

Billings' DanWalt Gardens sold to local couple

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Billings, MT – The DanWalt Gardens, a popular local garden and wedding venue has been sold to Clint and Suri Lunde. The new owners plan to continue the functions of the Gardens as a visitor attraction, wedding ceremony and reception setting and private event location, as it has for 25 years, with appropriate improvements and enhancements.

Original owners, Dan Jellison and Walt Williams, put the Gardens on the market in November last year. After vetting a number of offers, they decided the Lundes are a good fit for the Gardens. Dan and Walt's new venture is developing a 22-acre residential property.

Clint and Suri previously owned the Heights UPS Store for 14 years. Clint was looking for a new venture when he serendipitously discovered the Gardens were for sale. Clint and Suri have been learning the ropes of the Gardens since last summer: managing various events and working on the plants, fences, lighting and buildings within the Gardens.

The Lundes firmly believe gardens are the essence of the DanWalt gardens wedding and event business because without the gardens, the venue is just another basic event location. They see the gardens as a testimony of Dan's and Walt's dedication – a long-term project requiring consistency of care over a long period. They intent to continue the legacy and evolve naturally and organically.

The Gardens started as Dan and Walt's backyard project bloomed into Billings' most beautiful garden and eventually a preferred venue for wedding ceremonies and receptions. Located close to the highway, hotels, restaurants and Downtown Billings, the Gardens provide a uniquely stunning setting and tranquil space for special events. Secluded by nature, the Gardens have changed throughout the years with land expansion, development of many planting areas, and the additions of an indoor event pavilion, a service kitchen and a tiki bar.

The Gardens hosted 37 weddings and events in the summer of 2017. The Gardens have a number of weddings and receptions already booked for next summer. The Lundes will continue to host summer weddings and events and hope to expand into winter events. Future plans include expansion of the indoor event pavilion and renovation of the bridal suite. They intend to accommodate more corporate workshops and training. Gardens improvements will include a waterfall and bigger pond area and a new greenhouse.

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