



# Annual Report 2021—2022

## **A Brief History of EA&G**

In 1963 the Everett Garden Club appointed a committee to find a site for a local arboretum. An 8- acre site in north Everett was donated by the Everett Parks Department. The original Arboretum board planted the first tree, a pin oak, which still lives on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole of Legion Memorial Golf Course.

The golf course was redesigned in the 1970s, and the Arboretum was moved to a 3.3 acre spot west of the golf course. A decision was made to focus on creating a place for the public to learn about a variety of landscape designs appropriate to urban residential settings. This direction is reflected in our mission statement and led to a name change, from Evergreen Area Arboretum to Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens.

## **Governance and Organizational Structure**

Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens (EA&G) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit governed by a volunteer board which works with the Everett Department of Parks and Facilities on garden maintenance, renovation, and the addition of original sculptures in the gardens. The Arboretum Board raises money for the gardens through an annual plant sale, grant writing, memberships, sponsorships, and donations. EA&G also provides a cadre of dedicated volunteers who organize classes, events, programs, and special projects to improve the gardens, provide educational opportunities, and connect visitors to nature. We also purchase and plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs in the Arboretum.

## **Mission**

To create and maintain an inspirational arboretum and gardens accessible to all, internationally acclaimed, and locally enjoyed for its plant diversity, original art, and educational opportunities.





Dear Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens Members,

This past year has been a test of our resilience as an organization. Despite heading into our third year of living with COVID, and the third year that we have had to cancel our annual membership dinner and meeting, I am still pleased to look back on all that we've managed to accomplish.

We now provide free online classes and in-person outdoor demonstrations, effectively doubling the number of learning opportunities available to our community. Our membership numbers are steadily returning to pre-pandemic levels and sponsorships have also increased, helping to ensure a stable balance for our operational expenses. We also met a long-hoped for goal of establishing an endowment with the Community Foundation of Snohomish County for the benefit of the Arboretum.

Outdoor events returned, including a summer Family Fun Day, our first ever SculptureWalk, and two family crafting events during Wintertide Lights. An economic stimulus grant from the City of Everett coupled with generous donations allowed us to light up the Arboretum for the month of December with triple the number of lights from the previous year. Despite record rainfall followed by record cold and snow, more than 10,000 people visited during the month. Additional grants have allowed us to begin a much-needed renovation of the Small Tree Walk. And finally, there's more art in the garden, thanks to Everett Parks and Facilities Department rotating sculpture program.

Although it was not the year we hoped for, I am proud of our accomplishments. We have even bigger plans for 2022-23. I hope you'll be part of them, whether as a member, volunteer, or garden visitor.

Sincerely,

Eileen Simmons, President



## Board of Directors, 2021—2022

Eileen Simmons, President

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Wayne Walker, Vice President

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Libbie Soden, Recording Secretary

Jeanne Crisp

Renee Greenleaf, Corresponding Secretary

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Lorraine Brooks

Matt Newland

Craig Callies

Emile van den Akker

## Education Program

Education is at the heart of what we do. We offer classes and events for all ages, introducing children to the joys of nature and gardening and providing educational opportunities to urban gardeners looking for inspiration and help designing a home garden that will thrive in our climate.

### 2021-2022 Highlights



A partnership with the Imagine! Children's Museum brought preschoolers into the Arboretum to learn about nature in "Bees and Botany."



Our summer Family Fun Event brought families out to enjoy a sunny day and introduced them to organizations such as the Pilchuck Audubon Society, YMCA, Master Gardeners, and Everett Public Library. Nature-based craft projects and games kept young visitors entertained.



We hosted seven Zoom classes featuring a variety of speakers, including experts on clematis, species rhododendrons, and spiky plants for our climate. We also held in-person classes in the Arboretum.



A partnership with the Edmonds College horticulture program begins this month as their design class takes on a redesign of the Backyard Garden.



A partnership with the Everett Public Library provided 3 Story Walks during the year, entertaining young visitors and their parents with a read-aloud opportunity.



Bees and Botany in the gardens



Enjoying a Summer Story Walk



YMCA Family Fun Volunteers



## Art in the Gardens

The Arboretum has a wonderful collection of original sculptures by Northwest artists. This fiscal year we were thrilled to add five new sculptures to the gardens, including a permanent sculpture on the east side of the parking area, filling a weedy, neglected area with bright colors and bold shapes.

The Parks and Facilities Department gave us permission to contract for additional sculptures as part of the City's rotating art collection. We added sculptures by Ken Barnes, Carl Nelson, Edward McCarthy, and Verena Schwippert.

August 2021 brought a new event to the gardens—SculptureWalk, cohosted with the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association. Over 500 people attended in 2021. SculptureWalk will return in 2022 for two days.



Shalom by Verena Schwippert








Steel Wings by Edward McCarthy



Bound by a Common Future by Carl Nelson


## Special Project Highlights of the Year


-  Renovation of Small Tree Walk is finally underway . We expect to complete this much-needed project by the end of 2022.
-  We thank the Parks and Facilities Department for their assistance in cleaning up of area around Classroom Building. The removal of several pallets of landscaping blocks improved the appearance and visibility of the building,
-  Our first Mother's Day Plant Sale raised \$2,753. Look for this popular event to return in 2022,
-  Thanks to volunteers from Navy Carrier Striker Group 11, there are now wood chip paths through the Maple Grove. These paths allow visitors to see individual maples up close. In the upcoming year, we plan to add more plants under and around the maples to add beauty and definition to the garden.
-  Wintertide Lights was a great success in its second year. Thanks to funding from Everett Forward, we look forward to and even brighter Wintertide Lights in December 2022.


## Membership and Fund Development


We have 262 members as of December 2021.

This has been a very successful year for grants. We were awarded \$52,000 in grants, allowing us to undertake projects and events that would not have been possible otherwise.

 A City of Everett Lodging Tax grant helped to fund our new parking area sculpture.

 A Snohomish County Small Capital Project Partnership grant allowed us to begin a much-needed renovation of the Small Tree Walk.

 A generous grant from The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust will pay for a new, larger kiosk near the entry to the gardens, a bike rack, and signage to complete the Small Tree Walk project.

 An Everett Forward grant provided the resources to triple the number of lights for our second annual Wintertide Lights and will help fund Wintertide Lights 2022.

## An Endowment to Fund Our Future

The Board voted to establish the Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens Endowment in 2021, realizing a long-planned-for goal. The Community Foundation of Snohomish County is managing the endowment, which currently stands at \$50,000. The goal of the endowment is to help secure the future of the Arboretum.

Several beautiful trees were added to the gardens this year as part of our tribute tree program. A tribute bench was also purchased by a family in memory of a loved one.

## Volunteers: How It All Happens

In 2021 our volunteers spent 1,585 hours working directly in the Arboretum—including planting, weeding, hauling away debris, and spreading woodchips and mulch.

EA&G board and volunteers spent 2,455 hours on administrative responsibilities—including grant writing, event and class planning and implementation, public relations, record-keeping, and project management.

Our volunteers make the Arboretum the special place that it is. This year they took on even more work, helping to install lighting, making gnomes, and holding two family craft events during Wintertide Lights.





## Financials: March 1, 2021—February 28, 2022 (unaudited)

### Revenue

General Donations	\$22,839
Sponsorships and Grants	\$27,300
Membership	\$4,997
Special Events	\$29,228
Gross Profit	\$84,400

### Expenses

Special Events	\$6,952
Special Projects	\$10,179
Outreach Events	\$11,227
Business Expenses	\$6,076
Total Expenses	\$34,675

**Net Income     \$49,725**

### Assets

Checking Account     \$77,751  
Money Market     \$20,552.71

Community Foundation of Snohomish County Endowment     \$50,692

- *Because our fiscal year runs from March 1 through February 28, all figures are based on January 2022 numbers and are therefore approximate.*
- *Pandemic-related issues have impacted the projects we were able to undertake in 2020 and 2021, and therefore resulted in a larger than usual profit over the last two years. Additional projects are planned for the coming year to take advantage of this surplus.*

### City of Everett Assistance in the Gardens

This year Everett Parks and Facilities provided the following support for the Arboretum:

- Improved electrical access for Wintertide Lights
- Scheduled rangers to close the gates during Wintertide Lights
- Removed pallets of pavers stored in front of the Classroom Building
- Provided gravel for the driveway area in front of the Classroom Building
- Funded 3 new sculptures under the City's rental program
- Mowed the lawns
- Added a storage area for mulch
- Provided classroom and office space for EA&G

### Thank You to All 2020—2021 Sponsors



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**A Year in the Arboretum, 2020—2021: A Few of Our Favorite Photos, Events, and Visitors of the Year**  
*A visual reminder of the people (and dogs) who enjoy the Arboretum for a variety of reasons, and those who give their time and energy to make it a beautiful place for us all to enjoy*

