

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to Complete  
Self-Sustaining Irrigation System by Year End**

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – November 28, 2012* - Both beauty and brains define the building of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden on 460 acres just 20 minutes west of Pittsburgh. In addition to the splendor of 18 world-class thematic gardens, the Garden will have an intelligent rainwater system that will provide for future irrigation needs.

At the center of the property the Garden has an innovative reclamation project in progress to eliminate abandoned coal mines that date back to 1925. Clean water to irrigate the future garden will result from eliminating the acid mine drainage that is produced by these abandoned mines. The reclamation project will leave clean water for the future Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

The reclamation includes creation of three irrigation ponds, supplemented by a 400,000-gallon underground cistern. All three ponds are now filled with water. Minnows and crappies were introduced into one and a second pond feeds the Garden's tree nursery via a solar powered pump. Ground breaking for the cistern was in November and it will be completed by year end.

In total, the system will provide over two million gallons of rainwater a year. The Garden's President Greg Nace points out, "Even with a dry summer like the one we had this year, our water system will ensure the Garden is properly irrigated without the significant expense of bringing in municipal water."

This is just one of the investments to make the garden sustainable and mimic natural systems. Building of the \$510,000 underground cistern is possible through a PENNVEST grant. PENNVEST serves Pennsylvania by administering money throughout the Commonwealth from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to pay for capital projects that improve water quality. Engineered Concrete Systems is responsible for the cistern project. This link shows an example of the type of cistern being built in the Garden:

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X87Xyzk3m74>**

Although the ponds and underground cistern are not available to the public due to the reclamation work, guided, behind-the-scenes tours are available to the public and allow visitors to enjoy the recently opened Woodlands of the World and learn about the Garden's plans. Reservations are required and tours can be customized for groups with special needs or interests. Visit our website for more information:  
[www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org](http://www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org).

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden's mission is to inspire people to grow through immersion in a world of natural outdoor wonder to nourish mind, body and spirit. When completed the Garden will be comprised of:

- 18 distinct gardens
- five diverse woodland experiences
- a visitor's center
- an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and performances
- a celebration center to accommodate outdoor or indoor weddings and corporate events
- a center for botanic research.

The creation of the Garden demonstrates responsible environmental stewardship of the land and an outdoor venue to teach children to appreciate, respect and protect the beauty of our environment, preserving it for future generations.

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