

THE INSIDE STORY



Botanic Garden to be Built on Former Brownfield in County Park

In August 2006, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and representatives from the Horticultural Society of Western Pennsylvania broke ground for the Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania. The Botanic Garden will transform a former brownfield site into a major regional attraction as well as an economic engine for Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Situated on a 452-acre parcel in Settler's Cabin Park, the Botanic Garden is just 15 minutes from Downtown Pittsburgh in the heart of the Airport Corridor. The Garden is expected to draw more than 300,000 visitors annually, ranking it among the region's most visited attractions.

The activity is expected to create approximately \$38 million in direct business volume impact within 10 years of the Garden's opening, and growing to \$63 million within 15 years. The Botanic Garden will also have a significant multiplier effect on the regional economy, including more than 500 indirect jobs in garden-related and home improvement industries.

Before construction begins, the site will undergo a complete reclamation involving excavation of abandoned coal mines and remediation of acid mine drainage that adversely affects local communities and tributaries of the Ohio River. The reclamation is estimated to be completed within three years.

Contact: Kevin Evanto 412-350-3171 kevin.evanto@alleghenycounty.us