

MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Prior to European settlement in the 1700’s, the land on which Mobile Botanical Gardens stands today was part of a vast longleaf pine forest. Most of this land was logged for longleaf pine in the early 1900’s, so the forest that you can visit today in our 35 acre conservation area (to the east of the parking lot) is actually considered second generation growth. The lake you drove in by once served as Mobile’s early water source until the 1950’s, which is why the acreage surrounding the lake was restricted from development.

In all, the Mobile Botanical Gardens consists of over 100 acres of special gardens and Longleaf conservation area. *MBG is a private, non-profit organization, and we appreciate your support!*

2 The ReBloom Garden

The ReBloom Mobile project sought to rekindle the spirit of community gardening in the City of Mobile and to provide suggestions for plants to achieve a 12-month color display. Look for our favorite Gulf Coast garden plants surrounding the lawn.

3 Millie McConnell Rhododendron Garden

The Millie McConnell Rhododendron Garden began as a native azalea garden, planted by Tom Dodd, John Allen Smith, and Dr. John Giordano. The garden was redesigned in 2006 to showcase azalea hybrids either created in Mobile, or especially well suited to our climate. These groups include the Eugene Aromi, Tom Dodd, and Kosaku Sawada hybrids. This Garden also boasts the largest public collection of Satsuki azaleas in the U.S., as well as an extensive collection of historic Southern Indica azaleas. These plants are set among 19th century architectural artifacts from old Mobile. The central gathering area within the Rhododendron Garden is surrounded by reclaimed 10-foot cast iron 19th century columns. The pavers in the circle area were handmade and at one time were sited downtown in the de Tonti Square near Beauregard Street.

4 Founders Fragrance and Texture

This garden is often called the Founders Garden because it was designed, planted and maintained by the founders of the Mobile Botanical Gardens in the early 1970’s. It was designed as a trail for the handicapped, especially those who are visually impaired or with mobility issues. The koi pond is a favorite feature of this woodland garden. Our koi range in age from baby to over 20 years!

5 John Allen Smith Japanese Maple Garden

The specimen trees in this garden were relocated here from Mr. Smith’s private collection. This serene garden incorporates fundamental concepts of design: rocks, water, plants, and ornaments. A Casey Downing sculpture rests in the center of the collection.

6 The Sybil Burnett Herb Garden

The raised beds introduce you to herbs classified as culinary, spiritual, medicinal, native, historical, household, and fragrant.

Around the perimeter of the Herb Garden you will find gingers, montbretia, Lady Banks climbing roses, a Turkey Fig tree, calamondin tree, and even a dwarf Papaya tree.

7 Piff Plaza and Fountain

The courtyard features clumping bamboo, annuals and perennials such as farfugium. Our favorites include the Giant Leopard plant, Formosan Lily, and of course - the plumeria. This garden changes with the seasons, but always features something interesting. The Piff Fountain, located in the center of the plaza, was donated in memory of Mrs. Elsa Piff – a long-time supporter of the Gardens. Her beautiful Plumeria are on display here every spring and summer.

8 Pollinator Garden

This garden serves as a major attraction for many pollinators as they migrate through our area. Enjoy the busy bug world as you visit among our regional pollinator plants. In 2014 the Bruce Larsen butterfly sculpture, *Transformation*, was given on a long term loan to the Gardens from the Mobile Museum of Art. This sculpture serves as the focal point of the Butterfly and Pollinator Garden.

11 Kosaku Sawada Winter Garden

This garden is named in honor of Kosaku Sawada who immigrated from Japan in the early 1900’s and settled in Mobile. Sawada hybridized many camellias which are now famous around the world. This collection has been named a *Garden of Excellence* as determined by the International Camellia Society. Reclaimed materials from old Mobile were used here to create the Dodd Quarry at the upper end of the garden. The large, granite slabs as well as pavers and cobblestones were once part of an old graveyard in downtown Mobile. The massive decorative iron columns date to mid-1800’s and once adorned the façade of a commercial structure long since destroyed.

13 The Tea Maze

The shape of tea maze is inspired by a Chinese medallion from the Ming Dynasty. These plants were grown from cuttings of the plants from the old Lipton Tea plantation in Baldwin County. Did you know that tea is made from the leaves of the camellia sinensis?

17 The Katherine Shropshire Nature Trail

Dedicated in 1981, this deep woods trail is a ¼ mile walk on moderate paths. The careful observer may be treated with many different forms of wildlife as well as a wide variety of plants and trees native to our area.

18 Aromi Hybrid Azalea Garden

This garden houses the most significant collection of Aromi Hybrid Azaleas in the country. Dr. Eugene Aromi created these azaleas which combine the hardiness and fragrance of native deciduous azaleas with the large flower trusses and color of the cold weather suited Exbury hybrids.

Mobile Botanical Gardens



Welcome to the Gardens!

Open Wednesday - Sunday
Last admission 1 hr prior to close

Admission

Adults (Ages 13+): \$8
Children (Ages 3-12): \$3
Student/Military/Senior: \$6 (with ID)
Museums for All: \$3 (with SNAP or WIC EBT card and valid ID)



Mobile Botanical Gardens is a privately funded, non-profit organization. Help us continue our mission of education and protecting the plant collections by paying admission, becoming a member, or donating.



professional photography
policy - stop by the office
for fee & to schedule



Garden Etiquette & Rules

- Help us to preserve the beauty of the Gardens for everyone by refraining from picking flowers, walking through beds, and climbing the trees or on boulders.
- MBG is a smoke free campus
- No alcohol is allowed on the grounds
- Shirts and shoes required at all times.
- Please do not climb or play on/in the fountains and sculptures
- No bikes please - They may be left in front of the office or at the gate gazebo.

Become a Member!



Check our website for seasonal hours and current events



251•342•0555
www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org
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MOBILE Botanical Gardens

Come Here to Grow



2 ReBloom Garden



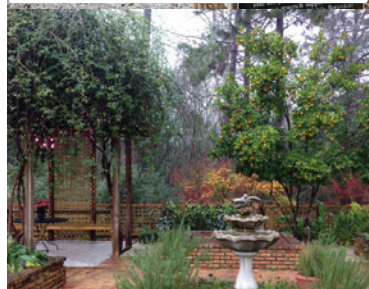
3 Rhododendron Garden



4 Fragrance & Texture



5 Japanese Maple Garden



6 Herb Garden



7 Piff Plaza



15 Magnolia Hill Girls



Longleaf Conservation Forest-35 acres maintained for the public



12 16 Fern Glade & Trails



8 Pollinator Garden



9 Rose Garden



"The city of Mobile sits in the middle of the biologically richest part of North America."

- E.O. Wilson, Harvard University biologist and Pulitzer Prize winning author

LEGEND:
 — Paved path
 — Unpaved path
 - - Seasonal Trails
 ~ Stream



18 Aromi Hybrid Azaleas



15 Glass Conservatory



14 Dodd Quarry



11 K. Sawada WinterGarden



Things to Do

- Kid's Activity Backpack w/ scavenger hunt
- Georgia Roussos Lunches Wed & Fri
- Visit the Artful Garden Gift Shop
- Visit the Chickens and feed the Koi!
- Spring and Fall Plants Sales (Mar. & Oct.)

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 Leave us a review!