



Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Fact Sheet

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Report and Data for the year ending 2009

- ◇ **1977** Our doors first opened to the public as the "Cheyenne Community Solar Greenhouse," located east of town.
- ◇ **1986** The Botanic Gardens current facility was constructed in Lions Park and was incorporated into the City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department
- ◇ **\$478,306** approx. Annual City budget in FY 2008-09.
- ◇ **\$1,547,632** (incl. Children' Village) 2008-09 Foundation Expenditures
- ◇ **52,492** Total visitors (from all 50 states and 24 foreign countries.)
- ◇ **5,420** Total volunteer hours (mainly senior, youth and handicapped individuals).
- ◇ **119** individuals Volunteered in 2007 (primarily senior, youth and handicapped individuals).
- ◇ **42** Weddings at the Gardens with approximately 3,803 attendees.
- ◇ **48** Tours provided to approximately 911 attendees.
- ◇ **60** Reserved uses of the meeting room representing approximately 873 people.
- ◇ **14** Grounds uses (not counting weddings)
- ◇ **3,311.5** Pounds of produce grown and distributed to senior volunteers and nutrition programs.
- ◇ **Major Projects** in 2008: Paul Smith Children's Village.
- ◇ **49** gardening call-in radio programs aired per year on KFBC. Heard every Thursday at 8:20 am. Produced 6 garden programs on Wyoming Public Radio.
- ◇ **7 days a week, 365 days per year** – garden tips published in Wyoming Tribune/Eagle newspaper and Casper Star Tribune weather page.
- ◇ **7 staff:** Director-Shane Smith, Assistant Director-Claus Johnson; Development Director– Riana Perez, Head of Horticulture -Steve Scott, Horticulturist- Sue Whetten; Aaron Sommers-Education Director, and Office Manager Trudy Fox. There were up to 3 temporary and/or part-time paid staff including 2 summer interns
- ◇ **Membership:** The Friends of the Botanic Garden membership program has **700** members.

The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens inspires, beautifies and enriches the High Plains through gardening, volunteerism, education, and stewardship.

THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THESE FOCUS AREAS:

- **Plants-** Exhibit diverse plant collections and landscapes.
- **Service and therapy-** Provides meaningful opportunities for seniors, handicapped and youth-at-risk volunteers who are essential in growing the Gardens.
- **Education and Outreach-** Provides educational and therapeutic opportunities. Creating demonstrations in landscaping, gardening, renewable energy and sustainable earth-friendly solutions.

- ◇ **Special events for 2009:** Superday in Lions Park, Goblin Walk, Lecture Series, Summer Performing Arts Series featuring Shakespeare and Firehouse Circus. Garden tours: Basic Veggie Gardening, Hardy Ornamental Grasses & Insiders Tour of the CBG Grounds with Steve Scott & Sue Whetten.
- ◇ **2009 Garden Lecture Series** Featured: Starting Garden Seeds w/ Patti O'Neal, Kitchen Gardens w/ Patti O'Neal and Backyard Composting w/ Steve Lawrence.
- ◇ **80 Flower Beds** planted and maintained by volunteers in Cheyenne.
- ◇ **Specifics of conservatory building:** The 6,800 square- foot conservatory is passively solar heated and 50% solar powered. It displays sub-tropical and tropical food crops, annual flowers, waterfall and pond display (fish and water plants), vegetables and herbs. The facility also includes a gathering room, offices, root cellar/storage and reference library
- ◇ **50,000** Bedding plants grown from seed for city parks beautification. Approx. 2 acre of off-site plantings.
- ◇ **9.1** acres of grounds that include a number of specialty gardens, water features and more!
- ◇ **62** acres at the High Plains Arboretum
- ◇ **600** Plus garden books and over 2,500 catalogs and periodicals available to public in the CBG library.
- ◇ **Awards received:** President Ronald Reagan– Exemplary Volunteer Program, 1986; President George Bush, Point of Light Award, 1990; Harvard Loeb Fellowship to Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Director, Shane Smith, 1989-1990; Partners for Livable Communities, American Entrepreneurial Leadership Award, 1994; Community Hero Award Governor Jim Geringer, 1996.
- ◇ **Governance and management:** The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is a division of the City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department. The non-profit Friends of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Foundation provides major funding for landscape planning and construction, staff education and volunteer support.
- ◇ **Call** for more information: 307-637-6458 or visit www.botanic.org