



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2025-30

Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Garden

Mission

We cultivate clematis and community.

Vision

Honoring our roots and taking new paths to advance a distinctive garden celebrating an exceptional collection of clematis.

About Us

The Rogerson Clematis Garden is located in Luscher Farm Park, a city park managed by the City of Lake Oswego, Oregon. It contains the most comprehensive collection of clematis within a public garden in North America. Started by Brewster Rogerson in 1971, the collection contains unique and exceptionally rare plants, as well as historic clematis and the newest hybrids. The Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection (FRCC) was formed in 2004 to ensure that Rogerson's amazing collection would be maintained and nurtured over time. Since 2005, the collection has grown from numerous plants in pots to a botanic garden with more than 2,400 individual clematis representing nearly 960 taxa. In 2018, the Rogerson Clematis Collection was awarded full accreditation in the Plant Collections Network, an initiative of the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cohort Project

The IDEA* Center for Public Gardens was launched in January 2022 as a partnership between Denver Botanic Gardens and the APGA. The Center offers a cohort program which is a one-year virtual experiential learning and community connecting initiative that empowers, educates, and builds support for public gardens to enrich their knowledge of IDEA principles and implement them in their organization. In July 2024, the FRCC IDEA Team, comprised of three Board members and one general member, joined the 2024/25 cohort session along with the Gardens of Golden Gate Park (San Francisco, CA) and Wing Haven (Charlotte, NC).

Each cohort team is required to develop a project for their respective organization. The FRCC IDEA Team decided that a community engagement plan was essential to increasing awareness of and participation in their garden and programs. During this time, the FRCC Board embarked on a strategic planning process. The community engagement plan developed by the IDEA Team was folded into the FRCC 2025-30 Strategic Plan. The FRCC IDEA Team will evolve into the Community Engagement Committee – a new standing committee of the organization that will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the Community Engagement Plan.

*IDEA

Inclusion: involves authentic and empowered participation and a true sense of belonging.

Diversity: recognizes, values, and embraces the uniqueness of each individual.

Equity: considers the specific needs or circumstances of a person/group and provides the types of resources needed to be successful.

Accessibility: makes information, activities, and environments meaningful and usable for as many people as possible.

GOAL

Create an inclusive garden culture to welcome, engage, and educate a wider community by collaborating with local and regional partners, removing barriers to access and participation in the garden and our programs, incorporating IDEA values and best practices, and providing a thriving and sustainable future for the organization.

Objective 1

Develop mutually beneficial relationships in the community.

- Partner with service organizations
- Partner with underrepresented people, groups, and organizations
- Co-host cultural and ethnically-specific events/tours
- Strengthen relationship with City of Lake Oswego and City of West Linn DEI offices
- Develop a relationship with the local Native American community
- Offer classes in the community (not just at the garden)
- Offer opportunities for partners to participate in FRCC as Board/committee members and instructors
- Offer resources to groups that need garden connections for peace, relaxation, and nature

Objective 2

Remove barriers to access and participation in the garden and FRCC programs.

- Assess current accessibility of garden and program spaces
- Work with City of Lake Oswego to ensure that the park and garden are ADA compliant
- Convene a panel of garden visitors with disabilities to discuss their experiences navigating the garden
- Ensure website is accessible
- Include site accessibility information in written/web materials
- Provide written/web materials in multiple languages
- Develop programs/tours for visitors who need accommodation
- Develop Sensory Map of the garden
- Improve access to the Antipodes Garden and the Modern Garden
- Provide QR codes for audio recordings/translations of interpretive signs

Objective 3

Educate FRCC Board, volunteers, contractors, and members about IDEA values, principles, and best practices.

- Research options for board/volunteer/contractor IDEA training
- Develop in-house IDEA training using resources from the IDEA Center
- Work with Nominating Committee to develop recruitment strategies to attract diverse board members
- Develop IDEA best practices manual
- Develop plan to inform and involve members regarding IDEA best practices

Objective 4

Build a culture of respect into all aspects of FRCC.

- Welcome, trust, value, and encourage volunteers
- Recognize and appreciate volunteers for their knowledge and expertise
- Develop leadership roles for garden/greenhouse volunteers
- Develop code of conduct for all interactions between contractors, volunteers, and visitors

Objective 5

Establish a standing Community Engagement Committee.

- Implement and monitor the Community Engagement Plan
- Meet quarterly and submit minutes to the Board
- Develop sub-committee for cultural events and special interest classes
- Recruit committee members from partner organizations