

Eden Hall Foundation Grant Accelerates Pittsburgh Botanic Garden Opening

Source: Kitty Vagley

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania -November 1, 2011 -The Eden Hall Foundation has awarded the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden a grant to support renovations to create a new public entrance and welcome center for the Garden, now anticipated to open in Fall 2012.

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – November 1, 2011 - The Eden Hall Foundation has awarded the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden a grant to support renovations to create a new public entrance and welcome center for the Garden, now anticipated to open in Fall 2012. Eden Hall’s executive director Sylvia Fields said, “We are pleased to support the creation of this Garden which will promote healthy, family-oriented opportunities to appreciate the outdoors and educate people of all ages regarding the stewardship of their environment.”

The Eden Hall grant will be used to renovate facilities that will support the entrance to the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden (PBG), which sits on 452 acres near Settlers’ Cabin Park, 20 minutes west of downtown Pittsburgh. A 156 year old barn will be converted into a Welcome Center, capable of hosting events for 200-250 attendees. A farmhouse will be converted into PBG offices and adjoining property will be used for parking.

The first portion of the Botanic Garden to open will include the Woodland and Wildflower Trail currently under development. The Trail will showcase native species, restore the native habitat and promote biodiversity. The Trail will eventually be ADA accessible and portions will have features designed for children’s play.

“We deeply appreciate the Foundation’s confidence in the Botanic Garden’s future and their endorsement of our vision to build a world class botanical garden in Western Pennsylvania,” said the Botanic Garden President Greg Nace. Research conducted by Tripp Umbach and Associates, in comparing it to botanic gardens in similarly sized cities, estimates that it will attract millions of visitors and conservatively anticipates it will be an economic engine for the region. The research suggests the Garden can create 1,200 new jobs and as much as \$88 million in revenue within 10 years of operation.

Eden Hall Foundation is a private foundation established pursuant to the will of Sebastian Mueller, a Pittsburgh philanthropist and vice president and director of the H. J. Heinz Company. During his lifetime, Mr. Mueller gave substantial support to improve conditions of the poor and disadvantaged, the promotion of sound education, and the support of health facilities and projects. Today, the trustees of Eden Hall Foundation continue his stewardship in the areas of social welfare, health, education and the arts.

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden will be comprised of 18 thematically distinct gardens, 5 diverse woodland experiences, a larger visitor's center, an amphitheatre for outdoor concerts and performances, a celebration center to accommodate large outdoor or indoor weddings and corporate events, and 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. For more information about the supporting the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, visit www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.

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Alternative Quotes:

Sylvia Fields, Eden Hall's executive director said, "Creation of a Botanic Garden in our region will promote healthy, outdoor activity and educate people of all ages to value our environment, now and for generations to come."

"We are pleased to support the creation of this Garden which will inspire and educate people of all ages regarding the stewardship of their environment," said Sylvia Fields, Eden Hall's executive director.

Category	Education, Environment, Non-profit
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