their gates for the 2026 Garden Conservancy Open Days™ season, which runs from March through November. That's a lot of garden paths to wander!

Once again, Open Days offer a chance to connect with nature, appreciate artistry, and find inspiration from the passion projects of dedicated gardeners. The program is entering its fourth decade. It thrives on curiosity—about what lies behind the hedge, around the curve, or at the end of a tucked-away trail. Since 1995, the program has invited 1.5 million visitors into 4,500 private gardens across 40 states, making it the only garden-visiting experience of its kind in the country.

This year's lineup is wonderfully eclectic—just the way gardeners like it. Here's a sample of what you can expect:

Connecticut gives us some gems, including **Sleepy Cat Farm** in Greenwich, where a long reflecting pool, greenhouse, and sculptural vignettes unfold in a series of discoveries. Not far away, the Avon Flower House brings its whimsical topiaries and rare conifers to life on a historic property. And if you're a fern lover, you'll want to mark the date for **Ann and Haig's Garden** in New Canaan, home to over **120 fern varieties** set among woodland paths and specimen trees.

Long Island's East End also shines: the **Alexandra Munroe & Robert Rosenkranz Gardens** mix meadows, a rose parterre, cottage gardens, and Asian woodland trails around a 1928 beach house. **The Garden of Marshall Watson** blends formal spaces, organic practices, and ocean winds. **Entwood Garden** and **Entwood Glade** offer everything from koi ponds to restored historic structures nestled into pastoral landscapes.

In Pennsylvania, Havenwood House & Gardens brings a British sensibility to its one-acre tapestry of "garden rooms," complete with a formal pool, wildlife pond, and fruit tunnel.

Meanwhile, Frank Lloyd Wright fans will love visiting Detroit's **Turkel House**, the largest example of his Usonian



Garden of Marshall Watson. Photo: Paul Sparks

Automatic style. Its garden reflects Wright's belief that the landscape is "the most important room," with meadow, woods, sculpture courtyard, and terrace woven through 1.5 acres. Wisconsin's **Sievert Garden**—with more than **800 hostas!**—is another treat, packed with stumperies, mossy paths, Japanese-inspired features, and a Williamsburg-style formal garden.

California gives us everything from a Mid-century Modern home (Las Palmas del Norte) in Walnut Creek, surrounded by wild, naturalistic planting, to the Mediterranean-inspired **Mi Sueño del Sur Garden** in Pasadena with a reflecting pool and sculptural touches. A bit farther north, **La Fleur Lochinvar Garden** is a serene blend of succulents, citrus, grasses, and Scandinavian-style design in San Rafael.

And if you're planning a New Mexico trip, **Robin Magowan's Rock Garden** in Santa Fe is a must-see—a mountainside crevice garden with more than a thousand alpine species and stunning tiered views.

A big part of Open Days' evolution has been a shift toward more ecological, wildlife-friendly gardening. Our **Nibbled Leaf** initiative—developed with the Perfect Earth Project—highlights gardens maintained with "all living creatures in mind." In 2026, more than two-thirds of participating gardens carry this designation.

Garden listings and dates are all available on our website. Tickets are released about two months before each Open Day, usually around the first of the month. Admission is \$10, or \$5 for Garden Conservancy members—and children 12 and under join for free.

Our thanks to all the Garden Hosts, Regional Ambassadors and volunteers who make this program possible. Here's to another season of exploring, learning, connecting, and getting joyfully lost among the plants.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Highlights from last year's Garden Conservancy Open Days. Top and right, Enchanting Rose Garden, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI; Pollinators' Paradise, Austin, TX; Sievert Garden, Waukesha, WI.



Photos, clockwise: Marvin Shaouni (top and right), Rebecca Black Photography, Christine Ashburn Photography

Explore the Reimagined Landscapes of Colonial Williamsburg and Central Park

The 2026 Garden Masters season is in full swing, offering premier experiences that bridge the gap between historic preservation and modern ecological innovation. This spring and summer, our featured programs provide an exclusive look at how iconic landscapes—from the colonial roots of Virginia to the storied landscapes of Manhattan’s Central Park—are being reimagined for a new era.



Photo: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Colonial Williamsburg’s Revived Gardens Friday, May 1 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Our first May Garden Masters program, Colonial Williamsburg’s Revived Gardens is an immersive day with Jack Gary, Associate Vice President of Historic Resources, exploring the intersection of archaeology and horticulture. The program features an in-depth look at the archaeological excavation of the Custis Garden—a magnificent 18th-century Baroque masterpiece—alongside the restoration of the iconic Colonial Revival Governor’s Palace Gardens. This rare access extends to the new Campbell Archeology Center and the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, where guests can view original design drawings by Arthur Shurcliff and other archival materials that have shaped these historic grounds.

Tickets for the event are \$320 for Garden Conservancy members and \$350 for the general public.



Photo: Barrett Doherty

Central Park’s Transformed North End Friday, May 15 | 10 a.m.

Our second program of the month focuses on the recent developments of the Conservatory Garden and the green roof of the Davis Center at the park’s north end. Led by senior Central Park Conservancy staff, this session explores how two recently completed developments are breathing new life into the city’s most famous green space. The experience starts at the Conservatory Garden, where guests will learn about a comprehensive restoration that includes fountain modernization and the meticulous repair of historic ornamental ironwork. The program concludes with a walk to the Davis Center to hear about the transformation of the pool and rink at the Harlem Meer area into a site of expanded scenic landscapes and nature-based recreation.

Tickets are \$150 for Garden Conservancy members and \$175 for the general public.

Leading Landscape Architect Thomas Woltz Lectures on 'A Feast of Edens' May 28 in St. Louis

One of America's leading landscape architects, Thomas Woltz, rejoins the Garden Conservancy next month to present the second of two Spring Lectures exploring his firm's innovative designs.

Thomas Woltz, Senior Principal of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBW), follows up on his March 16 lecture at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, FL, with an appearance May 28, at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, MO. The special engagement offers another rare chance to learn directly from Woltz about the philosophy driving his work.

The lecture, "A Feast of Edens: Nurturing the Bond Between People and Plants," begins at 2 p.m., followed by a reception at 3 p.m. Visit gardenconservancy.org/woltz to register.

Woltz has spent 25 years with his team designing innovative examples of gardens that reveal specific cultural history while stewarding the ecology of place. In this talk, he will present a selection of public gardens that explain his firm's design philosophy: that every piece of land has a story to tell.

Woltz will discuss the firm's designs for Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE; Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, FL; the National Arboretum of New Zealand; and Citygarden in downtown St. Louis. Each unique design is a portrait of place revealing specific history through horticulture. Woltz will also offer highlights of the firm's new monograph, *The Land is Full*, which presents this same philosophy in twelve recent public gardens and parks.



Thomas Woltz gives a lecture in West Palm Beach, FL, March 16.



Photo: Nick Hubbard



The Garden Conservancy

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Not a Member? Join Us!

Whether you prefer to visit other people's gardens, cultivate your own, or a combination of both, the Garden Conservancy offers membership opportunities to learn, explore and be inspired!

Become a Garden Conservancy member and join a growing national community passionate about gardens and the essential role they play in our lives. Membership connects you to all we do through exclusive member benefits, including complimentary credits redeemable for Open Days or Virtual Talks, member pricing on all events, Conservancy publications, and more. Memberships start at just \$50 and last a full year!

Visit gardenconservancy.org/memberships
or call 845.424.6500 to join today!



Make Your Donation Today!

The Garden Conservancy preserves, shares, and celebrates America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public. If you would like to make an online contribution, please scan the QR code above to visit our donation page.