FY 2021 Annual Report
Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
Mission

The mission of the Garden 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.

Our Vision, Today and For the Future of the Garden

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.

Inclusion Statement

The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont brings people of all ages and backgrounds together as a community to celebrate and nurture our native flora and fauna. The organization embraces inclusion by inviting everyone to participate in the Garden whether they be visitors, supporters, volunteers, or staff, to further our goal of being a place that promotes human and environmental well-being. In nature and in society, diversity matters—we welcome and celebrate it!

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As we herald in the new fiscal year, the Garden says goodbye to two long time board members: Joan Swanberg and Virginia Daugherty. We welcome two new members: Christina Teague and Keith Woodard.
Finding strength in nature during a pandemic

Clearly, nature calls to something very deep in us...the love of nature and living things is an essential part of the human condition.”
—Dr. Oliver Sacks, neurologist

In reflecting on FY 2021, we celebrate the accomplishments made possible by your time and resources. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and friends.

You are a part of the Garden family! Your contributions of support, encouragement, and countless volunteer hours will provide the community with a place of inspiration, respite, and hope. It is your involvement that will build a high-performance public space for Charlottesville - a place for people, plants, pollinators, and inspiration.

We are most grateful as well to our many community partners who helped us survive and thrive during this past year. With new partners, programs, and services, we quickly realized that at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, it is all about beginnings. As the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont grows, we are planting possibilities.

Our digital footprint has also grown, allowing our friends to be a part of the Garden from their homes. We've seen an increase in our virtual visitors, online classes, and lectures. We've especially continued to develop our website and our visitor experience.

In the following pages, you will see the progress we made in FY 2021.

Thank you for all you do to support our mission.

In gratitude,

Carol Carter          Jill Trischman-Marks
Board President          Executive Director
A New Name: After receiving input from over 200 community members the Garden’s Board officially announced the Garden’s new name: Botanical Garden of the Piedmont.


A New Voice: The Garden created a survey, in both English and Spanish, hosted on our website, so that all interested people can provide input and opinions regarding the future planning of the Garden.

New Outreach: The Garden’s Staff held over 96 site tours and virtual presentations to over 78 local organizations.

New Collaboration: The Garden participated at the Tom Tom Foundation Community Brown Bag Lunch and Round Table Discussion: Executive Director, Jill, lead a panel discussion entitled: Community Designed Public Spaces.

New Partners: Partnerships were developed and strengthened with other local non-profits to plan engaging educational collaborations.

New Volunteers: The Garden has 305 volunteers! Our Volunteers logged over 2,900 hours: participating in bi-monthly Guardian workdays in the Garden, training and becoming Guardian Guides and assisting with many administrative functions.

Growing Grant Support: The Garden received over $11,000 in grants including a Charlottesville Area Community Foundation Community Recovery & Catalyst Grant. Funds from this grant were used to make the site more welcoming and accessible.
The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation Community Recovery & Catalyst Grant awarded to the Garden allowed us to make the site more accessible to the community throughout the pandemic. With this important funding, our volunteers and community partners built an information kiosk, cleared invasive species making way for native plants to reemerge, created engaging and creative places for small gatherings, quiet contemplation or just a place to rest and enjoy the view from a different perspective. Additionally, this grant provided the funding to fill the kiosk with information, purchase new signs, install a garden shed and hardware, plant a wildflower meadow, and engage a landscape contractor for site improvements beyond the capacity of our volunteers.

This very same grant also included an unlimited one year Catchafire Subscription. Catchafire is a non-profit organization providing volunteer professionals to consult with the Garden Board, staff and volunteers. Together, the Garden utilized almost $30,000 worth of free professional consultation to improve the organization.
This past year was far from dull. We held more than 96 ZOOM presentations and socially distanced tours of the Garden. Some of our first collaborations began as a result of COVID.

The Board and staff began to reach out to many organizations within the community. The goal was to build strong lasting partnerships for future educational programming while improving our networking into other areas of the community.

Understanding the healthful benefits of nature, we invited leaders from various non-profit organizations to tour the Garden and suggest to us how we might help the organizations out through the pandemic. The feedback received was “we need safe spots to meet with our clients.”

“I volunteer with the BGP to learn about nature, make new friends, and help create a place that will bring the community together for years to come.”

- TB
In response our volunteers and our community partners worked together to add gathering spots with log seating. The Garden’s visitors are thrilled with these spaces carved out of nature!

The final collaboration of the year was with Reflections, the Governor’s School for the Arts. Forty gifted middle school students from Charlottesville, Albemarle, Greene, and Nelson County public schools as well as the private and home-school students in the region, were hosted in the Garden for two weeks in June. Director Aaron Eichorst and his colleagues taught a program based on natural art and the students created art inspired by nature or the forces of nature. These competitively selected students displayed their artwork at the Garden site through the month of July.

Artwork created in the Garden by Reflection’s students.
We can not go it alone! This year the Botanical Garden partnered with a great group of community partners:

United Way          Bartlett Tree Experts
J.W. Townsend Landscapes  LH Gardens
Marks Fine Woodworking  Building Goodness Foundation
HotCakes

Without these partners we could not have made the following improvements:

- Built and installed 30 Screech Owl boxes, spread mulch, painted sign posts & weeded garden beds in one morning during the United Way Day of Caring.
- Created bench areas along trails and four rustic gathering areas.
- Constructed an information kiosk.
- Utilized the donation of wood chips and large logs from Bartlett Tree Experts. The wood chips were spread for mulch on trails and in gathering areas. The logs were placed along trails and in gathering areas for benches.
- Enjoyed the beauty of 500 donated daffodil bulbs.
- Had a strong spring fundraiser that brought in new donors to the Garden and raised over $32,000.
This year for the first time, we are thrilled to list the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont’s Donor Honor Roll.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the organization by making a contribution between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. It is through the dedication and generosity of our supporters that we are able to continue our mission to build a premier public Garden in Charlottesville.

Please note we have made every effort to correctly list our supporters; should you note an error please contact the Garden: 434-953-0060.

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Mike Williams
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Margaret and Lloyd Willis
Ann and Chris Willis
Elizabeth G Wilmerding
Steve and Lynanne Wilson
Windridge Landscaping Company, Inc.
Lisa Wittenborn
Michael and Mary Wolfe
Elizabeth and David Wood
Keith O Woodard
H. Alwyn and Ida Lee Wootten
John S Wright
Judith Wright
Trula and John Wright
Peter M Yadlowsky
David and Margot Youngs
Your Cause
Richard Zakin
Colleen Clark Zanin
Douglas H Zanzot
Cynthia Zazakos
Carter C. Ziegler
Wendy P Zomparelli
Cindy and Jon Zug
Margaret M. and John W. Zunka
New programs begun throughout the year!

**STEM - Stream Restoration**
The Garden hopes to engage future generations to become land and water stewards through hands on scientific testing. The Garden believes the results of the water testing in the stream running through the Garden will influence the final two stages of the stream restoration.

**Literacy - Learning to Read Outdoors**
The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont is taking children outdoors to read and enhance their literacy experience.

Our programs are designed in partnership with Abundant Life Ministries, St. Anne's-Belfield School, Albemarle County and Charlottesville Schools as well as the Jefferson Madison Regional Library.
Looking toward the future as we continue to Grow a Garden.

We are cultivating a Botanical Garden with a unique character that is so much more than a garden. The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont will be a garden for our times that captures the beauty of the native Central Virginia landscape. A wide array of activities will be offered and key partners will help us deliver programs that will appeal to a broad range of people.

**A Garden For All**

**Welcome**
The Welcome Center will feature a café, meeting and educational space open to the public as well as offices and other resources.

**Learn**
The stream and wetland in the Garden will offer an opportunity to learn about the importance of water quality.

**Play**
The Natural Play Area will inspire the imaginations of children and invite them to play and explore nature.

**Explore**
The Canopy Walk will change your perspective. Discover what a bird’s eye view truly means while you watch nesting and migrating birds.

**Gather**
The Amphitheater and Event Green will provide places for weddings, concerts, outdoor movies, seasonal celebrations, and other events.

**Volunteer**
The Garden offers varied volunteer opportunities and will continue to do so. Currently over 262 volunteers have logged more than 20,000 hours.
## Statement of Activities

### Fiscal Year 2020-21 Revenue

**Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Gifts, Appeals &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$461,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP Loan Forgiveness</td>
<td>$17,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Other Income</td>
<td>$44,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$524,047</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operational Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs: Garden</td>
<td>$137,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administration</td>
<td>$74,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising: Marketing and Development</td>
<td>$70,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$281,934</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage of Total Revenue - $534,047

- General Gifts, Appeals & Contributions: 88%
- PPP Loan Forgiveness: 3.4%
- Interest and Other Income: 8.5%

### Percentage of Operational Expenses - $281,934

- Programs: Garden: 49%
- General and Administration: 26%
- Fundraising: Marketing and Development: 25%