# Clark Gardens

ESCAPE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

## Dear Friends,

Mineral Wells, the Wellness Capital of Texas. How amazing is that! A big thank you to Rose Jordan, Tourism Director for Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce, Carol Elder, entrepreneur extraordinaire co-owner of Crazy Water Company, Carla Hay Perdue, Palo Pinto General Hospital Nurse Practitioner and City leaders including Mayor Regan Johnson, and many more individuals who worked to make this happen. And a special shout out to State Representative Glenn Rogers.

Clark Gardens Botanical Park is an integral part of the Wellness offerings in Palo Pinto and Parker County. The gardens provide green space, enabling individuals to enrich their lives through nature. For many, it is vital in keeping us emotionally, psychologically, and physically healthy. Nature can generate positive emotions, including calmness, joy, and creativity. Experiencing nature is associated with improving mental health, depression, and anxiety.

Clark Gardens offers multiple opportunities to experience nature. Take a daily walk in the garden. Visit often and experience the seasons changing, and become acquainted with our wildlife: the fish in the ponds, the turtles basking in the sunshine, a spider weaving its web, the hungry blue heron fishing for his breakfast, and butterflies enjoying Pollinator Islands. And if you are lucky, the ducks will take the walk with you.

Need to steady your mind? Walk the labyrinth. Labyrinths are used worldwide to quiet the mind, calm anxieties, recover balance in life, enhance creativity, set intentions, and encourage meditation, prayer, self-reflection, and stress reduction.

Our month-long event in March, "Grow at Clark Gardens," strives to enrich lives through art, wellness, and nature-based activities by offering many wellness programs. The 2023 Clark Gardens Grow event attracted 40% more visitors than 2022, offering over 30 programs for children and adults while collaborating with multiple organizations within our community.

Clark Gardens needs your help to continue serving the community.

❊ Monetary donations make a difference. Clark Gardens raises 1/3rd of the operating budget through admissions, memberships, special events, private events, gift shop sales, and plant sales. The remainder of the operating budget is received from generous individuals through private donations and organization grants. Every dollar donated matters.

❊ Our membership program not only provides extra donations through membership fees, but it also provides perks and engagement opportunities for invested supporters—a truly mutually beneficial relationship!

❊ Our volunteers are of the utmost importance to the gardens' daily operations, including special events and projects.

The old saying 'it takes a village' certainly applies to maintaining our beloved 35-acre garden. And we need your help. Please continue to read and help Clark Gardens to grow. And pray for rain!

Sincerely,
Carol Clark Montgomery

# *Volunteers*
## OH, HOW WE LOVE THEM!

As a non-profit organization, volunteers are essential to Clark Gardens. Volunteers provide valuable support and help fulfill Clark Gardens' purpose by donating time, skills, and expertise. We have numerous volunteer opportunities to help you share your skill set and build new ones while supporting the sustainability of Clark Gardens - *your community's botanical park*.

### TOUR GUIDES

Clark Gardens' tour guides meet people from all over the world and are in a setting to educate and entertain. Whether you're leading a group of students or older guests, tour guides answer questions, provide information, and weave into their tours the history and mission of Clark Gardens.

### PHILANTHROPY

A volunteer group, *The Friends of Clark Gardens,* broadens the outreach borders by sharing Clark Gardens' purpose with all in their community. Raising awareness helps to increase donations to the garden, allowing Clark Gardens to continue to operate for years to come.

### TEACHERS FOR OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Clark Gardens hosts over 800 students annually. We are fortunate that many of our volunteer teachers are members of The Retired Teacher Association, willing to share their skills and expertise. Throughout the March Grow event, many volunteer instructors assist with various classes focused on wellness, art, and nature-based activities.

ENGAGE IN CHALLENGES

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MAKE FRIENDS

LEARN SKILLS

JOIN A COMMUNITY

MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE

GROW CONFIDENCE

ENJOY YOURSELF

### OFFICE HELP

Volunteers in the office help keep staff organized by handling paperwork, making phone calls, and preparing for programs. Tasks include but are not limited to, filing, graphic curating, social media scheduling, press release writing, and assisting in membership sales.

### GARDENERS

When was the last time you played in the dirt (or soil, as we call it)? Whether experienced or inexperienced, your gardening skill set will be strengthened, giving you the confidence to flourish in a personal garden.

### MODEL TRAIN STATION

photo credit: Judy Valentine

This building greets guests with a dozen model trains chugging through the station and into the gardens. Model Train Station Volunteers assist in running and maintaining all elements of the Clark Station – model trains, train tracks, landmark dioramas, and the station building itself.

# Join Us
## THERE'S MORE FUN TO COME

## IT IS SHOW TIME

Everyone loves a love story...

For those of you who have followed the gardens for a while, you know Clark Gardens is a love story between Max and Billie Clark. In the winter of 2023, Emmy Award-winning Hoegger Communications from Wichita Falls produced a documentary about Max & Billie's love story and how it flourished into a garden. Of course, Max was the star of the show. The documentary will be released publicly this fall. Spoiler alert. It's a tear-jerker.

## A GARDEN PARTY A NIGHT OF NOTES & NATURE

Mark your calendar now. This is a can't-miss event! On the evening of March 22, 2024, The Friends of Clark Gardens will take over the garden to host their inaugural fundraiser event. No doubt, the hostesses will have an eventful evening planned with everything from the dueling piano entertainment to the mouth-watering dinner.

There are limited sponsorship and table availability, and you'll want to snag yours while you can - using the QR code.

# Grow at Clark Gardens

## GROW AT CLARK GARDENS 2024

March 2023 was a whirlwind of activity at Clark Gardens as we hosted our second annual Grow at Clark Gardens. With over 30 events (yes, that's 30!), thanks to festival volunteers and sponsors.

### 2023 GRANT SPONSOR

Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

### 2023 PLATINUM SPONSORS

The Market 76067 Est. 2018

Crazy Water

Dr. Mark & Carol Montgomery

### 2023 BRONZE SPONSORS

Palo Pinto General Hospital

Simmons Bank

Community National Bank & Trust of Texas

Diamond Pharmacy (940)-325-2541

Dickerson Family Dental · Mineral Wells, Texas

Clark Gardens saw a net profit increase of over 40% compared to the previous year's Grow festival. This success is primarily due to the community's support, collaboration efforts, and attendance rate in March 2023. Thank you for showing up for your community botanical park!

We are back at it again. In March 2024, Clark Gardens will be hosting the 3rd annual Grow at Clark Gardens month-long festival. The Clark Gardens team strives to enrich lives all month long through art, wellness, and nature-based activities. There will be something for everyone to enjoy – take part in the interactive theater dinner, get creative during a Zentangle class, drop the kiddos off for a cooking class, or load up the car during our Director's Plant Sale.

Are you interested in being more involved with this month-long festival - such as sponsorship, collaborating activities, or being a market vendor? Contact Clark Gardens' event department to visit about additional details: events@clarkgardens.org or 940-682-4856 x2.

# *Here is how you can help.*

## Sponsor an event! Model Train Show and Grow at Clark Gardens

Be a part of enriching the lives of local citizens and tourists by sponsoring Clark Gardens festivals that welcome everyone to come and create lasting memories. Sponsorships help provide quality programming and educational opportunities to thousands of attendees.

## Support a specific area of the garden!

Is there a specific location your family or you hold near and dear to your heart? Consider financially supporting that location. Can you see it now? Your family's name over the top of Oxbow Overlook, as that has always been your children's favorite place to feed the fish and picnic, or your loved one's name amongst the mighty trees in Shady Alley as walking that pathway is where they enjoy escaping the hustle and bustle of everyday life. To support a specific area of Clark Gardens, contact our office at info@clarkgardens.org or 940-682-4856 x3 to visit additional details.

## Engrave a paver!

Mark your spot at Clark Gardens with a custom engraved paver. For just $200, a custom paver could be engraved for you. The pavers will be placed among the Arbor, which is the gateway into the botanical park. 100% of the money raised from the engraved pavers goes to repairing the bricks in the Arbor and the Welcome Center. This campaign kicked off in October 2022 with the goal of replacing around 5,000 square feet of 22-year-old weathered bricks with sturdy pavers. In March of 2023, between engraved pavers sold and a generous grant from *The Brazos Foundation for Palo Pinto County Area*, Clark Gardens completed half of this project. Purchase engraved pavers in honor or memory of a loved one. Please help us complete this project; $33,000 is needed to complete this arbor beautification.

## Donate to the model train depot!

Visitors of all ages delight in the spectacle of five different G Scale Model Garden Trains on 1200 feet of track. Originally crafted in 2006 from natural materials, the train tracks have begun to deteriorate. The tracks meander inside and outside, experiencing the elements, including rain, sun, heat, winter storms, and even peacocks! With the help of volunteers, Clark Gardens has managed to maintain the original tracks. Now, seventeen years later, the 1200 feet of train tracks must be replaced. This necessary repair will cost $12,172.29 in materials alone. Your donation to Clark Station will help keep the magic alive at this whimsical model train station.

## Donate to the Max E. Clark Educational Fund!

Your donation to the Max E. Clark Education Fund allows Clark Gardens to offer quality education programs to area school children. Children in Palo Pinto County and Parker County benefit through either no-cost or low-cost programs. Current programs include Pollinator Power, covering the importance of pollinators, and Texas Arbor Day, introducing the impact of trees on our environment along with Texas history and ecosystems.

## Donate to the annual operational budget!

Between equipment, staffing, and everyday utilities, the bills add up. We rely on donors, members, and grants to fund the Garden, along with our earned income from events, admissions, and sales. Clark Gardens does not receive government funding - not from the county, city, or state. The long-term economic sustainability of the garden is at risk. We need your support.

Scan the QR code to make a donation to:

- Max E. Clark Educational Fund
- Annual Operational Budget
- Model Train Depot

*Grateful* The Garden is grateful for every contribution. These contributions allow us to follow our mission.

*Mission* Clark Gardens inspires and demonstrates the many rich horticulture and nature-based possibilities of North Texas to tourists and residents alike.