

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Kim Manajek, Gardens on Spring Creek Director
Eileen May, Director, Cultural Services

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 111, 2025, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves to Support the Gardens on Spring Creek Master Plan, Strategic Plan, and Interpretive Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on July 1, 2025, considers an appropriation of \$150,000 from Gardens on Spring Creek reserves to engage consultant(s) who will facilitate development of a Master Plan, Strategic Plan, and Interpretive Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

FIRST READING BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Gardens on Spring Creek was fortunate to have doubled its size in 2019. Unfortunately, this expansion was quickly followed by the Covid pandemic. The unprecedented disruption stalled growth and momentum. It is only recently that our “normal” state is coming into focus. This coincides with a change in leadership and an expiration of all of our planning documents. We are at the perfect moment in the history of our organization to reassess and redefine ourselves. Having lived with our newly expanded facility for about five years, we know that there are things that need to be addressed in order to maximize our potential and meet the demands of our visitors, such as accessibility improvements. To most effectively define work plans, budgets, and priorities, we need a revised Master Plan to create a road map for future capital improvements, a refreshed Strategic Plan to layout operational goals, and an Interpretive Plan to guide our messaging, curriculum development, and garden interpretation. Addressing all of these components as a single project will give us the ability to make efficient use of public input and take advantage of all the ways these plans will overlap.

In 2025, The Gardens completed an Organizational Assessment. The recommendations of this effort, based on benchmarking and stakeholder feedback, support these planning initiatives as a logical next step. In the face of softening sales tax / general fund revenues in the City, the fundamental goal with this investment is to define a future financially sustainable path for The Gardens.

The Gardens’ current unaudited, unrestricted 2024 year-end fund balance is \$607,731. With Council approval of this appropriation, Purchasing will issue an RFP for a competitive bidding process that will establish the actual expense.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

If adopted, this Ordinance will appropriate \$150,000 from reserves. This requires no subsidy from the General Fund.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading attachments available in July 1, 2025, agenda materials at the following link:
<https://fortcollins-co.municodemeetings.com/>.

1. Ordinance No. 111, 2025