

October 24, 2025

Unprecedented Partnership: Roderick Gay Botanical Garden Breaks Ground in College Park

COLLEGE PARK, GA — The City of College Park is proud to announce the groundbreaking of the **Roderick Gay Botanical Garden on Thursday, October 30, 2025**, 4320 Herschel Road, College Park, GA at 12:00 noon, a transformative greenspace that marks a new era of environmental stewardship and community investment on Atlanta's Southside.

The project represents a landmark collaboration between **Fulton County, the City of College Park, and the newly formed RG Botanical Garden Conservancy**, established to steward the ongoing maintenance, vision, and growth of the gardens.

The 40-acre site, located on the historic **Camp Truitt/4-H property on Herschel Road**, will soon be home to a vibrant public botanical garden featuring **walking trails, educational gardens, event spaces, and sustainable landscaping** that celebrates Georgia's native ecosystem and promotes environmental learning for all ages.

Dignitaries from **Fulton County, the City of Atlanta, and surrounding metro communities** have been invited to attend this momentous occasion.

"This is a dream more than 20 years in the making," said **Councilmember Roderick Gay**. "I remember walking this site and envisioning a botanical garden that would highlight the unique plant and environmental ecosystem of College Park, a jewel on the Southside that simply needed investment. This groundbreaking represents that vision taking root."

Major milestones have brought the project to this point:

- A **50-year lease agreement with Fulton County**, approved earlier this year, ensures the land's preservation and public use for generations to come.
- A **\$5 million allocation of funds by the City of College Park**, demonstrating the city's commitment to developing sustainable and high-quality community amenities.
- The **creation of the RG Botanical Garden Conservancy**, which will serve as the long-term steward for the garden's operation, development, and educational programming.

Councilmember Gay extended his gratitude to **Fulton County Chairman Robb Pitts** and the **Fulton County Board of Commissioners** for their partnership and vision, as well as to **Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens** and **Councilmember Andrea Boone** for their support and collaboration, given the garden's proximity to **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**.

"This is an amenity that enhances quality of life on the southside not only for College Park residents but for the entire metro region," Gay added.

Special thanks were also extended to **Atlanta Botanical Garden President and CEO Mary Pat Matheson**, whose guidance and collaboration helped College Park integrate best practices in governance, design, and community engagement for the new gardens.

The Roderick Gay Botanical Garden will serve as a **regional destination for recreation, education, and environmental innovation**, advancing College Park's legacy as a leader in sustainable community development.

For updates and future announcements, visit www.collegeparkga.com or contact the **Office of Communications** at (404) 767-1537 ext. 1703