



\$5000 Grant Blossoms for Yampa River Botanic Park

Colorado Garden Foundation's Joan Franson Memorial Grant Renovates Garden

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-March 5, 2020-Flowers won't be the only thing blooming this spring, so will a \$5,000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation, which was recently award to the Yampa River Botanic Park.

"The Botanic Park looks forward to being able to showcase these plants and flowers to our guests," said Botanic Park Executive Director Jennifer MacNeil. "We continue to look for opportunities, like this grant, to educate the community about adaptive plants for the Yampa Valley."

The grant is in memory of Joan Franson, who began serving on the Colorado Garden Foundation board in 1978. As an active community leader with the foundation and Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, her passion for horticulture benefited many for decades. This grant continues her legacy by focusing on one organization annually for a project that focuses on flowers or flower education.



The monies will go toward renovating Coreopsis Corner, one of the 50 gardens in the park, in 2020. This corner will be transformed into a Plant Select® demonstration garden designed to highlight plants that thrive in the high plains and intermountain regions. The garden was brainchild of the botanic park's lead horticulturist, Gayle Lehman.

Plant Select® is a nonprofit collaboration of Colorado State University, Denver Botanic Gardens and professional horticulturists. Plant Select plants exhibit these eight attributes:

- Flourish with less water
- Thrive in a broad range of conditions
- Habitat-friendly
- Tough and resilient in challenging climates
- One of a kind/unique
- Resist disease & insects
- Long-lasting beauty
- Non-invasive

"Typically, these plants provide more beauty with less work so gardeners of all levels can achieve smart, stunning and successful gardens using fewer resources and with a more positive environmental impact," continued MacNeil.

Once a sprawling horse pasture, the six-acre Yampa River Botanic Park is now home to more than 50 unique gardens, thousands of plant and animal species and hosts special events of all shapes and sizes. An innovative experiment in private/public partnerships, the Botanic Park is free and open to the public from dawn to dusk, May 1 through October 31.

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