

{ October 2019 }

What's growing on

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

upcoming events

MONTH OF OCTOBER - Scarecrows on display

October 27 - Volunteer Recognition

NOVEMBER 1: Garden Gates Close for the Season



We Love Our Volunteers!

It takes a lot of people to keep Central Gardens beautiful and busy, and we are so grateful to our faithful volunteers who plant and weed and water, who mulch and dead head, who open and close the gates every day, who clean the stream and fountain, and who do the heavy lifting of getting the grounds ready in the spring and doing all the end of season tasks in the fall. We will honor their contributions at a volunteer recognition event on Sunday evening, October 27th, before our gates close for the season on Friday, November 1.



Children who spend some time every day in green spaces are 45% less likely to develop a mental health issue. And, 20 minutes spent in nature can lower levels of stress hormones for children and adults alike. (Source: Better Homes and Gardens July 2019 issue). Want to read more? <https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/>

Plant Stock



Another half truckload of plant stock was planted by a group of ten hardy volunteers during the week of September 16, as part of the Upgrade 2020 improvements. You can see these new plantings on the eighth street side of the garden property, all designed to create a sound barrier to street traffic noises that waft in to the Gardens. More plant stock, including trees, was also added around the Moongate.

Pardon Our Progress



These new banners will hang from 8th street light poles beginning next spring as a way to "announce" Central Gardens to those traveling in and out of downtown. Their purchase is part of our Upgrade 2020 work. When you walk through the Gardens in October you'll see lots of other activity happening as part of the Upgrade 2020, too. This fall we will install new irrigation and drainage systems in the Ceremonial Lawn, replace the jets in the fountain at our south gate, and add an arch and finials to the south gate entrance columns (all weather permitting, of course!).

Indian Summer Garden is the Place To Be



Sometimes it's best to be a late bloomer! If you visit the Indian Summer Garden (on the east side of the upper pond, across from the Herb and Grass Gardens) this month you'll see beautiful mums, Joe Pye Weed, Fountain Grass, and Rudbeckia. This stunning garden is "adopted" by volunteers Dee Hasty and Bev Clapsaddle.

New guests at Central Gardens



Mr. MacIntosh is the first of what will be a number of fun scarecrows that will be "planted" at Central Gardens this fall. All will be up by the Harvest Fest on October 4th, but come through each week between now and then to see who is the latest to protect the grounds!

First-ever Preservation Celebration a Success

“What is most important for you to preserve?” That was the question undergirding the 3 hour Preservation Celebration held on Sunday, September 15 at Central Gardens where over 11 vendors, six speakers, 7 demonstrations, and a tasting table contributed to a rich day celebrating the beauty of nature and its bounty. We are so appreciative to all who supported this event.



Upgrade 2020 Campaign Progress Notes

It has been three months since the board of directors of Central Gardens announced its public phase of the capital campaign to raise \$220,000 in anticipation of the Gardens' 20th anniversary in 2020. Half of all money raised will fund 12 projects around the grounds; the other half goes to a permanent endowment. We are pleased that we are well on our way to reaching our goal, and hope to have an announcement in June of 2020 announcing our success! For more information check out details on our website.

Bell Ringing to Celebrate Constitution

The school bell in the Gazebo at Central Gardens was rung for two minutes on September 17 as part of the nationwide “ringing of the bell” commemoration of the signing of the US Constitution 237 years ago. Pictured are Donna Dull and Tammy Orte, members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, who did the honors.



Picnics and Performances Wraps its 2019 Season

The ever-popular Planet Passengers closed out the 2019 season with a great blend of old standards, jazz, pop, and rock favorites. We wish to thank our underwriters, Avan-Grid Renewables and the Bertha Stebens Foundation, and our sponsors POET, Larson's Mercantile, Shupick Certified Public Accountants, Don's Body Shop, the North Iowa Credit Union, and Pla-Ground Farms for their support. They make it possible for us to offer these seven programs at no cost to attendees. We averaged about 120 music lovers per program! The 2020 season will be announced in May.



Nature Education Pavilion Open Year-round for Rentals

As the holidays approach many people prefer to host gatherings in a roomier spot than their living rooms. Consider renting the Nature Education Pavilion for your family and business holiday get-togethers, or other special events such as club meetings, showers, and birthday parties. The new week-end rental rate is now the same as week-days-- just \$50/hour. More information is on-line at our website.

Holiday Gift Idea

It's never too soon to think about a unique holiday gift that will last in the receiver's memory forever. Consider inscribing a brick to be placed on one of the walkways in Central Gardens. Previous givers have acknowledged parents, birthday and anniversary dates, friendship groups, children's birth dates, or other special times. There's more information on our website.

