

Red Butte Garden Cancels Spring Plant Sale and Donates Truckloads of Plants to Local Organizations

Thursday, May 7, 2020

After making the difficult decision to cancel its annual Spring Plant Sale and fundraiser because of COVID-19 restrictions, Red Butte Garden staff were faced with a new challenge—what to do with the thousands of plants being cultivated and cared for in its greenhouses. Reduced operations and staff cuts made it impossible to properly manage the inventory, but a trip to the compost bin didn't seem right either.

Horticulture director Marita Tewes Tyrolt and her staff began contacting local gardens and non-profit groups to ask if they were able to accept a sizeable donation from Red Butte Garden. The result? More than 10 truckloads of plants, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables were delivered to community organizations that provide services to under-served populations or those in need. These include:

- Esther's Garden
- Green Urban Lunchbox
- Housing Connect
- IRC/New Roots
- Primary Children's Hospital
- St Mark's Cathedral
- SLC Library/The Plot community garden
- University of Utah Campus Garden
- University Neighborhood Partners
- Volunteer of America's Center for Women and Children

Red Butte Garden's mission is to connect people with plants and the beauty of living landscapes. During these challenging times, more people are finding comfort from the restorative and healing power of plants, so the horticulture staff were more than happy to donate rather than compost their greenhouse treasure.

About Red Butte Garden

Red Butte Garden is the largest botanical garden in the Intermountain West and together with the University of Utah, is a state arboretum. The Garden has welcomed guests since 1985 and is the largest botanical garden in the Intermountain West, with over 21 acres of developed gardens and five miles of hiking trails winding through an extensive natural area. The Garden is renowned for its numerous plant collections, display gardens, world-class Outdoor Concert Series, and award-winning horticulture-based educational programs. For more information, visit www.redbuttegarden.org.

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