



Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens

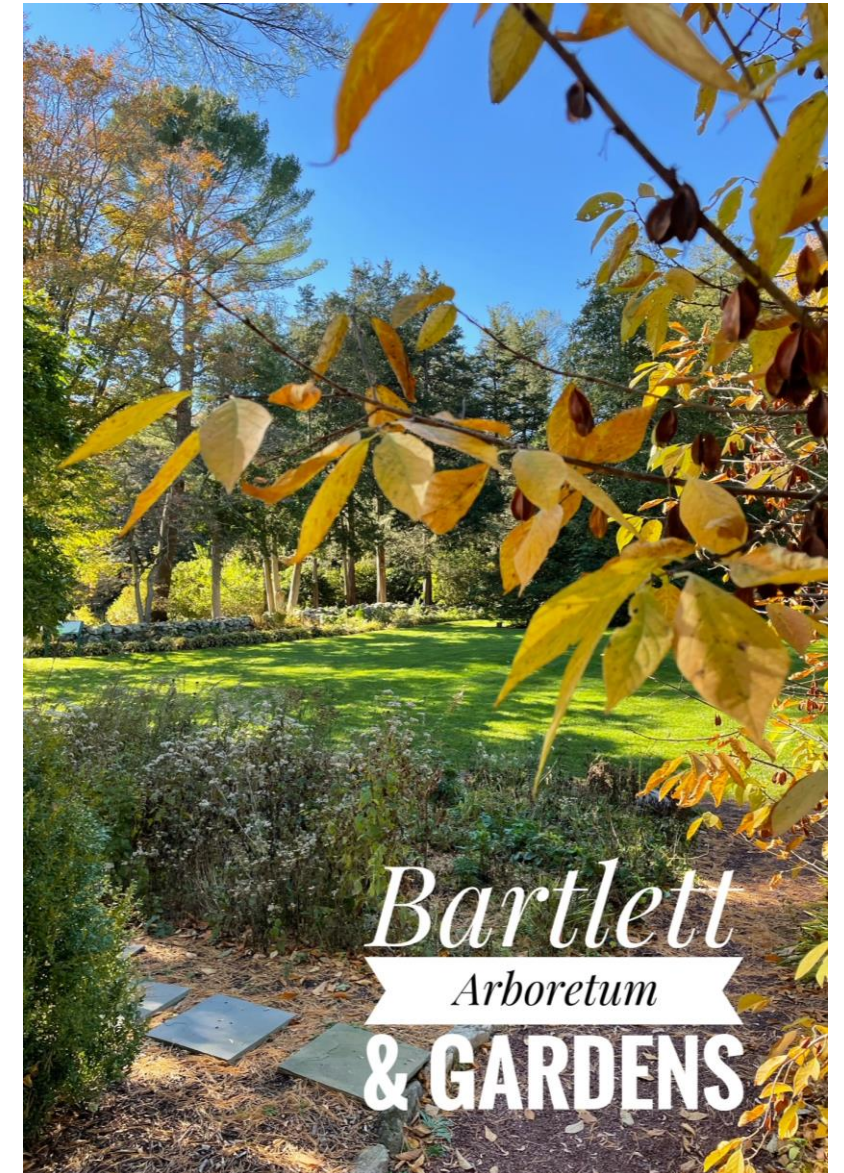
Board of Representatives
Fiscal Committee
2024-2025
Budget Request Presentation

Agency Overview The Bartlett Arboretum Association, through a lease agreement with the City of Stamford, maintains a city-owned park open to the public, free of charge, 365 days per year (366 days this year!). The property annually serves over **100,000 visitors** and features

- 93 acres of irreplaceable open space
- magnificent award-winning Champion trees
- 13 charming gardens
- wildflower meadows & red maple wetlands
- 2.5 miles of woodland walking trails
- varied wildlife and native habitats.

A wonderful getaway from the hustle and bustle of daily life, the Arboretum serves as a leading recreational and educational resource for area residents and visitors of all ages. For weekend gardeners, budding young botanists, and families with dogs, the Bartlett offers a place to relax, learn, and unplug.

(It should be noted that Arboretum also maintains Potter's Field, used by the City for over 100 years to bury nearly 400 of its poor or unclaimed dead).



The mission of the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is to cultivate and develop a diverse collection of trees, gardens, and plants for all to explore, enjoy and study; and to provide through education and stewardship, a greener, healthier, more beautiful environment. We accomplish this by

- Linking visitors from our surrounding communities to the natural world, through our grounds, exhibits and programming.
- Building a community that welcomes and respects the diversity of all visitors, staff, volunteers, donors, and advocates creating an inclusive environment.
- Providing comprehensive environmental, horticulture and plant science educational programs for children and adults of all ages and abilities.
- Preserving the historical significance of the Bartlett Arboretum for current and future generations.
- Creating opportunities for inspiration, recreation, enjoyment, and exploration of the natural world for all who visit.
- Maintaining plant collections that celebrate biodiversity and reflect the ecology and character of our region.
- Promoting conservation and principles of sustainable landscape management.

Vision: To be a nationally recognized center of living collection expertise, education, stewardship, exhibition and horticultural best practices.



Summary of Significant Changes and Capital Expense Requests for FY 24-25



The PWC Charitable Trust provided grant funds for the Arboretum to add a full-time educator position to meet an increased demand for school and public programming. The position, at present, is generating enough revenue from program fees to support its existence beyond the grant period.

With the addition of the educator position, the Arboretum's current staff now includes 7 full-time, 4 part-time, and 10 seasonal (camp staff) employees. The Arboretum is also supported by more than 200 volunteers, many of whom are graduates of the UConn Extension Master Gardener program hosted by the Arboretum.



The Arboretum's Capital Requests include:

- \$50,000 for septic and stormwater management related to the Arboretum's current Pavilion Project (CP2700)
- \$50,000 for the Arboretum's Site and Infrastructure Improvement Project (CP3804)
- \$300,000 for Maintenance Building Upgrades

Capital Project Request FY 2025-2031

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429 CP2700 BARTLETT ARBORETUM - PAVILION

Agency: 0695 Non City Agencies: Bartlett Arboretum
Contact: Tracy Kay - (203) 883-4052 - tkay@bartlettarboretum.org
Location: 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, CT 06903
Neighborhood: North Stamford **Voting District:** 20

		Dept Priority	1	Tier	0
Oracle Date	2023-09-18	YTD Balance	448,805.84		
Encumbered	0.00	Amount Available	323,805.84		
Advanced		Unfunded	125,000.00		

Project Description - Design and Construction of a Pavilion for outdoor events and summer camp.

Detailed Project Cost		Justification for Inclusion in Capital Plan
Design Development	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost Savings
Construction Related	\$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Safety
Equipment Acquisition	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/> Continues On-Going Project
Miscellaneous Costs	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leverages Other Funds
Professional Services	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure
Land Acquisition	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life
Art Work	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan Related
FY 24/25 Total	\$50,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Health
		<input type="checkbox"/> Mandated Legal
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Revenue Impact
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Operational Impact/Efficiency
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Expenditures by Year			
Fiscal Year	Authorization	Encumbered	Expenditure
2023	90,000.00	0.00	1,097.10
2022	360,000.00	0.00	97.06
Total Expenditures	\$450,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,194.16

Method Used in Estimating Cost:	Estimated change in annual operating cost:
Architects estimate	\$0

Request		FY 24/25					Capital Forecasts						
Funding Source	Term	Dept	Planning	Mayor	BOF	Adopted	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31	Total
Bond (City)	20	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
		50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000

Comments - Cost includes the structure, site grading, limited utilities and (future) public restrooms, to be shared with Greenhouse. Proposed size is 50x100 feet. This project will generate return on investment through year-round usage (expanded rental use and additional revenue-producing events) as well as a reduction in costs associated with existing fundraising expenses (tents, generators, lighting, temporary flooring, etc.) Request includes additional \$50,000 for new septic system by the Greenhouse. DEEP Grant of \$175k, was awarded on 3/1/2021. Bartlett Arboretum Association has raised \$125k during Capital Campaign.

Capital Project Request FY 2025-2031

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348 CP3804 BARTLETT ARBORETUM - SITE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Dept Priority	2	Tier	0
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Agency: 0695 Non City Agencies: Bartlett Arboretum
Contact: Tracy Kay - (203) 883-4052 - tkay@bartlettarboretum.org
Location: 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, CT 06903
Neighborhood: North Stamford **Voting District:** 20

Oracle Date	2023-09-18	YTD Balance	142,424.89
Encumbered	1,642.75	Amount Available	142,424.89
Advanced		Unfunded	0.00

Project Description - Safety, Health and Air Quality improvements to our grounds, buildings and infrastructure.

Detailed Project Cost		Justification for Inclusion in Capital Plan		Expenditures by Year			
Design Development	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost Savings		Fiscal Year	Authorization	Encumbered	Expenditure
Construction Related	\$50,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life Safety		2023	50,000.00	1,642.75	1,769.21
Equipment Acquisition	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continues On-Going Project		2022	0.00	0.00	46,767.19
Miscellaneous Costs	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leverages Other Funds		2021	0.00	0.00	38,562.74
Professional Services	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure		2020	0.00	0.00	79,322.04
Land Acquisition	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan Related		< 2020	521,537.76	0.00	261,048.94
Art Work	\$0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Health		Total Expenditures	\$571,537.76	\$1,642.75	\$427,470.12
FY 24/25 Total	\$50,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandated Legal		Method Used in Estimating Cost:		Estimated change in annual operating cost:	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Revenue Impact		City Engineering Department		\$0	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive Operational Impact/Efficiency					
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other					

Request		FY 24/25					Capital Forecasts						
Funding Source	Term	Dept	Planning	Mayor	BOF	Adopted	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31	Total
Bond (City)	20	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	200,000
		50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	200,000

Comments - Certain infrastructure elements date back decades: trails and bridges; well(s) water; septic systems; future emergency generator for Silver Educational Center. Numerous trails and bridges require upgrade for vehicles and safe passage for hikers. These improvements would bring these facilities into legal compliance and would also allow for year-round use for revenue-generation purposes. The small vehicular bridge destroyed by Hurricane Ida was replaced with BA&G money. The longer span pedestrian bridge destroyed by Hurricane Isaias requires replacement. Designer will prioritize and estimate the various other bridges and railings along the trails. Some bridges require special buttresses and piles within the wetlands.

History		FY 23/24					Capital Forecasts						
Funding Source	Term	Dept	Planning	Mayor	BOF	Adopted	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	Total
Bond (City)	20	160,000	0	0	0	0	160,000	0	0	0	0	0	320,000
		160,000	0	0	0	0	160,000	0	0	0	0	0	320,000

Capital Project Request FY 2025-2031

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1353 001353 BARTLETT ARBORETUM - MAINTENANCE BUILDING UPGRADES

Agency: 0695 Non City Agencies: Bartlett Arboretum
Contact: Tracy Kay - (203) 883-4052 - tkay@bartlettarboretum.org
Location: 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, CT 06903
Neighborhood: North Stamford **Voting District:** 20

Dept Priority	3	Tier	0
Oracle Date		YTD Balance	
Encumbered		Amount Available	
Advanced		Unfunded	

Project Description - Upgrades to Maintenance Garage, aka Workshop, include envelope - roofing, siding, insulation and systems/utilities - HVAC, electric upgrade, water feed.

Detailed Project Cost		Justification for Inclusion in Capital Plan	
Design Development	\$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cost Savings
Construction Related	\$225,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Safety
Equipment Acquisition	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continues On-Going Project
Miscellaneous Costs	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverages Other Funds
Professional Services	\$25,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure
Land Acquisition	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quality of Life
Art Work	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan Related
FY 24/25 Total	\$300,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Health
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandated Legal
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Revenue Impact
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Operational Impact/Efficiency
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Method Used in Estimating Cost:	Estimated change in annual operating cost:
City Engineering Department	\$0

Request		FY 24/25					Capital Forecasts						
Funding Source	Term	Dept	Planning	Mayor	BOF	Adopted	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31	Total
Bond (City)	20	300,000	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0	400,000
		300,000	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0	400,000

Comments - Replace roof, gutters and siding; install insulation, HVAC and water; upgrade power service to run the HVAC.

Key Agency Challenges or Changes expected in 2024-25

Key Challenge: The Arboretum, as directed in the Mayor’s budget memorandum, developed its FY 24-25 operating budget “aligned with financial support received in the FY23/24 budget” (\$334,000). The Mayor’s budget has reduced the Arboretum’s request by 6% to \$314,000. The remaining revenue required to support the Arboretum’s FY 24-25 operations (\$1,184,684) will need to be raised from a combination of earned income, memberships, grants, and private donations.

Key Change: The Arboretum has launched a capital campaign and has secured more than \$2 million dollars for the final design and construction of a new horticulture complex. We plan to break ground on the project by the end of the calendar year.





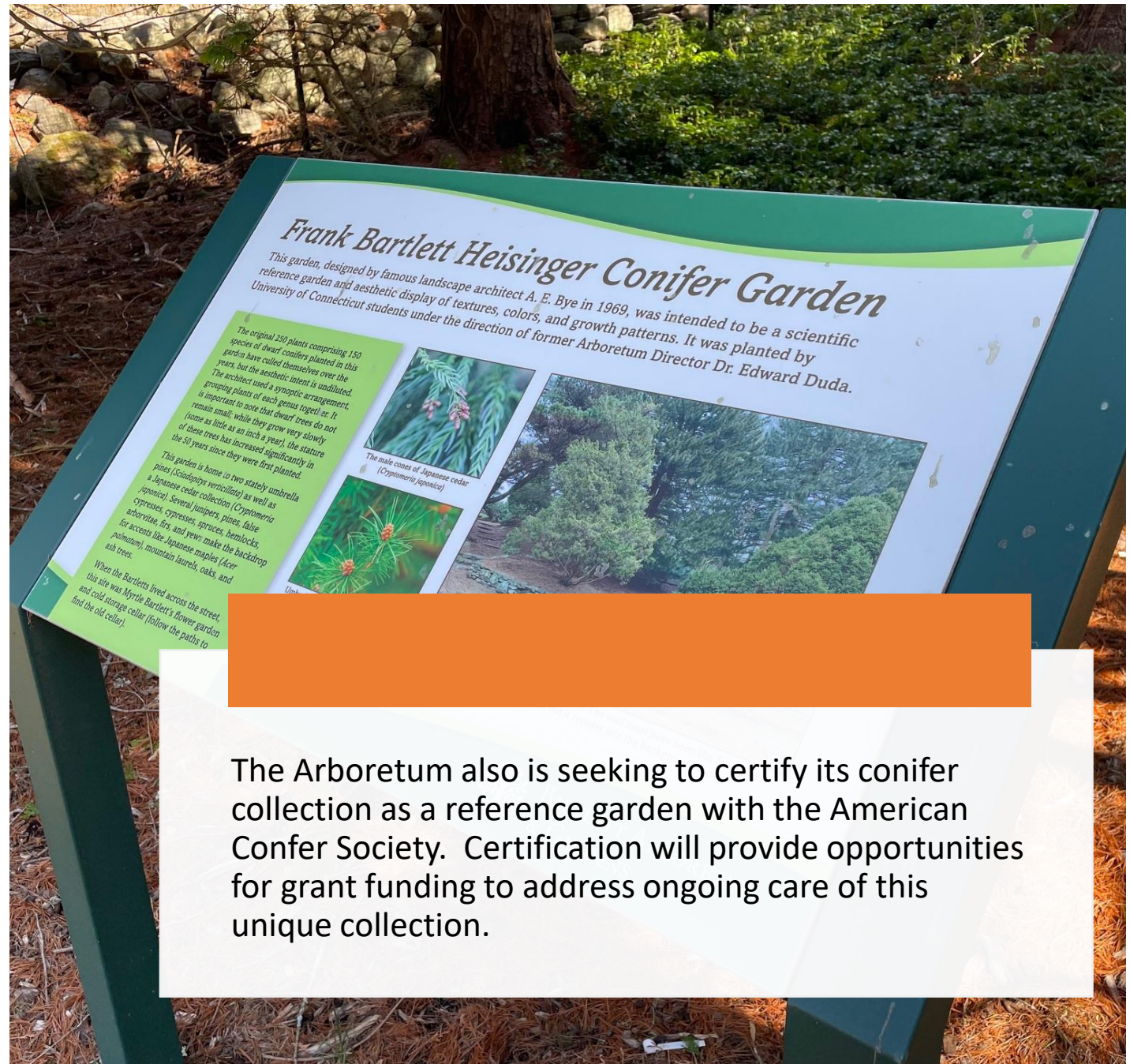
New or Expanded Services or Programs in 2024-25

Traditionally, the Arboretum has provided educational programming for pre-K and 2nd grade students in the Stamford Public Schools. Based on the success of a pilot project funded by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Arboretum now has **Plant Science Curriculum spanning pre-K through 5th grade**. We plan to offer these new programs on an expanded basis in 2024-2025 academic year.

In association with the City schools and other non-profit social services organizations, the Arboretum also plans to expand its **workforce development** programs in the areas of arboriculture, horticulture, and landscape design.

The Arboretum, working with partner organizations, including the Downtown Special Services District, plans to build on existing efforts to enhance the City's **Urban Forestry and Landscaping initiatives**.





The Arboretum also is seeking to certify its conifer collection as a reference garden with the American Confer Society. Certification will provide opportunities for grant funding to address ongoing care of this unique collection.



Highlights, Efficiencies & Service Improvements Over the Past Year

- Piloted a new pre-K through 5th grade plant science program with Waterside School thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services.
- Conducted on and off-site in-person programming and workshops for community partners including Abilis, Inspirica, CLC, Building One Community, Beyond Limits, and several Stamford senior centers
- Hosted over 100,000 visitors (over 15% from out-of-state)
- Provided virtual and on-site programming (4 different Plant Life Cycle Modules) to Stamford Schools second grades (1,500 students)
- Provided pre-K programming for the City of Stamford Schools Apples program.
- Held our annual Plant Sale raising more than \$25,000 to support Arboretum operations
- Provided 8 week-long summer camp sessions for 200 campers (15% were supported by scholarships)
- Hosted a successful summer outdoor concert series attended by over 1,500 people of all ages (attendance was down from last year due to weather conditions that forced two concerts indoors)
- Hosted two major **free** community events – The Annual Arbor Earth Day and Honey Harvest Festivals
- Graduated 28 new Master Gardeners in cooperation with the UConn Extension Master Gardener program
- Engaged over 100 local high school students in free education programs, internships and volunteer work
- We also are pleased to report that the Arboretum has received Level II Certification from ArbNet, an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta and tree-focused professionals.



**Abandoned or Curtailed Services
or Programs in 2024-2025:**

Hopefully, none – (unless we can't make-up the short-fall of City operating support)

We respectfully ask that the Board of Representatives Fiscal Committee keep the Mayor's recommendations for capital and operational funds in the budget for 2024-2025.

Thank you!

