



# CHEYENNE BOTANIC GARDENS

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## **CHILDREN'S GARDEN TO BE NAMED FOR PAUL SMITH**

The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens recently announced that the Children's Village (a.k.a children's garden) under construction at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens will be named for one of Cheyenne's most beloved citizens, the late Paul Smith. The Friends of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens foundation board named the new children's garden and science center "The Paul Smith Children's Village," to honor Paul Smith's decades of strong support to the Botanic Gardens.

"Paul's support was instrumental in getting us where we are today," said Botanic Gardens director Shane Smith. "He was the first sponsor of the Glass Art Celebration when the show started 28 years ago, assisted with numerous other events and fundraising. Paul also made a gift to the Children's Village posthumously."

Paul Smith was the longtime owner of the Hitching Post Inn. Supporters of the Gardens gathered last Monday evening to celebrate the announcement of the Paul Smith Children's Village. "For me, Paul and beauty are synonymous," said Ruthann Norris, longtime friend of Paul Smith during Monday's announcement at the Gardens. "I can't help but feel Paul's warm presence tonight as we honor him with this incredible children's garden. I know it will be a sanctuary that will forever hold his beautiful generosity, talents, and comforting spirit."

Construction of the \$1.7 million Paul Smith Children's Village is under way in Lions Park with an opening set for this summer. All funding for construction was raised privately over the past two years through the Friends of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Foundation. When completed, the garden will add an acre to the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens current 9 acres.

The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens operates under the Cheyenne Department of Parks and Recreation. A non-profit foundation, Friends of the Botanic Gardens, raises funds privately to build all new landscapes like the Paul Smith Children's Village. "This is an ideal public/private partnership that enables us to do things that normally would not be provided for in the city budget," said the Botanic Garden Director, Shane Smith. "We anticipate the Paul Smith Children's Village to double our overall attendance, and will be enjoyed by local residents and tourists alike."

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For information about the upcoming Children's Village, photos of the construction in progress and general information on events and activities happening at the Cheyenne Botanic Garden visit [www.botanic.org](http://www.botanic.org) or call Shane Smith (307) 637-6458.