

The Gardens were a welcome sanctuary in a challenging 2020.  
Join us in keeping them a valuable community asset in 2021!

# News

*From the Durango Botanic Gardens*

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## Here's What Happened in the Gardens in 2020, What We Plan for 2021

As fraught and challenging as 2020 was, the **Durango Botanic Gardens** proved to be a sanctuary for its volunteers, members, and visitors. The calming, regenerative effect of public gardens was never more on display than in 2020. Thanks to our volunteers, docents, and board members, the gardens looked better than ever and were welcoming to folks who needed to get outdoors, be reminded of the resilience of nature—as well as themselves.

**Thank you** everyone who donated money, became members, renewed membership, bought bulbs, attended our online climate conference, and showed up in the gardens to work or take a tour. All of you, all of us together, demonstrated the value of public gardens to our community and our quality of life.

Here are a few highlights of 2020 and what we look forward to in 2021.

**We promoted our official name: Durango Botanic Gardens.** This name change action was actually taken by the board in November 2019 but a full rollout and public campaign was delayed for a variety of reasons. The change in name reflects a renewed focus on our product—public gardens, still free, and still open to everyone. A strong new logo (above) reflects our confidence in the future.

**We had a rockin' bulb sale.** The demographic of our all-volunteer band of warriors is not naturally disposed to the cyberworld but we managed to conduct a very successful bulb sale online. While the internet came to our aid, the key to the bulb sale's success was still dozens of volunteers purchasing, packaging, labeling, and delivering the bulbs. A lot of bulbs were sold, so get ready Durango for a big, bloomin' spring.

**We produced a successful climate conference online.** Again, the internet came to our rescue when our climate conference, intended for May at the library, had to be canceled. We managed to produce it online, attracting 88 registrants both locally and across the southwest. It helped cement DBG as a community leader and influencer.

## GOALS FOR 2021

>> **Offer more to our members.** We intend to offer more benefits to members in 2021, making membership even more valuable, demonstrate our appreciation of your support.

>> **Launch the Literary Garden.** The Literary Garden, planned for the lawn to the west of the library, may be launched in 2021 with a hopeful completion date in 2022.

>> **Install more art.** Look for some exciting art installations in 2021 that will add to our destination appeal.

>> **Expand Partnerships.** We are already partners with many community organizations, businesses and the Durango Public Library. We will extend and strengthen these relationships in 2021.

>> **Produce our Gardens on Tour.** Postponed in 2020 because of the pandemic, we are going work hard to find a way to safely produce this popular event in June, 2021.

>> **Welcome NARGS to town.** Also in late June, the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) plans to bring its annual meeting to Durango, a tribute to Durango's own rock garden and an event that brings folks from all over the country and world to Durango.

>> **Add interpretive signage in the gardens.** We'll install signage for the Crevice Garden, the Wind Garden, and the new Elevation Grass Collection.

*Thank you to all of our supporters, workers, cheerleaders. We couldn't do anything without you. Stay well and get outside in 2021, especially in the Durango Botanic Gardens.*

**[durangobotanicgardens.org](http://durangobotanicgardens.org)**

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