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Tower Hill nears completion of \$28M botanic garden fundraiser



PHOTO | TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN

Tower Hill's newly constructed ramp leading into its lobby entrance

By Kevin Koczwara

The New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is on pace to complete its six-year, \$28-million fundraising campaign by the end of the year.

Tower Hill's aptly named Growing Boldly campaign was set up to help the a 171-acre botanic garden with improvement projects, including the expansion of Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pathways from the parking lot and throughout parts of the property, a major redesign of the entryway, Stoddard Visitor Center lobby, and the Garden Shop. The money also funded The Ramble, the 1.5-acre garden designed for children and families. The Ramble opened in April 2022.

"It's an exciting time, and we are immensely grateful to all who have invested in the Garden's future with donations to the Growing Boldly campaign," New England Botanic Garden CEO Grace Elton said in a press release on Tuesday. "The tremendous support we've received enables our garden to do and be more for our visitors and our community."

The Growing Boldly campaign also set a goal of raising \$5 million for the organization's endowment. After Tower Hill initially received \$500,000 in donations for the new endowment funds, Board President Lisa McDonough and her husband Neil created a challenge called the McDonough Match. The C. Jean and Myles McDonough Charitable Foundation said it would match every gift made to the endowment, dollar for dollar, up to \$1.5 million



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On Tuesday, New England Botanic Garden announced the match had been met, raising a total of \$3 million, on top of the \$500,000 in initial donations. The campaign is now \$1.5 million from its \$5-million goal.

“The Garden is a precious resource,” Lisa McDonough said in the release. “The Growing Boldly campaign offers infinite possibility and a promise to future generations so that they may grow to understand and enjoy the beauty and importance of plants and nature.”

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