



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

Michael Hansen  
205.414.3960

[mhansen@bbgardens.org](mailto:mhansen@bbgardens.org)

Andrew Krebbs  
205.414.3959

[akrebbs@bbgardens.org](mailto:akrebbs@bbgardens.org)

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens to Host Public Forum**  
**Executive Director Fred Spicer to present Master Plan concepts**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL**—For the first time, Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Master Plan will be presented to the public on January 29 at 6:00 p.m. in Linn-Henley Lecture Hall. Gardens' Executive Director Fred Spicer will introduce initial conceptual solutions for the Master Plan and Fred Keith, President of HKW Associates, will also be on hand representing The Gardens' Board of Directors. Mr. Spicer will also hold a question and answer session after the presentation.

“The Gardens' new master plan is focused on our educational mission,” Spicer says. “Expanding our living collections, solving stormwater and runoff problems, and using fewer natural resources opens up numerous educational doors for us. At the same time, we're working to improve visitor accessibility, increase the number of spaces available for public use, and make The Gardens even more beautiful.”

This first-time open forum comes at the midway point in the process. The Gardens expects to make a final presentation to Birmingham citizens later in 2009. Oasis Design Group and Biohabitats, Inc. were hired in 2007 to help guide the Master Plan process; many of the new design solutions were informed both by an intensive site analysis, and a Sustainability Workshop held in July 2008. Notes and initial proposals for the Master Plan are online at [www.bbgardens.org/master-plan.php](http://www.bbgardens.org/master-plan.php).

**About Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with more than 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains more than 25 unique gardens, 30+ works of original outdoor sculpture and miles of serene paths. The Gardens features the largest public horticulture library in the U.S., conservatories, a wildflower garden, two rose gardens, the Southern Living garden, and Japanese Gardens with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and more than 11,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to more than 325,000 yearly visitors.