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The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden grows to 460 acres

January 11 - The Allegheny County Council approved a lease amendment for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. The County will lease an additional six acres to the Botanic Garden, ceding the property from Settlers Cabin Park.

The property lies along Pinkerton Run Road in Collier Township. This land has some historical importance. One of the original owners of the site fought in the Revolutionary War and was later imprisoned and tried for his role in the Whiskey Rebellion. The Walker and Ewing families became prominent citizens of the area.

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden requested the additional leased property to create public access to its first garden, the Woodland Gardens of the World which are under development. The new lease gives the Botanic Garden use of a turn of the century barn which will be converted to the Bayer Welcome Center. The Botanic Garden will also renovate the 1855 house into its administrative offices.

Indovina Architects have been working on the renovation plans and Melissa Marshall of MTR will design the surrounding gardens. The gardens include a tent lawn, a wedding garden and an herb garden. An ancient apple orchard near the house will be restored as well.

Funding is in place to start construction in June, 2012, due to a generous \$1 million grant from Eden Hall, a gift from the Josh and Farley Whetzel Family and a \$5 million RACP matching state grant.

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden expects to open the Woodland Garden trails this fall. The buildings and surrounding gardens will be completed in 2013.