

Mission Statement

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) celebrates, cultivates and conserves the rich botanical heritage and biodiversity of our region. In partnership with nature, we demonstrate our commitment through education, community service, and the sustainable management of our two nature preserves and public garden.

What is the purpose of a botanical garden?

Botanical gardens are institutions holding documented collections of plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education. The "living collection" is a group of plants grown for a defined purpose. At SFBG the objectives of the collection are:

- To celebrate the essence of Santa Fe through its gardens and landscapes
- To cultivate and conserve selected species to display the beauty and variety of plants that will thrive here
- To educate, through demonstration, programs, and interpretive material, that attractive gardens can be sustainable and water efficient
- To share information about our changing climate and how we can best anticipate and prepare for these changes

Who owns the land?

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) holds a long term lease with the State of New Mexico (approximately 2.5 acres) for first phase, known as the Orchard Gardens and with the City of Santa Fe (11.25 acres) for the remainder. The total land area of the garden is 13.75 acres.

How much will the Santa Fe Botanical Garden at Museum Hill project cost?

Our budget is \$7.5 million to complete four phases. This budget includes funding needs for the 4 phases of the garden (\$5,600,000), a Garden Preservation Fund (\$750,000), and a Program Development Fund (\$750,000.)

How long will it take to complete the garden?

We are planning to open the final phase of the garden in fall 2017.

When will the first phase open?

The Grand Opening of the Orchard Gardens will be held on July 19, 20th and 21st, 2013.

Will there be an admission fee?

The Orchard Gardens admission fees are listed to the right. When the entire garden is open, we anticipate the admission fees will be raised.

SFBG Members	Free
Adults	\$5
Senior 65+ & active military	\$4
Student with ID	\$3.50
Children <12	Free

Will the Garden Be Open Year-Round?

Yes, the garden will remain open year-round, closing only for brief periods in extreme weather.

Are you using native plants?

Both native and non-native plants have been specified for the garden. Our intention is to introduce our visitors to adapted plants native to regions of the world that share similar growing conditions.

What is the fence around the Garden?

Deer fencing has been installed around the perimeter of the cultivated parts of the Garden. The fence material is black plastic, designed in a 2" grid, and will be inconspicuous behind the garden plantings.

May I touch the plants?

Visitors may touch and smell the plants but please do not pick.

How is the Garden addressing climate change?

The Garden features plants that are well adapted to both the soil and climatic conditions in this region. Note that most plants are those that require very low to only modest summer irrigation as well as the native soil. Many plants are native to this region, having adapted to this high desert and its soils.

How will the garden be maintained?

We will be using a landscape maintenance company during the garden's first year of operation. There will be a coordinated transition between our landscape contractor and maintenance company to ensure every plant gets the care needed. It is very important new plants get tender loving care in order to thrive. We are planning to add a Horticultural Manager and gardening staff when the second phase of the garden opens in 2015.

How will the garden be irrigated?

In addition to municipal water that will be used in a high-efficiency drip irrigation system, the garden has been designed in accordance with best permaculture practices. These include sensitive grading of the site, utilization of berms and swales to direct the flow of storm water, infiltration basins, gravel mulch collectors and permeable paving materials.

Plans are underway to collaborate with the NM Department of Cultural Affairs on a project to collect rainwater from nearby museum parking lots and from Milner Plaza.

How will the garden be staffed during open hours?

Volunteers will be trained to work in the admissions area, and to offer guided garden tours twice each day. Docent training will be on-going. Docents will learn about the features and interesting aspects of the garden design, plant selections and horticultural displays, and pertinent information about the ecology of the Santa Fe area and the considerations that are important to create and maintain an efficient and beautiful garden.

Will the garden be handicapped accessible?

Yes. The central walkway through the garden is handicapped accessible.

How may I support Santa Fe Botanical Garden?

For information on how you can get involved, please call the SFBG Office at 471-9103 or visit www.santafebotanicalgarden.org

For current information and photographs, please visit our website at www.santafebotanicalgarden.org or email info@santafebotanicalgarden.org