



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2021

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What: Groundbreaking Ceremony for Magnolia Gardens

When: Thursday, April 22; 10:00 a.m.

Where: Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS

Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Hosts Groundbreaking for New Magnolia Gardens

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will break ground for the new Magnolia Gardens at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Thursday, April 22, at 10:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Commissioner Gipson will be joined by Hayes Patrick, director of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum; Pat Rutledge, representative of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.; Matt Gates, owner of ARK Design + Build; and Ginger Williamson, deputy bureau director at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Magnolia Gardens is a cooperative project involving the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. and ARK Design + Build. This initiative will continue in the spirit and intent of the “Avenue of Magnolias” as a means of honoring or memorializing loved ones with a living legacy. Phase 1 of the project will include a premier garden with lighted pathways and water features. Phase 2 will include a Magnolia tree lined boulevard with landscaping.

The public can support Magnolia Gardens through donations and special contributions in honor or memory of a special someone. Recommended donations are \$25.00 per honoree. Each donation will be acknowledged with a letter and certificate. Donations exceeding \$5,000 will be acknowledged with a plaque at the garden site. Contribution forms can be found at www.msmagnoliagardens.com.

The gardens will be located in front of the main building on the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum’s campus, incorporating the “Working Man” statue and courtyard area. ARK Design + Build have designed the Magnolia Gardens layout and will be the general contractor for this project.

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Media Note: The media is invited to attend. Parking will be available through the main entrance on Lakeland Drive, and groundbreaking will take place in front of the main building on campus.