

## Summary of Final Report

**Organization Name: Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation (HBGF)**

**Project Title: Native Plant Garden**

**Amount of Grant Award: \$40,000**

**Date of Final Report: March 5, 2007**

### **1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?**

The goal to construct the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden was achieved. Eighty-five percent of the work has been completed with the balance of the hardscape to be completed during the 2007 construction season

### **2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?**

HBGF signed a \$119,340 contract with Mercer Fraser Company for the construction of the hardscape features in the Native Plant Garden. Eighty-five percent of the hardscape work was completed, with the balance to be completed when the site is sufficiently dry to support equipment operations. Installation of plants commenced in the summer of 2006. A main water line connected to the Humboldt Community Service District was installed in January of 2007.

### **3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?**

The project goal was to establish and manage for perpetuity a botanical garden that is accessible to residents and visitors to Northwestern California. The objectives of the project are to provide a new educational institution for horticultural students of all ages, a center for botanical and horticultural research, a cultural and economic resource for the region, and an enjoyable leisure and recreational opportunity for residents and visitors.

The botanical garden will be accredited by the American Association of Museums. HBGF will employ a Horticulture Director/Curator who will guide the garden through its initial years of development as a horticultural research center. Projects will be developed that will expand the garden's scope and relationships with other national and international gardens.

According to data gathered by the American Public Garden Association (APGA), gardening is the fastest growing leisure industry in the United States. The HBGF will have a positive economic impact. To date, the HBGF has developed jobs and funding for 4 positions. With the opening of the garden, 3 additional full time positions are anticipated. In the fifth year of operation, 10 full time positions will have been created. An estimated 82 new indirect jobs are projects as a result of associated tourism in 2005, growing to 146 new jobs in 2010.

In addition, nurseries and garden related businesses have more opportunities to market their inventories when a botanical garden is present in the community. Botanical gardens provide inspiration and increase peoples' knowledge about gardening and garden design.

The garden will enhance our community by increasing the attractiveness of our area, providing a destination for tourists and a beautiful, peaceful setting for our local population to gather or hold events.

#### **4. How will you continue work started by this project?**

The HBGF is dedicated to completing the core gardens and features in the Humboldt Botanical Garden so that the garden can open to the public.