

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GARDENS GOING GREEN(ER)**

### **Birmingham Botanical Gardens Seeks To Lead Sustainability Charge**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL**— One of Birmingham’s true gems, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, is bringing in Oasis Design Group and Biohabitat to lead a series of workshops, setting the stage for The Garden’s focus on sustainability and long-term development. The two consulting firms, both based in Baltimore, MD, will be at The Gardens all day on July 23 and 24 to host a series of intense seminars on topics as simple as recycling and composting to the complex such as storm water irrigation, the Americans with Disabilities, Act, and public education, among others.

The workshops are being attended by staff of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Gardens supporters, government officials, and selected environmental leaders. When asked why it’s important for the public to know what’s going on at The Gardens, Fred Spicer, Executive Director says “The Gardens is one of Birmingham’s prized possessions – fifty years old in 2013. We feel it’s important to take steps now to make sure we’re doing the right things in the coming years to keep it that way, we want to set a very positive example.”

Although the workshops are not open for the public, they are apart of The Garden’s larger Master Plan, which is set to be complete next year. The plan has been a multi-year study to determine the future of The Gardens in terms of land use, education programs, social responsibility, and growth, to name a few.

“We at The Gardens want the public to know how important sustainability is for us, for our city, and how it is guiding our plans for the future,” Spicer added.

#### **About Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with over 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains over 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 a Japanese garden with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and over 11,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to over 325,000 yearly visitors.