

For Immediate Release



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Memphis Botanic Garden Breaks Ground on a Grand New Welcome

Entry Courtyard Refresh Begins September 29, 2025

Memphis, TN, September 22, 2025 — The **Memphis Botanic Garden** is ushering in a new chapter of beauty and accessibility with the groundbreaking of its **Entry Courtyard** project on September 29, 2025. Anticipated to open in late November 2025, this long-awaited refresh reimagines the decades-old entry-cape into a lush, welcoming destination that sets the tone for all 96 acres of the Garden.

The re-envisioned courtyard will feature:

- **Lush new plantings** - from the native Oak canopy and White Red Buds to the sculptural Blue Atlas Cedar, Umbrella Magnolia, and Claudia Wanamaker Southern Magnolia. Shrubs and accents such as azaleas, dwarf palmettos, and needle palms will layer texture and color, while ferns, mondo grass, liriopse, and leopard plants add a living carpet beneath.
- **Seasonal brilliance** - ample spaces designed for rotating displays of tulips, violas, tropicals, and other seasonal blooms, ensuring the entry evolves with the Garden itself.
- **Enhanced hardscape and seating** - creating gathering spaces that encourage rest, reflection, and connection.
- **Improved accessibility** - including an additional ramp and new pathways to ensure a warm welcome for all.

Standing tall amidst the transformation, the Garden's beloved **100+ year-old Oak tree** will remain a sentinel of continuity, linking the Garden's legacy with its future.

During construction, guests will be directed to an alternate entry. Signage and staff guidance will ensure a seamless experience while work is underway.

"This project is an incredible opportunity to elevate the way our guests first encounter the Garden," said **MaryLynn Mack, Executive Director of Memphis Botanic Garden**. "The Entry Courtyard is the threshold to everything we offer, from seasonal blooms to events under the stars, and this thoughtful design ensures every visitor feels welcomed the moment they arrive."

"Helping shape this new Entry Courtyard has been an honor," said **Brian Kissinger, Director of Design & Donor Engagement**. "We've envisioned a storybook entrance, one that feels both timeless and fresh, lush and inviting. It's more than an entryway; it's a prologue to the experiences that await within the Garden's 96 acres."

This project is made possible due to the generosity of a donor; special name recognition will be announced at a later date.

The **Entry Courtyard** transformation, breaking ground September 29 with an anticipated opening in late November 2025, represents a *Grand New Welcome* for Memphis Botanic Garden, a refreshed gateway that underscores the Garden's commitment to beauty, discovery, and inspiration for generations to come.

About Memphis Botanic Garden

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 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.

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