

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to Open to Public This September

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – July 6, 2012 – On September 13, 2012, The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden will unveil public *Peek and Preview* Tours on its 460-acre property near Settlers' Cabin Park, 20 minutes west of downtown Pittsburgh. The guided tours will enable the public to visit the Garden for the first time, concurrent with construction of the Bayer Welcome Center and the inaugural portion of the Garden, the Woodland and Wildflower Trail. The Welcome Center will be finished in February 2013, and the official opening of the Woodlands Trail is planned for early Summer of 2013.

Access to the public was greatly accelerated thanks to Allegheny County Council's agreement in January to lease 6 more acres to the Garden to create an entrance at the northern portion of the site. The Garden's Master Plan calls for 18 thematic gardens and an entrance from Noblestown Road. However, that portion of the site is undergoing a complete reclamation process and is not yet accessible. When the process is completed, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden will be the only botanic garden in the U.S. built on reclaimed land.

A groundbreaking on July 25 will celebrate the start of renovation of a 142-year-old barn that will be converted to the Welcome Center. The Center will be capable of hosting events for 200-250 attendees starting in Summer, 2013. Reservations for private events including weddings can be made beginning this November.

The Woodland Trail has three miles of walking paths and will feature five distinct areas – the Appalachian, English, Eastern European, Asian and a Cove Forest. The Trail will showcase temperate forest species, restore the native habitat and promote biodiversity. Eventually, the Trail will have nine "Family Moments" play areas designed to foster children's interest in nature. Two will be open this September while the rest will be built over time.

The public *Peek and Preview* Tours throughout the Fall and Winter will enable visitors to enjoy the Woodlands and to learn about the future of the Garden. Reservations will be required. Tours can be scheduled now for groups and customized for specific ages, including children, and for special interests such as bird watching. Visit the Garden's website for more information:
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. The Garden will be comprised of 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences, an enhanced visitor's center, an amphitheater 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 supporting the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, visit
www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.

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