

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Botanical Garden****Federal Tax ID: 92-0115504****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Alaska Botanical Garden - Construct On-Site Work Facility with Horticultural Research and Propagation Site

State Funding Requested: \$750,000**House District: 30 / O**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

This project is the culmination of Phase I construction of the Alaska Botanical Garden. Now that utilities, main trails, and the first gardens of the Master Plan are in place, the current project entails constructing a small-scale on-site building for Garden operations, as well as development of a horticultural research and propagation site. This project is urgently needed to improve visitor services to the public and provide on-site supervision of the Garden assets.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$750,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	(\$750,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

Prior Phase I funding was from two U.S. Dept. of HUD grants, individual and business donations, and grants from the Rasmuson and Atwood Foundations. Through this first-ever request by the Alaska Botanical Garden for state funding, we ask for the final \$750,000 from the State of Alaska to complete Phase I developments. ABG has a history of successful construction achieved to date, and strong support and investment by the local community, businesses, and Alaskan foundations.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

As the Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG) nears completion of Phase I construction of the Garden, we experience a growing demand for our mission-related services and programs, including: tourist visitation, adult and children's nature education, northern climate horticultural research, and horticultural work training for at-risk youth.

The capital improvements described below are urgently needed to complete Phase I developments, ensure daily services to the Alaskan public and tourism visitors, and provide on-site supervision of Garden assets constructed to date.

Thus far, the Alaska Botanical Garden has developed gardens, nature trails, and turned forested land into a thriving, landscaped, world-class Botanical Garden for Alaskans and visitors. As we work on completing this first phase of building the Garden, and embark on the next phase of our Master Plan-guided developments, ABG has been accepted into The Foraker Group Pre-Development Program which provides planning assistance for capital projects to non-profit organizations.

Description of this current project:**On-site Office/Work Facility:**

ABG's classes and programs are currently conducted under temporary tents, in all types of weather. The Garden leases office space 1 mile from the Garden, which results in limited hours during which the garden is staffed. The construction of a small-scale on-site building and paved circulation path will greatly improve visitor services and increase staff availability for classes, events, youth supervision and tourists. Revenue from entrance and program fees, retail sales, and facility rentals will increase with the presence of on-site staff. Consolidation of operations to the Garden will improve overall organizational effectiveness and efficiency, and will improve supervision of Garden assets.

- Scope: Site preparation; small scale building; utilities; paved circulation path
- Impact:
 - o Improved / increased educational programming for community, families, children
 - o Expanded horticultural and tourism job training opportunities for at-risk youth & adults
 - o Improved tourism services & visitor experiences
 - o Improved accessibility for visitors with strollers, wheelchairs, and walkers

Horticultural Research and Propagation Site

A dedicated research and propagation area within the Garden will allow ABG to expand its capability to conduct plant and climate research, collaborative studies, and educational programming. Cold frames and raised beds will facilitate plant propagation and breeding; larger nursery areas will allow hardiness trials and secure storage of unique and valuable plant collections.

- Scope: Clearing and leveling; soil and augmentations; raised bed and cold frame construction; secure plant-holding areas and shed; water source, fence, and electricity
- Impact:
 - o Research, training, educational, and workforce development opportunities
 - o Positions Alaska as a leader in Boreal/ Sub-arctic horticulture & plant conservation
 - o Research and development support for Alaskan horticultural & agricultural industries

The Alaska Botanical Garden has broad community support for this project and the expansion of the Garden's educational, tourism, and research operations. ABG has gone through several formal and informal community review processes for the master plan and for site specific projects.

Both the Anchorage Urban Design Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission formally approved Site Plan Review and Landscape Plan Review in 2005 for ABG capital improvements. ABG is in the process of presenting the Master Plan to community councils and has so far received motions of support from two neighboring community councils. We have also requested a letter of support from the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as the many social service agencies that participate in the Garden's educational and recreational programs.

This project represents a valuable capital investment which will have a definite positive impact to improve this significant Anchorage tourism facility, educational, research and recreation facility.

Project Timeline:

Construction for this project will commence in August, 2011, and is expected to be fully completed by December 31, 2012 or earlier, weather permitting. Expenditures would occur during this same time frame, August 2011 - December 2012.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

The Alaska Botanical Garden

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Julianne McGuinness
Title: Executive Director
Address: P.O. Box 202202
Anchorage, Alaska 99520
Phone Number: (907)562-7010
Email: julianne@alaskabg.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

10:25 AM 5/27/2011



Alaska Botanical Garden

Education, Preservation, Research, Recreation

2011 – 2013 Capital Project Priority: Completion of Phase 1 Developments

As the Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG) completes Phase I of construction, we are witnessing a growing demand from the community to provide mission-related services and programs, including: tourist visitation, adult and children's nature education, northern climate horticultural research, and horticultural work training for at-risk youth.

The capital improvements described below are urgently needed to complete Phase I developments, ensure daily services to the Alaskan public and tourism visitors, and provide on-site supervision of assets constructed to date.

Thus far, the Alaska Botanical Garden has developed gardens, nature trails, and turned forested land into a thriving, landscaped, world-class Botanical Garden for Alaskans and visitors. As we work on completing this first phase of building the Garden, and embark on the next phase of Master Plan-guided developments, ABG has been accepted into The Foraker Group Pre-Development Program which provides planning assistance for capital projects to non-profit organizations.



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 - o Research, training, educational, and workforce development opportunities
 - o Positions Alaska as a leader in Boreal / Sub-arctic horticulture & plant conservation
 - o Research and development support for Alaskan horticultural & agricultural industries

Total Phase I Project Cost: \$1,500,000

Funding required for completion: \$750,000



**YOUTH EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Nine Star Enterprises, Inc.
"Just say...YE^ES"

YE^ES

117 W 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 743-6074; Fax: 743-6037

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter in support of the Alaska Botanical Garden's Capital Request for Building. For many years Alaska Botanical Gardens has provided opportunities for the youth in the Nine Star YEES program to gain positive work skills. Nine Star works with low income, at risk youth in both education and employment to provide opportunities to succeed. The ABG has been a strong partner in the endeavor to train and develop Alaska's work force. Over the years we have placed youth in a variety of skill building opportunities within the garden, some in a customer service position, others in a manual labor position and still others in an office situation. This has provided the youth with a better understanding of the work force and work ethic and has led some to seek higher education. All the young people who work at the ABG come away more skilled than when they started.

Alaska Botanical Gardens is a positive member of the community; they provide an oasis of tranquility within the confines of the city, they are willing to assist at risk youth in becoming positive members of society and they are good stewards of the environment. For these reasons, Nine Star is a strong supporter of the ABG and the capital request for building.

Sincerely,

Roger Hamacher
Nine Star Enterprises
Youth Services Director
117 W 4th Ave
Anch, AK 99501
(907) 743-6074

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Get Involved!

Make a Difference through Grass Roots Participation

President

Mark Hill
333-9935

Vice President

Catherine Carte
337-3643

Secretary

Brynn Moe
301-9435

Treasurer

Harry Crawford
333-3659

Publicity Chairman

Jerriane Lowther
337-2738

Volunteer Coordinators

Michele Pamer
952-2324

Jerriane Lowther
volunteers@
scenicfoothillsc.org

Visit us on Facebook 

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Julianne McGuinness, Executive Director
Alaska Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 202202
Anchorage, Alaska 99520-2202

January 7, 2010

Dear Ms. McGuinness,

The Scenic Foothills Community Council thanks you for sending one of your Board members to attend our December 2, 2010 community council meeting.

We were very happy to have a presentation regarding your master plan as well as the description of programs and activities at the Garden. Scenic Foothills Community Council appreciates the Alaska Botanical Garden as an important neighbor who provides educational and recreational opportunities for its residents. Please consider this a letter of support for your use as you explore funding options.

The ABG gardens, interpretive trails, programs and events offer Anchorage residents and tourists unique and important opportunities to learn about plants and the local environment. We appreciate the research opportunities and look forward to the day when the Botanical Garden is a key resource for our residents.

During the presentation, Ms. Huggins, described plans for adding a building and support facilities that could become a gathering center for the garden community as well as supporting potential economic activities related to plants. She mentioned educational opportunities and the need to manage the land with an on-site facility. A motion was made and seconded to support the Alaska Botanical Garden in these endeavors and was passed unanimously.

We wish you the best of luck.

Mark Hill
President
Scenic Foothills Community Council

Cathy Carte
Vice President
Scenic Foothills Community Council



We feed hungry kids in a safe community environment!

February 4, 2011

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is in support of the Alaska Botanical Garden's Capital Request.

The Alaska Botanical Gardens has provided an annual food drive for The Children's Lunchbox during their Harvest Day event when they harvest fresh produce for Bean's Café and Food Bank of Alaska. The Jr. Master Gardener's program is also a positive contribution to our community provided by Alaska Botanical Gardens.

Sincerely,

Becky Thompson

Becky Thompson
Chief Operating Officer

Healthy Bodies Feed Healthy Minds!

Your donation is tax deductible under identification #92-0072522

P.O. Box 101297 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104-B • Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 297-5625 • Fax (907) 569-8501 • www.thechildrenslunchbox.org • thechildrenslunchbox@alaska.net



Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

524 West Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2212 | Phone: 907.276.4118 | Fax: 907.278.5559 | [Explore Anchorage.net](http://ExploreAnchorage.net)

February 11, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) Board of Directors, I am writing to express support for Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG) in their request for \$750k in state capital funds for access and program improvements.

The mission of ACVB is to attract and serve Anchorage visitors and convention delegates. Our ability to achieve that mission is greatly enhanced through partnerships with member businesses such as the Alaska Botanical Garden, which provides visitors unique viewing opportunities of Alaska's natural beauty and northern landscape.

The Garden is located just south of Tudor Road near Chugach State Park and serves as a destination for thousands of local community members and visitors each year. ABG is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the beauty and value of plants through education, recreation and research. In doing so, ABG provides a valuable resource and attraction for Alaska's residents and visitors.

Botanical gardens are becoming increasingly popular and important attractions among travelers. In fact, many travelers are seeking destinations with new and unusual gardens with state of the art design and space use. ABG's Master Plan capitalizes on this trend presenting an opportunity to observe and experience a natural environment without leaving the city limits.

Your consideration and support is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Julie Saupe
President & CEO