



FACT SHEET

Santa Fe Botanical Garden at Museum Hill

Mission of the Garden:

The Garden will celebrate the rich and diverse botanical heritage of our bioregion through a collection that includes regionally specific and suitable flora. Displays will be designed to educate and connect people to nature and to foster a deep respect for plants, ecosystems and conservation.

Location of the Garden:

The main entrance will be directly across from the main entrance to the Museum Hill museum complex on Camino Lejo. Geographically, the Garden follows the path of the Arroyo de los Pinos from Old Pecos Trail at the Garden's western-most point across Camino Corrales to its eastern-most point, a little west of the Stuart Udall Building, Museum Service Center for Museum Resources, at the southwest corner of Camino Lejo and Old Santa Fe Trail.

Size of the Garden:

The total area of the Garden is approximately 12 acres. Most of this acreage will be a restored natural arroyo landscape. Somewhat over three acres will become the centerpiece of the garden: a series of gardens reflecting the botanical and cultural essence of Santa Fe (see **Garden Components**).

Ownership of the Garden site:

The majority of the Garden area is located on land held by the SFBG under a long-term lease from the City of Santa Fe. A small portion of the Garden is located on land owned by The State of New Mexico with which the SFBG has an agreement for its use.

Construction of the Garden:

Construction of Phase One (The Entry Garden) is expected to start in 2010. The remaining three components will be constructed as our fundraising continues.

Components of the Garden:

The Garden is comprised of 4 separate areas:

- 1) *The Entry Gardens*: After passing through the entry gate, visitors will walk to the entry terrace and ramada where they can orient themselves and then walk down a path leading to an orchard of heirloom fruit trees surrounded by quiet seating. From the orchard, the path continues past an outdoor sitting room for contemplation or talks to small groups.
- 2) *The Courtyard Gardens*: These gardens will offer a more traditional, “formal” approach to garden design, with each courtyard similar in scale to those you find in typical Santa Fe residences. While some of these gardens will be walled with formal plantings, others will contain outdoor art and sculpture.
- 3) *The Naturalistic Gardens*: These gardens celebrate the “natural” approach to garden design—seemingly random and yet highly organized in patterns that emerge after careful study of how plants arrange themselves in natural environments. This component is accessed by crossing a bridge, allowing views up and down the arroyo.
- 4) *The Arroyo Trails*: With 1.5 miles of hiking trails through the restored Arroyo de los Pinos, this component is an integral part of the Garden’s educational mission, demonstrating effective storm water management techniques to prevent erosion and encourage native vegetation.

Planting Design:

Plants will be selected for beauty and environmental sustainability and will include local natives as well as non-natives that are adapted to the site conditions. Over the ensuing years the planting design will continue to evolve, testing the latest varieties of ornamental plants for use in our climate and advancing the fine art of horticultural design in Santa Fe.

Irrigation:

Plants will be selected for minimum water use, but some irrigation will be necessary – especially while new plants are becoming adapted to the site. Water will come from three sources: rainwater that falls on the site, roof water harvested from adjacent buildings and the municipal water supply. Minimal water use will be emphasized throughout the site – this will be one of the Garden’s prime educational components.

Hours of Operation:

The Courtyard Gardens will be open from 9:00AM until 5:00PM, Tuesday through Sunday. The remainder of the Garden will be accessible at all times, as the arroyo is now.

Admission Charge:

Admission to the Garden will be free.

Parking:

Convenient parking will be available in the Museum Hill overflow parking lot during hours of operation.

Access for Wheeled Vehicles:

Access to the City of Santa Fe's bicycle trail will be at the Old Pecos Trail entrance to the Garden as well as the entrance at Camino Corrales. With the exception of baby carriages and wheelchairs, no wheeled vehicles will be allowed on Garden paths and walkways east of Camino Corrales.

Handicap Access

The Arroyo Trails will have accessibility to the extent conditions allow providing all visitors with the best possible experience. The paths and walkways in the remainder of the Garden will be handicap accessible.

Garden Amenities:

There will not be a building located in the garden. Visitors are encouraged to use facilities available on Milner Plaza.

Garden Use for private functions:

The Garden will be available for small private functions for up to 30 people, at locations approved by SFBG staff in advance and only during daylight hours. A fee will be charged for private functions and no amplified music will be permitted.

Lighting:

There will be no artificial lighting within the Garden.

Garden Maintenance:

In its first year the Garden will be maintained by volunteers as well as a professional landscaping contractor (yet to be selected). We expect to hire a horticultural manager and seasonal gardeners when garden construction is complete.