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 drive 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.

1. The Plauchè Bog Garden
Named in honor of Terry Plauchè, a local landscape architect, this unique garden is a man-made bog with an engineered system to replicate the freshwater wetland necessary to support carnivorous plants such as pitcher plants and sundews.

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 Aromi, Dodd, and Sawada hybrids. This Garden also boasts the largest collection of Aromi hybrids 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.

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 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, and calamondin tree.

7. Magnolia Hill
This area includes propagation houses and grow fields, a small conservatory, studio building, urban chicken management area, and honey bee hives. Magnolai Hill is also where we conduct our educational programming for children - like NatureBlast, Veggie Kids, and more.

8. 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. Named a Garden of Excellence in 2014, many reclaimed architectural materials from old Mobile were used throughout the 7-acre collection garden.

9. 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. Tea is made from the leaves of the camellia sinensis.

10. The Alfred Piff Memorial Solar / Planetary Walk
This .8 mile trail serves as a scale model of our solar system neighborhood! Follow the trail and discover each planet - and by scanning the QR codes provided, learn more.

11. Cleyera Cathedral
The natural cathedral is a serene gathering area set amongst decades old cleyera trees that were part of an old nursery.

12. The Katherine Shropshire Memorial Nature Trail
Dedicated in 1981, the original deep woods trail is a ¾ mile walk on moderate paths. In 2020 the trails were expanded into the 40 acres of natural woodland that extend back to the west along 12-Mile Creek.

13. Piff Plaza and Fountain
The courtyard features clumping bamboo, annuals and perennials such as farfugium. 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.

14. 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.

15. The Alfred Piff Memorial Solar / Planetary Walk
This .8 mile trail serves as a scale model of our solar system neighborhood! Follow the trail and discover each planet - and by scanning the QR codes provided, learn more.

Welcome to the Gardens!
Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 4pm
Saturdays: 10am - 3pm
last admission 1 hr prior to close

Garden Etiquette & Rules
- Help us to preserve the beauty of the Gardens for everyone. Please do not pick flowers, walk through beds, climb 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. Appropriate beach attire required.
- No bikes please - They may be left in front of the office or at the gate gazebo.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Clean up after pets.

Join the MBG Family!
Become a member of the Mobile Botanical Gardens and enjoy free admission, special member discounts, and events, plus admission to over 300 botanical gardens nation wide!
251•342•0555
www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org
5151 Museum Drive - Mobile, AL 36608

Provide a short introduction.

Mobile Botanical Gardens

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MOBILE Botanical Gardens

*Seasonal Trails*

Lower Parking

9

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

11

12

14

13

16

10

OFFICE

197x702

Magnolia Hill

Studio * Conservatory

Propagation Houses & Fields

Honey Bee Hives * Chickens

Nature Blast & Veggie Kids

You parked here...

Tea Maze

Pedestrian gate entry

MBG Garden

Giftshop

Open Tues - Sat 9am - 4pm

K. Sawada Winter Garden

The Tea Maze

McConnell Rhododendron & Azalea Garden

Japanese Maple Garden

Sybil Burnett Herb Garden

Piff Plaza & Fountain

Pollinator Garden

Alred Piff Solar / Planetary Walk

Cleyera Cathedral

Magnolia Hill

The Tea Maze

K. Sawada Winter Garden

Shropshire Trails

"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

The Shropshire Trails are best during the Fall and Winter months.

Things to Do

- Trails & Solar/Planetary Walk - check out our scavenger hunts available in the Gift Shop
- Georgia Rousos catered Lunches on Fridays
- Artful Garden Gift Shop open Tues-Sat 9-4
- Visit the Chickens and feed the Koi!
- Tour with a Garden Cat - Loki, Leo, or Louise
- Spring and Fall Plants Sales (Mar. & Oct.)

Plauché Bog Garden

ReBloom Garden

McConnell Rhododendron Garden

Aromi Azalea Garden

Fragrance & Texture Garden with Koi Pond

Japanese Maple Garden

Sybil Burnett Herb Garden

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