



Botanical Garden
of the **Piedmont**

We'll grow together

**Charlottesville City Council
Fiscal Year
2022 - 2023
Update**

August 2023

Who We Are

The mission of BGP is to

Invite all community members and visitors to engage in nature, to educate and inspire through the beauty and importance of plants, to advance sustainability, and to promote human and environmental well-being.

The Vision is to:

- ❖ Create and maintain the garden designed to unite plants natural to our region with appropriate architecture and landscape design.
- ❖ Provide access to the garden and its natural spaces for exploration, observation, and restoration.
- ❖ Present affordable, engaging programming to provide educational and inspirational experiences for all ages.
- ❖ Commit to inclusion, excellence, and upstanding management while maintaining a positive impact on the eco-system and our community.

This year we added **Core Values**:

Inspiring connection, learning and joy through nature.

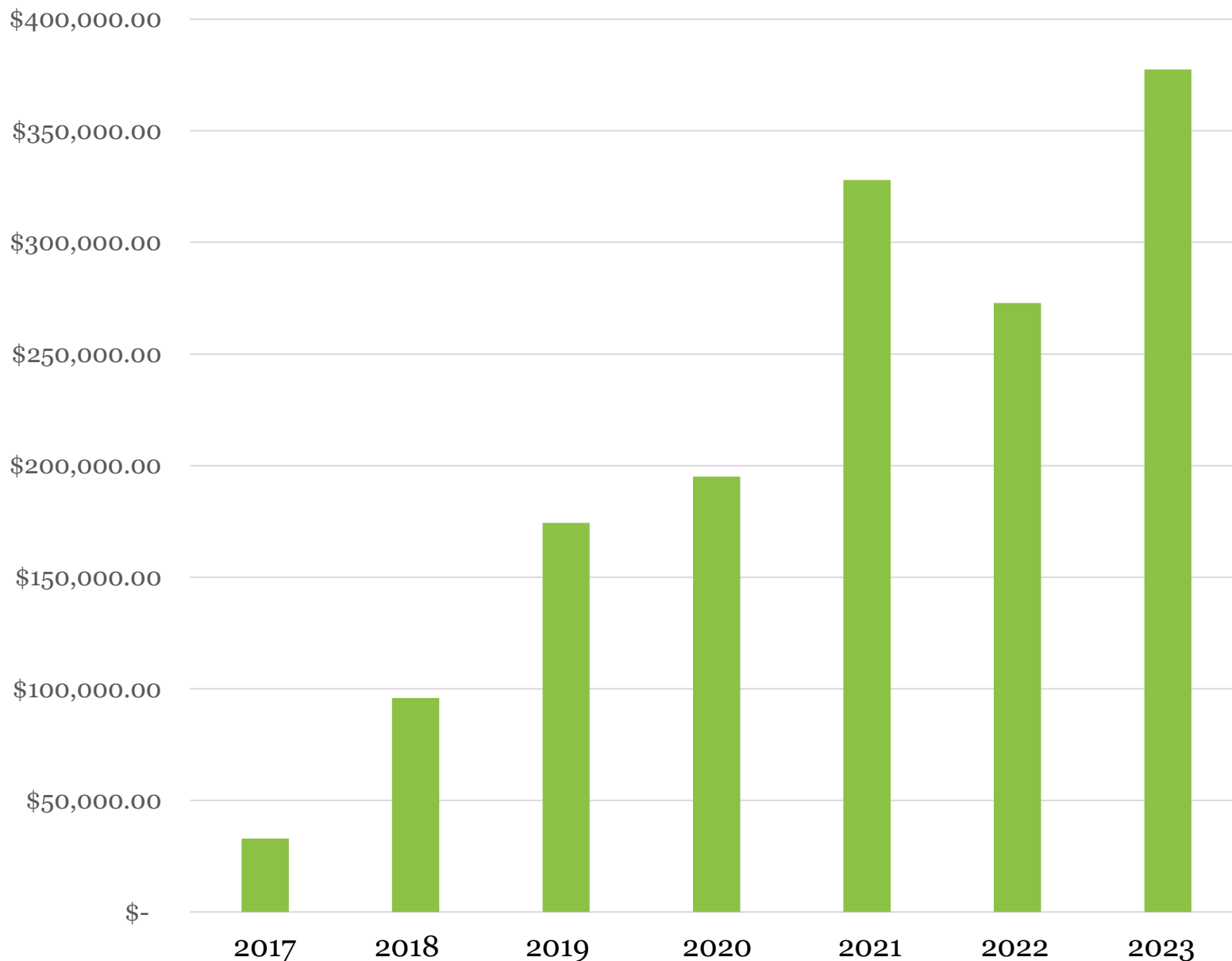
Growing the Garden

Development

For the first time, our Annual Operating Fund donations exceeded our budget expectations.

The silent phase of our first Capital Campaign raised almost 50% of the \$10 million goal in less than 24 months.

Annual Fund Gift Comparison



Grants

BGP provides a variety of free programs to the public, all possible with funding provided by private grants. The grant writing team is made up of retired grant writing professionals from UVA, who volunteer to support the Garden by researching and writing appropriate grants.

In Fiscal Year 22 - 23, this team has been awarded more than 35% of the 28 Grants they applied for. These grants funded all of the programming and the much of the costs for stewarding the Garden site.



Growing the Garden

BGP revised the Schematic Plan to include the stream restoration, public bridge and trail plans and acreage added through the land lease agreement.

In August 2022, this plan was approved by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation. In November, it was approved by Charlottesville City Council and in January of 2023, the Albemarle County Planning Commission approved BGP's application for Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. This freed the way for BGP to move on to the next phase of the landscape design - Design Development.



Growing the Garden

BGP issued an RFP for architectural services in September, 2022. In January 2023, 15 architecture firms came for a mandatory tour and information session. In March 8 proposals for services were received and in June, BGP announced their selection - Maryann Thompson Architects – to design the buildings in the Garden.

MARYANN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS



Growing the Garden

Last Fall we began stewarding the site south of the stream. The work continues, most recently with a new information kiosk built by volunteers of Building Goodness Foundation.



Growing the Garden

In September, we began stewarding the railroad right-of-way on the north side of the stream.

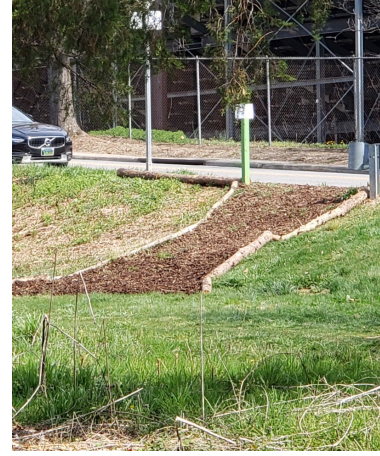
Progress Photos,
Clockwise from top left:

September 2022,
January 2023,
April 2023,
&
August 2023.



Growing the Garden

Recent low to no cost site improvements built with donated materials and volunteer labor.



Arts Programming



Literacy Programming



STEM Programming



Outreach

- ❖ Provided 100 tours and presentations to groups and organizations, including Charlottesville United for Public Education, Farmington Breakfast Club, Parks & Rec Advisory Council, Blue Ridge Rotary Club, PHAR Cville, Music Resource Center, etc.
- ❖ Provided program space to outside groups such Links, Inc., Parkside, Rivanna Garden Club, Blue Ridge PRISM, CATS, Scouts, and others.



Volunteers

- ❖ 388 registered volunteers with a total of 27,653 hours since we started keeping records in 2017!
- ❖ 166 volunteers logged 3,215 hours by in FY 2022 - 2023.
- ❖ Developed a volunteer ambassador program and trained 14 volunteers.
- ❖ Garden Ambassadors provided 25 free public tours of the Garden to 255 participants.
- ❖ We tabled 11 community events with staff and Ambassadors and reached over 600 people.
- ❖ Held a volunteer appreciation event with 48 attendees.

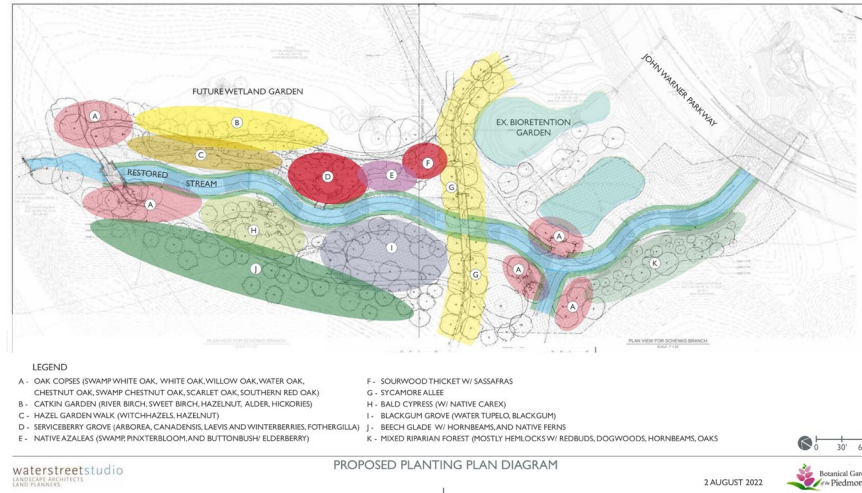


Realizing Our Core Values

Inspiring connection, learning and joy through nature.



Botanical Garden of the Piedmont Plans for FY 2023 - 2024



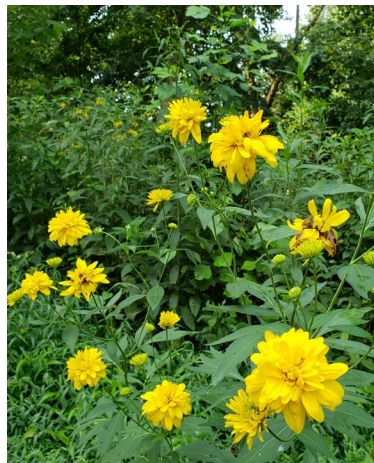
❖ Beginning the stream restoration construction this month!

❖ Begin the bridge and trail construction as soon as the stream restoration is completed.

❖ Complete the Design Development Phase of the landscape design.

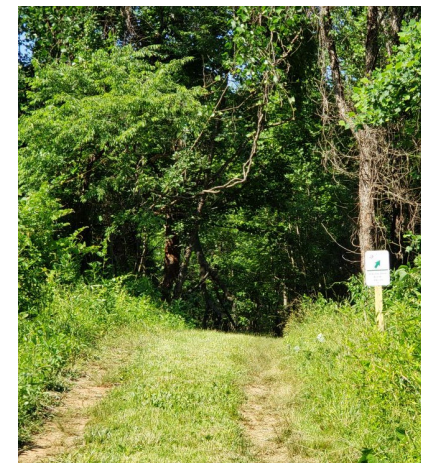
❖ Complete the Schematic Plan of the Visitor's Center and Garden Pavilion.

❖ Complete the Construction Documents for the Garden Pavilion.



❖ Continue to steward the Garden site to make it more welcoming and usable.

❖ Begin to offer two new programs as well as year-round environmental education opportunities.



Event Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, August 9	10:00-10:45	JMRL Storytime in the Garden	Garden
Wednesday, August 9	10:45-11:30am	Explore to Read and Create with Nature Bugs	Garden
Wednesday, August 16	8:30-10:30am	Garden Guardians	Garden
Saturday, August 19	10-11am	Relaxing Forest Yoga	Garden
Saturday, August 19	11am-12:30pm	Butterfly Walk	Garden
Wednesday, September 6	8:30-10:30am	Garden Guardians	Garden
Saturday, September 9	9am-10am	Garden Site Tour	Garden
Saturday, September 9	10am-noon	Recycle/Reuse/Refresh	Garden
Wednesday, September 13	10-10:45am	JMRL Storytime in the Garden	Garden
Wednesday, September 13	10:45-11:30am	Explore to Read and Create with Nature	Garden
Saturday, September 16	9am-2pm	Tufton Open House	Tufton
Wednesday, September 20	9-noon	United Way Day of Caring	Garden
Saturday, September 23	9-10:30am	Habitat Walk	Garden
Wednesday, October 4	9-11am?	Garden Guardians	Garden
Saturday, October 7	10am?	Garden Site Tour	Garden
Wednesday, October 11	10-10:45am	JMRL ST	Garden
Wednesday, October 11	10:45-11:30am	Explore to Read and Create with Nature	Garden
Saturday, October 14	9am-2pm	Tufton Open House	Tufton
Wednesday, October 18	10am-noon?	Garden Guardians	Garden
Saturday, October 28	1-4?	Fall Festival	Garden