

A top-down photograph of a group of children, mostly of Asian descent, gathered in a circle. They are holding small, round, biodegradable pots containing various young plants. The plants include green leafy herbs, purple flowers, and a small lavender plant. The children are wearing colorful clothing, such as a white shirt with a cat pattern and sunglasses, a yellow shirt, a blue shirt, a striped shirt, a red shirt, and a white shirt. The background is a lush green garden setting.

GROWING
Boldly



Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure and pride that we welcome you to Tower Hill Botanic Garden and its *Growing Boldly* Campaign.

Since its establishment in 1986 by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, the Garden has experienced steady growth as it has transformed itself from a working farm into a 171-acre site containing 17 distinct gardens, woodlands and trails. Along the way, it has become the largest botanic garden in Massachusetts, and an integral part of Central Massachusetts' cultural and communal life. In 2019, more than 167,000 visitors enjoyed Tower Hill. Significantly greater numbers of visitors are expected in the years ahead.

The *Growing Boldly* campaign is our most recent effort to secure the funds needed to sustain the Garden's remarkable transformation. The expansion and renovations described in this case for support will enable Tower Hill to achieve two key objectives:

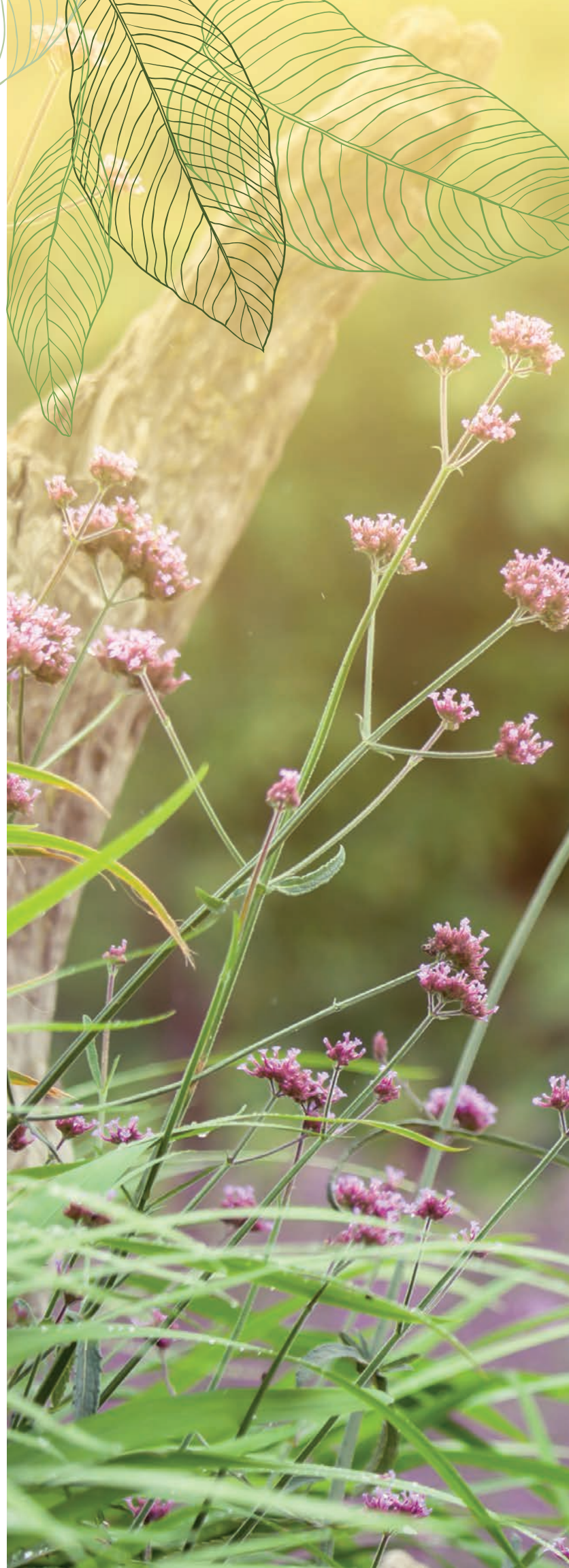
- To convey to the public a greater understanding of nature, horticulture and climate change, and its implication for our collective future.
- To reconnect children and their families to plants by providing them with a greater appreciation and understanding of our natural world. Our efforts will have an important second benefit of getting both youth and adults outdoors, away from the computer screens that surround them.

We invite you to take a tour of our growing gardens, and join with us in making this wonderful site even more compelling for future generations.

Thank you in advance for your interest, and come visit us soon.

Jim Karadimos
Grace Elton
Chris Reece

Lisa McDonough
Dix Leeson Jr.





Growing Boldly: Planting Tower Hill Botanic Garden's Future

Tower Hill Botanic Garden (THBG) has embarked on an ambitious \$26.5M comprehensive campaign, "Growing Boldly", as it begins to implement its long-range master plan to transform itself into a world-class garden, accessible to all, particularly children and families.

Spanning formal gardens, woodland trails, meadows, and educational facilities, THBG offers a growing array of gardens, programs and opportunities to connect with nature. The Garden strives to build a better world for people and plants.

As our society grapples with climate change and nature's other challenges, THBG seeks to inculcate an understanding for plants, which are responsible for the quality of our air, water and food. It strives to increase visitors' learning, and heighten their awareness of the importance of horticulture in our daily life.

“ I could only dream of a garden that would welcome children and engage them with the natural world. Many years later, due to the hard work and generosity of so many, I am thrilled to see the Ramble take shape and become a reality. ”

— BETSY DEMALLIE, COMMITTEE CHAIR



History of Tower Hill Botanic Garden

Tower Hill Botanic Garden has deep roots in Central Massachusetts. The garden is owned and operated by the nonprofit Worcester County Horticultural Society. Since its founding in 1842, the society has worked to connect people and plants. As one of the oldest active societies of its kind in the country, the organization held plant shows, highlighting everything from flowers to fruits, in downtown Worcester for 140 years.

In 1986, the society opened Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts, on the site of a former dairy farm with deeds dating back to 1718 and hilltop views of Mt. Wachusett and the Wachusett Reservoir. Thanks to the generous support of donors and an ever-growing membership, the property – now consisting of 171 acres – has been growing ever since and today includes 17 distinct gardens, woodland trails, a visitors center, a restaurant, a gift shop, public conservatories, weddings, year-round educational programming, and more. More than a million guests have visited the gardens since Tower Hill opened and even more have benefited through outreach programs and virtual connections. Today, we carry on the invaluable goal, set back at the society's inception, of helping as many as possible benefit from being close to nature and plants.

“For 180 years our society has been connecting people to plants. Thanks to the bold vision of our predecessors, we are well poised to further their legacy, improving lives and bettering the environment we all rely on for generations to come.”

— JIM KARADIMOS, PRESIDENT





Highlights of Year 2019

Visitors inspired
by our Garden

 167,606

Children under 18
visited the Garden 25,601

3,075 children
benefitted from
free programs 

116 school and youth field trips
explored the Garden

8,881 
member households
supported the Garden

 408
volunteers helped
grow our gardens

92 staff members
made Tower Hill
extraordinary



The Ramble: A G

Envisioned to be a valued outdoor resource for the community, the Ramble provides an opportunity to connect youth with nature through hands-on exploration. Designed by internationally renowned landscape architect W. Gary Smith, working alongside landscape architects Ryan Associates of Waltham, Massachusetts, the goal was to develop a beautiful and distinct garden that promotes well-being, inspires learning and discovery, and heightens appreciation for the importance of plants and horticulture.

The design elements effectively emphasize interactive hands-on play and nature exploration, cultivating an early

appreciation for the environment. Educational programming is also being developed which will leverage the garden's unique features and diverse plantings to emphasize STEAM principles (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), and teach children about the value of plants in our ecosystem.

Influenced by universal design principles, this 1.5-acre woodland garden will be fully accessible. As a unique destination in the region, the Ramble is anticipated to attract families of all ages from throughout New England.



arden for Children



About W. Gary Smith

W. Gary Smith, an internationally renowned award-winning artist and landscape architect who resides in Toronto, envisioned The Ramble as a place where children and the young at heart could be inspired by nature. For more than 25 years, he has been designing botanical gardens, children's gardens, and art installations. Smith's passion for bringing people and plants together through art has enriched the lives of countless people around the world.

“A garden is where people can find the deepest connections with the living world.”

— W. GARY SMITH



A Welcoming Entrance & Enhanced Parking



The enhanced Arrival Garden will increase the visibility of Tower Hill's main entrance on French Drive, creating safer entry and exit for vehicles. Landscape plans include the reduction of impervious asphalt and the enlargement of the native plant palette that respects the conservation guidelines of the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed and Town of Boylston.

An expanded parking lot will allow for over 550 parking spaces for cars, with additional room for buses. Doubling the current number of accessible parking spaces will ensure easy entrance for all visitors. A number of accessible electric charging stations will be located in the expanded lot.



The most prominent design features of the expanded parking lots will be the creation of a "parking garden". Featuring attractive bioswales, it will allow for the addition of working rain gardens and underground catchment basins. The various planted structures will serve to capture and filter surface water run-off, highlighting the water cycle so essential to the health of plants and the ecosystem. This will enable the garden to model and interpret multiple forms of stormwater management.

The Stoddard Education & Visitors Center

The Stoddard Education and Visitors Center is undergoing significant changes. The Center is being renovated to accommodate increased foot traffic for admission and membership sales. A new visitors' desk will have five stations, allowing multiple visitors to check in at once and enabling staff to spend more time orienting guests. Video monitors and smart screens will be located throughout the lobby, orienting visitors with digital maps, and providing information about the Gardens, and upcoming programs and events.





Universally Accessible Pathways

The capital improvements all exhibit universal design, welcoming visitors of all ages and abilities to access the new garden spaces.

The pedestrian traffic pattern from the parking garden to the Stoddard Education and Visitors Center has been rerouted and will rely on gently graded paths.

The Garden Within Reach will be connected to the Lawn Garden with a new accessible path, allowing for visitors to view the vegetable garden and Cottage Garden along the way.

Pliny's Allée, a stately allée of oak trees, connects the Stoddard Center to the entry point to the Ramble. The current turf path will be replaced with a raised boardwalk constructed on spaced pilings, which allows for universal access while protecting the roots of the oak trees.

“Everyone should be able to enjoy the benefits of being close to plants and nature. Tower Hill’s commitment to ensuring the gardens and grounds welcome and include access challenged individuals will yield a bountiful harvest for generations to come.”

— LIZ MYSKA, TRUSTEE



The *Growing Boldly* Campaign

In 2017, Tower Hill Botanical Garden embarked on an ambitious, \$26.5M comprehensive campaign, the largest in its history.

The three-part campaign seeks to raise funds for:

- the Ramble-a Children's Garden and other capital needs (\$13.5M)
- annual support over a 5-year period (\$8M)
- endowed funds which will help Tower Hill to maintain its gardens and facilities well into the future (\$5M)

Since the Campaign's inception, \$12M has been raised for capital needs. This total includes a challenge grant of \$1M from the C. Jean & Myles McDonough Charitable Foundation of Worcester, MA. Tower Hill is now launching the community phase of its campaign to engage the participation of a larger segment of its members and other interested parties.

Naming opportunities are available for gifts of \$25,000 or more and may be paid over a 3-year period.

Tower Hill's Advancement team is happy to answer any of your questions to provide more details. They may be reached at support@towerhillbg.org.

TOWER HILL
BOTANIC GARDEN

A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water in the middle ground, surrounded by dense green forests on rolling hills. The foreground is dominated by a field of tall green grasses and numerous bright yellow flowers, some of which are in sharp focus while others are blurred. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, creating a bright and airy atmosphere.

Donate today!

THANK YOU



TOWER HILL

BOTANIC GARDEN

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