

Royal Botanical Gardens announces 25-year Master Planning Initiative

HAMILTON ON, June 13, 2019 – Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), announced today, a 25-year master planning initiative aimed to position the organization as Canada’s leading environmental centre with world class gardens, natural areas, programs, services and facilities that powerfully influence positive change in the way people interact with the planet.

The project is managed by Colliers Project Leaders. The Master Plan is being developed by a team of consultants led by the Primary Consultant, MT Planners. The long-term policy document will identify short-term capital projects to be addressed in the next five years as well as longer-term projects for the next 25 years. The plan is expected to be completed at the end of February 2020 and approved by RBG’s board of directors in mid-March 2020.

“This bold initiative will provide the roadmap for Royal Botanical Gardens to ensure future generations will connect with plant-life in a unique environment, fostering awareness and care for a world that is under increasing ecological threat,” said RBG CEO, Mark Runciman. “RBG aims to instill in everyone we reach, a deeper awareness of themselves, their place on this planet and their role as protectors and stewards of the environment.”

The Master Plan will be the roadmap to achieving RBG’s goals; namely to build the financial strength and independence to serve its future and to enhance infrastructure and amenities for current visitors and for new more diverse audiences from local, national and international markets.

RBG plans to achieve this by creating new revenue streams and leveraging and enhancing its existing land use plan. RBG will explore not only the living framework of the landscape, and its business and market, but the aspirations of RBG’s members and governance body. Planning will involve input from RBG stakeholders and will aim to deepen partnerships with municipalities, conservation authorities, commissions, and other provincial institutions.

At the heart of this plan is the critical need to nurture and protect ecosystems on a local, national and global scale. While the need to achieve financial sustainability is clear, RBG exists to affect real and positive change in how humanity interacts with our environment and has pledged to take full advantage of our resources, knowledge and reputation to make significant strides in this direction. To bring this Master Plan to fruition, significant fundraising efforts will be required and formalized throughout the planning process.

About Royal Botanical Gardens

Royal Botanical Gardens is the largest botanical garden in Canada, a National Historic Site, and registered charitable organization with a mandate to bring together people, plants and nature for the well-being of society and to serve as a beacon for an increasingly urgent movement to preserve plant species and habitats and, by extension, our planet. We dedicate our expertise in horticulture, conservation, science and education to create meaningful and memorable experiences within our 2,700 acres of spectacular gardens, an arboretum and nature sanctuaries.

Charitable donations help us to:

- Protect and restore 2,450 acres of nature sanctuaries containing environmentally sensitive habitats, where approximately 58 listed species-at-risk have made their home;
- Teach the public and educate school children about the importance of plants and nature, and how to be environmental stewards in their community;
- Create display gardens which beautify our region's landscape and teach people how to transfer best practices into their own backyard;
- Host events that celebrate our landscape, culture and highlight our conservation activities (Fishway demonstrations, nature sanctuary guided tours, children's winter exhibits); and
- Engage in research projects and networks to pursue environmental sustainability.

About MT Planners

MT Planners is an internationally renowned design firm specializing in landscape architecture, urban design and environmental planning. We are a team of designers committed to the process of creating the environments needed to sustain humanity in the 21st century.

Over the past 45 years our firm has focused on a natural systems approach to city design addressing the critical issues that face our world. Our projects range in complexity, scale and are developed with an unyielding commitment to resilient and socially transformative results.

Each of MT Planner's projects is driven by a vision of a unique people and a unique land. We think about the people, their communities and their future generations who will be the benefactors of a healthier environment. Our projects share a common goal to repair and enhance the natural systems that support us all.

For more information, please contact:

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