

**News Release: For immediate release**

**Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield advances outdoor exercise at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden**

**Pittsburgh, PA** - A generous grant from corporate giving at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Pittsburgh, is supporting steady progress on the new Botanic Garden's Dogwood Meadow. The eight-acre meadow, with hundreds of native wildflowers and flowering dogwoods, will be the site for healthy walks, family and group gatherings and educational programs related to horticulture, botany and nature. Located just above the new welcome center, the Meadow will provide visitors with convenient access to restrooms and other amenities.

According to Evan S. Frazier, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs of Highmark Health, "Highmark is proud to support the new Pittsburgh Botanic Garden as it comes to life. It will provide a welcomed, new outdoor venue where Western Pennsylvanians can gather, exercise, learn and enjoy the many health and wellness benefits of nature."

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, carved out of the lower third of Settlers Cabin Park by Allegheny County, will open the Dogwood Meadow, the nearby Woodlands of the World Garden and the Pioneer Homestead entrance area this summer. The Botanic Garden already hosts tours of the beautiful meadow, sharing the beauty of the outdoors with interested visitors and walking groups.



*The Dogwood Meadow beckons to visitors.*

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is the region's first outdoor comprehensive botanic garden and the first one in the US to be built on reclaimed coal mining land. It covers 460 acres in North Fayette Township and Collier Township, 20 minutes west of downtown Pittsburgh.

In recognition of Highmark's contribution to the Dogwood Meadow, the meadow's rustic, new gazebo -- built of local materials such as Eastern white cedar-- will bear Highmark's name. Greg Nace, President of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, expressed his gratitude. "We are deeply grateful to Highmark for its community outreach and support. We look forward to welcoming all of the people of the region to the Garden so that they can enjoy the rich, open meadow and the adjoining Woodlands."



*The Glastonbury Hills Country Club gazebo serves as a model for the Botanic Garden.*

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