



Visitor &
Education
Center

Monk
Botanical
Gardens

Capital
Campaign
2022-23

The Gardens have been growing for 20 years. Now it's time to build something for all seasons. With your help, an incredible transformation can begin.

Monk Botanical Gardens began with the Monk family's donation of land in 2003, followed by the dedication of hard-working volunteers who, over the years, transformed the property into a 30-acre botanical garden open to the public seven days a week. Today, with a full-time professional staff that has created events for all ages, more than 10,000 people visit every month during peak season for programs or to experience the beautiful botanical spaces.

But we know a fully fledged botanical garden attraction needs a year-round building facility. As one new visitor recently asked, "Isn't there one central gathering place or headquarters for the Gardens?"

The answer is no. That's why, after nearly 20 years, we are launching the first steps of a capital campaign to create a Visitor & Education Center that will finally provide indoor, all-season space for guests, staff, and year-round experiences that will make Monk Gardens an exciting new statewide destination in all seasons.

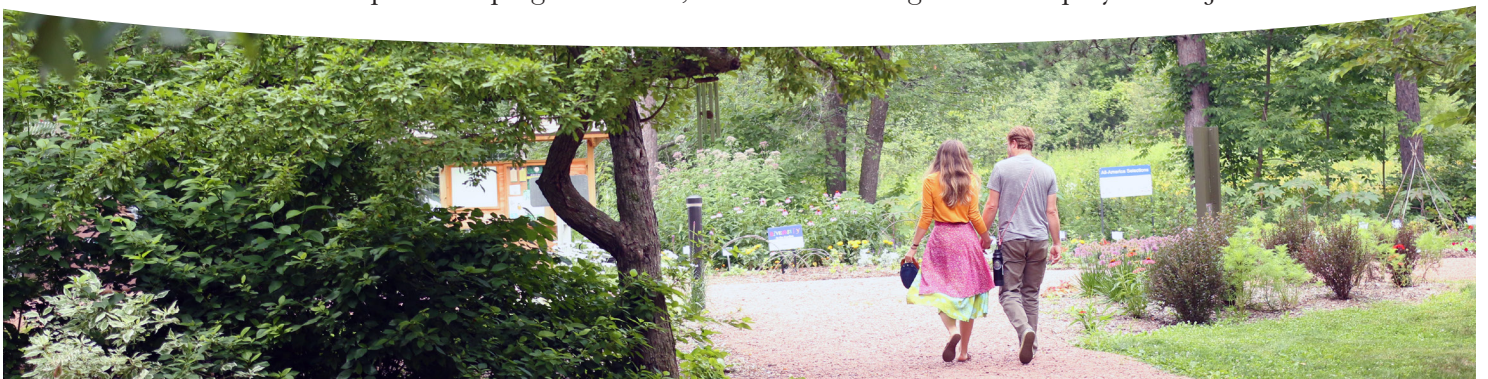
Since its 2005 Master Plan, the organization has engaged in a thorough process to develop a plan for the building and its operations, including a 2020 feasibility study – with feedback from many community leaders – to assess the readiness for a capital campaign. In 2021, we

raised \$180,000 for pre-campaign conceptual building design, marketing and organization preparedness. In 2022, J.H. Findorff & Son Inc, was hired as a project construction manager.

Most recently, after consultation with and support from the Dwight and Linda Davis Foundation—which is committed to being a partner and major investor in the entire project—the Monk Gardens Board decided to separate the project into three parts and move forward with Phase I. The designs and plans are in place, and could begin in spring 2023 with your support.

We are asking a select handful of leading donors like yourself to fund the \$4.2 million cost of Phase I that will complete the fundamental, necessary groundwork for the entire project. This includes site preparation, perimeter security, new garden features and other improvements that set the stage for the more public capital campaign of the building itself in Phase II and III (2026-2029).

Please read the details of Phase I on the next page. They are the critical first steps of a project that promises a transformational impact as a fresh, but enduring new economic development cornerstone for the entire Wausau region. We hope you will join us.





Proposed Site Plan
Monk Botanical Gardens | 08.23.2022

Phase I

The Kubala Washatko Architects 

The strategy is to establish fundamental infrastructure that accomplishes key goals: Increase revenue, continue the physical and organizational growth of the Gardens, increase the number and diversity of visitors, and make site improvements in preparation of the Phase II building construction.

1. Replace/install secure fencing around the 30 acres with a state-of-the-art security system. The fence will be attractive and functional along Fourth Avenue and Crabtree Drive where the public has easy access and visibility. Fencing along the remaining acreage will focus on functionality to deter deer and people. This security will allow:

- Special exhibits to create more revenue and visitation
- Installation of artwork and other valuable features
- A Ginseng Garden in partnership with Hsu's Ginseng

2. Establish a traditional-styled English Garden. This garden will provide a "wow" factor as people walk into the Gardens from the Visitor and Education Center, therefore it's important to give this garden time to grow and mature. It also will create a beautiful space for wedding ceremonies, helping to increase revenue to support the Gardens.

3. Install two more yurts. One will serve as a transitional all-season space for adult and youth programming. The other yurt will be dedicated to children, to increase our capacity for the popular Sprouts preschool program while providing a full-day preschool for families that need it.

4. Construct a gatehouse and parking lot. The gatehouse will provide enough space for two-three staff to collect entrance fees, check in members who enter for free, and communicate and interact with visitors while recording essential data to make strategic decisions. The gatehouse will have bathrooms for the public. We aim to make this

small building a net zero sustainable building. Installing the parking lot designed for the full plan will immediately improve the feasibility of large scale events, and provide vehicle/staging space during construction of the Visitor & Education Center.

5. Resurface established trails with a smooth, permeable substrate to improve accessibility for all ages and abilities.

7. Renovate the pond. This necessary site improvement will help manage water and runoff, as well as dramatically uplift the aesthetics of the Gardens.

Botanical gardens are a key attraction and proud feature of premiere communities around the U.S. They are treasured for adding a fresh, modern spin to an area's quality of life. In these delightful "living museums," design aesthetics intersect with nature, and visitors are treated to multi-sensory experiences unique to botanical gardens. So much is possible! Come out to the Gardens to see what's happening.

Please consider becoming a lead donor with a commitment to Phase I, which is scheduled to begin in spring 2023. We'd be happy to provide more details, meet with you, and arrange a guided tour of the gardens.

Contact Executive Director Darcie Howard:

Email: DHoward@monkgardens.org

Call: 715-261.6309 or 715-680-9485 (cell)

Find the Gardens gate on the northwest side of Wausau at 1800 N. First Ave. We'd love to see you there.