

NYBG

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS BY PLANTING ONE MILLION DAFFODILS

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In honor of NYBG's 125th Anniversary, we are planting 1,000,000 daffodils. We began the dramatic expansion of the historic *Narcissus* plantings at Daffodil Hill by planting 150,000 bulbs in October 2015. Over the course of several years, one million new bulbs will be added to the landscape to create New York's most extensive display of daffodils—a stunning four-acre floral spectacle that will herald the arrival of spring at the Garden each year.

The new plantings will enhance and complement the existing plantings at Daffodil Hill, which date from the 1920s and include heirloom varieties no longer available in the nursery trade. Working closely with renowned bulb expert Brent Heath, Senior Curator Kristin Schleiter and landscape architect Shavaun Towers have developed an elegant design that features large masses of daffodils that naturalize well in our climate and soils. Towers has designed a network of grass paths that navigate the site's varied topography and pass through fields of flowers that extend as far as the eye can see. Gathering areas set within the daffodils will provide the perfect opportunity for picnics and the ideal setting for photographs.

Planning and design for the project began in early 2014. Staff measured soil depth and surveyed existing daffodil masses, tree canopies and root zones, and rock outcrops to determine the best planting locations. Schleiter and Towers examined the colors, heights, and flowering times of the historic daffodils on the site to ensure that the new bulbs will blend harmoniously with the established plantings. The varieties they have chosen are predominantly mid-to-late season white and soft-yellow forms that will provide an elegant and extended display of flowers. The new plantings will feature the work of William Pannill, the dean of amateur American daffodil hybridizers. Pannill introductions 'Intrigue', 'Sailboat', 'Toto', and 'Chromacolor' will be included along with winners of the American Daffodil Society's William G. Pannill Award.

The cycle of fall plantings will continue over the next several years in increments of approximately 150,000 bulbs each year until the goal of planting 1,000,000 daffodils is reached. When complete, the sea of daffodils will extend from Daffodil Hill into the groves of flowering crabapples and stands of mature conifers on the surrounding hillsides.

The planting of the daffodils is a collaborative celebration of NYBG's commitment to its community. Local school and community groups and Garden Members and volunteers will work alongside Garden horticulturists each fall to plant masses of thousands of bulbs. Some will be planted by hand while others will be planted using a special bulb-planting machine developed in Holland.

In April 2017 we are celebrating the second annual Daffodil Weekend. Over the years, this festival will grow as the plantings expand and mature. For decades to come, the flowering of the daffodils in April will be a reminder of the Garden's history, its commitment to horticultural excellence, and the unparalleled beauty of its landscape.

