

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens
(the Bartlett)

Budget Request

Fiscal Year 2009-10

Review of Budget Request

Review of Budget Request (Provided in Budget Book)

Financial Request (2009-10 resource requests, bold in budget book)

Total funding requested

Identify and describe Increases/decrease Year Over Year

Human Capital / Personnel Change

The Bartlett is requesting \$412,000 of City funding which represents a zero percent increase over the prior year.

Performance Measurement and Improvement

Performance Measurement and Improvement:

Key performance metrics (see Appendix I):

- Membership Income
- Contributions
- Educational Income
- Misc. Income
- Interest Income
- Event Income
- Visitation

Performance Benchmarks (year to year; to other departments; other municipalities):

Appendix I reflects our actual year over year results from our fiscal year ending August 31, 2008 (FY07-08) versus fiscal year ending August 31, 2007 (FY06-07) results. In summary:

- Increased gross revenues 27.5%
- City subsidies over the same period increased 0.5%
- Expenses increased by 8.4%

Additionally, our FY08-09 and FY09-10 fiscal year budgets are expected to remain flat based on FY07-08 actual results.

Results of performance and operational improvements 08-09

The positive results of our FY07-08 actual performance are the building blocks for creating a more vibrant and self-sustaining organization in the long term. Revenue increases in most program areas in FY07-08 are directly related to increased visitation, greater attendance in programs and events, and a membership and public that perceive increased value in the organization, and are more willing to offer their support through membership gifts, donations and volunteerism. Our FY 08-09 year -to- date results are beginning to reflect the softening of the economy and we are currently reviewing potential cost cutting measures.

- Membership Income—In FY07-08, an expanded membership outreach together with a new gating strategy resulted in a 34% increase in membership revenues. Effective September 2008, we increased our annual membership fees. To date, the higher membership fees have not resulted in a decline in membership. We expect FY 08-09 membership income to remain flat with FY07-08.
- Contributions—In FY07-08, ongoing efforts to engage new donors and cultivate existing donors resulted in a 12% increase in contributions. To sustain this success, in FY08-09 we are increasing efforts to cultivate major gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations. Staff efforts in this area are supported by an active volunteer Development Committee. FY08-09 budget remains flat at FY07-08 levels.
- Educational Income—Educational income saw gains in FY07-8 of 21.3%. A new Director of Children's Education was hired; and we are continuing our successful grant-funded 2nd Grade School Program, and expanding and enhancing programming for children. In our adult education department, FY07-08 was a year of improvement and change. To date, in FY08-09 many new programs have been offered and course registration has been well above the levels of previous years. We expect this growth to continue in the years ahead.

- Misc. Income- FY07-08 miscellaneous income increased by \$2,202 over the prior year and is expected to remain flat in FY08-09.
- Interest Income--Interest income decreased in FY07-08 56.8% over prior year consistent with reductions in the market rate of interest.
- Event Income—Gross income from events increased 60.6% in FY07-08 over the prior year largely attributable to increased gross revenue from arbor*eating and our new annual event, the Spring Garden Tour. In FY08-09, we will host the 2nd annual Garden Tour in June. Our September 2008 arbor*eating gala FY08-09 was extremely successful with gross revenues reflecting a 85% increase over the prior year as follows:

1. Arbor-Eating (FY07-08): Income 35,412 Expenses 22,583 Net 12,828
2. Arbor-Eating (FY08-09): Income 126,823 Expenses 43,720 Net 83,104

We expect to sustain these gains into FY09-10 as we repeat the gala for the third successive year. In FY07-08, we hosted the Farmers Market for the first time and increased visitation to the Bartlett with an estimated 4,000 people attending. In FY08-09, the Farmers Market will generate minimal revenues from vendor fees. In FY08-09 we will increase our focus on marketing Bartlett memberships, events and programs to the Farmers Market customers each week.

We expect that our Summer Concert series continues to be funded by admission fees and sponsorships.

Combined net profits of Fall and Spring Plant sales in FY07-08 were \$ 18,000 and we expect the same in FY08-09.

- Visitation—Visitation to the Bartlett increased significantly in FY07-08 and is attributable to the new events offered (Spring Garden Tour, Farmers Market), improved and expanded annual events, (arbor*eating), new program offerings year-round, the increase in membership and volunteerism, and generally greater public participation in all aspects of the Bartlett.

Work and program(s) eliminated or added (describe)

The following programs were added in FY 07-08 and will be repeated in FY 08-09:

- Spring Garden Tour
- Farmers Market

Programs and departments redesigned to reduce cost

In FY08-09, we have discontinued our house plant sale due to poor net profit results in FY07-08.

Budget Management

Budget Management:

Summary of cost reductions occurring in 2008-9 – include amount and source

Open Executive Director's position

FY08-09 savings of \$ 66,154

FY09-10 projected saving of \$ 80,000

Our largest cost, salaries, payroll taxes and employee benefits represent 57% and 54.7% of the FY2008-09 and FY2009-10 budget, respectively.

In the first quarter of our current fiscal year (October 2008), our Executive Director resigned to pursue other opportunities. As a cost containment measure we did not replace nor do we expect to replace the Executive Director position until September 1, 2010 at the earliest. In the meanwhile, the Executive Director's responsibilities and functions are primarily being shared by an all volunteer Executive Committee, working closely with senior staff.

Cost management actions taken 2008-9:

A significant portion of a 5-year \$500,000 gift to the Bartlett was specifically designated for marketing and advertising to raise the visibility of the Bartlett in Stamford and surrounding communities. We have front loaded most of these costs and have achieved increased visibility for the Bartlett.

In FY08-09, we expect to decrease marketing and advertising significantly by reducing outsourcing and paid advertising. We will replace this with in kind advertising gifts, and internet marketing created in house.

Expenses for FY08-09 compared to FY07-08 are essentially flat. To compensate for expected increases in:

- Payroll taxes and employee benefits (8.7%)
- Utilities (10.9%)
- Insurance (4.8%)
- Audit costs (25%)

Discretionary spending has been cut:

- Education (14.1%)
- Marketing and advertising (73.2%)
- Development (10.8%)
- Office Expenses (1%)

Cost reduction, cost transformation and process improvement programs planned 2009-10:

As a major cost reduction measure, we propose to leave the Executive Director's position open until FY10-11; this reduces salary expenses by \$ 80,000. We are also eliminating \$ 12,000 in seasonal part time positions.

Fixed expenses show anticipated increases to adjust for inflation:

- Collections and Grounds Maintenance: \$ 3,000
- Facilities Maintenance & Repair: \$ 1,240
- Education Expenses: \$ 1,800
- Utilities: \$ 4,500
- Insurance: \$ 1,700
- Development: \$ 5,000
- Accounting fees: \$ 2,000

Discretionary spending in:

- Office expenses
- Special events

decreased by \$ 7,260 because more activities are being done in house versus being outsourced.

Cost Analysis and Spending Priorities

Cost Analysis and Spending Priorities:

Breakdown of total department spending and resources by priority (high to low program/department priorities). Include supporting analysis and description of how analysis was done. Describe what drives program cost (Cost Drivers). Highlight controllable Cost Drivers. Key operational changes planned to improved service level (2009-10)

Education Department:: We anticipate gross revenues to exceed direct expenses, excluding salaries, by \$27,800. Three staff members are directly involved in education programs: Director of Childhood Education (full time), Curator of Botany (part time, adult education), and Environmental Scientist (part-time, adult and children's education).

The Bartlett offers a wide range of public programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. Our children's programs include natural science and ecology classes for public school groups, after-school and vacation nature-based programs, outreach programs and a summer camp. Our signature *Science Odyssey* program is offered at no charge to all Stamford Public School 2nd Grade classes. For the past 2 years, the program's direct expenses, excluding salaries, have been funded by grants from local foundations. We expect this support to continue in FY09-10. We are seeking additional funding to expand this successful program to 4th Grade in the next fiscal year.

Children's education initiatives that will be continued in FY09-10 include expanded outreach programming (supported each year by a donor-advised fund of a local foundation), programming for other school districts and after school programming for local private schools. With redesigned and expanded Summer Camp offerings this year, we anticipate increased attendance both this year and in FY09-10. Summer Camp revenues include program fees and camp scholarship funds. Funds to provide scholarships were donated in FY07-08, and the donation was significantly increased this year, and already secured for FY09-10. Part-time staff salaries make up most of camp expenses and are driven by camp enrollment.

Adult programs include certificate programs in Master Gardening, arboriculture classes for green industry professionals (offered in English and Spanish), talks and workshops in botanical science, horticulture, and gardening, and an annual symposium. In FY08-09 we are offering our highest course load in many years, and will continue to expand adult program offerings in FY09-10. (See appendix II) Adult program revenues consist predominantly of program fees. A significant percentage of these revenues is attributed to our arboriculture program. We are also seeking to increase adult program revenues going forwards by securing funding to launch an adult scholarship program. Besides salaries, the most significant costs are instructors' fees.

Collections & Grounds: We anticipate \$37,000 in non salary direct expenses. (Curator of Botany, Environmental Scientist, Head Groundskeeper, Assistant Groundskeeper, and part-time seasonal help represent the salary costs for collections and grounds).

In the past twelve months the Bartlett's collections have undergone a significant and positive transformation. Since FY06-07, our total collection has expanded from an estimated 500 to well over 2000. A collection of this size and diversity elevates the Bartlett Arboretum to a level never before achieved at the Bartlett, and places us among many well known botanic gardens and arboreta throughout the nation. The collections of the Bartlett consist of two major divisions—the living collections and landscape; and the Herbarium, a collection of permanently preserved plant specimens. Further significant expansion in both areas is planned for the next fiscal year. The most significant expenses for *Collections & Grounds* are salaries and part-time seasonal help. The Bartlett is fortunate to benefit from a group of dedicated volunteers that assist the staff with maintenance and preservation of the property.

Facilities: The Bartlett' infrastructure is outdated and susceptible to breakdowns. We are planning a total renovation of the Education Center which will be paid through a DECD grant. We are hoping to receive capital funding through the City of Stamford to replace the outdated heating system as well as windows in the Visitor Center. These projects will result in significant future energy savings.

For FY 09-10 we anticipate total expenses of \$ 56,250.

Fundraising and Special Events: In FY09-10 we expect membership fees and contributions will remain flat. Although a decrease in individual contributions is budgeted, we are hopeful that we will sustain giving at the FY08-09 level.

We are planning to repeat the following events for FY 09-10:

- Spring Garden Tour
- Arbor-Eating 2009
- Summer Concert Series
- Farmers' Market
- Spring and Fall Plant Sales

We are expecting revenues to exceed expenses, excluding salaries, by \$ 180,500 (all staff members are involved in some or all events).

Our first annual Spring Garden Tour in FY07-08 was successful in increasing gross revenues. We had over 400 volunteers and guests participating. We are budgeting \$50,500 in FY08-09 gross revenues versus \$40,151 in FY2007-08 and expect to maintain this level of support in FY09-10. Tour revenues are derived from sponsorships, advertising and ticket sales. Significant costs of the Garden Tour include catering and printed materials. The use of private homes and gardens for the event is donated to the Bartlett and over 120 Master Gardener and community volunteers support the event.

Arbor*eating is our major annual fundraiser, held on-site. Each year the event has grown in popularity and funds generated. Last year, 400 guests attended. In FY09-10, we project the same attendance and similar support from the community in terms of sponsorships, advertising, and donations to the auction. Several hundred volunteers participate in arbor*eating and the food is donated by local community restaurants. The event is held outdoors and major costs include the tent, lighting and rental of facilities.

The Summer Concerts are well-attended events. Musician fees are offset by sponsorships and program revenues.

The Farmers Market, offered for the first time in FY08-09, increased visitation to the Bartlett with an estimated 4,000 people attending. We anticipate increased attendance this year and in FY09-10 and minimal vendor revenues.

Spring and Fall Plant Sales are anticipated community traditions and an important revenue stream for the Bartlett. Costs to purchase the plants are offset by sales. These events are staffed by Bartlett employees and a large core of Master Gardener volunteers.

There are no key operational changes planned to improve service level.

The Bartlett will continue to provide high quality events and services to the community.

Business case and justification for increases in resources requested

Business case and justification for increases in resources requested:

No increase is being requested.

Funding Scenarios

Funding Scenarios:

Given the uncertainty of our economy and anticipating the possibility of city revenue and funding not growing, provide a detailed description of actions to be taken if department funding is reduced by:

- 3%
- 6%
- 10%

Prior funding:	\$ 412,000		
Reduction:	3%	6%	10%
	12,360	24,720	41,200
Gatekeeper	12,480	12,480	12,480
PT Development Assist.		5,733	5,733
Summer Help		6,507	6,507
Further reduction in summer help			8,493
Reduce groundkeeper help			7,987

Salaries and employee benefits are the most significant part of our expense budget; any funding cuts will result in the elimination of positions.

3% cuts

Eliminate paid gatekeeper position. Projected gate revenue of \$ 7,500 would be impacted.

6% cuts

Eliminate gatekeeper and part time development assistant position; reduce hours of part time summer help. This will impact negatively on upkeep of some parts of the grounds and gardens.

10% cuts

Eliminate gatekeeper and part time development assistant; reduce hours of part time summer help and hours of groundskeeper. This will impact negatively on upkeep of most of the grounds and gardens and will require staff to take on additional tasks.

Other fixed and discretionary spending cannot be cut significantly without directly impacting programs:

Cuts to the Education Program will significantly impact on the momentum we have been building by offering new programs.

Cuts in Special Events will be offset with revenue loss.

Cuts to the Collection and Grounds budget will result in interruption of restoration and collection expansion.

	Actual FY 2006-07	Actual FY 2007-08	% change	Budget FY 2008-09
Key performance metrics				
Membership Income	31,073	47,349	34.4%	47,500
Contributions	164,122	186,511	12.0%	186,900
Educational Income	51,249	65,145	21.3%	66,056
Misc. Income	23,283	25,485	8.6%	26,000
Interest Income	14,792	9,432	-56.8%	9,000
Event Income	50,734	128,675	60.6%	225,253
Total	335,253	462,597	27.5%	560,709
City Funding - Bartlett 8/31 Year-End	400,000	402,007	0.5%	
City Funding - City 6/30 Year-End	400,000	412,000	2.9%	412,000

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens

September 2008– April 2009 Programs

Turf: How Green is Your Grass?

Wednesday, Sept. 10 7 - 8:30 pm

This class will provide a step-by-step approach to renovating your current lawn and establishing a new one. Perfect class for the homeowner.

Put Your Garden To Bed

Wednesday, Sept. 17 7 - 8:30 pm

Cooler temperatures herald the end of the growing season, and time to prepare the garden for winter. This class will discuss when to cut back perennials, and how to protect your plants over the winter with hands-on demonstration.

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Thursday, Sept. 18 **OR** Monday, Oct. 13 10-12 Noon

An introduction to the taxonomy and identification of fall blooming grasses, sedges and rushes.

Bryophytes

Thursday, Sept. 25 **OR** Oct. 23 10-12 Noon

An introduction to the identification and biology of liverworts, mosses, and hornworts. Field collection will follow a brief lecture.

You are invited to a Herb Garden Tea Party

Friday, Sept. 26 at 11:00 am

Join the Master Gardeners as they celebrate their herbal harvest. The Visitor Center living room will be adorned by fragrant baskets of herbal floral arrangements to further excite your senses.

Rare Tree Collection Walking Tour

Saturday, Oct. 11 11:00 am

Tour the Bartlett's collection of Champion trees and other unique specimens – many with fascinating historical aspects.

Begins at the Visitor Center terrace.

Farmers' Market 10 – 2 pm

Continues each Wednesday through October 1

Buy fresh and CT grown produce and goods. Support CT farmers and merchants.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept. 20 8:30 am – 3 pm

Maximize a healthy start for your trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses by planting in fall and taking advantage of the warm soil and moderate temperatures.

Fall Wonders

Thursdays 3:45 - 4:45 pm

Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 20

Ages 5-8

Join Naturalist, Todd DuPont for an eight week after-school program where students will have a chance to explore our grounds and learn about the changes that our native plants and animals go through in the autumn months. Students will participate in plantings, science lab activities, art projects and of course nature walks.

Basic Watercolor for Botanical Artists

Saturdays, Oct. 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 15 10 am – 1pm

Learn the techniques used by artists to create realistic botanical paintings. In this foundation class, learn precise brushwork, paint application methods and successful color mixing techniques. This is a good introduction to watercolor and is appropriate for the beginner and those who wish to improve or broaden their skills. Drawing ability is helpful but not required.

Basics of Botanic Illustration

Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21 and Nov. 4 10 am -1 pm

In this foundation class, learn the basic techniques needed to accurately portray three-dimensional images. Demonstrations and class exercises emphasize the industry standards for accurate measuring, foreshortening, and light-on-form. The class is appropriate for beginners as well as those who would like to fine-tune their skills.

Winter Explorers After School Program

Thursdays, November 6 – December 15, 3:45pm – 5:00pm

Join naturalist Todd DuPont for 6 weeks on Thursday afternoons during the month of November and December to learn all about the arboretum in winter. Each class will include art activities, hands on science experiments, plant and animal demonstrations and trail walks. Ages 5 – 8.

Natural History of the Orchids

Thursday, November 20, 10am – 12pm

Join us for an investigation into the fascinating world of Orchid biology. This photographic and hands-on talk will cover the many fascinating aspects of the world's most extraordinary group of plants. Orchids are for sale after the class.

Nature in Winter

Saturday, November 29, 11am – 1pm

Children will learn all about what plants and animals do to prepare for the winter months, which trees lose their leaves and which do not and how animals deal with cold weather and lack of food.

The class will take us through the Bartlett's gardens and trails as we look at what is happening to our flora and fauna

An Introduction to the Conifers

Saturday, December 6, 10am – 12 noon

Learn about the conifers of the world and their fascinating biology. From pines to arborvitae, conifers play an integral role in many of the world's ecosystems. After an introductory talk, we will take a tour through the Arboretum's conifer collections to learn the differences between the various groups of these plants. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Winter Bulb Planting Class

Saturday, December 6, 11am – 12 noon

Decorate your own flower pots and plant bulbs for the winter. We will also take a tour of the greenhouse, winter garden and conifer garden.

Tropical Rainforests of the World

Thursday, January 22 6:00-7:30pm

Join us for a slideshow on the tropical rainforests of the world, their plants, and their importance. A sneak peek into the research activities at the Bartlett will be included as will the results of a recent research trip to the Caribbean.

Identifying Woody Plants in Winter

Thursday, January 29 10:00-11:30am

Identifying the local flora in winter can be one of the most challenging and exciting tasks for local gardeners, hikers and naturalists. Come learn the important aspects of this process from a true expert in the field, botanist Carol Levine. A book signing will follow the presentation.

The Basics of Landscape Design – “Thinking in Three Dimensions”

Thursdays, January 29 and February 5 1:00-3:00pm

In this 2 part class the three basic elements of good landscape design; function, structure and aesthetics will be discussed and illustrated. Students will chose a project to work on at home which will be critiqued by instructor Jackie Cameron, Professional Landscape Designer.

Colocasias, Skunk Cabbages and other Plants of the Arum Family

Thursday, February 5 10:00-11:30am

The Arum family is made up of several thousand species including some of the world's most unusual plants. This program will be a slideshow and discussion of this intriguing group, some of which will surely amaze you.

An Introduction to Ferns

Thursday, February 12 10:00-11:30am

This introductory talk on the ferns and their close relatives will cover many aspects of this group from their life cycles to their horticultural uses in and around the home.

Southern Plants for Northern Gardens

Thursday, February 19 10:00-11:30am

The Southern Gardens of the United States have a reputation for being some of the most beautiful and diverse in the world. Come and learn about some of the hardy plants of these great gardens which can be grown in our harsh northern climate.

Plant Morphology and Systematics

Tuesday, February 24 10:00-12:00 noon

An intermediate class on recognizing the major groups of plants by family. Aspects of plant identification and classification and the recognition of common plant parts beyond the leaves and petals will be discussed using slides and plant material.

Gardening in Deer Country

Saturday, February 28 10:00-11:30am

This lecture and book signing will cover one of aspects of Connecticut gardening and horticulture we all struggle to deal with, finding the best plants to plant in an area with a booming deer population. Instructor: Vinnie Drzewucki, Horticultural Information Specialist at Hicks Nurseries Inc., Westbury, NY

Rainforest Adventures

Saturday, January 17 10:30-12:00 noon

Join us to explore and learn about tropical and temperate rainforests. We will look at some of our more exotic plants up close, look at pictures from the Amazon Rainforest, meet a rainforest decomposer, and work on a take home art project.

Spiny Succulents and the Deserts They Live In

Saturday, January 24 10:30-12:00 noon

Let's pretend to warm up by traveling to deserts around the world! We will investigate these hot and dry habitats and the plants and animals that occupy them. Take home a sand art project.

Ahoy Kids! Marine Ecology

Saturday, January 31 10:30-12:00 noon

From the Great Barrier Reef in Australia to the kelp forests in Monterey California we will learn all about these diverse and very important habitats. A short slide show will be followed by hands on activities.

Cones, Seeds & Needles!

Sunday, February 8 1:00-2:30pm

Come learn all about our conifer collection at the Arboretum. We will tour the conifer garden, make a pinecone birdfeeder, and use microscopes to examine pinecones from around the world.

Build your Own Terrific Terrarium

Sunday, February 15 1:00-3:00pm

Build you own take home terrarium! Find out about the different habitats and ecosystems and how plants help to create a suitable environment for animals of all shapes and sizes.

Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs

Saturday, March 7 1:00-2:30pm

Showcasing a variety of spring flowering trees and shrubs, this illustrated lecture will provide detailed information on plant culture, landscape use and identifying characteristics. Both native and exotic species will be presented.

Instructor: Duncan Himmelman, Duncan holds a Ph.D. in ornamental horticulture from Cornell University

Nature Art

Sunday, March 8 1:00-2:30pm

Have you ever painted with beets or built a sculpture out of freshly cut wood? Come to the Arboretum to make nature based art projects. Have fun and make the mess here!

Native Plants of the Northeast

Thursday, March 12 10:00-11:30am

Join us for a slideshow on some of our regions fascinating native plants with an emphasis on those useful to the home gardener. Their importance to our local environment and tales of their natural history will also be discussed.

Animals Alive

Sunday, March 15 1:00-2:30pm

Meet two native and one exotic animal from our collection. Learn about the habitats they live in. Dress for outdoor exploration.

A Day in Dirt

Saturday, March 21 10:00-11:30am

Get the scoop on soil and what lies beneath it. Meet an animal decomposer and find out the role it plays in soil nutrition.

Tropical Rainforests of the World

Thursday, March 26 10:00-11:30am

Take a look at the tropical rainforests of the world, their plants, and their importance, as well as the findings from a recent research trip to the United States' only National forest classified as a Tropical Rainforest.

Gardening Basics 2009

Thursdays, March 26, April 2, 9, 16 7:00-9:30pm

UConn Master Gardeners will teach the fundamentals of gardening on 4 successive Thursdays. Topics covered include; proper site and soil preparation, plant selection, plant physiology, perennials and shrubs, composting and much more.

Vegetable Gardening

Saturday, March 28 10:00-12 noon

Vegetable gardening from seed propagation to harvesting.

Container Vegetable Gardening

Thursday, April 2 10:00-12 noon

Container gardening requires very little space, can be located near the kitchen, and it does not have problems with critters. This class will discuss the types of containers that can be used, suggested soil mix, location of the containers, watering requirements, suggested vegetable types that grow well in containers, as well as some vegetables that are best grown in an earth garden.

Woody Plants for the Four Season Garden

Saturday, April 4 10:00-11:30am

While spring is the most popular season to many gardeners, creating the four-season garden has become a popular trend. Using plants that provide ornamental flowers, foliage, fruit, fall color and bark interest can really spice up a garden. This topic will explore woody plants that possess two or more seasons of interest and how to use them effectively in the landscape.

Instructor: Vincent Simeone, Horticulturalist at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, NY

Plant Propagation Basics

Saturday, April 18 10:00-11:30am

An introduction to the important concepts of plant propagation from seed starting to the rooting of cuttings. Repotting and soil selection for your new plants will also be covered. Course will be both indoors and outside.

Birds, Buds and Binoculars!

Saturday, April 11 10:00-11:30am

Join us for a walk at the Arboretum in search of signs of spring. We will be on the lookout for Red Tailed Hawks, some early bloomers and you will have the opportunity to get to know our 91-acres in a whole new way.

Petals, Pollen and Petunias!

Saturday, April 18 10:00-11:30am

What better time to learn about flowering plants and the animals that love them. Children will meet our bees, plant a flower to take home, and have a chance to learn about some of our most beautiful native flowers.

Rare Tree Walking Tour

Saturday, April 18 11:00am

Enjoy a walking tour of the Arboretum's Champion and notable trees and other unique specimens – many with fascinating historical interest.

Guided tours begin at the Visitor Center terrace and last approximately one hour. Flat, comfortable walking shoes are suggested.

Green Week at the Bartlett Arboretum

Wednesday, April 22 – Saturday, April 25, 2009

The Bartlett Arboretum is celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day with special programs for the whole family. During spring break, children will enjoy learning about the environment and how they can protect it. (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am-3pm).

And Saturday, April 25 is the perfect time for everyone to make a commitment to the growing green movement. The day's activities will include a fun and educational scavenger hunt, an opportunity to meet the Bartlett's Arborist and learn how to properly plant and care for your trees, how to get started with composting.

Early Spring ID Walking Tour

Saturday, April 25 11:00am

Our truly native wildflowers appear in the early spring before the trees leaf out. We will search in the woods for these delicate, ephemeral flowers and also take in the beauty of the opening of the tree buds with the new leaves unfolding.