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**First phase of new Children’s Garden experience to open next week  
at Huntsville Botanical Garden**

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (Feb. 25, 2021) – The first phase of Tweetsville, a new experience centered on birds and their habitats at the [Huntsville Botanical Garden](#), will open to the public next week on Saturday, Mar. 6. Located in the Children’s Garden, Tweetsville will be completed in two phases, with funding for the second phase already underway.

“We are very excited to be welcoming our community into the first phase of Tweetsville,” said Sue Wagner, chief executive officer of the Garden. “Tweetsville is a place where guests of all ages can be curious, learn and explore the many ways birds, plants and people are interconnected in our ecosystem. This first phase of Tweetsville is just the beginning of how the Garden can inspire guests through authentic experiences and connect people to their environment through the remarkable creatures that are birds.”

The first phase of Tweetsville features the Lewis Bird Watch, a viewing area where guests can observe birds in their natural environment from behind a one-way glass. The structure is named for Herb and Terry Lewis, long-time birders and donors at the Garden whose subject-matter expertise helped guide the development of the bird watch from inception to opening.

Guests inside the bird watch look through the glass into an enclosed landscape that is designed to attract local and migrating bird species. A variety of native plants provide food and shelter for the birds, and a bubbling water feature provides a place for them to drink and bathe. As the plantings grow and mature over time, the landscape will become a natural haven for birds, providing guests the opportunity to observe them up-close in their habitat.

The first phase of Tweetsville also includes an iconic entrance through the “See Rocket City” birdhouse, a larger-than-life birdhouse structure with a playful nod to the famous “See Rock City” red barns. Winding paths and dynamic plantings lead guests from the birdhouse to the Lewis Bird Watch, creating an immersive journey through the Tweetsville experience.

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Tweetsville is an interactive educational experience. Interpretative signs throughout Tweetsville show guests how to identify elements of a bird's habitat, point out some of the bird-friendly plants in the area and provide examples of birds guests may see in the Lewis Bird Watch. During opening weekend, complimentary "birding backpacks" will also be available for checkout at the Garden's admission desk on a first-come, first-served basis. Each backpack will include binoculars, a birding map and a bird activity sheet.

The second phase of Tweetsville will include giant bird nests that teach learners about bird behaviors and model tiny homes that demonstrate how to attract birds in a backyard setting. Funding for the second phase is currently underway, and the Garden has invited community members who are interested in the project to be a part of bringing Tweetsville to life by making a contribution.

"Even now before the first phase has opened, we have seen such excitement for this project from the community," said Annette Alexander, vice president of institutional advancement at the Garden. "Tweetsville was always intended to be completed in two phases, but with the support of the community, we could build on the momentum we have now to begin construction of the second phase sooner. Together, we can bring Tweetsville to life for guests of all ages to enjoy."

The first phase of Tweetsville will open to the public on Saturday, Mar. 6, at 9 a.m. and is included with regular Garden admission. More information about Tweetsville, including how to support the project, can be found at [hsvbg.org/Tweetsville](https://hsvbg.org/Tweetsville).

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### **About the Huntsville Botanical Garden**

The 112-acre Huntsville Botanical Garden is open year-round and contains a diverse ecosystem of meadows, upland and bottomland forest, and wetlands, as well as a variety of specialty gardens and native plant collections. The Mathews Nature Trail contains the largest accredited trillium collection in the U.S., and the Anderson Education Center is home to the nation's largest open-air butterfly house. The Native Plants Teaching Garden is a public space that highlights the way local plants, soil, pollinators, and birds create distinct communities and how they interact to form a diverse, sustainable, and attractive landscape. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Garden is a member of the American Public Gardens Association, the North American Plant Collections Consortium, and the American Horticultural Society, as well as an ArbNet-accredited arboretum. For more information, visit [www.hsvbg.org](http://www.hsvbg.org).