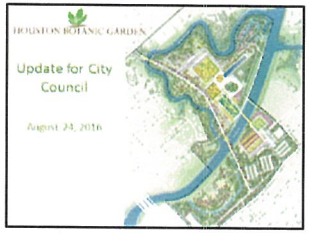


- Good morning!
- I'm Nancy Abendshein, board chair of the Houston Botanic Garden
- As many of you know, last year City Council approved a contract for the Houston Botanic Garden to lease the Glenbrook Golf Course and develop a new Botanic Garden for Houston on this wonderful site.
- This strong partnership is the most important in our history, and we are so grateful for the support we've received from Council Member Gallegos and many others.
- Currently we are in a time of leadership transition as we move into the fundraising and implementation phases.
- We have just named a new interim Executive Director, Claudia Gee Vassar and are so pleased to be moving forward with our plans to build a garden.
- A national search for a permanent director will be underway in the next few months.
- I'd like to introduce Steve Lindley, chairman of the planning committee who will tell you more about our wonderful master plan.

Botanic Garden

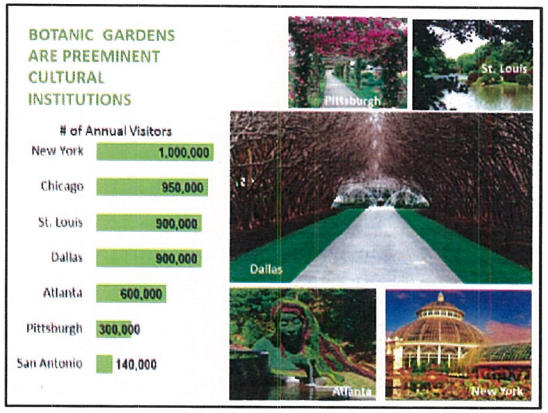
A botanic garden is dedicated to the collection and cultivation of a wide range of living plants that are of a specific type, such as succulents, or from a specific geographical region. Most botanic gardens have a significant educational and research component.

An Arboretum is a type of botanic garden that typically focuses on trees and woody plants.

The best public gardens are great contributors to the community because they provide a beautiful green space setting for gatherings, events, relaxation and education for all ages and members of the community.

The HBG will be a beautiful spot within an urban location

And for the youngest – we hope to provide an environment which will expose them to botany and horticulture and a part of the natural world that they might not otherwise see or experience.



Place in US

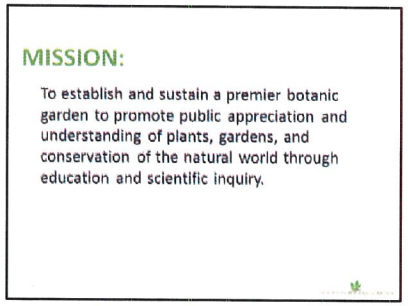
Botanic Gardens are considered preeminent cultural institutions and rank with museums and the arts.

Houston is one of the US's only major cities not to have a true botanic garden.

Dallas' garden receives almost 900,000 visitors per year; and public garden visitor totals exceed popular entertainment attractions such as Disneyland/World.

The net result is that Botanic gardens have a very positive impact on their communities both economically and socially.

Our garden will provide a place for public and private events, as well as great educational opportunities.



Mission

The future Houston Botanic Garden site, which is currently the 120 acre Glenbrook Golf Course, is located on the East side of town outside the 610 Loop and is a true diamond in the rough.

Its location on Sims Bayou presents a great opportunity to continue the City's development of green space around our bayou systems which is accessible by all Houstonians.

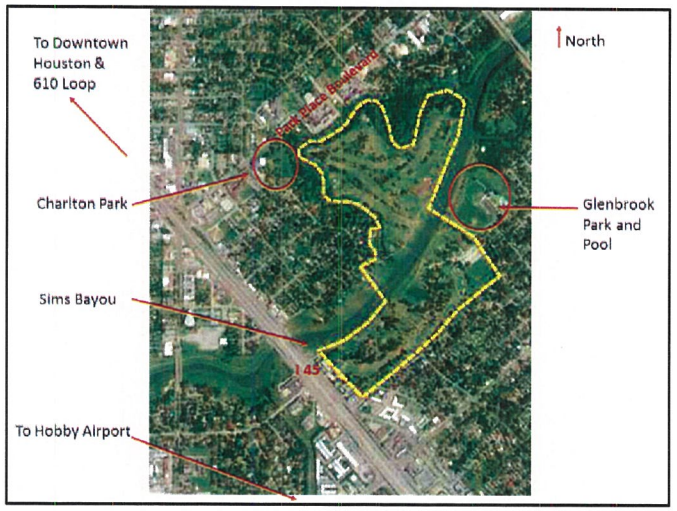
In addition to our stated goal of delivering a world-class garden and destination, we also hope to partner with Houston's great universities, the various research institutions within our Medical Center and others for plant research and to bring more awareness of botany and horticulture to the public as a whole.

Team
Engaged a fantastic team of landscape architects and specialists.

Design effort is led by the international architectural firm of **West 8**, which is renowned for the development of public landscapes including the recent completion of the Governor's Island project in NYC.

West 8 brings experience and an outsider's view for creating timeless cultural landscapes for all ages of visitors.

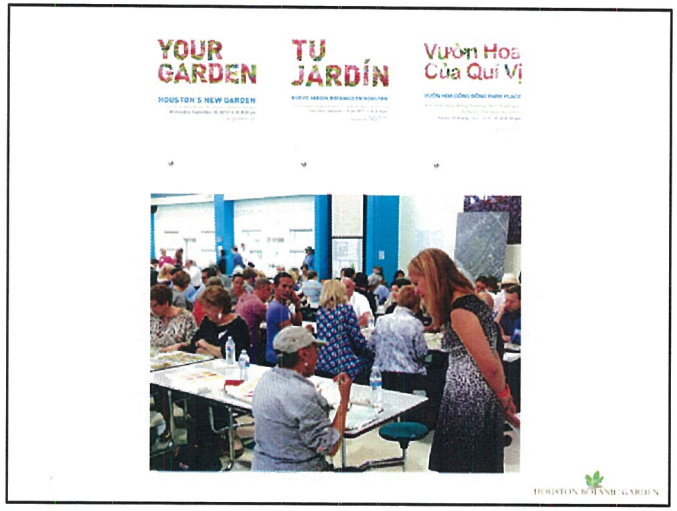
They have included in their team several Houston companies including, Clark Condon, Walter P. Moore, and Berg Oliver.



<u>Orientation</u>
Comment on location. – East end outside Loop 610

Charlton Park
Main entrance
Glenbrook Park

And location near Hobby Airport.

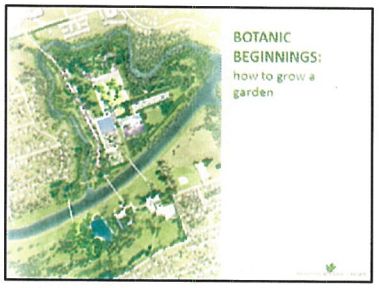


Community Involvement

To date, we have had extensive community engagement thru public meetings and conversations to insure we understand the communities' concerns and gather their input. Some of these concerns and comments center around senior programming and educational resources.

This engagement will further ramp up as we begin to develop the initial phase of the project.

It is very important for the local community at large to be a part of our process and to be beneficiaries in the development of HBG.



Botanic Beginnings

The initial phase of the Garden's development includes prioritizing the areas of the garden in order to build a firm base from which to grow and it should be noted that this is a multi-year process.

The initial phase includes the main entry and bridge to the island, as well as the initial garden collections, facilities and infrastructure to support the early and future operations.

We will also be working with the Houston Parks Board on the Bayou Greenway Hike & Bike Trails that will connect this part of Sims Bayou to the rest of the hike & bike system, and which will be constructed around the garden.

To reiterate, our primary goal is to create a beautiful, serene, extraordinary garden that all Houstonians can be proud of.

Campaign

Capital Campaign to begin in conjunction with the development of the schematic design.

We plan to meet the $20 million milestone set out in our lease by the end of next year, and we are on pace and on track to meet that goal

To date we have raised over $6.0 million

Goal for opening is 2020.

Will continue to update the City on our progress

Thank you!

Again, thank you!