



# DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

## AT PEPPER CREEK

The Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek (DBG) is one of the newest public gardens in the United States. It is located in coastal Delaware on the Delmarva Peninsula where a growing population of residents and visitors can experience and learn about the unique flora of the coastal plain and discover the ornamental horticulture that thrives here. This public garden in southern Delaware is a significant community asset and represents a significant long-term investment in the quality of life in southern Delaware. DBG offers the mid-Atlantic region the high standards of horticultural excellence that are readily available in northern Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. The garden has been open less than a year and has already received coverage from local, national and international media.

Since our founding in 2012, our Board, a small garden staff, and a large platoon of volunteers have worked to create a landmark botanic garden on 37 acres of agricultural land located 30 minutes from Delaware's Atlantic Ocean beaches. DBG officially opened on September 16, 2019. Encouraged by the tremendous response that we received from the public and the community during the short 10 weeks that we were officially open, we finalized our plans for a full season of activity in 2020, including the initiation of an inclusive and ambitious education program. Our plans for 2020 were derailed by the coronavirus pandemic and ensuing lockdown, and the 2020 re-opening, planned for March 17, was postponed to August 20. We are now fully opened to the public, using COVID-19 guidelines and protocols to protect our guests, staff and volunteers. We have had several hundred visitors since our opening, reflecting the pent-up demand for the opportunity to experience nature in a beautiful and safe environment.

The project has raised over \$4 million from foundations, the business community and individual donors. The vast majority of these funds have been expended on infrastructure and construction — all preformed by firms located in Delaware. The projected visitor attendance prior to COVID-19 was 30,000 to 50,000 per year. Once we can be open for a full season these projections will be achieved. Our estimates are that these visitors will be a 50/50 mix of tourists and residents.

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