



Mary Ellen Connelly

Director since 2011

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Director Connelly holds a degree in Microbiology from Colorado State University (1967). She owned Perennial Passion, a landscape design and plant nursery, from the late 1980s through 2005.

She was the Sioux Falls League of Women Voters water chairperson in the 1980s and subsequently served on an ad hoc Sioux Falls Water Board, a Sioux Falls Planning Department Landscape Ordinance Study Group, and a City Sustainability Study.

Special awards Mary Ellen has received include South Dakota Horticulture Society's John Robertson Award for contribution to state horticulture, the Sioux Falls Mayor's Beautification Award for horticulture advocacy and various landscape awards. In 2002, she published a perennial plant book, *How Our Garden Grows* and has written garden related articles for periodicals. She has been a Master Gardener for many years.

Besides EDWDD, Mary Ellen is currently active with the Terrace Park Japanese Garden Committee, Sioux Falls Beautiful, Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, and Friends of the Big Sioux River. She enjoys gardening, sewing, writing, and painting. She and her husband, Paul, are blessed with five children and ten grandchildren.