



## \*\*\*Media Advisory\*\*\*

**Media Contact:**  
Kelly Welsh  
Marketing & Communications  
Director  
[kelly.welsh@nbgs.org](mailto:kelly.welsh@nbgs.org)  
[www.norfolkbotanicalgarden](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden)  
Office: (757) 441-5830 ext. 346

**August 27, 2021**  
**INVITATION TO COVER**

**What:** Garden of Tomorrow Groundbreaking Ceremony (*private event*)  
**Where:** Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, Va. 23518  
**When:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The media is invited to The Garden of Tomorrow Groundbreaking Ceremony on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Norfolk Botanical Garden will soon undergo a historical transformation that will create more opportunities and more accessibility while becoming greener and even more beautiful. Over the past five years, the Garden's attendance has increased immensely with record membership at more than 16,000 current members. In early 2022, construction will begin creating The Garden of Tomorrow that includes the Brock Parking Garden, Brock Entry Pavilion, Perry Conservatory and the Hall Water Education & Rowing Center. This is the largest project in the Garden's history! Soon, guests will no longer sit in long lines at the tollbooth, instead they will be immersed in the Garden the second they step out of their vehicles. Spectacular from every aspect, there is nothing like The Garden of Tomorrow in Coastal Virginia. Designed by Virginia Beach-based Dills Architects, the environment was at the forefront of the design.

"While our building footprint expands significantly, so will planted green space," said Michael P. Desplaines, NBG President & CEO. "We will have a much greener footprint – we'll be even greener than before," he said.

NBG has selected four honorees to wield the golden shovels and break ground on the site of The Garden of Tomorrow, officially making this monumental dream a reality: Vice Mayor Martin A. Thomas, major gift donor Joan Brock, NBG Board Chair Clenise Platt, and an NBG staff member who embodies the values of the Garden, selected by their co-workers. Robert Gray, Chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe will lead the ceremony with a blessing.

Become a part of the future of the Garden of Tomorrow – a future that is greener, more focused on plant conservation and the visitor experience. Help us Build & Plant the Garden of Tomorrow. To learn more about this monumental project, please visit: [www.gardenoftomorrow.org](http://www.gardenoftomorrow.org)

### **About Norfolk Botanical Garden**

Norfolk Botanical Garden represents an oasis of more than 65 themed gardens encompassing 175 beautiful acres. From stunning plant collections to WOW - World of Wonders: A Children's Adventure Garden, this diverse natural beauty can be explored by tram, boat, or walking tours. The Garden is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, recognized as a Virginia Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a Virginia Green attraction. It is managed by Norfolk Botanical Garden, Inc. and supported by the City of Norfolk. ***The mission of Norfolk Botanical Garden is to immerse visitors in a world of beauty, lead through environmental action, and inspire through education and connection to nature.*** Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and military, \$13 for ages 3-17, 2 and under are free. For more information, visit [www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org)