

Bylaws
Of
UNL Garden Friends

ARTICLE One
Name and Location

The name of the support group for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Botanical Garden and Arboretum (known popularly as “The Garden”) shall be known as UNL GARDEN FRIENDS. The principal office of the UNL Garden Friends shall be located at 1309 North 17th Street, City of Lincoln, County of Lancaster, State of Nebraska.

ARTICLE TWO
Mission Statement

The mission of UNL Garden Friends shall be to support and enhance the beauty and usefulness of The Garden.

ARTICLE THREE
Goals

The primary goals of the UNL Garden Friends are to provide support, promotion and fundraising for The Garden. These goals shall be accomplished by working in several areas. The Garden Friends shall:

Support The Garden and its development as a significant part of UNL.

Serve as ambassadors for The Garden, raising awareness of its significance to the people of the State of Nebraska and creating a sense of ownership and participation.

Promote The Garden as a resource that contributes to the Mission of UNL as officially stated by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents (www.nebraska.edu).

Encourage use of The Garden by students and other citizens through outreach programs and literature, promoting The Garden as a resource for the people of Nebraska.

Enhance the educational experiences of visitors to The Garden by providing information (such as but not limited to newsletters, brochures, signage, websites, social media, tours and other outreach efforts) about the concepts behind The Garden and its collections.

Participate in fundraising for projects identified by The Garden Friends and other collaborative organizations.

Any monies raised shall be distributed to UNL BGA through Landscape Services to pay for plantings, projects, events or other activities that support UNL BGA and Landscape Services and comport with the goals of UNL Garden Friends.

(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE FOUR Membership

Membership is open without restriction to all interested persons who pay annual dues.

ARTICLE FIVE Board of Directors

Section One – General Responsibilities.

A Board of Directors shall manage the business and affairs of the organization.

Section Two – Number, Tenure and Qualifications.

The number of directors of the UNL Garden Friends shall be not less than seven (7) nor more than fifteen (15). New members to the Board of Directors shall be elected every other year at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. Terms will be staggered and approximately one third of the total number of directors will be replaced every other year. Terms will be three years and individual may serve two consecutive three-year terms. Board members must be dues-paying members of UNL Garden Friends.

Section Three– Orientation of all board members will consist of a review of history, duties, bylaws, and other information deemed as needed. This information may be shared in a regular meeting setting or a board retreat as officers see fit.

Section Four – Meetings.

An Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall convene by March 31 in Lincoln, Nebraska, at a site selected by the Board of Directors. The date of this public meeting will be announced on the Landscape Services/Garden Friends website at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Meetings of the board will be held as called by the board president at a site chosen by the Board. Meetings shall generally be held every-other-month but the schedule of January, March, May, July, September and November are goals.

Section Five – Quorum.

A simple majority of the number of directors serving will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section Six– Vacancies.

Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by an affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors through not less than a quorum of the Board of Directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

ARTICLE SIX Officers

Section One–Number, Election and Term of Office.

The officers of the group shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as

conveniently may be. New offices may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Any two offices may be held by the same person except the offices of President and Vice President, and President and Secretary. The term of office for each office shall be two years and each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.

Section Two– Removal.

Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by a majority of the Board of Directors whenever the best interests of the organization would be served.

Section Three – Vacancies.

A vacancy in an office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article 5, Section 6.

ARTICLE SEVEN Books and Records

This organization shall keep accurate and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers or other private persons except as voted by a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE EIGHT Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, in whole or in part, by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. It is recommended they be reviewed regularly to make certain these bylaws are a best fit for the current activities of the Garden Friends.

ARTICLE NINE Dissolution

If the Board of Directors decides to dissolve UNL Garden Friends, any assets left upon payment of debts shall be given to Account 1023350 (UNL Botanical Gardens Endowment) held by the University of Nebraska Foundation.

If this account is not longer valid, then upon dissolution of the organization, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the groups organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

Any remaining assets not disposed of shall be dispersed by the County Court of Lancaster County, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE TEN Dispersal of Monies

Monies shall be distributed in accordance with the goals outlined in Article 3 to the UNL Garden projects with board approval. The available amount will float with prevailing interest rates and needs so as to preserve principal as much as practical. The President may spend small amounts at his/her discretion for board-related needs, postage, printing, etc. without specific board approval.

Revised May 2015 (using May 2004 version).

Approved: Jill M. Tuckel, President

Date: 5-21-15