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**Huntsville Botanical Garden opens new features  
in "Tweetsville" to connect guests to birds**

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (April 28, 2022) – Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony today, the Huntsville Botanical Garden opened to the public new features in Tweetsville, an experience in the Children’s Garden centered on birds and their habitats. The first phase of the 18,000-square-foot area opened in March 2021, and the new features constitute the second and final phase of the project.

The new features in Tweetsville include an oversized bird nest and three tiny homes that demonstrate how guests can create their own bird-friendly backyard at home.

“Tweetsville is an example of how the Garden helps guests connect to nature in new and surprising ways,” said Sue Wagner, chief executive officer of the Garden. “Birds, plants and people all need each other, and what we want to do in Tweetsville is explore that interconnectivity. We want guests to walk away with a better understanding of the role they play in their environment.”

Although Tweetsville is located in the Children’s Garden, the experience can be enjoyed by guests of all ages.

“Tweetsville is designed to inspire curiosity and encourage learning through play, no matter how old you are,” said Rebecca Turk, director of learning and public engagement at the Garden. “Through guided learning and free play, children and their caregivers can learn and discover together.”

The new features also present opportunities for expanded program offerings such as field trips, classes, youth camps and special events.

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The oversized bird nest in Tweetsville serves as a place for imaginative play as well as a gathering place for educational programs. Measuring 25 feet in diameter and 4 feet tall, the nest was created by Billy Ray Sims, a professional basket maker based in Maine, and Justin Roberts, a willow sculpture artist based in Kentucky.

Tweetsville's three tiny homes represent three different settings where guests may live: an urban home, a suburban home and a rural home. By demonstrating how to create a bird-friendly environment in these different settings, guests can leave the Garden with actionable ideas that will make a difference in their own backyard.

To complement the interactive features, the plants in Tweetsville have been specially chosen to create an ecosystem of native species that will provide a healthy habitat for local and migrating birds. These plants not only provide food sources and shelter for birds, but they also support the native biodiversity of the region and demonstrate to guests how native habitat preservation can be incorporated into a functional and aesthetically pleasing landscape.

The first phase of Tweetsville featured the Lewis Bird Watch, a viewing area where guests can observe birds in their natural environment from behind a one-way glass, and the "See Rocket City" birdhouse, a larger-than-life birdhouse structure that serves as an iconic entrance to Tweetsville.

Tweetsville is located in the Children's Garden at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, and the experience is included with regular Garden admission. For more information, visit [hsvbg.org/tweetsville](https://hsvbg.org/tweetsville).

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

The Huntsville Botanical Garden exists to connect people to plants in order to support a healthier quality of life for the region. Open year-round, the Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 118 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats to stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment. In addition to public admission, the Garden offers exhibits, special events and STEM education programs for youth and adults throughout the year. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Garden is an accredited botanic garden by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and an accredited arboretum by ArbNet, as well as a member of the American Public Gardens Association, the North American Plant Collections Consortium and the American Horticultural Society. For more information, visit [www.hsvbg.org](http://www.hsvbg.org).