**Rose Roots Garden History**

**Timeline**

**2006:** Two residents of Five Parks, Gina Schley and John Chism started talking about a community garden as the community was being built. Community surveys supported the garden. The City hosted a community meeting with city landscape architects. Residents voted to support development of a community garden in Beeman Park in Five Parks. The City decided it would be better located in the 15 acre parcel east of Alkire St. Gina Schley and John Chism continued to advocate for the garden development with local citizens in “living room planning sessions”.

**2007:** After the garden advocates gave a presentation to the City at Majestic View Nature Center, the City Secured a $200,000 grant to develop “Hills at Standley Lake Park”. It was decided a portion of the park would be a garden and a portion would be a CSA. Parks Director Gordon Reusink and Senior Landscape Architect Mike Lee were great advocates for the park, garden and CSA development along with city council member Bob Dyer.

**2008:** It was decided Denver Urban Gardens would be the parent organization for the garden and they partnered with the City to draw up plans for the park and garden layout, including a walkway path, many trees, several orchards, and the CSA.

**2011:** The City graded the garden site, installed the water lines, pathways, and fencing. The garden advocates helped with landscaping and building the plot borders. Star Acres Farms started the CSA with Celia Adamec, in public programming at Denver Botanic Gardens and Jackie Raehl in Horticulture.

**2012:** Founding Year. The garden had a Harvest Square Dance to Celebrate! Our founder Gina’s gardening show “Urban Conversion” was bought by PBS and she was invited to Michelle Obama’s White House garden and got to meet the white house chef!

**2013**: First year of Food Donation to Arvada Food Bank.

**2014:**

**2015:** Wells Fargo Grant secured by Theresa McKinney to develop Barn.

**2016:** Barn built with many community donations and Theresa McKinney’s dedicated guidance.

Leadership Team

* President: JC
* Membership: Kristin Muery
* Finance: Krista Milholm
* Volunteer and Compost Lead: Karyn Bouhana
* Technology: Jason Anderson
* David Wagman – member at large, party year 2016

**2017:**

**2018:** Two shade pavilions built by the City

Leadership:

Treasurer: Karel Hemler

Membership: Kendra Eliason

Operations: Gary Williams, Jim Richards

Technology: Jason Anderson/Erin Newton built new Rose Roots Website.

**2019:** Jessie Standart with help from Nicole, Tyler and friends nurtured Pollinator Garden and added tags to distinguish native species.

Leadership-

Treasurer: Karel Hemler

Membership/Newsletter: Kendra Eliason

Operations: Gary Williams, Jim Richards

Communications/Website/Technology: Erin Newton

Food Donation: Theresa McKinney

**2020:** Gary and Jim led Crusher Fines projects, staked new weed cloth in community pathways, and had Wheelbarrow Brigade Work Parties to lay crusher fines. Three Music Performances, Cooking Class by Laura Bennett, four gardeners finished the Master Gardener program. Nicole Mcrorie led the Memorial efforts for mentor and Master Gardener Jessie Standart and placed bench and bird bath in Pollinator garden. 3,000 lbs of produce were donated to Veggie Van, Hope House and five families identified by police officer and gardener Stirling Boom as those in need of produce.

Leadership:

Treasurer: Karel Hemler

Membership: Kendra Eliason

New Member Orientations: Laura Bennett

Operations: Gary Williams, Jim Richards

Food Donations: Theresa McKinney and Geremi Boom

**2021:** Denver Urban Gardens offers more online resources and trainings! Replaced Hoses. Scheduled 4 Live Music Garden Performances, Movie Night and Trailer Night. New CSA Owners: Forever West Farms. First work day attracted 3

0+ gardeners who installed new hose hangers.

Leadership:

President: Erin Newton

Vice President: Patty Sacks

Treasurer: Karel Hemler

Administrator/New Member Orientations: Laura Bennett

Membership: Kendra Eliason

Food Donation: Theresa McKinney and John Malito

2022: Much anticipated Ten Year Garden Anniversary with 15,000 pounds of produce donated total!