



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

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March 27, 2018

Parkland County Council
53109A Highway 779
Parkland County, AB
T7Z 1R1

Dear Parkland County Council Members,

A visionary idea is about to become an extraordinary reality! At the Aga Khan Garden, we are laying the foundation for economic success, as well as peace and harmony, in our communities.

On April 10, 2018, Dean Stan Blade (Faculty of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences) and Ralph Young (Co-Chair, Aga Khan Garden Pavilion Cabinet) will present to Council outlining the impact of the Aga Khan Garden on Parkland County:

- A projected doubling in attendance at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden from 75,000 to 160,000 annually;
- Increased capacity for school programs; building on the more than 17,000 children that attend Green School each year;
- Expanded public programming, including interpretive lectures, performances, and cultural exhibitions;
- Extended open season for the Garden to make best use of the outdoor and indoor spaces during the non-summer months.

The Aga Khan Garden will benefit Parkland County through increased tourism and quality of life. With a total project cost of \$5.25 million and \$2.4 million raised to date, the Pavilion is a signature facility bringing lasting economic benefit to the region. We welcome your deep involvement in the garden as our success depends on community partnerships, donors and friends. To that end, ***please will Parkland County consider a \$250,000 contribution to support the construction of the Pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden?*** We would be pleased to discuss a multi-year payment schedule, as well as space naming (commensurate contribution level) and engagement opportunities that align with County priorities.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Your leadership will directly support, as well as inspire, our efforts.

Sincerely,

Della Paradis
Senior Director, Faculty Development

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HELP OUR GARDEN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

THE PAVILION AT THE
AGA KHAN GARDEN, ALBERTA





A Space That Unites Us

Liam's eyes widen as he sees the brightly dressed wedding party walk by his Grade 6 class field trip to the Aga Khan Garden. He is curious — why do they look so different from anyone he has seen before? Later, at the garden's pavilion, he will find out more about them, their culture and the things he has in common. Years later, Liam will realize that this day opened his mind to new ideas and to the conviction that humanity must look after the planet and each other.

In an increasingly polarized world — where people are less willing than ever to understand someone else's perspective — a place of peace, love and understanding is needed.

Angry online rants, hateful protests and violent actions divide us. But rational, thoughtful conversation and empathy can unite us. More than ever, we need spaces that bring us together, that

promote peaceful interaction. We need places that reveal our common humanity and our shared fate.

At the Aga Khan Garden, we will build a connection to nature — and to the human spirit — at the same time as we build connections between people and cultures. We know that humanity's differences are a source of strength and that the values children learn today will be the ones they carry with them into adulthood.

We know that now, more than ever, we must teach our children that the wonder and beauty of nature can be found in all of us if we know how to look, how to listen and how to understand.

The Aga Khan Garden, Alberta

A tradition of peaceful inspiration

The Aga Khan Garden is a new feature at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden. It was made possible by a gift of more than \$25 million by His Highness the Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslim community.

The gift of a garden is a living symbol of the hope,



"The garden, a central element in Muslim culture ... is a symbol of a spiritual ideal — where human creativity and divine majesty are fused, where the ingenuity of humanity and the beauty of nature are productively connected. Islamic gardens are a place where the ephemeral meets the eternal, and where the eternal meets the hand of man."

— HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

peace and unity that come when people interact with each other amid the beauty and inspiration of nature. It is a reflection of the Aga Khan's belief in pluralism, openness and inclusion.

The Aga Khan, an Honorary Canadian Citizen, has made a number of significant investments in Canada, including the Aga Khan Museum and Park in Toronto and the Global Centre for Pluralism in Ottawa. The Ismaili community seeks to contribute to Canada's social fabric through programs that demonstrate the values of volunteerism, compassion, self-reliance and intellectual engagement.

The Aga Khan Garden is steeped in thousands of years of tradition yet, it is very much at home in its Alberta surroundings. Its presence opens up new perspectives on cultural traditions and our natural surroundings — perspectives that enrich us all.

A welcoming place

People of all backgrounds and all ages will be able to gather together at the Aga Khan Garden, a space of inclusion that counteracts calls for isolation and division. And, in the tradition of Islamic gardens, they will learn about our collective responsibility to steward

and protect the natural world.

With secluded forest paths, geometric water features that stream into wetlands, an open air amphitheatre and a spectacular orchard, the Aga Khan Garden will transform both the landscape and the perspective of visitors.

The Aga Khan Garden opens up new perspectives on cultural traditions and our natural surroundings — perspectives that enrich us all.

The Aga Khan Garden has been designed in the tradition of Islamic gardens but for the local environment and topography, incorporating local plants and the winter climate into the design and function, so as to make it both timeless and relevant to here and now.

Alberta on the World Stage

Islamic-style gardens have a history going back thousands of years. They surround iconic sites such as the Taj Mahal and Humayun's Tomb. And now Alberta will also be known as the site for a premier, history-making garden.

The Aga Khan Garden, Alberta joins a network of gardens built or restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in places around the world such as Cairo, Kabul and Delhi. It will be the largest such garden in North America and the northernmost in the world.

The profile of Alberta, and in particular the Edmonton region, will reach new and unprecedented heights with the addition of the Aga Khan Garden. People from around the globe are expected to be attracted to the province to visit the garden, more than doubling attendance at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden from 75,000 to 160,000 annually.



Award-winning visitor attraction, research site and home to year-round education programming for adults and children

Recognized with an Alberta Emerald Award for its outdoor environmental education programs, attended by more than 17,000 children per year

Part of a global network of botanic gardens designed to promote understanding and preserve biodiversity

Upgraded infrastructure made possible by provincial government investment will help accommodate up to 160,000 visitors annually

Home of the Kurimoto Garden and the Native Peoples Garden

Site of a diverse range of research projects, including oilsands and wetlands reclamation

Connect Children to Nature

Fewer and fewer children have the opportunity to observe, hear, smell and touch the natural world. (Not surprising when you consider that Canadians now spend 90 per cent of their time indoors.) Helping children make personal connections to nature is the essence of the University of Alberta Botanic Garden's award-winning Green School program.

At Green School, the great outdoors is the classroom. Children in Grades 4 to 8 get their hands dirty sifting through soil looking for bugs, listen to birds sing as they walk through the woods, and observe butterflies and other living creatures up close.

The program builds on a child's invaluable sense of wonder. Immersed in the natural world for five consecutive days, the children become part of nature rather than apart from it. An appreciation of the natural world, and their relationship to it, leads to children understanding the importance of conservation, biodiversity and our common humanity. Green School sows the seeds that benefit participants and our planet for years to come.

Green School is just one of several popular environmental education programs that will benefit from the addition of the pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden. This signature building will be a central hub for respite from bad weather as well as a quiet space for reflection and workshops. The additional indoor space will enhance education programs and make it possible for more schoolchildren to participate.





The Pavilion: A Critical Component

A place for peace

The pavilion is critical, both esthetically and functionally, to achieving the vision for the Aga Khan Garden at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden.

With broad windows offering sweeping views of its spectacular surroundings, the building will be a warm and welcoming gathering place, a key focal point for visitors, and the place where cultural interaction and understanding is fostered and taught.

The pavilion will concentrate and intensify the experience of the garden. It will culminate the journey for anyone who may have wandered, and wondered, about the garden without yet coming to a full realization of its significance.

Essential to growth

The pavilion will provide much-needed indoor space at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden and is essential to expanding and enhancing public programming. The intimate pavilion space,

surrounded by a tranquil garden, will be an ideal venue for university and public lectures, presentations and exhibits, expanding the Botanic Garden's benefit to students, professors and the broader community.

The revenue generated through special events and private rentals will also help the Botanic Garden sustain and enhance its offerings. The pavilion's key benefits include:

WEATHERPROOF VENUE

A backup for inclement weather is essential to increasing the number of events held at the Botanic Garden. The certainty of knowing the show will go on regardless of the weather is needed to drive ticket sales and avoid cancellation costs. A concert at the outdoor amphitheatre can be transformed into an indoor concert at the pavilion in the face of a summer rain or cold snap.

A weatherproof alternative venue is also key to increasing the number of private events, such as weddings, held at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden. Organizers need to be confident the backup indoor venue will provide as beautiful a backdrop as the outdoor one.



Photo Credit: Phil Musani

The ensemble *New Sounds from Arab Lands* performs at the *I am a Bird from Heaven's Garden* concert held at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden. Public programs at the Aga Khan Garden will help visitors learn about Islamic traditions, music and poetry.

MORE CAPACITY FOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Today's children are the future stewards of our planet. Each year more than 17,000 children connect with nature at the Botanic Garden. Their educational experience will be enhanced with the addition of the pavilion. It will be the perfect space for workshops as well as providing covered space for weather respite and lunch breaks. The opening of the pavilion will also allow more school groups to take advantage of this amazing outdoor classroom.

Garden during the non-summer months, a time when it is usually closed.

DESIRABLE RENTAL SPACE

The pavilion, set in a beautiful garden setting, will attract organizers seeking an inspiring space for meetings, seminars and workshops, increasing revenues from this rental market.

The pavilion is critical, both esthetically and functionally

EXTENDING THE SEASON

The Aga Khan Garden was intentionally designed to be beautiful in all four seasons. The pavilion's indoor space will allow the University of Alberta Botanic Garden to take full advantage of opportunities to expand program offerings and use of the Botanic



Make the Vision a Reality

To build the pavilion and thereby elevate the importance, use and impact of the Aga Khan Garden requires a philanthropic investment of \$5.25 million.

With construction of the Aga Khan Garden underway, there is an urgency to confirm community support for the pavilion. We are seeking philanthropic support immediately so the planning of this signature building can start right away, as construction on the Aga Khan Garden proceeds.

Since being established in 1959 with a donation of land, the University of Alberta Botanic Garden has grown and flourished with community support.

Now, we are asking those who share our belief in the importance of nature and in the need to look after our planet and each other to join us in creating a space where those values can be passed on to future generations.

Aga Khan Garden, Pavilion Cabinet

THE HONOURABLE A. ANNE MCLELLAN, PC, OC, AOE
(Co-Chair, Pavilion Cabinet)

CHANCELLOR EMERITUS RALPH YOUNG, (Co-Chair,
Pavilion Cabinet)

DR. KARIM DAMJI, Chair, Department of Ophthalmology &
Visual Sciences, UAlberta

ERIC NEWELL, OC, AOE, Chancellor Emeritus

ROD SHAIGEC, Mayor, Parkland County

YASMIN JIVRAJ, Community Volunteer

ELEXIS SCHLOSS, CM, Community Volunteer

ARIF KARMALI, Aga Khan Council for Edmonton

DR. STANFORD BLADE, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural,
Life & Environmental Sciences, UAlberta

DELLA PARADIS, Senior Director, Office of Advancement,
UAlberta

BEN MCISAAC, Associate Vice-President, Office of
Advancement, UAlberta

AGA KHAN GARDEN, ALBERTA

Joins a network of Islamic gardens
built or restored around the globe by the
Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Expected to increase attendance at the
University of Alberta Botanic Garden from
about 75,000 to 160,000 annually

Largest Islamic garden in North America
and the northernmost in the world

4.8 hectares (six Canadian football fields) in size

An interpretative program will help visitors
understand the featured plants, art and design
of the garden, as well as Islamic
traditions, music and poetry

Scheduled to be completed in Spring 2018
Pavilion to open late 2019 (tentative)

To make a donation or for more information, please contact:

Della Paradis

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University of Alberta
780-492-7537 | della.paradis@ualberta.ca

To see videos and illustrations: uab.ca/akg

To donate online: uab.ca/pavilion

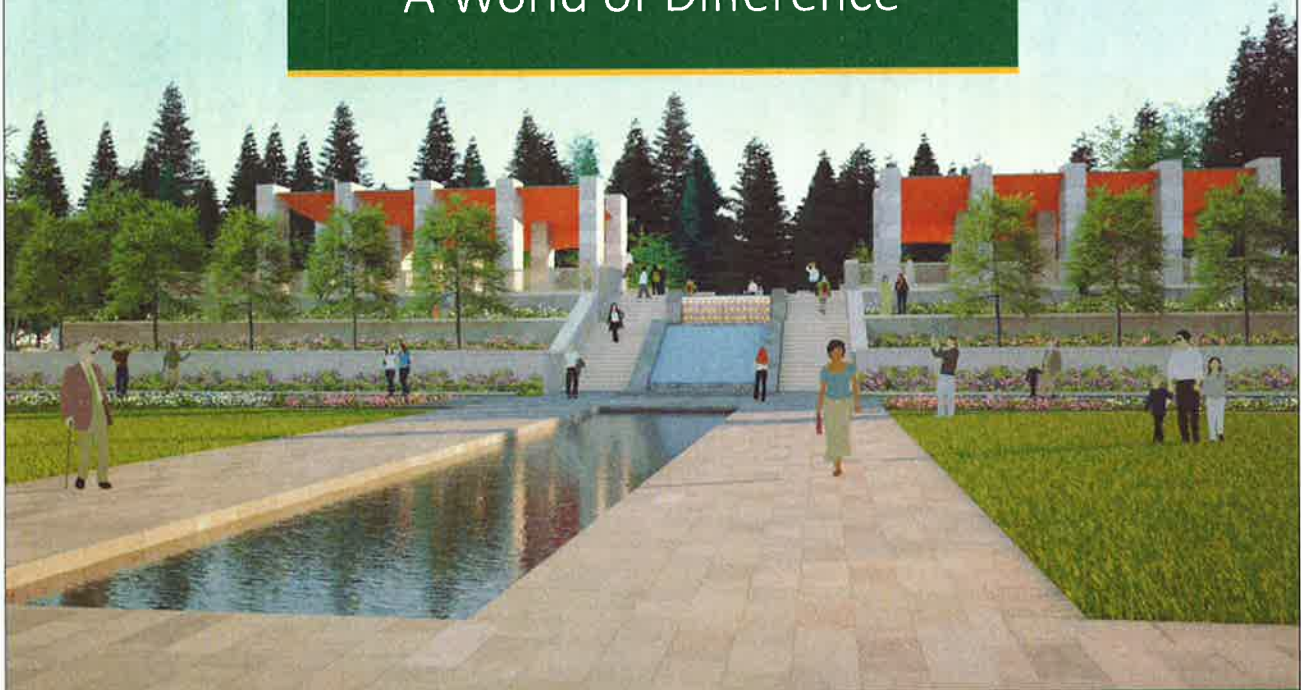


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BOTANIC
GARDEN

Help Our Garden Make A World of Difference



The Aga Khan Garden



Tourism Recreation Education Research



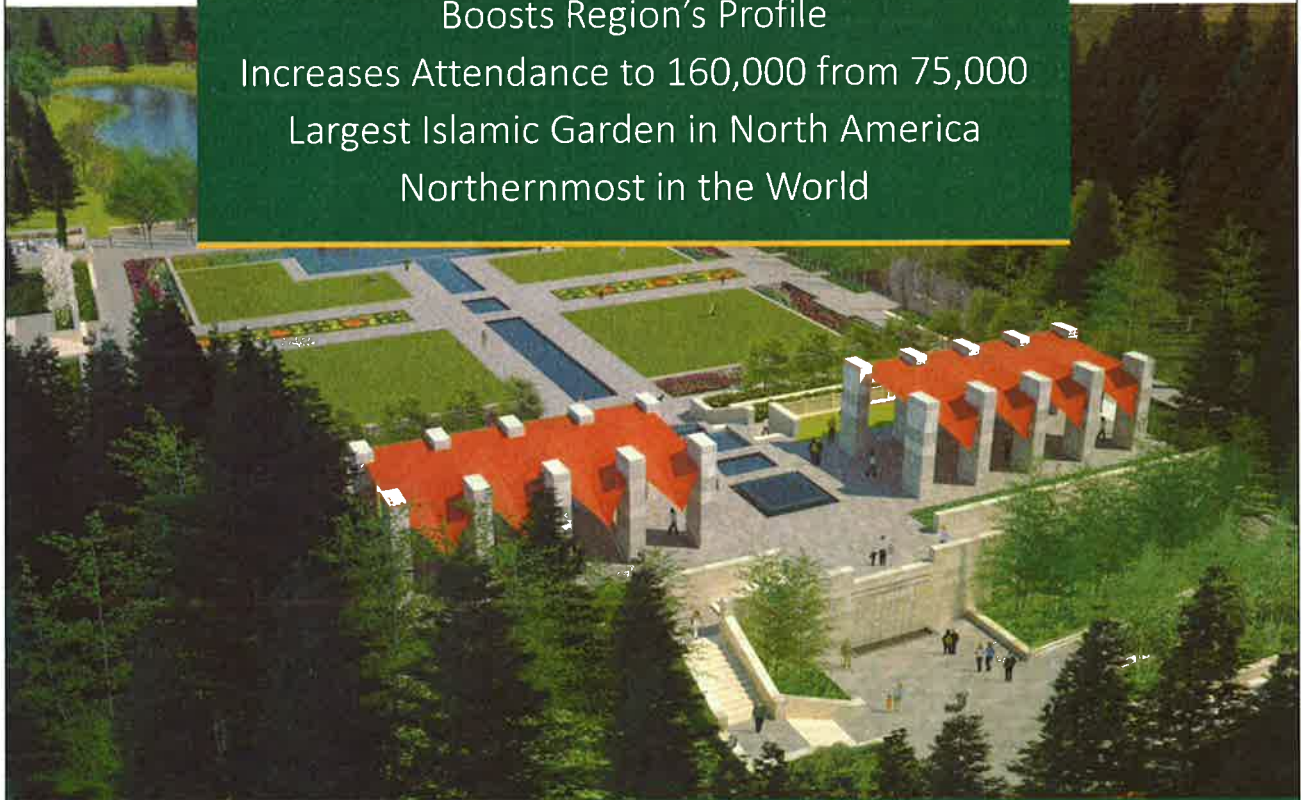


The Aga Khan Garden



The Aga Khan Garden

Boosts Region's Profile
Increases Attendance to 160,000 from 75,000
Largest Islamic Garden in North America
Northernmost in the World



The Aga Khan Garden



The Aga Khan Garden opens up new perspectives on our cultural traditions and our natural surroundings – perspectives that enrich us all.

The Aga Khan Garden



The Pavilion: A Critical Component

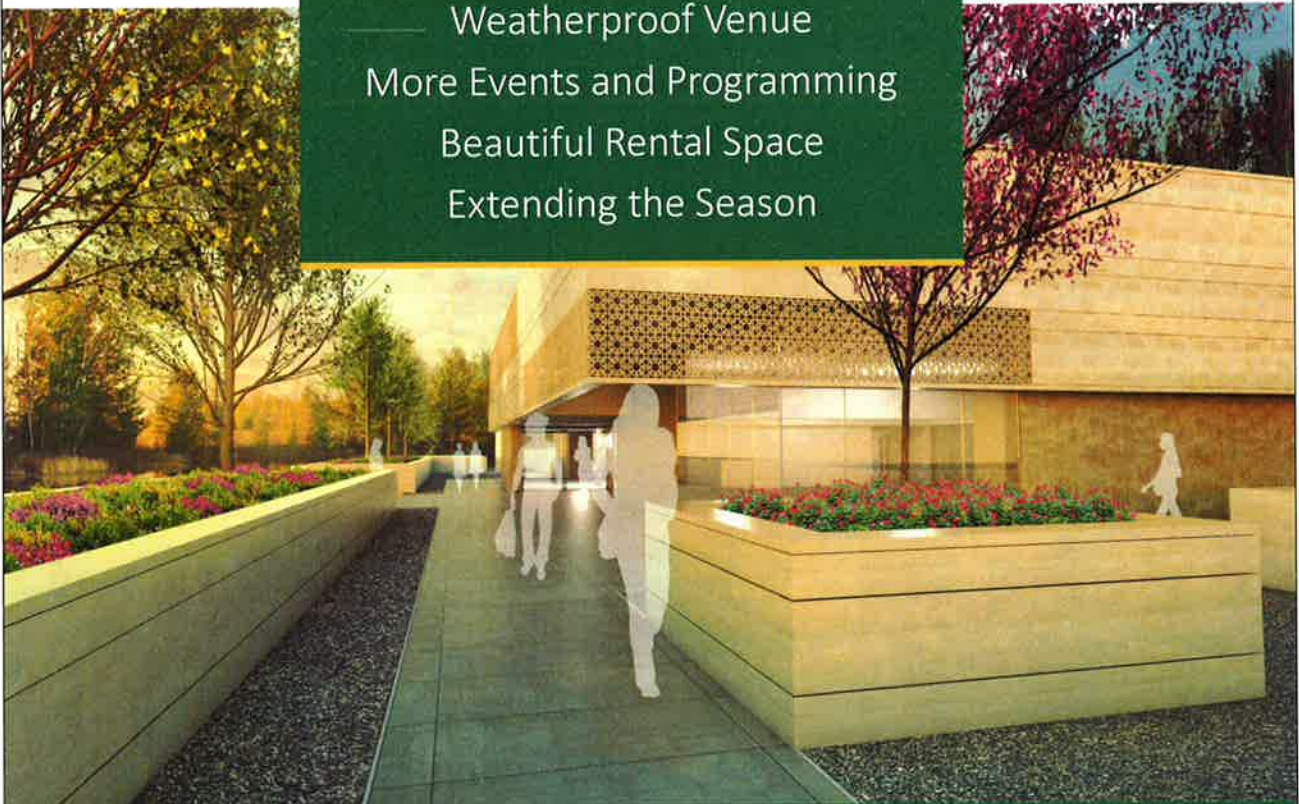


The Pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden | CONCEPT IMAGE



The Pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden | CONCEPT IMAGE





Weatherproof Venue
More Events and Programming
Beautiful Rental Space
Extending the Season

The Pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden | CONCEPT IMAGE



Goal: \$5.25M

Contributions from diverse communities,
including Ismaili

Lead Gift: \$1M (anonymous donor)

Total Commitments to Date: \$2.4M



The Pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden | CONCEPT IMAGE





The Pavilion at the Aga Khan Garden

