



Start Here: The Garden in Two Pages

Boulder already thinks it has everything. Here's what it's missing: a public botanical garden where the canyon meets the city.



Concept rendering: the Main Building and its butterfly roof.

What it is

Boulder Botanical Gardens is a community proposal for a public garden on the 7.8-acre site at 6th Street and Canyon Boulevard, today the Boulder County Justice Center. It would sit on Boulder Creek and the Creek Path, a few blocks from the Main Library and Pearl Street.

- **What gets built:** a Main Building with a butterfly roof, the Super Bloom event hall and cafe, a glass Conservatory, a Greenhouse Dome, a Live Music Lawn and stage, and alpine, meadow and wetland gardens. About three quarters of the land stays green, and a 1.7-acre creek buffer stays wild.
- **Who runs it:** the City would own the land; a nonprofit, Friends of Boulder Botanical Gardens, would run the garden, as Denver Botanic Gardens does on Denver city land.

Three reasons it's Boulder's biggest step forward in decades

1. **A new civic institution, not a renovation.** A permanent home for Boulder's art, music and science, open to everyone, all year.
2. **Sundance puts Boulder on the world stage.** The festival arrives January 21, 2027. A garden turns an eleven-day spike into a reason to come back every season.
3. **It pays its way, and other cities prove it.** Gardens in Madison, Columbus, Salt Lake City and Boothbay, Maine, return tens of millions of dollars a year to their regions.

The numbers at a glance

275K

Expected visits a year, base case, once fully built

\$8.5M

Annual operating budget, balanced at the base case

\$13–31M

Estimated yearly spending in Boulder's economy

\$78–114M

Capital cost, built in three phases over about ten years

All figures are planning estimates, to be tested by a feasibility study.

What about the Justice Center?

The Justice Center is not scheduled to move. The proposal offers the County a better option to study: a consolidated justice campus next to the County Jail on Airport Road, where courtrooms already operate. The garden asks for a conversation, not a building.

Steps from downtown

On the Creek Path, a short walk from the Main Library, Farmers Market, Dushanbe Teahouse and Pearl Street Mall.

Find the brief that fits you

2. Questions and Answers

For neighbors and anyone with a concern: parking, floods, cost, ownership.

4. The Economic and Tourism Case

For City Council, Visit Boulder, the Chamber and local businesses.

6. A Stage for Boulder

For Sundance, promoters, musicians, artists and festival partners.

3. A New Home for the Justice Center

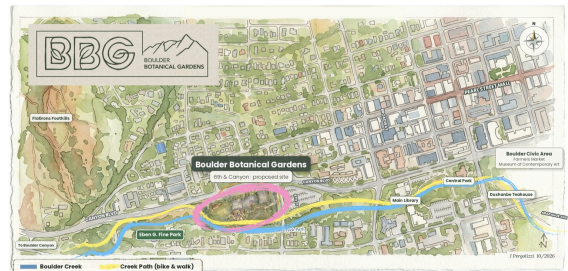
For the County, the courts and the District Attorney.

5. A Partnership with CU and NOAA

For researchers, faculty and students.

7. Ways to Give

For donors, foundations and sponsors.



Illustrated map of downtown Boulder by J. Pergolizzi, October 2026; not to scale.

THE ASK

Pick one brief, read it, and tell us what you think. Every question and idea helps shape the garden.

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