DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Park and Recreation Board Presentation

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Sabina Carr
President/CEO

Amber Slayton
Chief Operating Officer

City of Dallas 2025 Annual Support

- Cash Investment
  - $411,000
- Utilities In-Kind Investment
  - $419,000
- Total = $830,000

Comparable Public Garden City Support

New York
$11M City support
$92M budget

Chicago
$12M City support
$63M budget

Denver
$6.6M City support
$37M budget

St. Louis
$12.5M City support
$40M budget

San Antonio
$1.2M City support
$10M budget

Fort Worth
$4.5M City support
$16M budget

MISSION

The Dallas Arboretum is a garden for all that enriches lives through beauty, learning, and connection.

VISION

A world-class sanctuary where people and plants flourish in the natural environment.

CORE VALUES

Our values define who we are, what we believe in, and how we engage with the community and one another. They guide our actions and interactions.

COMMUNITY

We cultivate connections with our community, embrace diverse perspectives, and foster a sense of belonging so that everyone feels valued and encouraged to connect with nature.

LEARNING

We provide opportunities for lifelong learning that inspire individuals to appreciate nature and care for the environment.

INNOVATION

We foster a culture of creative thinking that drives problem-solving and inspires growth.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are dedicated to climate adaptation and the responsible stewardship of natural and fiscal resources.

Community Investment 2025

$1.8M DABG Annual Investment

- City of Dallas Recreation Centers – 25,000 complimentary tickets
- Museums for All - 28,349 attendees
- City of Dallas Teen All Access Pass Program (TAAP) – 1,161 passes
- Civic Partners – 12,000 tickets/33 memberships
- $317,752 education financial aid

Community Access 2025

- Community Partnerships
  - Increased 20% since 2022
  - Added 68 NEW partners
- Education
  - 755 schools / 110 different districts
  - 102,000+ children served
- Visitor Profile
  - 54% non-white (59% DFW)
  - Average age 46 (45 DFW)
  - Market comp – Gen Z and Millennial
- Dallas Public Library
- Dallas College Cooks

Regional Economic Impact

$170M Annual Estimate

- #1 cultural attraction in Dallas
- #1 showcase display garden in U.S.
- #1 largest public garden in Texas
- #5 in U.S. by visitation
- #6 in U.S. by operating budget

Per Dallas Arboretum Economic Impact Study 2011, SMU. Adjusted for inflation.

Stewardship of Public Spaces

$1.5M+ Annual Investment

- $770,000 – Facilities investment
  - Structural maintenance, infrastructure repairs, etc.
- Capital improvements: $200k+
- $400,000 – Utilities

- **Future Initiatives**
  - Bond Projects
  - Master Plan
  - Garden Renovations

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Thank you!