

# HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN SELECTS WEST 8 TO LEAD MASTER PLANNING PROCESS FOR NEW BOTANIC GARDEN AT GLENBROOK SITE

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The Houston Botanic Garden announced on the 10th of April that it has selected West 8, to lead the development of the master plan for the new world-class botanic garden in Houston, Texas.

West 8 was chosen through a national search process across the U.S. that placed special emphasis on experience in master planning major garden spaces. "Our long-term vision is for Houston's botanic garden to be among the nation's best in terms of its beauty, educational value and contributions to the vitality of our community," said Nancy Abendshein, chairman of the board of Houston Botanic Garden. "We believe we have chosen a firm that can help us realize that vision and we are excited to get that process underway."

In addition to serving as a guide for the development of the botanic garden, the master plan will be an important tool for generating interest and understanding among those who will support and share the project. While the City of Houston has provided the Houston Botanic Garden, with a long-term lease for the 120-acre Glenbrook site, located between downtown and Hobby Airport, east of the Gulf Freeway and south of Park Place Blvd. The organization is responsible for raising all funds needed to build, operate and maintain the garden.

"West 8 is a globally recognized design practice whose projects include complex urban environments that have been successfully re-imagined and new ecologies created," said Chris Knapp, an advisory council member of Houston Botanic Garden. "Having served on the search committees for master planning firms for the Memorial Park renovation and the botanic garden, I am very enthused by the visionary design talent that Houston is drawing upon to create premier natural environments for all to enjoy."

Among its attributes, the future botanic garden site is bisected by the improved Sims Bayou, while the old natural channel on the northern boundary of the property allows for special design elements as well as a variety of educational opportunities about the local ecosystem. The site also has an abundance of mature trees.

For more information about Houston Botanic Garden, visit [houstonbotanicgarden.org](http://houstonbotanicgarden.org).

## About Houston Botanic Garden

The Houston Botanic Garden is a privately operated 501(c)(3) organization created by individuals committed to establishing and sustaining a premier botanic garden that will promote public appreciation and understanding of plants, gardens and conservation of the natural world.

The goal is to enrich people's lives through outstanding displays and programs, serve as a model for sustainability, and inspire all who visit to become environmental stewards as they learn more about plants and the entire natural world. In the fourth largest city in the country, Houston Botanic Garden will be a place of great beauty, providing an oasis for quiet contemplation, learning, inspiration and research.