



For Immediate Release

January 19, 2022

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Memphis Botanic Garden Announces Next Campus Modernization Projects

Woodland and Water Garden transformations to begin in spring

The Board of Directors of the Memphis Botanic Garden has approved the next two projects in the Garden's campus-wide modernization, with both set to commence in the spring.

The northern section of the *Woodland Garden* is set to become the Garden's premier showplace of *Native Plants*. Additionally, improvements are being made to better connect Sara's Place (event venue) with the Woodland, to include a new boardwalk, stone pathway, seating, and a scenic overlook. A new sculpture installation will also be part of these improvements. Michael D. Allen, Executive Director of the Memphis Botanic Garden commented, "We are thrilled to undertake activities in this one-acre space. Guests who are out walking within the Woodland are going to be able to walk deeper into this part of the Garden and experience it in a new way. Similarly, guests who are attending an event in Sara's Place will now be able to easily walk out into the Woodland day or night to better experience the natural wonders of the Memphis Botanic Garden." Dalhoff Thomas design studio of East Memphis is leading the design effort for this project.

In addition, the *Water Garden*, first gifted by the Memphis Garden Club in 1965, and largely untouched since then, is going to get a complete makeover. When complete, this space will become accessible to the public during all operating hours. It will feature a water feature, new public art piece, seating for quiet reflection, and all new plantings. It will also be able to convert to an income generating – small event or pre-event space. "With its proximity to our Goldsmith Room (event venue), we see this area becoming an interesting, intimate space for cocktail receptions and more," said Allen. Blair Parker Design is the Landscape Architect and Grinder Taber Grinder, General Contractors will handle the build out.

"These two initiatives are the 13th and 14th projects undertaken as part of a \$6 million-plus reinvestment in the Memphis Botanic Garden first begun in 2019. We anticipate both spaces will be completed and available to our guests during the summer of 2022," said Allen.

The Memphis Botanic Garden is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 225,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment. #